

# RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON SEPTEMBER 2025

## “Crises Multiply, Fear and Surveillance: Deepening Challenges for Russia”

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:

## **ANALYTICAL REPORT** How Russia Circumvents Sanctions: Regime Adaptation and Vulnerabilities of the Sanctions Architecture



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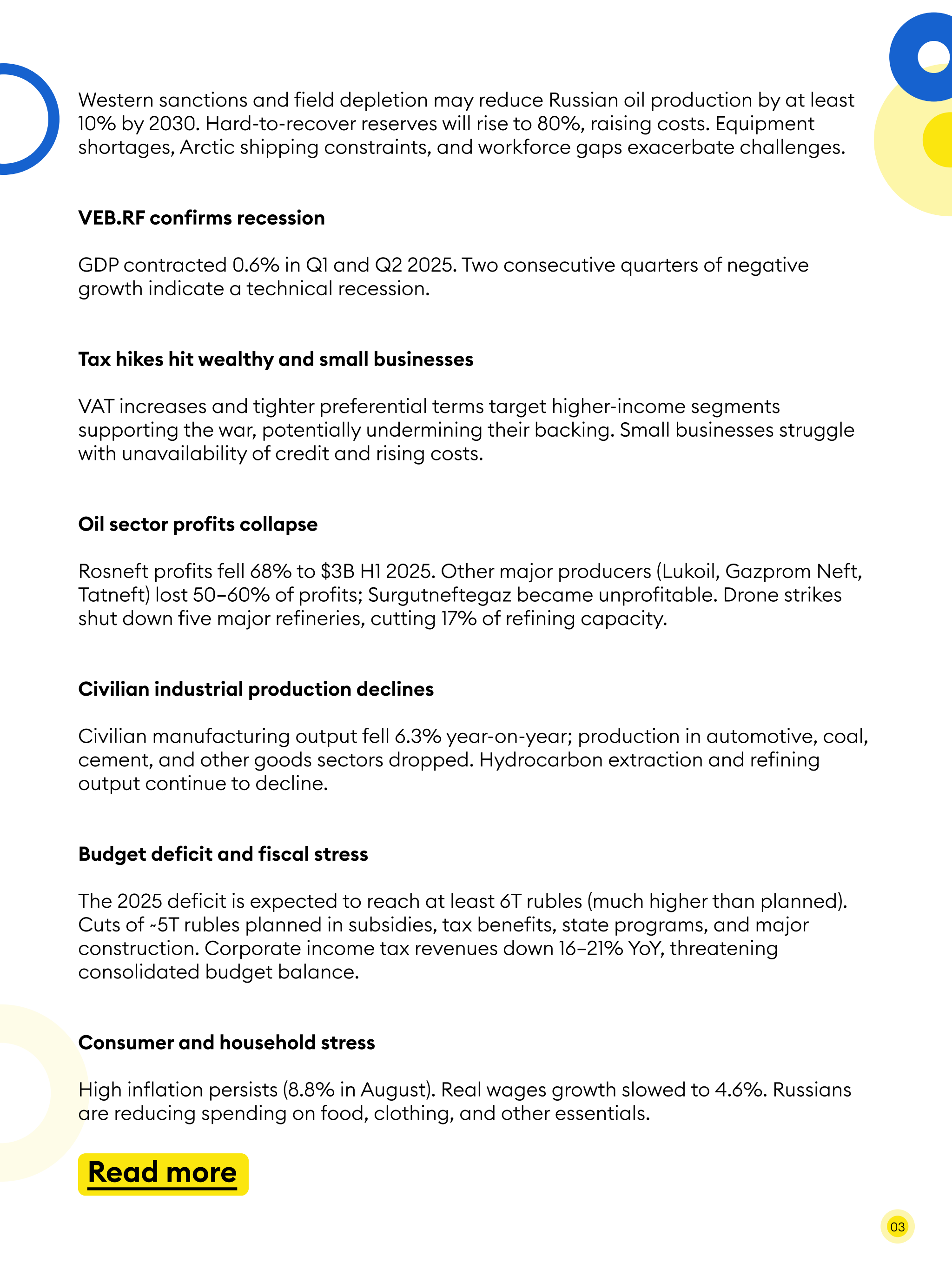
## **Mosaic of Russian economic news for September 2025**

### **Oil Market Pressures, Budget Strains: Industrial Decline Intensify**

#### **India stops buying Russian oil — moderate budget crisis looms**

India resists U.S. pressure and continues buying Russian crude, but economic losses from U.S. tariffs could outweigh savings. If India fully stops purchases, Russia could lose ~\$4B/month in export revenue (12% of total exports) and oil & gas revenues could drop 25–30%. Annual budget revenue target already cut by 25% from 10.94T to 8.32T rubles.

#### **Long-term oil production decline threatens war economy**



Western sanctions and field depletion may reduce Russian oil production by at least 10% by 2030. Hard-to-recover reserves will rise to 80%, raising costs. Equipment shortages, Arctic shipping constraints, and workforce gaps exacerbate challenges.

### **VEB.RF confirms recession**

GDP contracted 0.6% in Q1 and Q2 2025. Two consecutive quarters of negative growth indicate a technical recession.

### **Tax hikes hit wealthy and small businesses**

VAT increases and tighter preferential terms target higher-income segments supporting the war, potentially undermining their backing. Small businesses struggle with unavailability of credit and rising costs.

### **Oil sector profits collapse**

Rosneft profits fell 68% to \$3B H1 2025. Other major producers (Lukoil, Gazprom Neft, Tatneft) lost 50–60% of profits; Surgutneftegaz became unprofitable. Drone strikes shut down five major refineries, cutting 17% of refining capacity.

### **Civilian industrial production declines**

Civilian manufacturing output fell 6.3% year-on-year; production in automotive, coal, cement, and other goods sectors dropped. Hydrocarbon extraction and refining output continue to decline.

### **Budget deficit and fiscal stress**

The 2025 deficit is expected to reach at least 6T rubles (much higher than planned). Cuts of ~5T rubles planned in subsidies, tax benefits, state programs, and major construction. Corporate income tax revenues down 16–21% YoY, threatening consolidated budget balance.

### **Consumer and household stress**

High inflation persists (8.8% in August). Real wages growth slowed to 4.6%. Russians are reducing spending on food, clothing, and other essentials.

**[Read more](#)**

# Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in September 2025

## Domestic Strains: Propaganda and Tech Surveillance Tighten State Control

### Fuel Crisis and Gas Station Closures

Fuel shortages hit at least 20 Russian regions and occupied Ukrainian territories due to drone strikes on refineries and artificial supply restrictions, causing gasoline prices to hit historic highs and forcing station closures.

### Propaganda in Schools

First-graders in Moscow Region were required to recite poems glorifying “heroes of the special military operation” on Knowledge Day, embedding war propaganda in primary education.

### Science Under Pressure

Massive layoffs and part-time conversions threaten Russian scientists, as salaries are mandated to rise without increasing overall funding, forcing workforce reductions.

### Surveillance Expansion

New technologies allow tracking people via invisible paint applied to clothing or objects, creating continuous digital movement profiles for security, logistics, and monitoring.

### Consumer Controls and Tech Regulation

Russians can return smartphones without Russian apps as “defective,” while state proposals aim to control AI networks to prevent citizen queries from reaching foreign intelligence.

### Military Escalation and Innovation

Russian troops revive cavalry units in Ukraine due to heavy equipment shortages, and

Moscow is suspected of supplying North Korea with nuclear submarine components.

### **Limited Public Protests**

Regional protests over messaging app restrictions, utility tariffs, and environmental issues remain mostly controlled, with authorities managing dissent and influencing election outcomes.

### **Foreign Influence and Strategy**

Russia's failed pro-Russian parties in Moldova highlight limited diaspora engagement, while Putin's regime relies on war, fear, and external threats to maintain domestic control and suppress dissent.

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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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