

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON DECEMBER 2025

“From Budget Deficits to Social Surveillance: Low Revenues, Tight Rules, and Rising Pressures”

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 December 2025

Oil Collapse and Budget Deficit: Sanctions, Budget Gaps, and Regional Strain

Oil and Gas Revenue Collapse

Oil prices fell to \$44–45/barrel, lowest since 2020. November revenues down a third YoY to 530B rubles; January 2026 forecast 380B rubles. 2026 budget deficit may exceed 10T rubles.

Sanctions and Export Pressure

US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, plus Ukraine strikes, cut exports and forced 15–30% discounts on Urals crude. Buyers in India and other markets prefer cheaper alternatives.

Budget and Regional Strain

Federal budget in deficit (~6T rubles), regional revenues lower than expenditures for first time in 10 years. Corporate profit tax down 13.5%; largest deficits in Tyumen, Komi, Kemerovo.

Tax and Shadow Economy Pressure

Putin demands a crackdown on the shadow economy, tighter VAT and cash control. VAT raised to 22% in 2026, simplified tax threshold lowered, new tech/electronics levy planned.

Corporate and Industry Stress

Rostselmash cuts workweek to 3–4 days; 2,000 layoffs; production down 30%. Leasing market down 47.7%, railcar/truck segments hardest hit.

Consumer Activity and Data Manipulation

Rosstat inflates economic figures; Sberbank shows a sharp drop in consumer activity.

Social and Local Measures

Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky collects “voluntary contributions” from residents to fill budget holes.

Economic Contraction

Oil market shift to surplus, weak regional budgets, falling corporate profits, and low oil prices set stage for further contraction in early 2026.

[Read more](#)

Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in December 2025

Control and Coercion: Data Suppression, State Pressure and Digital Surveillance

Disability and Social Data Suppression

Rosstat stopped publishing key data on disability, rehabilitation, and social services; more than 300 datasets were removed from open access in 2025, mostly demographic statistics.

Military and Regional Strain

Bashkortostan halved contract soldier payments amid budget problems; military injuries among newly recognized disabled reached 3.8K, highest since 2010.

Statistical Manipulation

Rosstat retroactively revises indicators regularly; GDP and other estimates often shifted upward without explanation, fueling suspicions of manipulation.

Financial and Surveillance Measures



Russian bank accounts will be linked to taxpayers' INNs for “fraud prevention”; tighter control over cash and VAT collection planned.

Education and Mandatory Work Service

Proposals for mandatory work service introduced for pedagogical and agricultural university graduates to “repay” free education; a similar system exists for medical students.

Digital Control and Internet Restrictions

All mobile phones to be registered with the state in 2026; Gmail and foreign email services may be blocked; Gosuslugi login increasingly tied to national messenger MAX.

Cultural and Propaganda Pressure

Schoolchildren forced to write patriotic essays about military generals; fines for distributing films “discrediting traditional values” introduced.

Defense Sector Accountability

Dozens of executives and employees of defense companies prosecuted for failing state defense contracts; prison terms and custody imposed.

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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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