

**OPINION MONITORING: MARCH—APRIL 2022**

VCIOM-Sputnik daily survey results. The survey method is a stratified dual-frame sample consisting of telephone interviews. The sample is based on a complete list of landline and mobile phone numbers operating in Russia and involves 1,600 persons aged 18 and older. The data were weighted for the probability of selection and reflects social and demographic characteristics. The margin of error at a 95% confidence level does not exceed 2.5%. In addition to sampling error, minor changes in question-wording and different circumstances arising during fieldwork can introduce bias into the survey.

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**POLITICS****RUSSIANS ABOUT THE USA: THE NEW «ICE AGE»?****RUSSIANS ABOUT THE USA: THE NEW “ICE AGE”?**

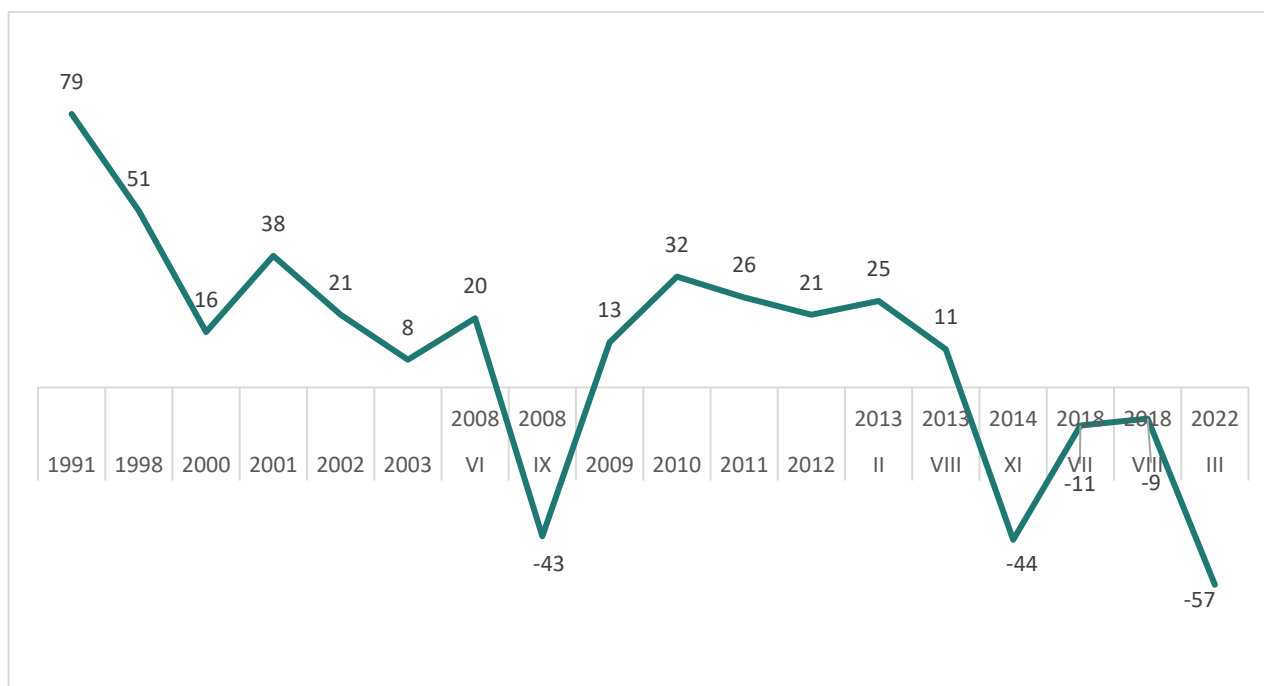
March 19, 2022

In March 2022, most Russians reported that they had a bad attitude towards the United States of America (71%). Almost half of them have a very negative attitude (47%), which is the highest indicator of a highly negative attitude over the entire monitoring period (+20 p.p. to the previous maximum value in November 2014 – 27%). The index of attitudes towards the United States<sup>1</sup> recorded the minimum value for the period of measurements since 1991 and, breaking the “anti-record” of 2014, amounted to –57 points (–44 points in 2014). Only 14% of citizens reported a positive attitude towards the United States. For the past eight years, negative attitudes towards the United States among Russian citizens have prevailed over positive ones, in contrast to the values of previous periods – from the beginning of the 2000s until November 2014, the index of attitudes towards the United States had predominantly positive values, and half of the Russian citizens consistently reported some degree of good attitude towards the United States (from 46% to 63% in different years). A one-time decrease in the index was recorded only in September 2008 (–43), but the values quickly returned to pre-crisis levels – already in 2009, the index was 13 points. After the decline in 2014, the positive attitude of Russian citizens towards the United States returned to its previous level: the index of attitude towards the United States has remained negative in recent years (in particular, –57 points in 2022).

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<sup>1</sup> The index of attitudes towards the United States shows how Russians relate to the United States today. The index is based on the question: “How do you generally feel about the United States of America?”. It is calculated as the difference between the sum of positive responses (“very good”, “mostly good”) and negative responses (“mostly bad”, “very bad”). The index is measured in points and can take a value from –100 to 100. The higher the index value, the better Russians feel about the United States.

**Fig. 1. Let's change the topic. How do you generally feel about the United States of America now? (the index of attitudes towards the US)**



## **SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES**

### **EMIGRATION SENTIMENTS: MONITORING**

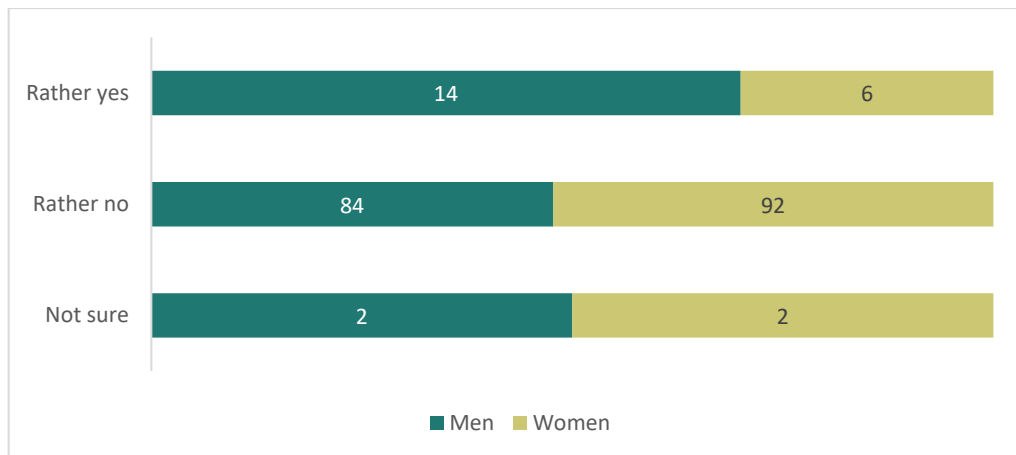
#### **EMIGRATION SENTIMENTS: MONITORING**

March 16, 2022

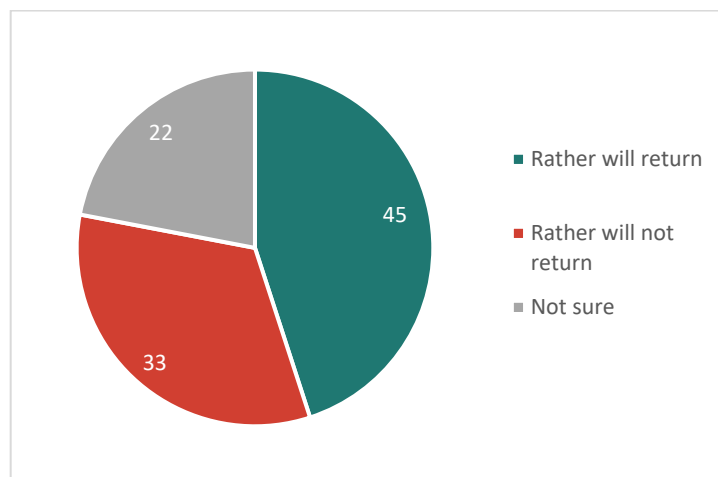
Most Russians do not want to go abroad for permanent residence (88%). Just every tenth person (10%) would like to leave. Compared to last year, the share of those expressing a desire to leave Russia for permanent residence decreased by 6 p.p. (in 2021 — 16%). In a close circle of 87% of Russians, no people plan to go abroad for permanent residence shortly. In the family surrounding of 12% of Russians (among friends, relatives, and acquaintances) only some people plan to move. The most popular answer among the respondents about going abroad for permanent residence is to improve their financial situation (29%). A quarter of Russians indicated the search for an easy life as a motive for moving (24%). 17% of Russians believe that they change their country of residence for their children's future and 13% associate emigration with the hope of receiving a higher level of social guarantees abroad. For every tenth person, the main factor in moving is expanding their horizons, particularly the opportunity to see the world, get an education, and achieve career growth (10% and 9%, respectively). Those who declare their desire to leave more often named the future of their children (47%), improvement of a financial situation (29%), desire to have more political freedoms (27%), and a higher level of social guarantees (26%) as the purpose of moving. Unlike all Russians, only 7% of potential

migrants believe that living abroad will be easier. Half of Russians believe that those who left Russia will soon return to their homeland (45%). In the group of those who most likely want to move, such an opinion was expressed less frequently — only by 23% of the respondents. A third of the citizens assume that those who moved are more likely not to return (33%). 22% of Russians found it difficult to give a forecast on the issue.

**Fig. 1. Would you like to go abroad for permanent residence or not? (a closed-ended question, one answer, in % of all respondents)**



**Fig. 2. Do you think those who left Russia for permanent residence in other countries will return to live in Russia after some time or not? (a closed-ended question, one answer, in % of all respondents)**



## LIFESTYLE

THE LENT — 2022

THE LENT — 2022

March 4, 2022

68% of Russians consider themselves followers of the Orthodox faith. Adherence to Orthodoxy is more often declared by women (74% vs. 60% among men) and representatives of the older generation — Russians aged 45-59 (76%) and those aged 60 and older (75%). A quarter of Orthodox Russians

observe fasts (24%), of which one in five observes only the Lent (19%), and only 5% strictly observes all fasts, including the Lent. 74% of the respondents reported the fact that they do not keep Orthodox fasts, among young people aged 18–24 — 80%. For Easter, 71% of Orthodox Russians dye eggs. Half of the fasting abstain from eating animal food (52%) and drinking alcohol during the Lent (50%). 49% of Russians attend church services. Women reported attending church services during the Lent almost 1.5 times more often than men (54% vs. 40% among men). About 40% of the Orthodox citizens refuse to use obscene language and have evil thoughts when they observe fasting. During the Lent, Russians also take communion (38%, among 25–34-year-olds — 57%), give alms (37%), and go to church for confession (35%).

**Fig. 1. Do you usually observe Orthodox fasts or not? (a closed-ended question, one answer, in % of Orthodox Russians)**

