

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 in 2013 in comparison with the data for 2012, as well as for 2011, when D.A. Medvedev's presidential term was due to expire, and for 2007, when V.V. Putin's second Presidency was coming to an end.

Estimation of performance of the authorities

On average for 2013 in comparison with 2012, the assessments of the performance of Russia's President and the Vologda Oblast Governor have improved (the share of positive evaluations has increased by 4% and 3% accordingly).

However, so far the situation remains less favourable than in 2007. The trends in public opinion still remain negative with regard to the activities of the RF Government.

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	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	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	55.5	55.5	54.3	55.1	54.3	57.3	55.3	+4	-3	-20
I do not approve	11.5	25.6	32.6	29.2	31.5	29.3	28.9	28.7	28.9	29.4	-3	+4	+18
Chairman of the RF Government*													
I approve	-	59.3	49.6	47.9	48.5	46.2	50.4	49.0	51.1	48.9	-1	-10	-
I do not approve	-	24.7	33.3	34.4	35.7	33.2	30.4	30.6	32.5	32.8	-1	+8	-
Governor													
I approve	55.8	45.7	41.9	43.0	44.4	44.3	44.8	45.9	44.1	44.4	+3	-1	-11
I do not approve	22.2	30.5	33.3	33.8	34.9	31.9	31.1	32.4	35.3	33.2	0	+3	+11
* 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.vscac.ru/>.

Assessment of the RF President's performance in coping with key issues

2013, as compared with 2012, witnessed improvement in the estimations of the RF President's success in dealing with all the key issues. For instance, the assessment of strengthening Russia's international standing increased by 3%, the assessment of the RF President's success in imposing order in the country increased by 4%. However, it is alarming that over half of the respondents (57%) do not consider that the President's performance in dealing with the issue of economic recovery and increasing the citizens' welfare is successful.

Table 2. Dynamics of the answers to the question: "How successfully, in your opinion, does the RF President cope with the following challenging issues?"* (as a percentage of the number of respondents)

Indicator	2007	2011	2012	Feb. 2013	Apr. 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	Average for the last 6 surveys	Dynamics (+/-), the last 6 surveys in comparison with		
											2012	2011	2007
Strengthening Russia's international standing													
Successfully	58.4	46.2	43.1	45.1	46.7	41.7	45.3	47.7	47.5	45.7	+3	-1	-13
Unsuccessfully	24.9	33.7	37.9	34.4	39.5	37.1	36.4	33.7	35.8	36.2	-2	+3	+11
<i>Index of success</i>	133.5	112.5	105.2	110.7	107.2	104.6	108.9	114.0	111.7	109.5	+4	-3	-24
Imposing order in the country													
Successfully	53.2	36.6	35.4	37.7	37.2	35.1	39.9	41.7	44.5	39.4	+4	+3	-14
Unsuccessfully	34.0	50.0	50.7	46.5	49.9	49.9	46.7	46.7	45.5	47.5	-3	-3	+14
<i>Index of success</i>	119.2	86.6	84.7	91.2	87.3	85.2	93.2	95.0	99.0	91.8	+7	+5	-27
Protecting democracy and strengthening citizens' freedoms													
Successfully	44.4	32.4	28.8	30.0	30.4	29.1	34.7	33.5	32.8	31.8	+3	-1	-13
Unsuccessfully	37.0	48.3	52.3	49.8	54.9	50.0	48.5	50.9	51.6	51.0	-1	+3	+14
<i>Index of success</i>	107.4	84.1	76.5	80.2	75.5	79.1	86.2	82.6	81.2	80.8	+4	-3	-27
Economic recovery and increase in citizens' welfare													
Successfully	47.2	30.7	28.5	30.7	31.9	28.2	32.6	31.9	32.6	31.3	+3	+1	-16
Не успешно	39.1	56.1	57.9	53.9	59.6	56.7	53.4	57.7	59.7	56.8	-1	+1	+18
<i>Index of success</i>	108.1	74.6	70.6	76.8	72.3	71.5	79.2	74.2	72.9	74.5	+4	0	-34

* 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.

Estimation of social condition

The share of positive assessments of social mood and stock of patience on average for 2013 has increased in comparison with 2012. However, on average for the last 6 surveys there has been an increase in the share of the oblast population, who consider themselves “poor” and “extremely poor”.

Table 3. Estimation of social condition (as a percentage of the number of respondents)

Answer options	2007	2011	2012	Feb. 2013	Apr. 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	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	66.6	68.6	66.4	68.7	71.5	69.6	68.6	+1	+5	+5
Feeling stress, anger, fear, depression	27.8	28.9	27.0	30.5	26.0	25.9	26.3	24.0	26.2	26.5	-1	-2	-1
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	75.5	77.9	77.8	79.7	81.6	83.1	79.3	+3	+5	+5
It is impossible to bear such plight	13.6	15.3	15.8	16.1	16.5	13.7	14.7	12.3	12.0	14.2	-2	-1	+1
Social self-identification													
The share of people who consider themselves to have average income	48.2	43.1	44.7	44.3	42.6	41.9	44.9	45.7	43.7	43.9	-1	+1	-4
The share of people who consider themselves to be poor and extremely poor	42.4	44.3	44.5	45.9	48.2	48.3	46.8	45.4	46.7	46.9	+2	+3	+5
Consumer Sentiment Index													
Index value, points	105.9	89.6	91.5	92.3	90.4	89.8	91.0	90.4	87.9	90.3	-1	+1	-16

Attitude of the population toward political parties

The dynamics of support to the party of power shows no positive changes. As in 2007 and in 2011, on average for the past six surveys, the level of support was 29–30%. At that, the significant share of the oblast residents 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 4. 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	Feb. 2013	April 2013	June 2013	Aug. 2013	Oct. 2013	Dec. 2013	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	30.5	28.5	31.3	29.6	26.9	29.5	29.4	0	-2	-1
KPRF	7.0	9.3	10.3	16.8	10.6	9.7	11.0	11.3	12.0	11.9	11.8	11.3	+1	+1	+4
LDPR	7.5	11.0	7.8	15.4	7.8	6.3	7.1	6.6	6.8	8.4	8.1	7.2	-1	-1	0
Just Russia	7.8	8.8	5.6	27.2	6.6	5.3	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.6	-2	-1	-3
Other	1.8	–	1.9	–	2.1	3.5	3.4	2.0	3.4	1.0	0.8	2.4	0	+1	+1
No party	17.8	–	29.4	–	31.3	35.3	37.1	31.7	33.4	37.3	34.4	34.9	+4	+6	+17
It is difficult to answer	21.2	–	13.2	–	11.7	9.3	7.8	12.3	10.5	10.5	10.9	10.2	-2	-3	-11