

## 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 Region<sup>1</sup>.

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 (February 2025) and for the period from February 2024 to February 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), 2011 (the last year of Dmitry Medvedev's presidency), and 2012 (the first year of Vladimir Putin's third presidential term).

The annual dynamics of the data are presented for the last five years of observations: from 2020 to 2024<sup>2</sup>.

The materials also provide an analysis of the monitoring results for the period of the special military operation. To do this, we compared the average annual data for 2024 (based on the results of three years of the SMO) with 2021 (that is, with the year preceding the launch of the SMO announced by the President of the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022). The corresponding text in the materials is given in the frame.

<sup>1</sup> 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.vsc.ac.ru/](http://www.vsc.ac.ru/).

<sup>2</sup> 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 December 2024 – February 2025, the President’s approval rating remained unchanged and amounted to 66–67%. The proportion of negative assessments was 18%

Over the past 12 months (from February 2024 to February 2025), the share of positive assessments of the head of state’s work increased from 64 to 66%.

**On average, in 2024 as compared to 2021, the share of positive assessments of the RF President’s performance increased by 15 p.p. (from 52 to 67%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 12 p.p. (from 32 to 20%).**

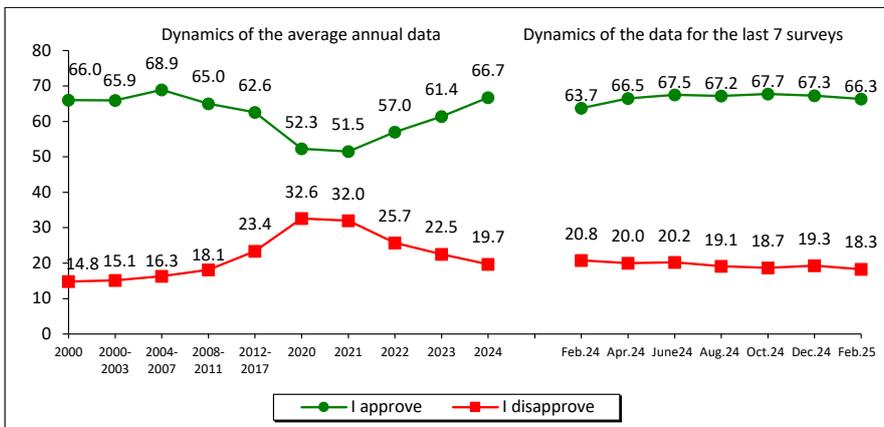
**Positive changes are also observed with regard to the assessments of the performance of the Chairman of the RF Government (approval rating increased by 14 p.p., from 40 to 54%) and the Vologda Region Governor (by 15 p.p., from 37 to 52%).**

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 (+/-)		
	2000	2007	2012	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Feb. 2024	Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2025	2024		
															Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021		
<b>RF President</b>																			
I approve	66.0	75.3	51.7	52.3	51.5	57.0	61.4	66.7	63.7	66.5	67.5	67.2	67.7	67.3	66.3	+3	-1	+15	
I disapprove	14.8	11.5	32.6	32.6	32.0	25.7	22.5	19.7	20.8	20.0	20.2	19.1	18.7	19.3	18.3	-3	-1	-12	
<b>Chairman of the RF Government</b>																			
I approve	-	-	49.6	38.7	39.9	45.4	50.1	54.1	52.7	53.7	53.5	55.3	53.7	55.6	54.7	+2	-1	+14	
I disapprove	-	-	33.3	40.4	37.6	32.0	27.6	24.8	26.2	24.3	23.4	24.1	25.5	25.3	23.8	-2	-2	-13	
<b>Governor</b>																			
I approve	56.1	55.8	41.9	35.0	36.7	40.9	48.1	51.7	50.8	51.7	51.6	53.4	51.9	50.8	46.8	-4	-4	+15	
I disapprove	19.3	22.2	33.3	42.5	40.5	35.8	30.9	28.4	27.5	30.1	28.0	26.7	28.0	29.8	31.4	+4	+2	-12	

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, VoIRC RAS data)\*



Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025	2024	
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
I approve	+3	-1	+15
I disapprove	-3	-1	-12

\* 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.

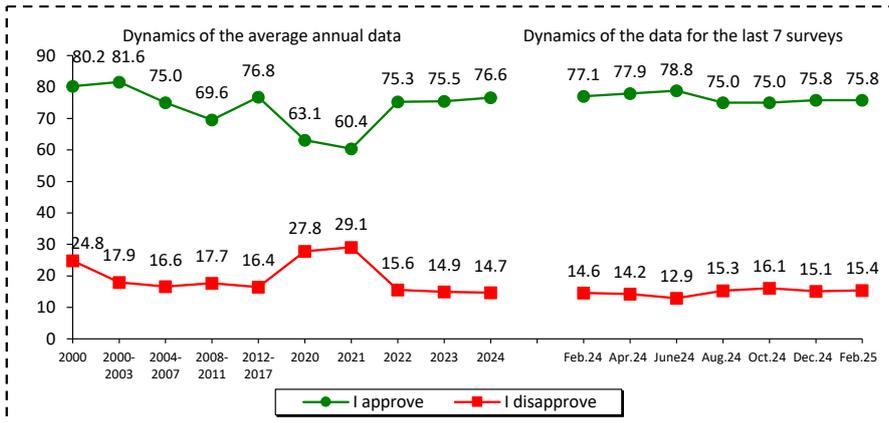
**For reference:**

According to VCIOM, the President’s approval rating in December 2024 – February 2025 was 76%, the proportion of negative assessments was 16%.

People’s estimates are generally consistent with the level of support for the work of the head of state in February 2024.

**On average, in 2024 as compared to 2021, the RF President’s approval rating increased by 16 p.p. (from 60 to 76%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 14 p.p. (from 29 to 15%).**

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



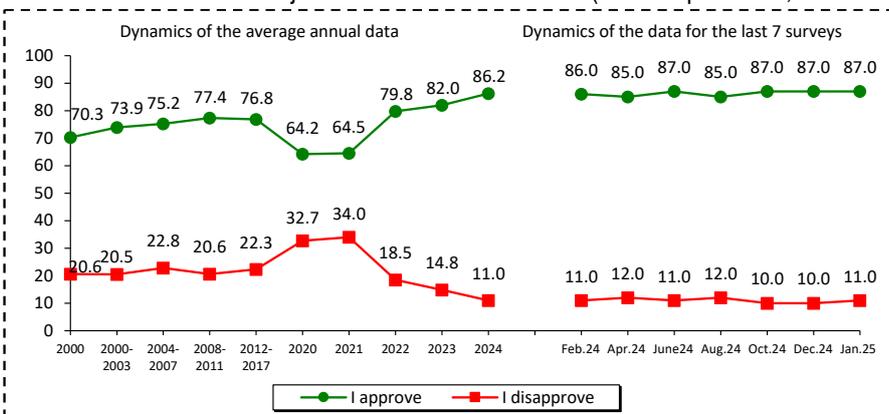
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
I approve	-1	0	+16
I disapprove	+1	0	-14

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 February 2025 reflect an average for two surveys: as of February 2, 2025 and February 9, 2025.  
 Source: VCIOM. Available at: <https://wciom.ru/>

According to Levada-Center\*, the share of positive assessments of the RF President’s work in December 2024 – January 2025 amounted to 87%, and in general, the assessments have not changed significantly since February 2024.

**According to the annual average data for 2024 compared to 2021, the President’s approval rating increased significantly, from 64 to 86% (by 22 p.p.). On the contrary, the share of those who disapprove of his activity decreased from 34 to 11% (by 23 p.p.).**

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 (+/-)		
	Jan. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
I approve	+1	0	+22
I disapprove	0	+1	-23

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.

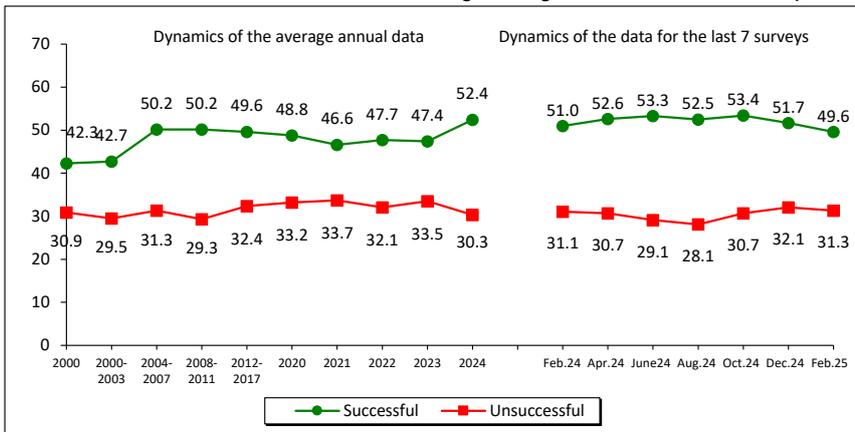
In your opinion, how successful is the RF President in handling challenging issues? (% of respondents; VoIRC RAS data)

Over the past two months, the share of people who consider the actions of the head of state to strengthen Russia’s international positions to be successful remained stable (50–52%). The share of those who hold the opposite point of view also did not change and amounted to 31–32%.

Over the past 12 months there were no significant shifts in the assessments of the region’s population.

**Compared to 2021 (the year preceding the start of the SMO), on average in 2024, the share of people who believe that the President’s actions to strengthen Russia’s international position are successful increased by 6 p.p. (from 46 to 52%). The share of those who hold the opposite viewpoint decreased by 4 p.p. (from 34 to 30%).**

Strengthening Russia's international position



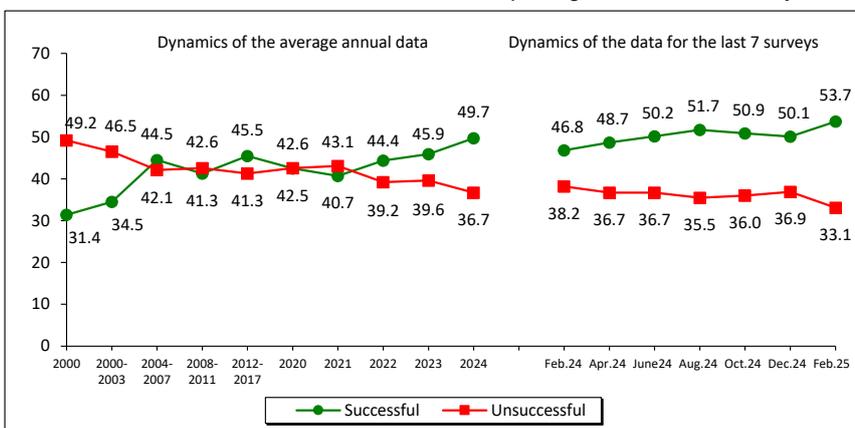
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Successful	-1	-2	+6
Unsuccessful	0	-1	-4

In February 2025 as compared to December 2024, the share of the Vologda Region residents who note the success of the RF President’s actions to restore order in the country increased by 4 p.p. (from 50 to 54%). The share of negative judgments decreased from 37 to 33%.

Over the last 12 months, positive changes have been recorded: the level of approval of the head of state’s work to restore order increased by 7 p.p. (from 47 to 54%), while the share of negative assessments decreased by 5 p.p.

**From 2021 to 2024, the share of favorable assessments of the RF President’s work to solve the problem of restoring order in the country increased by 9 p.p. (from 41 to 50%), while the proportion of negative assessments decreased by 6 p.p. (from 43 to 37%).**

Imposing order in the country



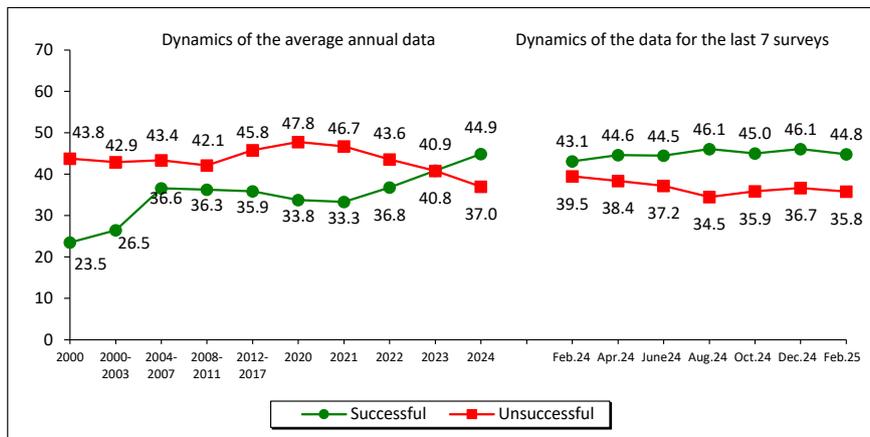
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Successful	+7	+4	+9
Unsuccessful	-5	-4	-6

In December 2024 – February 2025, the share of the Vologda Region residents who positively assess the activities of the RF President to protect democracy and strengthen the freedoms of citizens amounted to 45–46%; the share of opposite judgments was 36–37%.

Over the year of measurement, the share of negative assessments decreased by 4 p.p. (39 to 35%), the share of positive opinions remained unchanged.

**On average, in 2024 as compared to 2021, the level of approval of the RF President’s activities to protect democracy and strengthen freedoms of citizens increased by 12 p.p. (from 33 to 45%). The share of negative judgments decreased by 10 p.p. (from 47 to 37%).**

Protecting democracy and strengthening citizens’ freedoms



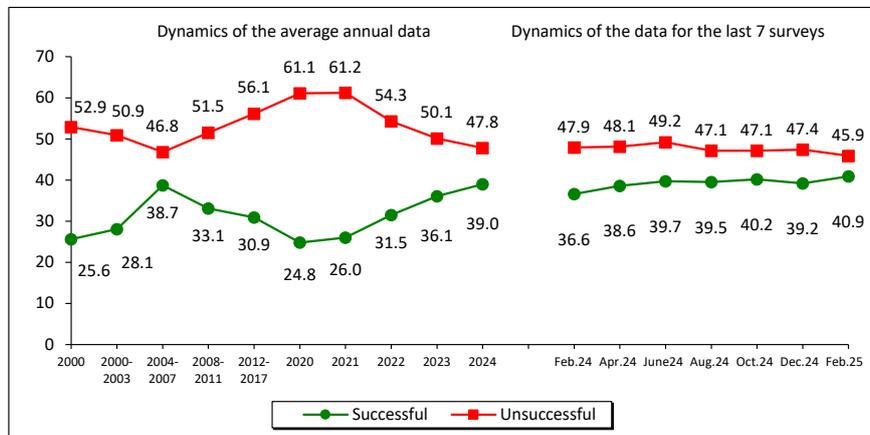
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Successful	+2	-1	+12
Unsuccessful	-4	-1	-10

The share of positive assessments of the RF President’s efforts to solve the problems of economic recovery and growth of citizens’ welfare over the last two months amounted to 40–41%.

In February 2024 – February 2025 the level of approval of the President’s work to develop the economy and improve the financial situation of the population increased by 4 p.p. (from 37 to 41%).

**After three years of the SMO, in 2024 compared to 2021, there is a significant increase in the proportion of positive assessments from 26 to 39% (by 13 p.p.) and a decrease in negative assessments from 61 to 48% (also by 13 p.p.).**

Economic recovery, increase in citizens’ welfare



Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Successful	+4	+2	+13
Unsuccessful	-2	-2	-13

The political preferences of Vologda Region inhabitants over the past two months remained stable: the share of people whose interests are expressed by the United Russia party was 40–42%, the Communist Party – 9%, the Liberal Democratic Party – 8–9%, the Just Russia – 4%, the New People – 2%.

No significant changes in the population’s assessments of political preferences were observed during the year of measurements.

**On average, in 2024 as compared to 2021, there is a significant increase in the share of people who say that their interests are expressed by the United Russia party (by 11 p.p., from 32 to 43%), while the share of those who are skeptical about all parties represented in the State Duma has decreased (answer option “none”; a decrease of 9 p.p., from 34 to 25%).**

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 (+/-)		
	2000	2011	Election to the RF State Duma 2011, fact	2012	2016	Election to the RF State Duma 2016, fact	2020	Election to the RF State Duma 2020, fact	2021	2022	2023	2024	Feb. 2024	Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
United Russia	18.5	31.1	33.4	29.1	35.4	38.0	31.5	49.8	31.7	35.2	39.5	42.9	42.7	44.5	43.7	42.5	41.8	42.3	39.9	-3	-2	+11
KPRF	11.5	10.3	16.8	10.6	8.3	14.2	8.4	18.9	9.3	10.1	9.6	8.9	9.0	8.5	8.2	9.7	8.7	9.1	8.8	0	0	0
LDPR	4.8	7.8	15.4	7.8	10.4	21.9	9.5	7.6	9.9	7.3	7.0	7.1	6.6	6.5	7.1	6.1	7.5	8.8	7.5	+1	-1	-3
Just Russia – Patriots for the Truth	-	5.6	27.2	6.6	4.2	10.8	4.7	7.5	4.7	4.9	4.4	3.5	3.6	2.8	2.7	3.5	4.2	4.4	3.1	-1	-1	-1
New People*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5.3	2.3	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.4	1.9	2.3	1.6	2.3	2.3	2.3	+1	0	0
Other	0.9	1.9	-	2.1	0.3	-	0.5	-	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	0
None	29.6	29.4	-	31.3	29.4	-	34.2	-	33.9	30.6	26.5	25.2	25.2	24.2	26.1	25.1	24.1	26.3	28.4	+3	+2	-9
Difficult to answer	20.3	13.2	-	11.7	12.0	-	11.1	-	10.0	10.1	11.1	10.3	11.4	11.4	9.8	11.5	11.0	6.5	9.7	-2	+3	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.

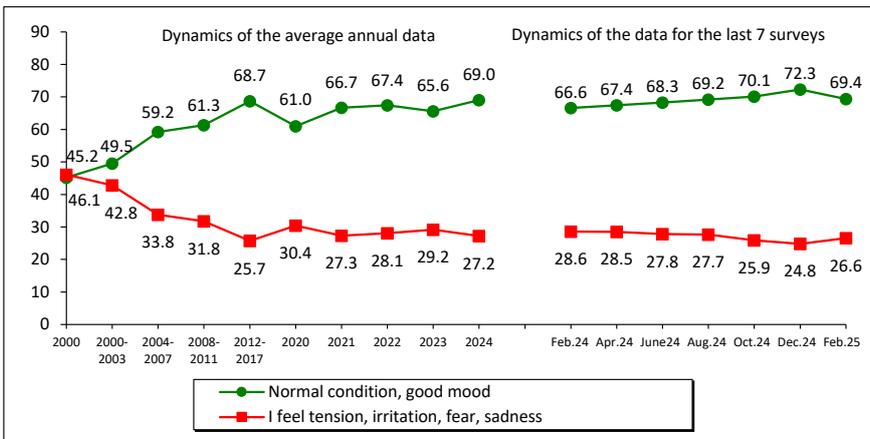
Estimation of social condition  
(% of respondents; VolRC RAS data)

In December 2024 – February 2025, the share of the Vologda Region residents characterizing their mood as “normal, fine” slightly decreased (by 3 p.p., from 72 to 69%).

During the year of measurements, the population’s assessments of their social mood slightly improved: the share of those who experience “normal, excellent mood” increased by 3 p.p., from 66 to 69%.

*Compared to the year prior to the start of the SMO (2021), the assessment of social mood in 2024 has not changed significantly: the share of positive judgments is 67–69%, negative –27%.*

Social mood



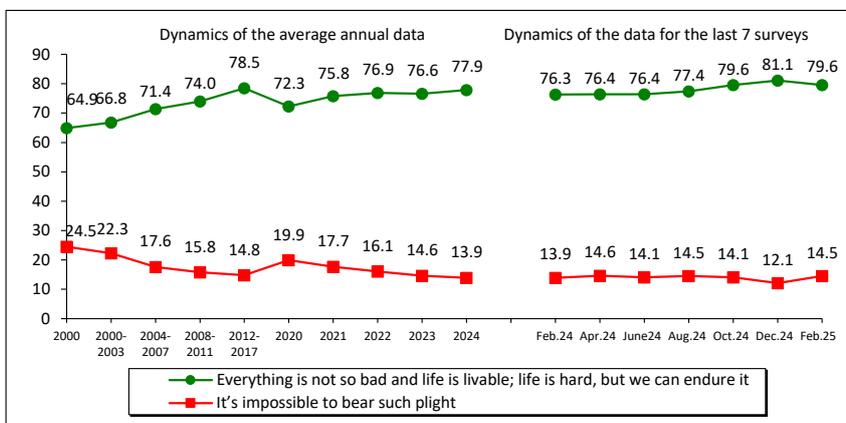
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Normal condition, good mood	+3	-3	+2
I feel tension, irritation, fear, sadness	-2	+2	0

There were no significant changes in the estimates of the stock of patience for the last two months: the share of positive judgments is 80–81%, negative – 12–14%.

In February 2024 – February 2025, the share of positive judgments increased by 3 p.p., from 76 to 79%.

*In 2024, compared to 2021, the proportion of positive estimates of the stock of patience has not changed significantly (76–78%), while the share of negative characteristics slightly decreased (by 4 p.p., from 18 to 14 p.p.).*

Stock of patience



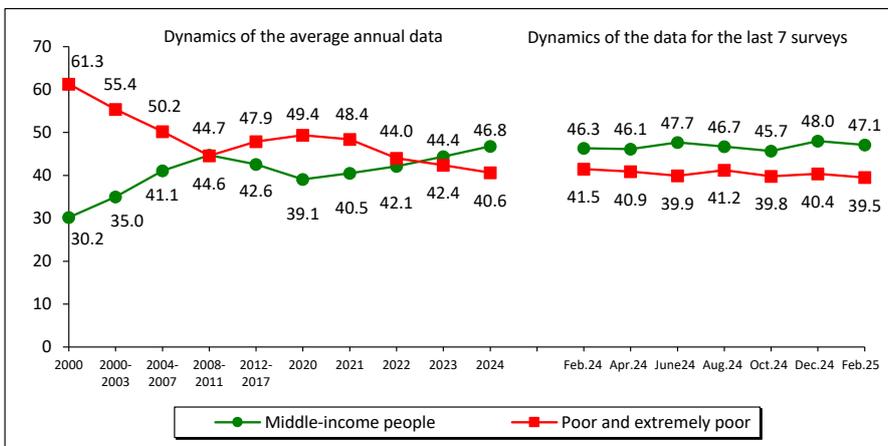
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it	+3	-2	+2
It's impossible to bear such plight	+1	+2	-4

As in December 2024, in February 2025, the share of Vologda Region residents subjectively classifying themselves as “middle-income” people was 47–48%. The proportion of the “poor and extremely poor” did not change as well (40%).

The values of social self-identification indicators have not changed over the last 12 months.

**In the period from 2021 to 2024, there is a tendency toward improving subjective assessments of financial status: the share of those who consider themselves “middle income” people increased by 6 p.p. (from 41 to 47%); the share of those who consider themselves “poor and extremely poor” decreased by 7 p.p. (from 48 to 41%).**

Social self-identification\*



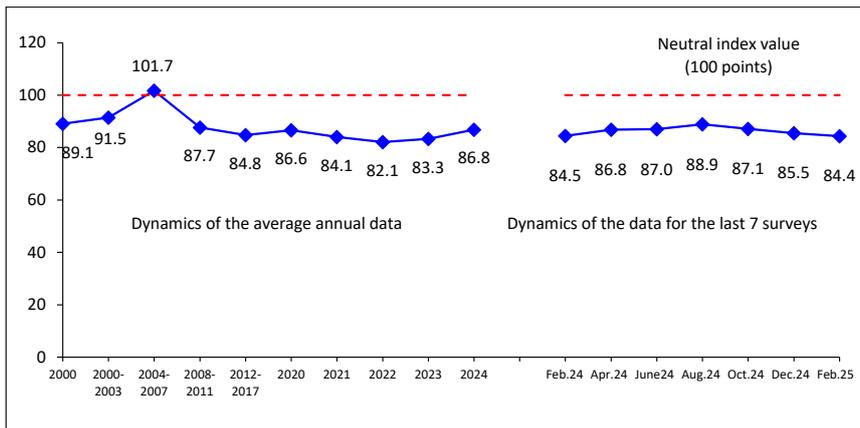
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	2024		2021
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Middle-income people	+1	-1	+6
Poor and extremely poor	-2	-1	-7

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

The Consumer Sentiment Index (CSI) in February 2025 remained at the same level as in December 2024 (84–85 p.).

**In 2024, compared to 2021, the CSI increased by 3 points (from 84 to 87 p.), while positive dynamics of the average annual values of the CSI are observed from 2022 (from 82 to 87 p.).**

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



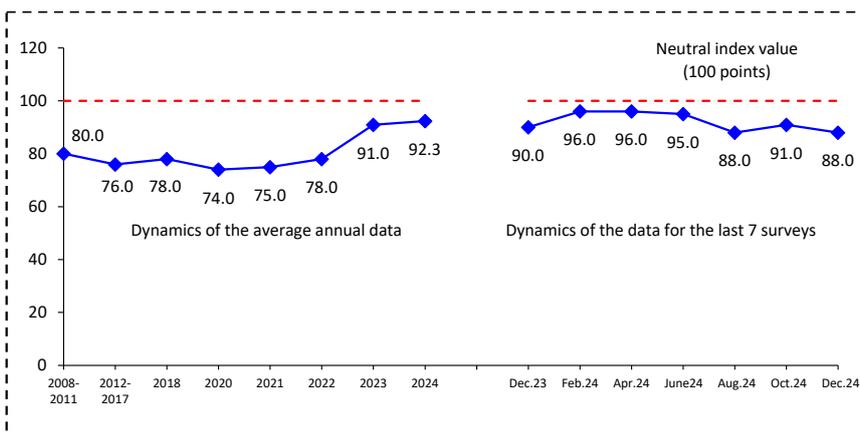
Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Feb. 2025		2024
	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2021
Index value, points	0	-1	+3

**For reference:**

According to the latest data from the all-Russian surveys by Levada-Center\* (for the period from October to December 2024), the Consumer Sentiment Index decreased from 91 to 88 points. There were no significant changes in the CSI for December 2024 through February 2025.

**Tangible positive trends are recorded from 2021 to 2024: the CSI increased by 17 p.p., from 75 to 92%.**

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



Response	Dynamics (+/-)		
	Dec. 2024		2024
	Feb. 2024	Oct. 2024	2021
Index value, points	-2	-3	+17

The index is calculated since 2008.

The latest data are as of December 2024.

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

\* Included in the register of foreign agents.

In the period from December 2024 to February 2025, an insignificant (by 3 p.p.) decrease in the share of people experiencing predominantly positive emotions in everyday life is observed in seven major socio-demographic groups. The share of positive assessments of social mood decreased more significantly among three groups: women – by 6 p.p., from 75 to 69%; persons with secondary vocational education – by 5 p.p., from 77 to 72%, and also in the group of the population, according to subjective self-assessments of income falling into the category of 60% of middle-income earners – by 4 p.p., from 74 to 70%. For two months, none of the groups has seen an increase in positive assessments.

Mood has improved in eight of the 14 social groups over the past 12 months. No negative changes have been recorded.

**On average, in 2024, compared to 2021, preceding the start of the SMO, none of the main socio-demographic groups shows an appreciable decrease in the share of positive assessments of social mood.**

**At the same time, the increase in the share of positive judgments is recorded in women (by 4 p.p., from 67 to 71%); people with secondary vocational education (by 4 p.p., from 66 to 70%); as well as among the residents of Vologda (by 6 p.p., from 60 to 66%).**

Social mood in different social groups (response: “Wonderful mood, normal, stable condition”, % of respondents; VolRC RAS data)

Population group	Dynamics of the average annual data									Dynamics of the data for the last 7 surveys							Dynamics (+/-)			
	2000	2007	2012	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Feb. 2024	Apr. 2024	June 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Dec. 2024	Feb. 2025	Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024	2024		
																			Feb. 2024	Dec. 2024
<b>Gender</b>																				
Men	50.1	65.9	69.1	60.8	65.7	66.8	65.5	66.5	66.5	67.7	63.5	67.1	65.2	69.2	70.1	+4	+1	+1		
Women	43.3	61.7	65.8	61.2	67.4	67.9	65.7	70.9	66.5	67.1	72.1	70.9	74.0	74.7	68.8	+2	-6	+4		
<b>Age</b>																				
Under 30	59.1	71.3	72.3	67.6	73.5	77.6	75.0	76.6	75.1	77.5	71.8	76.1	78.0	81.3	79.9	+5	-1	+3		
30–55	44.2	64.8	67.9	61.8	69.5	69.4	68.8	71.3	69.9	70.0	71.8	72.8	69.8	73.2	70.2	0	-3	+2		
Over 55	37.4	54.8	62.1	57.4	60.5	61.1	58.2	63.3	59.2	60.7	62.7	62.1	67.4	67.8	64.6	+5	-3	+3		
<b>Education</b>																				
Secondary and incomplete secondary	41.7	58.4	57.2	56.1	62.1	64.6	62.0	64.6	63.9	64.7	65.5	65.3	62.5	65.5	64.6	+1	-1	+2		
Secondary vocational	46.4	64.6	66.7	63.5	66.7	68.3	66.1	70.3	66.0	67.9	65.2	70.7	75.2	76.5	71.8	+6	-5	+4		
Higher and incomplete higher	53.3	68.6	77.0	63.3	71.5	69.5	68.8	72.3	69.4	69.8	76.0	72.1	72.3	74.2	71.4	+2	-3	+1		
<b>Income group</b>																				
Bottom 20%	28.4	51.6	51.5	43.4	54.6	57.0	50.1	53.5	52.2	53.0	51.3	53.7	54.8	55.7	55.9	+4	0	-1		
Middle 60%	45.5	62.9	68.7	62.6	67.3	68.1	67.4	70.7	66.9	68.5	70.0	71.0	73.6	74.2	70.5	+4	-4	+3		
Top 20%	64.6	74.9	81.1	75.6	79.9	78.3	73.9	77.6	74.4	77.5	78.5	75.9	78.4	80.6	77.9	+4	-3	-2		
<b>Territory</b>																				
Vologda	49.2	63.1	73.6	60.9	60.3	59.8	59.6	66.0	62.5	64.2	65.2	66.4	67.9	69.6	66.7	+4	-3	+6		
Cherepovets	50.8	68.1	76.2	60.4	71.0	71.2	68.1	69.8	67.2	68.2	69.4	70.2	70.7	73.0	69.9	+3	-3	-1		
Districts	42.2	61.6	59.8	61.4	67.8	69.5	67.7	70.2	68.5	68.8	69.4	70.3	71.0	73.4	70.7	+2	-3	+2		
Region	46.2	63.6	67.3	61.0	66.6	67.4	65.6	69.0	66.5	67.4	68.3	69.2	70.1	72.3	69.4	+3	-3	+2		

## SUMMING UP

As the results of the first round of the monitoring conducted in 2025 show, at the beginning of the year the estimates of the population remain generally stable. There were no significant changes in most key indicators compared to December 2024:

- ✓ the President's approval rating remains at 66–67%;
- ✓ the ruling party (United Russia) retains its leading position with 40–42% support;
- ✓ the share of residents characterizing their mood as “normal, fine” is 69–72%;
- ✓ the stock of patience remained at a high level: 80–81% of respondents believe that “everything is not so bad and life is livable; life is hard, but we can endure it”;
- ✓ the share of the Vologda Region residents subjectively categorizing themselves as middle-income people is in the range of 47–48%;
- ✓ the Consumer Sentiment Index has not changed significantly and is 84–85 p.

A significant improvement in the assessments of public opinion over the three years of the special military operation is noteworthy. Moreover, positive trends can be traced practically for all the main monitoring indicators, except for assessments of social mood (which is quite obvious, given the continuing high level of threats to national security). However, the absence of negative changes and the preservation of a stable level of people's self-assessments of their psychological state against this background, in our opinion, should also be interpreted from a positive point of view.

On average over 2024 compared to 2021 prior to the start of the SMO:

- ✓ the level of approval of the activity of all analyzed authorities (the President, the Government, the head of the region) increased by 14–15 p.p.; the share of people who believe that their interests are expressed by the United Russia party increased by 11 p.p.;
- ✓ the highest level over the entire period of measurement was reached by the assessment of the President's success in solving the key problems of the country: strengthening Russia's international positions (52%), restoring order (50%), protecting democracy and strengthening freedoms of citizens (45%), boosting the economy and increasing the welfare of the population (39%);
- ✓ noticeable positive changes are observed in the dynamics of people's assessment of their financial situation and forecasts of its development: the share of the “poor and extremely poor” decreased by 7 p.p. (from 48 to 41%); the share of “middle income” people increased by 6 p.p. (from 41% to 47%); the Consumer Sentiment Index continues to increase annually from 2022 (by 5 points, from 82 to 87% over this period).

It is important to emphasize that for almost all of the above-mentioned indicators the population's assessments reached the highest level for the entire period of measurements, and it is obvious that we are talking about the influence of at least two factors: first, the active daily activity of all government bodies in making managerial decisions regulating life in the country, aimed, among other things, at socio-economic support of the general population and individual categories of citizens. Second, the psychological consolidation of Russian society around the president and the patriotic public agenda declared by the state against the background of unrelenting threats to national security from the Collective West.

In a sense, the president himself spoke about this psychological consolidation of Russian society during his “direct line” in 2024:

**A. Suvorova (moderator):** “*In recent time, everyone has been feeling a disturbing sense that the world is going crazy, or already has, because the potential for conflict is off the charts in every part of the world, and the global economy is struggling. How does Russia manage not only to stay afloat, but also to continue growing in this situation?*”

**V. Putin:** “*You know, when all is calm and life is measured and stable, we get bored. This amounts to stagnation, so we crave action... I previously spoke about our economic growth – this is largely attributable to the reinforcement of sovereignty, which extends to the economic realm. Many foreign manufacturers have exited our market. What has been the consequence? Our entrepreneurs have started producing these goods domestically, necessitating further research and the engagement of institutions, including those focused on development. All of this – what we are discussing – is the enhancement of technological sovereignty.*

*Sovereignty manifests itself in various forms: defense, technology, science, education, culture. This is of paramount importance, especially for our nation, because should we lose sovereignty, we risk losing statehood*”<sup>3</sup>.

Thus, public opinion in the region demonstrates stability and improvement by many indicators in the long-term dynamics. This is due to the unification of society in the face of external threats, as well as the positive perception of the authorities’ efforts to protect national sovereignty and improve the economic situation. As noted by RAS Academician M.K. Gorshkov: “*It should be clearly stated: there is no catastrophism in the public consciousness of Russians. They are optimistic about the future, only 4% of respondents admit a negative scenario. Optimism is based not on abstractions, but on understanding and support of national development plans*”<sup>4</sup>. Thus, we can state that in the current dynamics the population demonstrates a high level of adaptation to the new realities.

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<sup>3</sup> “Results of the year” with Vladimir Putin, December 19, 2024. Available at: <http://www.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/75909>

<sup>4</sup> People want to see a strong and honest country. Interview with M.K. Gorshkov, RAS Academician, Scientific Director of FCTAS RAS, Director of the Institute of Sociology FCTAS RAS, February 20, 2025. Available at: <https://lgz.ru/article/lyudi-khotyat-videt-stranu-silnoy-i-chestnoy/?ysclid=m74q7wzbq6119739908>