

Public Opinion Monitoring of the State of the Russian Society

Continuing the tradition of our journal, we present the results of public opinion monitoring on the state of Russian society, conducted by the Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (VolRC RAS) in the Vologda Region¹.

The tables and figures below show the dynamics of a number of indicators of social well-being and socio-political attitudes among the region's population based on the most recent wave of the monitoring (June 2026), as well as over the period from June 2025 to June 2026 (the last seven surveys, i.e., one year of measurements).

The survey results are compared with the average annual data for 2000 (the first year of V.V. Putin's first presidential term), 2007 (the last year of his second presidential term, when presidential performance ratings reached their highest), 2012 (the first year of his third presidential term), 2018 (the first year of his fourth presidential term), and 2023 (the last full year of his fourth presidential term).

Annual data for 2007–2025 are also presented².

In April–June 2026, public opinion about the head of state's performance did not change substantially: the share of positive assessments stands at 62%, negative at 23%³.

Compared with June 2025 (i.e., over the past 12 months), the approval rating of the President of the Russian Federation declined slightly (by 4 percentage points, from 66% to 62%)⁴.

¹ The surveys are conducted six times a year in the cities of Vologda and Cherepovets and in the Babayevsky, Velikoustyugsky, Vozhegodsky, Gryazovetsky, Tarnogsky, Kirillovsky, Nikolsky, and Sheksninsky municipal okrugs of the region. The survey is carried out through face-to-face questionnaire interviews at respondents' places of residence. The sample size is 1,500 people aged 18 and over. The sample is purposive and quota-based. The representativeness of the sample is ensured by maintaining the proportions between the urban and rural populations, between residents of different types of settlements (rural settlements, small and medium-sized towns), and by the gender and age structure of the region's adult population. The sampling error does not exceed 3%.

More detailed information about the results of surveys conducted by VolRC RAS is available at <http://www.vsecc.ac.ru>.

² In 2020, four waves of the monitoring were conducted. The surveys scheduled for April and June 2020 were not carried out due to quarantine restrictions during the spread of COVID-19.

³ Here and below, in all tables and in the text: positive changes are highlighted in green, negative changes in red, and no change in blue. Since changes of ± 3 percentage points fall within the sampling error, they are considered non-significant and are marked in blue.

⁴ Here and below, the results of the comparative analysis of the June 2026 survey data with the results of the monitoring wave conducted in June 2025 are presented in a box.

How would you assess the current work of...?* (% of respondents)

Response	Dynamics of the average annual data										Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	2000	2007	2012	2018	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	June 2025	Apr. 2026
RF President																			
I approve	66.0	75.3	51.7	66.4	51.5	57.0	61.4	66.7	65.9		66.3	67.4	66.3	64.9	63.7	61.5	61.7	-5	0
I disapprove	14.8	11.5	32.6	21.7	32.0	25.7	22.5	19.7	19.5		20.9	19.2	19.4	20.4	19.9	20.9	22.7	+2	+2
Chairman of the RF Government																			
I approve	–	–	49.6	48.0	39.9	45.4	50.1	54.1	54.4		53.0	55.1	55.7	54.0	51.1	48.9	49.1	-4	0
I disapprove	–	–	33.3	31.6	37.6	32.0	27.6	24.8	22.5		22.9	20.6	23.1	22.2	21.3	22.8	25.1	+2	+2
Vologda Region Governor**																			
I approve	56.1	55.8	41.9	38.4	36.7	40.9	48.1	51.7	42.5		39.9	41.0	41.8	42.8	40.2	38.2	37.3	-3	-1
I disapprove	19.3	22.2	33.3	37.6	40.5	35.8	30.9	28.4	37.2		37.2	39.1	41.3	39.3	39.0	41.2	42.3	+5	+1

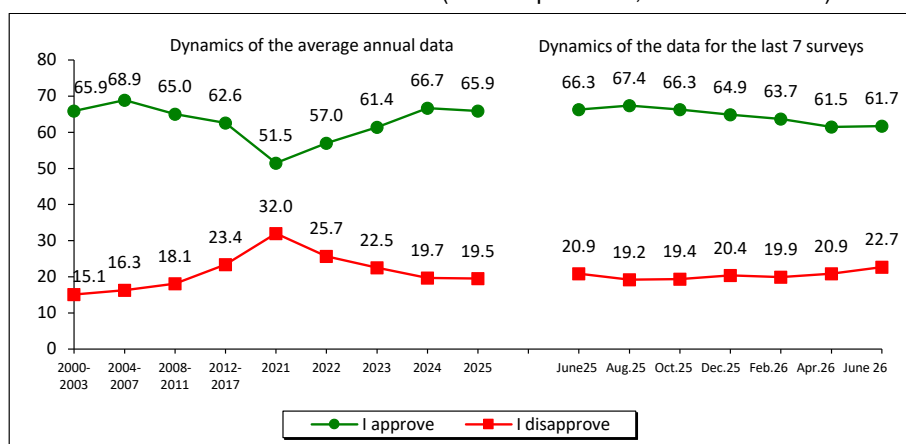
* Here and below: positive changes are highlighted in green, negative changes in red, and no change in blue. Since changes of ± 3 percentage points fall within the sampling error, they are considered non-significant and are marked in blue.

** On October 31, 2023, by Decree of the President of the Russian Federation, Georgy Filimonov was appointed acting governor of the Vologda Region. Following the regional elections held on September 6–8, 2024, Filimonov received 62.3% of the vote and became the elected Governor of the Vologda Region.

Note. The wording of the question: "How would you assess the current work of...?" Respondents were then offered a list of government bodies at various levels to evaluate their work, with the following answer options: "fully approve", "mostly approve", "mostly disapprove", "fully disapprove", "not familiar with their activities", "difficult to answer".

How would you assess the way that the RF President is handling his job?*

(% of respondents, VolRC RAS data)*



Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
I approve	-5	0
I disapprove	+2	+2

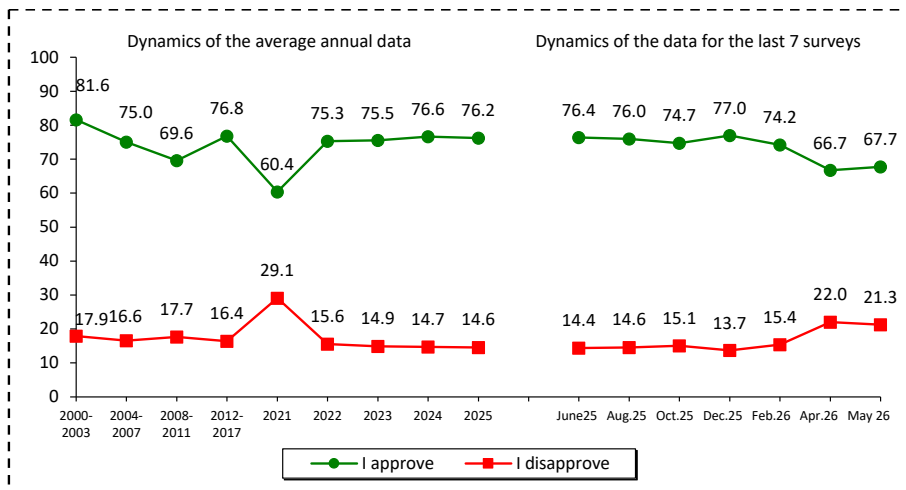
* Here and throughout all figures, annual average data are presented for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025, as well as annual average data for the periods 2000–2003, 2004–2007, 2008–2011, and 2012–2017, which correspond to the periods of the presidential terms.

For reference:

Data obtained from surveys conducted on the territory of the Vologda Region reflect national trends. According to VCIOM (Russian Public Opinion Research Center), the approval rating of the President of the Russian Federation in April–May 2026 remained at 67–68%, with negative assessments accounting for 21–22%.

From June 2025 to May 2026, the share of positive assessments of the head of state's performance declined by 8 percentage points (from 76 to 68%).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the RF President is handling his job?
(% of respondents; VCIOM data)



Response	Dynamics (+/-), May 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
I approve	-9	+1
I disapprove	+7	-1

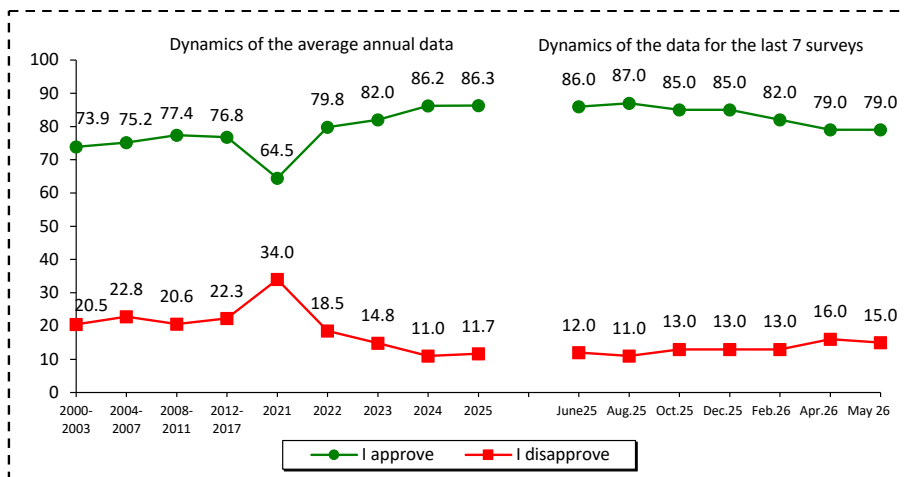
Wording of the question: "In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the Russian President is handling his job?"

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

According to nationwide polls by Levada-Center, in April–May 2026 the approval rating of the head of state stood at 79%, with negative judgments at 15–16%.*

This is also lower than 12 months earlier: from June 2025 to May 2026, the share of positive assessments of the head of state's performance decreased by 7 percentage points (from 86 to 79%).

In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Vladimir Putin is handling his job as President of Russia? (% of respondents; Levada-Center* data)



Response	Dynamics (+/-), May 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
I approve	-7	0
I disapprove	+3	-1

Wording of the question: "In general, do you approve or disapprove of the way that Vladimir Putin is handling his job as President of Russia?"

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

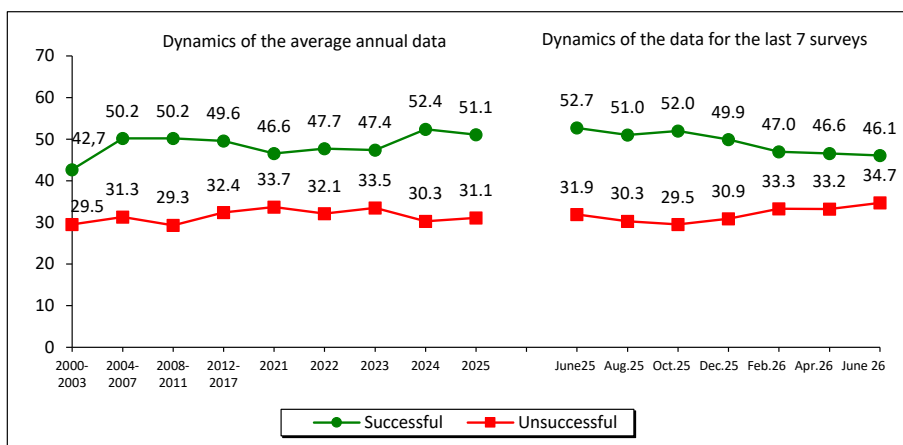
* Included in the register of foreign agents.

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

Public assessment of the President's success in strengthening Russia's international standing has remained stable since February 2026: the share of positive judgments stands at 46–47%, negative at 33–35%.

Over the past 12 months, the share of positive judgments has decreased by 7 percentage points (from 53 to 46%), while the share of negative judgments has risen by 3 percentage points (from 32 to 35%).

Strengthening Russia's international standing

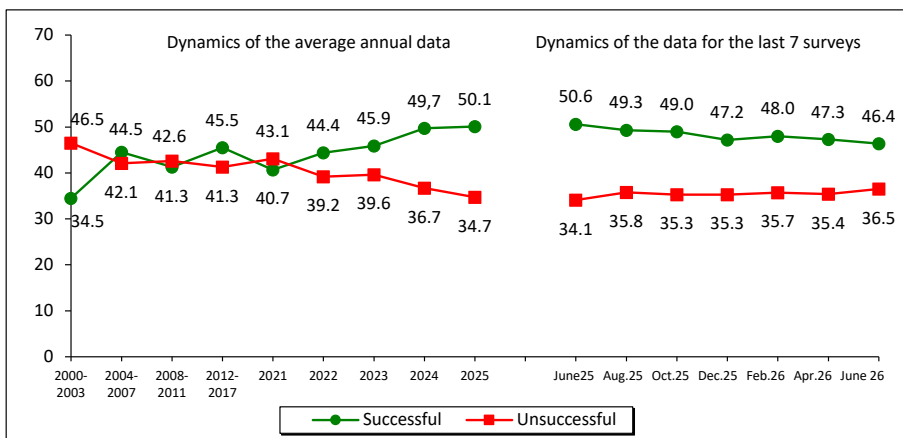


Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Successful	-7	-1
Unsuccessful	+3	+2

The share of regional residents who consider the head of state's efforts to restore order in the country successful stands at 46–47%, as it did two months ago; the proportion of those holding the opposite view is somewhat lower, at 35–36%.

At the same time, a year-on-year comparison also reveals negative changes: compared with June 2025, the share of positive assessments has declined by 5 percentage points (from 51% to 46%), while negative assessments have risen by 3 percentage points (from 34 to 37%).

Restoring order in the country

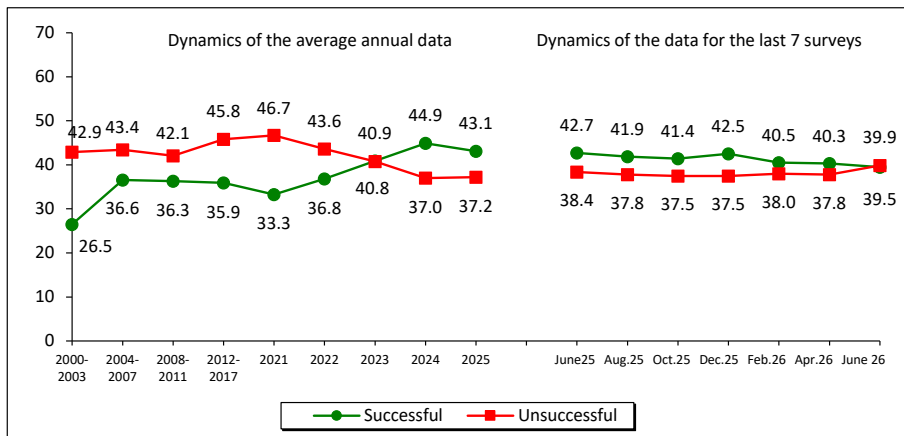


Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Successful	-5	-1
Unsuccessful	+3	+1

The share of positive judgments about the head of state's success in protecting democracy and strengthening civil liberties also remains stable (40–41%), while the share of negative assessments has increased slightly over the past two months (by 2 percentage points, from 38 to 40%).

Over the year of measurements, no substantial changes are observed on this issue: positive assessments range from 40 to 43%, negative from 38 to 40%.

Protecting democracy and strengthening civil liberties

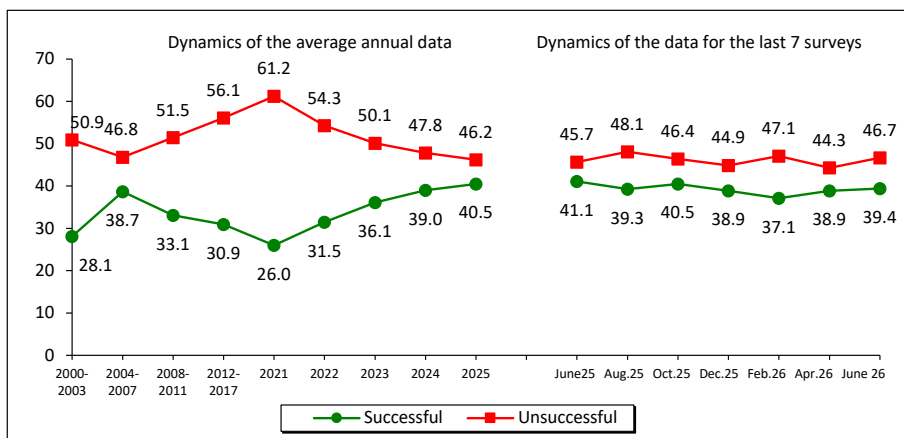


Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Successful	-3	-1
Unsuccessful	+2	+2

In June 2026, the share of regional residents who negatively assess the head of state's efforts to boost the economy and improve citizens' well-being increased slightly (by 3 percentage points, from 44 to 47%). At the same time, the share of positive assessments did not change significantly (39%).

From June 2025 to June 2026, public opinion in the region on this issue did not change significantly: the share of positive judgments stands at 39–41%, negative at 46–47%.

Boosting the economy and improving citizens' well-being



Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Successful	-2	+1
Unsuccessful	+1	+2

The structure of citizens' electoral preferences has remained stable since the beginning of the year: the share of regional residents supporting the United Russia party stands at 37%, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) and the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) at 8–9% each, and the Just Russia and New People at 3–4% each.

Over the past 12 months, support for United Russia has declined slightly (by 5 percentage points, from 42 to 37%), while the share of people who believe that none of the parliamentary parties currently reflects their interests has increased (by 6 percentage points, from 25 to 31%).

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

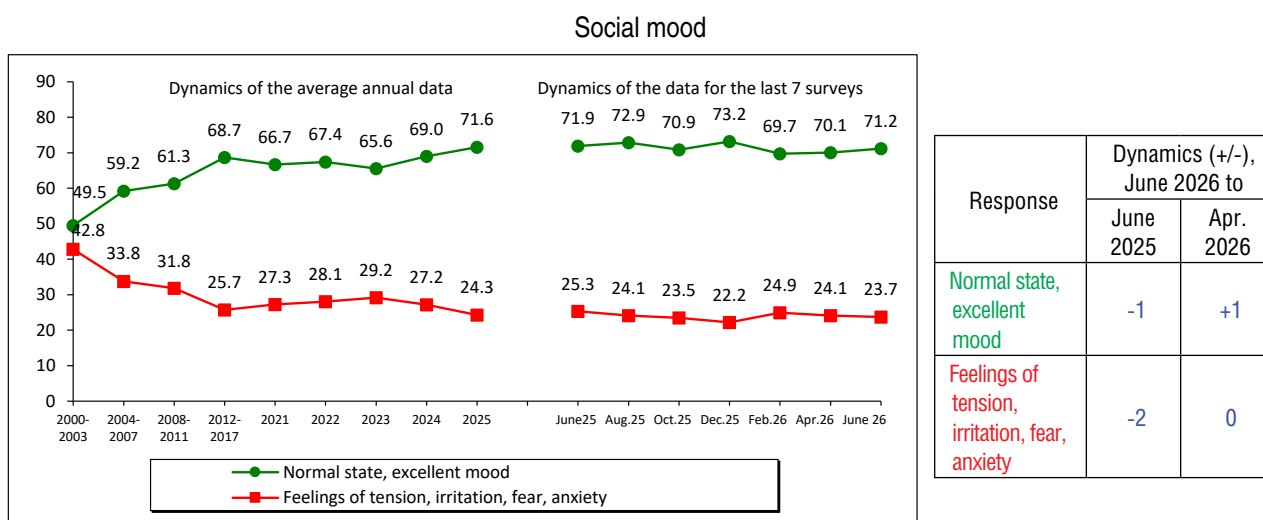
Party	Dynamics of the average annual data													Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	2011	Election to the RF State Duma 2011, fact	2012	2016	Election to the RF State Duma 2016, fact	2018	2020	Election to the RF State Duma 2020, fact	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	June 2025	Apr. 2026
United Russia	31.1	33.4	29.1	35.4	38.0	37.9	31.5	49.8	31.7	35.2	39.5	42.9	40.3	41.6	41.2	40.5	38.1	36.1	35.7	36.8	-5	+1
CPRF	10.3	16.8	10.6	8.3	14.2	9.2	8.4	18.9	9.3	10.1	9.6	8.9	9.6	9.1	11.5	10.5	9.7	9.2	8.1	8.9	0	+1
LDPR	7.8	15.4	7.8	10.4	21.9	9.6	9.5	7.6	9.9	7.3	7.0	7.1	8.2	9.4	8.7	7.8	8.6	8.9	7.9	7.6	-2	0
Just Russia – Patriots for the Truth	5.6	27.2	6.6	4.2	10.8	2.9	4.7	7.5	4.7	4.9	4.4	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.2	3.4	4.1	3.1	4.3	3.7	0	-1
New People*	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.3	2.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.5	1.8	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.6	0	0
Other	1.9	–	2.1	0.3	–	0.7	0.5	–	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0	0
None	29.4	–	31.3	29.4	–	28.5	34.2	–	33.9	30.6	26.5	25.2	25.8	24.9	23.3	24.3	26.1	29.1	31.5	30.5	+6	-1
Difficult to answer	13.2	–	11.7	12.0	–	11.2	11.1	–	10.0	10.1	11.1	10.3	10.0	8.5	9.2	11.3	10.7	11.0	9.8	9.7	+1	0

* The New People party first won a seat in the State Duma of the Russian Federation following the elections held on September 17–19, 2021.

Assessment of social condition (% of respondents; VolRC RAS data)

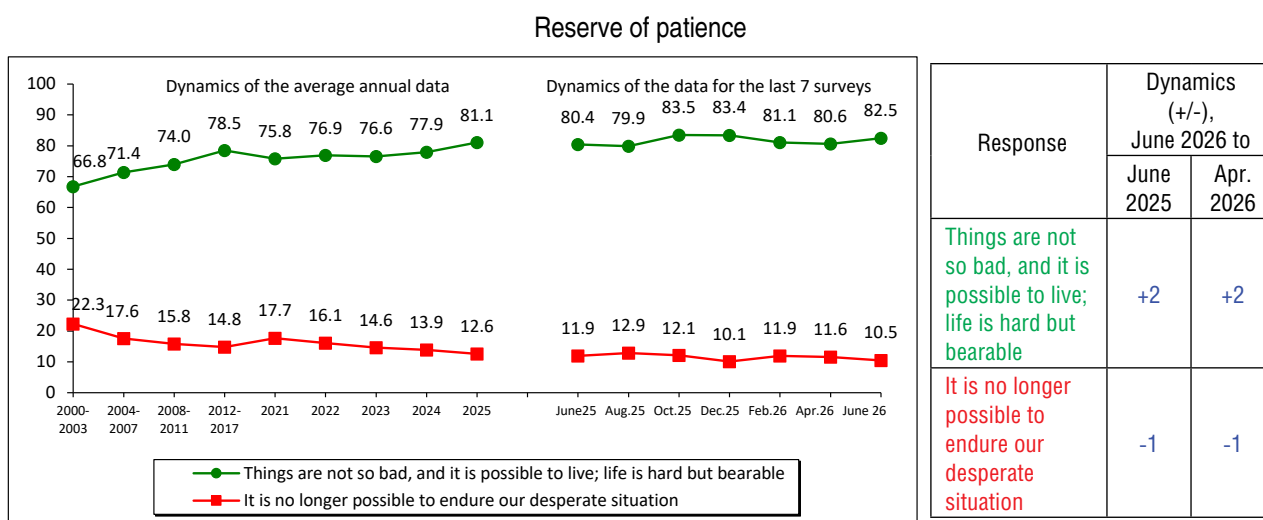
In April–June 2026, the share of regional residents who positively assess their day-to-day emotional state stood at 70–71%, which is considerably higher than the share of negative assessments (24%).

In a year-on-year comparison, no substantial changes are observed in the dynamics of the social mood of the region's residents either.



In June 2026, the share of people with a high social “patience reserve” increased slightly (from 81 to 83%), while the proportion of those who believe that “it is no longer possible to endure our desperate situation” remains at 11–12%.

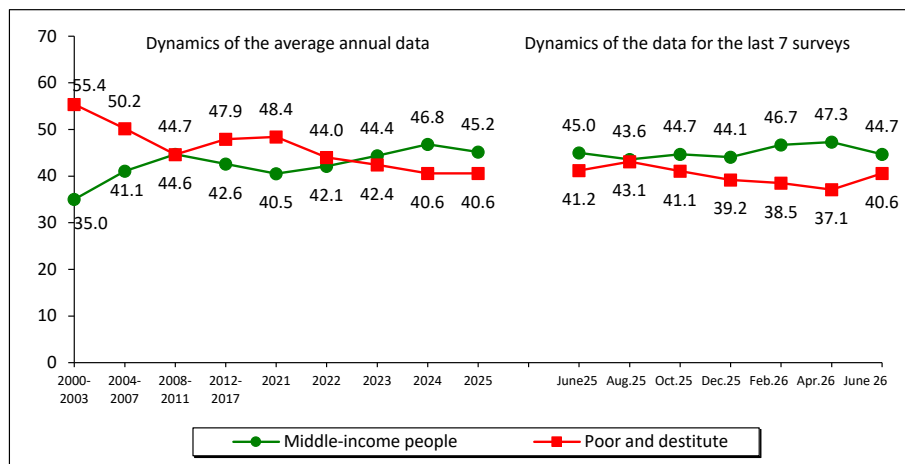
Similar changes have been observed over the past 12 months: the share of people who say that “Things are not so bad, and it is possible to live; life is hard but bearable” rose by 3 percentage points (from 80 to 83%); the share of negative assessments remains stable at 11–12%.



Negative changes are observed in the dynamics of social self-identification. In April–June 2026, the share of regional residents who subjectively place themselves in the “middle-income” category declined by 3 percentage points (from 47 to 44%), while the share of those who identify with the “poor and destitute” strata increased by 4 percentage points (from 37 to 41%).

Compared with June 2025, no significant changes are observed in the dynamics of the population’s social self-identification.

Social self-identification



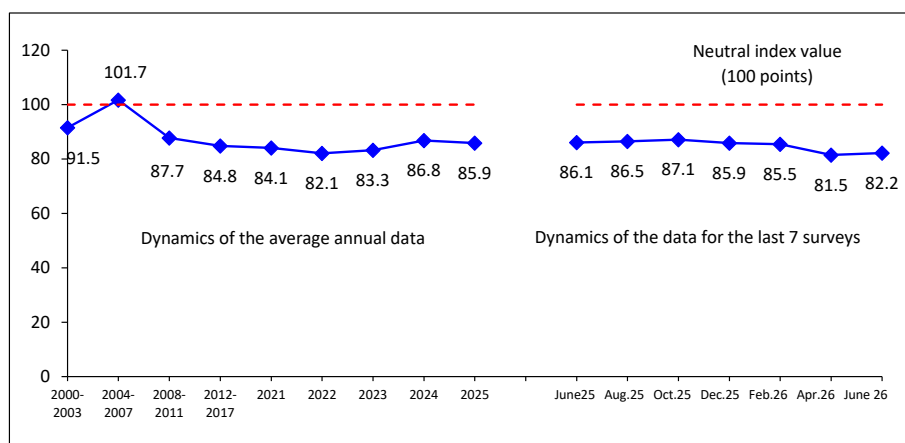
Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Share of those considering themselves middle-income	0	-3
Share of those considering themselves poor and destitute	-1	+4

Question wording: “Which category do you belong to, in your opinion?”.

The Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) stabilized in June 2026 at 82 points after a noticeable decline in February–April 2026 (from 86 to 82 points).

Nevertheless, its latest value remains markedly lower than 12 months ago (86 points).

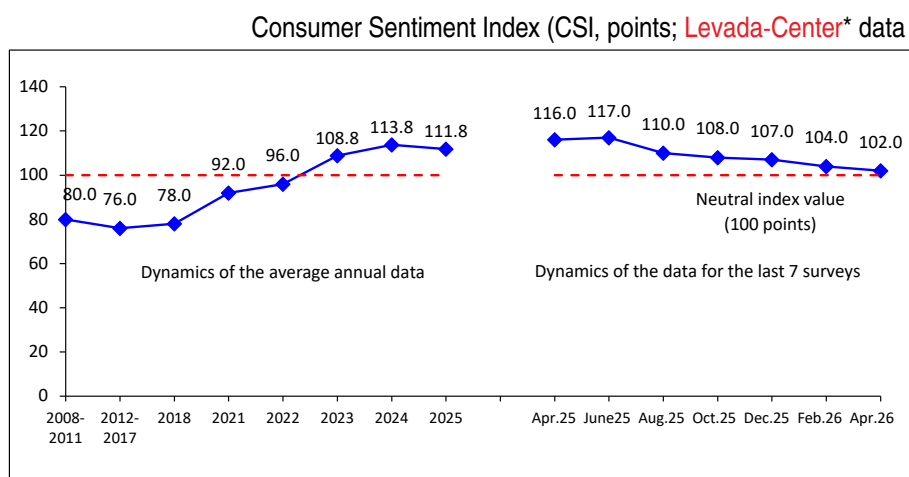
Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI, points; VoIRC RAS data for the Vologda Region)



Response	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Index value, points	-4	+1

According to nationwide polls by Levada-Center*, the consumer sentiment index in the country has been declining since August 2025. In February–April 2026, it decreased by 2 points (from 104 to 102 points).

Compared with June 2025, the CSI fell by 15 points (from 117 to 102 points).



Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2026 to	
	Apr. 2025	Feb. 2026
Index value, points	-14	-2

The index has been calculated since 2008.

The latest data – for April 2026.

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

From April to June 2026, no significant changes in the share of positive assessments of social mood are observed in most socio-demographic groups, with two exceptions: among people with secondary and incomplete secondary education, the share of positive assessments increased by 5 percentage points; and in the bottom 20% income group, it rose by 4 percentage points. No negative changes are recorded.

From June 2025 to June 2026, no changes are observed in the socio-demographic groups. The only group with identified negative changes is young people under 30 (a decline in the share of positive assessments by 11 percentage points).

⁵ Since March 2025, Levada-Center* has updated its CSI data. The Consumer Sentiment Index in Russia has been calculated since 1993 based on five questions, following the approach of the index developed in the 1940s by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. The individual indices for each question are calculated as the difference between the share of positive and negative responses plus 100. The aggregate CSI is the arithmetic mean of the individual indices (range 0–200, where >100 indicates a predominance of positive assessments). In 2009, the CSI was pegged to the values of March 2008 (base 100%), reflecting a change in survey methodology and the economic crisis. However, this meant that the index only reflected changes relative to 2008. In March 2025, the decision was made to return to the original CSI calculation methodology, abandoning the 2008 benchmark, because many indicators in 2023 exceeded the 2008 highs, and the old version of the index no longer adequately reflected the current situation. The return to the original methodology is intended to solve this problem. Source: Updated Consumer Sentiment Index: February 2025 figures. Available at: <https://www.levada.ru/2025/03/26/obnovlennyyj- indeks-potrebitelskhnastroenij-pokazateli-fevralya-2025-goda/>

* Included in the register of foreign agents.

Social mood in various social groups (response option “Excellent mood, normal, steady state”,
% of respondents; VoIRC RAS data)

Population group	Dynamics of the average annual data								Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
	2007	2012	2018	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	June 2025	Apr. 2026
Gender																	
Men	65.9	69.1	72.8	65.7	66.8	65.5	66.5	70.7	71.6	72.1	68.2	73.3	69.1	71.9	70.7	-1	-1
Women	61.7	65.8	69.8	67.4	67.9	65.7	70.9	72.3	72.2	73.5	73.1	73.1	70.1	68.7	71.6	-1	+3
Age																	
Under 30	71.3	72.3	79.9	73.5	77.6	75.0	76.6	76.8	76.7	78.1	75.2	74.3	69.5	67.6	66.2	-11	-1
30–55	64.8	67.9	72.6	69.5	69.4	68.8	71.3	74.3	74.1	74.9	73.9	78.4	73.6	73.1	73.5	-1	0
Over 55	54.8	62.1	65.2	60.5	61.1	58.2	63.3	66.5	67.6	68.6	65.9	66.6	64.9	67.5	70.2	+3	+3
Education																	
Secondary and incomplete secondary	58.4	57.2	64.8	62.1	64.6	62.0	64.6	67.2	68.4	70.3	68.4	66.1	60.6	60.4	65.0	-3	+5
Secondary vocational	64.6	66.7	72.1	66.7	68.3	66.1	70.3	73.6	74.1	73.6	71.4	75.6	71.6	74.7	73.4	-1	-1
Higher and incomplete higher	68.6	77.0	76.7	71.5	69.5	68.8	72.3	73.9	73.0	74.7	73.1	77.6	74.7	74.0	75.5	+3	+2
Income group																	
Bottom 20%	51.6	51.5	57.2	54.6	57.0	50.1	53.5	55.2	56.1	58.3	53.3	50.7	48.2	51.3	55.6	-1	+4
Middle 60%	62.9	68.7	72.1	67.3	68.1	67.4	70.7	73.2	74.4	73.1	73.1	75.2	72.2	72.7	72.0	-2	-1
Top 20%	74.9	81.1	82.4	79.9	78.3	73.9	77.6	83.6	84.1	83.8	84.8	89.4	87.7	83.4	84.7	+1	+1
Territory																	
Vologda	63.1	73.6	71.0	60.3	59.8	59.6	66.0	70.2	69.5	72.9	71.4	71.9	68.1	68.8	68.1	-1	-1
Cherepovets	68.1	76.2	75.7	71.0	71.2	68.1	69.8	73.1	72.5	75.0	73.2	76.3	73.0	73.5	75.3	+3	+2
Districts	61.6	59.8	68.6	67.8	69.5	67.7	70.2	71.6	73.1	71.6	69.3	72.2	68.7	69.0	70.8	-2	+2
Region	63.6	67.3	71.2	66.6	67.4	65.6	69.0	71.6	71.9	72.9	70.9	73.2	69.7	70.1	71.2	-1	+1
Total number of groups: positive changes / no changes / negative changes																14: 0 / 13 / 1	14: 2 / 12 / 0

SUMMARY

The latest wave of public opinion monitoring was conducted in May–June 2026. The survey results point to the continuation of trends that Russian sociologists began to identify in late 2025 and early 2026⁶. Overall, these trends are characterized by the emergence of a constructive demand from the public toward the authorities concerning the dynamics of the standard of living and quality of life in the country, partly against the backdrop of the population’s relative “habituation” to everyday life under the ongoing special military operation.

⁶ See, for example: Alfimov V. From paycheck to victory: How Russian society has changed in a year (interview with V. Fedorov, head of VCIOM). Available at: <https://www.kp.ru/daily/27763.3/5191948/?ysclid=mkgituc55z530676123>; Obukhov S.P., Mikhalechuk A.M., Bogachev A.M., Strelkov D.A., Khamadieva T.V., Chervontsev A.V. Results of 2025 from V.V. Putin. Express analysis of the message to the Russian society and foreign opponents. Available at: <https://kprf.ru/politindx/239901.html?ysclid=mlhmrkgap916136109>

Over the past two months, no significant changes have been observed in most public opinion monitoring indicators. The exception is social self-identification. In April–June 2026, the share of regional residents who subjectively place themselves in the “middle-income” category declined by 3 percentage points (from 47 to 44%), while the share of those who identify with the “poor and destitute” strata increased by 4 percentage points (from 37 to 41%).

Over the year of measurements (from June 2025 to June 2026), a number of changes have occurred, some of a negative nature, though the overall picture remains balanced:

- the approval rating of the President of the Russian Federation declined by 4 percentage points (from 66 to 62%), accompanied by a deterioration in assessments of his efforts to strengthen Russia’s international standing: the share of positive judgments decreased by 7 percentage points (from 53 to 46%); at the same time, the share of negative assessments increased only slightly, and support for the head of state remains consistently high, exceeding 60% given the complex and turbulent external environment;
- support for the United Russia party decreased by 5 percentage points (from 42 to 37%), while the share of respondents stating that none of the parties represents their interests increased by 6 percentage points (from 25 to 31%); these survey findings warrant close attention in light of the upcoming elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation scheduled for September 2026 (the election campaign officially began on June 16, 2026, and the elections are set for September 18–20);
- the Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) declined by 4 points over the year (from 86 to 82 points), indicating a worsening of public expectations regarding future living standards and the economic situation, despite relatively stable current assessments of social well-being;
- in terms of socio-demographic groups, the most pronounced deterioration in social mood was recorded among young people under 30 (a decline in the share of positive assessments by 11 percentage points).

Despite a number of concerning changes observed in the year-on-year comparison, the level of social consolidation around the president and the nationally oriented strategic development agenda remains high, as evidenced by the generally stable psychological state of society, the persistently large “patience reserve” (83%), and the predominance of a positive emotional state (70–71%). This serves as an important resource of social resilience and enables society to adapt to external challenges while maintaining its internal potential for development.

Further dynamics of public opinion among residents of the Vologda Region will be reflected in the results of upcoming waves of VolRC RAS monitoring. Even at this point, it can be stated that, despite some negative trends, the basic parameters of social stability and trust in state institutions are being preserved.

Materials were prepared by K.E. Kosygina, I.M. Bakhvalova.