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# Russians Remain Confident in Putin's Global Leadership

*Majority says Russia has improved  
its international standing, but views  
of the economy are mixed and  
corruption is a concern*

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# Russians Remain Confident in Putin's Global Leadership

*Majority says Russia has improved its international standing, but views of the economy are mixed and corruption is a concern*

President Vladimir Putin's handling of foreign affairs gets high ratings from most Russians, in contrast to more tempered views of his economic policies and anti-corruption efforts at home. Confidence in Putin's global leadership has been consistently strong over the decade-and-a-half that Pew Research Center has polled in Russia. Trust in the Russian leader has remained high since an increase in 2014, shortly after the conflict with Ukraine and subsequent annexation of Crimea.

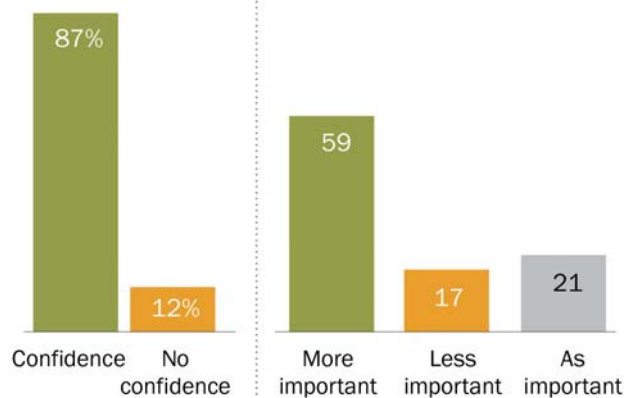
Today, however, Putin earns lower marks (63%) than he did two years ago (83%) for his handling of relations with Ukraine. Support for the Russian president has also declined when it comes to his approach to relations with the EU, China and the United States.

Despite slippage in how well the public thinks their president is handling key foreign policies, a majority of Russians say their country plays a more important role on the world stage than it did 10 years ago.

## Most Russians have confidence in Putin and think their country has gained stature on the world stage

\_\_\_ in Putin to do the right thing regarding world affairs

Russia plays a \_\_\_ role in the world today compared to 10 years ago



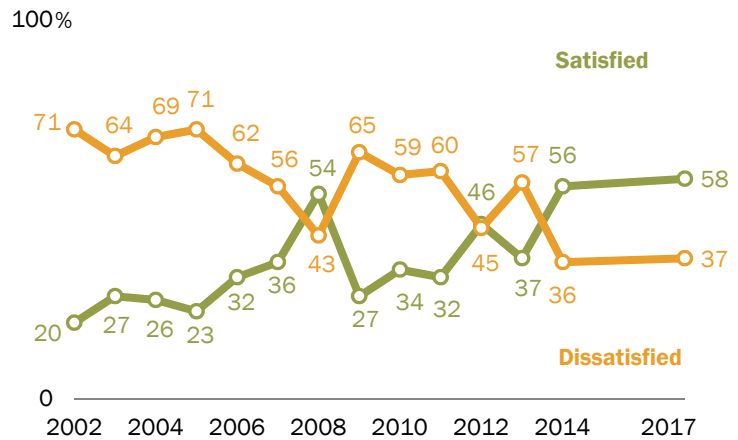
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q30c & Q114.

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Putin's 2015 decision to intervene in the Syrian conflict was a momentous change in Russia's foreign policy. Today, the prevailing view among Russians is that their country should stay the course in Syria, keeping Russia's military involvement at its current level (46%). Among those who would like to see a change in Russia's stance, roughly three times as many support decreasing the level of Russia's involvement (34%), as opposed to increasing it (11%). When asked about the purpose of their country's military actions in Syria, majorities say limiting casualties (72%) and defeating extremist groups (64%) should be priorities, compared with just a quarter who say the same about the Kremlin's apparent goal of keeping Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in power.

### Since 2014, most Russians have been satisfied with their country's direction

\_\_\_ with the way things are going in our country today



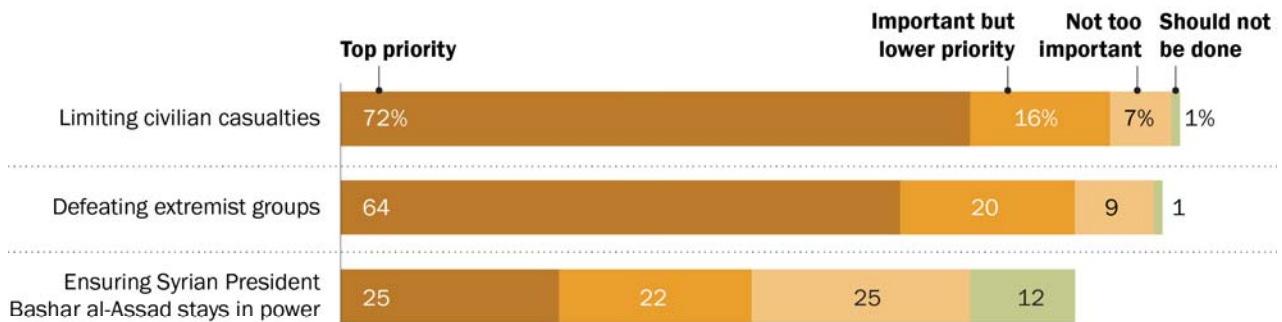
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2.

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Syria has been one factor affecting relations between Russia and the West. Another has been NATO. As of this spring, around four-in-ten Russians (41%) describe the trans-Atlantic security organization as a major threat to their homeland, down slightly from 50% in 2015.

### Few Russians believe keeping Assad in power should be a top priority

Thinking about Russia's military actions in Syria, should \_\_\_ be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done?



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q119a-c.

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These are among the key findings of a new Pew Research Center survey, conducted among 1,002 respondents in Russia from Feb. 18 to April 3, 2017.

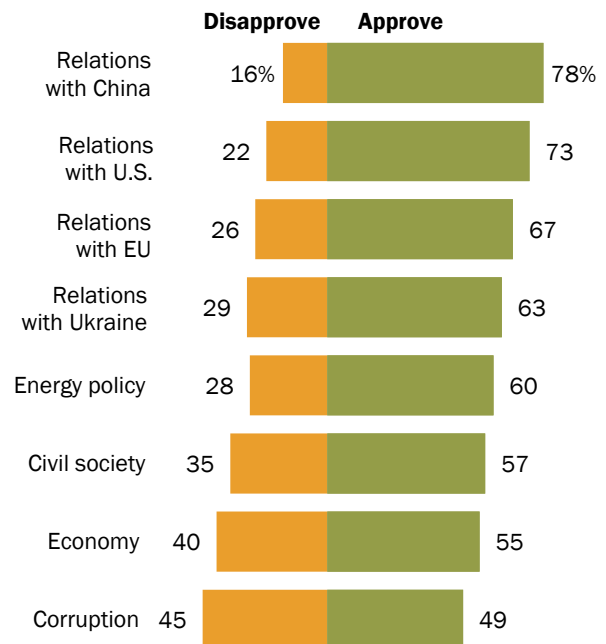
At home, Russians most often cite rising prices as a very big problem (71%), followed by roughly six-in-ten (58%) who describe corrupt political leaders in the same terms. And at least half of the Russian public says lack of employment opportunities (54%), terrorism (54%), the gap between rich and poor (53%), crime (52%) and corrupt business leaders (50%) are very big problems.

Overall assessments of the Russian economy are tepid but relatively upbeat compared with recent years. In 2015, almost three-quarters (73%) saw the economic situation as bad. Today, opinion is split (46% good vs. 49% bad). Russians are feeling slightly better about their own lives as well. Around half (51%) now say their personal economic situation is good, compared with 44% in 2015. However, not many Russians feel optimistic about the future: More than half (53%) expect the national economy to remain the same or worsen in the next year.

Despite Russians' lukewarm view of the economy, a majority (55%) still approves of Putin's handling of the issue. Putin also has the support of more than half the country when it comes to energy policy and civil society. The only area included in the survey in which he fails to earn majority approval is the issue of corruption.

### Putin's ratings on foreign relations higher than for domestic policy issues

\_\_\_ of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling ...



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q115a-h.

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## 1. President Putin: The Russian perspective

Russians' high level of confidence in their president's ability to do the right thing regarding world affairs endures. A full 87% have some or a lot of confidence in Vladimir Putin's handling of global issues, a share that has held relatively steady since the outbreak of the Ukraine conflict in 2014.

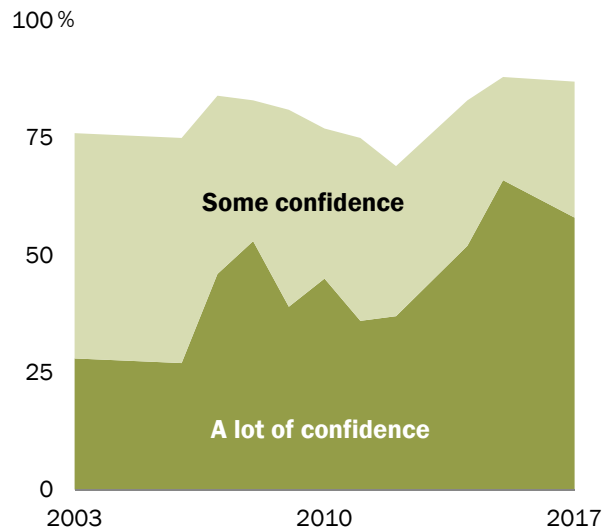
More than half of Russians express *a lot of* confidence in Putin, though this number has slipped since 2015 from 66% to 58%. He gets lower ratings among Russians who are unhappy with the country's economic situation, however. Only 46% of those who think the economy is bad have *a lot of* confidence in Putin, compared with a full 70% of those who think the economy is good.

Despite the durability of Putin's overall rating, his performance in handling specific issues has taken a hit since 2015. Across seven issues, approval of Putin has dropped by anywhere from 12 to 20 percentage points in the past two years. Although his approval on handling relations with China is currently his strongest issue, support for Putin on that measure dropped 12 points since 2015, to 78%.

On other foreign relations matters, approval has dropped similarly. Putin's handling of relations with the U.S. dropped from 85% in 2015, when Barack Obama was still U.S. president, to 73% in the first months of the Donald Trump administration. His handling of relations with the European Union dropped 15 points in two years, to 67%. And the share that approves of the Russian president's handling of relations with Ukraine has dropped by 20 points since the annexation of Crimea three years ago (83% in 2015, 63% in 2017).

### Over time, Russians more intensely confident in Putin

*How much confidence do you have in Russian President Vladimir Putin to do the right thing regarding world affairs?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q30c.

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On domestic issues, Putin's ratings have slipped in the areas of energy policy (from 73% approval in 2015 to 60% today) and the economy (from 70% to 55%). Putin's marks for reducing corruption have also fallen over the past two years, from 62% to 49%. A 57% majority approves of Putin's approach to civil society (the question was asked for the first time this year).

Older Russians, in addition to viewing the issue of corruption as more problematic than younger Russians, are also less satisfied with Putin's handling of the issue. Less than half (46%) of those ages 50 and older approve of Putin's handling of corruption, compared with 57% of 18- to 29-year-olds.

## Putin's ratings on issues drop across the board

*Approve of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling ...*

	2015	2017	Change
	%	%	
Relations w/Ukraine	83	63	-20
Relations w/the EU	82	67	-15
Economy	70	55	-15
Energy policy	73	60	-13
Corruption	62	49	-13
Relations w/China	90	78	-12
Relations w/the U.S.	85	73	-12
Civil society	-	57	-

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q115a-h.

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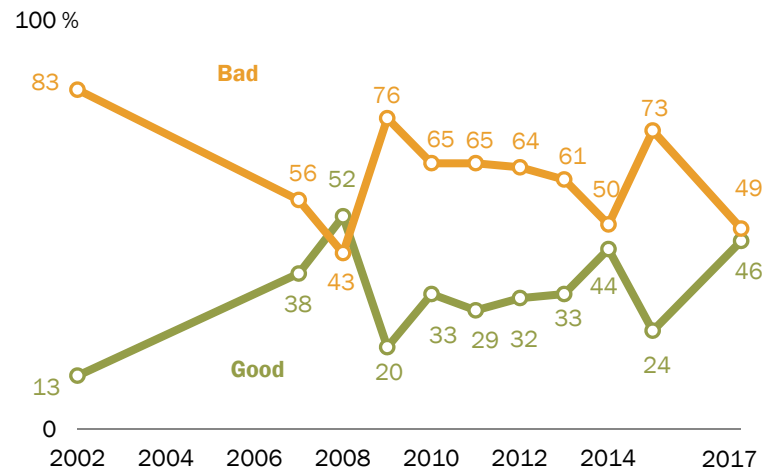
## 2. Russians' take on the economy and problems at home

The economic mood in Russia is tepid, but it has rebounded since 2015's downturn, which was caused in part by [Western sanctions and dramatically low oil prices](#). Today, Russians are divided, with 46% saying Russia's economic situation is good and 49% saying it is bad. Highly educated Russians are a bit more positive about the economy (49%) than those with less education (39%).

Russians are also increasingly optimistic about the country's economic future, even though a plurality still views the future with trepidation. Today, 43% think the economic situation will improve in the next year, a share similar to 2015's 38% but significantly higher than during the global economic crisis that began in 2007. Younger Russians are more optimistic about the country's economy than the older cohort: 48% of 18- to 29-year-olds think the economy will improve in the next 12 months, whereas only 37% of those 50 years and older feel the same.

### Russians split on health of national economy

*The current economic situation in our country is ...*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q5.

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### Young Russians are more positive about the economy

	TOTAL	18-29	30-49	50+	Youngest-oldest gap
	%	%	%	%	
Personal economic situation is good	51	59	53	46	+13
Economy will improve over next 12 months	43	48	46	37	+11
Current economic situation is good	46	51	47	41	+10

Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.  
Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q5, Q6 & Q7.

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Many signs **indicate** that Russia is at last emerging from the recession it entered in 2014. This is being felt personally by many Russians, with around half (51%) say their own economic situation is good, up 7 percentage points since 2013. Again, younger Russians are more positive about their personal situation than older Russians, with 59% of those ages 18 to 29 rating their economic situation as good, compared with 46% among those 50 and older.

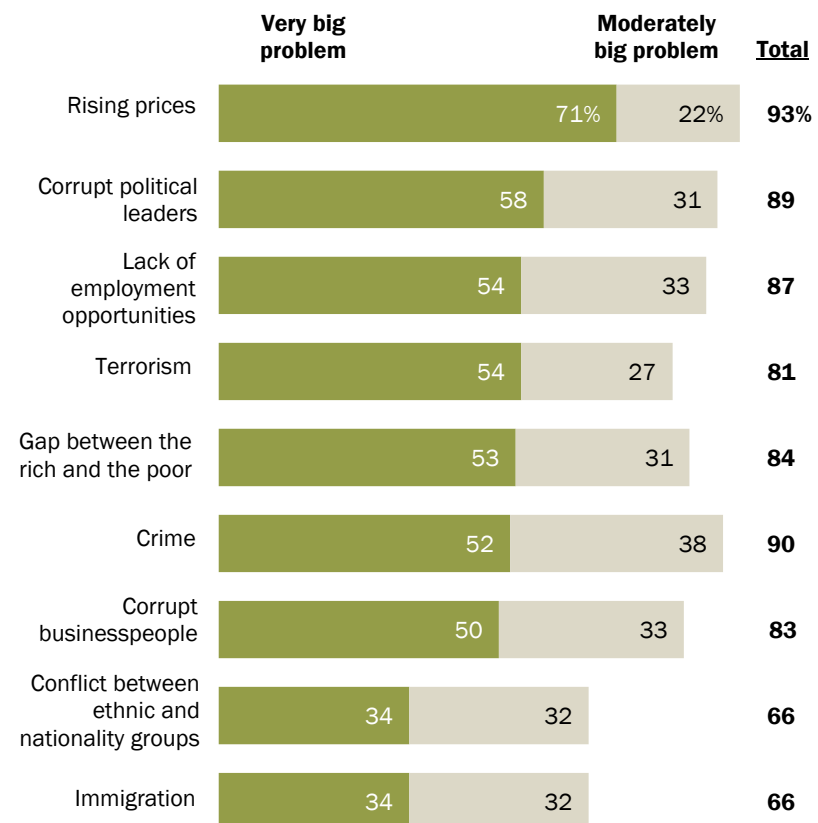
A large share of Russians continue to believe that Western sanctions have affected Russia's economy. Today, 43% believe the sanctions have had a *major* impact, compared with 45% in 2015.

Russians are as satisfied with their country's overall direction as they have been since Pew Research Center began polling Russia in 2002. A majority (58%) of Russians are satisfied with the way things are going in their country, while 37% report being dissatisfied. Today's rosy outlook mirrors the mood in April 2014, immediately after Russia's takeover of parts of Ukraine.

Younger Russians tend to be more upbeat about the way things are going than older Russians, with 67% of 18- to 29-year-olds expressing satisfaction and only 51% of those 50 and older saying the same. Those making more than the median income (28,000 rubles per month) also tend to be more satisfied (63%) than those making less (52%).

## In Russia, rising prices are top concern

*How big of a problem is/are ...*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q82a-i.

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Despite general optimism about their country's direction, many Russians believe their nation faces some major challenges. Asked about nine issues, rising prices is most often cited as a "very big problem" (71%).

Corrupt political leaders is the second-most-pressing concern, with 58% citing this as a very big problem, followed by lack of employment opportunities (54%), terrorism<sup>1</sup> (54%), the gap between the rich and the poor (53%), crime (52%) and corrupt businesspeople (50%). Less than half see conflict between ethnic and nationality groups and immigration as very big problems (both 34%).

When compared with their younger counterparts, Russians ages 50 and older tend to be more concerned about crime, corrupt political leaders and businesspeople, the wealth gap and rising prices. Women and men tend to view problems similarly, though women are significantly more concerned about terrorism than men (60% very big problem among women, 46% among men).

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<sup>1</sup> This survey was fielded in the days immediately before the St. Petersburg metro bombing.

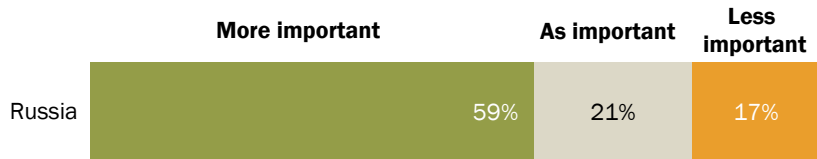
### 3. Russia's role in the world and views on national defense

Most Russians believe their country's global influence has risen. A 59% majority believes that Russia now plays a more important role in the world than it did a decade ago, while only 17% think Russia is now less important. About two-in-ten (21%) think its importance has not changed in the past decade. Russians ages 50 and older are more inclined to believe Russia's importance has grown (63%), compared with 48% of 18- to 29-year-olds.

The share of Russians who believe their country gets the respect around the world it deserves has more than doubled over the past five years. Whereas only 16% in 2012 felt Russia was as respected around the world as it should be, that figure now stands at 34%. Even so, the prevailing view remains that Russia should be more respected than it is.

#### Majority of Russians believe their country's global influence is on the rise

*Do you think our country plays a more important role in the world today compared to 10 years ago, a less important role or about as important a role in the world as it did 10 years ago?*

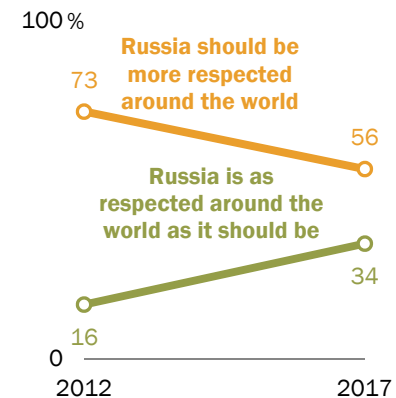


Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q114.

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#### Russians increasingly feel their country is getting the respect it deserves

*Which statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q13.

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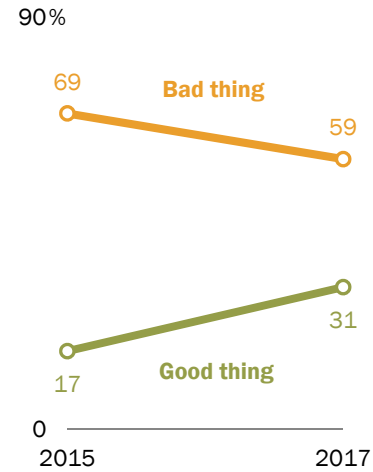
Russians are also becoming less nostalgic for the past. Since 2015, the share of Russians who view the fall of the Soviet Union as a good thing has almost doubled, jumping from 17% to 31% today. Still, a 59% majority sees the fall of the USSR as a bad thing for Russia.

There is a strong generational divide on views of the end of the Soviet Union. Those 50 and older overwhelmingly see this event as having been a bad thing for Russia (73%). But the youngest generation is less sure: More than a third (37%) say the end of the USSR has been a good thing for their country and another 19% have no opinion on the matter.

More than a quarter-century after the end of the Soviet Union, a majority of Russians (60%) think that there are parts of other neighboring countries that rightly belong to them. These attitudes have not shifted significantly since 2002, including in the period since the 2014 Russian annexation of parts of Ukraine.

### Russians increasingly positive on fall of USSR

*The dissolution of the Soviet Union has been a \_\_\_ for Russia*

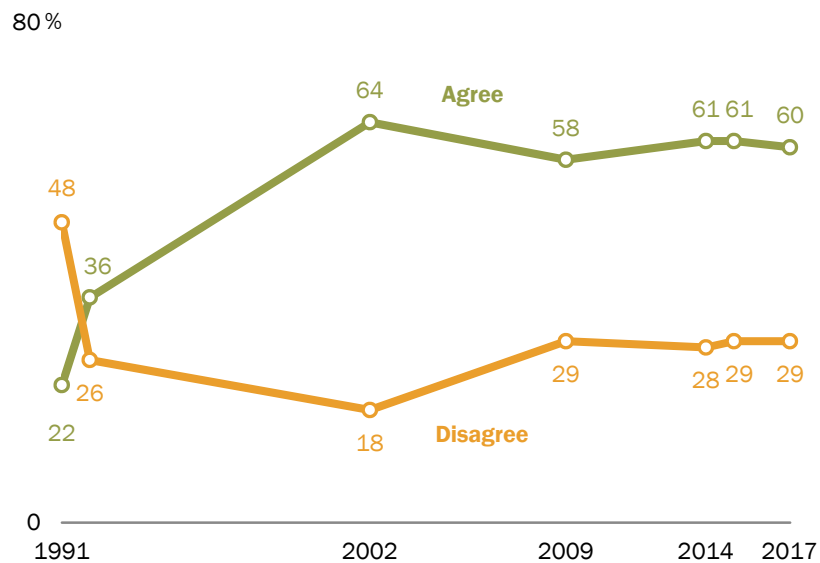


Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q26.

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### Majority of Russians have long felt that parts of neighboring countries belong to Russia

*Russians who \_\_\_ that there are parts of neighboring countries that really belong to us*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey, Q22a.

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When it comes to neighboring countries, Russians narrowly favor intervening when there are threats to ethnic Russians. About half (52%) support intervention, while 41% oppose it.

Leaving aside threats to ethnic Russians in the “near abroad,” the public is reticent about foreign entanglements. Only a quarter agree that Russia should help other countries sort out their problems, compared with 65% who want Russia to deal with its own problems and let other countries deal with theirs.

Looking toward the West, fewer Russians today view NATO as a major threat (41%) than in 2015 (50%). Nevertheless, 39% of the public considers the trans-Atlantic alliance to be a minor threat to Russia, and only 16% think NATO is not a threat at all.

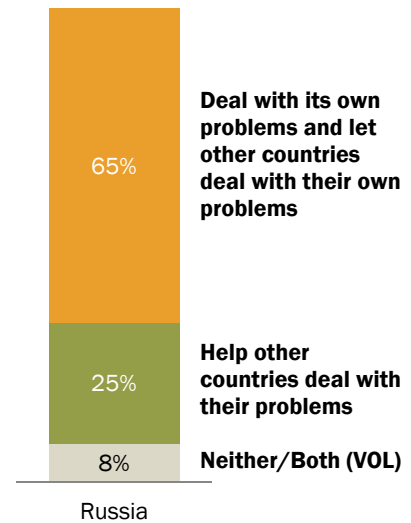
Most Russians (56%) are satisfied keeping defense spending where it is. Around a quarter (24%) want to increase defense spending, while another 13% want to decrease it. Men (29%) and those who see NATO as a major threat (also 29%) would like to see defense spending beefed up more than women (19%) or those who don’t view NATO as a threat (17%).

With regard to Syria, a plurality (46%) of Russians want their country’s military involvement to remain unchanged. This compares with roughly a third (34%) who would prefer that Russia curtail its involvement and just 11% who would like to see their military become more engaged in the Syrian conflict.

The Kremlin has publicly [asserted](#) that regime change in Syria is out of the question. But among the Russian public, views of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are lukewarm at best (45% favorable vs. 21% unfavorable), with many claiming not to recognize his name or refusing to provide an opinion about him (34%).

## Russians want to focus on their own country

*Our country should ...*

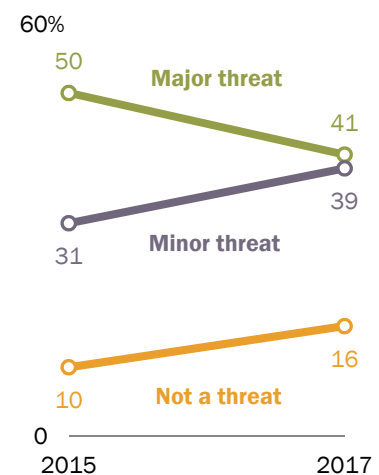


Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q25.

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## Fewer Russians now feel threatened by NATO

*How much of a military threat is NATO to our country?*



Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q39.

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Keeping Assad in power is a relatively low priority for the Russian public: Just a quarter (25%) believe this should be a top priority. In contrast, clear majorities say limiting civilian casualties (72%) and defeating extremist groups (64%) should be top priorities.

Keeping the Syrian president in power is a higher priority among those who hold favorable views of him. Among those who view the Syrian president positively, 42% say it's a top priority to keep him in power; that figure drops to 8% among those who view Assad negatively.

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### Russians favor limiting casualties and defeating extremist groups over bolstering Assad

*Thinking about Russia's military actions in Syria, should \_\_\_ be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done?*

	<b>Top priority</b>	<b>Important but lower priority</b>	<b>Not too important</b>	<b>Should not be done</b>	<b>Don't know/Refused</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
Limiting civilian casualties	72	16	7	1	3
Defeating extremist groups	64	20	9	1	5
Ensuring Assad stays in power	25	22	25	12	16

Source: Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey. Q119a-c.

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## Methodology

### About the Pew Research Center's Spring 2017 Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. More details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs are [available here](#).

[Detailed information on survey methods for this report](#)

[General information on international survey research](#)

# Topline Questionnaire

**Pew Research Center  
Spring 2017 Survey  
June 20, 2017 Release**

## Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Methodology section and our [international survey methods database](#).
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Pew Research Center has used an automated process to generate toplines for its Global Attitudes surveys. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- For some countries, trends for certain years are omitted due to differences in sample design or population coverage. Omitted trends often reflect less representative samples than more recent surveys in the same countries. Trends that are omitted include:
  - Russia in March 2003 and Fall 2002
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2017 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q2. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?			
		Satisfied	Dissatisfied	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	58	37	5	100
	Spring, 2014	56	36	7	100
	Spring, 2013	37	57	6	100
	Spring, 2012	46	45	9	100
	Spring, 2011	32	60	8	100
	Spring, 2010	34	59	7	100
	Fall, 2009	34	60	6	100
	Spring, 2009	27	65	9	100
	Spring, 2008	54	43	4	100
	Spring, 2007	36	56	9	100
	Spring, 2006	32	62	7	100
	Spring, 2005	23	71	6	100
	Spring, 2004	26	69	5	100
	May, 2003	27	64	9	100
Summer, 2002	20	71	9	100	

		Q5. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) — is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?					Total
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	
Russia	Spring, 2017	6	40	39	10	5	100
	Spring, 2015	1	23	54	19	3	100
	Spring, 2014	3	41	41	9	6	100
	Spring, 2013	2	31	46	15	6	100
	Spring, 2012	4	28	49	15	5	100
	Spring, 2011	5	24	46	19	6	100
	Spring, 2010	3	30	49	16	4	100
	Fall, 2009	3	25	50	18	4	100
	Spring, 2009	2	18	55	21	5	100
	Spring, 2008	5	47	37	6	4	100
	Spring, 2007	3	35	45	11	6	100
	Summer, 2002	0	13	57	26	4	100

		Q6. And over the next 12 months do you expect the economic situation in our country to improve a lot, improve a little, remain the same, worsen a little or worsen a lot?					DK/Refused	Total
		Improve a lot	Improve a little	Remain the same	Worsen a little	Worsen a lot		
Russia	Spring, 2017	9	34	42	7	4	4	100
	Spring, 2015	7	31	38	14	7	4	100
	Spring, 2014	5	26	44	14	6	6	100
	Spring, 2013	4	20	53	13	5	5	100
	Spring, 2012	5	26	44	11	4	9	100
	Spring, 2011	6	22	46	12	6	9	100
	Spring, 2010	3	36	42	8	3	7	100
	Spring, 2009	5	27	36	15	7	9	100
	Spring, 2008	8	34	39	10	3	6	100
	Summer, 2002	1	21	53	13	5	7	100

		Q7. Now thinking about your personal economic situation, how would you describe it — is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad?					DK/Refused	Total
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad			
Russia	Spring, 2017	5	46	36	8	5	100	
	Spring, 2013	2	42	41	7	7	100	
	Spring, 2012	4	43	39	7	7	100	
	Spring, 2009	4	38	41	10	6	100	
	Spring, 2008	3	43	40	9	5	100	

		Q13. Which statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right? (Survey country) is as respected around the world as it should be OR (survey country) should be more respected around the world than it is?					Total
		(Survey country) is as respected around the world as it should be	(Survey country) should be more respected around the world than it is	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	DK/Refused	
Russia	Spring, 2017	34	56	5	3	2	100
	Spring, 2012	16	73	9	0	2	100

		Q22. Please tell me whether you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree or completely disagree with the following statement. a. there are parts of neighboring countries that really belong to us					
		Completely agree	Mostly agree	Mostly disagree	Completely disagree	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	26	34	17	12	11	100
	Spring, 2015	24	37	18	11	10	100
	Spring, 2014	28	33	18	10	11	100
	Fall, 2009	19	39	19	10	13	100
	Summer, 2002	26	38	14	4	19	100
	Fall, 1992	19	17	15	11	37	100
	Spring, 1991	10	12	22	26	30	100

		Q25. Which of these statements comes closer to your view? Russia should deal with its own problems and let other countries deal with their own problems as best they can OR Russia should help other countries deal with their problems.					
		(Survey country) should deal with its own problems and let other countries deal with their own problems as best they can	(Survey country) should help other countries deal with their problems	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	65	25	5	3	3	100
	Spring, 2011	61	25	6	6	3	100

		Q26. In general, do you think the dissolution of the Soviet Union has been a good thing or a bad thing for Russia?			
		Good thing	Bad thing	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	31	59	10	100
	Spring, 2015	17	69	14	100

		Q30c. For each, tell me how much confidence you have in each leader to do the right thing regarding world affairs — a lot of confidence, some confidence, not too much confidence or no confidence at all. c. Russian President Vladimir Putin					
		A lot of confidence	Some confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	58	29	8	4	2	100
	Spring, 2015	66	22	7	2	2	100
	Spring, 2014	52	31	11	3	3	100
	Spring, 2012	37	32	16	8	7	100
	Spring, 2011	36	39	14	5	6	100
	Spring, 2010	45	32	12	4	7	100
	Spring, 2009	39	42	11	3	4	100
	Spring, 2008	53	30	10	3	4	100
	Spring, 2007	46	38	8	2	6	100
	Spring, 2006	27	48	13	4	8	100
	May, 2003	28	48	19	3	1	100

		Q39. In your opinion, how much of a military threat is NATO to our country? A major threat, a minor threat or not a threat?				
		Major threat	Minor threat	Not a threat	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	41	39	16	5	100
	Spring, 2015	50	31	10	8	100

		Q58. Which statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right?					
		Russia should intervene when there are threats to ethnic Russians in neighboring countries	Russia should not intervene in the internal affairs of neighboring countries	Both (VOL)	Neither (VOL)	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	52	41	3	1	4	100

		Q81. Now thinking about (survey country), do you think that we should increase our spending on national defense, keep it about the same or decrease it?				
		Increase	Keep about the same	Decrease	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	24	56	13	7	100

		Q82a. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. a. crime					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	52	38	8	1	1	100
	Spring, 2014	47	44	8	1	1	100
	Fall, 2009	51	41	6	1	1	100
	Spring, 2007	64	31	4	0	0	100
	Summer, 2002	75	23	2	0	0	100

		Q82b. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. b. a lack of employment opportunities					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	54	33	10	2	1	100
	Spring, 2014	48	32	14	4	2	100
	Spring, 2013	57	30	11	1	1	100

		Q82c. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. c. conflict between ethnic and nationality groups					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	34	32	27	5	2	100

		Q82d. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. d. the gap between the rich and the poor					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	53	31	12	2	1	100
	Spring, 2014	50	30	15	4	1	100
	Spring, 2013	59	29	8	3	1	100

		Q82e. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. e. corrupt political leaders					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	58	31	9	1	2	100
	Spring, 2014	65	27	6	1	2	100
	Fall, 2009	52	33	8	3	5	100
	Spring, 2007	53	29	11	1	5	100
	Summer, 2002	61	27	6	1	6	100

		Q82f. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. f. corrupt business people					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	50	33	11	2	4	100

		Q82g. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. g. terrorism					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	54	27	16	2	1	100
	Fall, 2009	48	36	11	3	2	100
	Spring, 2007	48	36	13	2	1	100
	Summer, 2002	65	27	6	1	0	100

		Q82h. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. h. immigration					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	34	32	28	4	3	100
	Fall, 2009	17	31	30	13	9	100
	Spring, 2007	20	26	32	12	9	100
	Summer, 2002	14	26	32	17	11	100

		Q82i. As I read each one, please tell me if you think it is a very big problem, a moderately big problem, a small problem or not a problem at all. i. rising prices					
		Very big problem	Moderately big problem	Small problem	Not a problem at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	71	22	5	1	1	100
	Spring, 2014	58	34	7	0	0	100
	Spring, 2013	67	27	5	0	1	100

		Q114. Do you think Russia plays a more important role in the world today compared to 10 years ago, a less important role or about as important a role in the world as it did 10 years ago?				
		More important role	Less important role	As important as 10 years ago	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	59	17	21	3	100

		Q115a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? a. relations with Ukraine			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	63	29	8	100
	Spring, 2015	83	13	4	100

		Q115b. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? b. the economy			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	55	40	5	100
	Spring, 2015	70	23	6	100

		Q115c. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? c. civil society			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	57	35	8	100

		Q115d. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? d. relations with the European Union			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	67	26	7	100
	Spring, 2015	82	11	7	100

		Q115e. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? e. energy policy			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	60	28	13	100
	Spring, 2015	73	14	13	100

		Q115f. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? f. relations with the United States			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	73	22	4	100
	Spring, 2015	85	10	5	100

		Q115g. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? g. relations with China			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	78	16	6	100
	Spring, 2015	90	4	5	100

		Q115h. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Vladimir Putin is handling each of the following areas? h. corruption			
		Approve	Disapprove	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	49	45	6	100
	Spring, 2015	62	29	8	100

		Q116. In your opinion, how much of an effect have the Western sanctions on Russia had on our economy — major effect, minor effect or no effect at all?				
		Major effect	Minor effect	No effect at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	43	37	15	5	100
	Spring, 2015	45	41	8	5	100

		Q117. Please tell me if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or very unfavorable opinion of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.					
		Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	14	31	16	5	34	100

		Q118. Do you think Russia should increase its military involvement in Syria, keep it about the same as it is now or decrease it?					
		Increase	Keep same	Decrease	DK/Refused	Total	
Russia	Spring, 2017	11	46	34	8	100	

		Q119a. Thinking about Russia's military actions in Syria, do you think ____ should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? a. limiting civilian casualties					
		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	72	16	7	1	3	100

		Q119b. Thinking about Russia's military actions in Syria, do you think ____ should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? b. defeating extremist groups					
		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	64	20	9	1	5	100

		Q119c. Thinking about Russia's military actions in Syria, do you think ____ should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? c. ensuring Syrian President Bashar al-Assad stays in power					
		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2017	25	22	25	12	16	100