

Azerbaijan: Political Continuity, Economic Uncertainty

- ◆ *Findings and Analysis From New InterMedia Research, 3 November 2005*





Highlights

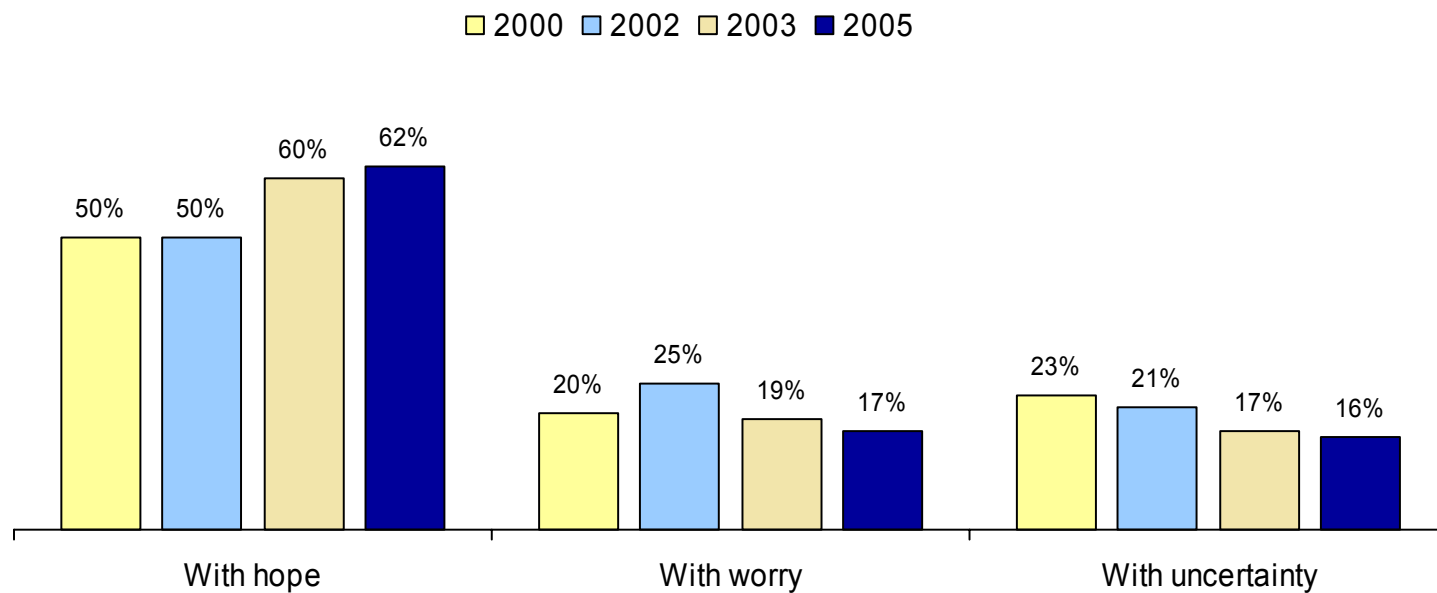
- ◆ Findings from InterMedia surveys since 2000, including October 2005 nationwide survey in Azerbaijan
- ◆ Outlook about the Nov. 6, 2005 elections
- ◆ Sources of news for Azerbaijani adults about the upcoming elections and in general
- ◆ Assessment of critical issues
- ◆ Views on the U.S., Iran, Armenia, NATO and EU



Public outlook on the future of Azerbaijan

Increasingly optimistic mood

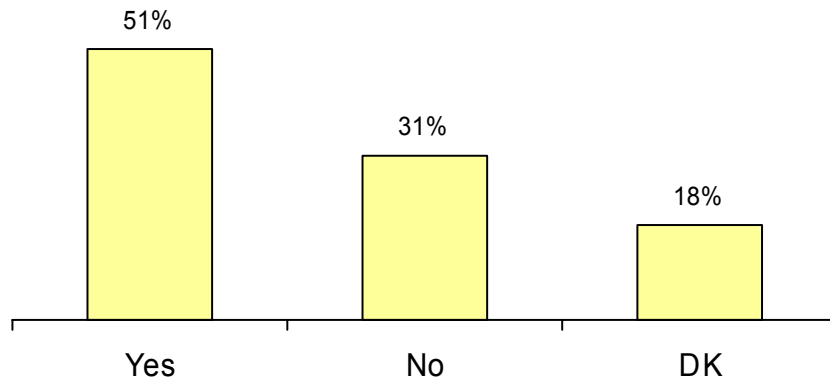
How do you view the next 12 months for Azerbaijan?



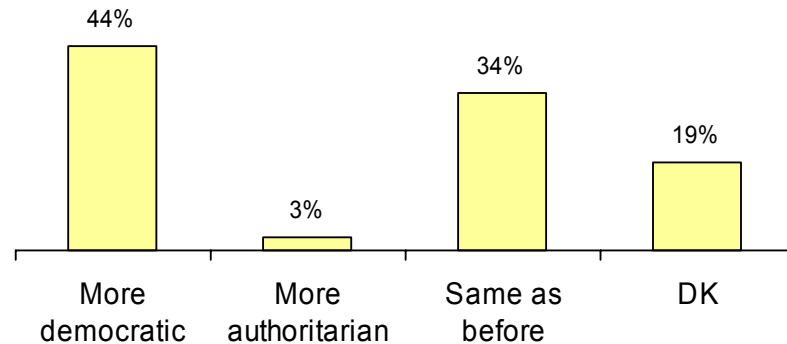
Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 2,000 adults (15+), 2002-2005 surveys and 1000 adults in 2000

Mixed expectations about the fairness of Nov. 6th parliamentary elections and democracy in Azerbaijan

Do you expect for the November 6th 2005 parliamentary elections to be free and fair?



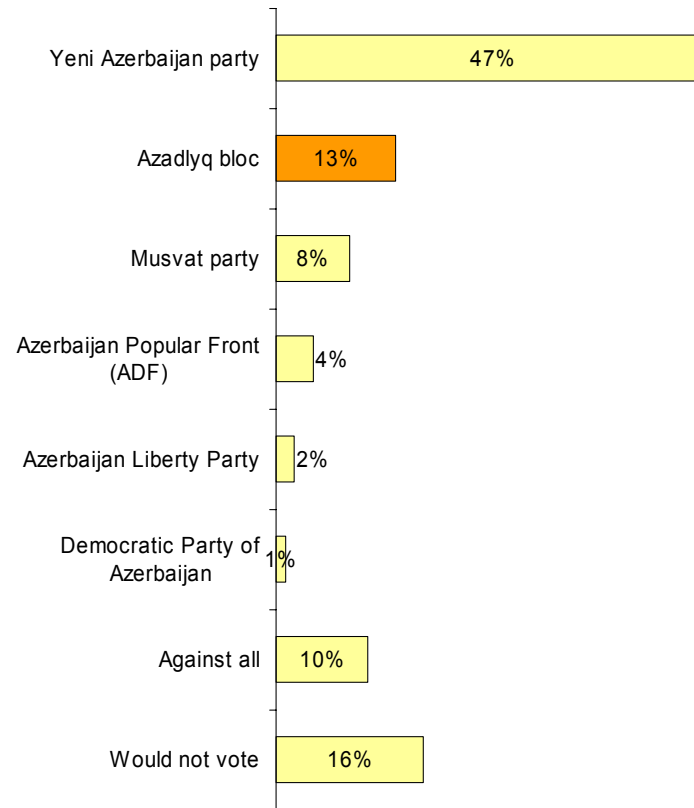
How do you see the political future of Azerbaijan after Nov. 6 2005 parliamentary elections?



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 1092 adults (15+), September-October 2005

Yeni Azerbaijan Party is likely to emerge as a victor in the upcoming elections

If parliamentary elections were held now, which party would you vote for?

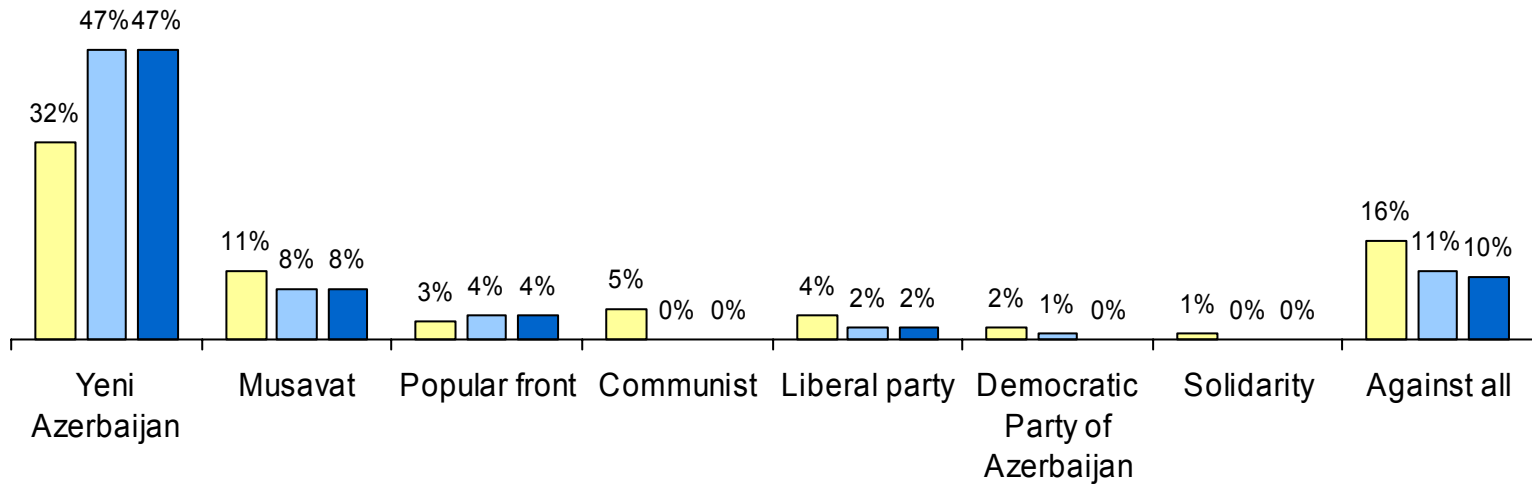


Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan [2000 adults 15+], October 2005

Significantly more adults would vote for Yeni Azerbaijan Party in 2005 as compared to 2000

If elections were held today which party would you vote for in Azerbaijan?

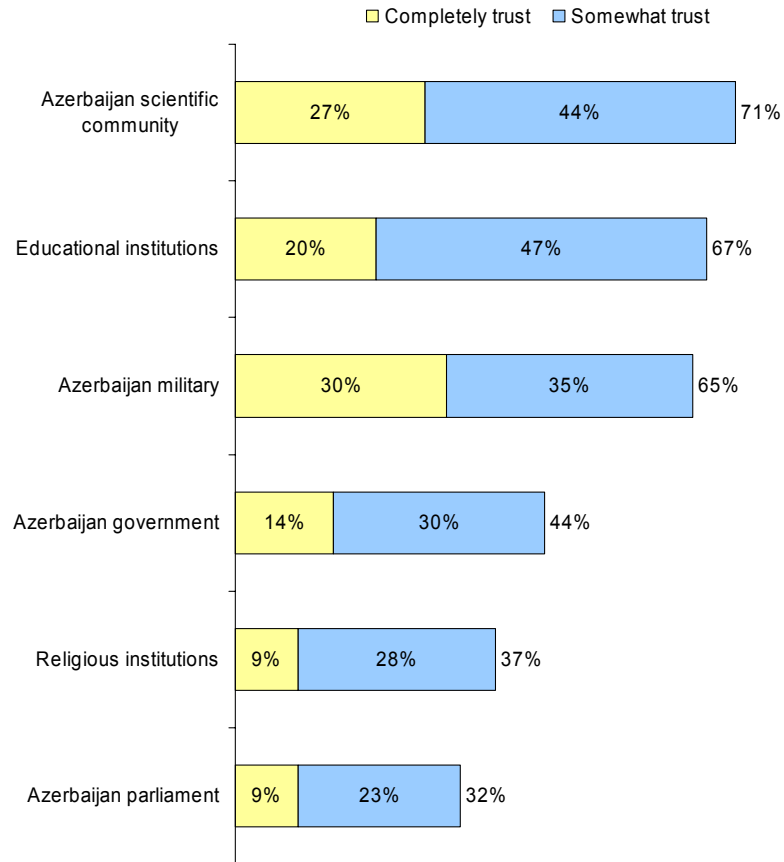
2000 Mar-05 Oct-05



Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan with adults (15+), n=1000 (year 2000), n=2000 (March 2005), n=1092 (October 2005)

Milli Majlis has not been seen as the most trusted institution in Azerbaijan

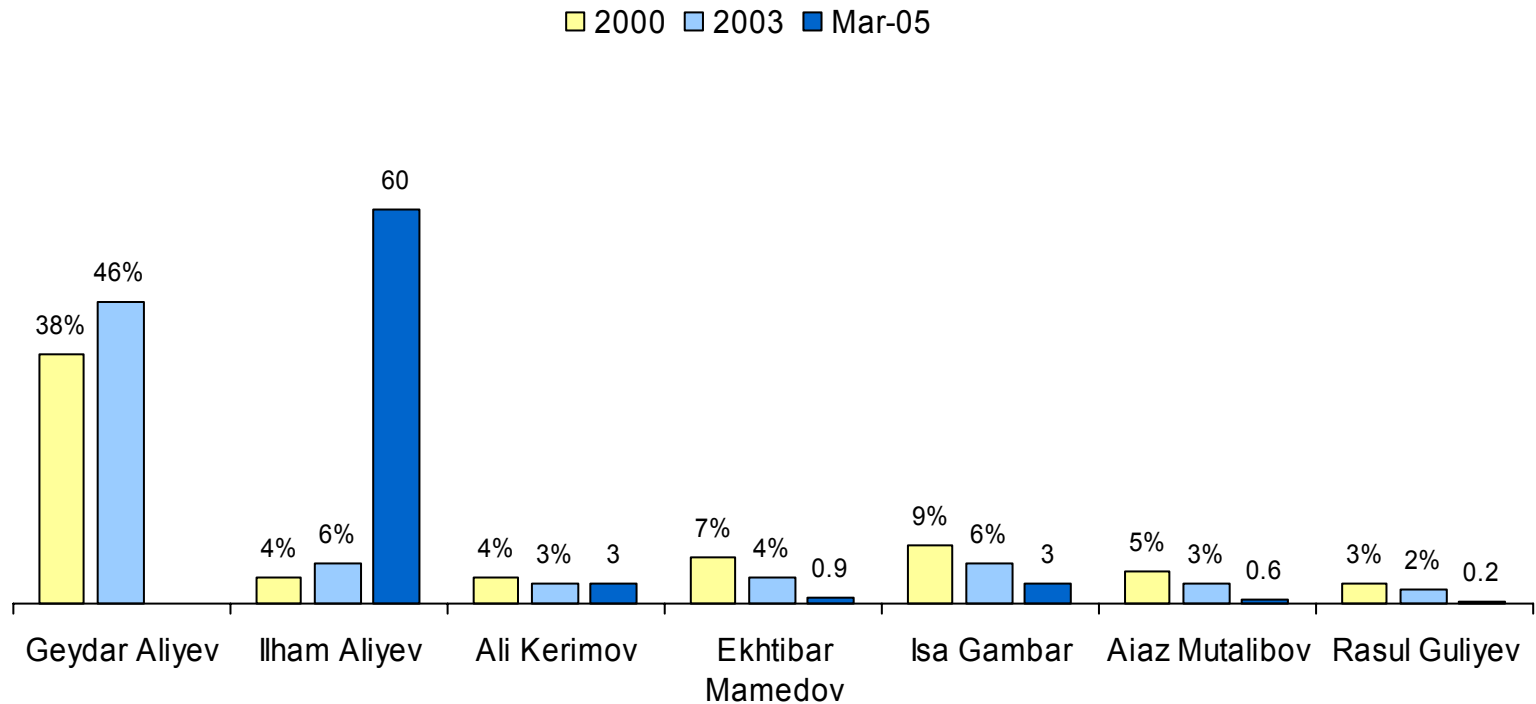
Please tell me to what degree you trust or not trust various institutions in Azerbaijan?



Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan, 2002 (N=2000)

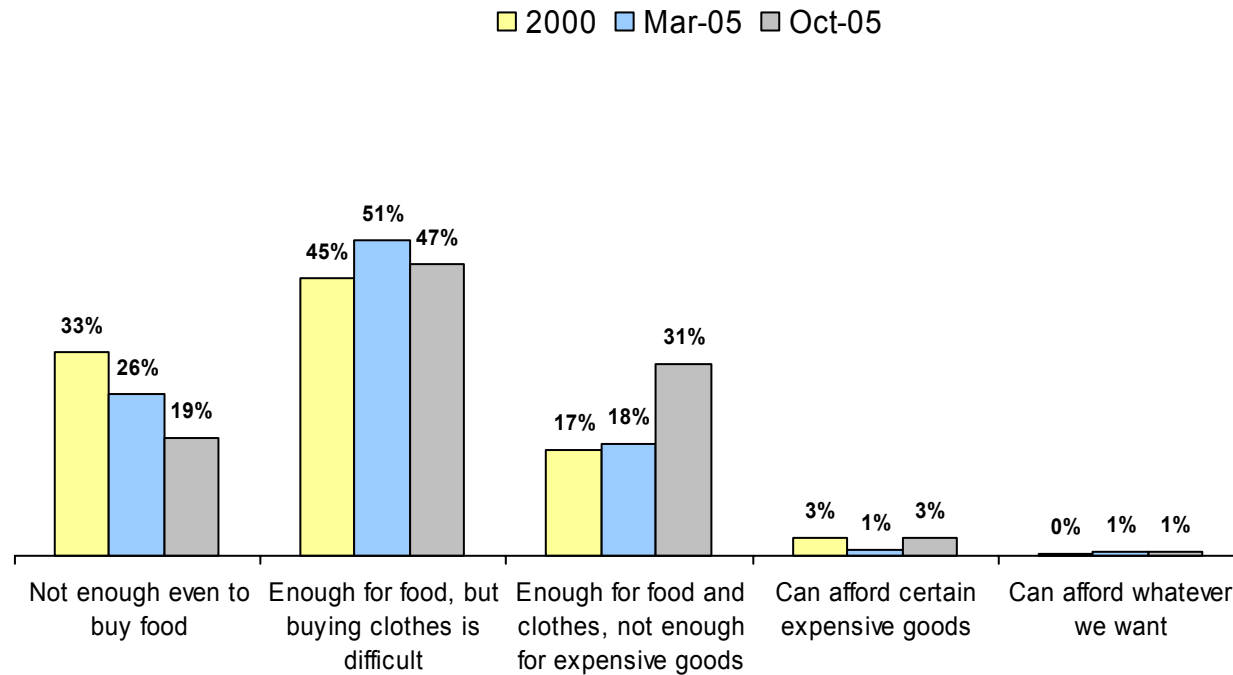
...in contrast, presidents have had more public trust

Which political personality do you feel closest to?



Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan with adults [15+], n=1000 (year 2000) , n=2000 (2003 and 2005 surveys)

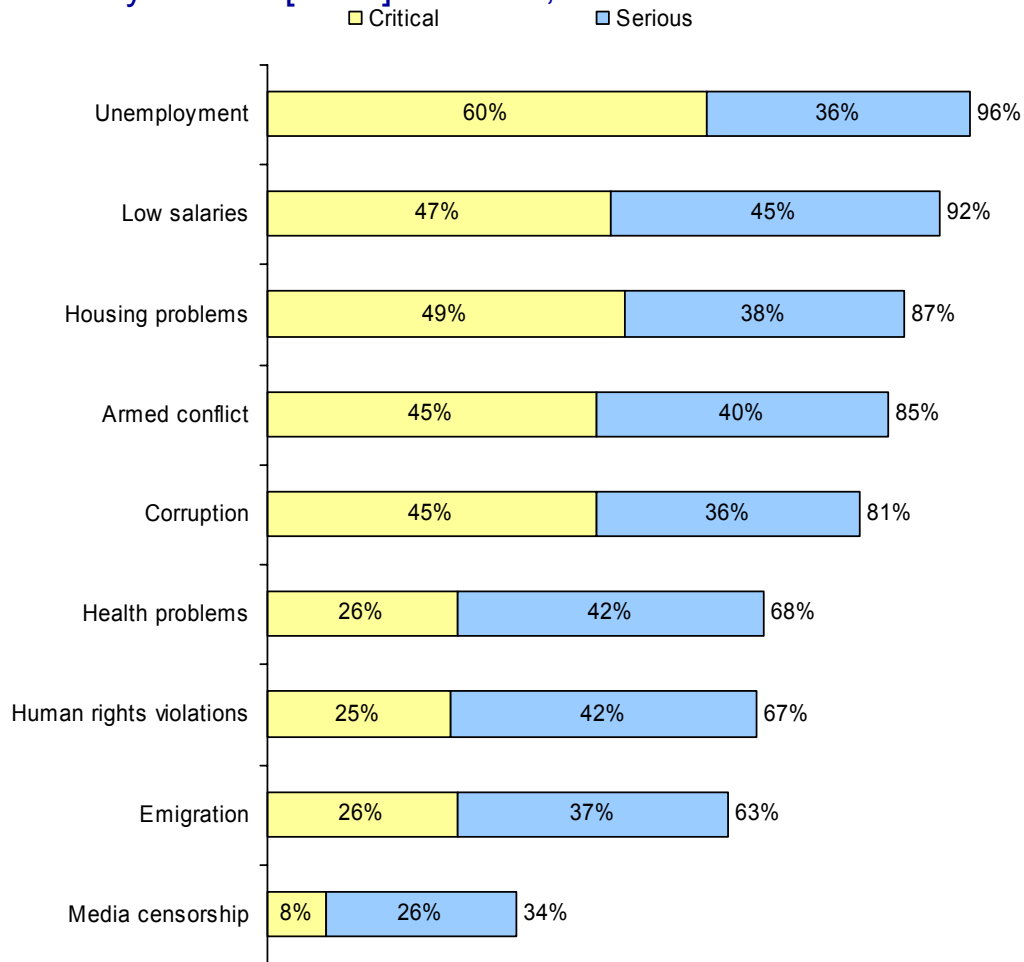
Economic hardship still widespread



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, n=2000 adults [15+], 2000 and March 2005, n= 1092 adults (15+), October 2005

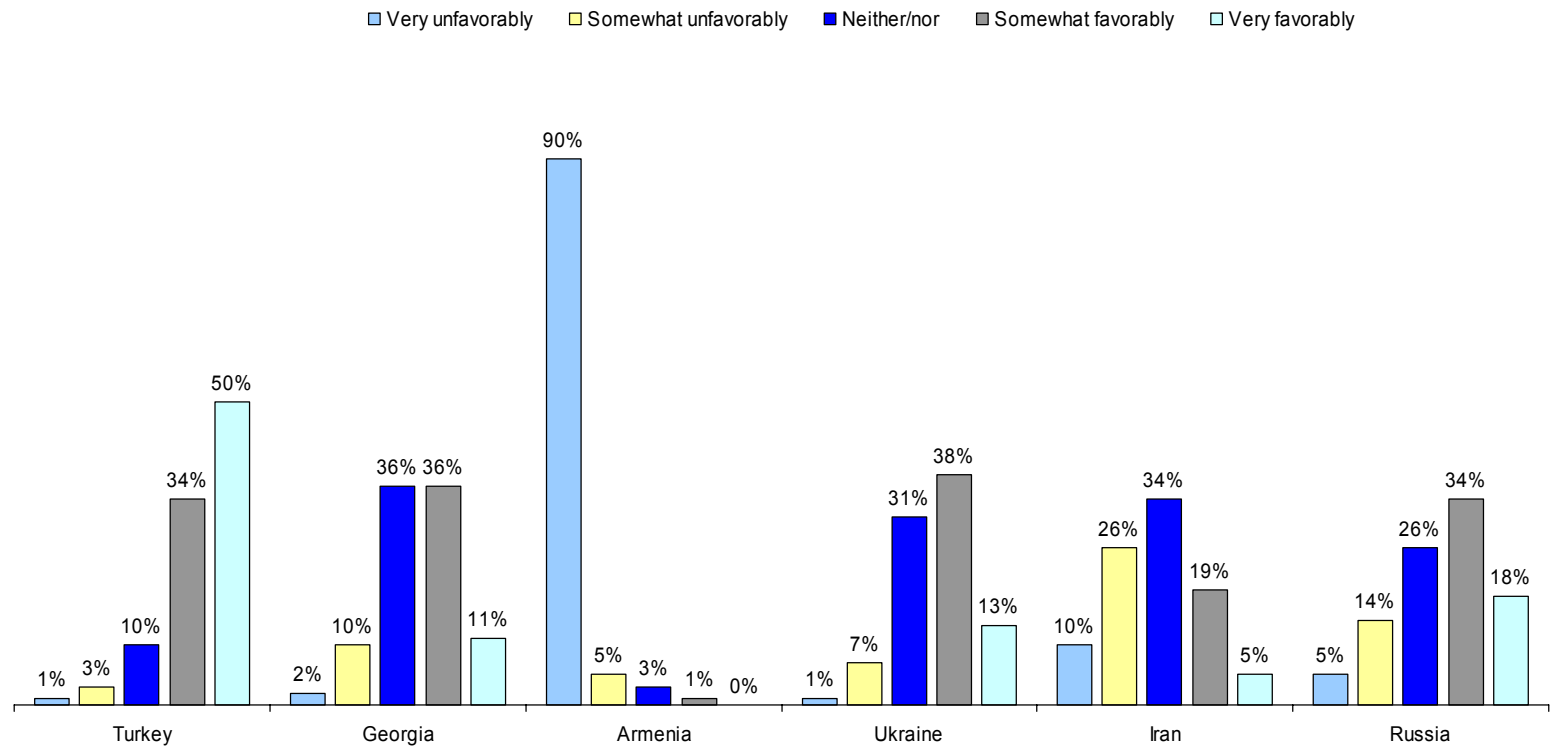
Unemployment, potential armed conflict and corruption seen as important problems

Please tell me if you think [issue] is critical, serious or not so serious for Azerbaijan?



Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan with 2000 adults [15+], 2005

Highly negative view of Armenia persists



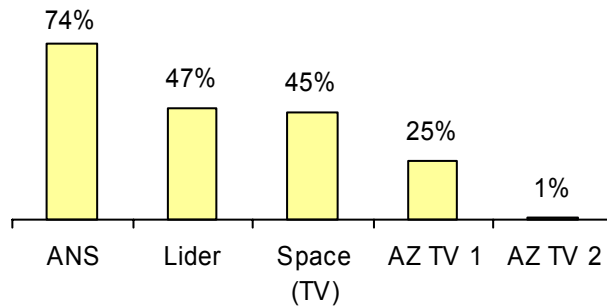
Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 2000 adults (15+), March 2005



Sources of information about the elections

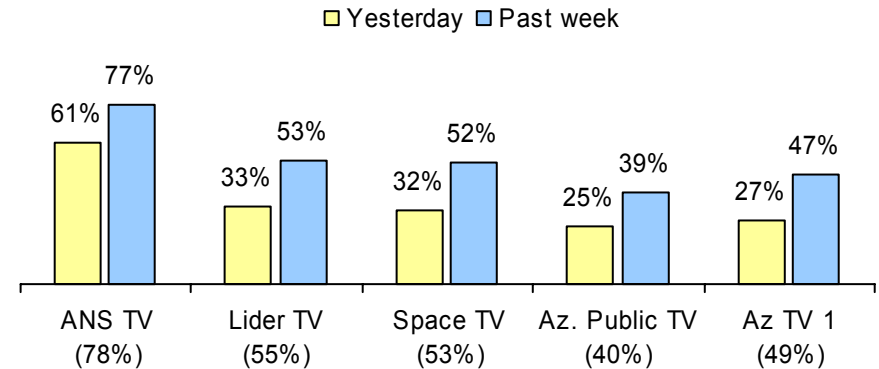
ANS TV leads as the most commonly used source about the upcoming elections in Azerbaijan

Which TV stations are your most important sources of information?



Source: InterMedia national survey in Azerbaijan with 2000 adults [15+], March 2005

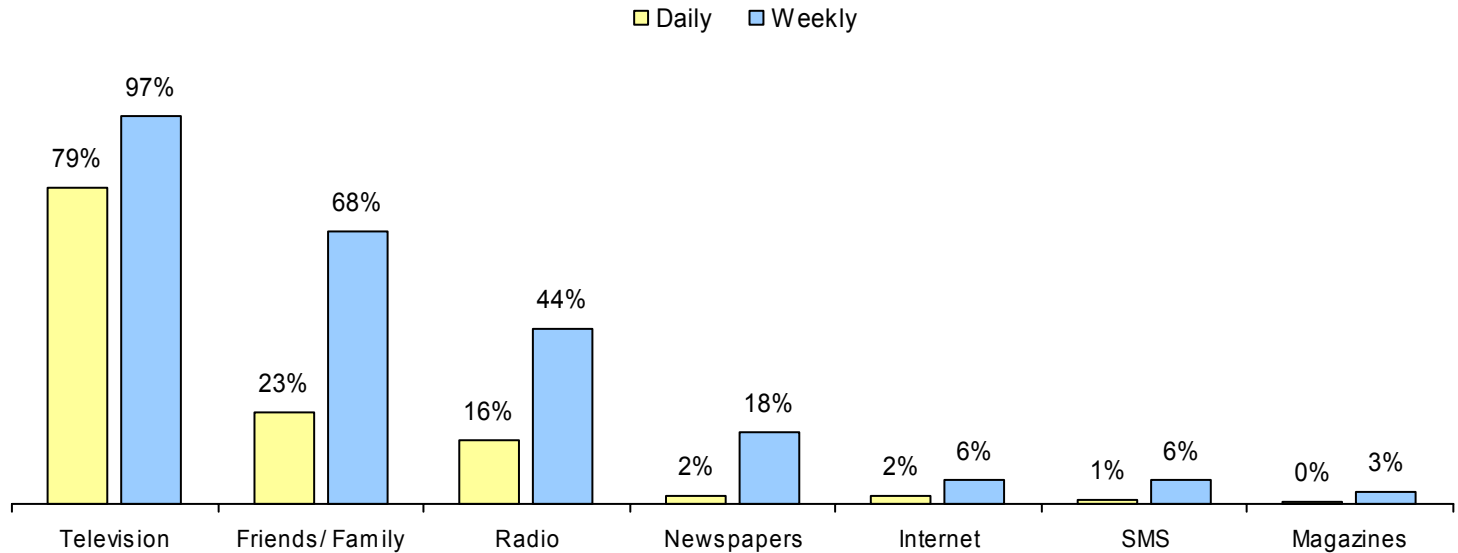
Which sources have you been following to stay informed about the elections?



Source: InterMedia national survey in Azerbaijan with adults [15+], October 2005, n=1092

Daily use of TV for news and information is unmatched by other sources

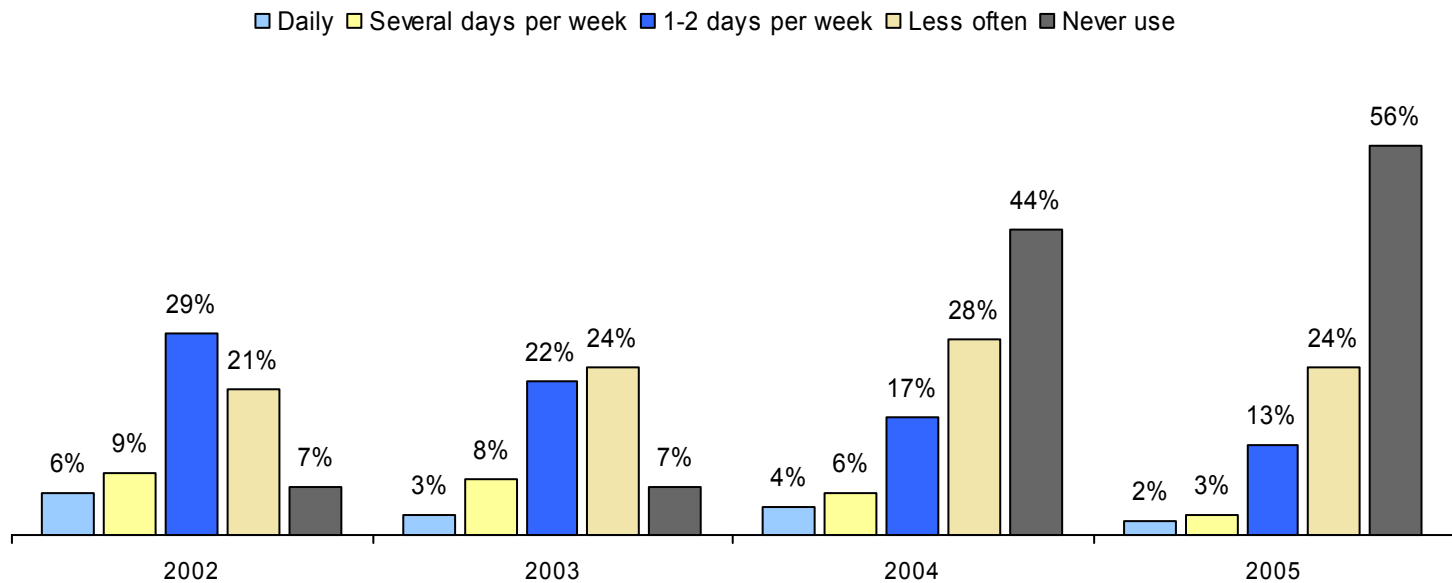
How often do you use the following sources to get news about current events ?



Source: InterMedia national survey in Azerbaijan with 2000 adults [15+], March 2005

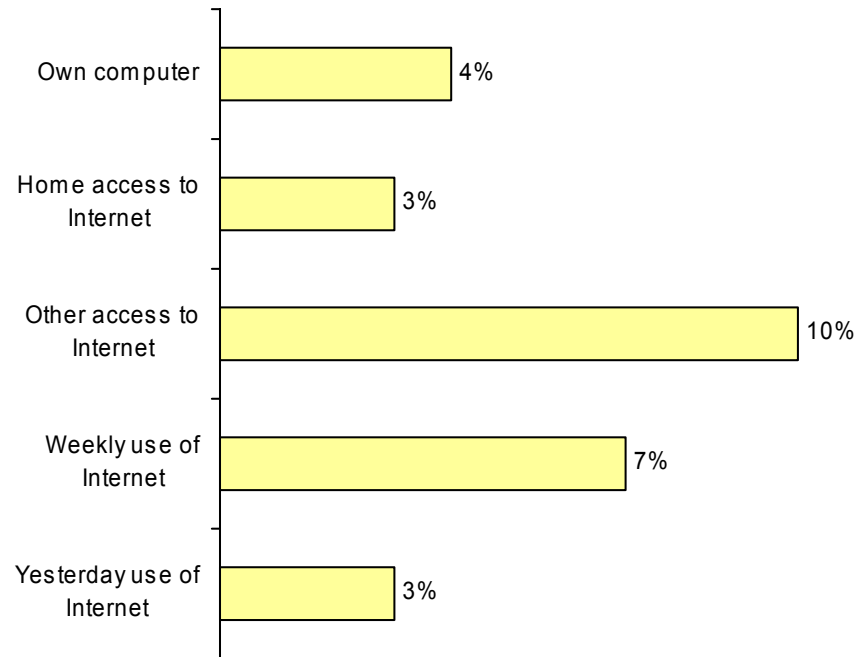
Declining use of newspapers to stay informed

How often do you use newspapers to get news about current events ?



Source: InterMedia national surveys in Azerbaijan with 2000 adults [15+], 2002-2005

Computer ownership and Internet access remain low

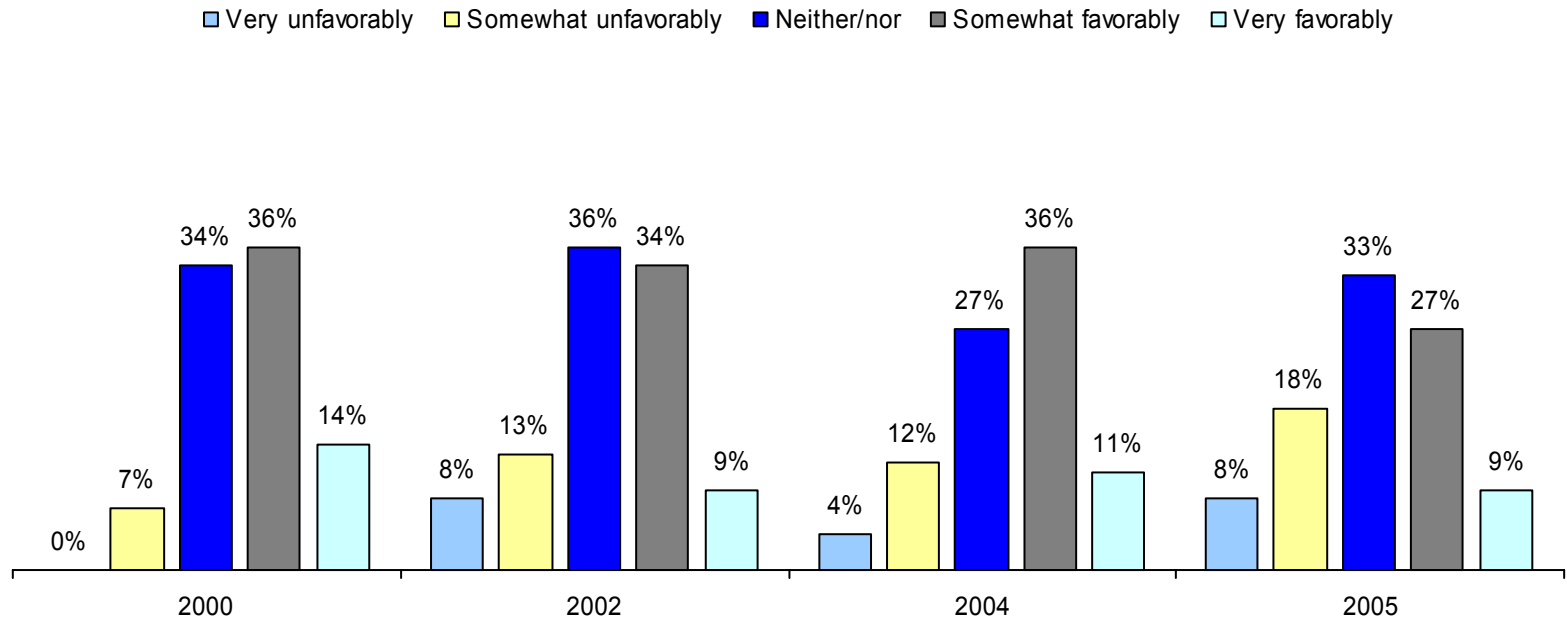


Source: InterMedia national survey in Azerbaijan with 2000 adults [15+], 2005



Views towards the outside world

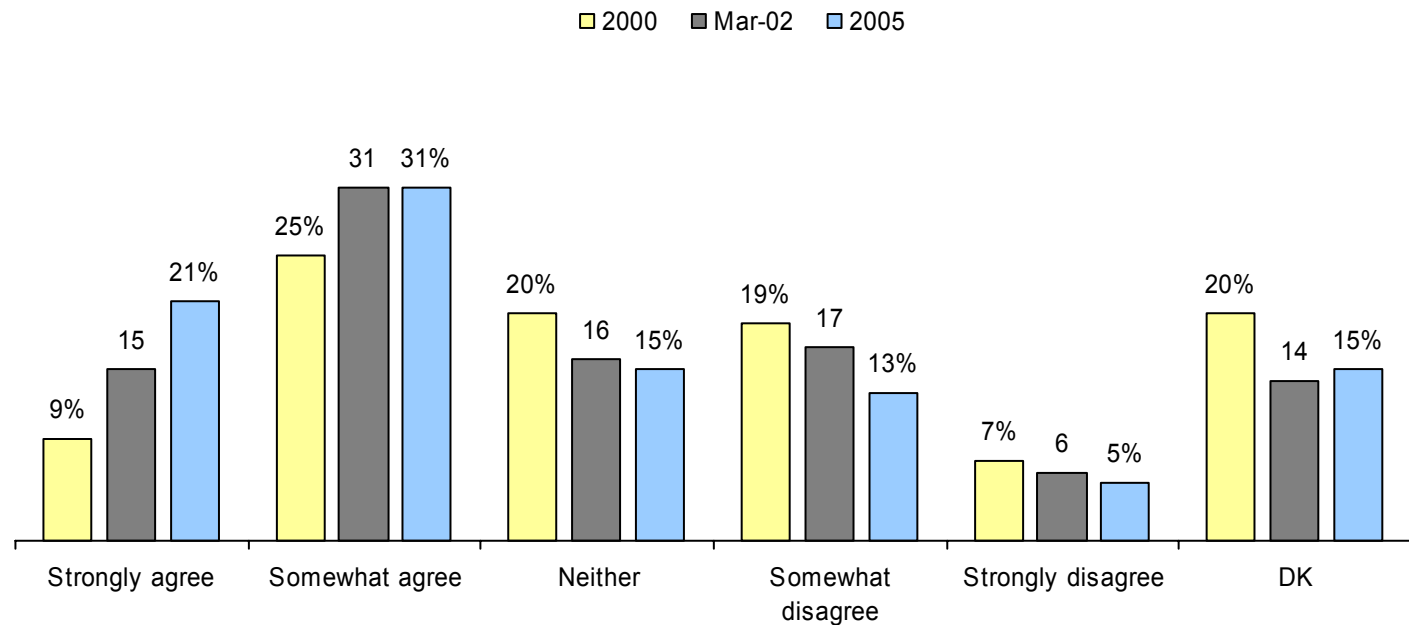
Favorability towards the U.S. has been declining



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 2000- 2005

Increasing number of Azerbaijanis feel the U.S. has too much influence over Azerbaijan

The U.S. has too much influence over our country's affairs?



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 2000 [n=1000] and 2002, 2005 [n=2000] with adults 15+

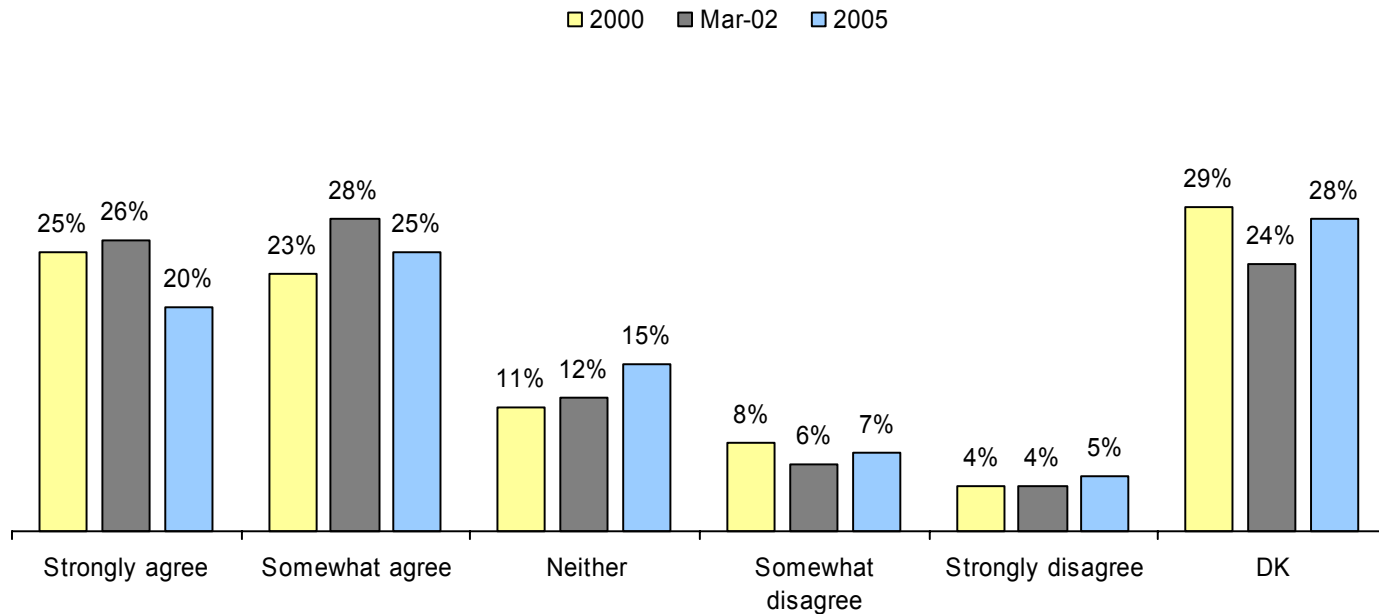
Azerbaijan along with Armenia and Russia leads the list of countries with a large proportion of “undecided” views towards the U.S.

	Favorable	Neither	Unfavorable
Azerbaijan	36	33	26
Russia	32	33	51
Armenia	49	32	17
Tajikistan	39	31	19
Kuwait	37	20	42
Ecuador	66	20	10
Macedonia	50	20	24
UAE	40	18	42
Georgia	71	12	13

Source: InterMedia national surveys in Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Macedonia (year 2005) and other countries (year 2004)

Nearly half of Azerbaijani adults support Azerbaijan's membership in NATO

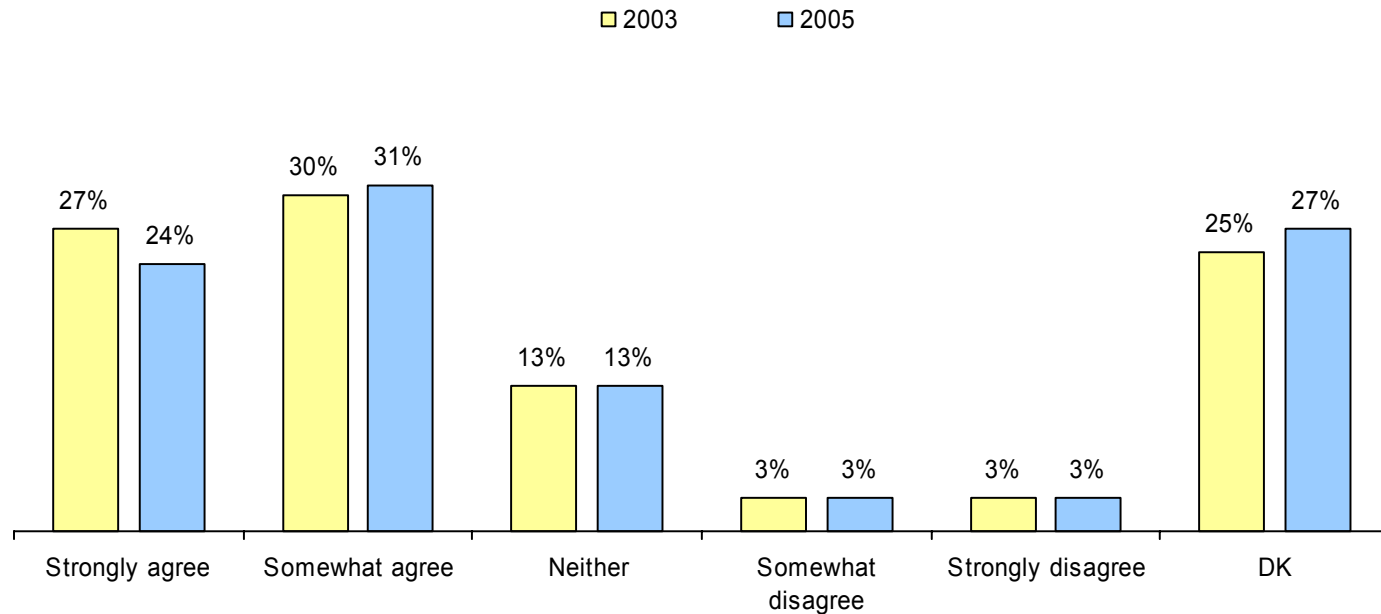
How much do you agree or disagree with the view that Azerbaijan should join NATO?



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, 1092 adults (15+), September-October 2005

Support for EU membership is stronger

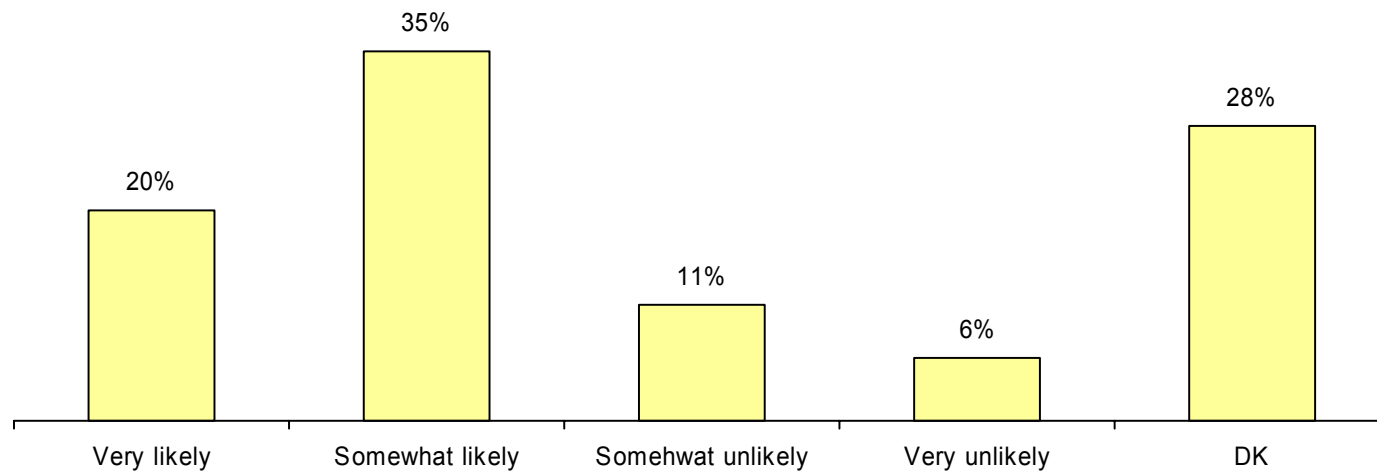
How much do you agree or disagree with the view that Azerbaijan should join EU?



Source: InterMedia national surveys of Azerbaijan, n= 2000 adults [15+], 2003, 2005

More than half of Azerbaijani adults anticipate that the U.S. will launch a military strike against Iran

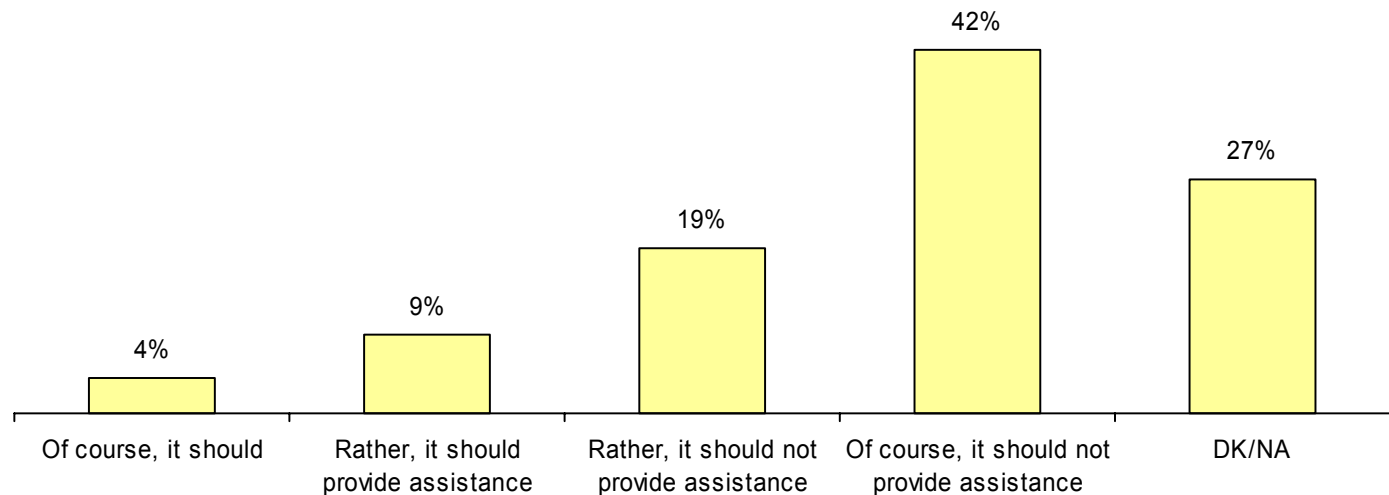
In your opinion, what is the likelihood that the U.S. and its coalition will strike on Iran if Iran does not comply with the demands to stop the development of its nuclear program?



Source: InterMedia national survey of Azerbaijan, n= 2000 adults [15+], March 2005

Azerbaijanis prefer that their government not support any U.S.-led military action against Iran

Should Azerbaijan's leadership provide assistance to the US and the coalition forces in the event of the US launching military action in Iran?



Source: InterMedia national survey of Azerbaijan, n= 2000 adults [15+], March 2005

Conclusion

- ◆ Azerbaijanis hopeful about their future, yet still name many critical issues for their government to address
- ◆ Slight majority believe elections will be free and fair
- ◆ Yeni Azerbaijan Party likely to maintain majority in Milli Majlis and the prospect of a large opposition coalition is unlikely
- ◆ Ilham Aliyev's popularity exceeds that of his father and is unmatched by others
- ◆ Public TV channel is not a match for ANS TV as a source of news about the elections
- ◆ U.S. seen as having too much influence over Azerbaijan's affairs
- ◆ Views towards Armenia remain highly negative
- ◆ Azerbaijanis are highly sensitive about their relations with Iran
- ◆ More Azerbaijanis favor membership in EU than in NATO
- ◆ Comments from S. Enders Wimbush