

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON JULY 2025

**“Silence grows as stability crumbles:
Repression intensifies while truth
and data disappear”**

The world needs a proactive strategy on Russia, taking the initiative by developing and communicating a clear strategic vision for Ukraine, along with a plan to contain and counter Russian influence.

The [NGO ANTS](#) conducts monitoring and research work on the state not only of the Ukrainian economy and society, but of the Russian economy and Russian society as well in order to have a true picture of the situation in this country, and not be satisfied with the bluff, hybrid aggression and desinformation that Vladimir Putin loves so much.

Fortunately, in today's world it is difficult to hide anything, and realistic conclusions can be drawn if information is analyzed in a timely and correct manner, having instant access to the Russian and international information field, and an excellent understanding of the context and social processes.

The head of our organization, Dr. Hanna Hopko, former head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, is making great efforts in the international arena to advocate for the cessation of appeasement of the aggressor, who should not be irrationally feared, because his economy and social processes are far from being in the best shape.



Analytical column:

18th sanctions package: not yet hellish, but still hitting the russian economy



Kateryna Musiienko, International Relations and European Integration Expert of the National Interests Advocacy Network "ANTS".

The European Union has adopted its 18th package of sanctions against Russia. For Ukraine, this is more than just another political signal. It is the result of consistent, well-reasoned, and systematic advocacy work that truly delivers results. Every such decision is backed by months of analysis, negotiations, coalition-building, and dialogue with partners. And it's important to understand: when we speak to the world in the language of facts, sanctions stop being mere declarations and become real blows to the Kremlin's ability to continue the war.

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Mosaic of Russian economic news for July 2025

Collapse, Drought, and Decline: The War Economy Reaches a Breaking Point

Collapse of Export-Oriented Sectors Reveals Limits of the War Economy

Coal, oil, and gas revenues are falling fast. Sanctions, global oversupply, and poor logistics expose Russia's outdated export model.



Import Substitution Fails Under Sanctions Pressure

Domestic companies can't replace banned Western goods. Key sectors face bankruptcies, equipment shortages, and shrinking profits.

Monetary Easing Signals Budget Desperation

With falling revenues and rising war spending, the Kremlin prepares to loosen monetary policy despite inflation risks. Rate cuts and ruble devaluation may temporarily plug deficits, but will erode real incomes and deepen household financial stress.

Agricultural Decline Threatens Food Security and Rural Stability

Poor harvests in key grain regions – exacerbated by drought, outdated equipment, and financial distress – have led to the worst yield in five years. Rural regions, already strained by war mobilization and shrinking incomes, now face deepening hardship.

Credit Freeze Signals Business Sector Weakness

High interest rates and weak company balance sheets have nearly frozen corporate lending. Debt servicing costs outpace new borrowing, suggesting that even state-favored firms are running out of financial breathing room.

Industrial Recession Spreads Beyond Fossil Fuels

Output is falling not only in energy extraction, but also in manufacturing – excluding defense. Business sentiment is at its lowest since the 2015–2016 crisis. The industrial base shows signs of stagnation, with limited room for growth under sanctions and labor shortages.

Asset Seizures Reflect Internal Elite Fragmentation

Accelerating expropriation of billionaire-owned assets signals a breakdown of elite stability. The state turns on oligarchs once seen as loyalists, using legal and extralegal tools to consolidate wartime control over strategic sectors.

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Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in July 2025

Russia Tightens Control: From Data Blackouts to Digital Repression

Russia is increasing censorship and restricting public access to information

Rosstat has stopped publishing key demographic data, and mortality statistics have been significantly limited. Simultaneously, internet shutdowns reached a record high in June 2025, with over 655 disruptions – more than double the global total in 2024.

Harsh penalties are being introduced for digital behavior

New fines will punish Russians for sharing SIM cards or accounts (up to 50,000 rubles), using private VPNs (up to 80,000 rubles), or making payments with cryptocurrency (from 2026). Even searching for extremist content online is now punishable by law.

The Russian government is tightening control over communication and media

Putin has ordered new restrictions on foreign communication services (e.g., Zoom, Microsoft), and a national messenger app (“Max”) is being created with surveillance capabilities similar to China’s WeChat. A new bill also proposes censorship of content “discrediting traditional values.”

Foreigners are denied entry based on social media activity

FSB border agents now check mobile phones at the border and deny entry to foreigners who follow “pro-Ukrainian” channels or criticize Russian authorities.

The war’s domestic toll is intensifying

Children of Russian soldiers fighting in Ukraine are increasingly being labeled “at risk” and placed in orphanages due to family dysfunction.

State surveillance over personal and medical data is growing

From March 2026, a new psychiatric registry will include mental health data

accessible to police. Information such as depression or anxiety diagnoses will be stored indefinitely, which could deter people from seeking help.

Defense and security spending is prioritized over social needs

The Federation Council plans to cut 2 trillion rubles in other budget areas annually to fund military and law enforcement operations. Social projects, tax benefits, and non-essential assets like football clubs may lose funding.

Russia's Elite Under Siege: The New Wave of Repression

As authoritarianism deepens, the Kremlin uses selective purges and anti-corruption campaigns not to restore justice, but to tighten control, suppress dissent, and prevent rivals like Prigozhin. Once-untouchable officials and oligarchs now face arrests, asset seizures, and public disgrace amid internal elite battles for dwindling resources. The FSB and Prosecutor General's Office gain unprecedented power, signaling a new era of fear and internal decay.

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ANTS is open to cooperation! The most accurate information on your desk before anyone else!

NGO National Interests Advocacy Network ANTS is a non-governmental organization, a powerful analytical center working to develop a strategy for countering the threat from Russia and its allies. We are open to proposals for cooperation in this direction for a deeper awareness of our partners and allies about socio-political and economic processes in Russia and Ukraine, and therefore a more profitable strategy for dealing with threats.

We offer operational and high-quality monitoring, analytics, joint events, briefings and discussions.

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