

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON OCTOBER 2025

**“CONTROL AND PROPAGANDA AGAINST THE BACKGROUND
OF ECONOMIC CRISIS AND MILITARY STAND-BY.
Society Under Pressure”**

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.

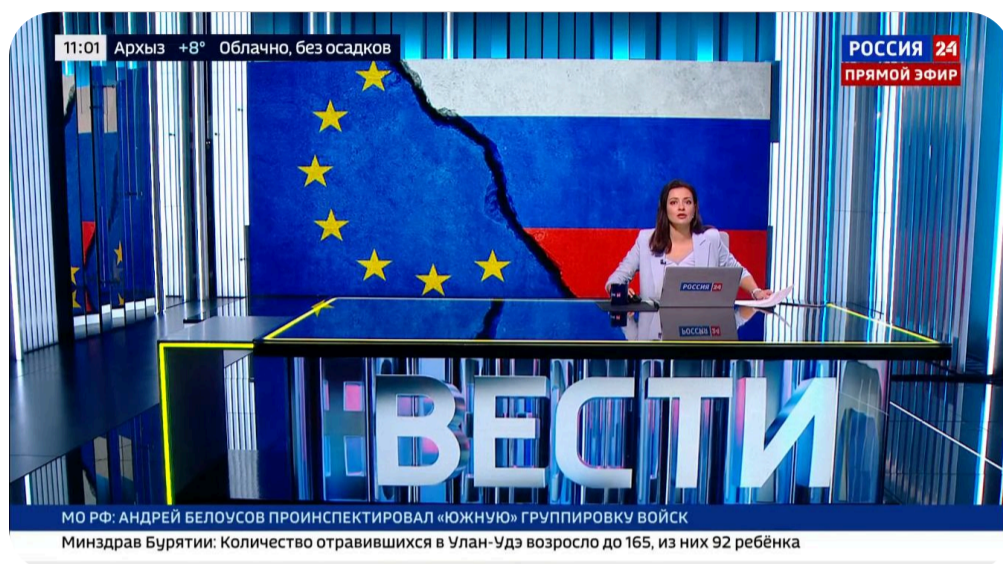
Fortunately, in today's world it is difficult to hide anything, and realistic conclusions can be drawn if information is analyzed in a timely and correct manner, having instant access to the Russian and international information field, and an excellent understanding of the context and social processes.

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:

FACT CHECKING REPORT on interview of Yuliya Zhdanova - head of the Russian delegation in Vienna on military security and arms control:



[**Read more**](#)

Mosaic of Russian economic news for October 2025:

Deepening Economic Crisis: Falling Oil, Rising Deficits and Energy Shortages

Oil Market Turmoil and OPEC+ Uncertainty

OPEC+ denied plans to boost production by 500,000 bpd, yet oil prices fell. Russia favors a modest 137,000 bpd increase; Saudi Arabia pushes for 274–548,000 bpd. Urals crude dropped below \$50/bbl, squeezing budget revenues below 500 billion rubles in September.

Structural Metallurgy Crisis

Russian metallurgy loses premium European and U.S. markets, halving export shares and slashing cash flows 3–4x. Pivoting to Asia and the Middle East has limited effect; domestic demand is weak. Industry faces structural decline and painful restructuring.

Environmental Disasters and Climate Strain

Pollution killed 20,000 people and cost 202.6B rubles in lost workdays. Nearly half of urban residents breathe polluted air; 12% lack clean drinking water. Municipal waste rises, and temperatures exceed norms by 1.21°C.

Military Budget Stress

The 2026 budget assumes hostilities end, but ongoing conflict will raise spending. Oil and gas revenues are falling. Domestic borrowing may approach 20% of GDP, raising inflation risks. Deficits are expected to persist.

Energy Crisis Intensifies

Electricity deficits reached 25 GW, ten times Ukraine's. Ukrainian strikes cut gasoline production 22–27%. Coal, gas, LNG, and refinery outputs declined; refinery profits fell 45%. Gasoline dilution has begun due to shortages

Export Vulnerabilities

India cut Russian oil imports 14.2% in September. Turkey and Asian markets increasingly replace Russia in premium segments. China stopped supplying high-precision machinery, weakening technological capacity.

Economic Contraction and Financial Instability

PMI fell to 46.6, signaling contraction. Smartphone sales dropped 25% YoY. Incoming payments fell 7–8% by Q3; corporate profits collapsed, hitting regional budgets.

Labor Shortages and Workforce Decline

Potential workforce halved over five years. The food industry faces 30% labor shortages. Structural labor deficits will require long-term policy interventions.

Inflation, Taxes, and Social Pressure

Drug prices rose 3.5x faster than inflation. VAT is expected to bring 17.5T rubles (half of revenues). VAT hike to 22% and small business reforms approved. National defense takes 30% of the federal budget; healthcare funding is frozen or cut. Moscow's deficit is projected at 448B rubles.

Consumer and Household Stress

31% of Russians report insufficient money for food. Rising inflation, wage stagnation, and shrinking employment reduce living standards. High taxation and energy crises depress consumer spending further.

[Read more](#)

Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in October 2025

Political Repression and Social Engineering Intensify

Rise in Terrorism and Extremism Convictions

Convictions for terrorism nearly doubled and for extremism increased 1.5 times in early 2025, with more women and elderly being prosecuted.

Treason Becomes Main Political Repression Tool

Article 275 (“treason”) accounted for 21% of new political cases in Q3 2025, often linked to minor interactions with Ukrainians.

Self-Employment Tax Changes Threaten Millions

Ending the “Professional Income Tax” could affect 14.3 million self-employed Russians, increasing paperwork and pushing some back into the shadow economy.

Patriotic Education and Propaganda Intensify

Schools adopt programs to promote “patriotically minded” youth, with student volunteer projects supporting the military and expanded advisor roles.

Criminal Cases Suspended Due to Combat Service

Over 25,000 criminal cases were suspended in H1 2025 because defendants joined military operations, reflecting wider changes in mobilization and pre-trial detention.

Internet and Banking Controls Expand

Roskomnadzor introduces new tools to monitor online activity and block “extremist content”; authorities plan to track all bank cards for tighter financial oversight.

Fuel Crisis Blamed on Citizens Despite Military Strikes

Authorities attribute gasoline shortages to panic buying, though Ukrainian strikes on refineries caused supply disruptions in at least 52 regions.

Cultural and Social Control Intensifies

Programs target children with wartime education methods, propaganda of family values, reporting of abortion encouragement, and censorship of foreign media and LGBT content.

[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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