

RUSSIA RELATED ANALYTICAL DIGEST ON JANUARY 2026

“FROM CRISIS TO COERCION: NEW RESTRICTIONS, CUTS, INCOME DECLINE, AND STATE 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:

“Lessons from Greenland: 10 macrotrends reshaping the world order”

Hanna Hopko – PhD in Social Communications, Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Foreign Affairs (8th convocation)



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“Morning in 2035”

The Russian economy cannot be analyzed in isolation from the political model on which it rests. Behind the dry figures—declining incomes, new restrictions, state coercion, and the rollback of freedoms—another reality is taking shape, one that carries long-term consequences not only for Russia itself, but also for Ukraine and the entire region.

To illustrate what the combination of economic pressure, authoritarian control, and a policy of “pragmatic appeasement” may lead to, we are opening this digest with a futurist cautionary essay by Klaudia Awl, “Morning in 2035.” This is not a forecast, but an attempt to imagine a possible logic of developments if current trends remain without adequate counteraction.

Klaudia Shylo

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Mosaic of Russian economic news for January 2026

Oil Drops To A Minimum, Budget In Deficit, And Businesses On The Brink Of Collapse

Decline in Oil and Gas Revenues

Urals oil prices have collapsed to \$34–38 per barrel, and for India – down to \$25 per barrel, with discounts exceeding \$25–40 per barrel. Oil export revenues fell to \$959 million per week – the lowest level since the start of the war. Compared to December 2025, revenues decreased by 15%, and since October – by 35%. Oil production dropped by more than 100,000 barrels per day due to a lack of storage and “stuck” oil on tankers.

Budget and Federal Reserves

Oil and gas revenues in 2026 could be 1.1–3 trillion rubles below the plan (7.5–7.8 trillion rubles). The budget deficit may rise to 2.5–2.7% of GDP. The Ministry of Finance is selling record volumes of foreign currency and gold from the National Wealth Fund – 12.8 billion rubles per day.

Tax and Shadow Pressure

VAT has been raised to 22%, and the threshold for the simplified tax system reduced from 60 to 20 million rubles. A new “technology levy” on equipment and electronics is planned. One-third of small and medium-sized businesses risk closure due to tax pressure and declining demand.

Corporate and Industrial Stress

Russian Railways recorded the lowest freight volume since 2009 – 1.116 billion tons, with reductions in the transportation of metals, building materials, grain, and oil. The automotive market has collapsed: passenger car sales fell by 11–19%, with an average price of 3.54 million rubles.

Financial Crisis and Wave of Defaults

Banks have almost stopped issuing guarantees, paralyzing business operations. In

2025, 48 companies defaulted or underwent restructuring; a wave of defaults is also expected in 2026.

Social and Local Impacts

One in four companies is reducing staff; employee turnover has doubled over two years. The economy is growing by only 0.8% – nearly four times slower than the global average.

Economic Contraction

The decline in oil revenues, reduced production, budget deficit, high taxes, wave of defaults, and low consumer activity create conditions for systemic economic contraction at the beginning of 2026.

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Mosaic of socio-political news from Russia in January 2026

New Laws, Death Penalty, Propaganda, and Migrant Workers

Putin Classified Half of the Decrees

44.5% of decrees in 2025 were classified. Some of them concern awarding the military and granting pardons to convicts.

Death Penalty for Traitors and Corrupt Officials

Russia has proposed introducing the death penalty for traitors, corrupt officials, and pedophiles. 49% of citizens support the idea, while Generation Z is mostly against it.

Ban on Sending Genetic Data Abroad

The State Duma approved in the first reading a bill prohibiting Russians from sharing their genetic data with foreigners. Sending, distributing, or publishing such information is banned. The goal is to “protect citizens from targeted biological influence.”

Circus About Special Military Operation Heroes for Children

A state grant was allocated for performances about participants in the invasion of Ukraine. Twenty programs are planned for two thousand viewers, featuring LED props and patriotic songs.

Import of Western Goods Halved

The parallel import mechanism decreased by almost 45%. Authorities excluded cosmetics, clothing, and electronics from it.

Russians Start Saving on Medicine

Prices rose by 7–11%, with some drug categories increasing up to 22%. People are choosing promotions and discount stores.

Mass Layoffs in Companies

One-quarter of organizations have reduced staff, some by 21–30%. The main reason is financial difficulties.

Indian Migrants to Arrive in Large Numbers

Another 40,000 workers from India are expected to come to Moscow and St. Petersburg due to labor shortages.

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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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