

PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING

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Public Opinion Monitoring of the State of the Russian Society

As in the previous issues, we publish the results of the monitoring of public opinion concerning the state of the Russian society. The monitoring is conducted by VolRC RAS in the Vologda Oblast¹.

The following tables and graphs show the dynamics of several parameters of social well-being and socio-political sentiment of the region's population according to the results of the latest "wave" of the monitoring (October 2022) and for the period from October 2021 to October 2022 (the last six surveys, that is, 12 months).

We compare the results of the surveys with the average annual data for 2000 (the first year of Vladimir Putin's first presidential term), 2007 (the last year of Vladimir Putin's second presidential term, when the assessment of the President's work was the highest), 2011 (the last year of Dmitry Medvedev's presidency), and 2012 (the first year of Vladimir Putin's third presidential term).

We also present the annual dynamics of the data for 2018–2021².

In August – October 2022, the share of positive assessments of the RF President's activities decreased slightly (by 2 percentage points, from 61 to 59%); the share of negative assessments increased by 2 percentage points (from 22 to 24%).

In February – October 2022 (during the period of the special military operation), the level of support for the work of the head of state increased by 11 percentage points (from 48 to 59%), the share of people who do not support his activities decreased by 9 percentage points (from 33 to 24%)

Over the past 12 months (October 2021 – October 2022), the level of support for the work of the head of state has increased by 7 percentage points (from 52 to 59%); Chairman of the RF Government – by 8 percentage points (from 40 to 48%), Vologda Oblast Governor – by 6 percentage points (from 37 to 43%)³.

¹ The surveys 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 1,500 people 18 years of age and older. The sample is purposeful and quoted. The 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 information on the results of VolRC RAS surveys is available at <http://www.vscs.ac.ru/>

² In 2020, four "waves" of the monitoring were conducted. Surveys in April and June 2020 were not conducted due to quarantine restrictions during the spread of COVID-19.

³ Hereinafter, the results of a comparative analysis of the data from the survey conducted in October 2022 and the results of the monitoring "wave" conducted in October 2021 are given in the frame.

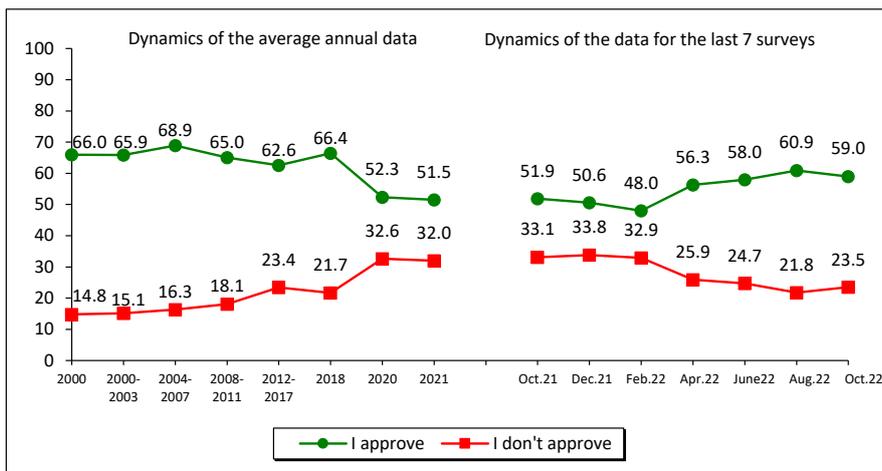
How do you assess the current performance of..? (% of respondents)

Answer option	Dynamics of the average annual data							Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), Oct. 2022 to		
	2000	2007	2011	2012	2018	2020	2021	Oct. 2021	Dec. 2021	Feb. 2022	Apr. 2022	June 2022	Aug. 2022	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
RF President																	
I approve	66.0	75.3	58.7	51.7	66.4	52.3	51.5	51.9	50.6	48.0	56.3	58.0	60.9	59.0	+7	+11	-2
I don't approve	14.8	11.5	25.5	32.6	21.7	32.6	32.0	33.1	33.8	32.9	25.9	24.7	21.8	23.5	-10	-9	+2
Chairman of the RF Government*																	
I approve	-*	-*	59.3	49.6	48.0	38.7	39.9	39.7	38.3	37.6	43.6	45.5	47.5	48.1	+8	+11	+1
I don't approve	-	-	24.7	33.3	31.6	40.4	37.6	38.3	38.9	37.7	32.5	31.4	29.4	31.3	-7	-6	+2
Governor																	
I approve	56.1	55.8	45.7	41.9	38.4	35.0	36.7	37.5	35.9	33.9	38.2	41.2	43.3	43.0	+6	+9	0
I don't approve	19.3	22.2	30.5	33.3	37.6	42.5	40.5	40.7	41.9	41.6	37.3	34.3	32.5	33.9	-7	-8	+1

The wording of the question: "How do you assess the current work of ...?" According to the survey technique, sampling error does not exceed 3%, so hereinafter changes with a difference of 2 p.p. are not taken into account or are considered insignificant; they are highlighted in blue in the tables. Positive changes are highlighted in green, negative changes are highlighted in red.

*Included in the survey since 2008.

How do you assess the current work of the RF President? (% of respondents, VolRC RAS data)



Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
I approve	+7	+11	-2
I don't approve	-1	-9	+2

Hereinafter, all graphs show the average annual data for 2000, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, as well as the average annual data for the periods 2000–2003, 2004–2007, 2008–2011, 2012–2017, corresponding to the presidential terms.

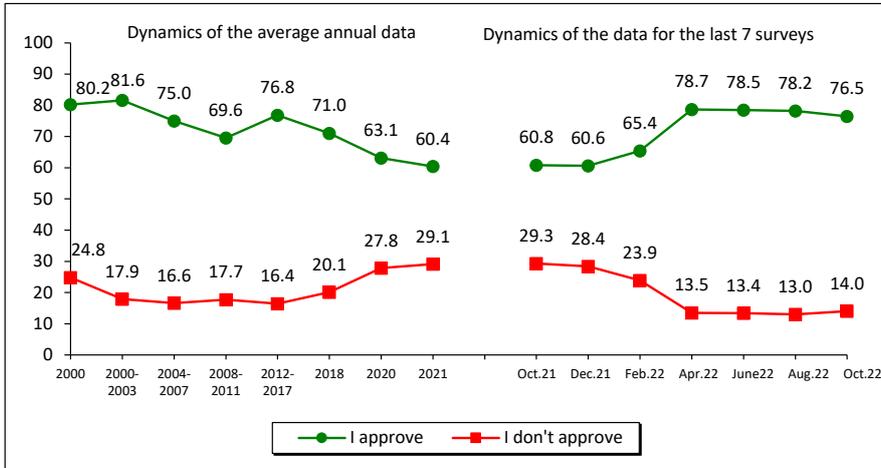
For reference:

According to VCIOM, the level of approval of the RF President's work in August – 1st half of October 2022 decreased by 2 percentage points (from 78 to 76%).

Compared to February 2022, the share of positive assessments of the activities of the head of state increased by 11 percentage points (from 65 to 76%).

In October 2021 – beginning of October 2022, the level of approval the RF President's work increased by 16 percentage points (from 60 to 76%).

In general, do you approve or not approve of the work of the RF President?
(% of respondents; VCIOM data)



Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
I approve	+16	+11	-2
I don't approve	-15	-10	+1

Question: "In general, do you approve or not approve of the work of the President of the Russian Federation?"

Data for October 2022 represent the average for three surveys: (October 2, 9, 16).

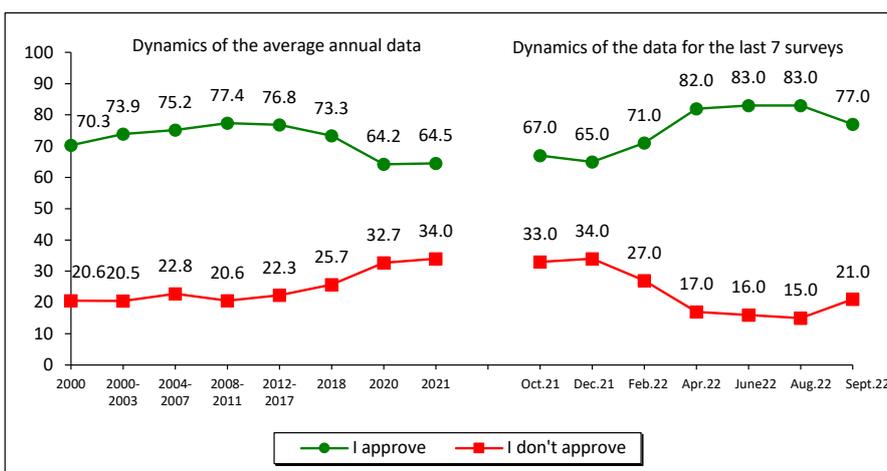
Source: VCIOM. Available at: <https://wciom.ru/>

According to Levada-Center*, the share of positive assessments of the President's activities in August – September 2022 decreased by 6 percentage points (from 83 to 77%).

In February – September 2022, there was an increase in the share of positive assessments (by 6 percentage points, from 71 to 77%).

From October 2021 to September 2022, the level of approval of the activities of the head of state increased by 10 percentage points (from 67 to 77%).

In general, do you approve or not approve of the work of Vladimir Putin as President of Russia? (% of respondents; Levada-Center* data)



Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
I approve	+10	+6	-6
I don't approve	-12	-6	+6

Question: "In general, do you approve or not approve of the work of Vladimir Putin as President of Russia?"

Source: Levada-Center*. Available at: <https://www.levada.ru>

* Included in the register of foreign agents.

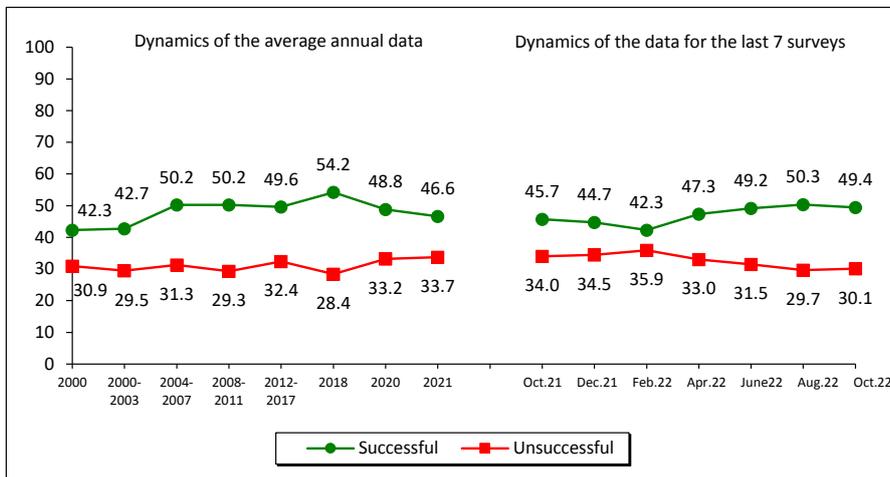
In your opinion, how successful is the RF President in coping with challenging issues?
(% of respondents; VolRC RAS data)

Over the past two months, the share of those who consider the RF President’s work to strengthen Russia’s international positions to be successful did not change significantly (49–50%). The proportion of those who hold the opposite point of view remains stable as well (30%).

From February to October 2022, the share of positive assessments increased by 7 p.p. (from 42 to 50%); the proportion of negative ones decreased by 6 p.p. (from 36 to 30%)

Compared to October 2021, the proportion of Vologda Oblast residents who positively assess the activities of the head of state to strengthen Russia’s international position increased by 4 p.p. (from 46 to 50%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 4 p.p. as well (from 34 to 30%).

Strengthening Russia’s international position



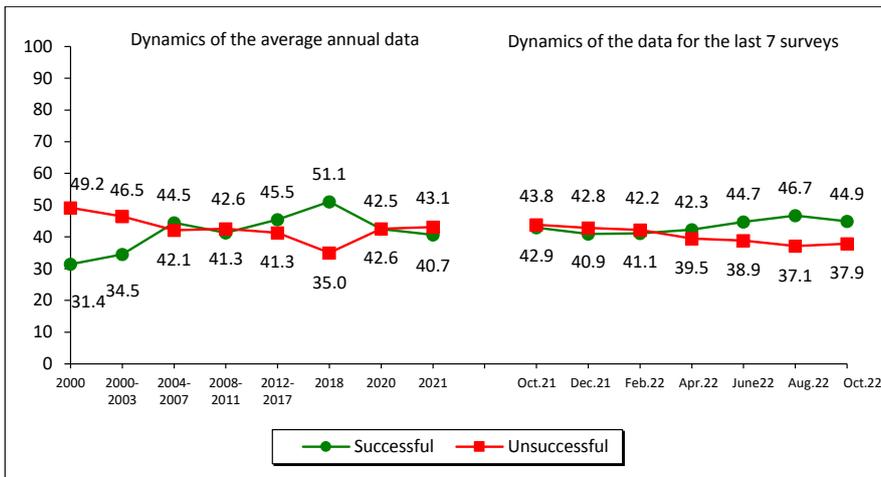
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Successful	+4	+7	-1
Unsuccessful	-4	-6	0

In August – October 2022, the share of residents of the region who positively assess the work of the head of state to restore order in the country decreased (by 2 percentage points, from 47 to 45%). The proportion of negative assessments has not changed significantly (37–38%).

In general, in February – October 2022, the share of positive characteristics increased by 4 percentage points (from 41 to 45%); the proportion of negative ones decreased by 4 percentage points (from 42 to 38%).

Over the past 12 months, the proportion of Vologda Oblast residents who consider the work of the head of state to restore order in the country to be successful increased by 2 percentage points (from 43 to 45%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 6 percentage points (from 44 to 38%).

Imposing order in the country



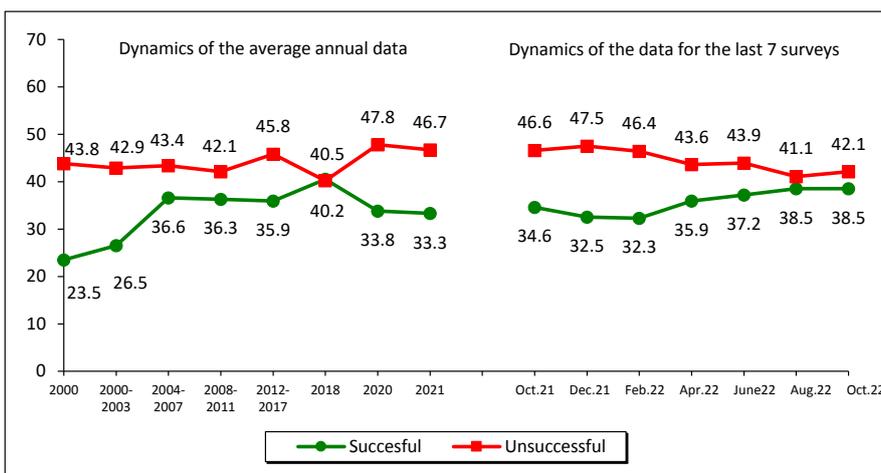
Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Successful	+2	+4	-2
Unsuccessful	-6	-4	+1

Assessments of the RF President’s success in protecting democracy and strengthening citizens’ freedoms did not change significantly over the past two months: the share of positive judgments is 39%, the proportion of negative ones is 41–42%.

Positive changes are noted for the period from February to October 2022: the share of positive assessments increased by 7 percentage points (from 32 to 39%), negative – decreased by 4 percentage points (from 46 to 42%).

Over the past 12 months (from October 2021 to October 2022), public opinion about the work of the head of state to protect democracy and strengthen citizens’ freedoms improved: the share of positive assessments increased by 4 percentage points (from 35 to 39%), negative – decreased by 5 percentage points (from 47 to 42%).

Protecting democracy and strengthening citizens’ freedoms



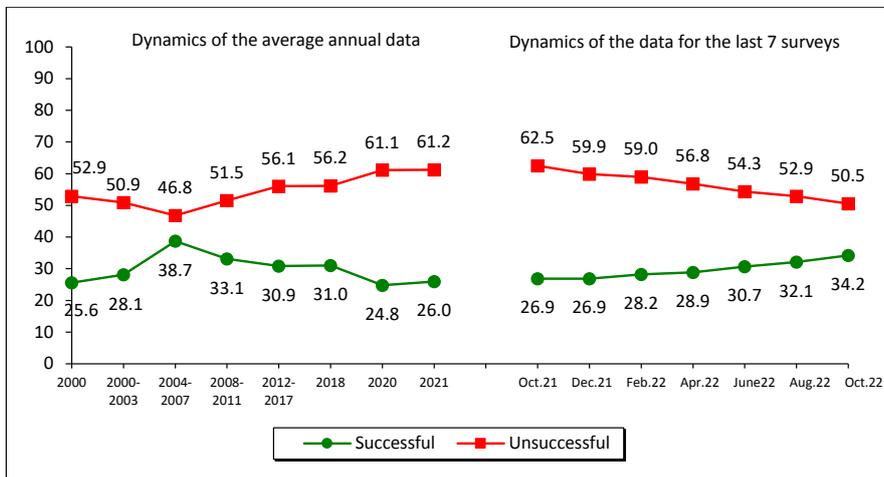
Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Successful	+4	+7	0
Unsuccessful	-5	-4	+1

In August – October 2022, the trend of improving public opinion assessments of the RF President’s work to boost the economy and increase the welfare of citizens continued. Over the past two months, the proportion of positive characteristics increased by 2 percentage points (from 32 to 34%), negative ones – decreased by 2 percentage points (from 53 to 51%).

From February to October 2022, the share of positive judgments increased by 6 percentage points (from 28 to 34%), negative ones – decreased by 8 percentage points (from 59 to 51%).

In October 2021 – October 2022, positive changes are also noted: the proportion of people who consider the actions of the head of state to boost the economy and increase the welfare of citizens to be successful increased by 7 percentage points (from 27 to 34%), the share of negative judgments decreased by 12 percentage points (from 63 to 51%).

Economic recovery and increase in citizens' welfare



Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Successful	+7	+6	+2
Unsuccessful	-12	-8	-2

The structure of political preferences of Vologda Oblast residents did not change over the past two months: the share of people whose interests are expressed by the United Russia party is 36–37%, the Communist Party – 10%, the Liberal Democratic Party – 6–7%, the Just Russia party – 5%, New People – 1–2%.

From February to October 2022, we note an increase in support for United Russia (by 6 percentage points, from 31 to 37%).

Compared to October 2021, the share of supporters of the party in power increased by 4 percentage points (from 33 to 37%). In addition, the share of people who note that their interests are shared by the Liberal Democratic Party decreased (by 5 percentage points, from 11 to 6%).

Which party expresses your interests? (% of respondents; VoIRC RAS data)

Party	Dynamics of the average annual data											Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), Oct. 2022 to		
	2000	2007	2011	Election to the RF State Duma 2011, fact	2012	2016	Election to the RF State Duma 2016, fact	2018	2020	Election to the RF State Duma 2020, fact	2021	Oct. 2021	Dec. 2021	Feb. 2022	Apr. 2022	June 2022	Aug. 2022	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
United Russia	18.5	30.2	31.1	33.4	29.1	35.4	38.0	37.9	31.5	49.8	31.7	32.7	31.9	31.1	34.2	34.9	36.2	36.7	+4	+6	+1
KPRF	11.5	7.0	10.3	16.8	10.6	8.3	14.2	9.2	8.4	18.9	9.3	11.1	10.5	9.5	11.2	10.2	10.4	9.9	-1	0	-1
LDPR	4.8	7.5	7.8	15.4	7.8	10.4	21.9	9.6	9.5	7.6	9.9	11.2	9.9	9.4	7.7	7.8	6.8	6.0	-5	-3	-1
Just Russia – Patriots for the Truth	–	7.8	5.6	27.2	6.6	4.2	10.8	2.9	4.7	7.5	4.7	6.3	6.0	5.7	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.5	-2	-1	0
New People*	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.3	2.3	–	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.9	1.1	–	-1	+1
Other	0.9	1.8	1.9	–	2.1	0.3	–	0.7	0.5	–	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.5	0	0	0
None	29.6	17.8	29.4	–	31.3	29.4	–	28.5	34.2	–	33.9	31.7	29.6	32.4	30.8	30.7	29.3	30.6	-1	-2	+1
I find it difficult to answer	20.3	21.2	13.2	–	11.7	12.0	–	11.2	11.1	–	10.0	6.6	9.7	9.6	10.0	9.9	10.5	10.8	+4	+1	0

* The New People party was elected to the State Duma of the Russian Federation for the first time following the results of the election held on September 17–19, 2021.

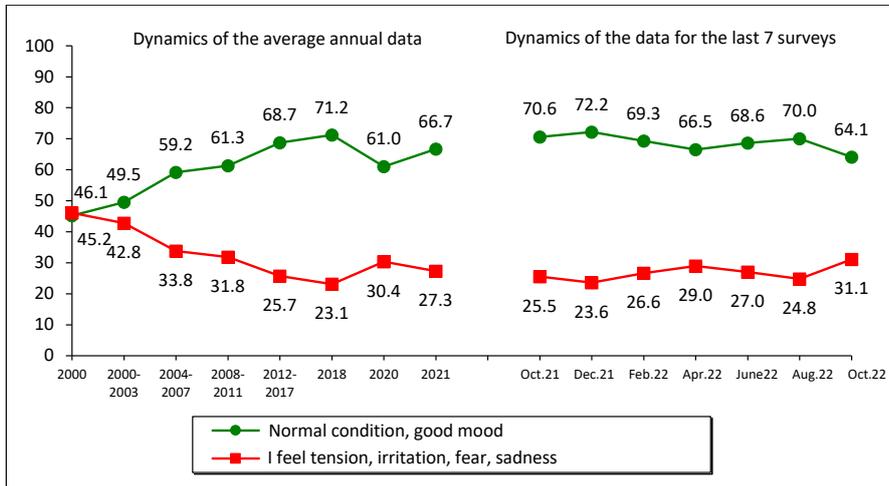
Estimation of social condition (% of respondents; VoIRC RAS data)

Over the past two months, social mood of Vologda Oblast residents deteriorated in general. The proportion of people describing their daily emotional state as “normal, fine” decreased by 6 percentage points (from 70 to 64%). The proportion of those who experience mainly “tension, irritation, fear, sadness” increased by 6 percentage points (from 25 to 31%).

Compared to February 2022, changes in the dynamics of social mood are also negative: the share of positive assessments decreased by 5 percentage points (from 69 to 64%), negative ones – also increased by 5 percentage points (from 26 to 31%).

Over the past 12 months (from October 2021 to October 2022), the share of positive characteristics of social mood decreased by 7 percentage points (from 71 to 64%), negative ones – increased by 6 percentage points (from 25 to 31%).

Social mood



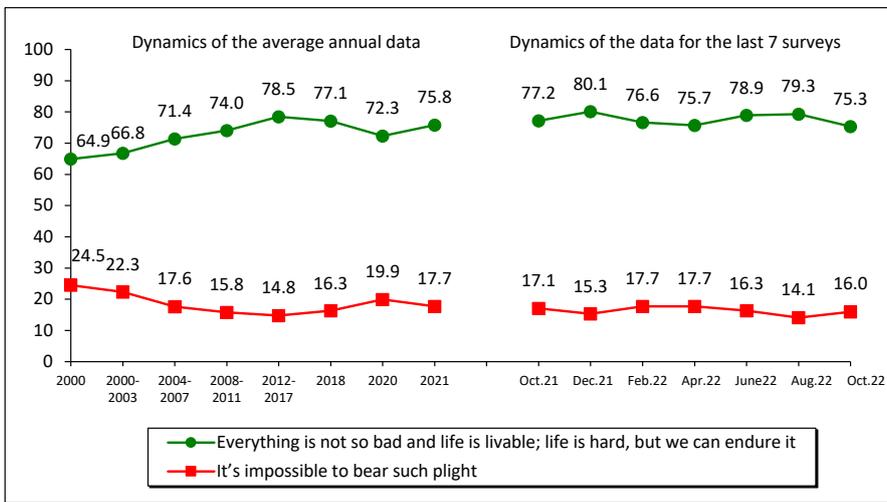
Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Usual condition good mood	-7	-5	-6
I feel tension, irritation, fear, sadness	+6	+5	+6

In August – October 2022, the indicators of the stock of patience deteriorated. The share of those who believe that “everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it” decreased by 4 percentage points (from 79 to 75%). The proportion of those who note that “it’s impossible to bear such plight” increased by 2 percentage points (from 14 to 16%).

From February to October 2022, the share of positive assessments of the stock of patience did not change significantly (75–76%), at the same time, the share of negative assessments decreased by 2 percentage points (from 18 to 16%).

Compared to October 2021, the share of positive assessments decreased by 2 percentage points (from 77 to 75%); the proportion of negative ones did not change significantly (16–17%).

Stock of patience



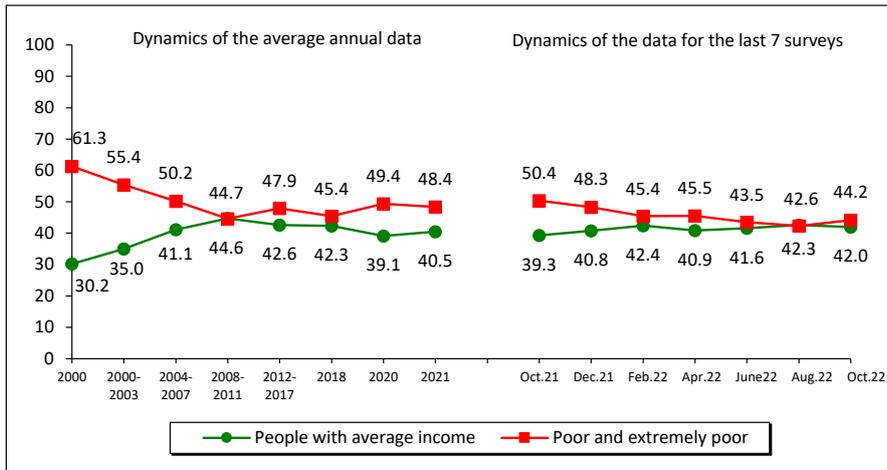
Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it	-2	-1	-4
It's impossible to bear such plight	-1	-2	+2

The proportion of residents of the region subjectively classifying themselves as “poor and extremely poor” increased by 2 percentage points over the past two months (from 42 to 44%); the proportion of those who subjectively classify themselves as “middle-income people” did not change significantly (42–43%).

From February to October 2022, there are no tangible changes in the dynamics of social self-identification: the share of the “poor and extremely poor” is 44–45%, the proportion of “middle-income people” is 42%.

Over the past 12 surveys (October 2021 – October 2022), the share of “poor and extremely poor” residents of the region decreased by 6 percentage points (from 50 to 44%); the proportion of “middle-income people” increased by 3 percentage points (from 39 to 42%).

Social self-identification*



Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
Answer option	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
People with average income	+3	0	+1
Poor and extremely poor	-6	-1	+2

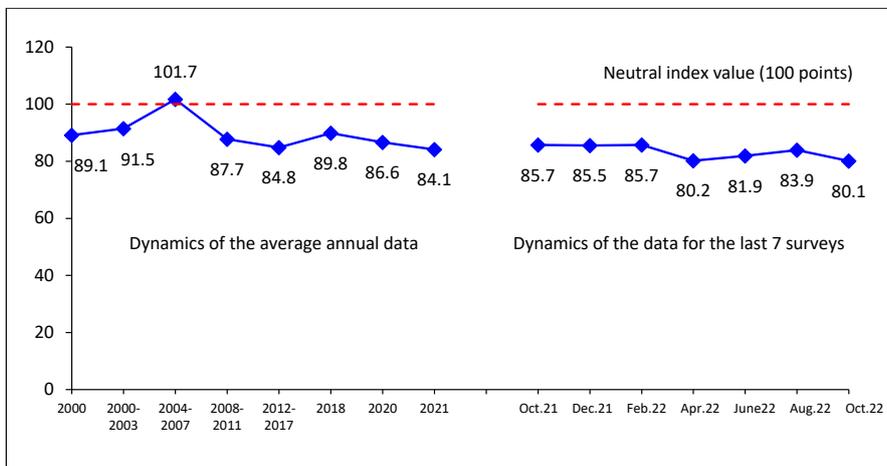
Question: "What category do you belong to, in your opinion?"

In August – October 2022, the consumer sentiment index significantly decreased (by 4 points, from 84 to 80 points), which indicates an increase in people’s pessimistic forecasts about the future of the Russian economy and their personal financial situation.

As of October 2022, the CSI value is lower than in February 2022 (by 6 percentage points, 80 and 86 points, respectively).

At the same time, over the past 12 months, we also observe a deterioration in people’s consumer sentiment (the CSI decreased by 6 percentage points, from 86 to 80%).

Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI, points; data of VolRC RAS for the Vologda Oblast)



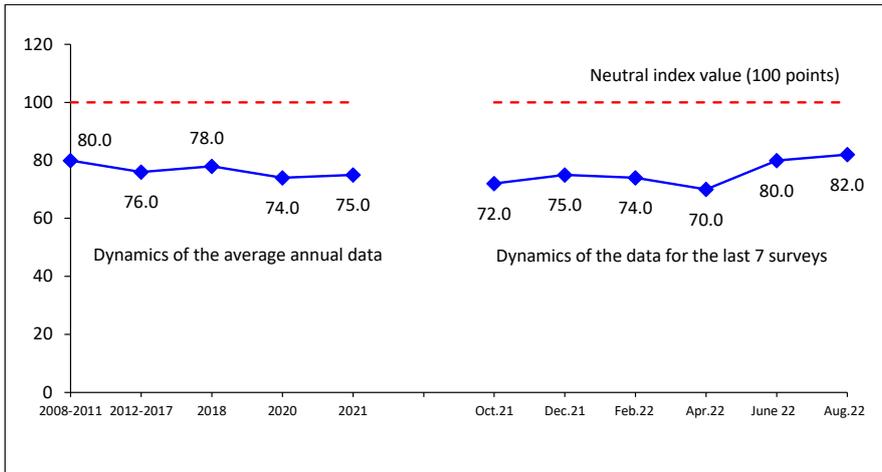
Dynamics (+/-), October 2022 to			
CSI	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Index value, points	-6	-6	-4

For reference:

According to the all-Russian surveys conducted by Levada-Center, there are positive trends in the dynamics of the CSI (in April 2022 – 70 p., in June – 80 p., in August – 82 p.). However, we should note that at the time of preparation of the material, there were no data from Levada-Center* for October 2022. The all-Russian trend of improving consumer sentiment, noted in April – August 2022, was also traced by the results of regional measurements of VolRC RAS (from April to August 2022, according to surveys conducted in the Vologda Oblast, the CSI increased by 4 points, from 80 to 84 points).*

* Included in the register of foreign agents.

Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI; Levada-Center* data for Russia)



Dynamics (+/-), August 2022 to		
CSI	Oct. 2021	June 2022
Index value, points	+10	+2

The index is calculated since 2008.

Latest data are as of August 2022.

Source: Levada-Center*. Available at: <https://www.levada.ru/indikatory/sotsialno-ekonomicheskie-indikatory/>

The dynamics of social mood for the period from August to October 2022 shows negative changes in all major socio-demographic groups. In most groups (10 out of 14), the share of positive ratings decreased by 5–7 percentage points. The most negative changes are observed among people with secondary and incomplete secondary education (the share of positive assessments of social mood decreased by 10 percentage points, from 69 to 59%).

Deterioration in people’s psychological well-being is also noted for the period from February to October 2022: the share of positive assessments of social mood decreased in 12 of the 14 main socio-demographic groups, especially in women (by 9 percentage points, from 72 to 63%); persons with secondary and incomplete secondary education (by 10 percentage points, from 69 to 59%); people who, according to self-estimates of income, belong to the bottom 20% (by 10 percentage points, from 61 to 51%)

From October 2021 to October 2022, negative changes in social mood are also observed in all socio-demographic groups under consideration, except for people under the age of 30 (in this group, the share of positive assessments did not change significantly – 75%).

First of all, the proportion of those who characterize their daily emotional state as “normal, fine” has decreased among:

- ✓ persons over 55 years of age (by 10 percentage points, from 68 to 58%);
- ✓ people with higher and incomplete higher education (by 10 percentage points, from 77 to 67%);
- ✓ 20% of the least well-off (by 10 percentage points, from 60 to 50%).

* Included in the register of foreign agents.

Social mood in different social groups (answer option “Wonderful mood, normal, stable condition”, % of respondents; VoIRC RAS data)

Population group	Dynamics of the average annual data							Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), Oct. 2022 to		
	2000	2007	2011	2012	2018	2020	2021	Oct. 2021	Dec. 2021	Feb. 2022	Apr. 2022	June 2022	Aug. 2022	Oct. 2022	Oct. 2021	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022
Sex																	
Men	50.1	65.9	64.5	69.1	72.8	60.8	65.7	70.0	71.5	65.5	68.3	67.4	69.9	65.0	-5	-1	-5
Women	43.3	61.7	62.0	65.8	69.8	61.2	67.4	70.9	72.8	72.3	65.1	69.7	70.2	63.3	-8	-9	-7
Age																	
Under 30	59.1	71.3	70.0	72.3	80.0	67.6	73.5	75.3	81.9	75.3	81.8	77.3	77.8	74.5	-1	-1	-3
30–55	44.2	64.8	62.5	67.9	72.6	61.8	69.5	70.8	75.1	70.7	71.1	68.8	72.0	65.2	-6	-6	-7
Over 55	37.4	54.8	58.3	62.1	65.2	57.4	60.5	68.3	65.2	65.3	55.2	65.3	64.6	58.7	-10	-7	-6
Education																	
Secondary and incomplete secondary	41.7	58.4	57.4	57.2	64.8	56.1	62.1	64.1	69.7	68.7	63.0	65.8	68.5	58.9	-5	-10	-10
Secondary vocational	46.4	64.6	63.6	66.7	72.2	63.5	66.7	70.4	70.1	68.3	69.8	70.5	71.0	65.8	-5	-3	-5
Higher and incomplete higher	53.3	68.6	68.3	77.0	76.8	63.3	71.5	77.1	77.6	71.5	66.9	69.7	70.8	67.5	-10	-4	-3
Income group																	
Bottom 20%	28.4	51.6	45.3	51.5	57.3	43.4	54.6	60.4	64.0	60.5	61.5	58.4	55.4	50.7	-10	-10	-5
Middle 60%	45.5	62.9	65.3	68.7	71.9	62.6	67.3	70.9	71.1	68.8	64.2	70.3	73.2	65.9	-5	-3	-7
Top 20%	64.6	74.9	75.3	81.1	82.9	75.6	79.9	84.2	85.3	81.5	81.9	75.7	77.0	78.7	-6	-3	+2
Territories																	
Vologda	49.2	63.1	67.1	73.6	71.0	60.9	60.3	64.0	65.7	63.2	60.2	61.0	61.5	55.7	-8	-8	-6
Cherepovets	50.8	68.1	71.2	76.2	75.8	60.4	71.0	75.2	75.1	72.6	70.1	72.8	74.6	67.9	-7	-5	-7
Districts	42.2	61.6	57.1	59.8	68.7	61.4	67.8	71.5	74.2	70.8	68.1	70.6	72.3	66.6	-5	-4	-6
Oblast	46.2	63.6	63.1	67.3	71.2	61.0	66.6	70.5	72.2	69.3	66.5	68.7	70.1	64.1	-6	-5	-6

RESUME

According to the results of the latest “wave” of the monitoring conducted in October 2022, over the past two months the most noticeable changes occurred in people’s assessments of their psychological well-being:

- ✓ the share of those who describe their mood as “normal, fine” decreased by 6 percentage points (from 70 to 64%) in all major socio-demographic groups;
- ✓ the proportion of those who believe that “everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it” decreased by 4 percentage points (from 79 to 75%);
- ✓ the Consumer Sentiment Index, which is largely an indicator of psychological well-being, since it reflects people’s perceptions of their own future and the future of the country as a whole, decreased by 4 points (from 84 to 80 points).

The indicated dynamics of public opinion assessments quite adequately reflect the difficult situation that has developed in the country in recent months: growth of international political tension; difficult situation on the front line during the special military operation on the territory of Ukraine⁴; more frequent

⁴ Among them: the counteroffensive of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on September 6–12, 2022, the withdrawal of the allied forces from Krasny Liman on October 1, 2022.

terrorist attacks against Russia⁵; partial mobilization of the population, which has become “certainly a sensitive topic for society”⁶ and which revealed a large amount of “stupidity” in the course of its implementation⁷ – all this could not but affect people’s psychological state.

At the same time, we note that against the background of rather alarming events, people’s assessment of the dynamics of their financial situation remains stable: the share of positive judgments regarding the RF President’s efforts to boost the economy and increase citizens’ welfare continues to increase since December 2021 (from December 2021 to October 2022, it increased by 7 percentage points, from 27 to 34%)

Thus, the question of what the future trends of public sentiment will be depends largely on the situation in world politics, on the course of hostilities in Ukraine and on the decisions taken by the Supreme Commander of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin.

However, it would not be quite correct to take an “instant photo” of society and focus only on the most striking and possibly short-term changes in its condition. No less important is how society “feels” during the period of the special operation; how its key characteristics have changed over the entire period from February 2022 to the present.

In this regard, we should note that according to all the main monitoring indicators, a number of important and positive changes are observed in the trends of public opinion of Vologda Oblast residents. From February to October 2022:

- ✓ the level of support for all major authorities increased: the RF President (by 11 percentage points, from 48 to 59%), the Prime Minister (by 11 percentage points, from 37 to 48%), the Vologda Oblast Governor (by 9 percentage points, from 34 to 43%);
- ✓ the assessments of the success of the RF President’s work improved in all key areas: strengthening Russia’s international positions (by 7 percentage points, from 42 to 49%), restoring order in the country (by 4 percentage points, from 41 to 45%), protecting democracy and strengthening citizens’ freedoms (by 6 percentage points, from 32 to 38%) and even in the most difficult direction – economic recovery and growth of population welfare (by 6 percentage points, from 28 to 34%);
- ✓ it is equally important that in February – October 2022, there was a noticeable increase in the proportion of those who believe that the United Russia party in power expresses their interests (by 6 percentage points, from 31 to 37%);
- ✓ the indicators of the psychological well-being during the period of the special operation decreased slightly: the share of positive assessments of social mood decreased by 5 percentage points (from 69 to 64%), the stock of patience – by 2 percentage points (from 77 to 75%); the Consumer Sentiment Index decreased by 6 points (from 86 to 80 points). However, this happened mainly due to the dynamics of public opinion assessments in August – October 2022. In the previous period (from February to August), the proportion of people who positively characterize their daily emotional state, the proportion of positive assessments of the stock of patience, the Consumer Sentiment Index as a whole remained stable (70, 79% and 84–86 points, respectively).

⁵ See, for example:

August 15 – thwarted terrorist attack attempt at an oil and gas complex facility in the Volgograd Oblast;

August 20 – murder of Dariya Dugina, Russian journalist and daughter of philosopher A. Dugin;

September 25 – explosion after another shelling of a hotel in the Kherson Oblast (among the dead is a well-known public figure A. Zhuravko);

September 26 – explosions of the Nord Stream and Nord Stream-2 gas pipelines;

October 8 – terrorist attack that led to the collapse of part of the Crimean Bridge;

October 11 – prevented terrorist attack on the Druzhba oil pipeline;

October 15 – explosion of the tanks of an oil depot in the Belgorod Oblast.

⁶ *Argumenty nedeli*. Available at: <https://argumenti.ru/society/2022/09/791413> (V.A. Fadeev – from October 21, 2019 Advisor to the RF President, Chairman of the Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society and Human Rights).

⁷ President’s speech at a meeting with the elected heads of regions. Official website of the RF President. October 10, 2022. Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69567>

Dynamics of the main indicators of public opinion monitoring for February – October 2022 (% of respondents)

Indicator	Feb. 2022	Aug. 2022	Oct. 2022	Dynamics +/-, p.p.		
				Feb. – Aug. 2022	Aug. – Oct. 2022	Feb. – Oct. 2022
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the work of the RF President	48.0	60.9	59.0	+13	-2	+11
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the work of the RF Prime Minister	37.6	47.5	48.1	+10	+1	+11
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the work of the Vologda Oblast Governor	33.9	43.3	43.0	+9	0	+9
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the success of the RF President's work to strengthen Russia's international position	42.3	50.3	49.4	+8	-1	+7
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the success of the RF President's work to restore order in the country	41.1	46.7	44.9	+6	-2	+4
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the success of the RF President's work to protect democracy and strengthen citizens' freedoms	32.3	38.5	38.5	+6	0	+6
Proportion of positive assessments regarding the success of the RF President's work to boost the economy and increase the welfare of the population	28.2	32.1	34.2	+4	+2	+6
Proportion of those who note that their interests are represented by the United Russia party	31.1	36.2	36.7	+5	+1	+6
Proportion of positive assessments of social mood	69.3	70.0	64.1	+1	-6	-5
Proportion of positive assessments of the stock of patience	76.6	79.3	75.3	+3	-4	-1
Consumer Sentiment Index	85.7	83.9	80.1	-2	-4	-6

Thus, we should emphasize that the results of sociological surveys carried out over the entire period of the special operation indicate that the society maintains a fairly stable psychological background and a high level of public support for the work of government authorities (primarily the RF President).

The decline in the indicators of psychological well-being in society in August – October 2022 requires attention of the authorities and further observations from sociologists. However, it still remains quite positive (the proportion of people who characterize their daily emotional state as “normal, fine” is more than 50% in all socio-demographic groups); in addition, the negative changes that have manifested themselves in the last two months are quite a natural reaction of people to the events that took place during this period in the internal and external political life of the country.

It is important that from the very beginning of the hostilities in Ukraine, Russian society has shown a high degree of consolidation around the President, as well as a willingness to overcome with understanding and patience various difficulties that arise in the process of achieving the goals of the special military operation.

At the same time, recognition and prompt response of the public administration system to errors that occurred during partial mobilization; active volunteer assistance to mobilized citizens and military personnel fighting directly on the front line; “a large number of volunteers”⁸ (as Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu noted), who decided to participate in the special military operation, and many other facts allow us to say that new features of civil society are being strengthened and formed in Russia. It is quite possible that this will become an important factor in overcoming the current, period in its history, which is certainly not the easiest one.

Materials were prepared by M.V. Morev, I.M. Bakhvalova

⁸ *RIA-novosti*. October 4, 2022. Available at: <https://ria.ru/20221004/shoygu-1821393672.html>