

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 Oblast¹.

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 conducted for the period of April 2013 to February 2014 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, when V.V. Putin's second Presidency was coming to an end.

Estimation of performance of the authorities

On average for the last 6 surveys in comparison with 2012, the assessments of the performance of Russia's President have improved (the share of positive evaluations has increased by 4 percentage points). However, so far the situation remains less favorable than in 2011 (the last year of D.A. Medvedev's presidency) and 2007. Still there are no positive changes in public opinion with regard to the activities of the RF Government. There is an increase in the level of assessment of performance of the Vologda Oblast Governor.

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

Indicator	2007	2011	2012	2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	Jan. 2014	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison with		
												2012	2011	2007
RF President														
I approve	75.3	58.7	51.7	55.3	55.5	54.3	55.1	54.3	57.3	56.1	55.4	+4	-3	-20
I do not approve	11.5	25.6	32.6	29.4	31.5	29.3	28.9	28.7	28.9	29.3	29.4	-3	+4	+18
Chairman of the RF Government*														
I approve	-	59.3	49.6	48.9	48.5	46.2	50.4	49.0	51.1	49.3	49.1	-1	-10	-
I do not approve	-	24.7	33.3	32.8	35.7	33.2	30.4	30.6	32.5	32.9	32.6	-1	+8	-
Governor														
I approve	55.8	45.7	41.9	44.4	44.4	44.3	44.8	45.9	44.1	42.8	44.4	+3	-1	-11
I do not approve	22.2	30.5	33.3	33.2	34.9	31.9	31.1	32.4	35.3	36.9	33.8	+1	+3	+12

* included into the survey since 2008.

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.vscs.ac.ru/>.

Estimation of social condition

The share of positive assessments of social mood and stock of patience on average for the last 6 surveys has increased in comparison with 2012, 2011 and 2007 (68 and 80%, accordingly).

However, in comparison with 2012, there has been a slight increase in the share of the residents, who consider themselves “poor” and “extremely poor” (47%). Over the period of April 2013 – September 2014 their share has not virtually changed.

Table 2. Estimation of social condition, as a percentage of the number of respondents*

	2007	2011	2012	2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	Feb. 2014	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison with		
												2012	2011	2007
Mood														
Usual condition, good mood	63.6	63.1	67.3	68.6	68.6	66.4	68.7	71.5	69.6	65.1	68.3	+1	+5	+5
Feeling stress, anger, fear, depression	27.8	28.9	27.0	26.2	26.0	25.9	26.3	24.0	26.2	27.1	25.9	-1	-3	-2
Stock of patience														
Everything is not so bad; it is difficult to live, but it is possible to stand it	74.1	74.8	76.6	79.3	77.9	77.8	79.7	81.6	83.1	79.8	80.0	+3	+5	+6
It is impossible to bear such plight	13.6	15.3	15.8	14.2	16.5	13.7	14.7	12.3	12.0	12.3	13.6	-2	-2	0
Social self-identification														
The share of people who consider themselves to have average income	48.2	43.1	44.7	43.9	42.6	41.9	44.9	45.7	43.7	44.2	43.8	-1	+1	-4
The share of people who consider themselves to be poor and extremely poor	42.4	44.3	44.5	46.9	48.2	48.3	46.8	45.4	46.7	46.9	47.1	+3	+3	+5
Consumer Sentiment Index														
Index value, points	105.9	89.6	91.5	90.3	90.4	89.8	91.0	90.4	87.9	91.5	90.2	-1	+1	-16

* Ranked according to the average value of the index of success for the last six 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. The index of social strain has a reversed order of values: 0 points is an absolutely positive value, 200 points – an absolutely negative value.

Attitude of the population toward political parties

Positive attitude toward the party of power on average for the last 6 surveys was 29%, which corresponds to the indicators for the previous years.

One can be alarmed by a gradual increase in the share of the oblast residents, who consider that no political party among currently existing ones expresses their interests (in 2007 – 18%, in 2011 – 29%, in 2012 – 31%, on average for the last 6 surveys – 35%).

Table 3. Dynamics of the answers to the question: “Which party expresses your interests?”, as a percentage 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	2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	Feb. 2014	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison with		
														2012	2011	2007
United Russia	30.2	60.5	31.1	33.4	29.1	29.4	28.5	31.3	29.6	26.9	29.5	28.3	29.0	0	-2	-1
KPRF	7.0	9.3	10.3	16.8	10.6	11.3	11.0	11.3	12.0	11.9	11.8	10.9	11.5	+1	+1	+5
LDPR	7.5	11.0	7.8	15.4	7.8	7.2	7.1	6.6	6.8	8.4	8.1	8.9	7.7	0	0	0
Just Russia	7.8	8.8	5.6	27.2	6.6	4.6	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.4	3.5	4.3	-2	-1	-4
Other	1.8	–	1.9	–	2.1	0.6	3.4	2.0	3.4	1.0	0.8	0.4	1.8	0	0	0
No party	17.8	–	29.4	–	31.3	34.9	37.1	31.7	33.4	37.3	34.4	35.2	34.9	+4	+6	+17
It is difficult to answer	21.2	–	13.2	–	11.7	10.2	7.8	12.3	10.5	10.5	10.9	12.7	10.8	-1	-2	-10

ISEDT RAS has been carrying out a long-term assessments of the attitude of the Vologda Oblast residents to existing power structures and political institutions. The performance indicators are given below.

The graphs, presented hereto, in comparison with those published earlier, take into account the results of assessments obtained during V.V. Putin's third presidential term, including the results for 2013 in general.

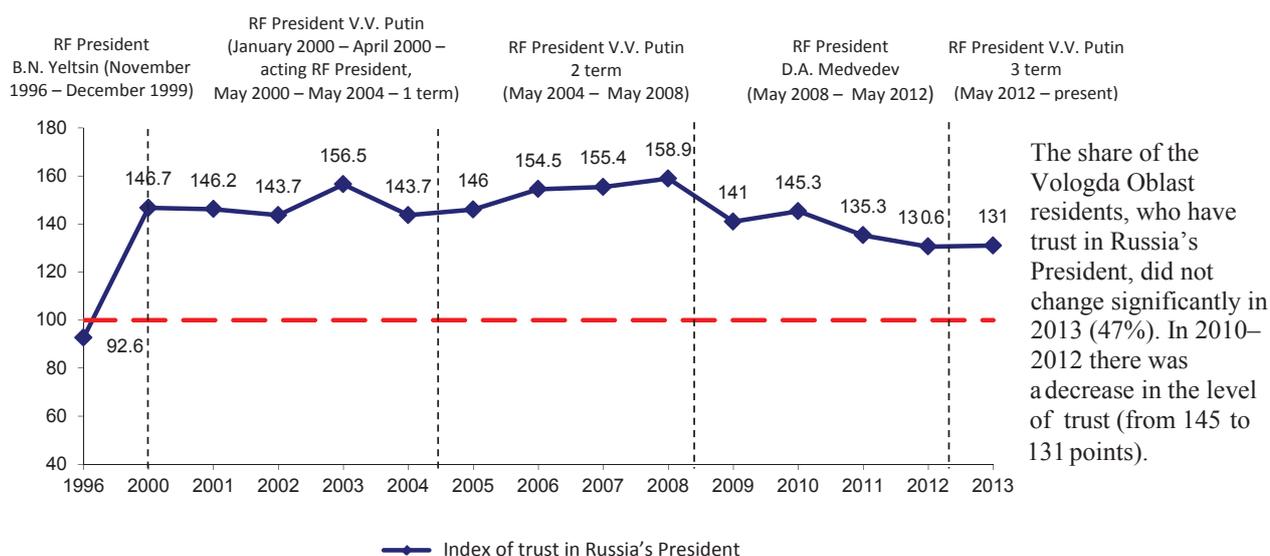
The data show that a sharp increase (in comparison with the period of B. Yeltsin's presidency) in the level of trust in President V.V. Putin, taking place in 2000–2008, was replaced by a constant decrease of trust in the President (represented by D.A. Medvedev) in 2009–2012, and it has not been restored so far.

We should note that the level of trust in the Church has remained relatively high. The value of the index of trust is higher than that concerning government structures and the majority of political institutions; and it is characterized by stability in all the periods of sociological assessments.

At the same time, there has been an increase of public trust in the Court. 2013 witnessed a positive shift in the trust in the Procuracy, the Federal Security Service, the Army, and the Police – those institutions that are crucial links in the strength of the state system.

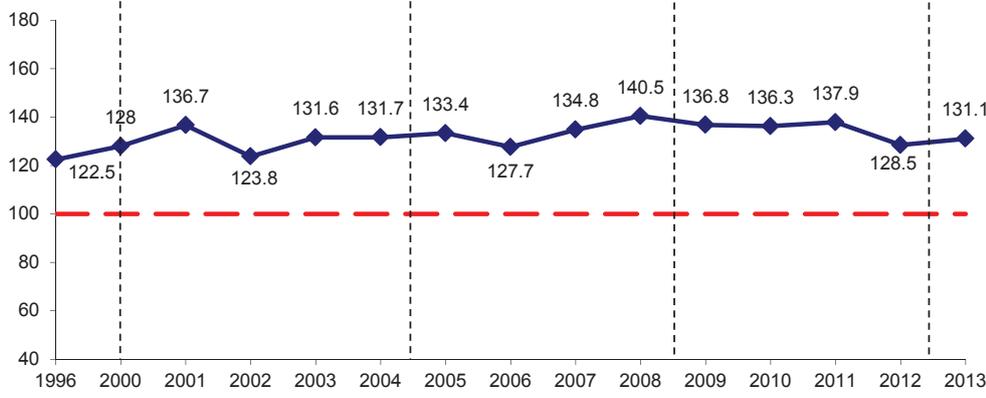
So far, it has not been possible to overcome the recession of recent years concerning the trust in the activities of the State Duma and the Federation Council, which indicates that the system of domestic legislation responds untimely to the formation of the legal framework.

Attitude toward the President of the Russian Federation



Attitude toward the Church

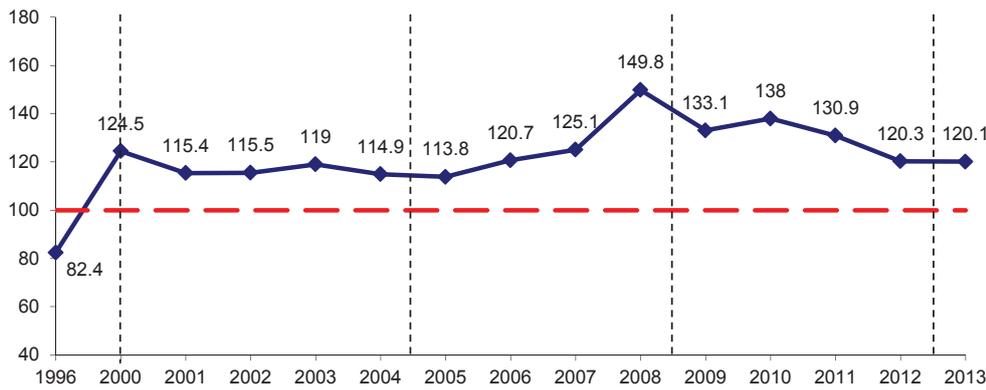
RF President B.N. Yeltsin (November 1996 – December 1999) | RF President V.V. Putin (January 2000 – April 2000 – acting RF President, May 2000 – May 2004 – 1 term) | RF President V.V. Putin 2 term (May 2004 – May 2008) | RF President D.A. Medvedev (May 2008 – May 2012) | RF President V.V. Putin 3 term (May 2012 – present)



The level of trust in the Church increased a little in 2013 (the index increased from 129 to 131 points) after its fall in 2012 by 9 points. (from 138 to 129 points).

Index of trust in the Church

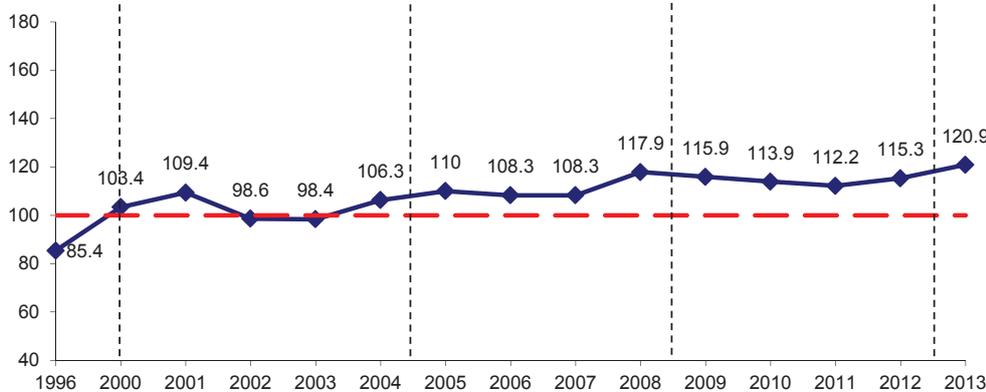
Attitude toward the Government of the Russian Federation



Index of trust in RF Government, after its decrease in 2010–2012 (from 138 to 120 points), has stabilized.

Index of trust in Russia's Government

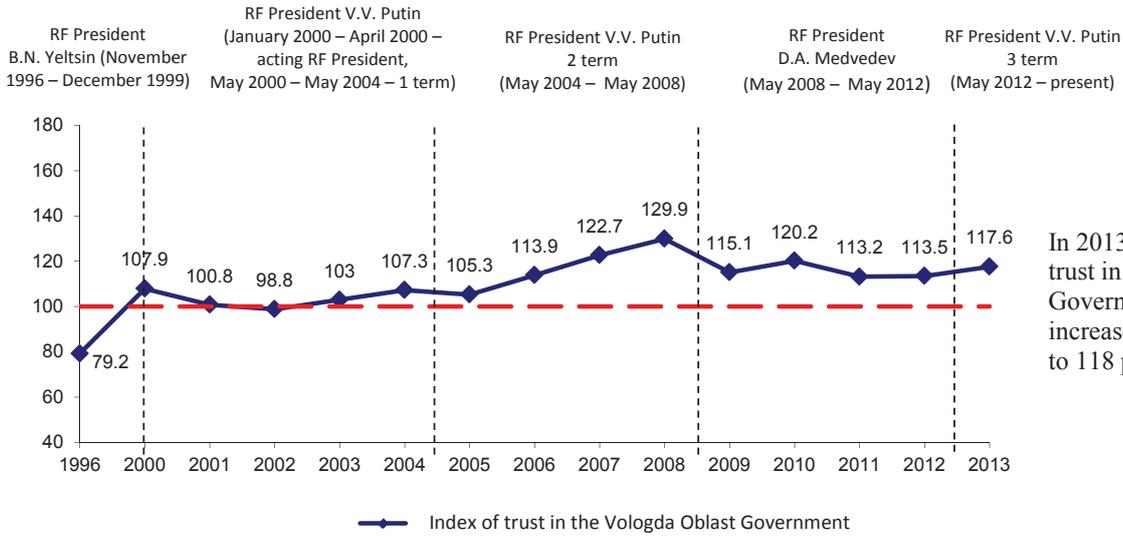
Attitude toward the Court



Level of the Oblast residents' trust in the Court has been increasing since 2011. The index has increased by 9 points over this period (from 112 to 121 points).

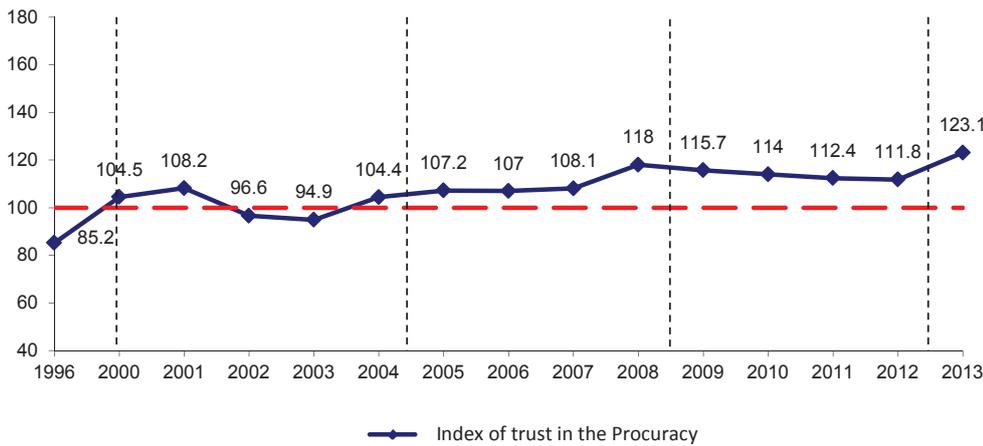
Index of trust in the Court

Attitude toward the Government of the Vologda Oblast



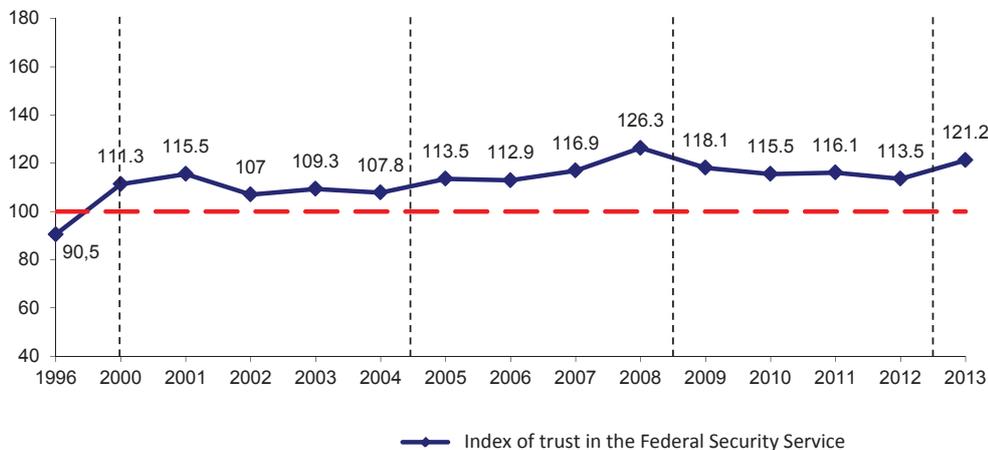
In 2013 the index of trust in the Oblast Government slightly increased (from 114 to 118 points).

Attitude toward the Procuracy



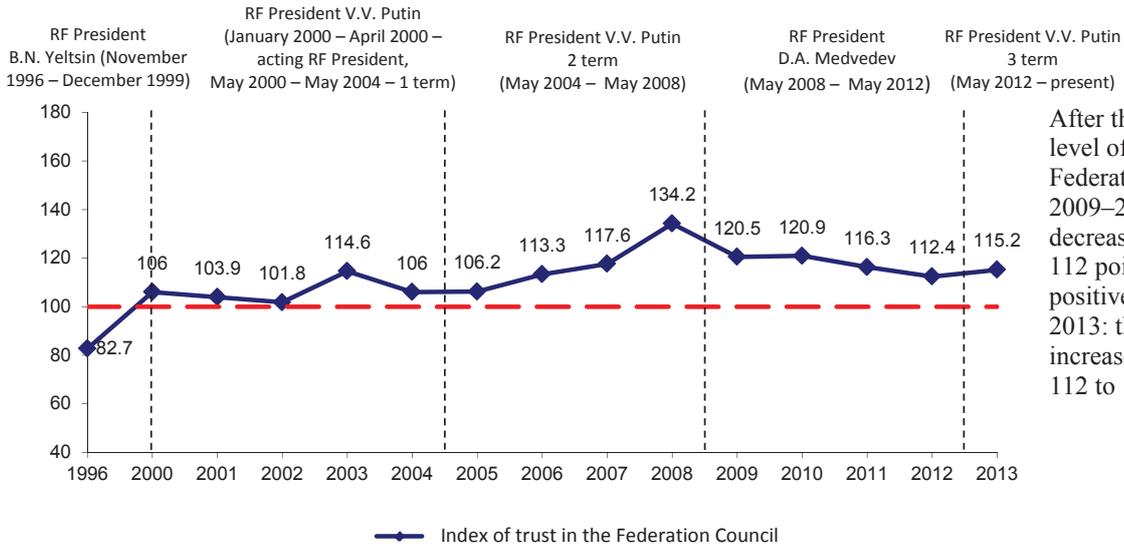
The level of trust in the Procuracy in 2013 increased considerably (from 118 to 129 points). The opposite trend was observed in 2008–2012 (the index has decreased from 118 to 112 points over this period).

Attitude toward the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation



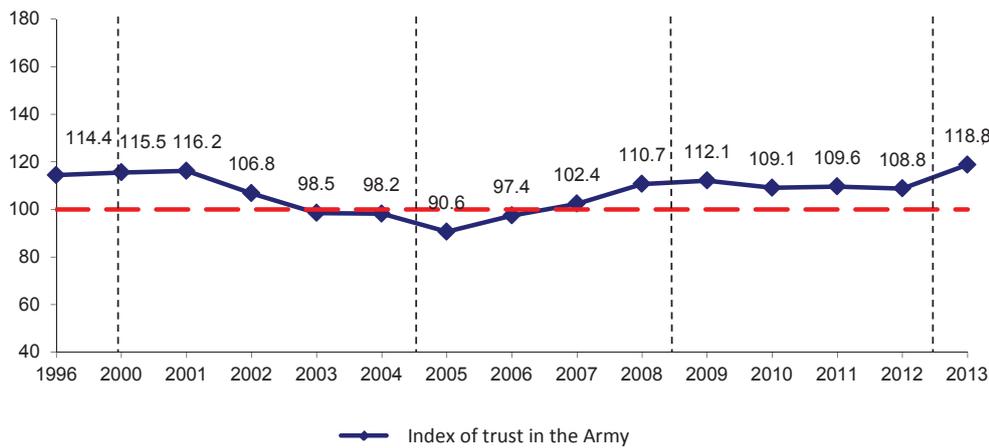
The level of the Oblast residents' trust in the Federal Security Service in 2013 increased considerably (the index has increased from 114 to 121 points). In 2009–2012 there were no significant changes in the dynamics of the index.

Attitude toward the Federation Council of Russia



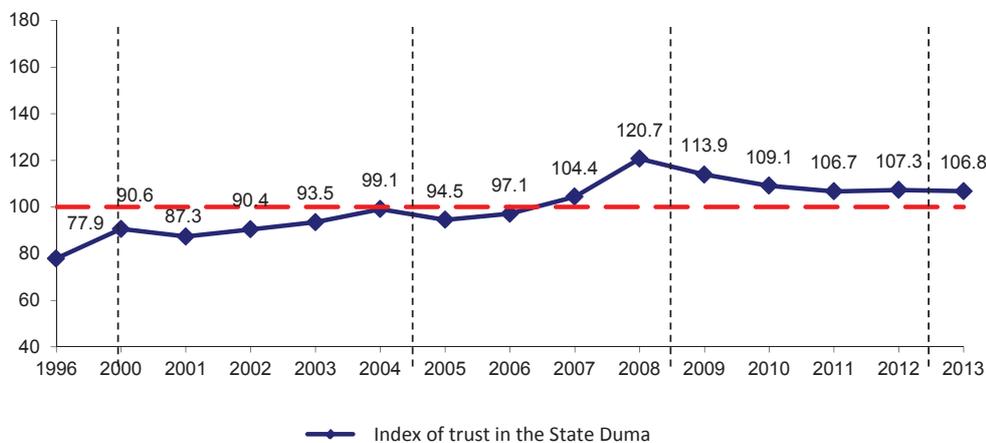
After the decline in the level of trust in the Federation Council in 2009–2012 (the index decreased from 121 to 112 points), there were positive changes in 2013: the index of trust increased a little (from 112 to 115 points).

Attitude toward the Army



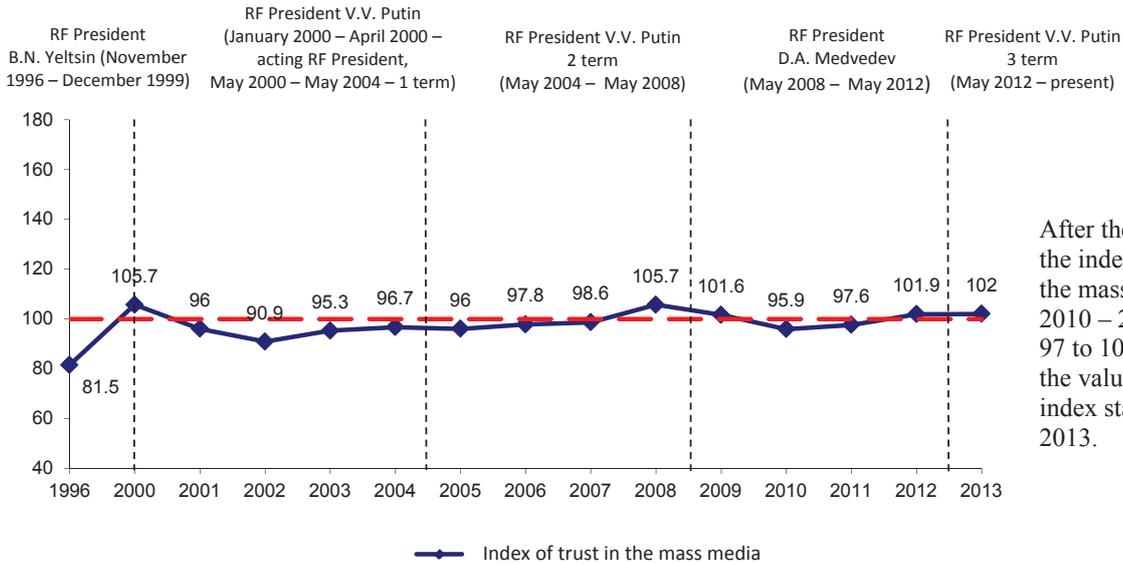
The residents' trust in the Army in 2013 increased considerably (the index increased from 109 to 119 points). In 2009–2012 there were no noticeable changes in the dynamics of the index.

Attitude toward the State Duma

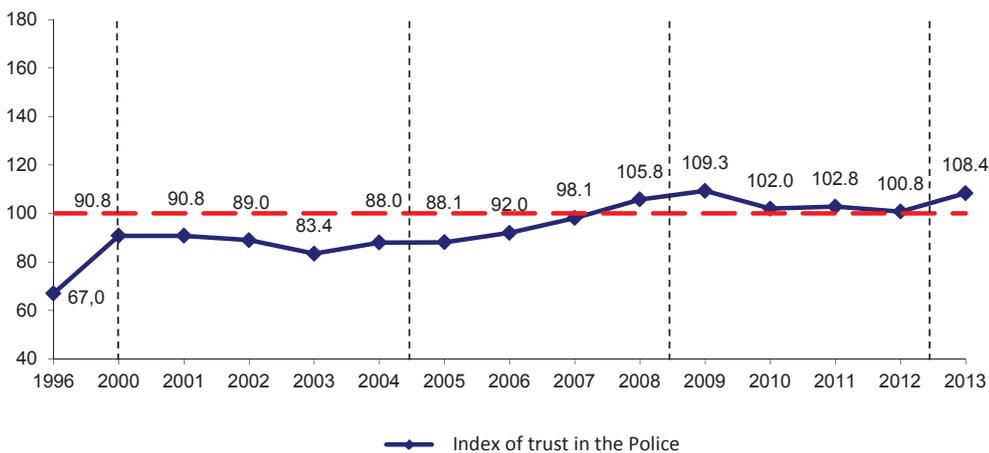


Since 2011 there have been no noticeable changes in the dynamics of the index of trust in RF State Duma (107 points).

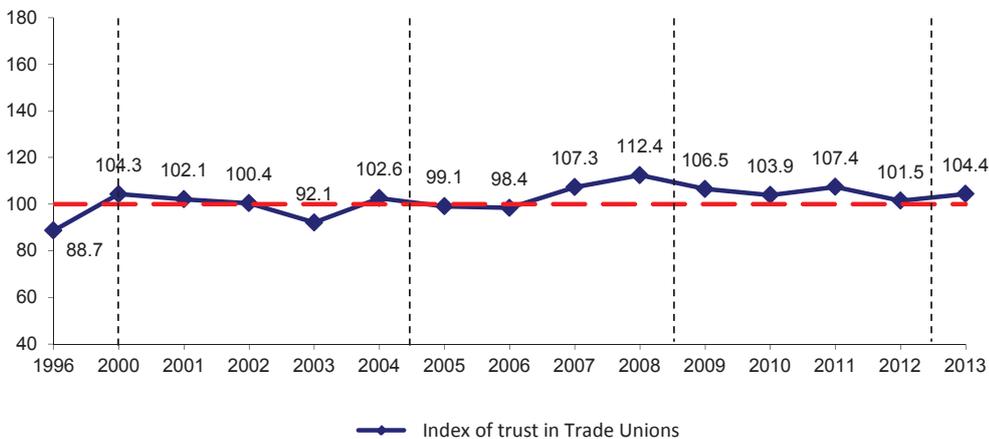
Attitude toward the mass media



Attitude toward the Police

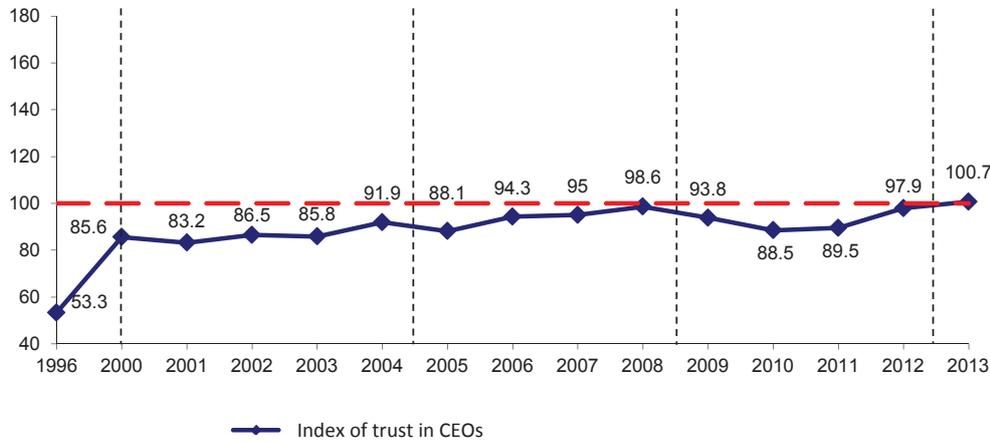


Attitude toward Trade Unions



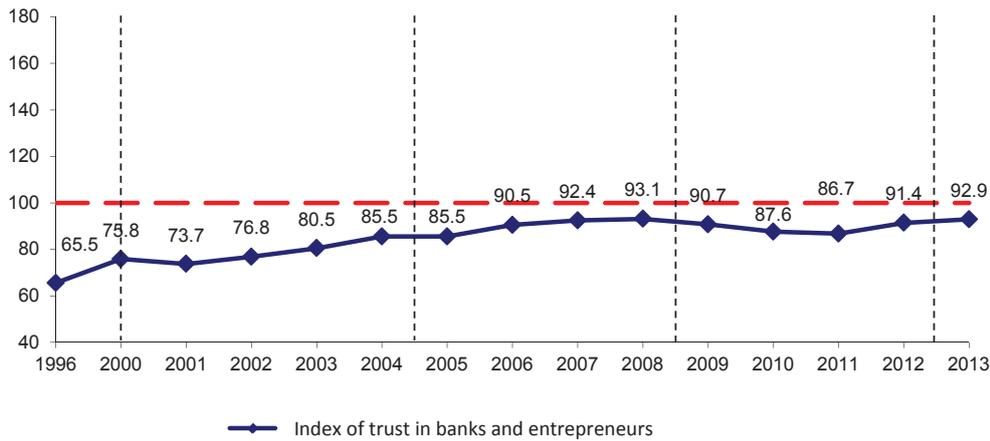
Attitude toward CEOs

RF President B.N. Yeltsin (November 1996 – December 1999) | RF President V.V. Putin (January 2000 – April 2000 – acting RF President, May 2000 – May 2004 – 1 term) | RF President V.V. Putin 2 term (May 2004 – May 2008) | RF President D.A. Medvedev (May 2008 – May 2012) | RF President V.V. Putin 3 term (May 2012 – present)



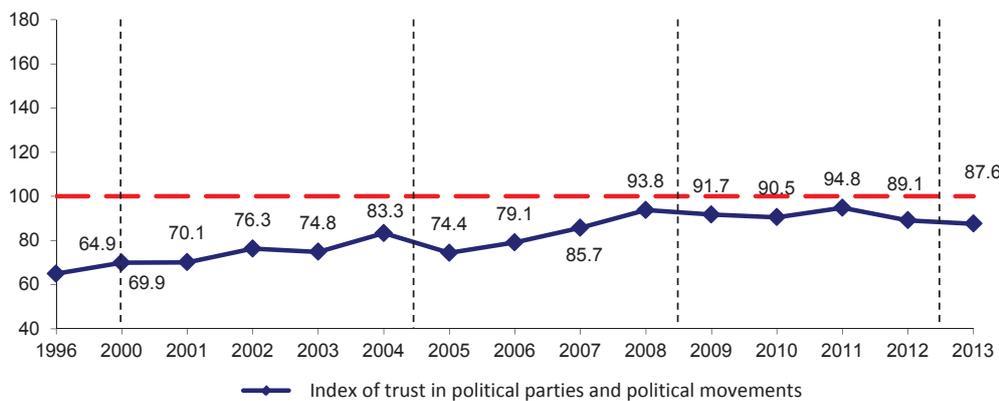
The index of trust in CEOs has been increasing since 2011 (the index has increased from 90 to 101 over this period).

Attitude toward banks and entrepreneurs



The index of trust in banks and entrepreneurs has been increasing since 2011 (from 87 to 93 points over this period).

Attitude toward political parties and political movements



The level of trust in political parties and political movements has been decreasing since 2011. The index has decreased by 7 points (from 95 to 88) over this period.