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Far More Continue to View Russia as a ‘Serious Problem’ Than as an ‘Adversary’

More See Events in Russia and Ukraine as ‘Very Important’ to U.S.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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Far More Continue to View Russia as a ‘Serious Problem’ Than as an ‘Adversary’

More See Events in Russia and Ukraine as ‘Very Important’ to U.S.

Most Americans still are not inclined to view Russia as an adversary, though the share saying Russia represents a serious problem has continued to increase, according to a new survey from the Pew Research Center.

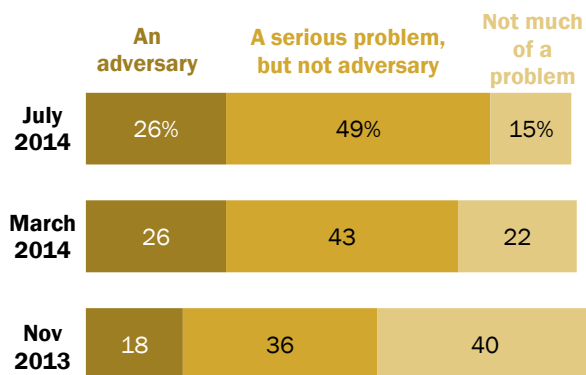
Currently, 26% of the public says that Russia is an adversary, while 49% think it is a serious problem but not an adversary, and just 15% say it is not much of a problem.

These opinions have changed only modestly since March, [shortly after Russia’s annexation of Crimea](#). The share saying Russia is an adversary is unchanged since then, while the share saying Russia is a serious problem has increased six percentage points, from 43% to 49%.

Since last November, however, there has been a substantial change in public views of Russia. Currently, 75% view Russia *either* as an adversary or a serious problem, up from 54% in November. And the proportion viewing Russia as not much of a problem has fallen by more than half, from 40% then to just 15% today.

Growing Share Says Russia Is Serious Problem, But Not an Adversary

Which comes closest to your view of Russia today?



Survey conducted July 24-27, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted July 24-27 among 1,005 adults, finds that compared with three months ago, the public is more likely to believe that the events in Russia and Ukraine are important to U.S. interests. About a week after Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down over Ukraine, 48% say events in the region are very important to the United States, up 17 points from April (31%).

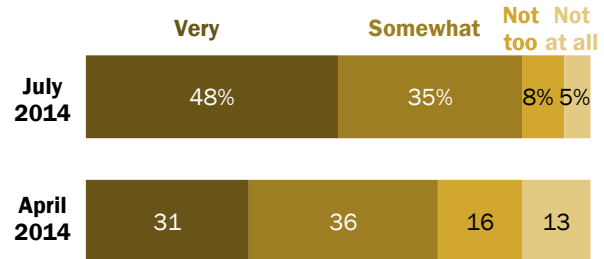
Currently, about a third of Republicans (33%) and independents (32%) view Russia as an adversary, compared with 21% of Democrats. The share of Republicans who view Russia as an adversary is lower today than in March (42%), after Russia annexed Crimea. Independents are more likely to say Russia is an adversary now than in March (32% now, 23% then), while Democrats' views are little changed.

Still, more Republicans, Democrats and independents view Russia as an adversary today than did so last November.

Younger adults remain the least likely to describe Russia as an adversary. Today, just 15% of those under 30 say this, compared with 25% of those ages 30-49 and about three-in-ten (31%) adults 50 and older. Still, about half of each age group labels Russia as a serious problem, but not an adversary.

Since April, More Say Russia-Ukraine Situation Is Important to U.S. Interests

How important are events in Russia and Ukraine to the interests of the U.S.?



Survey conducted July 24-27, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

More Republicans than Democrats Name Russia as an 'Adversary'

% describing Russia as an adversary

	Nov 2013	Mar 2014	July 2014	Nov-July Diff
	%	%	%	
Total	18	26	26	+8
18-29	11	15	15	+4
30-49	17	26	25	+8
50-64	20	31	30	+10
65+	22	28	33	+11
Republican	24	42	33	+9
Democrat	15	19	21	+6
Independent	17	23	32	+15

Survey conducted July 24-27, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The belief that the situation is very important to the U.S. has ticked up across demographic groups. Adults 18-29 are still by far the least likely to say this — 32% say the situation is very important to the U.S., compared with about half or more of other age groups. Instead, young adults are the most likely to call the situation “somewhat important” to U.S. interests (52%).

Democrats (49%) are roughly as likely as Republicans (54%) to say the events are very important to the U.S., up 19 points and 14 points from April, respectively. But conservative Republicans remain far more likely than liberal Democrats to believe what happens between Russia and Ukraine is very important to U.S. interests (59% vs. 40%).

Young Adults Least Likely to See Russia-Ukraine Events as Very Important to U.S.

% saying events in Russia and Ukraine are 'very important' to U.S. interests

	Apr 23-27	July 24-27	Diff
	%	%	
Total	31	48	+17
18-29	20	32	+12
30-49	27	52	+25
50-64	41	49	+8
65+	38	58	+20
Republican	40	54	+14
Conservative	40	59	+19
Democrat	30	49	+19
Liberal	28	40	+12
Independent	27	46	+19

Survey conducted July 24-27, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted July 24-27, 2014 among a national sample of 1,005 adults 18 years of age or older living in the continental United States (503 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 502 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 292 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and MKTG under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see: <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status, based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,005	3.6 percentage points
Republican	244	7.4 percentage points
Conservative Rep	171	8.8 percentage points
Democrat	296	6.7 percentage points
Liberal Dem	132	10.0 percentage points
Independent	320	6.4 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
July 24-27, 2014 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,005**

**QUESTION PEW.1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS PEW.2-PEW.3**

ASK ALL:

PEW.4 All things considered, which of these descriptions comes closest to your view of Russia today... Do you think Russia is **[READ IN ORDER]**:

	<u>An adversary</u>	<u>A serious problem but not an adversary</u>	<u>Not much of a problem</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
July 24-27, 2014	26	49	15	9
March 20-23, 2014	26	43	22	10
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	18	36	40	6
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	15	32	42	11
Mid-September, 2008	18	48	28	6

ASK ALL:

PEW.5 How important to the interests of the United States is what happens between Russia and Ukraine **[READ IN ORDER]**?

		(U) Apr 23-27 <u>2014</u>
July 24-27 <u>2014</u>		
48	Very important	31
35	Somewhat important	36
8	Not too important	16
5	Not at all important	13
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

QUESTIONS PEW.6-PEW.7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
July 24-27, 2014	23	28	33	8	1	7	13	13

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls