

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 VoIRC RAS in the Vologda Region¹.

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 round of the monitoring (April 2025) and for the period from April 2024 to April 2025 (the last seven surveys, that is, almost a year).

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), 2012 (the first year of Vladimir Putin's third presidential term) and 2018 (the first year of Vladimir Putin's fourth presidential term).

The annual dynamics of the data are presented for 2000–2024².

¹ The surveys are held six times a year in the cities of Vologda and Cherepovets, in Babayevsky, Velikoustyugsky, Vozhegodsky, Gryazovetsky, Tarnogsky Kirillovsky, Nikolsky municipal okrugs, and in Sheksninsky Municipal 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 Region's adult population. Sampling error does not exceed 3%.

More information on the results of VoIRC RAS surveys is available at <http://www.vscs.ac.ru/>.

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

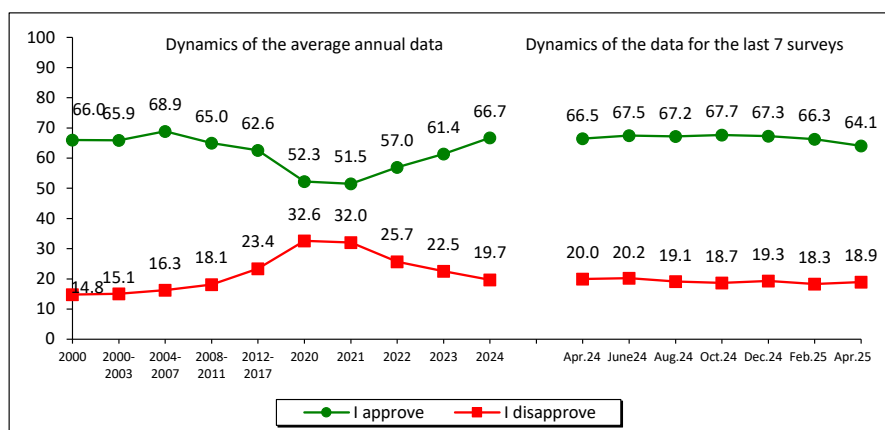
In February – April 2025 the President's approval rating remained unchanged and amounted to 64%. The proportion of negative assessments remains stable as well (18–19%)³.

Over the last 12 months (from April 2024 to April 2025) the share of both positive and negative assessments of the head of state's work has not changed⁴.

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 (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	2000	2007	2012	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Apr. 2025	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
RF President																			
I approve	66.0	75.3	51.7	66.4	52.3	51.5	57.0	61.4	66.7		66.5	67.5	67.2	67.7	67.3	66.3	64.1	-2	-2
I disapprove	14.8	11.5	32.6	21.7	32.6	32.0	25.7	22.5	19.7		20.0	20.2	19.1	18.7	19.3	18.3	18.9	-1	+1
Chairman of the RF Government																			
I approve	-	-	49.6	48.0	38.7	39.9	45.4	50.1	54.1		53.7	53.5	55.3	53.7	55.6	54.7	53.9	0	-1
I disapprove	-	-	33.3	31.6	40.4	37.6	32.0	27.6	24.8		24.3	23.4	24.1	25.5	25.3	23.8	22.3	-2	-2
Vologda Region Governor																			
I approve	56.1	55.8	41.9	38.4	35.0	36.7	40.9	48.1	51.7		51.7	51.6	53.4	51.9	50.8	46.8	42.9	-9	-4
I disapprove	19.3	22.2	33.3	37.6	42.5	40.5	35.8	30.9	28.4		30.1	28.0	26.7	28.0	29.8	31.4	34.6	+5	+3
Wording of the question: "How would you assess the current work of ...?"																			

How would you assess the way that the RF President is handling his job?
(% of respondents, VolRC RAS data)*



Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
I approve	-2	-2
I disapprove	-1	+1

* Here and elsewhere, all graphs show the average annual data for 2000, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, as well as the average annual data for the periods 2000–2003, 2004–2007, 2008–2011, 2012–2017 that correspond to presidential terms.

³ Here and elsewhere, in all tables and in the text, positive changes are highlighted in green, negative changes are highlighted in red, and no changes – in blue. Due to the fact that the changes of +/- 3 p.p. fall within the limits of sampling error, they are considered insignificant and are marked in blue.

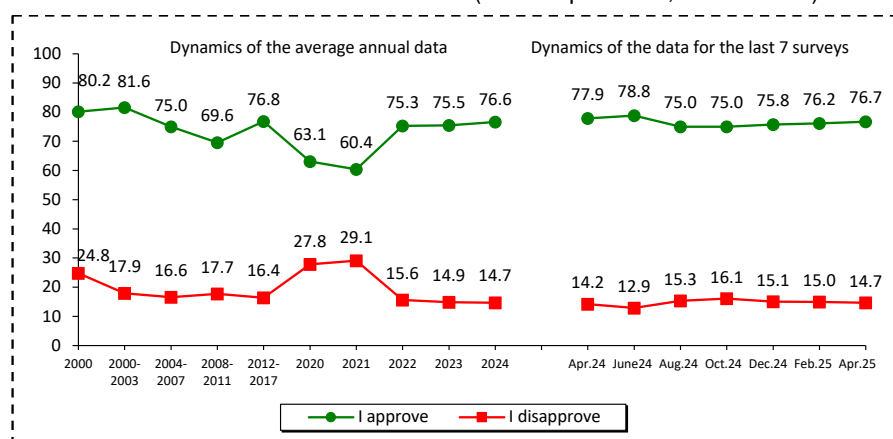
⁴ Here and further in the text, the results of a comparative analysis of the data from the survey conducted in April 2025 with the results of the monitoring carried out in April 2024 are given in the frame.

For reference:

According to VCIOM, the President's approval rating in February – April 2025 was 77%, while the proportion of negative assessments – 15%.

The President's approval rating in April 2024 – April 2025 was 77–78%.

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



Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
I approve	-1	+1
I disapprove	+1	0

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

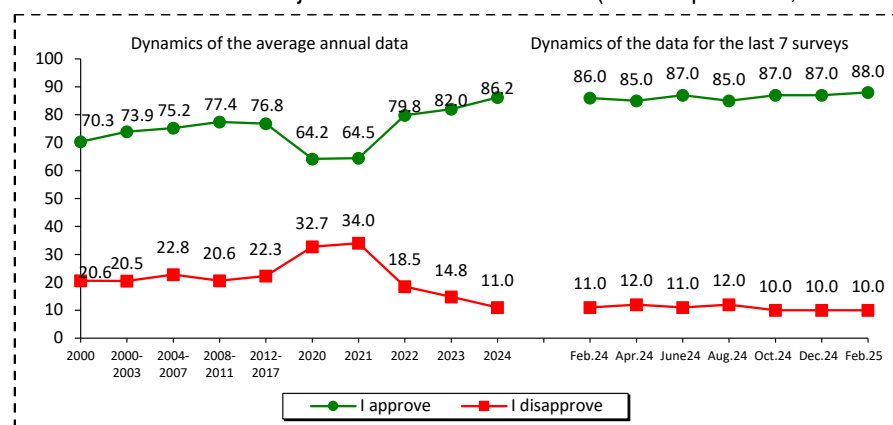
Data as of April 2025 reflect an average for two surveys: as of April 6, 2025 and April 13, 2025.

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

According to all-Russian surveys conducted by Levada-Center*, over the last three months (December 2024 – February 2025) the share of positive assessments of the RF President's work is 86–88%, negative ones – 10–11%.

The President's approval rating increased slightly in February 2024 – February 2025 (by 2 p.p., from 86 to 88%).

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 (+/-), Feb. 2025 to	
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024
I approve	+2	+1
I disapprove	-1	0

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/>

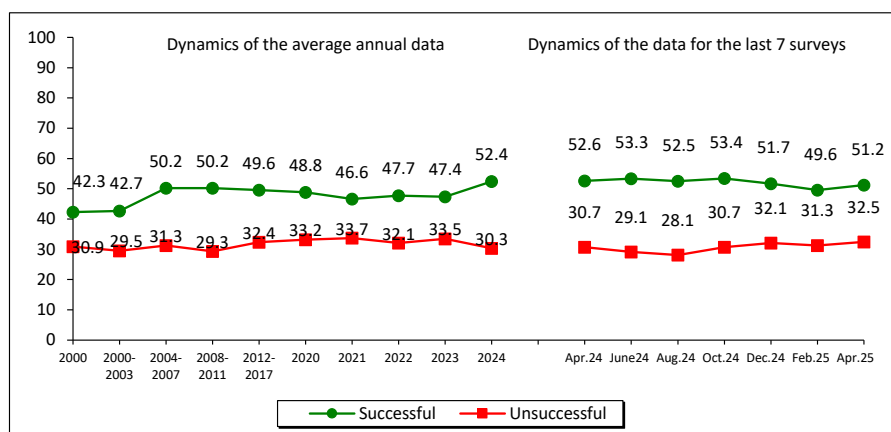
* Included in the register of foreign agents.

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

Over the past two months, the share of Vologda Region residents who consider the actions of the head of state to strengthen Russia's international positions to be successful remained stable (51%). The share of those who hold the opposite point of view also did not change (33%).

The share of positive assessments of the head of state to strengthen the country's international positions in April 2025 remained at the level of April 2024 (52–53%).

Strengthening Russia's international position

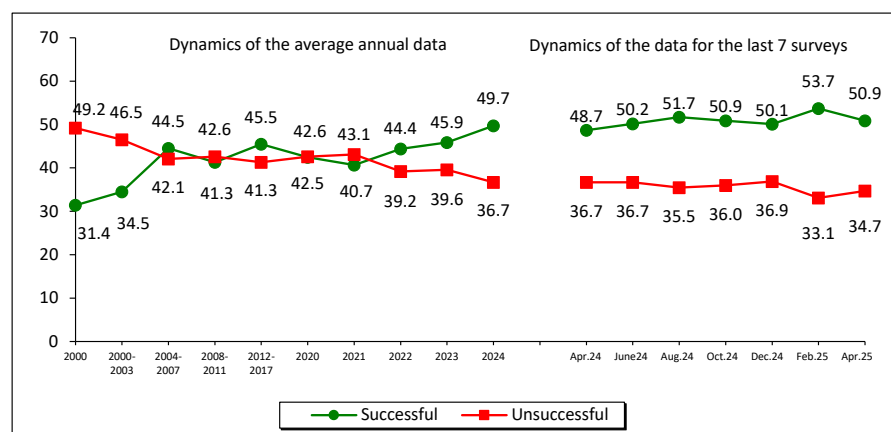


Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Successful	-1	+2
Unsuccessful	+2	+1

From February to April 2025, the share of positive judgments of Vologda Region's population about the work of the President of the Russian Federation to restore order in the country slightly decreased (by 3 p.p.) and amounted to 51%. The share of negative judgments remained at the same level (35%).

Compared to April 2024, there is a slight change in the assessments of the RF President's work to restore order in the country: the share of positive assessments increased (by 2 p.p., from 49 to 51%), while the share of negative assessments decreased (by 2 p.p., from 37 to 35%).

Imposing order in the country

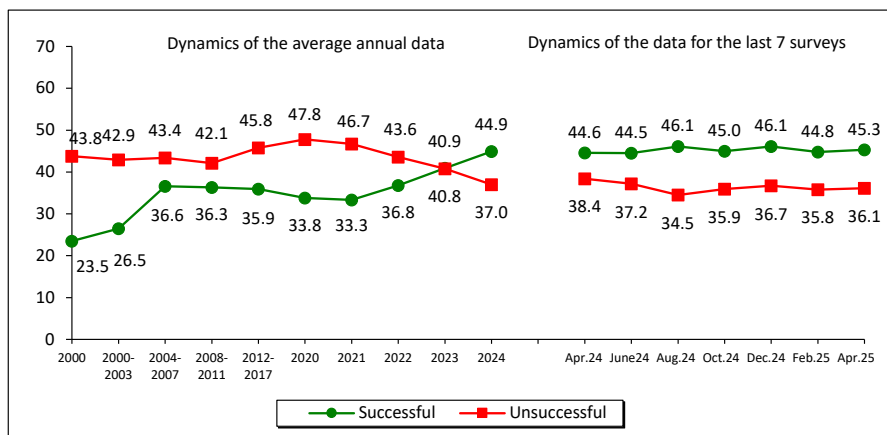


Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Successful	+2	-3
Unsuccessful	-2	+2

The share of the population who consider the actions of the head of state to protect democracy and strengthen the freedoms of citizens as successful, in the period from February to April 2025 amounted to 45%. The share of those who hold the opposite viewpoint remains unchanged and amounts to 36%.

Over the last year, the share of both positive and negative assessments of the population regarding the activities of the RF President in protecting democracy and strengthening freedoms of citizens remained at the same level (45 and 36%, respectively).

Protecting democracy and strengthening citizens' freedoms

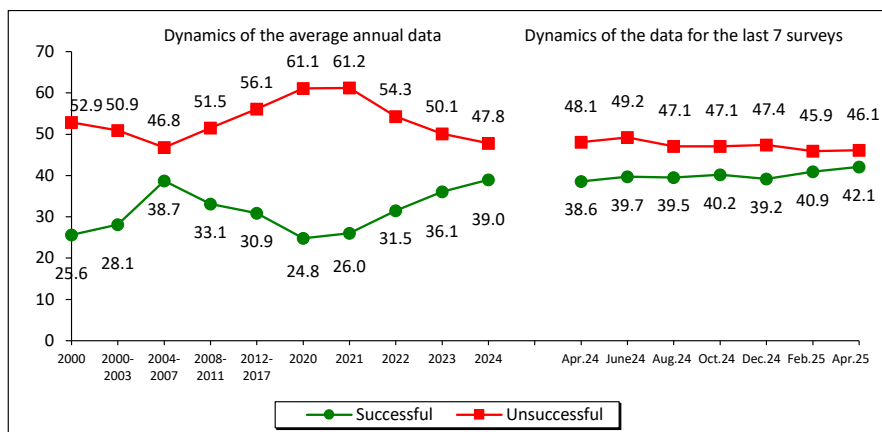


Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Successful	+1	+1
Unsuccessful	-2	0

In February – April 2025, the assessment of the success of the RF President in solving the problem of economic recovery and growth of citizens' welfare remained at the same level: the share of positive judgments is 42%, negative – 46%.

In April 2024 to April 2025, we observe positive dynamics of public opinion in assessments of the RF President's work on economic recovery and growth of citizens' welfare. The share of positive judgments increased by 4 p.p. (from 38 to 42%). The share of negative assessments slightly decreased (from 48 to 46%).

Economic recovery, increase in citizens' welfare



Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Successful	+4	+1
Unsuccessful	-2	0

The political preferences of Vologda Region residents in the period from February to April 2025 have not changed. The majority of the population notes that their interests are expressed by the United Russia party (41%). The share of the population supporting other parties also remained at the same level: CPRF – 9–8%, LDPR – 7%, Just Russia – 3%, New People – 2–3%.

Over the past year (from April 2024 to April 2025), the share of those whose interests are expressed by the United Russia party decreased by 4 p.p. (from 45 to 41%). The share of those who are not supporters of any party increased by 4 p.p. (from 24 to 28%).

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 (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	2000	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	Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Apr. 2025	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
United Russia	18.5	31.1	33.4	29.1	35.4	38.0	37.9	31.5	49.8	31.7	35.2	39.5	42.9	44.5	43.7	42.5	41.8	42.3	39.9	40.5	-4	+1
KPRF	11.5	10.3	16.8	10.6	8.3	14.2	9.2	8.4	18.9	9.3	10.1	9.6	8.9	8.5	8.2	9.7	8.7	9.1	8.8	8.0	-1	-1
LDPR	4.8	7.8	15.4	7.8	10.4	21.9	9.6	9.5	7.6	9.9	7.3	7.0	7.1	6.5	7.1	6.1	7.5	8.8	7.5	7.1	+1	0
New People*	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5.3	2.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.0	+1	+1
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	2.8	2.7	3.5	4.2	4.4	3.1	2.9	0	0
Other	0.9	1.9	–	2.1	0.3	–	0.7	0.5	–	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0	0
None	29.6	29.4	–	31.3	29.4	–	28.5	34.2	–	33.9	30.6	26.5	25.2	24.2	26.1	25.1	24.1	26.3	28.4	27.7	+4	-1
Difficult to answer	20.3	13.2	–	11.7	12.0	–	11.2	11.1	–	10.0	10.1	11.1	10.3	11.4	9.8	11.5	11.0	6.5	9.7	10.8	-1	+1

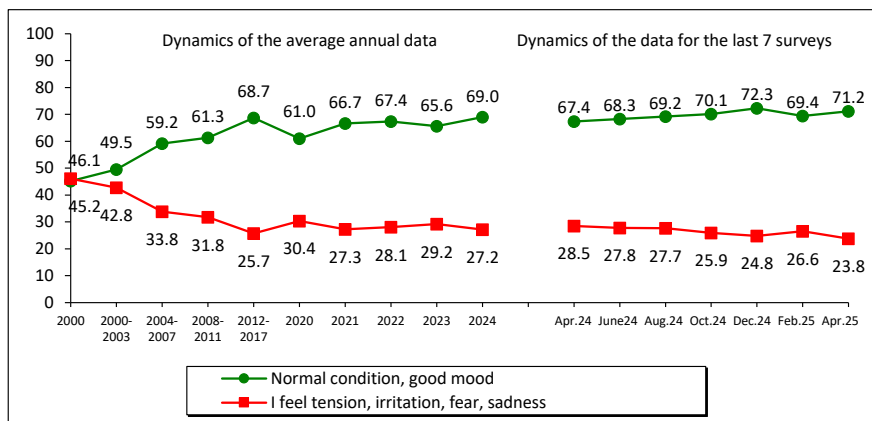
* The New People party was elected to the State Duma of the Russian Federation for the first time following the results of the election held on September 17–19, 2021.

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

Over the last two months the assessment of social mood of citizens remains consistently high: the share of positive assessments is 71%, negative ones – 24%.

In April 2025, as compared to April 2024, we observe positive dynamics in public opinion regarding people's mood. The share of positive judgments increased by 4 p.p. (from 67 to 71%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 5 p.p., from 29 to 24%.

Social mood

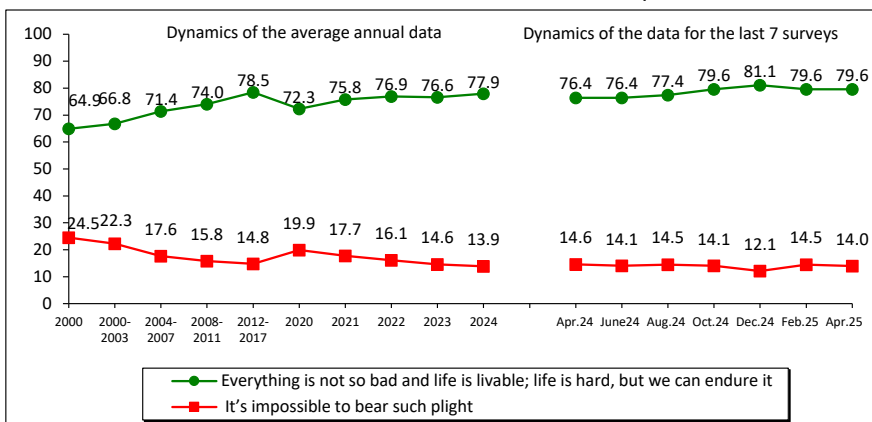


Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Normal condition, good mood	+4	+2
I feel tension, irritation, fear, sadness	-5	-3

From February to April 2025, the indicators of stock of patience remain unchanged. A large proportion of people positively characterize their everyday emotional state (80%).

The stock of patience in the assessments of Vologda Region residents in the annual retrospective has slightly increased (by 3 p.p., from 77 to 80%). The level of negative assessments remains consistently low.

Stock of patience

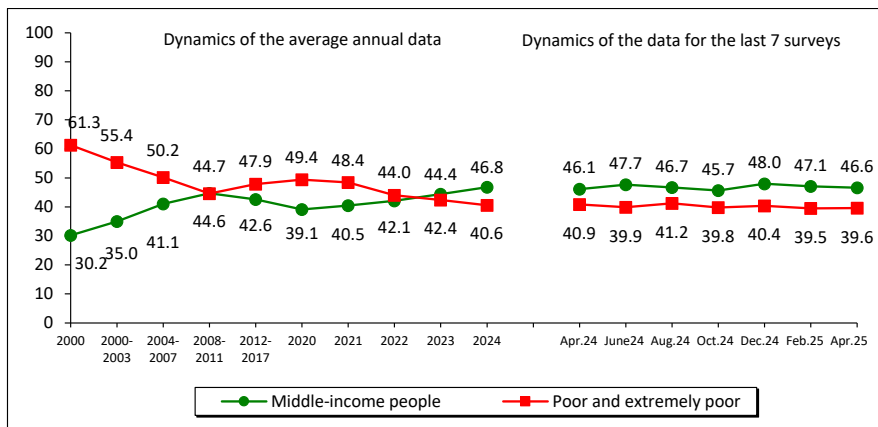


Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it	+3	0
It's impossible to bear such plight	-1	-1

Over two months (February – April 2025) the share of Vologda Region residents subjectively classifying themselves as “middle-income” people remained at 47%. The proportion of the “poor and extremely poor” remained at the level of 39–40%.

Over 12 months (from April 2024 to April 2025), self-assessment of people’s financial situation has not changed either.

Social self-identification*



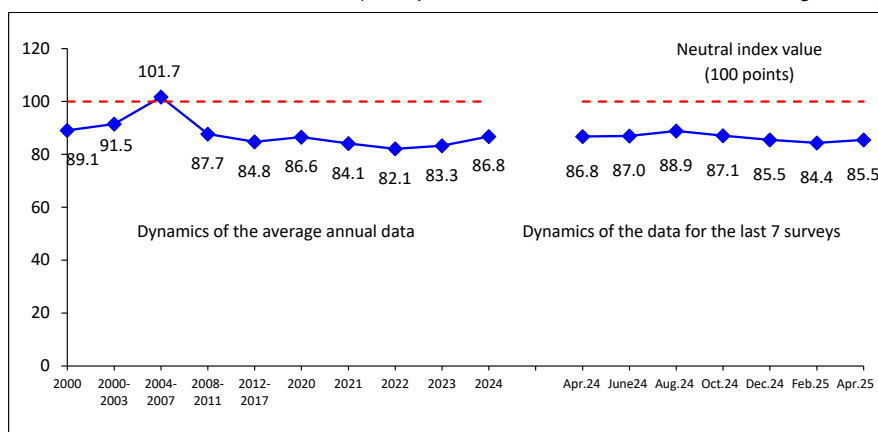
Response	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Middle-income people	+1	-1
Poor and extremely poor	-1	0

Wording of the question: “What category do you belong to, in your opinion?”

In February – April 2025, the Consumer Sentiment Index remained unchanged at 85 points.

There has been no deterioration or improvement in the Consumer Sentiment Index over the past year.

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

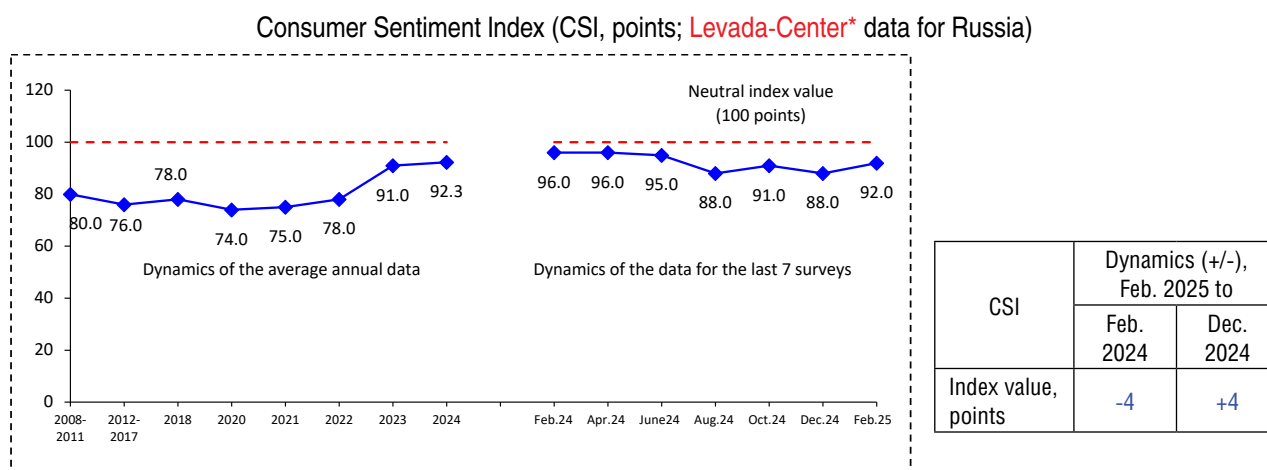


CSI	Dynamics (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Index value, points	-1	+1

For reference:

According to Levada-Center, the Consumer Sentiment Index in Russia as a whole increased by 4 points (from 88 to 92 points) from December 2024 to February 2025.*

Over the past year, the indicator of the all-Russian Consumer Sentiment Index decreased by 4 points (from 96 to 92 points).



The index is calculated since 2008.

The latest data are as of February 2025.

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

The social mood of Vologda Region residents remains stable over the two months of measurements and is characterized by emotional stability. At the same time, there is a positive shift in self-reported mood in women (from 69 to 73%) and people aged 30–55 (from 70 to 74%). No negative changes are recorded.

The annual dynamics (April 2025 to April 2024) showed the presence of predominantly positive trends in the assessment of Vologda Region residents' social mood. The most pronounced positive changes are registered in:

- ✓ women (increase in the share of positive judgments by 6 p.p., from 67 to 73%);
- ✓ people with secondary education (by 7 p.p., from 68 to 75%);
- ✓ residents aged over 55 (by 5 p.p., from 61 to 66%).

In the breakdown by income group, as well as by territory, insignificant positive changes (by 3–4 p.p.) are noted.

* Included in the register of foreign agents.

Social mood in different social groups (response: “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 (+/-), Apr. 2025 to	
	2000	2007	2012	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Apr. 2025	Apr. 2024	Feb. 2025
Gender																		
Men	50.1	65.9	69.1	72.8	60.8	65.7	66.8	65.5	66.5	67.7	63.5	67.1	65.2	69.2	70.1	68.8	+1	-1
Women	43.3	61.7	65.8	69.8	61.2	67.4	67.9	65.7	70.9	67.1	72.1	70.9	74.0	74.7	68.8	73.1	+6	+4
Age																		
Under 30	59.1	71.3	72.3	79.9	67.6	73.5	77.6	75.0	76.6	77.5	71.8	76.1	78.0	81.3	79.9	76.7	-1	-3
30–55	44.2	64.8	67.9	72.6	61.8	69.5	69.4	68.8	71.3	70.0	71.8	72.8	69.8	73.2	70.2	74.1	+4	+4
Over 55	37.4	54.8	62.1	65.2	57.4	60.5	61.1	58.2	63.3	60.7	62.7	62.1	67.4	67.8	64.6	65.8	+5	+1
Education																		
Secondary and incomplete secondary	41.7	58.4	57.2	64.8	56.1	62.1	64.6	62.0	64.6	64.7	65.5	65.3	62.5	65.5	64.6	65.6	+1	+1
Secondary vocational	46.4	64.6	66.7	72.1	63.5	66.7	68.3	66.1	70.3	67.9	65.2	70.7	75.2	76.5	71.8	74.8	+7	+3
Higher and incomplete higher	53.3	68.6	77.0	76.7	63.3	71.5	69.5	68.8	72.3	69.8	76.0	72.1	72.3	74.2	71.4	73.4	+4	+2
Income group																		
Bottom 20%	28.4	51.6	51.5	57.2	43.4	54.6	57.0	50.1	53.5	53.0	51.3	53.7	54.8	55.7	55.9	56.9	+4	+1
Middle 60%	45.5	62.9	68.7	72.1	62.6	67.3	68.1	67.4	70.7	68.5	70.0	71.0	73.6	74.2	70.5	72.6	+4	+2
Top 20%	64.6	74.9	81.1	82.4	75.6	79.9	78.3	73.9	77.6	77.5	78.5	75.9	78.4	80.6	77.9	81.3	+4	+3
Territory																		
Vologda	49.2	63.1	73.6	71.0	60.9	60.3	59.8	59.6	66.0	64.2	65.2	66.4	67.9	69.6	66.7	68.6	+4	+2
Cherepovets	50.8	68.1	76.2	75.7	60.4	71.0	71.2	68.1	69.8	68.2	69.4	70.2	70.7	73.0	69.9	71.5	+3	+2
Districts	42.2	61.6	59.8	68.6	61.4	67.8	69.5	67.7	70.2	68.8	69.4	70.3	71.0	73.4	70.7	72.7	+4	+2
Region	46.2	63.6	67.3	71.2	61.0	66.6	67.4	65.6	69.0	67.4	68.3	69.2	70.1	72.3	69.4	71.2	+4	+2
Total number of groups: positive change / no change / negative change																	14: 10/4 /0	14: 2/12 /0

SUMMING UP

The latest round of public opinion monitoring took place in March – April 2025. As its results show, over the past two months there were no significant changes in the dynamics of public opinion assessments:

- ✓ the President’s approval rating (64%) and support for his decisions on key areas of the country’s development remains consistently high;
- ✓ there are no significant changes in the dynamics of self-assessments of financial situation (the share of people who subjectively classify themselves as “poor and extremely poor” makes 40%; the Consumer Sentiment Index is 84–85 points);
- ✓ the share of those who positively characterize their everyday emotional state (69–71%) and have a high stock of patience (80%) has remained unchanged.

From February to April 2025 the level of support for the activity of the head of the Vologda Region slightly decreased (by 4 p.p., from 47 to 43%), which was also noted by the experts of the Russian holding company Minchenko Consulting, who linked this fact to “the aggravation of the confrontation between the governor of the Vologda Region and Severstal and the head of the company Alexei Mordashov, as well as to the detention of the vice-governor of the region Denis Alekseev”⁵.

More pronounced changes in the dynamics of public opinion are observed in the annual dimension (for the period from April 2024 to April 2025). In particular:

- ✓ positive dynamics in assessments of the RF President’s work on economic recovery and growth of citizens’ welfare (the share of approving judgments increased by 4 p.p., from 38 to 42%);
- ✓ positive changes in self-assessments of social mood in most socio-demographic groups (especially in women, middle-aged and elderly people, and citizens with secondary and higher education);
- ✓ among the negative changes we should single out a slight decrease in support for the ruling party United Russia (from 45 to 41%), as well as an increase in the share of those who believe that none of the parties currently represented in the State Duma expresses their interests (from 24 to 28%).

The preservation of a stable picture of public opinion on the key issues of the monitoring against the background of the ongoing special military operation, sanctions and other forms of pressure on Russia from the Western countries is an unconditional merit of public administration at all levels. However, we should note that the achieved stability may be very relative.

At present, it is largely associated with the beginning and quite active continuation⁶ of the negotiation processes between Russia and the United States on the settlement of bilateral relations for the strategic perspective. In a sense, society is waiting for tangible results of potential agreements, the best of which would be “not a ceasefire”, as the President of the Russian Federation noted in December 2024, “but peace – long-term, durable, and guaranteed for the Russian Federation and its citizens”⁷.

⁵ Nineteenth rating of political stability of regional heads “State Council 2.0”. Minchenko Consulting. March 2025. P. 9. Available at: https://minchenko.ru/news/news_247.html

For reference: February 26, 2025 “officers of the FSB and the Investigative Committee detained vice-governor of the Vologda Region D. Alekseev in Moscow on the charge of extortion of 100 million rubles. Head of the region’s representative office in Moscow K. Bocharov was detained as well” (source: RBC. 26.02.2024. Available at: <https://www.rbc.ru/politics/26/02/2025/67beb9a9a794722e03df5f3?ysclid=m99nw15ilh127840083>

⁶ February 12, 2025, a telephone conversation took place between President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin and President of the United States Donald Trump. As a result, the heads of state agreed to continue contacts.

February 18, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) hosted the first (since the beginning of the SMO) meeting of representatives of Russia and the United States on the restoration of bilateral diplomatic relations. The delegation from Russia was represented by Foreign Minister S. Lavrov, Presidential Aide Yu. Ushakov and the head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) K. Dmitriev.

March 24, the second negotiations took place. The main topic was the Black Sea grain initiative. Russia was represented by G. Karasin, Head of the Federation Council Committee on International Affairs, and S. Beseda, Advisor to the FSB Director.

April 2–3 (for the first time since the beginning of the conflict), the Special Representative of the Russian President for Investment and Economic Cooperation with Foreign Countries, Head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) K. Dmitriev visited the USA. In the interview he noted that Russia and the USA made “three steps forward on a large number of issues”, in particular, they started “active work on the restoration of direct air communication” (source: RBC. 04.04.2025. Available at: https://www.rbc.ru/rbcfreenews/67eef5039a79473cb4cd8c1f?from=article_body).

April 10 in Istanbul at the next round of negotiations the issue of the return of the seized diplomatic property and the resumption of direct air communication was discussed. The Russian Federation was represented by Russian Ambassador to the United States A. Darchiev, Washington – by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs S. Coulter.

⁷ Results of the year with Vladimir Putin. December 19, 2024. Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/75909>

However, while always emphasizing the positive atmosphere in which the international consultations are taking place, the participants in the negotiation processes on the Russian side rightly draw attention to the fact that “the restoration of dialogue is not an easy and gradual process⁸; “not every negotiation necessarily ends in some large-scale documents and agreements. It is important to maintain contact and understand each other’s point of view at all times”⁹. In other words, it is still quite unclear when and how the US – Russian negotiations will end, as well as how long this factor will have a positive impact on people’s expectations and sentiments.

Under these conditions, it should be taken into account that stabilization and some positive shifts in the dynamics of public sentiments (first of all, it concerns the assessments of the social well-being of the population) are not a guarantee of the absence of potential risks and challenges. Therefore, there is still a need to further strengthen trust between the authorities and society, in an open dialog and transparency of decisions, taking into account the interests of various social groups. At the same time, it remains equally important to inform the population about the measures taken in order to enhance socio-economic development, as well as about the results of their implementation.

The results of the next round of the monitoring conducted by VolRC RAS will show in what direction the changes in the public opinion of Vologda Region residents will develop in the near future.

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⁸ “Uncomplicated and gradual process”: RDIF head Dmitriev reports on talks with Trump administration. Available at: <https://russian.rt.com/world/article/1458511-kirill-dmitriev-ssha-peregovory?ysclid=m9r3828fo2374298612>

⁹ Senator Karasin on talks with the U.S. in Riyadh: The sides have mutual understanding. Available at: <https://rg.ru/2025/03/24/senator-karasin-o-peregovorah-s-ssha-v-er-riade-vzaimoponimanie-u-storon-est.html>