

Public opinion monitoring of the state of the Russian society

As in the previous issues, we publish the results of the public opinion monitoring of the state of the Russian society conducted by ISEDT RAS in the Vologda Oblast ¹.

The following tables show the dynamics of a number of parameters indicating the social feeling and socio-political sentiment of the Vologda Oblast population on average for the last 6 surveys (October 2012 – August 2013) in comparison with the data for 2012, as well as for 2011, when D.A. Medvedev's presidential term was due to expire, and for 2007, the last year of V.V. Putin's second Presidency.

Estimation of performance of the authorities

The data presented in *table 1* show that from February 2013 the level of approval concerning the performance of Russia's President has not been rising and remains about 55%, which is 20 p.p. lower than it was at the end of V. Putin's second presidential term in 2007 (75%). The share of disapproving estimates on the average for the past 6 surveys in comparison with 2007 has increased almost by the same value (by 20 p.p. from 11% to 31%).

Table 1. Dynamics of the answers to the question: "How do you assess the current performance of..?", % of the number of respondents

Indicator	2007	2011	2012	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Dec. 2012	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison to 2012
RF President												
Approve	75.3	58.7	51.7	53.7	50.9	53.3	55.5	55.5	54.3	55.1	54.1	+2
Do not approve	11.5	25.6	32.6	31.1	32.1	34.6	29.2	31.5	29.3	28.9	30.9	-2
Chairman of the RF Government												
Approve	-	59.3	49.6	48.5	47.1	48.3	47.9	48.5	46.2	50.4	48.1	-2
Do not approve	-	24.7	33.3	34.5	32.8	35.9	34.4	35.7	33.2	30.4	33.7	0
Governor												
Approve	55.8	45.7	41.9	45.3	43.6	42.5	43.0	44.4	44.3	44.8	43.8	+2
Do not approve	22.2	30.5	33.3	32.7	33.7	35.4	33.8	34.9	31.9	31.1	33.5	0

¹ The polls are held six times a year in Vologda, Cherepovets, and in eight districts of the oblast (Babayevsky District, Velikoustyugsky District, Vozhegodsky District, Gryazovetsky District, Kirillovsky District, Nikolsky District, Tarnogsky District and Sheksninsky District). The method of the survey is a questionnaire poll by place of residence of respondents. The volume of a sample population is 1500 people aged from 18 and older. The sample is purposeful and quoted. Representativeness of the sample is ensured by the observance of the proportions between the urban and rural population, the proportions between the inhabitants of settlements of various types (rural communities, small and medium-sized cities), age and sex structure of the oblast's adult population. Sampling error does not exceed 3%.

More details on the results of ISEDT RAS polls are available at <http://www.vsc.ac.ru/>.

The absence of positive changes in the evaluation of the President's performance from February 2012 is proved by the dynamics of the answers obtained in the different social groups of population (tab. 2). The average value for the last 6 surveys is also significantly (by 20% and more) worse than it was in 2007.

Table 2. Dynamics of the RF President's activity approval by different social groups of population, % of the number of respondents

Indicator	2007	2011	2012	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Dec. 2012	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison to 2012
<i>Sex</i>												
Men	73.6	55.6	48.9	52.5	47.7	49.2	53.1	54.3	53.5	53.1	51.8	+3
Women	76.7	61.2	53.9	54.6	53.4	56.6	57.5	56.5	54.9	56.8	56.0	+2
<i>Age</i>												
Under 30	76.6	58.3	49.7	51.6	50.8	50.1	55.6	56.6	48.1	50.9	52.0	+2
30–55	75.1	57.6	50.9	54.5	48.2	54.3	53.0	53.5	57.7	57.3	54.0	+3
Over 55	74.6	60.7	54.6	54.0	55.1	54.5	59.5	57.9	53.6	55.1	56.0	+1
<i>Education</i>												
Secondary, incomplete secondary	70.3	54.9	46.0	48.3	47.1	44.2	52.0	50.1	51.6	51.1	49.4	+3
Secondary vocational	76.4	59.8	51.8	47.5	51.8	54.8	55.9	57.1	55.2	54.2	54.8	+3
Higher, incomplete higher	80.1	61.3	56.6	65.2	53.5	59.9	58.6	59.7	56.3	60.1	58.0	+1
<i>Income groups</i>												
20% of the poorest people	65.1	45.7	40.9	41.2	40.7	36.6	40.9	43.4	52.8	47.0	43.6	+3
60% of the people with middle-sized income	78.0	60.4	53.8	57.2	53.0	55.1	59.2	58.2	53.9	54.3	55.6	+2
20% of the most prosperous people	82.6	68.9	59.4	60.3	59.3	66.0	63.9	64.9	60.8	66.7	63.6	+4
<i>Territories</i>												
Vologda	74.1	58.3	51.6	53.3	54.0	53.4	51.5	54.7	51.1	54.1	53.1	+2
Cherepovets	82.8	68.5	62.3	65.0	61.5	63.2	64.1	61.4	65.3	62.8	63.1	+1
Districts	72.2	53.9	46.3	48.0	44.3	48.3	53.1	52.8	49.9	51.5	50.0	+4
Oblast	75.3	58.7	51.7	53.7	50.9	53.3	55.5	55.5	54.3	55.1	54.1	+2

Assessment of success in coping with challenging issues

The answers of the Vologda Oblast residents to the question “How successful is the RF President’s activity in dealing with challenging issues?” are presented in *table 3*. They show that in 2007 the level of “successful” estimates of President V. Putin’s performance was higher than that of “unsuccessful” estimates by all the positions. As for 2011, during D. Medvedev’s Presidency, the opposite situation was observed: the share of negative assessments was significantly higher than the share of positive ones (by 15–20%).

For the 16 months of the third presidential term, the assessment of V. Putin’s performance in dealing with key issues has remained on the level of 2011. The population sees no significant difference between the performance of D. Medvedev as President and V. Putin during his third Presidency on these key issues so far.

Table 3. How successful, in your opinion, is the RF President’s activity in coping with challenging issues?, % of the number of respondents*

Indicator	2007	2011	2012	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Dec. 2012	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison to 2012		
												2007	2011	2012
Strengthening Russia’s standing in world affairs														
Successful	58.4	46.2	43.1	47.2	41.9	44.1	45.1	46.7	41.7	45.3	44.1	-14	-2	+1
Unsuccessful	24.9	33.7	37.9	34.9	39.4	39.0	34.4	39.5	37.1	36.4	37.6	+13	+4	0
<i>Success index**</i>	<i>133.5</i>	<i>112.5</i>	<i>105.2</i>	<i>112.3</i>	<i>102.5</i>	<i>105.1</i>	<i>110.7</i>	<i>107.2</i>	<i>104.6</i>	<i>108.9</i>	<i>106.5</i>	<i>-27</i>	<i>-6</i>	<i>+1</i>
Imposing order in the country														
Successful	53.2	36.6	35.4	40.9	34.8	37.5	37.7	37.2	35.1	39.9	37.0	-16	0	+2
Unsuccessful	34.0	50.0	50.7	45.6	50.1	50.7	46.5	49.9	49.9	46.7	49.0	+15	-1	-2
<i>Success index**</i>	<i>119.2</i>	<i>86.6</i>	<i>84.7</i>	<i>95.3</i>	<i>84.7</i>	<i>86.8</i>	<i>91.2</i>	<i>87.3</i>	<i>85.2</i>	<i>93.2</i>	<i>88.0</i>	<i>-31</i>	<i>+1</i>	<i>+3</i>
Protection of democracy and strengthening the citizens’ freedoms														
Successful	44.4	32.4	28.8	33.0	26.7	28.5	30.0	30.4	29.1	34.7	29.9	-15	-3	+1
Unsuccessful	37.0	48.3	52.3	48.1	54.0	54.7	49.8	54.9	50.0	48.5	52.0	+15	+4	0
<i>Success index**</i>	<i>107.4</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>76.5</i>	<i>84.9</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>73.8</i>	<i>80.2</i>	<i>75.5</i>	<i>79.1</i>	<i>86.2</i>	<i>77.9</i>	<i>-30</i>	<i>-6</i>	<i>+1</i>
Economic recovery, increase in the citizens’ welfare														
Successful	47.2	30.7	28.5	34.7	25.3	29.3	30.7	31.9	28.2	32.6	29.7	-18	-1	+1
Unsuccessful	39.1	56.1	57.9	51.4	61.1	59.6	53.9	59.6	56.7	53.4	57.4	+18	+1	-1
<i>Success index**</i>	<i>108.1</i>	<i>74.6</i>	<i>70.6</i>	<i>83.3</i>	<i>64.2</i>	<i>69.7</i>	<i>76.8</i>	<i>72.3</i>	<i>71.5</i>	<i>79.2</i>	<i>72.3</i>	<i>-36</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>+2</i>

* Ranked according to the average value of the indicator for the last 6 surveys.

** For calculating each index the share of negative answers is subtracted from the share of positive answers, after that 100 is added to the obtained figure in order to avoid negative values. Consequently, fully negative answers would give the total index 0, fully positive answers – index 200, the balance between the former and the latter – index 100, which is, in fact, a neutral mark.

Estimation of social condition

Table 4, representing the dynamics of population's estimation of their social condition, shows that the share of positive answers about the mood and stock of patience on average for the last 6 surveys was higher than in 2007 (by 4.3% and 5.6%).

At the same time, the indicators of social self-identification for the same period have deteriorated: the share of people considering themselves to be "poor" and "extremely poor" increased by 5 p.p. (from 42% to 47%), the share of people with "average income" decreased (from 48% to 44%); Consumer Sentiment Index declined (by 15 p.p. – from 106 to 91).

Perhaps, these trends indicate that there is some conservation of the positive expectations from the authorities of all levels, people tend to concentrate more on their personal, family and private life. In our opinion, this is an alarming trend, for it establishes the principle of "it is good that it is not worse". If the authorities do not seek to enhance the efficiency of their efforts to restore order in the country, promote the growth of the economy, increase the welfare of the population, protect democracy, secure the rights and freedoms of citizens, this may lead to very undesirable consequences. It is essential that people actually see the changes in their life on these key issues.

Table 4. Estimation of social condition, % of the number of respondents

Answer options	2007	2011	2012	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Dec. 2012	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison to 2012
Mood												
Usual condition, good mood	63.6	63.1	67.3	71.3	69.0	68.0	66.6	68.6	66.4	68.7	67.9	+1
Feeling stress, anger, fear, depression	27.8	28.9	27.0	23.3	25.5	26.5	30.5	26.0	25.9	26.3	26.8	0
Stock of patience												
Everything is not so bad; it's difficult to live, but it's possible to stand it	74.1	74.8	76.6	73.2	77.5	79.9	75.5	77.9	77.8	79.7	78.1	+2
It's impossible to bear such plight	13.6	15.3	15.8	17.0	15.6	13.7	16.1	16.5	13.7	14.7	15.1	-1
Social self-identification												
The share of people who consider themselves to be poor and extremely poor	42.4	44.3	44.5	44.2	44.1	47.0	45.9	48.2	48.3	46.8	46.7	+2
The share of people who consider themselves to have average income	48.2	43.1	44.7	43.4	44.7	43.4	44.3	42.6	41.9	44.9	43.6	-1
Consumer Sentiment Index												
Index value, points	105.9	89.6	91.5	92.3	91.7	91.7	92.3	90.4	89.8	91.0	91.2	0

Attitude of the population toward political parties

The lack of positive changes is observed in the level of support of the ruling party. By the end of V. Putin's second Presidency (2007) and during D. Medvedev's Presidency (2011), as well as in 2012 and 2013 the level of support of "United Russia" was 29–30% (*tab. 5*). At that, the share of the oblast's residents, whose interests are expressed by no party, is continuing to increase (in 2007 – 18%, in 2011 – 29%, in 2012 – 31%, on average for the last 6 surveys – 34%).

Table 5. Which party expresses your interests?, % of the number of respondents

Party	2007	Election to the RF State Duma 2007, fact	2011	Election to the RF State Duma 2011, fact	2012	Aug. 2012	Oct. 2012	Dec. 2012	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison to 2012
United Russia	30.2	60.5	31.1	33.4	29.1	31.4	26.6	30.4	30.5	28.5	31.3	29.6	29.5	0
KPRF	7.0	9.3	10.3	16.8	10.6	9.5	10.4	12.2	9.7	11.0	11.3	12.0	11.1	+1
LDPR	7.5	11.0	7.8	15.4	7.8	6.7	6.8	7.2	6.3	7.1	6.6	6.8	6.8	-1
Just Russia	7.8	8.8	5.6	27.2	6.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.3	5.1	-2
Other	1.8	–	1.9	–	2.1	2.3	2.4	3.5	3.5	3.4	2.0	3.4	3.0	+1
No party	17.8	–	29.4	–	31.3	33.2	36.1	32.5	35.3	37.1	31.7	33.4	34.4	+3
It is difficult to answer	21.2	–	13.2	–	11.7	11.1	12.3	8.7	9.3	7.8	12.3	10.5	10.2	-2

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As in the previous issues, we publish the journal articles rating in this one.

The first twenty articles, published in 2010–2013, according to the number of views for the whole accounting period

Rating	Article	Number of views for the whole accounting period	Issue	Release date	Authors
1	Agriculture of the Vologda Oblast on the eve of Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation	214	No.21	June 2012	Anishchenko Nikolay Ivanovich, Ivanova Marina Nikolayevna, Bilkov Valentin Alekseyevich
2	Fiscal federalism and inter-budget relations in the Russian Federation	207	No.13	February 2011	Avetisyan Ishkhan Artashovich
3	Methodology of the comparative estimation of the scientific and technical potential of the region	194	No.12	December 2010	Zadumkin Konstantin Alekseyevich, Kondakov Igor Anatolyevich
4	Modernization of the Russian economy as the imperative of the country's prospective innovative development	190	No.16	August 2011	Kondakov Igor Anatolyevich
5	Threats to the region's economic security and the ways to overcome them	176	No.14	April 2011	Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna, Kondakov Igor Anatolyevich
6	Intellectual resources as innovation development factor	172	No.11	September 2010	Ilyin Vladimir Aleksandrovich, Gulin Konstantin Anatolyevich, Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna
7	Agriculture on the European North: All-Russian agricultural census results	146	No.11	September 2010	Ivanov Valentin Aleksandrovich, Ivanova Yelena Valentinovna
8	Demographic problems of the Republic of Belarus and their solutions	116	No.16	August 2011	Shakhotko Lyudmila Petrovna
9	Small business is an important reserve for development of a one company town	100	No.11	September 2010	Tkachuk Stepan Nikolayevich
10	Technologies substituting hospitalization in regional health: economic-organizing aspect	89	No.10	June 2010	Duganov Mikhail Davidovich, Shabunova Aleksandra Anatolyevna, Kalashnikov Konstantin Nikolayevich
11	Investment process in the region: the new century – old problems	85	No.11	September 2010	Gubanova Yelena Sergeevna, Vorontsova Tatyana Vladimirovna
12	Strategic reserves of growth in labour productivity in regional economy	73	No. 9	March 2010	Ilyin Vladimir Aleksandrovich, Gulin Konstantin Anatolyevich, Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna
13	Budget provision of municipal entities in the Vologda region: state, problems and improvement ways	65	No.9	March 2010	Povarova Anna Ivanovna, Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna
14	Principles and practice of operation of foreign technology transfer centers	64	No.13	March 2011	Terebova Svetlana Viktorovna, Volkova Lyubov Alekseyevna
15	Foreign economic activity of the NWFED regions and the Republic of Belarus: condition and methodological aspects of modelling	62	No.12	December 2010	Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna, Asanovich Valeriy Yakovlevich, Dedkov Sergey Maratovich, Selimenkov Roman Yuryevich
16	Social development of rural areas – a basis of agriculture stability	53	No.11	September 2010	Chekavinskiy Aleksandr Nikolayevich
17	The post-crisis economic development and prospects of innovation activity in the Tomsk region	46	No.15	June 2011	Myakota Yekaterina Aleksandrovna, Vorobyov Aleksandr Grigoryevich, Putilov Aleksandr Valentinovich, Zhiganov Aleksandr Nikolayevich
18	Public-private partnership in the scientific and technological sphere of defense industry: Russian and foreign experience	45	No.20	April 2012	Nikolayev Aleksey Yevgenyevich
19	Topical issues of the improvement of intergovernmental dealings in the system of local government	45	No.19	March 2012	Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna Pechenskaya Mariya Aleksandrovna
20	Problems of sustainable development of rural areas in the Vologda Oblast	44	No.17	October 2011	Shestakov Sergey Aleksandrovich

* Account of the site's viewing has been carried out since 2009, December, 12.

The first twenty articles, published in 2010–2013,
according to the frequency of their viewing for the recent 12 months (September 2012 – August 2013)

Rating	Article	Total time of reading for the recent 12 months	Issue	Release date	Authors
1	Agriculture of the Vologda Oblast on the eve of Russia's accession to the World Trade Organisation	213	No.21	June 2012	Anishchenko Nikolay Ivanovich, Ivanova Marina Nikolayevna, Bilkov Valentin Alekseyevich
2	Demographic problems of the Republic of Belarus and their solutions	66	No.16	August 2011	Shakhotko Lyudmila Petrovna
3	Threats to the region's economic security and the ways to overcome them	43	No.14	April 2011	Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna, Kondakov Igor Anatolyevich
4	Assessment of the critical threshold values of the indicators of the state of Russian society and their use in the socio-economic development management	43	No.22	August 2012	Glazyev Sergey Yuryevich, Lokosov Vyacheslav Veniaminovich
5	Methodology of the comparative estimation of the scientific and technical potential of the region	31	No.12	December 2010	Zadumkin Konstantin Alekseyevich, Kondakov Igor Anatolyevich
6	Problems of sustainable development of rural areas in the Vologda Oblast	29	No.17	October 2011	Shestakov Sergey Aleksandrovich
7	Public-private partnership in the scientific and technological sphere of defense industry: Russian and foreign experience	24	No.20	April 2012	Nikolayev Aleksey Yevgenyevich
8	Fiscal federalism and inter-budget relations in the Russian Federation	23	No.13	March 2011	Avetisyan Ishkhan Artashovich
9	Socio-economic transformation of Russian society	23	No.22	August 2012	Perova Margarita Borisovna, Perov Evgeniy Viktorovich
10	Topical issues of the improvement of intergovernmental dealings in the system of local government	20	No.19	February 2012	Uskova Tamara Vitalyevna, Pechenskaya Mariya Aleksandrovna
11	The budget process as a tool for managing the public and municipal finances	19	No.19	February 2012	Avetisyan Ishkhan Artashovich
12	Institutional reasons for economic problems in Russia's local self-government	19	No.22	August 2012	Dyadik Vladimir Vladimirovich
13	Economic risks of agricultural organizations' activity in the Vologda Oblast in the context of Russia's membership in WTO	17	No.24	December 2012	Ivanova Marina Nikolayevna
14	Methodological foundations of sustainable development of the agricultural sector	16	No.16	August 2011	Ivanov Valentin Aleksandrovich, Ponomareva Anna Sergeevna
15	On the strategy of sustainable development of Russia's economy	16	No.25	December 2012	Glazyev Sergey Yuryevich, Fetisov Gleb Gennadyevich
16	Intensification and innovation approach toward the dairy livestock breeding in Vologodsky District	16	No.23	October 2012	Bilkov Valentin Alekseyevich, Shaverina Marina Valentinovna, Medvedeva Nataliya Aleksandrovna
17	Analysis of trends and development forecast of small enterprises in Russia	16	No.21	June 2012	Pinkovetskaya Yuliya Semenovna
18	Agriculture on the European North: All-Russian agricultural census results	15	No.11	September 2010	Ivanov Valentin Aleksandrovich, Ivanova Yelena Valentinovna
19	Industrial policy as a tool of neo-industrialization of regional industrial systems	14	No.24	December 2012	Lavrikova Yuliya Georgiyevna, Romanova Olga Aleksandrovna
20	On the issue of socio-economic modernization of Russian regions	14	No.22	August 2012	Gulin Konstantin Anatolyevich

* Account of the site's viewing has been carried out since 2009, December, 12.