

MONITORING OF SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE VOLOGDA REGION POPULATION IN JUNE 2026

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In May–June 2026, the Vologda Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences (VolRC RAS) conducted the next wave of its public opinion monitoring on the socio-economic and political situation in the country and the region. The results are presented below.

VolRC RAS has conducted this public opinion monitoring since 1996, once every two months. A total of 1,500 respondents aged 18 and older are surveyed in the cities of Vologda and Cherepovets and in the Babayevsky, Velikoustyugsky, Vozhegodsky, Gryazovetsky, Tarnogsky, Kirillovsky, Nikolsky, and Sheksninsky municipal okrugs. The sample is representative due to the following conditions: proportions between urban and rural populations; proportions between residents of different types of settlements (rural settlements, small and medium-sized towns); and the gender age structure of the region's adult population. The survey method is a face-to-face questionnaire at the respondents' places of residence. The sampling error does not exceed 3%.

The study analyzes the dynamics of assessments across 14 socio-demographic groups, identified by:

- gender (men, women);
- age (under 30, 30–55, over 55);
- educational attainment (secondary and incomplete secondary, specialized secondary, higher);
- self-assessed income level (bottom 20% income group, middle 60%, top 20%);
- territory of residence (the city of Vologda, the city of Cherepovets, the districts of the region).

The index method is used to process sociological information and analyze the data. To calculate indices, the share of negative responses (in percent) is subtracted from the share of positive responses, and 100 is added to the resulting value to avoid negative values. Thus, entirely negative responses would yield a total index of 0, entirely positive responses 200, and a balance between the two an index of 100, which is essentially a neutral mark.

Since the beginning of 2026, the social well-being indices of the population have been gradually improving: from February to June, the social mood index rose from 145 to 148 points, and the patience reserve index from 169 to 172 points (*Tab. 1*).

The share of positive assessments of social mood and the patience reserve has remained stable over the past 12 months: 70–73% and 80–83%, respectively.

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Table 1. Dynamics of selected indicators of social well-being of the population of the Vologda Region*, % of respondents

Indicator	Response option	2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
																			Apr. 26	June 25
Mood	Excellent mood; normal state	67.3	68.7	71.2	69.9	61.0	66.7	67.3	65.6	69.0	71.6	71.9	72.9	70.9	73.2	69.7	70.1	71.2	+1	-1
	Feelings of tension, irritation; fear, anxiety	27.0	25.9	23.1	24.5	30.4	27.3	28.1	29.2	27.2	24.3	25.3	24.1	23.5	22.2	24.9	24.1	23.7	0	-2
	Social Mood Index	140.3	142.8	148.2	145.5	130.6	139.4	139.3	136.4	141.8	147.3	146.6	148.8	147.4	151.0	144.8	146.0	147.5	+2	+1
Reserve of patience	Things aren't so bad, life goes on; life is hard, but bearable	76.6	78.4	77.1	77.0	72.3	75.8	76.9	76.5	77.9	81.1	80.4	79.9	83.5	83.4	81.1	80.6	82.5	+2	+2
	Our desperate situation is impossible to endure any longer	15.8	14.5	16.3	17.2	19.9	17.7	16.1	14.6	13.9	12.6	11.9	12.9	12.1	10.1	11.9	11.6	10.5	-1	-1
	Reserve of Patience Index	160.8	163.9	160.8	158.8	152.5	158.1	160.8	162.0	164.0	168.5	168.5	167.0	171.4	173.3	169.2	169.0	172.0	+3	+4

* According to the survey methodology, the sampling error does not exceed 3%. Therefore, here and throughout this report, changes of less than 3 percentage points are considered statistically insignificant and are highlighted in blue in the tables.

⬆ In June 2026, the region as a whole continued the trend toward improvement in self-assessed income levels that has been observed since December 2025 (*Tab. 2*).

At the same time, positive changes over the past two months occurred only among those who, by self-assessment of their own income, belong to the top 20% income group (income rose from 52.8 to 57.3 thousand rubles).

⬇ Among those in the middle 60% and the bottom 20% income groups, self-assessed income declined: from 32.5 to 32.0 thousand rubles and from 17.0 to 16.0 thousand rubles, respectively.

⦿ No significant changes occurred in the dynamics of assessments of the economic situation in the country and the region. The share of positive and neutral assessments stands at 50–55%, and negative ones at 30–35% (*Tab. 3*).

⬆ The situation looks somewhat more positive with regard to assessments of one's own material well-being: over the past two months, the share of positive and neutral judgments increased from 55% to 58%.

⬇ Since December 2025, negative changes have been observed in the dynamics of assessments of the political situation in the country and the region. Over this period (from December 2025 to June 2026), the share of negative judgments about the situation in the country increased from 60% to 66%, and about the political situation in the region from 40% to 43% (*Tab. 4*).

⦿ It is worth noting, however, that the share of positive assessments remains broadly stable: about 20–22% of the region's residents describe the political situation in Russia as "calm and favorable," and 48–50% of respondents give similar assessments of the political situation in the region.

Table 2. Per capita household income and the ratio of per capita income to the subsistence minimum (by income group)

Income group	2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
																		Apr. 26	June 25
Per capita household income, RUB																			
Bottom 20%	4330	5430	6602	7792	7546	8529	10008	11746	13211	14731	13726	14118	16549	16002	18216	16964	16432	-532	+2706
Middle 60%	9293	11708	13251	14113	14031	15741	17503	20310	22885	27620	26831	27079	29274	29941	31594	32504	32040	-464	+5209
Top 20%	19907	23624	27433	28267	28207	30338	37250	40186	43286	51186	53688	52992	49932	52421	51864	52768	57308	+4540	+3620
Average for the region	10425	12837	14757	15686	15570	17220	19953	22578	25038	29757	29579	29669	30863	31665	32986	33448	33972	+524	+4393
Subsistence minimum, RUB*	6563	9639	10658	11042	11509	11767	13633	14519	15608	17910	17910	17910	17910	17910	19128	19128	19128	0	+1218
Ratio of per capita income to subsistence minimum by income group, times																			
Bottom 20%	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	08	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0	+0.1
Middle 60%	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	0	+0.2
Top 20%	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.0	+0.2	0
Average for the region	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	+0.1	+0.1
* Source: Decrees of the Government of the Vologda Region "On Establishing the Subsistence Minimum per Capita and for Major Socio-Demographic Groups in the Vologda Region". Official Portal of the Government of the Vologda Region. Available at: https://vologda-oblast.ru																			

Table 3. Trends in assessments of the economic and financial situation, % of respondents

Indicator	2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
																		Apr. 26	June 25
Russia's economic situation																			
Good	10.7	6.2	14.4	14.6	11.7	11.5	11.7	12.1	13.9	14.5	14.2	15.1	16.1	14.3	12.0	11.5	12.4	+1	2
Average	51.2	46.6	43.9	44.6	42.9	42.7	42.3	43.2	45.7	44.2	44.3	43.3	41.5	44.3	44.3	40.7	42.5	+2	-2
Poor	25.5	35.5	27.2	26.1	31.1	30.8	32.9	30.2	26.2	27.6	28.5	27.5	26.4	24.7	26.1	28.8	30.2	+1	+2
Index	85.2	70.7	87.2	88.6	80.6	80.8	78.7	81.9	87.7	86.9	85.7	87.6	89.7	89.6	85.9	82.7	82.2	-1	-4
Region's economic situation																			
Good	9.9	5.2	11.8	11.5	10.8	10.9	11.1	13.8	15.0	16.1	15.9	16.5	17.7	15.1	14.6	14.1	13.2	-1	-3
Average	49.4	39.9	39.2	41.3	38.3	40.4	40.1	42.7	43.8	42.0	40.8	43.5	40.1	40.6	39.5	37.7	37.9	0	-3
Poor	29.4	43.0	36.9	34.9	36.9	35.9	36.5	32.6	30.3	31.4	31.7	30.9	32.0	31.3	32.6	35.2	35.8	+1	+4
Index	80.5	62.2	74.9	76.6	73.9	75.0	74.6	81.2	84.7	84.7	84.2	85.6	85.7	83.8	82.0	78.9	77.4	-2	-7
Household financial situation																			
Good	10.1	7.9	11.8	10.2	9.2	8.4	8.8	10.1	12.4	14.3	14.7	13.8	15.3	13.9	13.9	10.9	12.5	+2	-2
Average	54.2	49.5	48.7	50.1	46.2	48.6	47.9	51.0	51.6	48.0	47.7	50.7	48.9	47.1	44.4	44.5	45.5	+1	-2
Poor	27.4	31.2	30.2	29.7	33.0	32.4	32.2	27.9	26.4	26.9	27.5	25.2	25.3	27.6	29.1	30.7	31.5	+1	+4
Index	82.7	76.7	81.6	80.4	76.2	76.0	76.4	82.2	86.0	87.4	87.2	88.6	90.0	86.3	84.8	80.2	81.0	+1	-6

**Table 4. Dynamics of assessments of the political situation,
% of respondents**

Indicator	2012	2015	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	June 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Dec. 2025	Feb. 2026	Apr. 2026	June 2026	Dynamics (+/-), June 2026 to	
																		Apr. 26	June 25
In Russia																			
Favorable, calm	39.8	25.5	40.4	45.0	41.0	37.2	27.5	23.3	24.7	23.8	24.3	25.6	24.0	22.1	20.3	21.7	19.5	-2	-5
Tense, critical, explosive	43.2	58.7	45.6	41.6	43.2	47.2	56.9	62.3	59.7	61.6	62.1	61.3	60.2	61.9	62.4	64.4	65.5	+1	+3
Index	96.6	66.8	94.8	103.5	97.8	89.9	70.6	61.0	65.0	62.2	62.2	64.3	63.8	60.2	57.9	57.3	54.0	-3	-8
In the region																			
Favorable, calm	51.8	46.0	54.9	58.0	53.9	53.7	47.9	49.8	52.5	52.3	54.3	51.1	52.3	51.9	49.4	49.9	48.7	-1	-6
Tense, critical, explosive	31.8	39.1	33.3	31.5	32.9	34.3	40.4	41.0	39.1	39.0	37.1	38.9	39.2	39.9	39.2	41.0	42.9	+2	+6
Index	120.0	106.9	121.6	126.4	121.0	119.8	107.5	108.8	113.4	113.3	117.2	112.2	113.1	112.0	110.2	108.9	105.8	-3	-11

Summary

The results of the monitoring wave conducted in June 2026 point to the continuation of the trends that Russian sociologists began to identify in late 2025 and early 2026¹. Overall, these trends are characterized by public concern and the emergence of a constructive demand from the population toward the authorities regarding the dynamics of the standard of living and quality of life in the country, partly against the backdrop of people's "habituation" to everyday life under the ongoing special military operation.

It cannot be ruled out that this trend will persist in the coming months and will have a significant impact on the results of the election campaign to the State Duma of the Russian Federation, which officially began on June 16, 2026 (the elections themselves are scheduled for September 18–20).

Periodic shelling and drone attacks on Russian territories by the "Kyiv regime" do not contribute to improving assessments of the political situation in the country. However, the level of consolidation of society around the state, the president, and the nationally oriented strategic development agenda remains high, as evidenced by the broadly stable picture of both the psychological state of society and assessments of the general state of affairs in the country and the region.

Further dynamics of public opinion among residents of the Vologda Region will be shown by the results of upcoming waves of VolRC RAS monitoring.

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¹ See, for example: Alfimov V. From wages to victory: how Russian society has changed over the year (interview with VCIOM head V. Fedorov). *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. January 2, 2026. 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 address to Russian society and foreign opponents. Center for Research on Political Culture of Russia, December 19, 2025. Official website of the CPRF. Available at: <https://kprf.ru/politindx/239901.html?ysclid=mlhmrkgapk916136109>

MONITORING OF SOCIAL SENTIMENT

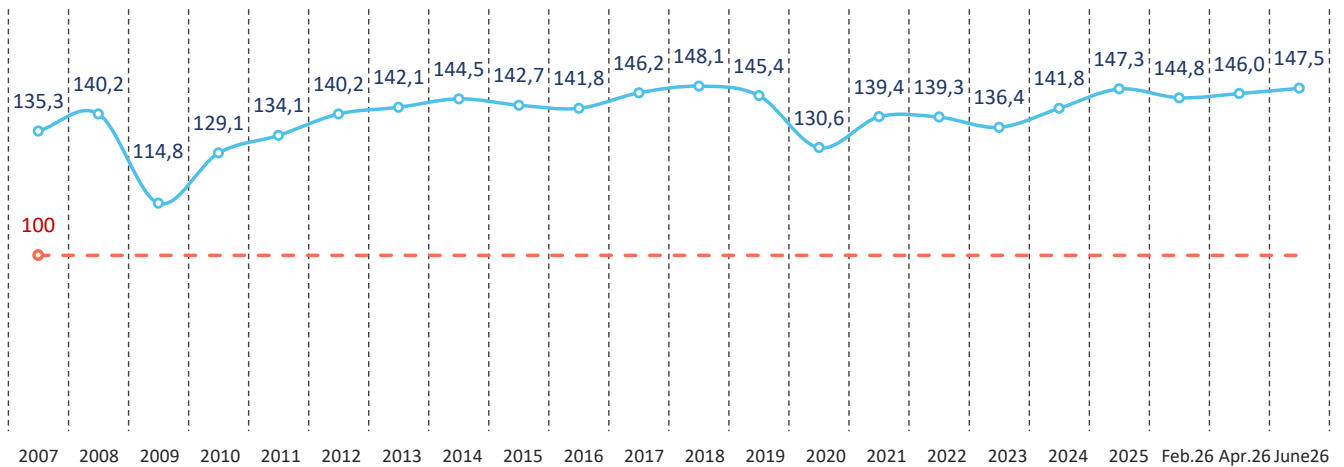


Figure 1. Index of Social Sentiment, points

In June 2026, compared with April this year, the social mood of Vologda Region residents did not change significantly. The index stands at 146–148 points.

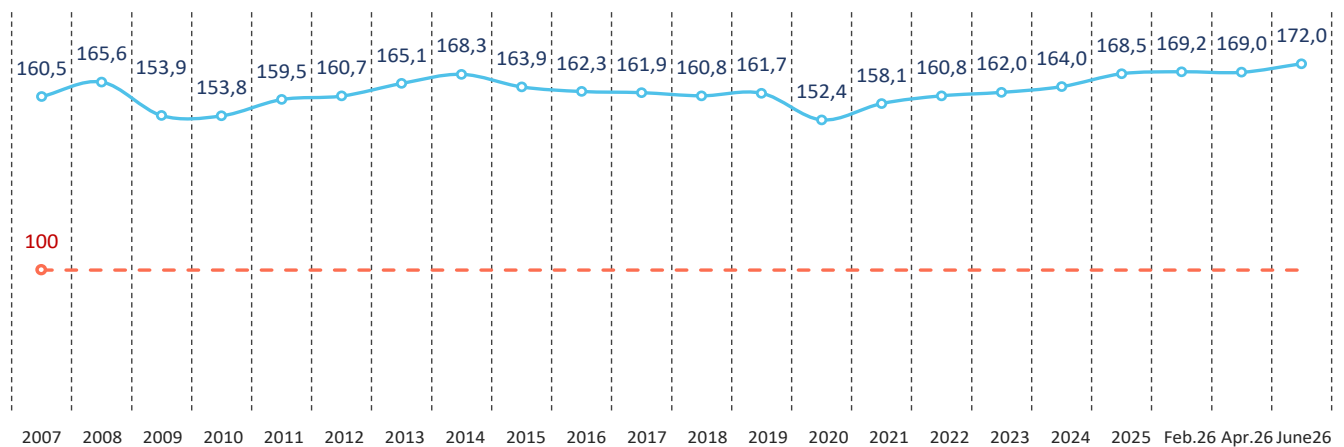


Figure 2. Reserve of Patience Index, points

In April–June 2026, the patience reserve index of Vologda Region residents increased by 3 points (from 169 to 172 points).

Here and below: to calculate the indices, the share of negative responses is subtracted from the share of positive responses, and 100 is added to the resulting value to avoid negative figures. Thus, entirely negative responses would yield a total index of 0, entirely positive responses 200, and a balance between the two an index of 100, which is essentially a neutral mark (---).

Data are presented from 2007, the last year of V.V. Putin's second presidential term.

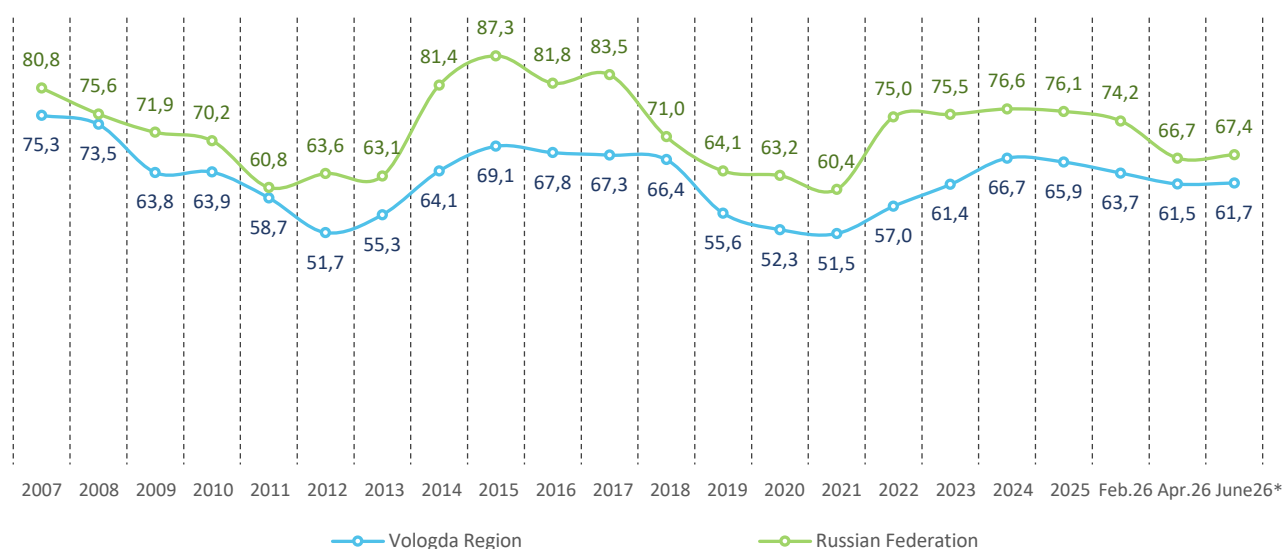


Figure 3. Approval of the activities of the President of the Russian Federation, % of respondents

From April to June 2026, the approval rating of the head of state in the Vologda Region and in Russia as a whole remained unchanged at 62% and 67%, respectively.

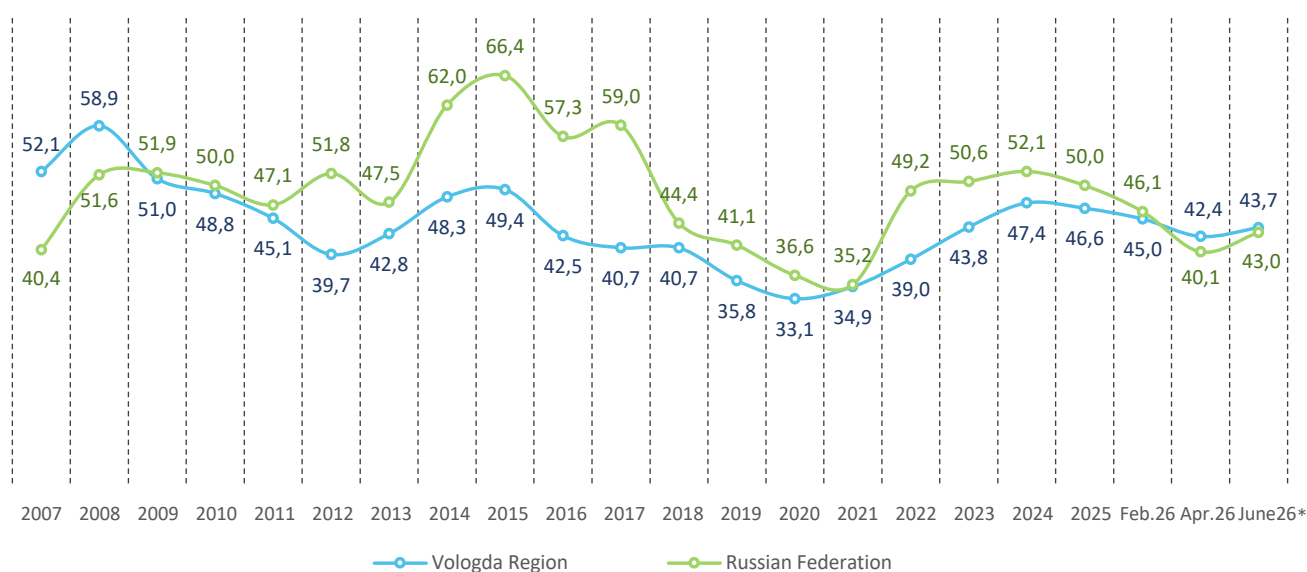


Figure 4. Approval of the activities of the Government of the Russian Federation, % of respondents

In June 2026, compared with April this year, positive assessments of the Russian Government's performance among Vologda Region residents remained stable (42–44%). In Russia as a whole, the approval rating of the country's highest executive body increased by 3 percentage points (from 40% to 43%).

Here and below: Vologda Region – VolRC RAS data; Russian Federation – VCIOM data (<https://wciom.ru>).

* VCIOM data – approval of the activities of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation: average for two surveys conducted on June 7, 2026, and June 14, 2026.

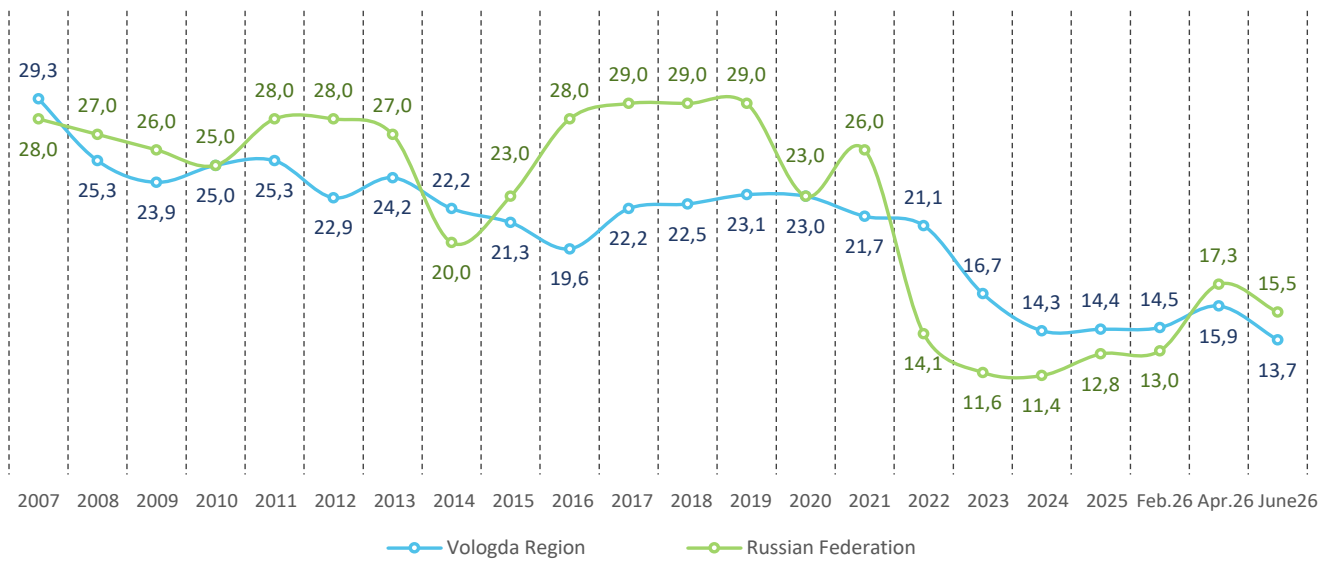


Figure 5. Likelihood of protest actions
(share of respondents who noted the possibility of mass protest rallies),
% of respondents

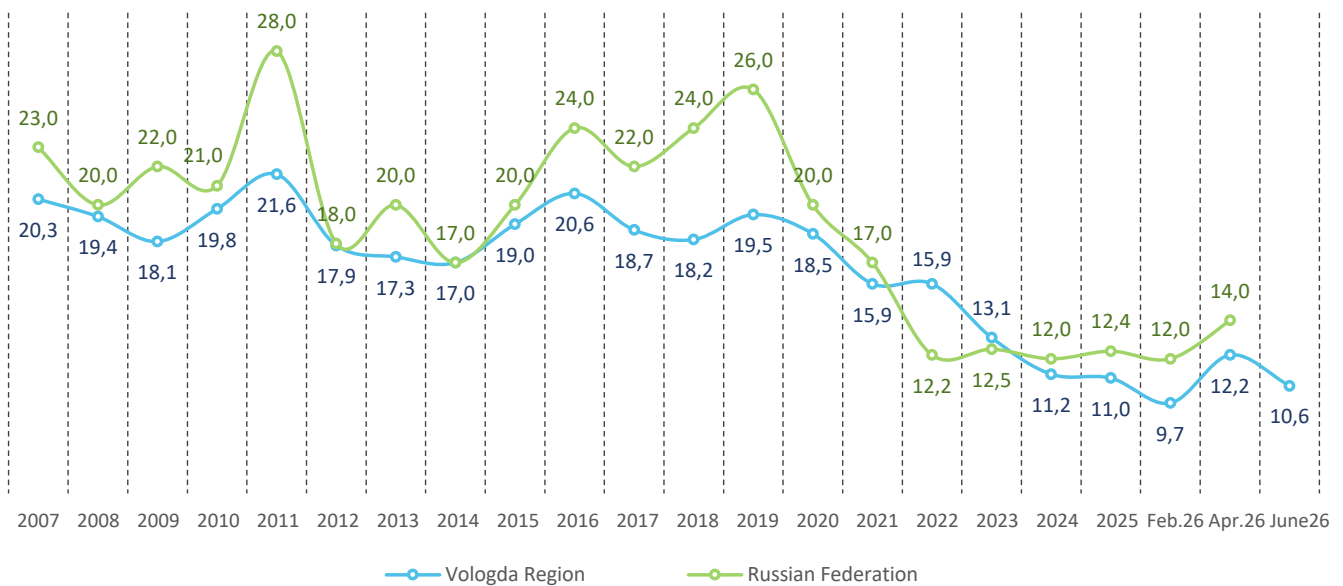


Figure 6. Willingness to participate in protests
(share of respondents who would be ready to take part in mass protest actions),
% of respondents

In June 2026, the share of the population in the Vologda Region and in Russia as a whole indicating the likelihood of protest actions did not change. The values remained at the level of April indicators (14–16% and 16–17%, respectively). 11–12% of Vologda residents admitted the possibility of their own participation in protest actions.

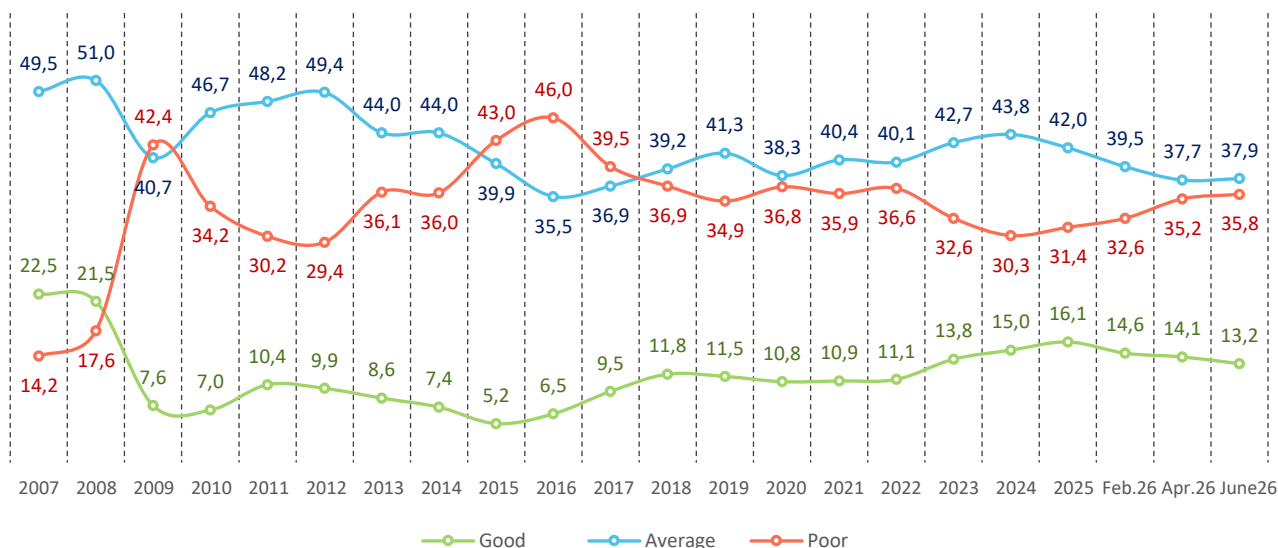


Figure 7. Assessment of the economic situation in the region, % of respondents

June 2026 brought no changes in the evaluative judgments of Vologda Region residents regarding the economic situation in the region. In April and June this year, the share of positive characteristics was 38%, neutral 35–36%, and negative 13–14%.

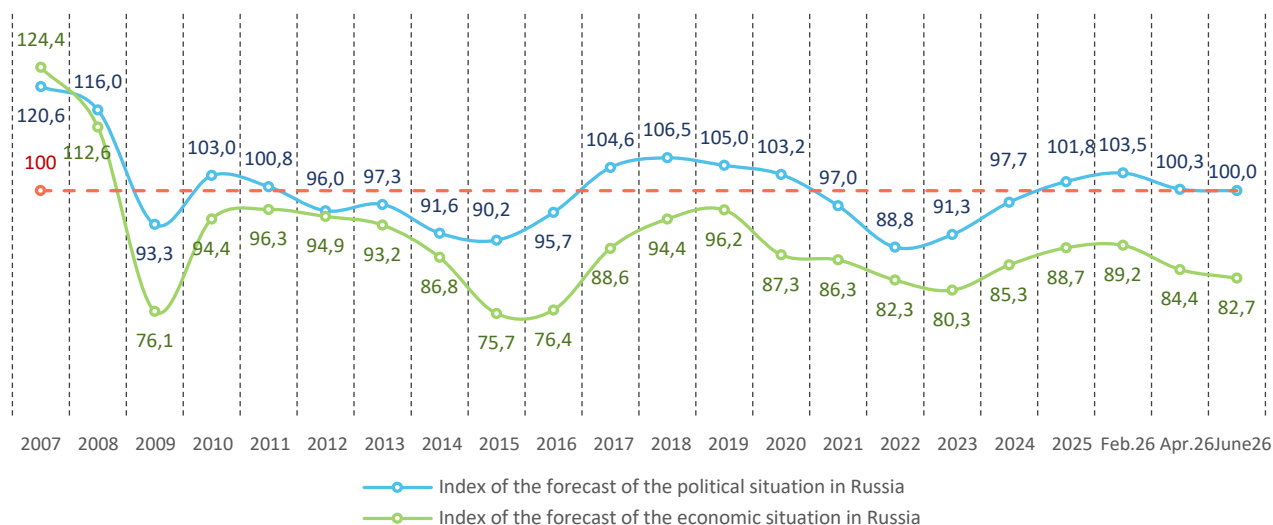


Figure 8. Indices of forecasts for the development of the political and economic situation in Russia, points*

In June 2026, the values of the indices of forecasts for the development of the political and economic situation in the country did not change and remain at the level of April data (100 and 83–84 points, respectively).

* The index of forecast for the development of the political situation in Russia is calculated based on the analysis of respondents' answers who gave positive and negative forecast assessments of the political situation, to the question: "What do you think is expected in the coming months in Russia's political life?"

The index of forecast for the development of the economic situation in Russia is calculated based on the analysis of respondents' answers who gave positive and negative forecast assessments of the economic situation, to the question: "Do you think the next 12 months will be a good time, a bad time, or something else for the Russian economy?"