SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS

Safety of Journalists Country Report

Albania

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Report Authors

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The safety scores for Albania paint a mixed picture. On the one hand, journalists here seem to be coping reasonably well psychologically, which may reflect some resilience within the profession. But on the other hand, the physical and digital safety scores are clearly worrying. They suggest that many journalists still face threats, harassment, or digital surveillance as part of their everyday work. What really stands out, though, is the financial score—it's among the lowest. That speaks volumes about job insecurity, low pay, and the lack of basic protections that are making journalism a tough and often unsustainable career here. There are several reasons why Albania is scoring this way. The media landscape remains highly politicized, which puts pressure on journalists and limits editorial independence. Journalists investigating corruption or powerful interests are often exposed to harassment or even threats, and there’s not enough protection when things go wrong. In the digital space, online abuse is common, and data security is still weak. Financially, most journalists are freelancing or working without contracts, and even staff reporters often earn very little. These are long-standing problems, and while there are some efforts to improve things, the scores show how far we still have to go to make journalism safer and more sustainable in Albania.

Safety Index Scores

Overall Safety Score

75.29

Safety Dimensions

Physical Safety

77.27

Psychological Safety

76.95

Digital Safety

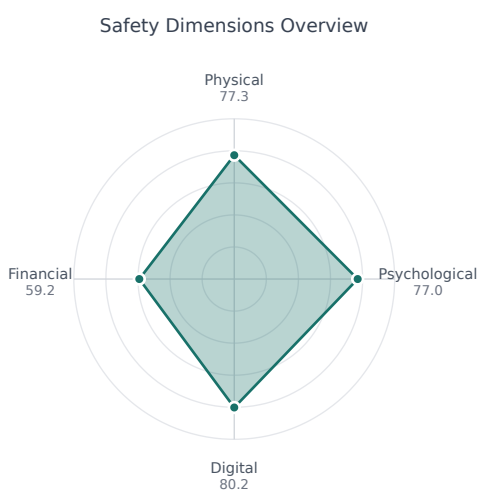
80.15

Financial Safety

59.19

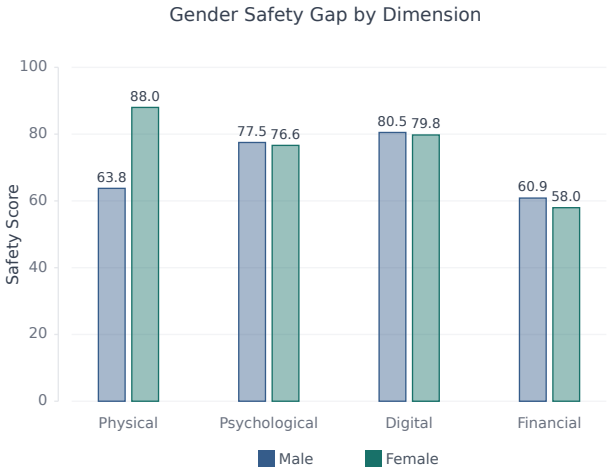
Overview

The Safety of Journalists Index provides a comprehensive measurement of journalist safety across four dimensions. The charts below show how Albania performs across each dimension and highlight any gender-based disparities.



Safety Dimensions

This radar chart displays how the country performs across all four safety dimensions, revealing areas of strength and concern.



Gender Safety Gap

This comparison highlights differences in safety experiences between male and female journalists, revealing potential gender-based disparities.

Physical Safety

The physical dimension carries **50% weight in the safety index**.

1

Journalist Killing

2016-2024

This figure represents the total number of journalist killings in Albania between 2016 and 2024.

Note: This indicator carries 30% of the weight within the physical dimension of the Safety Index, making it the most significant factor in this category.

Data sourced from UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists.

Impunity for Killings of Journalists (5% weight in physical dimension)

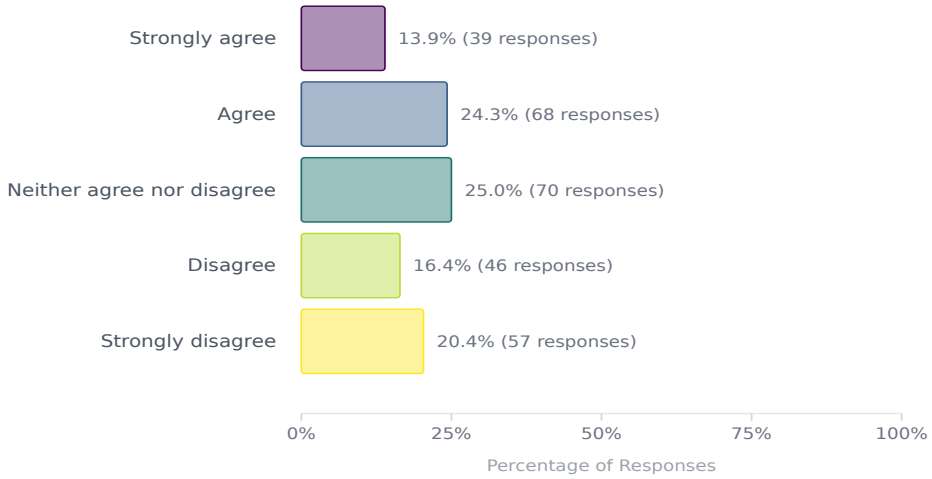
0 out of 100

The one recorded journalist killing in Albania between 2016 and 2024 has not been resolved.

The impunity score is the percentage of journalist killings recorded between 2016 and 2024 that were resolved: later judged not to be related to the victim's work as a journalist, or where those responsible were legally prosecuted. Higher scores mean less impunity. A country scores 100 if every killing was resolved or if no killings were recorded.

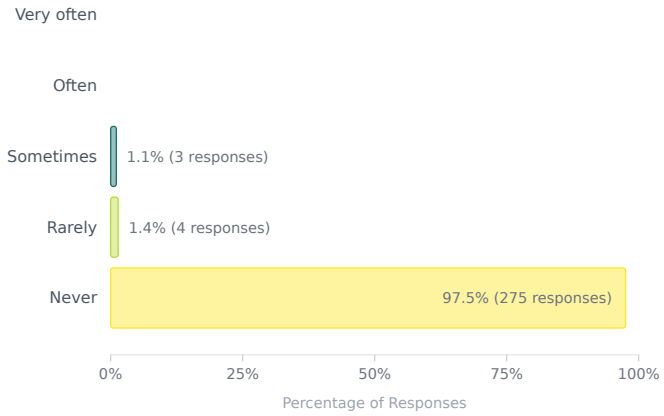
Note: This indicator carries 5% of the weight within the physical dimension of the Safety Index. Data sourced from UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists.

Responses to: "I am concerned about my physical wellbeing" (20% weight in physical dimension)

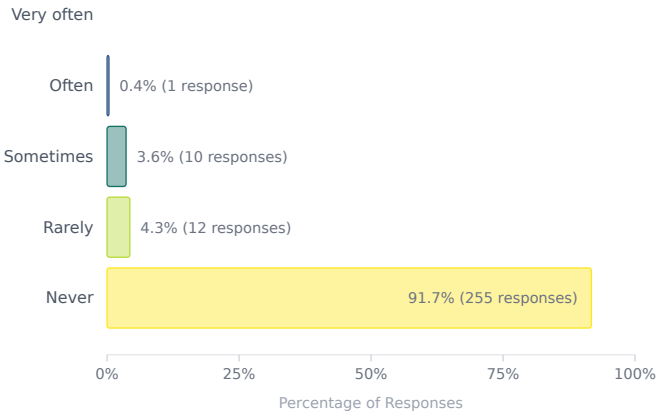


Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Arrests, detentions or imprisonment (15% weight in physical dimension)

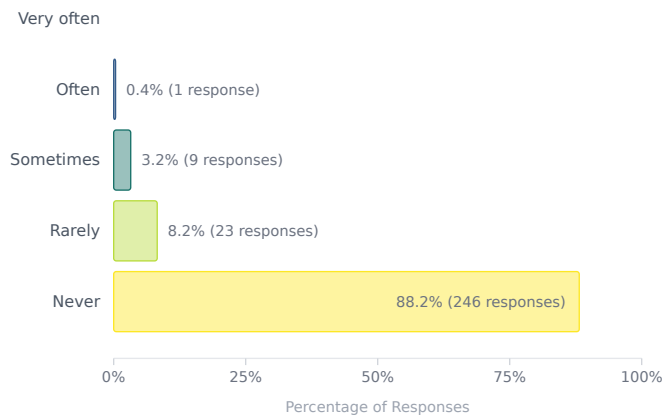


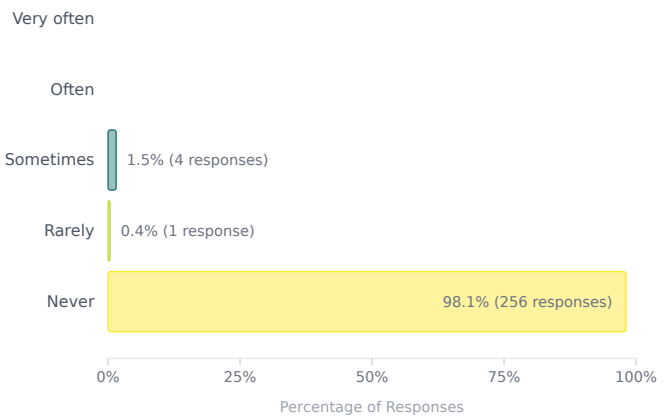
Sexual assault or sexual harassment (15% weight in physical dimension)



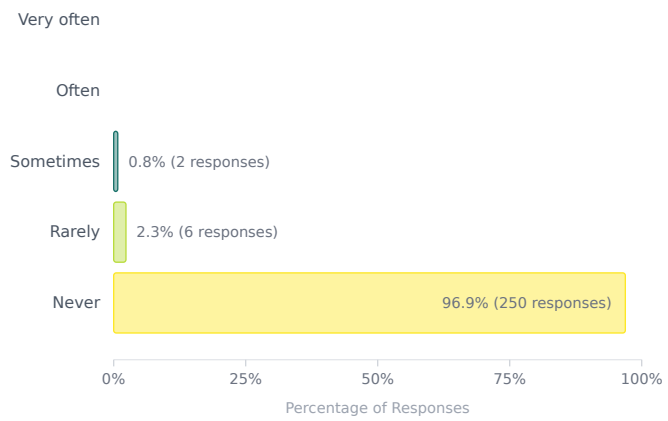
Other physical attacks (15% weight in physical dimension)

Abductions (did not contribute to calculation)

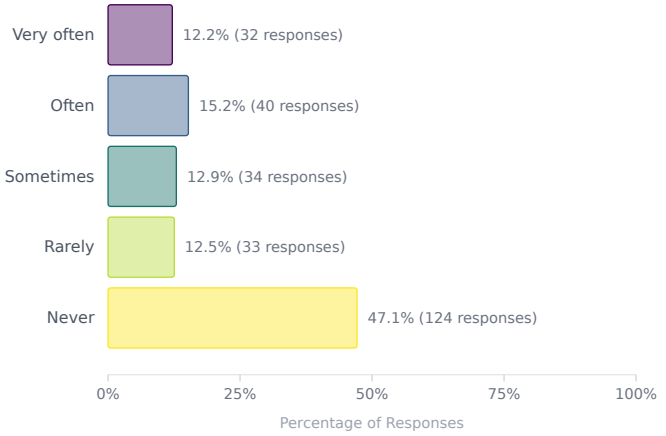




Office raids or seizures or damage of equipment (did not contribute to calculation)



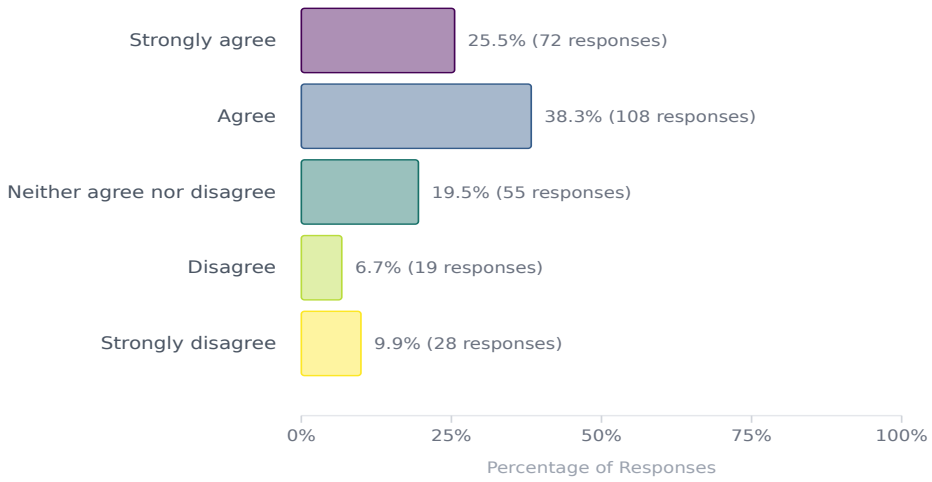
Being required to work in an environment where COVID-19 had easily spread (did not contribute to calculation)



Psychological Safety

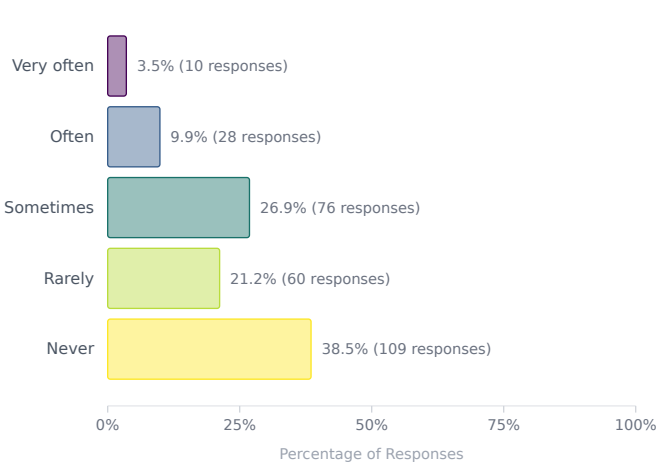
The psychological dimension carries **25% weight in the safety index**.

Responses to: "I am concerned about my emotional wellbeing" (20% weight in psychological dimension)

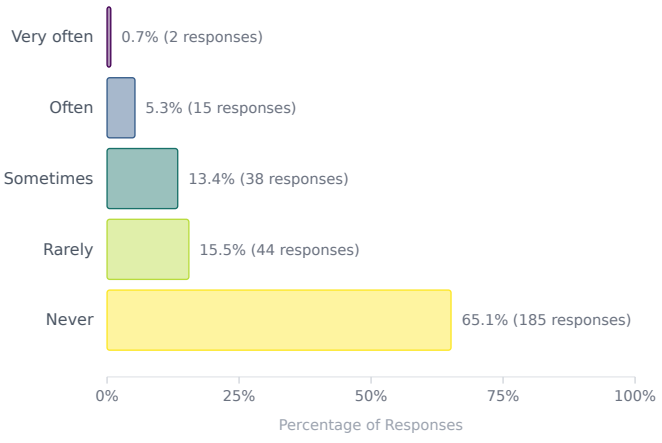


Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

Demeaning or hateful speech directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)



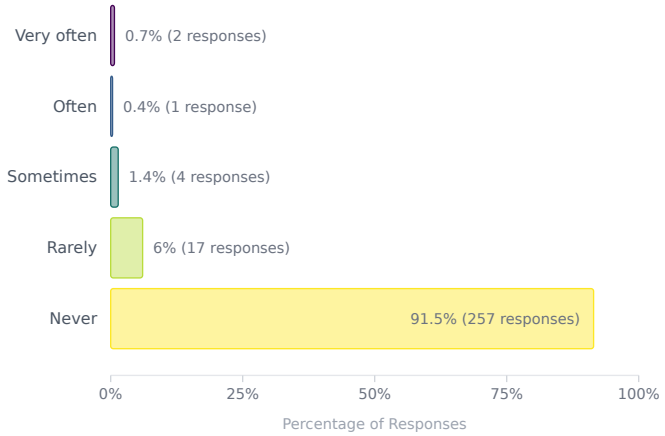
Public discrediting of your work (16% weight in psychological dimension)

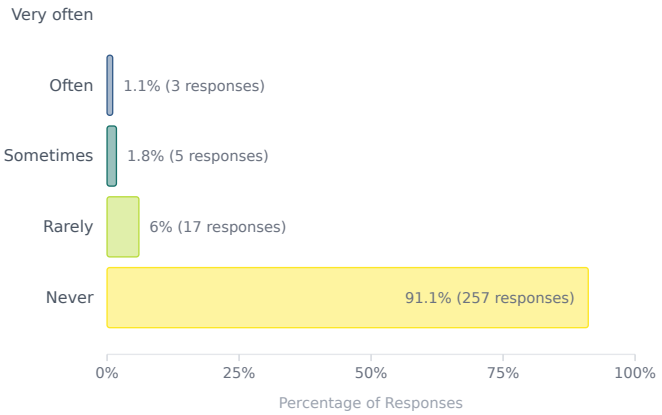


Legal actions against you because of your work (16% weight in psychological

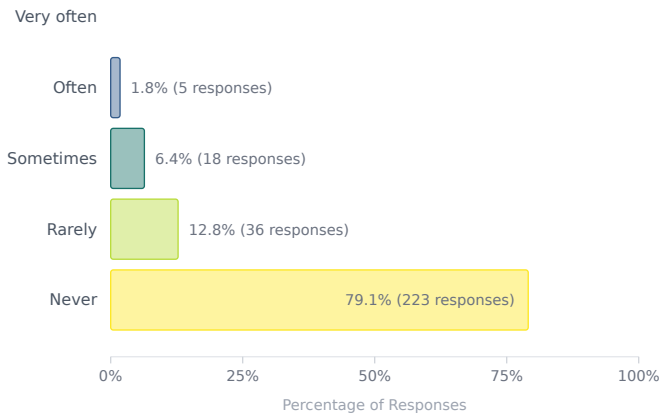
Stalking (16% weight in psychological dimension)

dimension)

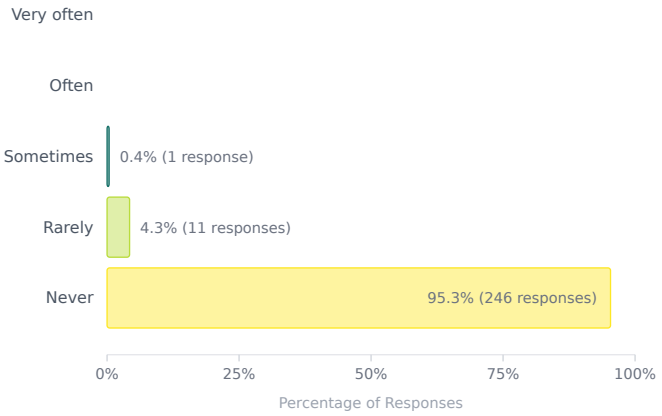




Other threats or intimidation directed at you (16% weight in psychological dimension)

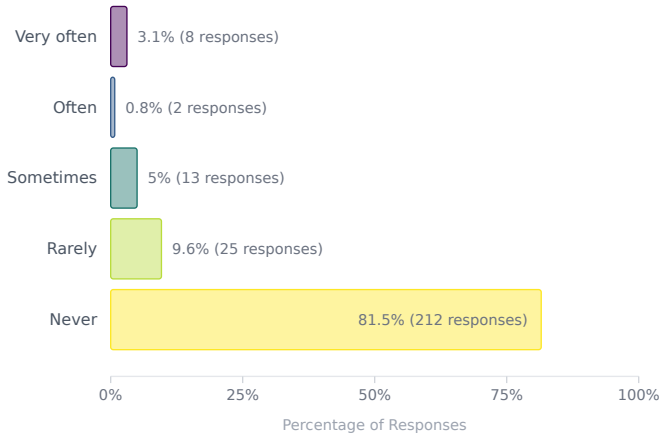


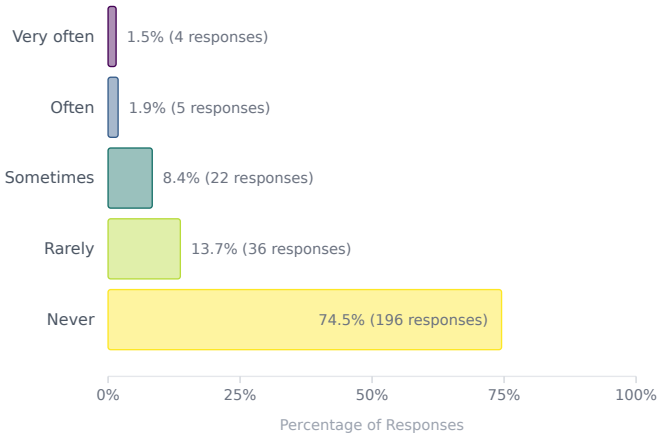
Coercion (did not contribute to calculation)



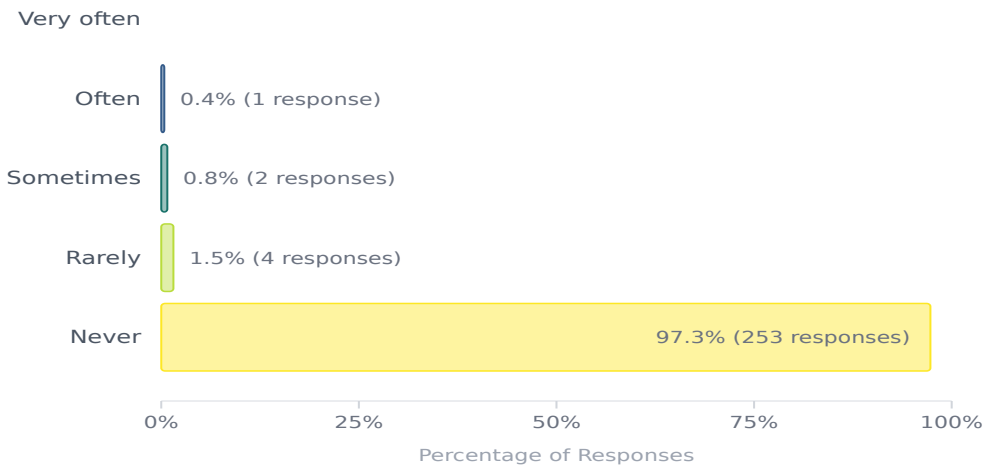
Questioning of your personal morality (did not contribute to calculation)

Workplace bullying (did not contribute to calculation)





Intimidation that targets your family or close associates (did not contribute to calculation)

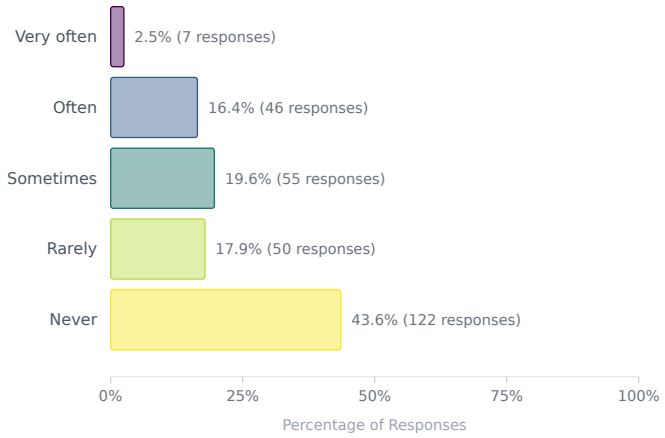


Digital Safety

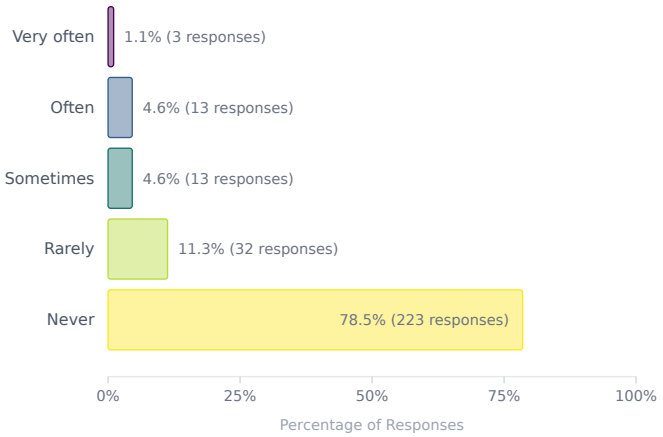
The digital dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index**.

Responses to: "In the last five years, how often have you experienced any of the following actions related to your work as a journalist?"

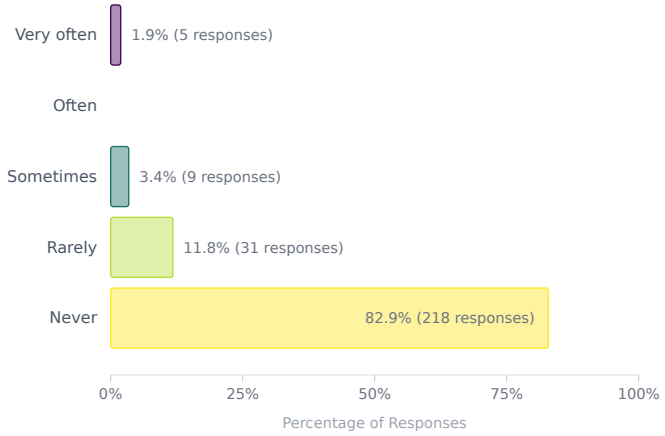
Surveillance (50% weight in digital dimension)



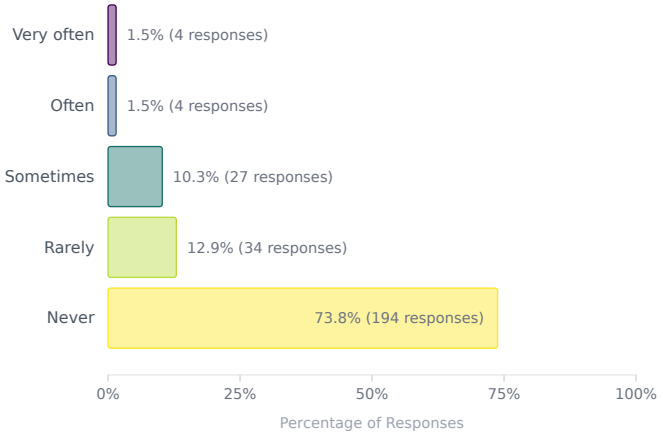
Hacking or blocking of social media accounts or websites (50% weight in digital dimension)



Others using your byline for fabricated or manipulated stories (did not contribute to calculation)



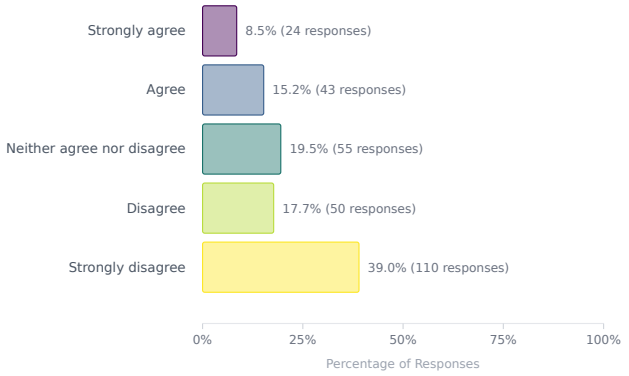
Others disseminating your personal information (did not contribute to calculation)



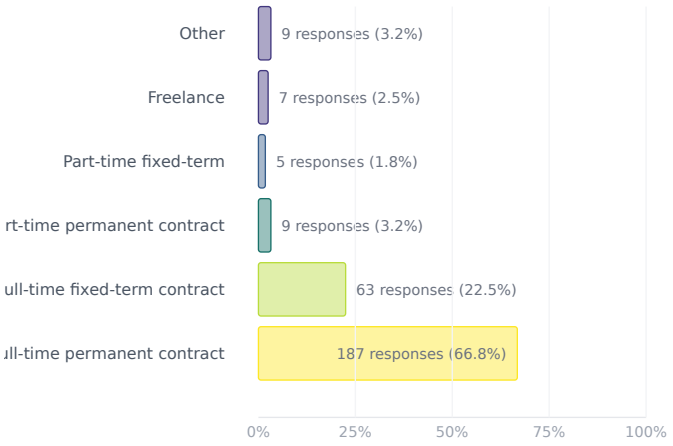
Financial Safety

The financial dimension carries **12.5% weight in the safety index**.

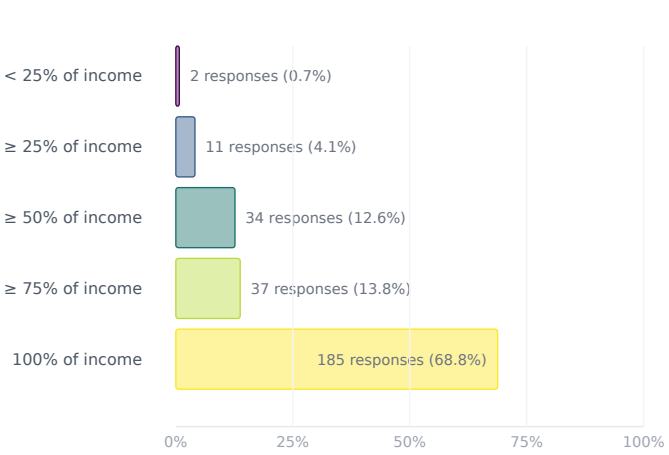
Responses to: "I am worried about losing my job in journalism within the next 12 months" (20% weight in financial dimension)



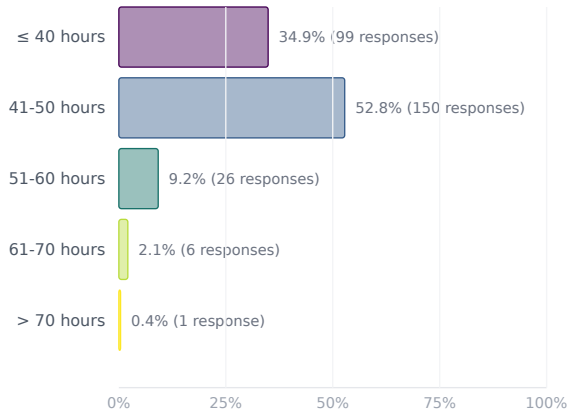
Responses to: "Which of the following categories best describes your current working situation as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



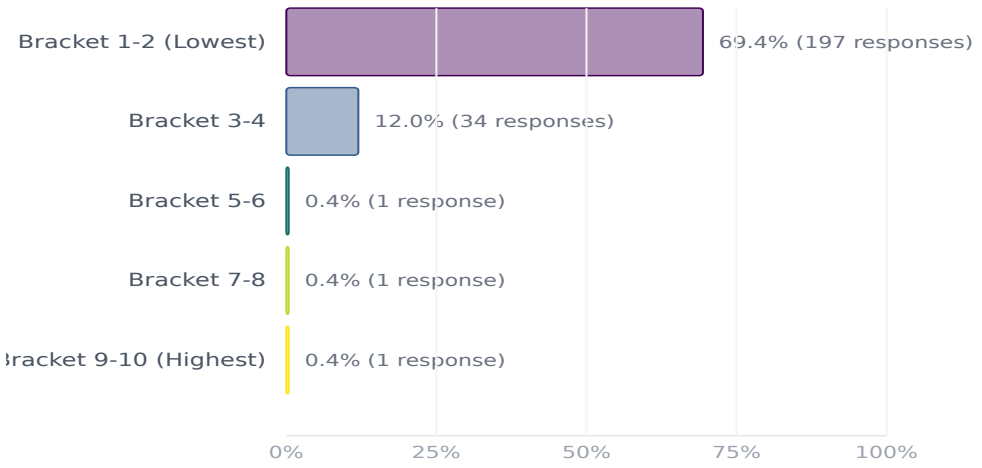
Responses to "Approximately what percentage of your overall work-related income comes from your work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "How many hours a week on average do you work as a journalist?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Responses to: "In which of the following categories does your salary as a journalist fall?" (20% weight in financial dimension)



Options are given on a 10-point scale specific to each country.

Demographics

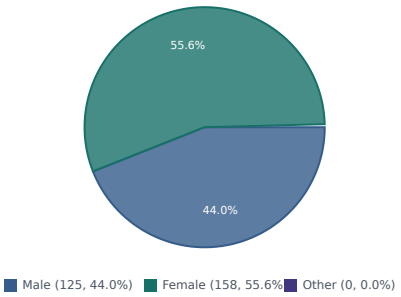
This section contains demographic information about survey respondents from Albania.

Survey Participation

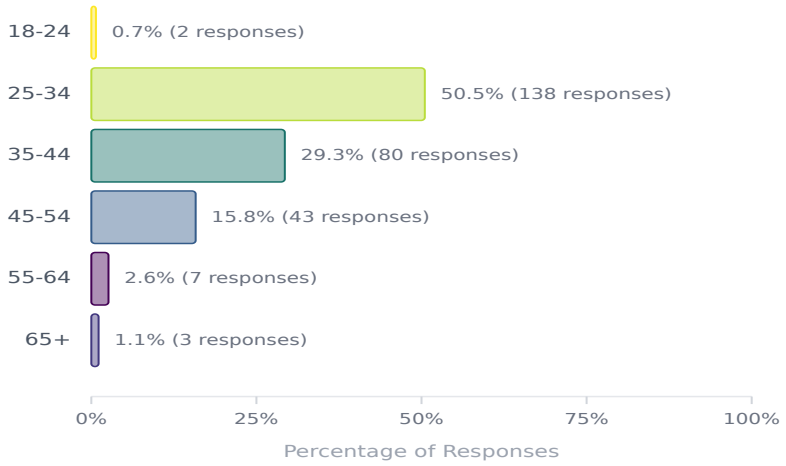
284

Total respondents

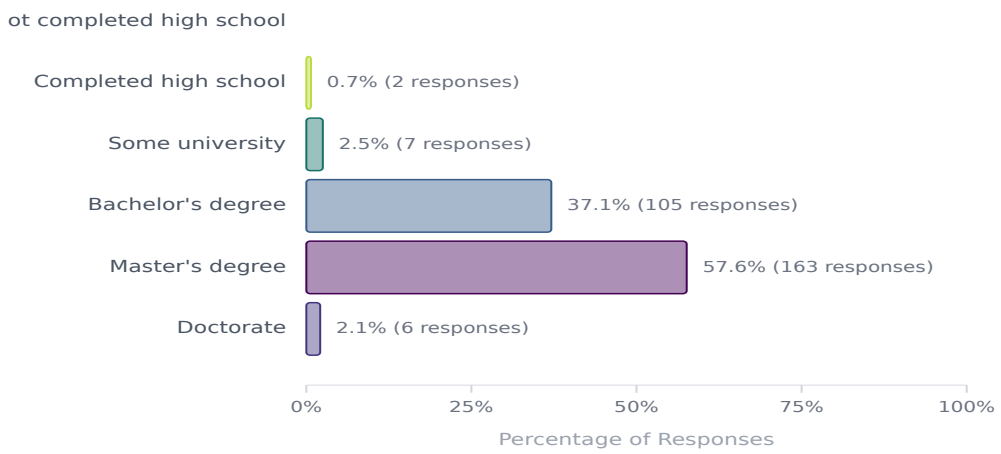
Gender Breakdown of Respondents



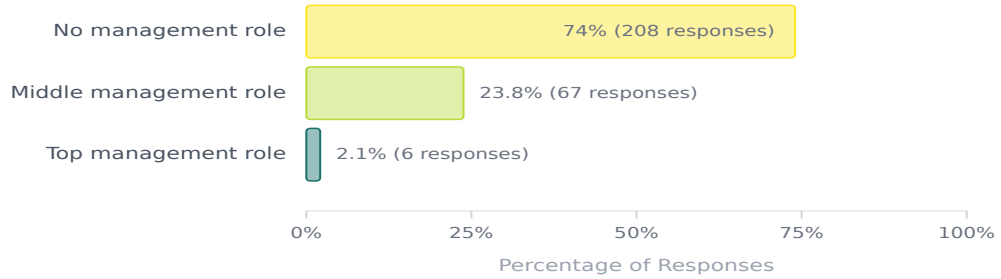
Age Distribution of Respondents



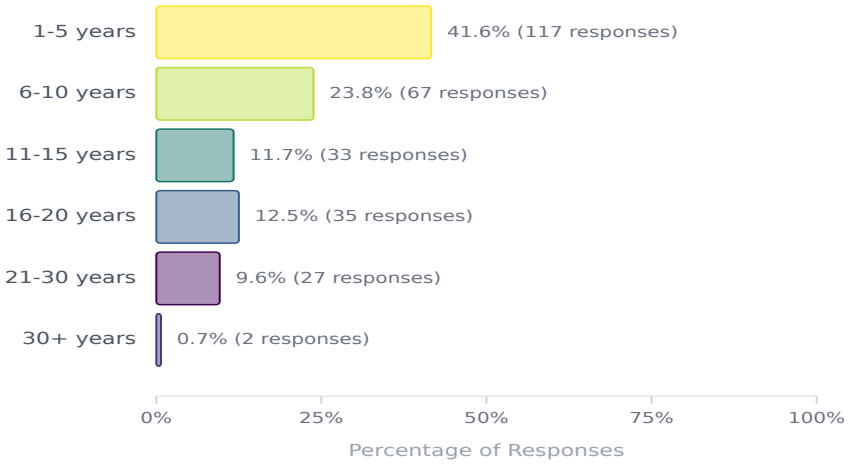
Education Level of Respondents



Workplace Position of Respondents



Years of Experience as Journalist


1-5 years
41.6% (117 responses)
6-10 years
23.8% (67 responses)
11-15 years
11.7% (33 responses)
16-20 years
12.5% (35 responses)
21-30 years
9.6% (27 responses)
30+ years
0.7% (2 responses)
0%
25%
50%
75%
100%
Percentage of Responses

For more detailed information about the methodology and complete findings, please visit the full country page at: https://safetyofjournalists.org/index/country/albania

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