

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON AUGUST 2025

“Scarcity and surveillance: Russia’s grip strengthens while crises deepen.”

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.



Mosaic of Russian economic news for August 2025

Fuel Shortages, Budget Crisis, and Industrial Stagnation: Russia's War Economy Unravels

Oil Market Surplus Threatens Russia's Budget

The IEA forecasts a record oil glut in 2025 – inventories may grow by 3 million barrels per day. Prices have already dropped 12% this year, endangering the Kremlin's main source of revenue.

Accelerating Collapse of Oil and Gas Revenues

In Q2, oil and gas budget revenues fell by 24% (-676 billion rubles). Oil taxes alone collapsed by 1 trillion rubles, while gas revenues shrank after the suspension of Ukrainian transit.

India Stops Buying Russian Oil, OPEC+ Under Strain

India's state refineries halted Russian crude purchases under U.S. pressure. Saudi Arabia and others are ready to raise output, signaling the breakdown of OPEC+ and pushing Moscow into deeper discounts.

Drone Strikes Trigger Refining and Fuel Crisis

Attacks on major Rosneft plants cut 5.5% of daily refining capacity in a single day. Gasoline prices are up 55% since January, with shortages and long queues in Siberia, Crimea, and the Far East.

Industry Moves to Four-Day Workweeks

Leading factories – from cement and metallurgy to auto and farm machinery – are cutting schedules and pay. Workers face 20% income losses as demand collapses.

Russia Becomes a Net Food Importer Again



For the first time in six years, Russia imported more food than it exported: \$20.6B vs. \$17.8B in H1 2025. Poor harvests forced large imports of butter and potatoes, while grain exports dropped by 22%.

Banking Sector Risks Systemic Crisis

Bloomberg reports several major banks may need bailouts. Sovcombank's profits fell 86%, VTB lost half its interest income, and defaults are rising, especially among defense contractors.

Budget Deficit Explodes to 5 Trillion Rubles

The consolidated budget deficit doubled in June alone, hitting nearly 5 trillion rubles in H1 2025. Just a year earlier, Russia had a surplus – highlighting a sharp fiscal collapse.

[**Read more**](#)

Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in August 2025

Russia Expands Control: Propaganda, Surveillance, and Social Strains

Russian Healthcare on the Brink

Hospitals face critical shortages of doctors, nurses, and mid-level staff, worsened by declining graduates entering state healthcare. Patients experience longer waits, lower-quality care, and overworked personnel.

Mandatory Work for Medical Graduates

A new law will require all state-funded medical students to work in healthcare under threat of fines. The government seeks to retain young specialists amid a projected need for 500,000 healthcare workers by 2030.

Kindergarten Staff Crisis

By 2024, Russian kindergartens had 183,000 vacant positions, including 40,000 teachers. Low salaries and regional disparities drive young specialists away, creating gaps in early education.

Digital Occupation of Ukrainian Territories

Russia operates over 3,600 fake Telegram accounts to influence residents in occupied Ukrainian regions, limiting access to reliable information and increasing susceptibility to Kremlin propaganda.

Tightened Internet Surveillance

Providers will be required to monitor users' online activity and report violations to authorities. New rules shift responsibility for law enforcement onto businesses and simplify prosecution for distributing "extremist" content.

Militarized Education and Propaganda

Schools will reduce social studies hours and adopt textbooks framing the Ukraine war as NATO-provoked. A new subject, “Spiritual and Moral Culture of Russia,” will teach the “Russian World” and traditional values, replacing some foreign language lessons.

Expanding Repression and Controls

New laws criminalize transferring SIM cards to third parties, and Roskomnadzor has begun blocking calls on Telegram and WhatsApp, citing “criminal activity,” tightening digital control over citizens.

Data Concealment and State Oversight

Since 2022, hundreds of datasets, especially demographic and mortality statistics, have disappeared from open access, limiting transparency and restricting independent analysis of social, economic, and military trends.

[Read more](#)

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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