

# Budget Literacy of the Population in the Republic of Belarus: since 2020 to 2023

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**Abstract:** A research question:

What is the current level of budget literacy of the population of the Republic of Belarus and how it has changed since 2020?

A description of the methodology

Taking into account the definition of budget literacy proposed by the World Bank, the researchers assessed the level of budget literacy of the population of Belarus in four different areas:

- Knowledge about the main rates of taxes and contributions, understanding of the volume of their own contributions to the budget of the public administration sector;
- Knowledge about the structure of expenditures of the public administration sector, the main directions of budget expenditures;
- Ability to read and understand budgets;
- Understanding the essence of the budget process and knowledge about the main stakeholders.

In order to assess the current level of budget literacy of the population and to compare changes since 2020 to 2023, 2 equal online surveys of urban residents were conducted (in 2020 and in 2023). The sample is representative of the sex and age structure of the population of Belarus. The survey involved 1,000 male and female respondents over the age of 18.

The level of budget literacy of the population of Belarus as a whole is rather low, its average score in 2020 was 2.02 points out of 5.

At the same time, Belarusians tend to overestimate their own budget literacy: about 80% of respondents believe that they have an idea about the amount of funds paid to the budget, but less than 15% are able to correctly assess the amount of these funds.

The team of studies made recommendations to public administration organizations, civil society organizations, as well as researchers and thinktanks on what set of measures should be taken to improve the level of budget literacy of the population of the Republic of Belarus.