



Bank of Russia



# REGIONAL ECONOMY: COMMENTARIES BY BANK OF RUSSIA MAIN BRANCHES

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The report was prepared by the economic divisions of the Bank of Russia regional branches jointly with the Monetary Policy Department.

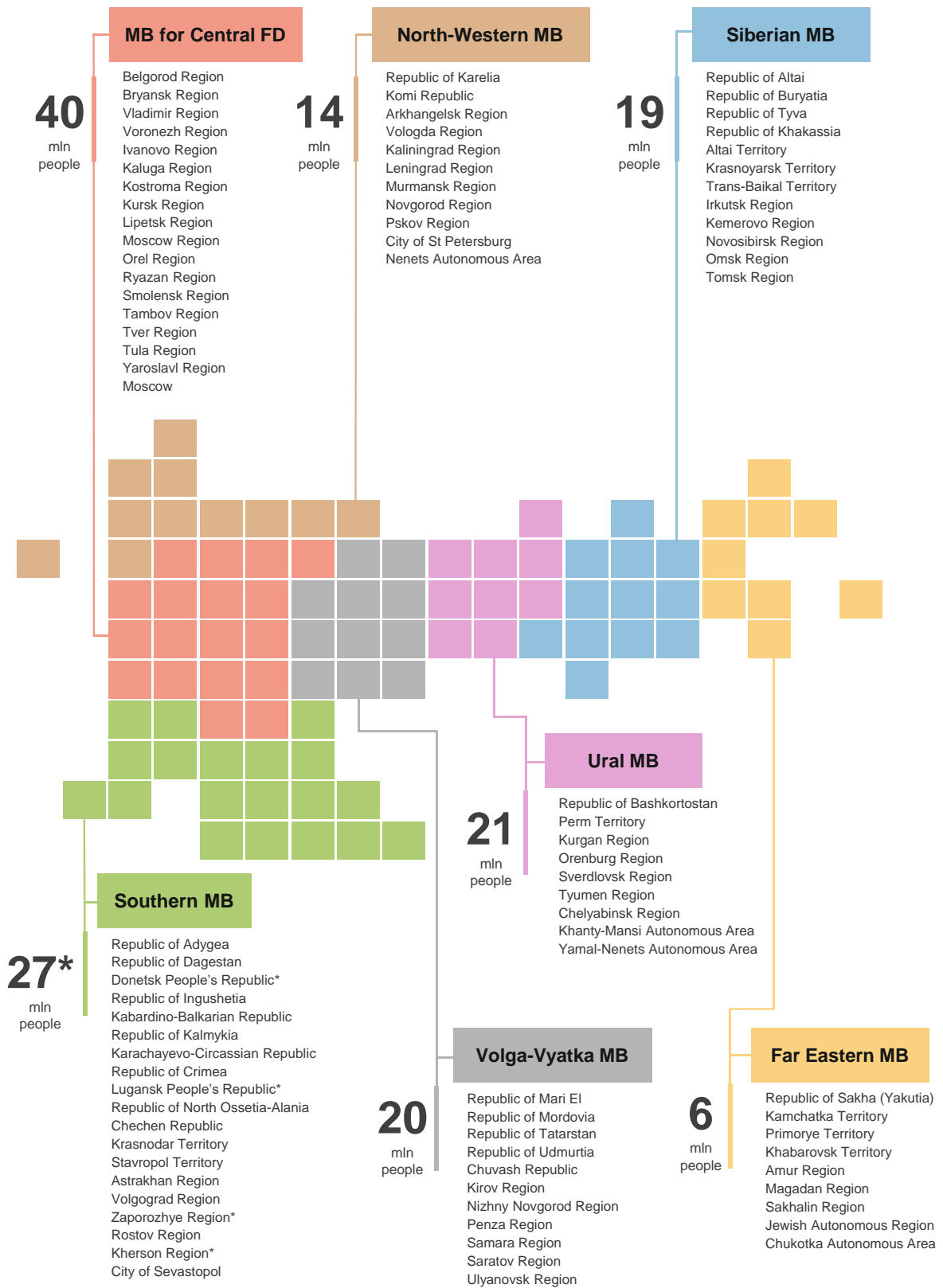
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Cover photo: Altai in winter. Source: Vladimir Shaverin.

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\* Official statistics on the main social and economic indicators of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation do not include statistics on the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye Region, and the Kherson Region.

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## **WHAT IS THE REPORT 'REGIONAL ECONOMY: COMMENTARIES BY BANK OF RUSSIA MAIN BRANCHES'?**

The report 'Regional Economy: Commentaries by Bank of Russia Main Branches' (hereinafter, the Report) reviews the current economic situation in the seven Russian macro-regions, the boundaries of which correspond to the regions of operation of the Main Branches of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation (hereinafter, the Bank of Russia MBs). The content of the Report is prepared by the specialists of the Bank of Russia Main Branches.

The feature of this Report is that it relies on qualitative analysis methods. Such analysis is based on the most comprehensive scope of economic information available regionally, including non-financial companies' surveys and experts' opinions. This approach makes it possible to combine official statistics with estimates by businesses, analysts and industry associations and to identify trends emerging in regions.



## **HOW DO WE COLLECT INFORMATION?**

An important source of information for the Report is the monitoring of over 15,000 non-financial companies carried out by the Bank of Russia Main Branches. It provides high-frequency data on the development of industries in all Russian regions. These data are combined with information received by the Bank of Russia Main Branches, including following various events with the engagement of regional executive authorities, businesses, industrial unions, and entrepreneurs' associations. Along with this descriptive information, we also use figures, including official statistics. All data are verified for accuracy and consistency.



## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT?**

This Report is prepared to be a reliable source of the most up-to-date information about regional development for addressing the objectives of monetary policy. It describes key trends in economic activity and pricing processes in Russian regions, as well as the identified effects of both country-wide and local factors. All this is an integral part of the information the Bank of Russia's management needs to make monetary policy decisions. This Report is considered by the Bank of Russia's management in the course of preparations for making key rate decisions.

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Economic activity was expanding more slowly in December 2025–January 2026, with businesses moderating their demand and output expectations. After a certain acceleration in December 2025, the growth of consumer activity also slowed down in most macroregions in January 2026, while inflation expectations stayed high. Corporate lending continued to pick up, primarily on account of large businesses.

**The expansion of economic activity slowed, while the dynamics still varied across regions and industries** (see the Box *‘Business activity. Sectoral and regional differences’*). Large government contracts supported the output of engineering products in the Volga Region and power generation equipment in the Urals, whereas the private sector reduced orders in these industries. The Southern macroregion increased the output of milk and dairy products owing to investment in the dairy industry. North-Western paper and paper products manufacturers increased their output to meet high demand for packaging. The Far East reported a slight decline in fish output year on year (YoY), which was due to unfavourable weather conditions. Reduced exports and imports to the domestic market entailed a contraction in coal production and wood processing in Siberia. As a result of the overall slowdown in economic activity growth, the demand for transportation and logistics services in Central Russia remained low.

**After accelerating in December 2025, the growth of consumer activity weakened in January 2026.** This slowdown was caused by, among other things, a decline in people’s demand for expensive goods after a slight revival in late 2025 prior to regulatory changes (see the Boxes *‘Industry focus. Car market’* and *‘Consumer activity’*). As for food retail and public catering, consumer activity continued rising at a moderate pace, while buyers preferred cheaper options. Consumption was supported by tourism services. Specifically, the number of tourists visiting the metropolitan area, the North-West, and year-round resorts of the North Caucasus and the Krasnodar Territory was up YoY. Sales of foreign tours increased, compared to the previous year, driven by the ruble appreciation and the expansion of the geography of international flights. However, retailers reduced their estimates of future demand to a new multi-year low.

**As of the end of 2025, annual inflation decelerated to its minimum since 2020.** Current monthly price growth (seasonally adjusted annualised rate, SAAR) sped up in December 2025, compared to the previous month. The acceleration was reported by slightly less than half of the Russian regions. Businesses increased their price expectations in January 2026, including due to higher taxes. Households’ inflation expectations remained unchanged in January 2026, staying elevated.

**Corporate lending continued to expand, predominantly driven by growth in certain large companies’ outstanding debt.** Banks recorded heightened demand for Family Mortgage loans at the end of 2025, which was attributed to the tightening of the programme terms from 1 February 2026. Consequently, the amount of mortgages issued in December 2025 exceeded the peaks of May–June 2024 before the termination of the non-targeted government subsidised mortgage programme. The demand for consumer loans and the ratio of approvals both declined. The inflow of households’ funds into bank deposits weakened, while staying high.

## KEY TRENDS IN RUSSIAN REGIONS

**MAIN BRANCH FOR THE CENTRAL FEDERAL DISTRICT.** Labour market tightness eased somewhat, while remaining higher than across Russia as a whole, including because of stronger demand for labour in Moscow and the Moscow Region. Despite a slowdown, households' incomes continued rising faster compared to the Russian averages. Businesses' price expectations in the macroregion were higher than across the country, including in industrial production and construction where more enterprises than in Russia as a whole reported rising costs amid higher expectations about demand.

**NORTH-WESTERN MAIN BRANCH.** The macroregion increased paper and cardboard production, as opposed to overall Russian dynamics, including due to strong demand for packaging. The earlier upgrade of facilities further boosted the output of milk and eggs. Companies' price expectations were up, staying above the Russian averages.

**VOLGA-VYATKA MAIN BRANCH.** According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, Volga-Vyatka companies' staffing levels notably rose in 2025 Q4, reaching the Russian average after a long period of lower values. In contrast to the country as a whole, the macroregion slightly increased capacity utilisation rates, particularly in industrial production. Output dynamics in machine building were more positive than across Russia as a whole, which was associated with fulfilment of large government contracts, among other factors.

**SOUTHERN MAIN BRANCH.** In November 2025, the dynamics in the industrial sector were weaker as compared to Russia as a whole, which was attributed to a more significant contraction in oil refineries' output. Housing commissioning was down due to a large surplus in the real estate market. Outstanding consumer loans decreased, although to a lesser extent than across the country in general. In January 2026, the Business Climate Index was higher than the Russian average owing to more positive estimates of demand.

**URAL MAIN BRANCH.** Current business activity dynamics were estimated more positively than across the country as a whole, which was associated with a revival of demand in mining and quarrying and in construction at the end of 2025. Businesses' short-term expectations about output and demand improved, in contrast to the country in general. The growth of demand in services and public catering slowed down somewhat. Power generation companies and consumer goods manufacturers positively estimated investment growth prospects in 2026 Q1.

**SIBERIAN MAIN BRANCH.** A downturn in industrial production was caused predominantly by a persistent decline in output in coal production, metallurgy, wood processing, and power generation. In November 2025, coal and wood products supplies to the domestic and foreign markets decreased due to low prices, weak demand, and logistical challenges. In contrast to the country as a whole, the macroregion faced a decline in the amount of construction works after the active phase of some large investment projects had been completed.

**FAR EASTERN MAIN BRANCH.** The current price growth rate in the macroregion was higher than the Russian average, which was attributed to a more significant rise in motor fuel and car prices. Industrial production expanded more considerably than across the country as a whole, driven by high domestic and external demand for the products of the macroregion's key industries, specifically coal, wood, and fish. Far Eastern seaports' container transportation increased as a result of higher imports, whereas the overall container flow in Russia was down.

## KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

		Date	Russia	MB for Central FD	North-Western MB	Volga-Vyatka MB	Southern MB	Ural MB	Siberian MB	Far Eastern MB
MBs' percentage in inflation	%	2025	100	33	10	12	15	14	11	5
Inflation	% YoY	Dec25	5.6	4.7	5.8	6.4	5.7	5.9	6.0	6.8
Core inflation	% YoY	Dec25	5.4	4.3	5.8	6.6	6.0	5.7	5.6	6.2
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	Nov25	0.9	3.8	0.3	4.4	-4.0	0.4	-0.8	3.1
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	2025 Q3	0.5	2.5	13.9	4.3	-0.7	-11.3	0.7	2.9
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	Nov25	0.9	10.1	-3.1	-2.1	-3.2	-5.5	-9.9	11.7
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	Nov25	6.5	9.9	19.2	9.8	-10.7	8.2	6.0	33.6
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	Nov25	3.3	2.8	3.1	3.3	5.3	3.8	3.9	3.5
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	Nov25	3.4	2.3	8.0	7.4	3.7	3.0	3.7	0.4
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	Oct25	4.9	7.3	3.7	5.0	3.7	1.0	2.5	3.3
Real disposable income	% YoY	2025 Q3	6.3	8.2	5.6	5.8	8.0	3.4	3.3	4.8
Unemployment	% SA	Nov25	2.2	1.5	1.9	1.5	4.0	1.5	2.9	1.8
Outstanding consumer loans <sup>1</sup>	% YoY	Dec25	-3.6	-3.2	-2.9	-1.9	-2.8	-3.5	-6.5	-7.5
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	Dec25	8.6	10.1	8.7	7.1	10.7	7.9	5.9	6.0
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	Dec25	16.5	17.8	36.2	13.9	11.0	6.1	10.7	14.9
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	Nov25	10.7	9.1	12.6	11.1	26.7	12.7	2.3	8.1
• Large borrowers	% YoY	Nov25	12.9	11.6	15.0	15.1	28.8	15.4	3.9	9.5
• SMEs	% YoY	Nov25	1.2	-4.0	-4.7	0.6	23.7	1.1	-2.9	1.2
Companies' price expectations <sup>2</sup>	Balance of responses, p, SA	Jan26	30.1	31.9	38.7	36.8	26.4	18.8	27.8	23.7
Business Climate Index	p, SA	Jan26	1.7	-0.2	-2.7	-1.0	5.2	8.6	1.3	9.6
• Current estimates	p, SA	Jan26	-3.8	-7.3	-6.5	-5.7	0.7	2.8	-7.0	5.5
• Expectations	p, SA	Jan26	7.4	7.1	1.3	3.7	9.8	14.5	9.9	13.9

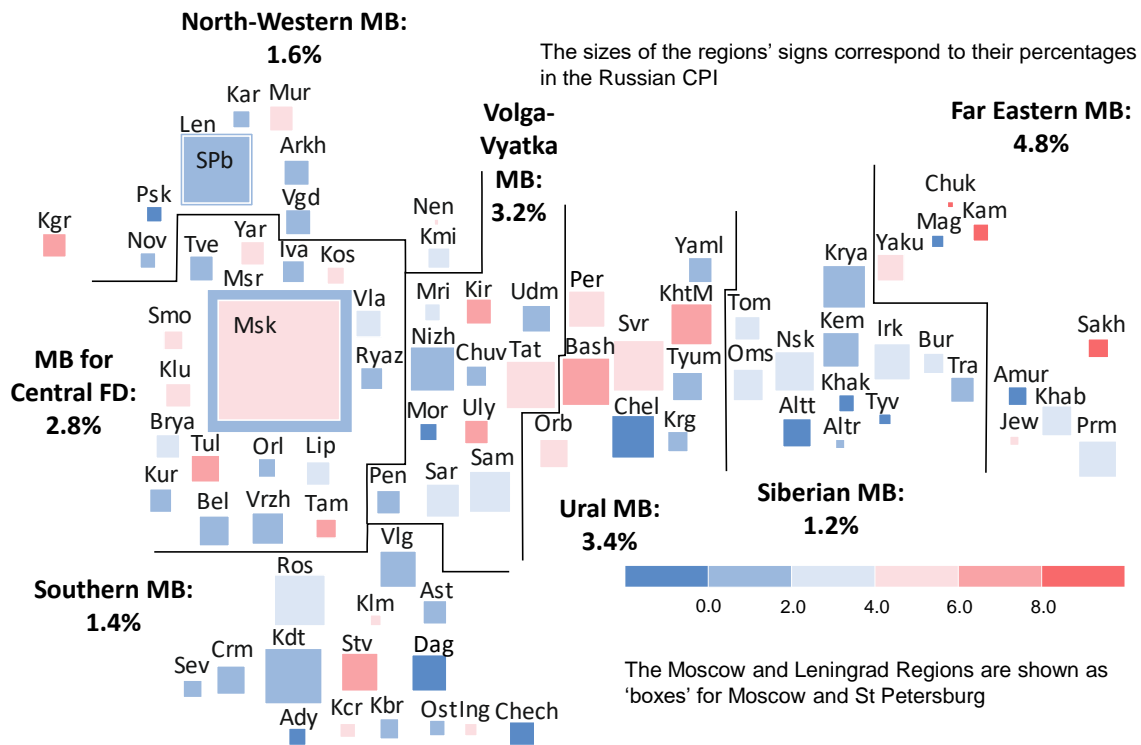
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

<sup>1</sup> Hereinafter, outstanding bank loans are given adjusted for foreign currency revaluation, according to Reporting Forms 0409316 'Loans to Households' and 0409303 'Loans to Legal Entities'. These reporting forms are used to carry out regional analysis since they enable the aggregation of indicators by resident borrowers' location.

<sup>2</sup> The balance of responses is the difference between the percentages of responses 'will increase' and 'will decrease' to the question about expectations regarding prices in the next three months. Companies' price expectations and the Business Climate Index are based on the monitoring of businesses carried out by the Bank of Russia.

## INFLATION IN RUSSIAN REGIONS

Price growth in December 2025, % MoM, SAAR



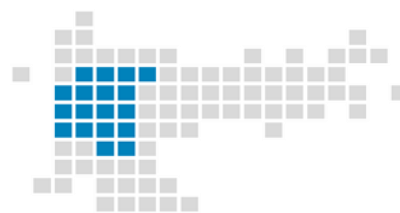
Note. The lines on the map divide the regions of operation of the Bank of Russia MBs. SAAR – seasonally adjusted annualised rate.

Official statistics on the main social and economic indicators of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation do not include statistics on the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye Region, and the Kherson Region.

Source: Rosstat.

Ady	Republic of Adygea	Kos	Kostroma Region	Sam	Samara Region
Altt	Altai Territory	Krya	Krasnoyarsk Territory	Sar	Saratov Region
Altr	Republic of Altai	Kdt	Krasnodar Territory	Sakh	Sakhalin Region
Amur	Amur Region	Crm	Republic of Crimea	Svr	Sverdlovsk Region
Arkh	Arkhangelsk Region (excl. Autonomous Area)	Kur	Kursk Region	Sev	City of Sevastopol
Ast	Astrakhan Region	Krg	Kurgan Region	Smo	Smolensk Region
Bash	Republic of Bashkortostan	Kcr	Karachayo-Republic	SPb	City of St Petersburg
Bel	Belgorod Region	Len	Leningrad Region	Stv	Stavropol Territory
Brya	Bryansk Region	Lip	Lipetsk Region	Tam	Tambov Region
Bur	Republic of Buryatia	Mag	Magadan Region	Tat	Republic of Tatarstan
Vla	Vladimir Region	Mri	Republic of Mari El	Tve	Tver Region
Vlg	Volgograd Region	Msr	Moscow Region	Tom	Tomsk Region
Vgd	Vologda Region	Mor	Republic of Mordovia	Tul	Tula Region
Vrzh	Voronezh Region	Msk	Moscow	Tyv	Republic of Tyva
Dag	Republic of Dagestan	Mur	Murmansk Region	Tyum	Tyumen Region (excl. Autonomous Areas)
Jew	Jewish Autonomous Region	Nen	Nenets Autonomous Area	Udm	Republic of Udmurtia
Tra	Trans-Baikal Territory	Nizh	Nizhny Novgorod Region	Uly	Ulyanovsk Region
Iva	Ivanovo Region	Nov	Novgorod Region	Khak	Republic of Khakassia
Ing	Republic of Ingushetia	Nsk	Novosibirsk Region	KhantM	Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Yugra
Irk	Irkutsk Region	Oms	Omsk Region	Chel	Chelyabinsk Region
Klm	Republic of Kalmykia	Orb	Orenburg Region	Chech	Chechen Republic
Klu	Kaluga Region	Orl	Orel Region	Chuv	Chuvash Republic
Kam	Kamchatka Territory	Ost	Republic of North Ossetia–Alania	Chuk	Chukotka Autonomous Area
Kar	Republic of Karelia	Pen	Penza Region	Yaku	Republic of Sakha (Yakutia)
Kbr	Kabardino-Balkarian Republic	Per	Perm Territory	YamI	Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Area
Kem	Kemerovo Region – Kuzbass	Prm	Primorye Territory	Yar	Yaroslavl Region
Kir	Kirov Region	Psk	Pskov Region		
Kgr	Kaliningrad Region	Ros	Rostov Region		
Kmi	Komi Republic	Ryaz	Ryazan Region		

## BANK OF RUSSIA MAIN BRANCH FOR THE CENTRAL FEDERAL DISTRICT



According to recent data, after reviving in December 2025, consumer activity slightly declined in January 2026. Overall, consumer activity was increasing more slowly in the past two months, as compared with October–November 2025. The annual growth of consumer prices decelerated in December 2025, but then sped up in January 2026 due to one-off factors, according to preliminary data. Corporate and retail lending continued to expand, while the amount of funds in deposits was up. Traffic in cafés and restaurants declined amid stronger competition with retailers.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** According to recent data, after picking up in December vs November 2025, consumer activity slightly declined in January 2026. Overall, consumer activity was increasing more slowly in the past two months, as compared with October–November 2025. In December 2025, consumers more frequently purchased certain non-food goods and services, in particular small household appliances, smartphones, and tablets, including on credit. Furthermore, as reported by a major regional retailer, a larger number of consumers preferred cheaper options, with the proportion of special and promotion offerings in their purchases exceeding 50%. Due to heavy snowfalls, in January 2026, Central Russia recorded a more significant rise in sales of snow cleaning tools and products for winter activities, as compared to the previous year. The macroregion increased the number of events during the New Year holidays. The demand for culture and recreation organisations' services was up, with the number of visitors of cinemas, art galleries, and museums growing. Retailers' expectations about demand in the next three months declined in January 2026. Consumption in the macroregion was supported by higher wages and the indexation of social payments above the inflation rate.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in the macroregion continued to decelerate in December 2025, remaining below the Russian average. Contrastingly, current price growth (SA) sped up, predominantly due to more expensive services (mostly passenger transportation) and non-food goods (electronic devices and household appliances), while still staying below 4%. Over the past three months, the average growth rate of prices (SA) in the macroregion, primarily for domestic tourism and food, was lower than across the country as a whole. According to Rosstat's weekly statistics, price growth (SA) notably sped up in January 2026, because of volatile and regulated components, as well as higher VAT and charges. Amid an accelerated rise in costs, businesses' price expectations in the macroregion continued to go up in January 2026, reaching a new three-year high and persistently exceeding the Russian average. The highest price expectations were recorded in the trade of motor vehicles and retail.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, companies' estimates of lending conditions became less negative in January 2026, compared to November–December 2025. The monthly growth (SA) of the corporate loan portfolio accelerated as of the beginning of December 2025. The retail loan portfolio expanded in December 2025 (SA), compared to the previous year, which was driven by mortgages, primarily lending under the Family Mortgage programme before the expected tightening of its terms. The demand for car loans declined by early January 2026 (SA), including because the demand for cars

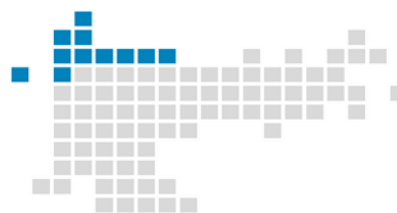
had been partly met in the previous months before the increase in the recycling fee. The amount of households' funds (SA) in deposits was up in December 2025, owing to high interest rates.

**LOGISTICS.** The logistics industry was still facing subdued demand for cargo transportation in 2025 Q4. Coupled with stronger competition from foreign carriers and higher operating costs, that reduced margins in road transportation. In these conditions, part of transportation companies in Central Russia decreased employee recruitment. Shipments on the Moscow Railway were up vs 2025 Q3, driven by a certain recovery in business activity and new clients attracted by the Moscow Railway sales centres, while still staying 9.2% below the previous year's levels (YoY), which was attributed to changes in the demand for transportation of some cargo types, higher carriage fares, and volatility of delivery and rail car supply periods. Warehouse companies' turnover declined over January–November 2025 (YoY), primarily due to lower demand. The commissioning of new warehouses caused a reduction in lease rates. Thus, the share of vacant areas in the metropolitan area reached 7–10% by the end of 2025, while lease rates there declined by 12% on average, as compared to 2024.

**PUBLIC CATERING.** According to recent statistics, the growth of turnover in public catering decelerated in December 2025–January 2026. Increasingly more consumers in Moscow and the Ryazan, Lipetsk, and Kursk Regions prefer cheaper options, such as fast food, cafés, and ready meals from supermarkets. The number of visitors of full-service dining establishments and the average bill amount were both decreasing. This encourages retail chains to enter the public catering segment, particularly the bakery and café niche. The metropolitan area reported higher demand for fast food and packaged ready meals and a lower number of visitors at conventional cafés and restaurants. In these conditions, the number of closed cafés and restaurants in Moscow increased in 2025 vs 2024, while the number of takeaway cafés continues to grow. Regional tourism centres are developing food tourism with local cuisine dishes. Hotels and public catering companies lowered their expectations about demand in January 2026.

**TOURISM.** The annual increase in the inflow of tourists into the macroregion decelerated in autumn 2025, reaching 10% YoY in November 2025. The structure of demand has been changing. Tourists have become more sensitive to travel prices, prefer cheaper hotels, reduce the duration of holidays, and refuse to buy extra services. Regions' competition for tourists has been intensifying. Owing to the new infrastructure, including hotels, entertainment centres, and waterparks, in November 2025, the number of guests in the Yaroslavl, Tver, and Tula Regions increased by more than a third YoY. The number of tourists who visited regions with extensive entertainment programmes, including cultural events, fairs, festivals, and active leisure activities, during the New Year holidays, increased to the maximum. The leaders were Moscow where the number of tourists was up by 10% YoY, the Moscow and Vladimir Regions, and Ryazan that was the New Year's Capital of Russia 2026 and accepted more than 300,000 guests during the holidays, which is a record high for the city.

## BANK OF RUSSIA NORTH-WESTERN MAIN BRANCH



Consumer activity in the macroregion was growing moderately in December 2025–January 2026, in contrast to November 2025 when demand had cooled down. The tourist flow increased during the New Year holidays, and the macroregion continues to expand its tourism and transport infrastructure. Manufacturers of paper and paper products ramped up output, largely because of high demand for packaging. The output of milk and eggs continued to grow, which was owing to the earlier upgrade and expansion of production facilities. As for livestock production, the output of pork increased, driven by higher foreign demand.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** According to preliminary estimates, consumer activity in the macroregion was growing at a moderate pace (SA) in December 2025–early January 2026, as opposed to November 2025 when demand had cooled down. Sales of goods, specifically new cars, increased most notably in December 2025, driven by both special offerings from dealers and the expected rise in the recycling fee. The demand for household appliances was up as well. In January 2026, consumption was supported by tourism services. Thus, Saint Petersburg recorded a larger number of tourists YoY, which increased the number of visitors of city museums and sports and entertainment facilities. Retailers' and service companies' short-term expectations about demand worsened in January 2026.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in the North-West slowed down in December 2025, while still exceeding the Russian average. Current price growth decelerated (SA), primarily because of lower prices for certain volatile and regulated components, namely fruit and vegetables and passenger transport. Underlying inflation remained nearly the same as in November 2025. Over the past three months, the average price growth rate in the macroregion was slightly below (SA) the level recorded in the country as a whole, which was associated with a faster reduction in prices for foreign tourism services and fruit and vegetables. In January 2026, North-Western businesses' short-term price expectations rose across all groups of industries above the Russian average, mostly on account of services companies and industrial and construction enterprises. The most notable increase was reported by retailers.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** The growth rate of the corporate loan portfolio edged down as of early December 2025, after its surge a month before (SA). The increase in large companies' outstanding debt slowed down, while the portfolio of SME loans remained at the level of the previous month. According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, companies' estimates of lending conditions became less negative in January 2026, compared to late 2025. Retail lending continued to expand in December 2025, predominantly driven by mortgages, whereas the amount of outstanding consumer loans remained nearly unchanged (SA). Banks recorded heightened demand for Family Mortgage loans at the end of 2025, which was attributed to the expected changes in the programme terms. The amount of new mortgages issued under the Family Mortgage programme in December 2025 significantly exceeded the disbursements in November 2025 and December 2024. Households' funds with banks continued to grow.

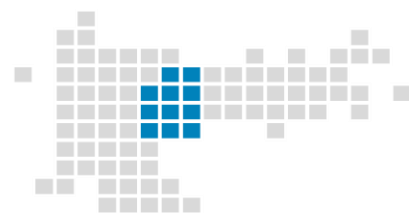
**PAPER AND PAPER PRODUCTS.** North-Western enterprises ramped up the output of paper and paper products in October–November 2025 vs 2025 Q3, which was primarily driven by high demand

for packaging. In these conditions, companies in the industry were expanding and upgrading their production facilities, as well as increasing the range of products. At the end of 2025, a large pulp and paper enterprise in the Leningrad Region started manufacturing a new product for improving the resistance of corrugated boxes and package printing. Furthermore, the enterprise is entering a new segment by launching the manufacture of cardboard for paper cups. To create a full-cycle production of packages, in November 2025, a company in the Murmansk Region opened a new automated line to manufacture three-layer fibreboard. This will significantly reduce the company's dependence on suppliers and accelerate order fulfilment. A Karelian pulp producer upgraded the line for manufacturing shavings and, as a result, increased the output and quality of end products.

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.** The dynamics of the output of animal products in the North-West varied in October–November 2025. The output of milk and eggs continued to grow, primarily as a result of the upgrade and expansion of production facilities. Specifically, the Vologda Region commissioned a new robotic farm, while the Arkhangelsk Region launched a livestock breeding complex ahead of schedule. A poultry farm in the Leningrad Region opened a new poultry house. The expansion of the raw material base in 2025 Q4 vs 2025 Q3 enabled the macroregion to cut prices for dairy products, while egg prices continued to decline (SA). However, the output of meat was still contracting due to a reduction in poultry production. In particular, a large poultry farm of the macroregion suspended the manufacture of one type of chicken products due to changes in the technological process and increased the output of eggs. Contrastingly, the dynamics of output in pig breeding improved as a result of external demand, which enabled an agricultural enterprise in the Pskov Region to expand pork exports, among other things. Overall, the growth of meat prices in the macroregion slowed in 2025 Q4 vs 2025 Q3 (SA) owing to increased supplies from other Russian regions and foreign countries.

**TOURISM.** North-Western regions remained a very popular tourist destination during the New Year holidays. The numbers of both domestic and foreign tourists exceeded last year's figures. The demand for accommodation during that period rose to record highs. Thus, according to a booking platform, the Pskov Region became the leader among all Russian regions in terms of the annualised growth rate of the tourist flow during the New Year holidays. The Arkhangelsk Region reported almost 100% occupancy of hotels, while most hotels in the Murmansk Region are booked for the next few months. The increase in the tourist flow encourages the macroregion to actively develop its hospitality infrastructure. At the end of 2025, the Novgorod Region opened a new health resort building, and the Murmansk Region – a boutique hotel. Karelia is constructing a modern tourist complex. The inflow of tourists in the North-West will be driven by better transport accessibility: at the end of 2025, the macroregion opened a new terminal at the Murmansk airport that is now capable of servicing twice as many passengers.

## BANK OF RUSSIA VOLGA-VYATKA MAIN BRANCH



In December 2025–January 2026, consumption remained at the level of November 2025 on average. The recovery in consumer lending paused, whereas mortgage lending was expanding confidently. Business activity in machine building increased, largely boosted by government orders. The demand for animal products was high, which supported output in the industry. Staff shortages continued to ease.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** Average consumption in December 2025–January 2026 remained nearly unchanged vs November 2025 (SA). However, retailers' short-term expectations about demand declined in January 2026 to the minimum since 2021, according to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses. Auto dealers recorded a rise in sales of domestic cars. Contrastingly, sales of foreign-made cars decreased, which was because the demand for cars had been partly met in the previous months amid the expected rise in the recycling fee, as reported by dealers. Sales of clothing, footwear, and household appliances remained almost unchanged on average, as compared to November 2025. That said, according to businesses, consumption in late 2025 was driven by the expected increase in VAT. In view of this, after a period of subdued activity, companies recorded the first signs of a revival in the demand for construction materials and home improvement goods. The growth rate of the amount of provided services remained the same, while public catering companies complained about lower demand.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation continued to slow down in December 2025, reaching 6.41% as of the end of 2025, while staying above the Russian average. Conversely, current price growth (SA) in the macroregion somewhat accelerated, which was associated with the dynamics of prices for fuels, digital devices, and a number of services, specifically household services and passenger transport. Over the past three months, prices were rising at a moderate pace (SA), although slightly faster than across Russia as a whole. The growth rate of prices for a number of food items, namely meat products, was more significant. Furthermore, prices for fruit and vegetables as well as oils were declining more slowly in the macroregion. Companies' short-term price expectations (SA) continued to increase in January 2026, still exceeding the Russian average. The rise in expectations was particularly noticeable among construction and trade companies.

**LABOUR MARKET.** In late 2025–early 2026, the indicators of labour demand and staff shortages continued to drop for the most part. According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, companies' staffing levels increased in 2025 Q4. In January 2026, surveyed businesses' estimates of staff shortages remained approximately the same as in November–December 2025 after their considerable reduction before that. Some enterprises reported an improvement of the situation owing to their human resources policies. Thus, in December 2025–January 2026, a large plant in Udmurtia decreased its need for labour by organising trainings for unskilled workers and enhancing their social package. The number of part-time employees in the macroregion declined in late 2025, largely as a result of the improved situation in automobile manufacturing, whereas a number of other industrial sectors recorded an increase in this indicator due to cooling demand. Certain large companies in the Chuvash Republic reported a reduction in staff shortages owing to a decrease in recruitment by some other industrial enterprises that had introduced part-time employment schemes.

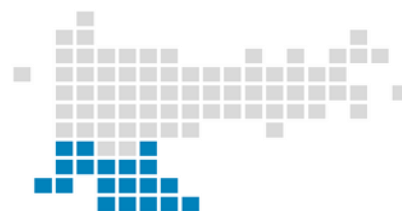
The growth rate of wages in the macroregion remained high, but in 2025, it was still lower than in 2023–2024. According to surveyed enterprises, the rise in wages as of the end of 2025 was less significant than expected at the beginning of the year, while indexation plans for 2026 were even more modest than the actual indexations in 2025.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** The corporate loan portfolio was expanding fast in October–November 2025 (SA), which was mostly attributed to a number of large companies increasing their outstanding debt. Retail lending was changing diversely across segments. Specifically, the debt on outstanding consumer loans declined, whereas the mortgage portfolio was surging, driven by both market-based and subsidised lending (SA). The amount of mortgages issued under the Family Mortgage programme soared amid the expected changes in the terms of government subsidies. Households' funds with banks continued to grow (SA).

**MACHINE BUILDING.** Business activity in the macroregion's machine building industry generally increased in November–December 2025. The positive dynamics were primarily associated with companies having a high percentage of government orders: many of them reported fulfilment of large contracts. Contrastingly, industries focusing on the private sector complained about a decrease in output and investment over the past few months, after a prolonged period of stagnation. As reported by businesses, that was attributed to lower demand, specifically from automobile manufacturers and oil and gas producers. In some cases, a smaller number of orders forced machine builders to optimise the headcount or switch to part-time employment schemes. Moreover, problems with receiving timely payments from counterparties became more acute for some enterprises. Thus, a large engineering plant faced longer delays in payments from clients, which, coupled with weak demand for its products, entailed a reduction in investment over the past few months, among other things. Nevertheless, despite the negative dynamics in the private sector, in 2025 Q4, capacity utilisation rates in machine building as a whole remained nearly unchanged quarter on quarter (QoQ).

**LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.** In November–December 2025, livestock production continued to grow in annualised terms, although slightly more slowly than in September–October 2025. Companies reported steadily high demand for their products, including from foreign clients. In these conditions, a number of enterprises were expanding their share in foreign markets. Specifically, a regional agroindustrial holding company reported a notable rise in exports in December 2025–January 2026 and its plans to enter some Asian markets. Another large enterprise received a permit for meat exports to one of Asian countries already in late 2025. The increase in livestock breeding companies' output was driven by the expansion of production capacities and improved performance as a result of implemented investment projects. Thus, in December 2025, the Saratov Region completed the construction of several livestock breeding complexes, while a large dairy product manufacturer in the Republic of Udmurtia upgraded its creameries. Livestock breeding companies slightly lowered their price expectations in January 2026. According to businesses, they had limited opportunities to pass through higher costs to prices in recent months.

## BANK OF RUSSIA SOUTHERN MAIN BRANCH



Consumer activity in the macroregion increased in December 2025–January 2026, as compared with October–November 2025. This was accompanied by a larger inflow of tourists driven by high demand for the ski resorts of the North Caucasus and the Krasnodar Territory. Current price growth remained almost unchanged in December 2025, while businesses' price expectations rose in January 2026. The expansion of corporate lending slowed, whereas retail lending was growing faster. Freight traffic in Southern seaports increased in 2025 Q4, boosted by growth in grain, coal and crude oil transshipment compared to 2025 Q3. The output of milk and dairy products was up in October–November 2025.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** In December 2025–January 2026, consumer activity in the macroregion increased across all segments, compared with the previous months. Retail turnover expanded at the end of 2025, driven by the expected rise in VAT. Retailers carried out promotional campaigns and offered discounts for non-food goods, which boosted sales and shopping mall traffic, as well as increased sales of construction and finishing materials, which was confirmed by, in particular, retailers in the Volgograd Region. Food and public catering companies reported continuing growth in sales of ready meals, ready-to-cook foods, baked foods, and pastries manufactured at their own facilities. Additionally, consumer activity was driven by a faster rise in incomes over previous months as well as annual bonuses paid by enterprises in December 2025–January 2026.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in the macroregion decelerated in December 2025, while still exceeding the Russian average. Monthly price growth (SA) stayed nearly the same as in November 2025. On average, over the past three months, the average price growth rate in the macroregion was slightly below the level recorded in the country as a whole. Thus, egg prices dropped more notably compared to the Russian average. This was associated with the recovery in egg production in a number of Southern regions after the unfavourable epizootic situation. Enterprises' short-term price expectations rose in January 2026 across almost all industries, which was attributed to the changes in taxes and higher prices for raw materials. Nevertheless, as compared to Russian averages, businesses in the macroregion expected lower price growth rates across most industries, including retail.

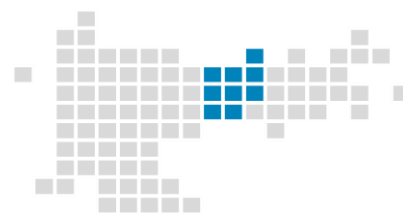
**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** The expansion of the corporate loan portfolio slowed down in November 2025 (SA) vs the previous month as large trade companies of the Krasnodar Territory and industrial enterprises of the Rostov Region repaid their debts. Contrastingly, the growth of outstanding retail loans accelerated in December 2025 (SA) due to a large amount of new mortgages. These dynamics were driven by high demand for mortgages amid the expected tightening of the Family Mortgage terms and lower interest rates on market-based mortgages. The reduction in the consumer loan portfolio accelerated in December 2025 (SA). According to banks' recent statistics, in the first two weeks of January 2026, businesses' and households' demand for loans was higher YoY, largely because of an easing of price conditions. The growth of households' funds in deposits (SA) accelerated in December 2025 as depositors were seeking to lock in high interest rates for a longer period.

**TOURISM.** At the beginning of the winter season, the increase in the tourist flow in the macroregion accelerated, primarily at the year-round resorts of the North Caucasus and the Krasnodar Territory. Thus, the inflow of tourists into Sochi was driven by the launch of six additional pairs of Lastochka trains in December 2025. The Karachayevo-Circassian Republic opened a beginner slope for children at a large ski resort in order to promote family leisure. The demand for health resorts in Sevastopol as well as the Republics of Crimea and Adygea remains high. Hotels with well-developed infrastructure in these regions reported 80% occupancy rates during the New Year holidays. According to surveyed companies, the level of reservations in the macroregion for February–March 2026 was slightly below 30%, which is somewhat lower YoY and is partly attributed to higher demand for foreign travel, driven by the ruble strengthening. Tour operators reported rising demand for trips to Asia and the Middle East, while the number of international flights from the Krasnodar airport increased.

**LOGISTICS.** In 2025 Q4, freight traffic in Southern seaports increased QoQ (SA). As exports to the Middle East and North Africa expanded, this boosted grain, coal and crude oil transshipment. Growth in motor transportation was driven by the redirection of cargo traffic from rail infrastructure. Concurrently, the macroregion's motor transportation companies report higher costs, a shortage of skilled workers, and lower profitability. The macroregion continues implementing investment projects at transport and logistics infrastructures. Thus, the North Caucasus Railway is expanding railway approaches to a seaport, while the special economic zone in the Astrakhan Region is building a grain terminal and a warehouse for agricultural products. Furthermore, one of the seaports in the Krasnodar Territory is completing the construction of an ammonia and mineral fertiliser transshipment complex. A number of Southern regions are commissioning logistics centres of marketplaces.

**MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS.** The macroregion expanded the output of milk products in October–November 2025 (SA) after its decline in 2025 Q3. This was driven by an increase in raw milk output as a result of gradual growth in dairy cow productivity. Specifically, a large agricultural holding company of the macroregion ramped up milk output owing to investment in dairy complexes, digital technologies, and dairy herd genetics. As part of import substitution, enterprises in the Krasnodar and Stavropol Territories expanded the capacities of their creameries and started to manufacture alternatives to popular foreign products. A cheese plant in the Volgograd Region commissioned a new shop that is capable of manufacturing up to 60 tonnes of powdered milk products per day and launched a line for producing anhydrous milk fat and equipment for yoghurt packing. According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, companies expect that prices for dairy products in the macroregion will continue to go up in the next three months.

## BANK OF RUSSIA URAL MAIN BRANCH



After a certain revival before the New Year holidays, consumer activity declined in January 2026 and, compared to November 2025, its growth slowed down overall. In January 2026, the Business Climate Index rose, driven by improved actual demand estimates in construction and in mining and quarrying, as well as more positive expectations in most industries. Capacity upgrades in power generation and machine building have been partly aligned within government programmes and progress as scheduled. Inflation decelerated in December 2025, but price expectations were up in January 2026.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, consumer activity declined somewhat in January 2026 after a pickup in demand in December 2025. The demand for goods frequently purchased for gifts, including perfumes, cosmetics, small household appliances, electronic devices, and home improvement goods, rose most significantly. In December 2025, car sales edged up month on month (MoM) as buyers were seeking to purchase new cars before the increase in the recycling fee expected in January 2026 and the enactment of China's rules for the export of its cars. The growth in households' wages and incomes slightly sped up at the end of the year, as part of enterprises made planned wage indexations and paid annual bonuses in advance. That said, according to job aggregators, average wages offered by employers edged down in January 2026.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in the Urals decelerated in December 2025. Monthly price growth (SA) was slower than in November 2025, which was attributed to a much weaker rise in fruit and vegetable prices, than normally, and a downward adjustment of prices for fuels, transport, and foreign travel. However, underlying inflation sped up due to higher prices for some household and insurance services as well as cars. Price growth rates in the macroregion over the past three months (October–December 2025) slightly exceeded the Russian averages, predominantly because of prices for meat products, cheeses, fats and oils, basic non-food goods, furniture, and communication devices. In January 2026, businesses' short-term price expectations (SA) rose in almost all major industries, except for construction, mostly reflecting the effect of the pass-through of increased taxes. The highest price expectations were still recorded in trade.

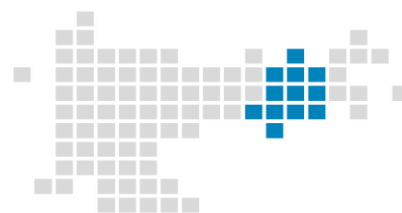
**LABOUR MARKET.** Labour market tightness continued to ease in late 2025–early 2026. Due to lower domestic demand and limited export opportunities, certain companies in mining and quarrying, metallurgy, and machine building continued to decrease the demand for employees. In order to avoid layoffs and retain temporarily idle workers, companies introduce part-time employment schemes, reduce extra social programmes, and cut bonuses. So far, the market absorbs almost all labour resources available, with the unemployment rate staying at its record low. Human resources departments are trying to recruit multi-skilled workers, but the problem of staff shortages is still acute. Enterprises demonstrate the highest demand for blue-collar workers, such as welders, metalworkers, lathe operators, and mill operators. Companies report a considerable rise in the demand for AI specialists. The level of competition for jobs (the ratio between job postings and CVs) in the industrial sector is rising gradually, while businesses' recruitment and wage increase plans are becoming more moderate.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** The growth of the corporate loan portfolio accelerated in November 2025 (SA). A number of companies implementing earlier launched investment projects increased their outstanding debt. The retail loan portfolio expanded in December 2025 (SA), primarily on account of subsidised mortgages. Contrastingly, the portfolio of consumer loans contracted as interest rates remain high. The inflow of households' funds into bank deposits accelerated (SA), driven by still high interest rates.

**POWER GENERATION AND POWER ENGINEERING.** There are two key factors influencing the situation in the industry: on the one hand, a slowdown in business activity reduces power consumption in general, while on the other hand, large industrial consumers increase power generation using their in-house facilities. In these conditions, power generation and consumption in the Urals were both declining for the most part throughout 2025. The main development area in power generation is upgrading the available facilities and improving their performance, namely turbines and transformer equipment. According to large Ural power engineering enterprises, they mostly form the portfolio of orders within the government programme for upgrading generation facilities (as part of the second stage of the capacity supply agreement). Specifically, in 2025, they upgraded power generation capacities in the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Sverdlovsk Region, the Perm Territory, and the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area – Yugra. That said, as power generation companies' investment spending is taken into account in tariff regulation with a significant time lag, they are not always able to make advance payments for new power generation equipment on their own. In turn, power engineering enterprises note that, in some cases, they cannot offer such price parameters for a government order that would enable them to raise subsidised loans. These factors are partly a reason for growth in enterprises' debt burden and require a considerable increase in tariffs to compensate for the industry's investment spending.

**PUBLIC CATERING.** The growth rate in public catering was declining overall in 2025 H2. As assessed by market participants, this was associated with the fast growth of the industry and competition over the previous few years, which entailed overheating and higher rental, utility and wage costs. Consumer demand remains generally stable, although increasingly more people prefer fast food (food courts, cafés, and ready meals in retail chains). Most of the public catering establishments opened in Bashkortostan in 2025 focused on food delivery and had no dining halls. A number of companies in the Kurgan Region suspended their plans to open new places due to lower sales margins. According to market participants' estimates, the cold winter in the Urals caused an overall decrease in the customer flow both before and during the New Year holidays. Companies in the Tyumen and Sverdlovsk Regions and the Perm Territory reported such negative factors as tightened regulation and increased taxes. Most respondents noted the problem of competition for employees, which required additional wage indexations, and their plans to raise prices at the beginning of the year in order to offset higher costs.

## BANK OF RUSSIA SIBERIAN MAIN BRANCH



Consumer activity in Siberia continued to grow in December 2025–January 2026 at the same pace as in October–November 2024. Businesses' price expectations edged up. Coal companies complained about a reduction in output and exports because of subdued demand and logistical challenges. Siberian wood processing enterprises decreased output and sales due to low global prices and a stronger ruble. The situation in medical services is rather stable, but the industry's growth potential is limited.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** In December 2025–January 2026, the growth rate of consumer activity in Siberia stayed at the level of the previous three months. The non-food segment recorded a rise in the demand for durables before the expected increase in VAT. Furthermore, regional retail chains selling electronic devices and household appliances, apparel and footwear, perfumes and cosmetics reported that increasingly more consumers opted for cheaper items. According to auto dealers, in January 2026, car sales declined even in the low-price segment after the surge in demand in autumn before the rise in the recycling fee. Regional travel agencies reported an increase in reservations of tours to Asia for the New Year holidays, which was driven by the ruble appreciation and a larger number of charter flights. Conversely, public catering companies complained about subdued demand and multiple cases of cancelled orders for New Year's corporate parties. Large regional food retail chains reported that increasingly more consumers prefer special offerings and discounts and decide not to purchase expensive and discretionary items.

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in Siberia slowed down in December 2025, while staying higher than across the country as a whole. Over October–December 2025, monthly price growth was close to the Russian average. Price growth in December 2025 (SA) was weaker MoM, especially in the food and non-food segments. Companies were actively selling the stocks before the VAT increase. However, the tax changes and higher labour costs in January 2026 entailed a rise in price expectations: a larger number of Siberian companies plan to raise prices for their products in the next three months. Nevertheless, the percentage of such businesses in Siberia is smaller compared to the Russian average.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** Price lending conditions continued to ease in December 2025 across all segments of the credit market. According to banks, the expected tightening of the Family Mortgage terms boosted disbursements under this programme. Consequently, the amount of mortgages issued in December 2025 reached the peaks recorded in May–June 2024 before the termination of the non-targeted government subsidised mortgage programme. The demand for consumer loans and the ratio of approvals both declined. The corporate loan portfolio (SA) expanded over November 2025, primarily on account of large loans raised by power companies. Contrastingly, small and medium-sized enterprises' outstanding loans continued to decrease (SA). Banks did not record a notable rise in the demand for new corporate loans. Despite the reduction, interest rates on household deposits remain high, supporting households' saving activity.

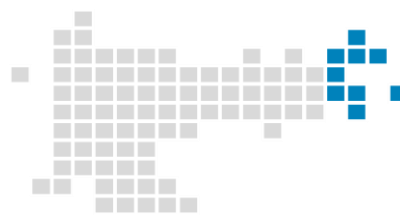
**COAL MINING.** In November 2025, coal production in Siberia declined (SA) MoM, after its increase over the previous two months, which was attributed to subdued demand and logistical challenges.

The rebound in export prices paused. The growth of output in Kuzbass – Russia’s largest coal producing region – slowed from 1.1% (SA) in October 2025 to 0.4% (SA) in November 2025. According to recent statistics from the Ministry of Coal Industry of Kuzbass, after an increase in October 2025, coal exports and supplies to the domestic market contracted, both vs the previous two months (SA) and YoY. Most Siberian coal producers continue to supply coal at low prices, operating at the edge of profitability or even at a loss so as not to stop production. According to a large enterprise, restoration of suspended production requires considerable investment and is time-consuming. In November 2025, the Russian Government extended the measures supporting the industry through February 2026, including the postponement of the mineral extraction tax and insurance premiums, debt restructuring mechanisms, and the moratorium on collecting tax debts.

**WOOD PROCESSING.** In September–November 2025, the output of wood products in Siberia contracted vs the previous three months (SA), after its recovery growth in summer. Since early 2025, the output has been persistently declining YoY, after the rebound a year before. Over 2025, rail shipments of wood products in Eastern Siberia decreased by 10% YoY, including by 9.5% in the Irkutsk Region and nearly 50% in the Republic of Buryatia. Lower global prices and a stronger ruble significantly complicate the work of enterprises traditionally focusing on exports due to limited opportunities in the domestic market. The main reason for a reduction in domestic sales is cooling in the housing market, which also entailed a decrease in the output of construction and furniture panels. Contrastingly, fuel pellet producers report recovery growth in output, predominantly driven by rising domestic demand for this environmentally friendly type of fuel. According to businesses, staff shortages and a deficit of logging machines remain the most acute problems for the industry.

**MEDICAL SERVICES.** The amount of medical services in Siberia remained nearly unchanged in September–November 2025, as compared to the previous three months (SA), while growing moderately YoY, specifically by 1%. According to large representatives of the Siberian industry, the market of medical services is now sufficiently stable, although its growth potential is limited. Businesses report that households prefer to save more, opting for government-funded healthcare institutions. Increasingly more patients prefer free medical tests at the place of their residence and then visit a specialist doctor at a private clinic. A growing number of consumers postpone dental treatments for an unlimited period. Specifically, lower demand was reported by large dental clinics in Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk: the number of customers had been declining from October 2025. The growth rate of corporate voluntary health insurance in Siberia is close to zero: large corporates already purchased these insurance policies, while small businesses cannot afford them so far. The development of medical tourism limits staff shortages in Siberian clinics. To address the staff issue, the Republic of Altai extended the ‘professional tourism’ programme through 2026. Owing to this project, the region’s health and rehabilitation centres attracted at least 70 Russian leading specialists (for the period of their leaves). Doctors from Moscow clinics started to accept patients already in January 2026. Many specialists book jobs repeatedly for the summer months.

## BANK OF RUSSIA FAR EASTERN MAIN BRANCH



In December 2025–January 2026, consumer activity in the macroregion declined, while staying high. Businesses increased their price expectations, including in retail. Wholesale fish prices rose, pushed up by high domestic and external demand. Logging and wood processing volumes were up, driven by the expansion of both domestic and foreign sales markets. Container shipments in the macroregion's ports increased because of growing imports.

**CONSUMPTION AND INCOMES.** According to recent statistics, in December 2025–January 2026, consumer activity in the macroregion declined, predominantly on account of non-food retail (SA), but remained high. Companies selling home improvement goods, apparel, and footwear in most regions reported a persistent YoY decline in sales over December 2025–January 2026. After the surge in the autumn months, the demand for cars decreased due to the rise in the recycling fee. Large food retailers reported steadily high demand. However, a number of food manufacturers complained about lower sales and customers opting for cheaper items in December 2025–January 2026. The dynamics in services were diverse. Specifically, in December 2025–January 2026, sales of foreign tours in most regions were higher YoY, whereas public catering enterprises reported a reduction in demand and the average bill in annualised terms. Short-term expectations for demand in retail and services dropped in January 2026 (SA).

**PRICES.** Annual inflation in the macroregion slowed down in December 2025, while still exceeding the Russian average. The current price growth rate stayed at the November level (SA). Over the past three months, price growth decelerated on average (SA). Nonetheless, it was still faster than across the country as a whole, which was mostly attributed to a more significant rise in motor fuel and car prices. Thus, in November–December 2025, the Far East recorded an increase in petrol prices, while on average across Russia, they were declining due to a reduction in wholesale prices after their growth in September–October 2025. The response of petrol prices in the macroregion to countrywide factors was time-lagged, which was predominantly associated with long periods of petrol deliveries from other Russian regions due to an insufficient level of locally produced petrol in the Far East. Moreover, prices for used foreign-made cars rose more significantly than across Russia in general. The pass-through of the increased recycling fee to prices was more considerable in the macroregion because of higher demand for cars, including from buyers from other Russian regions. Businesses' short-term price expectations rose in January 2026, albeit less notably than across the country as a whole. This was associated with the decline in wholesale companies' expectations amid their countrywide growth, as well as their weaker increase in retail, mining and quarrying, and construction. A larger number of companies referred to higher fuel and lubricant costs and government regulation as the reasons for the expected rise in prices.

**MONETARY CONDITIONS AND BANKING SECTOR.** The growth of the loan portfolio decelerated as of early December 2025 (SA), which was associated with its contraction in the segment of small and medium-sized enterprises. Contrastingly, the increase in large businesses' outstanding debt sped up (SA). According to recent data, companies' demand for new loans remained low in December 2025. Outstanding consumer loans were decreasing in December 2025 at the same pace as in the previous month (SA). As assessed by banks, households' demand for new loans remained

moderate. The growth of outstanding mortgages slowed down in December 2025 (SA). The growth rate of new market-based mortgages declined, whereas new subsidised mortgages were up (SA) due to the expected changes in the Family Mortgage terms. The inflow of households' funds into banks sped up in December 2025 (SA), despite a certain reduction in interest rates.

**LOGISTICS.** Freight traffic in Far Eastern seaports contracted in December 2025 as compared to the peak recorded in November 2025 (SA), while staying above the 2024–2025 average. The reduction in transshipment was mostly on account of coal. Asian countries decreased their demand for thermal coal because of the warmer weather and large stocks that had formed as a result of large supplies over the previous months. Contrastingly, Yakutia restored metallurgical coal exports after the fire at one of its factories in May 2025. In December 2025, Far Eastern seaports' container transportation was up by 8% MoM (SA), driven by higher imports, to reach the 2024 average. At the end of December 2025, a large port in the Primorye Territory recorded a one-week high in container transshipment over the past five years. A large transportation company launched new rail routes between Central Russia and the Far East.

**LOGGING AND WOOD PROCESSING.** In October–November 2025, the macroregion increased logging (SA) after its reduction in 2025 Q2–Q3. The growth rate in wood processing was the same as in 2025 Q3. The expansion of output was primarily driven by higher domestic and external demand. Domestic demand was supported by wood housing projects implemented in the Khabarovsk and Primorye Territories. A large forestry company in the Khabarovsk Territory reported high capacity utilisation rates (nearly 95%) and reaching the design capacity in November–December 2025 at its new plywood facilities launched in October 2025 to ramp up exports to Asian countries. However, as estimated by enterprises, although the demand for raw timber and sawn lumber was high, their prices in one of Asian countries with the key clients remained low.

**FISHING AND FISH PROCESSING.** As of the end of 2025, fish output in the Far Eastern Basin was slightly below the 2024 level, which was associated with a reduction in sardine output due to changes in the migration routes of this fish. Conversely, the output of other fish species, including pollack, herring, cod, and salmon, expanded. Pollack and herring catches started in January 2026. As of the end of the second 10 days of January, output was lower YoY due to frequent storms. Nevertheless, according to experts' estimates, the situation in fishing is favourable. Output is expected to reach at least last year's level by the end of the fishing season. Fishing enterprises reported high domestic and external demand, which boosted wholesale prices for pollack, cod, and salmon in November 2025–January 2026 both MoM and YoY. However, companies complained about lower financial performance due to a stronger ruble and higher costs. In view of this, at the end of December 2025, the Russian Government provided them a deferral of the first payment until 1 October 2026 under renewed contracts for the use of fishing areas in 2026 H1.

## BOX 1

### CONSUMER ACTIVITY

The growth of consumer activity edged up in 2025 H2 vs 2025 H1, largely as a result of a rise in inflation expectations before the changes in taxes and regulation and because of high growth rates of households' real wages. Nevertheless, as of the end of the year as a whole, the increase in consumption slowed down compared to the previous two years. The main factors limiting consumption were tight monetary conditions and, accordingly, households' high propensity to save. As a result, the dynamics of consumer activity approached a balanced growth path. However, it would be premature to predict how stable this trend is due to the impact of one-off factors on individual components of consumption. Businesses and banks demonstrate moderate expectations about demand in 2026.

#### CONSUMPTION DYNAMICS IN 2025 H2

**The growth rate of consumption in Russia edged up in 2025 H2 vs 2025 H1, while staying below the 2023–2024 level** (Chart B-1-1). The overall acceleration in consumption was mostly driven by non-food sales, which was associated predominantly with the effect of a number of transitory factors. Consumption in public catering continued to trend upwards, while people's preferences shifted towards food delivery, fast food, and ready meals from food retailers. The segment of commercial services recorded a notably faster rise in the demand for communication. Furthermore, the reopening of the airports in Gelendzhik and Krasnodar was another factor driving consumption of transport services in the South (Chart B-1-2).

In 2025 H2, consumer demand was impacted by diverse factors. Higher incomes, which continued to rise quickly, and households' elevated inflation expectations, which increased even more before the changes in taxes and regulation, had an upward effect. On the other hand, a gradual easing in the labour market, a slowdown in wage growth in certain industries, tight consumer lending conditions, and still high propensity to save were the factors limiting consumer demand.

**Over 2025, consumer demand dynamics across all macroregions were gradually returning to a balanced growth path.** Nevertheless, it would be premature to predict how stable this trend is due to the continuing significant influence of one-off factors on certain components of consumption.

#### DIFFERENCES IN CONSUMER ACTIVITY ACROSS MARKET SEGMENTS AND REGIONS

**Growth in food sales slowed down in 2025 H2 vs 2025 H1.** Moreover, demand shifted towards cheaper items. Retailers in the Ulyanovsk Region and the Altai Territory consider that this shift boosted sales of cheaper items of their store brands. According to a large retail chain in the Primorye Territory, the increase in sales of the leading local manufacturer of meat products was driven predominantly by sales of its low-price items in discounters.

In these conditions, federal-level low-price retail chains intensified their expansion, which put competitive pressure on regional retailers. This resulted in, among other things, an almost 30% reduction in a large Voronezh food chain over 2025 and the closure of a number of local specialty stores in the Novosibirsk Region.

In view of the changes in consumer preferences, the food retail market, competing with the public catering segment, continues to refocus on ready meals. Thus, a large meat manufacturer in the Rostov Region is seeking to attract buyers by adjusting its range of products and increasing sales of its in-house-made ready meals at its own stores. The trend towards ready meals is actively

supported in regions with a high tourist flow.

**As for non-food retail, the growth of consumption sped up in 2025 H2, while the dynamics were uneven across product categories.** Thus, the situation in the car market is the most illustrative example. After the decline in early 2025, the growth of car sales sped up from August 2025, reaching its peak in October amid the expected rise in the recycling fee. Furthermore, car dealers were seeking to sell the old stocks of Chinese cars, which was reported by, in particular, surveyed car sellers in Central Russia, Siberia, the Urals, and the North-West. However, the autumn surge in sales did not offset the decline in the market observed in 2025 H1. As of the end of 2025, new car sales contracted by 15.6% YoY (for details, see the Box *'Industry focus. Car market'*). In early 2026, car market experts note a considerable reduction in sales of both new and used cars, including because the demand for cars was largely met in autumn 2025.

**Growth in the demand for basic goods accelerated.** Sales of medicines increased. A number of regional retailers reported heightened demand for cosmetics and perfumes, apparel and footwear, including due to marketplaces' expanded presence in the Northern and remote regions of Russia and shorter delivery periods owing to the construction of logistics complexes. A wide range of products and various discounts boosted clothing and footwear sales on marketplaces. Increasingly more businesses were using marketplaces as an additional sales channel. Specifically, a Crimean cosmetic brand sells up to 50% of its products through online platforms, while Tyumen companies increased their sales thanks to online storefronts on marketplaces.

**The dynamics of the demand for home improvement goods were weak and diverse across regions in 2025 H2.** Amid the cooling in the housing market, consumers in most Russian regions decreased the demand for construction materials and home improvement goods. In particular, Novgorod and Stavropol sellers of construction materials note that increasingly more consumers opt for cheaper items. Similar problems occurred in the furniture market. Lower sales were reported by furniture manufacturers in Siberia and the Far East. Furniture companies in a number of regions of the Central Federal District complained about weak demand preventing them from increasing their production capacities. Concurrently, certain regions record elevated demand for home improvement goods, including owing to the effect of the Far Eastern and Arctic Mortgage programme.

**The segment of electronics and household appliances picked up in 2025 H2,** driven by, among other factors, information about a deficit of chips in the global market and the expected introduction of a new technology fee. A retailer from Udmurtia reported that, as a result, the moderate increase in 2025 H2 offset the decline in 2025 H1. Trade companies in the South and Siberia noted that consumers' preferences were increasingly shifting from new and flagship electronic devices towards previous-generation models and cheaper brands.

**The growth of consumption in services sped up in 2025 H2.** The increase in transport, communication, and housing and utility services, together accounting for over 50% of commercial services, continued. The main contributor in household services were repairs of housing, transport, household appliances, and electronic devices, which was largely because households were seeking to prolong the service life of their motor vehicles and equipment in order to postpone purchases of new ones. The existing trend towards a healthy lifestyle and sports supports elevated demand for fitness and beauty services in the Urals and the South.

The domestic tourism segment reports a gradual cooling in demand as part of consumers have switched to foreign trips amid the ruble appreciation. Consequently, the dynamics of services provided by hotels, health resorts, and collective accommodation establishments decelerated (Chart B-1-3). To prop up demand, some hotels in the Republic of Altai and health resorts in the

Stavropol Territory were actively offering discounts and promotional programmes to consumers making early reservations. Nevertheless, large tourism regions of the country generally record steadily high growth rates of domestic tourism and consumption of services in this segment. An international hotel chain is building a new hotel in the Kurgan Region. According to companies in the Volga-Vyatka, North-Western, and Ural macroregions, their tourist appeal was boosted by sports and cultural events, as well as implemented social and investment programmes. Thus, the inflow of tourists into the Kaliningrad Region increased as a result of the opening of a branch of the Tretyakov Gallery and a new exhibition and educational centre.

**Public catering continued to grow in 2025 H2, although more moderately YoY.** The main trend was the shift in consumer preferences towards cheaper options, in particular from restaurants and cafés towards fast food and ready meals from supermarkets. Consequently, a number of relatively expensive themed dining establishments closed, specifically in Moscow, Ufa, Omsk, and Izhevsk.

### KEY FACTORS OF CHANGES IN CONSUMER ACTIVITY

**As before, the main driver of the increase in consumption over 2025 H2 was growth in households' real incomes**, primarily wages and social payments. Although the annual growth of incomes slowed by the end of the year, its rates remained elevated. In 2025 Q4, consumption was additionally boosted by wage indexations in the public sector and annual bonuses. However, surveys show that companies' plans are more moderate. At the beginning of 2026, the proportion of businesses expecting their payroll fund to remain unchanged or decline in 2026 rose to 15% from 12% a year before.

**Furthermore, consumer activity was driven by a rise in households' inflation expectations**, including after the announcement of the planned regulatory innovations, namely the increases in the car recycling fee and VAT. According to InFOM's survey, inflation expectations were up from 13.0% in June 2025 to 13.7% in December 2025–January 2026 (Chart B-1-4).

On the other hand, as households' propensity to save stayed high owing to still attractive deposit rates, this was limiting the growth of consumption. Activity in consumer lending remains weak, which is evident from the negative dynamics of disbursements recorded since early 2025. That said, households' financial stability improved. Thus, the ratio between outstanding consumer loans and funds in deposits and bank accounts (excluding escrow accounts) across Russia dropped by 6 pp to 25% as of 1 December 2025 from 31% a year before. Moreover, 62 Russian regions recorded a decrease in this ratio by over 8 pp (Chart B-1-5).

Consumer activity is also contained by the trend towards more cautious and lower-cost consumption. Specifically, food retailers in all macroregions report consumer preferences shifting towards cheaper options and buyers making more prudent financial choices. In a number of Russian regions, e.g. Kuzbass, this trend is more pronounced due to the region's sectoral specifics, namely deterioration of the economic situation in coal production.

### COMPANIES' AND BANKS' ESTIMATES AND EXPECTATIONS ABOUT CONSUMER DEMAND IN 2026

According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, retailers' short-term expectations about demand were mostly moderate in late 2025, while at the beginning of 2026, the ratio of responses turned negative for the first time since April 2022. Services companies also became less optimistic estimating the situation (Chart B-1-6).

Many companies, especially small businesses, are concerned about a possible reduction in their profitability due to rising expenses on wages, materials, and tax payments, as it would be difficult to

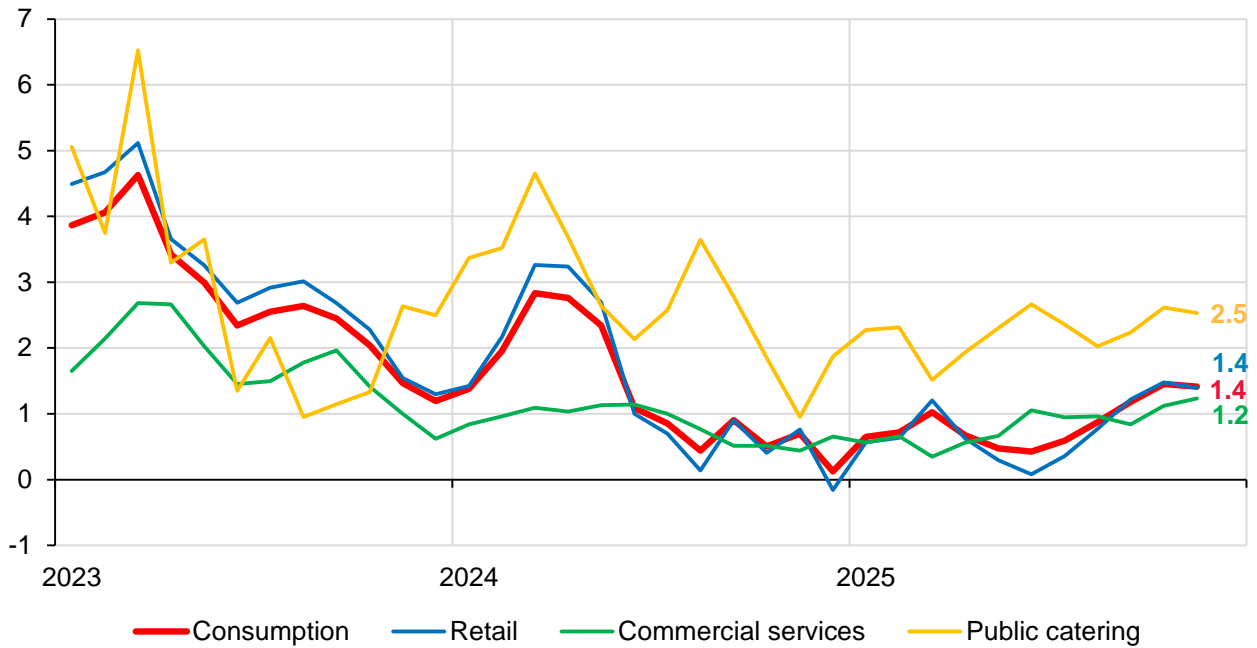
pass them through to higher prices amid strong competition and gradually cooling demand.

Expectations in individual industries also remain cautious. Auto dealers predict weak demand in the next few months, expecting it to pick up no earlier than 2026 H2, provided that loan rates decrease.

The majority of surveyed banks also expect the demand for consumer loans to remain low or continue declining in the next few months amid still tight non-price lending conditions implying strict requirements for borrowers.

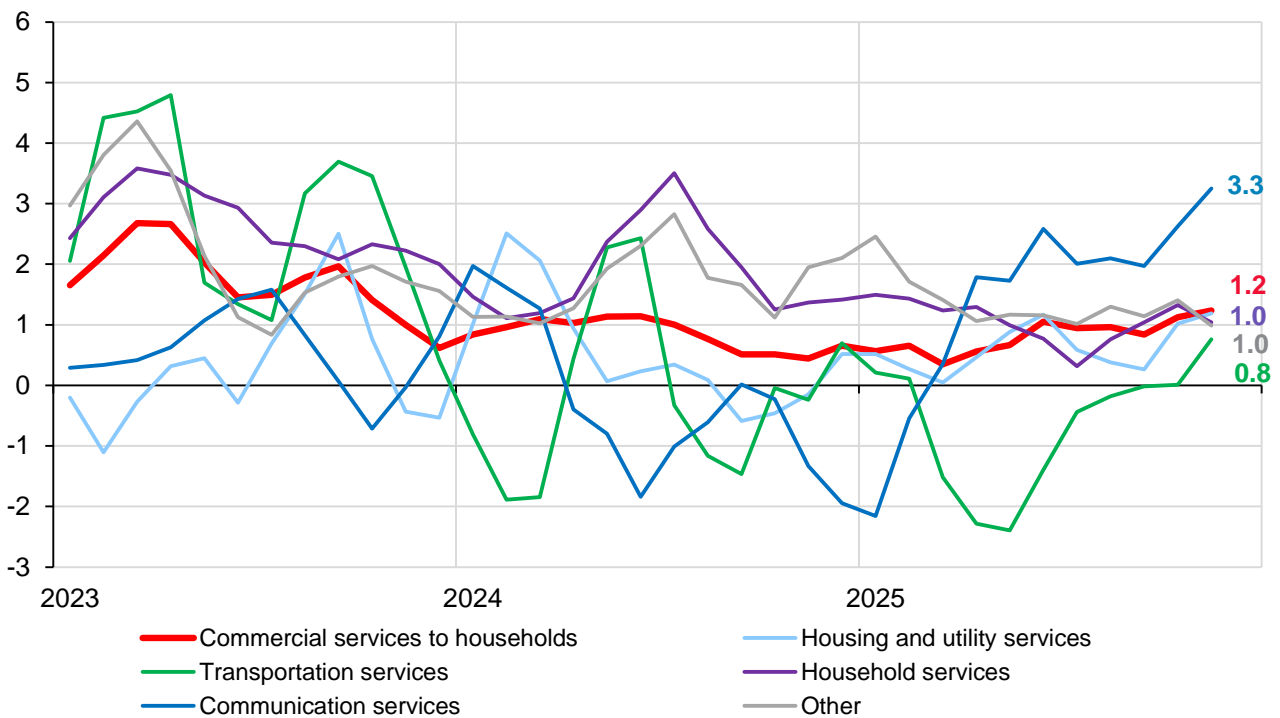
The acceleration in consumer activity in 2025 H2 was largely driven by one-off factors increasing inflation expectations and demand in certain product markets. Concurrently, tight monetary conditions supporting households' propensity to save had a moderating effect on consumption. In 2026, as the effect of one-off factors is exhausted, businesses and banks expect consumer activity to cool down gradually.

Chart B-1-1. Consumption and its components, three-month moving average growth, % SA



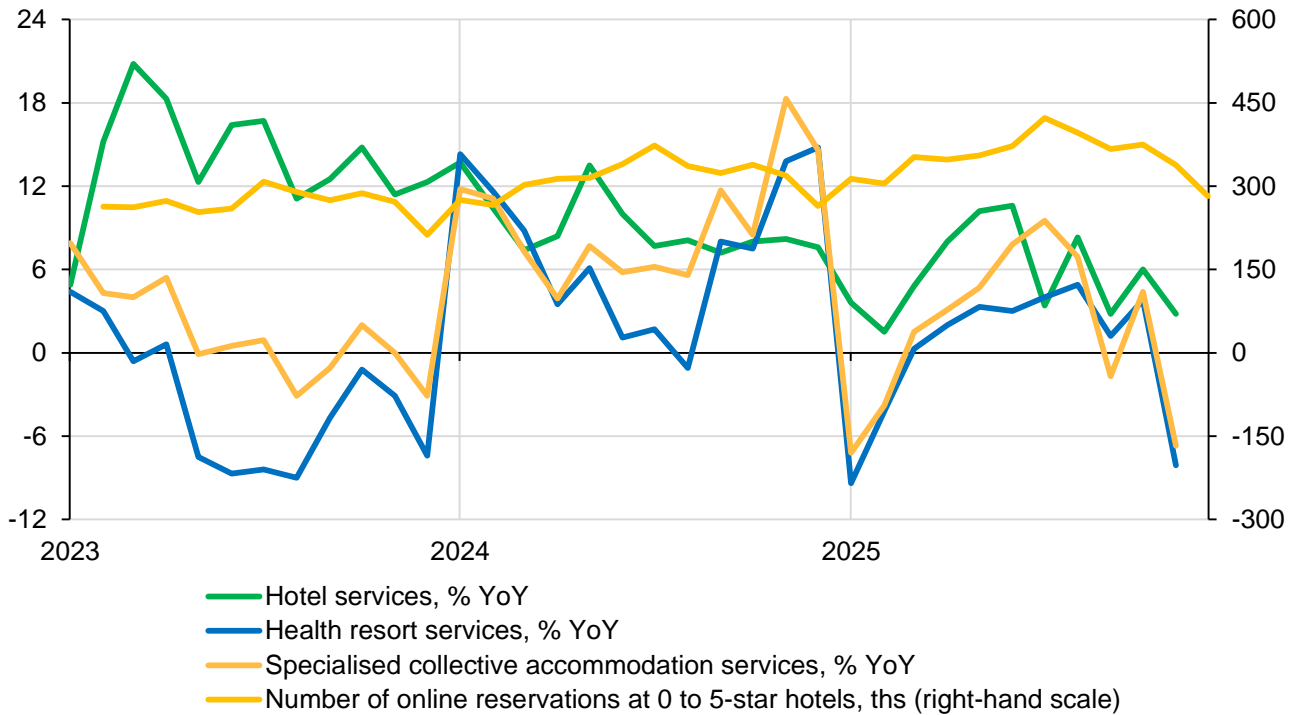
Sources: Rosstat, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-1-2. Commercial services, three-month moving average growth, % SA



Sources: Rosstat, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-1-3. Number of online reservations at 0 to 5-star hotels and growth in quantity index of services provided by hospitality industry (hotels, health resorts, and special collective accommodation establishments, % YoY



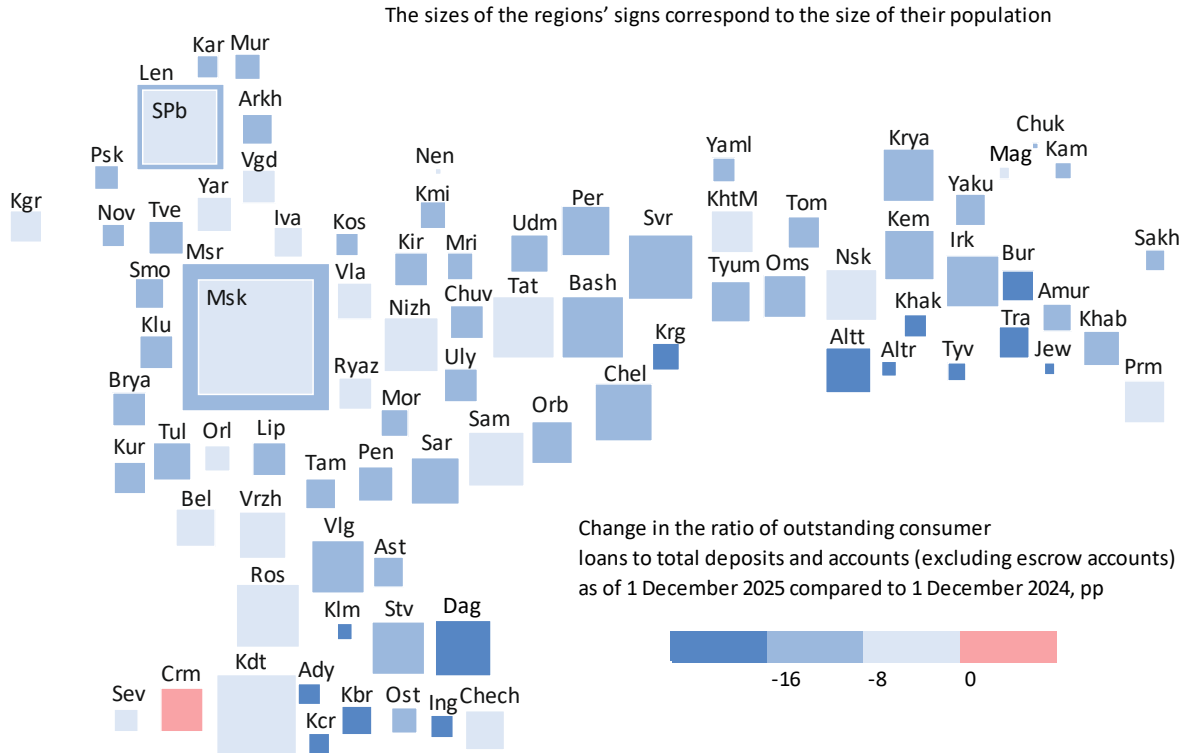
Sources: Rosstat, Travelline platform, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-1-4. Households' inflation expectations and consumer price index, % MoM, SAAR



Sources: InFOM, Rosstat, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-1-5. Change in ratio between outstanding consumer loans and funds in deposits and bank accounts (excluding escrow accounts)\* as of 1 December 2025 vs 1 December 2024, pp

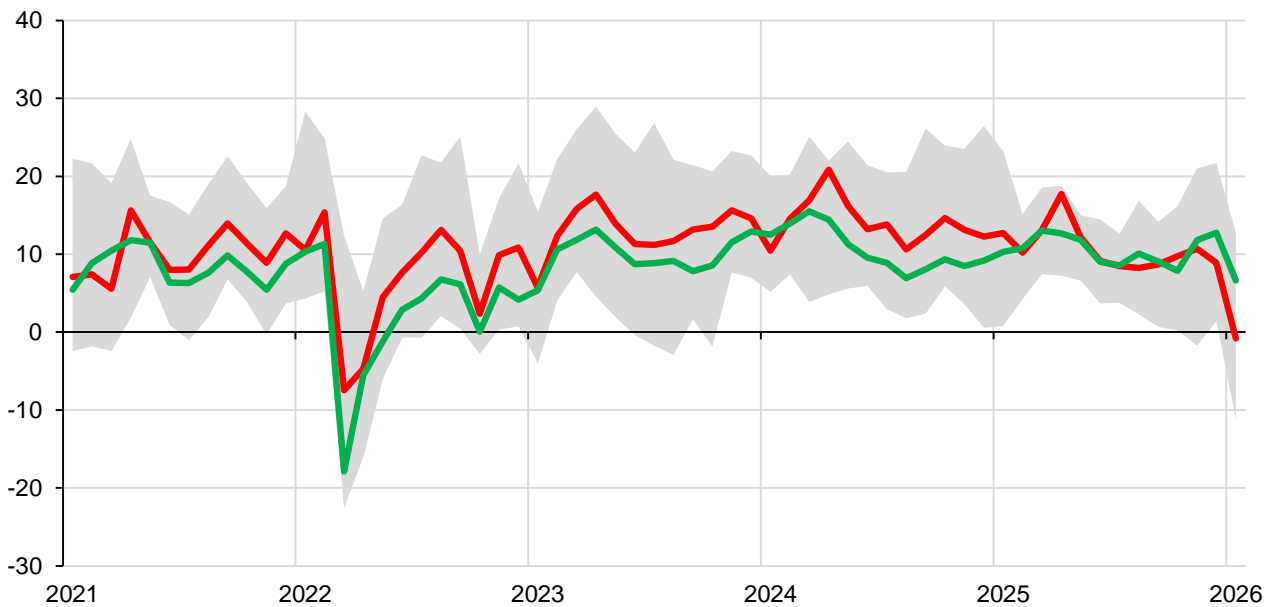


The Moscow and Leningrad Regions are shown as 'boxes' for Moscow and St Petersburg

\* The lower the ratio, the more households prefer deposits and bank accounts (excluding escrow accounts) to consumer loans.

Source: Bank of Russia.

Chart B-1-6. Expected changes in demand in retail and services according to monitoring of businesses (balance of responses, SA)



The red line is the value in retail countrywide, the green line is the value in services countrywide, and the grey area is the range of values across the macroregions.

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

## BOX 2

# BUSINESS ACTIVITY. SECTORAL AND REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

The growth rate of business activity was declining in 2025 after the high levels of 2023–2024. The continuing increase in investment and, accordingly, the expansion of fixed assets are gradually returning capacity utilisation rates to their historical averages. However, the situation varies across industries.

### BUSINESS ACTIVITY

**Over the first 11 months of 2025, the output of products and services in key industries expanded by 0.9% YoY, according to Rosstat.** Growth was recorded in manufacturing, agriculture, and retail. The increase in output was supported by demand, driven by the rise in households' incomes, the expansion of the geography of exports, government orders, and the pickup in lending at the end of the year.

**According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, the Bank of Russia's Business Climate Index (BCI) across the economy as a whole declined in 2025, as compared with its highs recorded in the previous two years** (Chart B-2-1). The growth rates of business activity were decreasing across all macroregions, staying close to their peaks in the South and the Far East and dropping below the 2017–2019 level in all other macroregions (Chart B-2-2). The growth rates of business activity remained close to the maximum values only in agriculture, stayed above the 2017–2019 level in services, logistics, and construction, and declined below that level in mining and quarrying, trade, and manufacturing (Chart B-2-3).

**High costs, insufficient demand, staff shortages, and a lack of funds to finance working capital were still the main constraints on companies' current operations, according to the surveys** (Chart B-2-4). Problems with settlements and logistics, growing credit exposure, the expansion of sanctions, and insufficient production capacities were mentioned by enterprises much more rarely. Logistical challenges were most often reported by Far Eastern and Siberian companies. Specifically, aluminium enterprises in the Republic of Khakassia note that sanction pressure, more complicated logistics, and a shortage of skilled labour still prevent them from ramping up their output.

**Over the first nine months of 2025, fixed capital investment in real terms increased YoY, as reported by Rosstat.** Like in previous years, internal financing was still the main source of fixed capital investment for most enterprises in 2025. **According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, the growth in businesses' investment activity slowed in 2025** (Chart B-2-5), which was typical of all industries, except for construction recording a decline over the past two years. Agricultural enterprises gave the most positive assessments of investment dynamics. **A deficit of internal financing as a source of investment was still the main drag on investment activity in 2025** (Chart B-2-6). Over the course of 2025, the impact of the uncertain economic situation in the country and insufficient demand for companies' products was intensifying, whereas the effect of a shortage of skilled labour and interest rates on investment loans was weakening gradually.

**Owing to the growth of fixed capital investment and cooling demand, capacity utilisation**

**rates continued to go down in 2025 Q4, reaching 78%.<sup>3</sup>** This is below the historical highs recorded in 2023–2024, but is still significantly above the averages of the past 20 years<sup>4</sup> (Chart B-2-7). The reduction in capacity utilisation rates to a greater or lesser extent, compared to 2024, was reported by almost all industries of the real economy.

## BUSINESS ACTIVITY ACROSS INDUSTRIES

**Over the first 11 months of 2025, output in mining and quarrying contracted** by 1.5% YoY, while in October–November 2025, the industry recorded an increase in output. Overall, the BCI in mining and quarrying was negative in 2025, albeit edging up at the end of the year. The industry's capacity utilisation rate returned to its 10-year average. Companies' investment activity slowed notably in 2025. Output dynamics are highly diverse across industries and regions.

The Far East and Siberia reported an increase in gold production, driven by higher global demand. Because of its proximity to Asian markets, the Far East ramped up coal production. Thus, an enterprise in the Khabarovsk Territory expanded coal output by 10% after the reconstruction and renewal of its machinery fleet, while a company in Yakutia increased output by one-fourth by launching its own railway. The Irkutsk Region built up gas output by 48.6% YoY by expanding its production capacities.

Contrastingly, the Ural, North-Western, and Southern macroregions reported a reduction in output due to sanctions on exports (crude oil, gas, and diamonds) and lower domestic demand. A decline in demand was reported by diamond mining enterprises in the Arkhangelsk Region and coal producers in the Rostov Region. Kuzbass is decreasing coal production due to a lower number of countries importing coal, while Russian metallurgical companies demonstrate low demand in the domestic market. Sanctions on exports and technologies are still the main drag on oil and gas production. Staff shortages hinder implementation of certain projects, even despite demand. Specifically, a tungsten ore processing plant in the Zabaikalye Territory is unable to reach the design capacity due to a deficit of employees.

**The expansion of output in manufacturing is decelerating.** Namely, over the first 11 months of 2025, the growth rate was 2.6% YoY, while a year before, it equalled 9.2%. According to the Bank of Russia's monitoring, the indicators of business and investment activity in 2025 were below the levels of 2017–2019, while still remaining positive. Over 2023–2024, manufacturing was one of the industries boasting the highest investment activity. Enterprises were seeking to quickly increase production capacities to be able to meet surging demand. In 2025, the capacity utilisation rate declined from its peaks, but remains above its historical average. Taking into account the lag between investment in production facilities and their commissioning, production capacities will be expanding. Specifically, the Novosibirsk Region plans to launch its largest dairy plant in 2026.

The increase in manufacturing in the Central Federal District was driven by the demand for food and pharmaceuticals, as well as growing exports to Asia and the Middle East. The upward trend in the North-West was mostly associated with automobile manufacturing in Kaliningrad and Saint Petersburg,<sup>5</sup> as well as a higher output of computers, electronics, and optical products. Siberia, the Far East, and the South recorded a decline in the output of construction materials due to a slowdown in construction and lower investment demand.

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<sup>3</sup> For details about capacity utilisation rates, refer to the report Regional Economy: Commentaries by Bank of Russia Main Branches No. 40, December 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Capacity utilisation rates in 2017–2019 stayed at the average level of the past 20 years.

<sup>5</sup> See the Box 'Industry focus. Car market'.

A considerable deceleration in business activity was reported by manufacturers of investment goods, namely drilling rigs, metallurgical equipment, railcars, and machinery. Thus, an enterprise in the Bryansk Region decreased railcar casting due to a reduction in the investment programme implemented by Joint Stock Company Russian Railways. As for intermediate goods, ferrous metallurgy is facing a downturn following the deceleration in investment, whereas industries related to import substitution or export expansion (fertilisers, paper, and certain chemicals) demonstrate an upward trend. Consumer goods remain the most sustainable segment, supported by stable domestic demand, government orders, and successful redirection of exports. Thus, a dairy plant in the Lipetsk Region organised supplies to Kazakhstan.

**Agricultural output expanded by 5.4% over the first 11 months of 2025.** According to Rosstat's preliminary data, in 2025, the country had a good harvest of grains and grain legumes (+10.7% YoY), oil crops (+10.2% YoY), and potatoes (+9.4% YoY).

The growth of business and investment activity slowed in 2025, while staying at the highest level compared to other industries. The capacity utilisation rate stays close to its record highs.

Business activity is supported by stable domestic demand and expanding exports. Active investment in upgrades and new complexes boosts enterprises' performance. Specifically, an agricultural company in Udmurtia increased the dairy cattle population by upgrading its facilities and optimising production processes. Concurrently, climate risks, staff shortages, difficulties with spare parts, and foreign trade restrictions are still the drags on growth.

**Over the first 11 months of 2025, the amount of construction works increased by 2.7% YoY.** After the termination of the non-targeted government subsidised mortgage lending programme, the industry recorded a decline in the BCI. However, it resumed growth from mid-2025, surpassing the levels of 2017–2019. In December 2025, enterprises reported a rise in current demand, driven by the expected changes in the Family Mortgage terms. According to large developers in Novosibirsk, the surge in demand affected developers implementing more liquid projects with smaller apartments or more attractive locations.

The capacity utilisation rate edged down after the reduction in subsidised programmes, while still significantly exceeding its historical averages. The growth in construction was predominantly on account of large infrastructure projects, e.g. the construction of a terminal for transshipment of fertilisers in the North-West and reconstruction of an airport in Altai.

**Freight turnover contracted by 0.7% over the first 11 months of 2025.** Business activity declined, as compared to the phase of the economy's active growth, while remaining above its long-term level. The increase in investment generally decelerated over 2025, while speeding up in 2025 Q4. An acute shortage of drivers is still a serious problem for the industry. A positive factor for the Eastern and Southern regions was large investment in port and logistics infrastructure due to the redirection of trade flows and the development of international transport corridors. However, a stevedoring company in Saint Petersburg complained about a 20% decrease in petroleum product shipments over 2025 because of tightened sanctions, unscheduled maintenance of oil refineries, and enacted restrictions on petrol and diesel fuel exports.

**The BCI in trade was negative in 2025 H2, and its decline accelerated by early 2026.** Trade companies' investment activity was decreasing in the middle of 2025, but started to rebound in 2025 H2. Business activity in the consumer segment was supported by the rise in households' real incomes.<sup>6</sup> The key constraints were lower consumer demand for non-essential goods and strong

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<sup>6</sup> See the Box 'Consumer activity'.

competition with marketplaces squeezing out small regional businesses from the market. This was reported by enterprises in the Urals, Volga-Vyatka, the North-West, and Siberia.

**Business and investment activity in services is slowing, while exceeding the 2017–2019 average.** Services companies in the South, the North-West, and the Far East were developing most actively. The expansion was boosted by a higher tourist inflow and the development of transport infrastructure. As for IT services, a software company from the Orenburg Region recorded lower demand for new IT solutions aimed at optimising business processes.

### COMPANIES' EXPECTATIONS

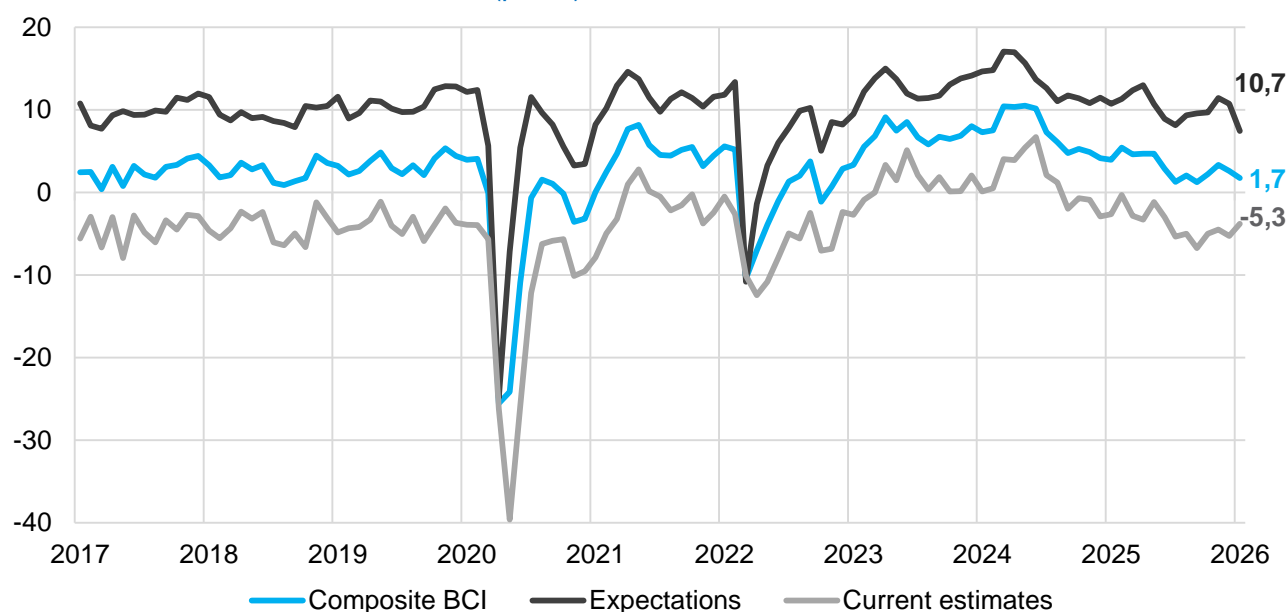
According to the Bank of Russia's survey, slightly more than a third of respondents expect output to increase in 2026, while 17% predict its decline (Chart B-2-8). Estimates in agriculture and transportation were the most optimistic, whereas those in trade and construction were the least positive.

According to companies, business activity in 2026 will be driven by the expansion of sales markets (including exports), upgrades of production facilities, implementation of investment projects, rising demand in certain segments, and government aid. Specifically, the Krasnoyarsk Territory, supported by the regional Industrial Development Fund, plans to launch the Russian first production of terpene phenolic resins used in tire manufacturing.

Companies report that the main risks to their plans for 2026 are the same, that is, low demand, staff shortages, competition with imports, tougher sanctions, high loan rates, as well the tax and regulatory burden.

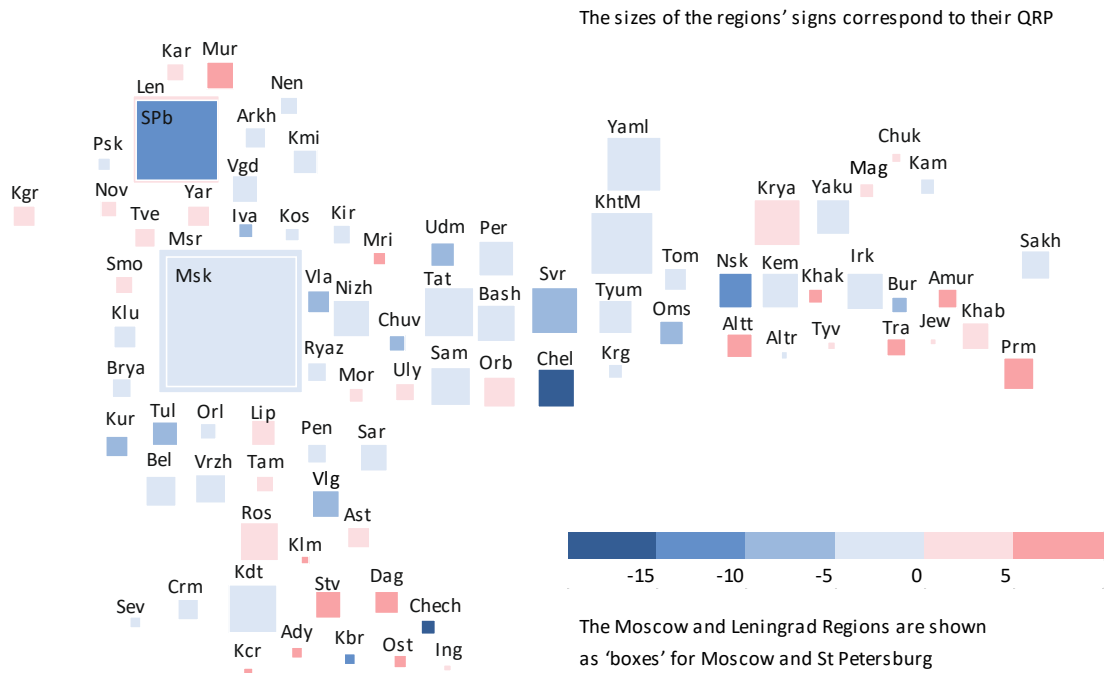
The economy is returning to a balanced growth path gradually. Business activity in most industries is decelerating. Manufacturing and transportation are experiencing a YoY decline in business activity. Contrastingly, it is sustainably growing at manufacturing enterprises focusing on consumer goods, as well as in agriculture, including as a result of stable domestic and external demand.

Chart B-2-1. Business Climate Index (p, SA)



Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

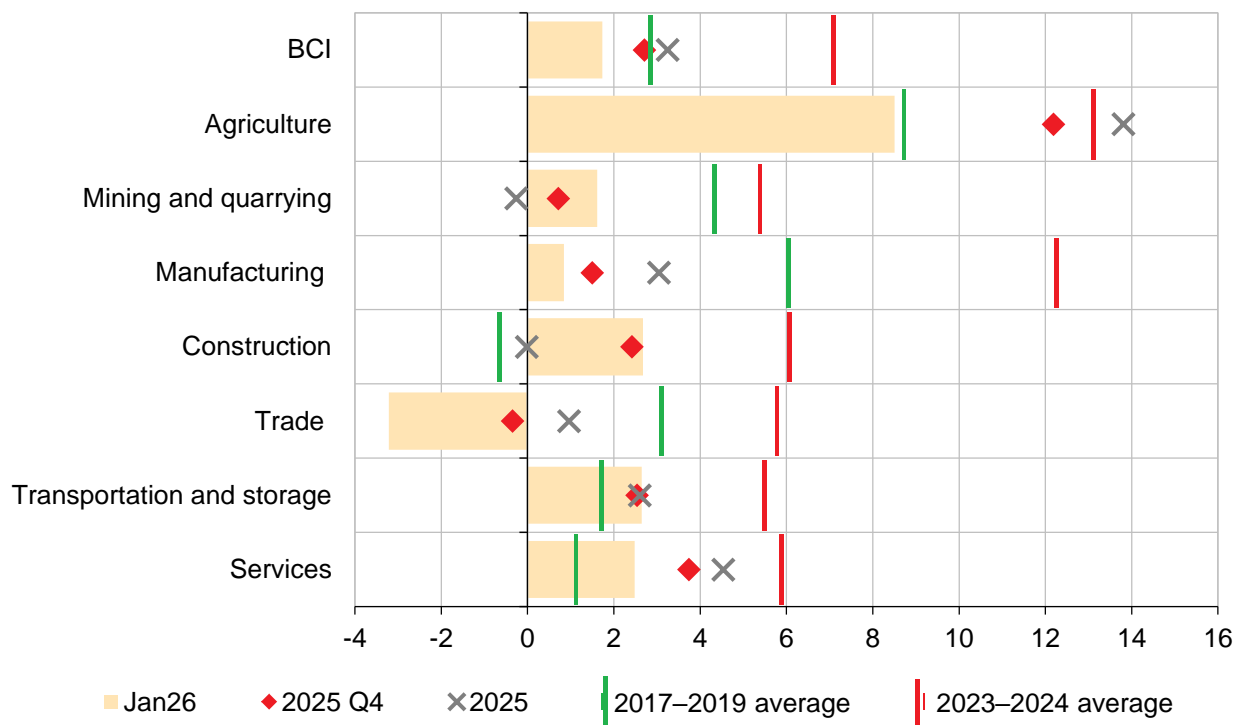
Chart B-2-2. Change in Business Climate Index across regions (2025 average vs 2017–2019 average, p, SA)



Note. Official statistics on the main social and economic indicators of the constituent territories of the Russian Federation do not include statistics on the Donetsk People's Republic, the Lugansk People's Republic, the Zaporozhye Region, and the Kherson Region.

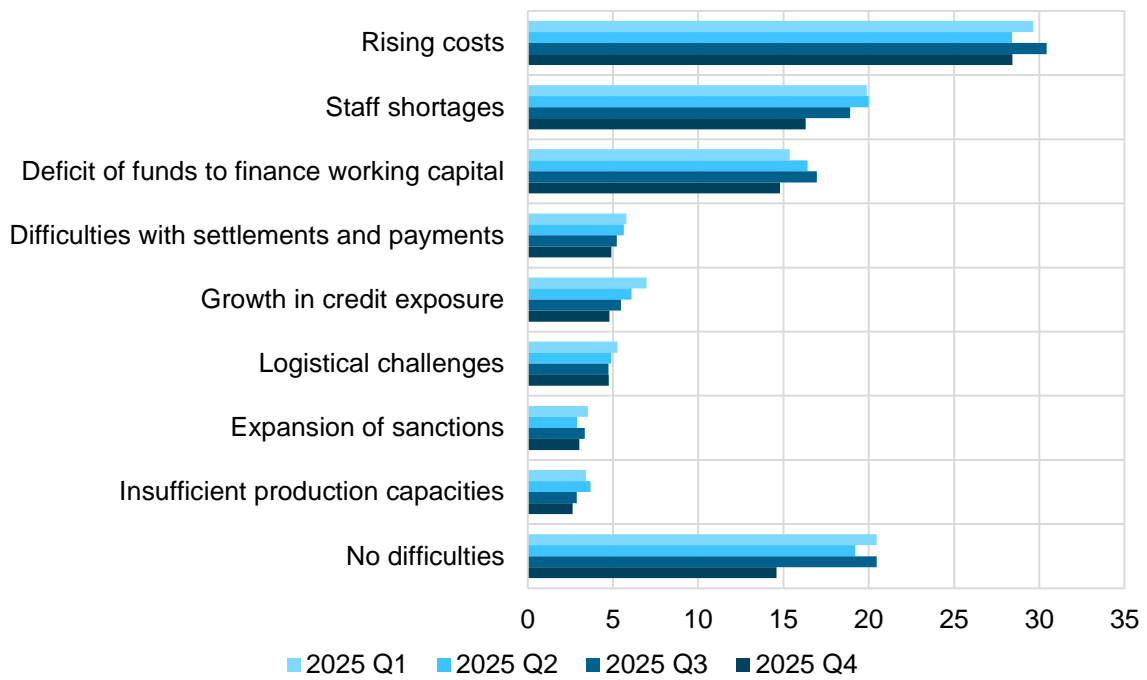
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-3. Business Climate Index by industry (p, SA)



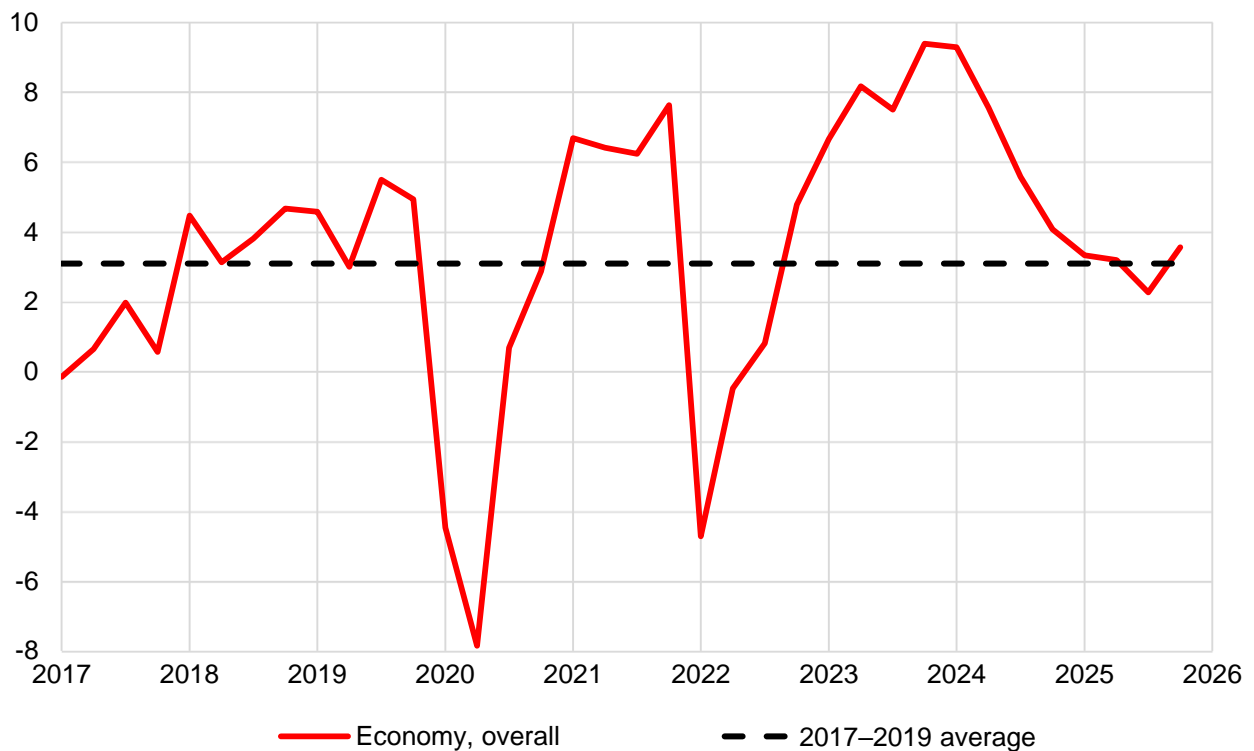
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-4. Constraints on companies' current operations (% of respondents)



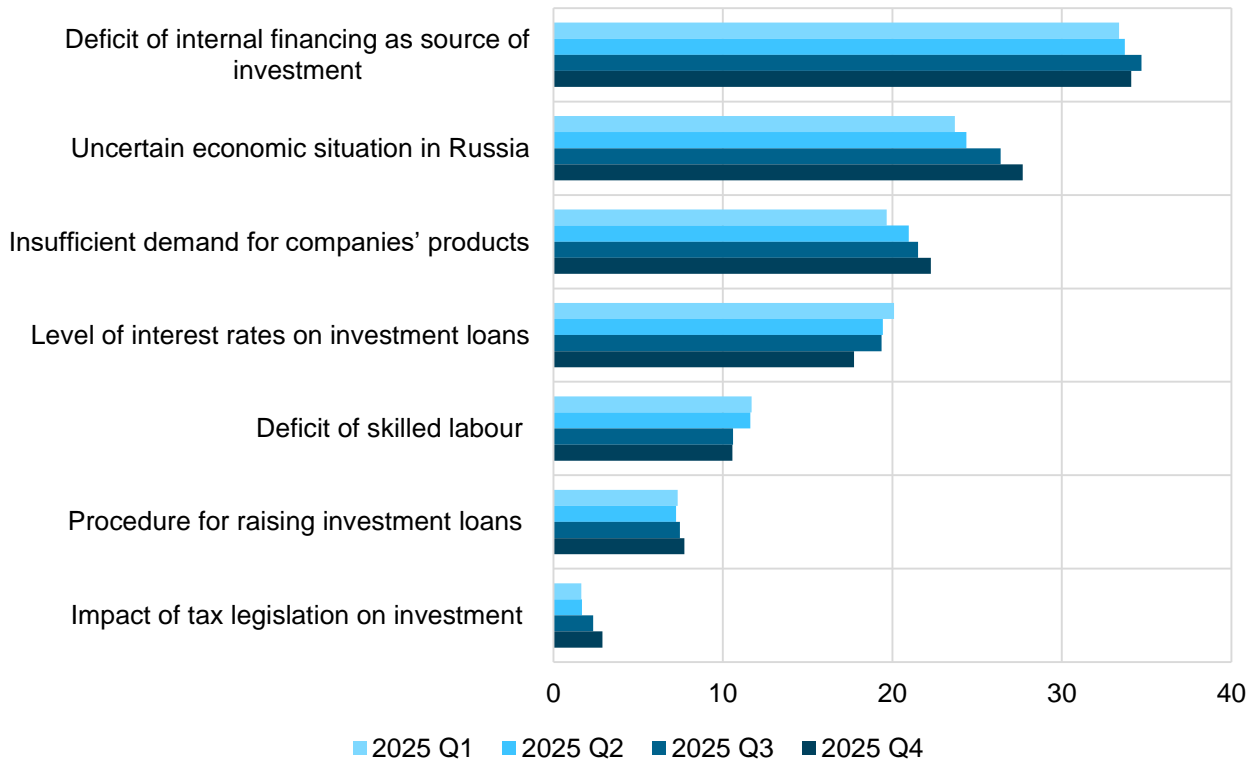
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-5. Estimates of changes in investment activity (balance of responses, p, SA)



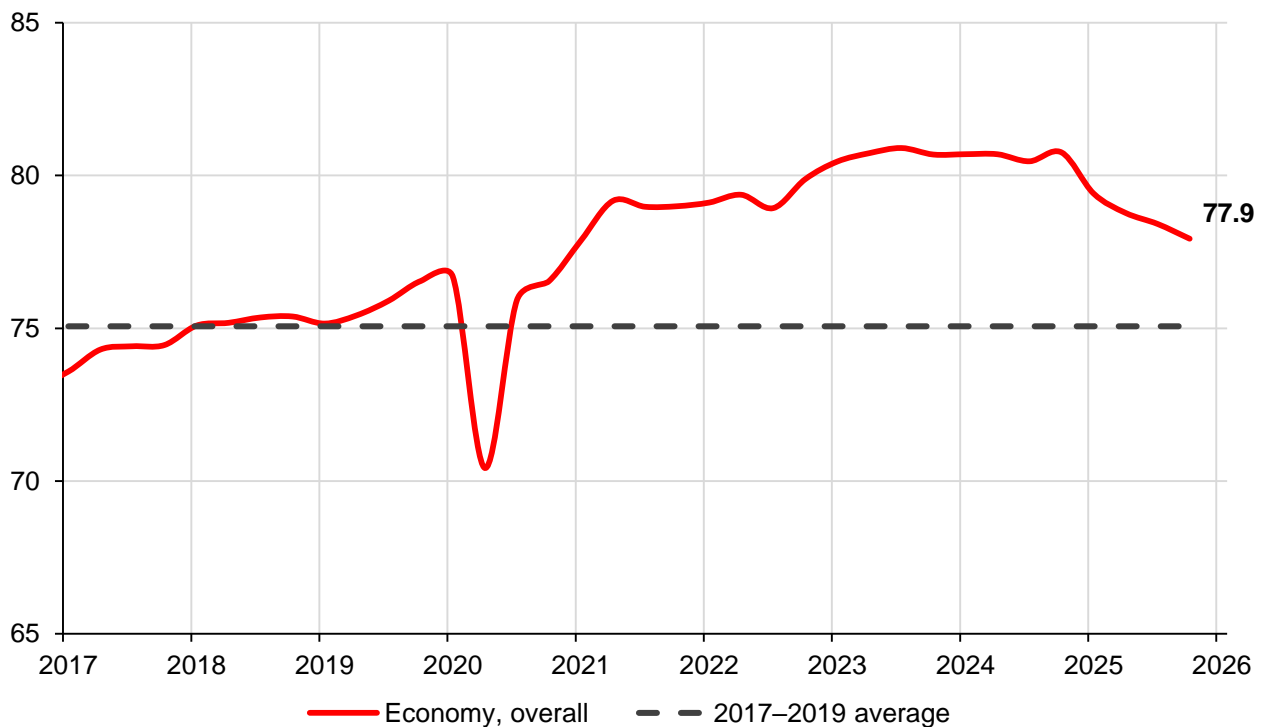
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-6. Constraints on investment (balance of responses)



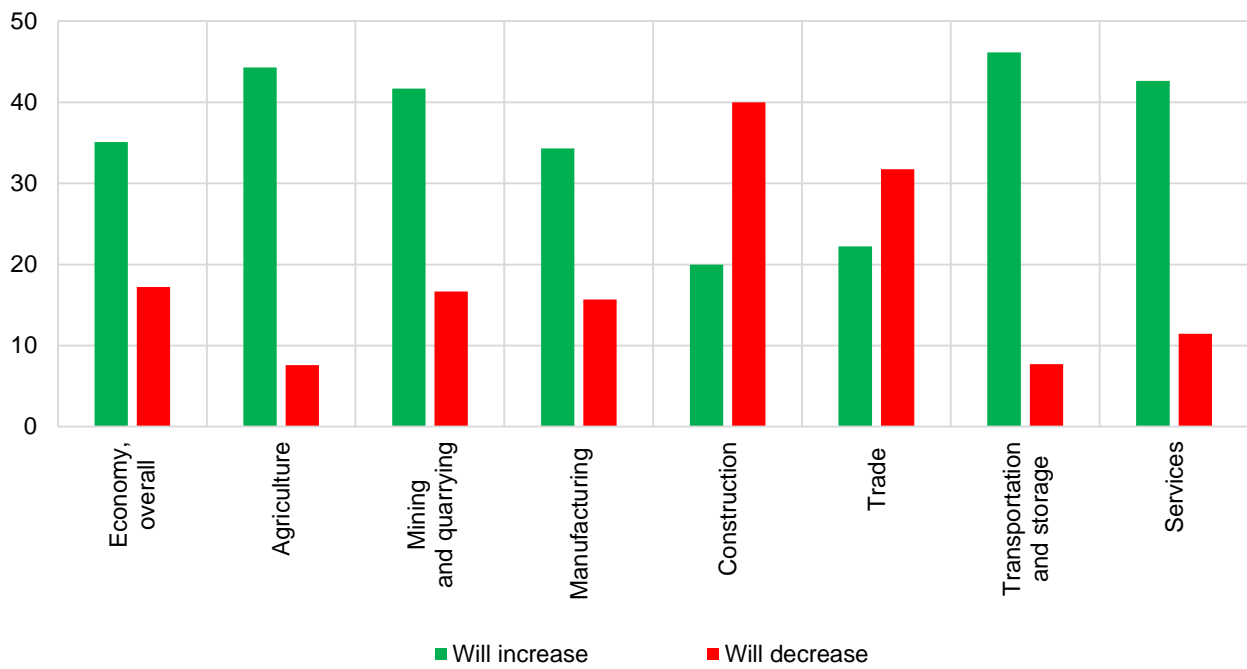
Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-7. Capacity utilisation rate across economy (% SA)



Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

Chart B-2-8. Companies' expectations for output (turnover / amount of provided services) in 2026 (%)



Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia.

## BOX 3

### INDUSTRY FOCUS. CAR MARKET

As of the end of 2025, new car sales in Russia contracted after a notable increase in 2024. The negative dynamics were observed for the most part of the year. Moreover, output was declining, dragged down by weaker demand. Accordingly, the average length of car ownership and age of the car fleet both increased. Dealers and car manufacturers adapted to the situation through a moderate rise in prices, stock management, and adjustment of their output plans. Concurrently, companies continued implementing individual investment and production projects, primarily those aimed at localising and upgrading the range of models.

#### DEMAND

**According to the Autostat analytical agency,<sup>7</sup> over the course of 2025, new car sales declined by 15.6% YoY.** However, the market recorded some spikes in sales during the year, caused by regulatory changes. Thus, sales rebounded for a while in 2025 H2 before the changes in the recycling fee calculation and due to expected growth in car prices.

Consumer behaviour has changed, specifically buyers are reluctant to purchase new cars of unfamiliar brands at prices that are comparable with those of previously popular foreign-made cars. As a result, demand has shifted towards the used car market, which has increased the average length of car ownership and age of the car fleet. Cars used for over 10 years account for more than 70%, while the average age of the car fleet is almost 16 years.

**As assessed, in 2025, more than two-thirds of new cars were purchased on credit.** Nevertheless, the number and amount of issued car loans slightly increased – they could have edged down, if not for one-off factors during the year. In early 2025, due to large stocks, dealers and banks were actively subsidising new car sales. As a result, there were some periods when car loan rates dropped considerably below the key rate, which propped up demand. However, by the end of the year, the situation with stocks at warehouses normalised, and the average interest rate on car loans began to rise, despite the reduction in the key rate. The risks associated with the tightened rules for confirming borrowers' incomes and the decrease in government support continue into 2026.

**Autostat's baseline forecast of car sales for 2026 suggests that sales will remain at the level of 2025.** This will be possible owing to growth in potential buyers' incomes and a moderate rise in car prices amid the localisation and development of production facilities (the optimistic forecast of sales is +10% YoY, and the pessimistic one is -10% YoY).

#### IMPORTS

**The change in consumer behaviour and lower demand also affected car imports.** Specifically, over 2025, new car imports more than halved in physical terms, while used car imports soared by a fourth. Furthermore, weak demand and the changed parameters of the recycling fee impacted the structure of imports. The proportion of used cars in total imports surged from about 30% to nearly 55% over the year.

**According to businesses, the taxi localisation law coming into force from March 2026 will influence demand in the near future and might trigger a spike in sales.** The law requires all new cars that will be used as taxis to be assembled inside Russia and put on the list of the Russian

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<sup>7</sup> Hereinafter, the statistics on sales and imports are based on Autostat's data.

Ministry of Industry and Trade, which has not been released so far. Before its publication, any purchases of foreign-made cars for taxi fleets seem to involve risks. As reported by taxi companies, currently, carriers are interested in changes in lease periods rather than in purchases of localised cars to renew the fleet.

## CAR OUTPUT

**Over the first 11 months of 2025, output contracted by 12.6% YoY to 591,000 cars, according to Rosstat.** Manufacturers were forced to adjust output throughout the year due to weak demand. In 2025 H1, large sales at dealers' warehouses limited the opportunities to ramp up output, and companies had to adjust their production plans to avoid further increasing car stocks. By the end of 2025, as imports declined and manufacturers adjusted their output plans, the situation with stocks at dealers' warehouses normalised.

**Lower demand had a strong impact on domestic automobile manufacturers' output plans.** Specifically, one of them had to switch to a four-day working week and reduce its output plans. Moreover, a joint project for localising a foreign brand was closed. Some automobile manufacturers stopped producing certain models.

**Simultaneously, localised projects started to play an important role in car manufacturing in Russia.** The tightened regulation of imports through the recycling fee enabled companies to ramp up their output and expand the range of models. The Kaliningrad Region started the manufacture of a new crossover utility vehicle using the available facilities, while the Central Federal District launched contract-based semi knocked down assembly under a local trademark. The Russian largest manufacturer produced a new model, the sales of which began in July 2025. Furthermore, the Lipetsk Region started to produce a premium hybrid sedan adapted to the Russian conditions, namely with a 'winter package' of options.

**Localisation will expand further. Enterprises plan to start a number of new projects in 2026.** Specifically, the Nizhny Novgorod Region is to launch car production at the facilities of a local automobile cluster. The Tula Region will commission facilities to manufacture vehicle components, including transmission components as well as chassis, interior and exterior elements. The Kaliningrad Region plans to organise fully integrated production of crossovers.

## PRICES

**As of the end of 2025, weighted average prices for new cars rose by 2.2% YoY.** The growth of prices over the year was moderated by weak demand and relatively high car prices, as well as large stocks and the ruble strengthening.

**Contrastingly, over 2025, prices for used foreign-made cars declined by 5.2% YoY.** This was largely attributed to the structure of the used car market where sales are dominated by used cars demonstrating weak or negative price dynamics which pull down prices. The situation in the segment of newer cars (used for less than five years) is opposite: prices grow more steadily and quickly due to a deficit of popular foreign-made cars with a low mileage.

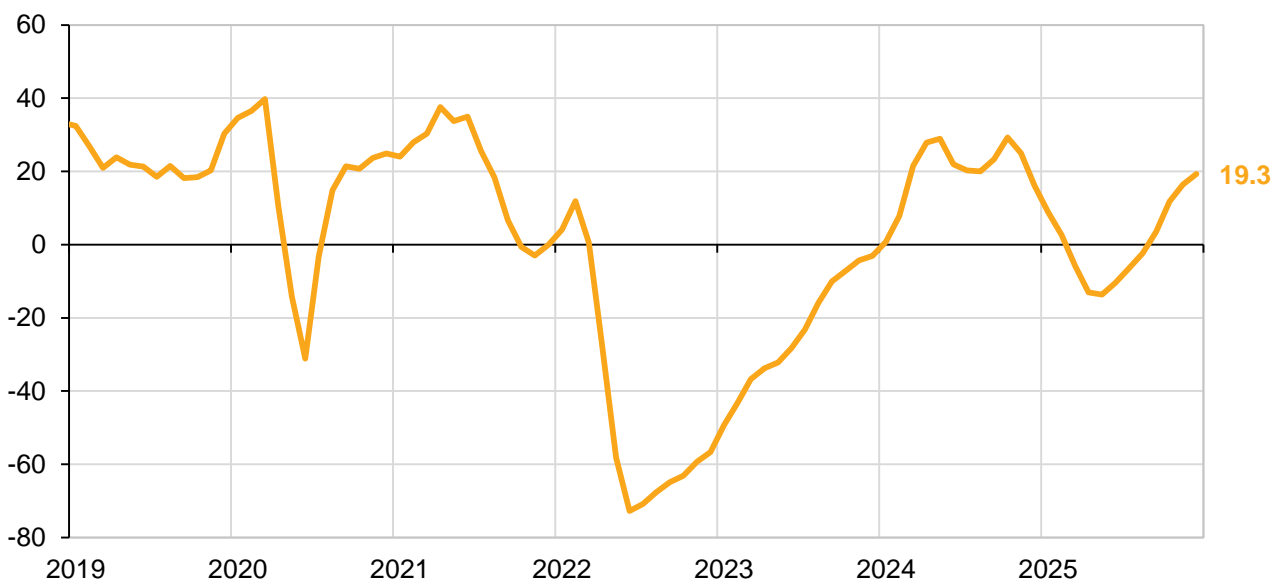
**Since early 2026, after the increase in the recycling fee, prices were rising at a high pace.** Moreover, the surge was driven by higher VAT. According to weekly statistics, from 1 to 26 January 2026, prices for new domestic and foreign-made cars edged up by 1.24% and 1.66%, respectively, while the overall price growth was 1.91%.

**The recycling fee continues to put pressure on pricing in the car market.** The changes in its parameters push up expectations about car prices, but its pass-through to end prices will be

extended over time. Localised manufacturers receive more room for pricing policy decisions. The recycling fee makes imported alternatives more expensive, and domestic brands thus acquire a competitive advantage as they are able to raise prices notably more slowly, staying more attractive compared to imports.

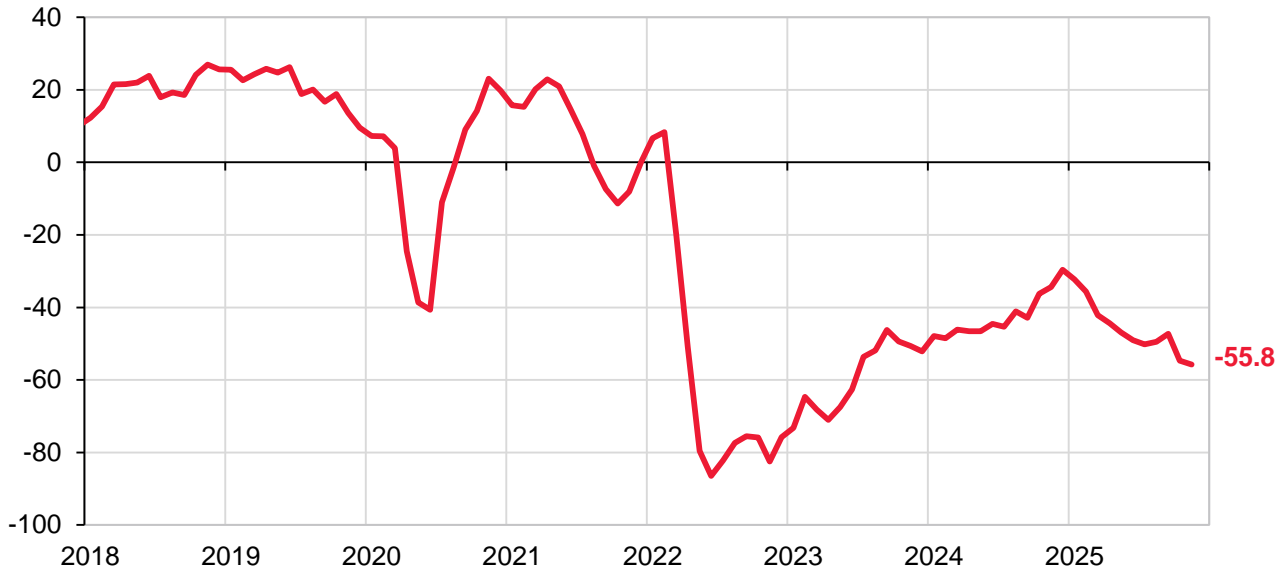
As of the end of 2025, the new car market was still affected by subdued demand. Relatively high car prices will continue to exert pressure on the car market in 2026. A gradual recovery in credit activity as a result of lower interest rates may become a source of a possible improvement.

Chart B-3-1. New car sales, % on 2021 Q4 (SA), three-month average



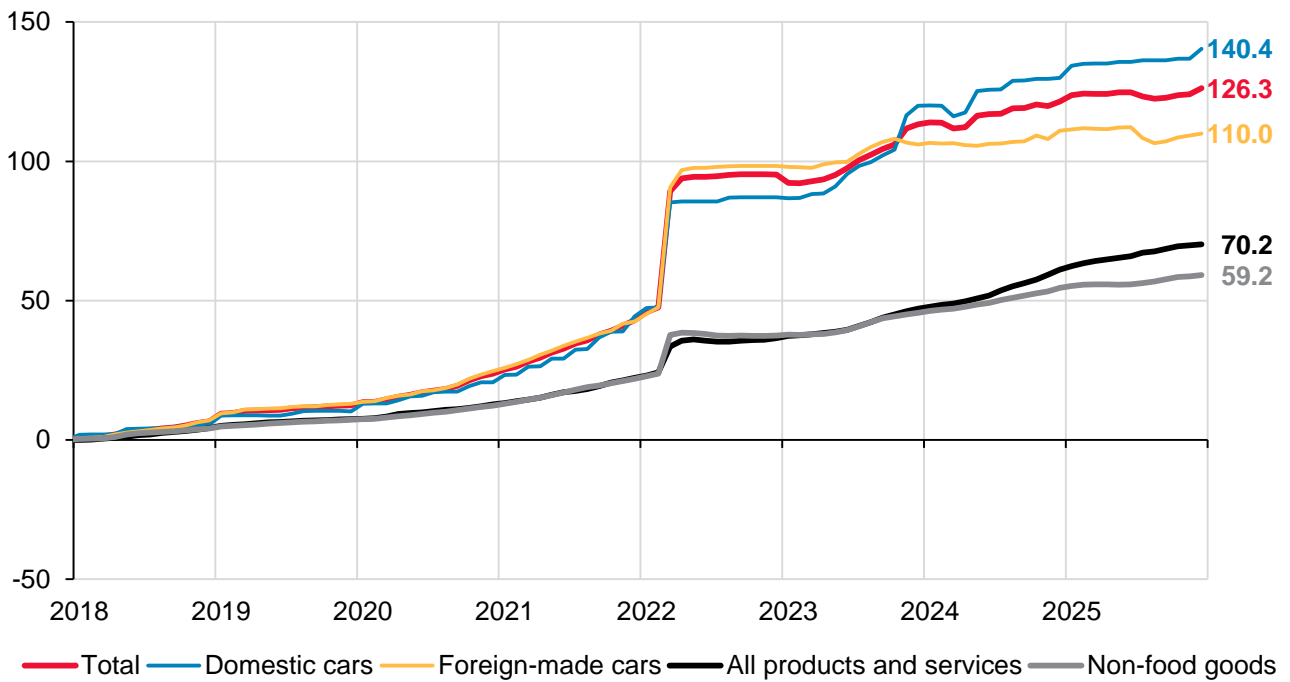
Sources: Autostat, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-3-2. Car output, % on 2021 Q4 (SA), three-month average



Sources: Rosstat, Bank of Russia calculations.

Chart B-3-3. New car prices, % on December 2017, SA



Sources: Rosstat, Bank of Russia calculations.

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## APPENDIX NO. 1

### CORE ECONOMIC INDICATORS

#### Core indicators. Russia

Table 1

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.5	5.6	9.5	10.3	9.4	8.0	5.6	6.6	5.6	
Core inflation	% YoY	8.9	5.4	8.9	9.7	8.7	7.7	5.4	6.1	5.4	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	5.6		6.9	0.1	1.5	0.5		0.9		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	8.4		8.4	8.7	4.3	0.5				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	2.1		3.3	6.9	2.4	1.2		0.9		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	-2.4		-13.3	8.9	-16.2	-11.9		6.5		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	7.7		5.2	2.6	1.6	2.2		3.3		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	4.3		3.9	2.4	2.4	2.6		3.4		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	9.7		9.0	3.1	4.6	5.1				
Real disposable income	% YoY	8.4		7.5	8.3	9.9	6.3				
Unemployment	% SA	2.5		2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2		2.2		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	4.1	-3.6	4.1	-2.3	-8.7	-10.8	-3.6	-6.1	-3.6	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	6.6	8.6	6.6	4.2	1.3	3.6	8.6	7.1	8.6	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	9.9	16.5	9.9	12.1	1.2	4.5	16.5	8.4	16.5	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	18.5		18.5	14.9	11.9	9.3		10.7		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	18.9		18.9	14.9	12.6	11.5		12.9		
• SMEs	% YoY	16.5		16.5	15.1	9.1	-0.2		1.2		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	22.2	20.6	25.7	23.1	18.5	18.1	22.6	23.0	25.2	30.1
Business Climate Index	p, SA	7.4	3.2	4.8	4.7	4.1	1.5	2.7	3.3	2.6	1.7
• Current estimates	p, SA	1.5	-3.8	-1.5	-1.9	-2.5	-5.7	-4.9	-4.5	-5.3	-3.8
• Expectations	p, SA	13.5	10.5	11.2	11.5	10.9	9.0	10.6	11.5	10.7	7.4

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

**Core indicators. Main Branch for the Central Federal District**

*Table 2*

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.9	4.7	9.9	9.9	8.6	7.1	4.7	5.7	4.7	
Core inflation	% YoY	9.0	4.3	9.0	8.8	7.5	6.3	4.3	4.9	4.3	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	14.7		17.8	5.8	4.2	0.6		3.8		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	4.6		4.6	10.8	6.3	2.5				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	-2.1		-0.7	8.3	5.8	7.7		10.1		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	-8.2		-14.9	30.6	-9.1	-11.9		9.9		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	6.8		3.8	2.1	-0.03	0.1		2.8		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	4.0		2.4	2.4	1.6	1.1		2.3		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	9.6		9.5	3.0	5.9	7.7				
Real disposable income	% YoY	10.5		7.7	9.0	10.6	8.2				
Unemployment	% SA	1.8		1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5		1.5		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	2.8	-3.2	2.8	-2.8	-9.4	-11.2	-3.2	-5.9	-3.2	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	4.8	10.1	4.8	4.5	2.2	4.9	10.1	8.7	10.1	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	13.2	17.8	13.2	12.5	4.2	7.1	17.8	11.0	17.8	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	20.3		20.3	15.5	12.2	8.6		9.1		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	20.1		20.1	14.7	12.1	11.3		11.6		
• SMEs	% YoY	21.1		21.1	19.8	12.5	-5.5		-4.0		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	26.1	23.6	30.0	27.1	21.3	21.3	24.8	25.8	27.1	31.9
Business Climate Index	p, SA	6.1	2.3	4.2	4.4	1.9	0.6	2.3	3.3	1.8	-0.2
• Current estimates	p, SA	0.5	-5.2	-2.2	-2.3	-4.8	-8.1	-5.4	-4.2	-6.5	-7.3
• Expectations	p, SA	12.0	10.1	10.8	11.4	8.8	9.6	10.4	11.2	10.6	7.1

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

## Core indicators. North-Western Main Branch

Table 3

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.3	5.8	9.3	10.4	9.6	8.8	5.8	7.2	5.8	
Core inflation	% YoY	8.8	5.8	8.8	9.8	9.1	8.5	5.8	6.7	5.8	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	8.4		10.3	0.7	1.6	-1.8		0.3		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	18.2		18.2	24.3	17.0	13.9				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	3.5		10.3	15.0	1.6	1.0		-3.1		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	-8.7		-22.6	-1.2	-1.0	-12.1		19.2		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	6.5		4.2	0.7	0.6	2.6		3.1		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	2.4		1.1	2.6	3.3	4.3		8.0		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	7.8		6.8	2.1	3.4	2.8				
Real disposable income	% YoY	8.7		5.5	8.8	10.4	5.6				
Unemployment	% SA	2.2		2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9		1.9		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	1.4	-2.9	1.4	-3.9	-9.5	-10.7	-2.9	-5.6	-2.9	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	3.5	8.7	3.5	1.6	0.1	2.9	8.7	7.0	8.7	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	-12.0	36.2	-12.0	8.7	2.4	14.4	36.2	18.9	36.2	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	14.7		14.7	10.8	8.5	8.9		12.6		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	18.0		18.0	12.4	10.1	11.1		15.0		
• SMEs	% YoY	-4.0		-4.0	1.4	-0.6	-5.7		-4.7		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	25.4	25.0	30.2	26.3	23.5	21.8	28.4	26.3	34.1	38.7
Business Climate Index	p, SA	5.0	1.1	2.3	2.6	3.0	-0.3	-1.0	-0.7	-1.6	-2.7
• Current estimates	p, SA	-0.6	-6.1	-3.1	-4.4	-3.5	-7.3	-9.0	-9.1	-8.9	-6.5
• Expectations	p, SA	10.7	8.4	7.8	9.8	9.6	6.9	7.3	8.1	6.0	1.3

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

**Core indicators. Volga-Vyatka Main Branch**

*Table 4*

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.6	6.4	9.6	10.8	10.2	9.0	6.4	7.6	6.4	
Core inflation	% YoY	9.2	6.6	9.2	10.7	10.0	9.1	6.6	7.4	6.6	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	8.3		8.1	4.2	4.0	5.4		4.4		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	6.8		6.8	18.5	7.6	4.3				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	-1.7		-5.3	-0.1	-4.8	1.2		-2.1		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	1.3		5.2	-9.1	-21.8	-2.7		9.8		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	8.1		5.6	3.6	2.6	2.0		3.3		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	5.5		4.2	1.7	3.9	7.4		7.4		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	12.8		12.6	6.4	6.2	5.0				
Real disposable income	% YoY	8.4		5.8	7.5	9.3	5.8				
Unemployment	% SA	1.9		1.7	1.7	1.6	1.6		1.5		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	6.7	-1.9	6.7	-1.1	-7.5	-9.7	-1.9	-4.4	-1.9	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	7.3	7.1	7.3	3.7	-0.1	1.7	7.1	5.2	7.1	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	9.5	13.9	9.5	15.2	-0.8	-1.9	13.9	4.4	13.9	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	22.8		22.8	21.0	18.3	9.8		11.1		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	33.2		33.2	32.7	30.5	13.8		15.1		
• SMEs	% YoY	1.5		1.5	-1.8	-4.8	-0.1		0.6		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	25.9	24.1	28.6	27.1	21.2	20.4	27.5	25.1	33.3	36.8
Business Climate Index	p, SA	9.2	2.6	5.2	4.6	3.0	1.5	1.4	2.5	0.1	-1.0
• Current estimates	p, SA	3.8	-3.8	-0.8	-1.1	-2.8	-5.6	-5.5	-4.4	-7.9	-5.7
• Expectations	p, SA	14.7	9.2	11.4	10.4	9.0	8.8	8.5	9.6	8.5	3.7

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

## Core indicators. Southern Main Branch

Table 5

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.6	5.7	9.6	10.8	9.9	8.1	5.7	6.8	5.7	
Core inflation	% YoY	8.8	6.0	8.8	9.9	9.2	8.3	6.0	6.8	6.0	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	3.8		1.5	-5.9	1.1	-2.4		-4.0		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	10.1		10.1	6.0	5.2	-0.7				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	7.6		9.8	4.9	-9.6	-8.5		-3.2		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	3.0		-23.1	8.8	-31.5	-21.2		-10.7		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	6.5		2.7	1.1	2.8	4.7		5.3		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	5.4		6.6	3.4	2.9	4.1		3.7		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	9.6		7.5	3.6	1.5	4.1				
Real disposable income	% YoY	7.9		4.2	7.3	8.0	8.0				
Unemployment	% SA	4.6		4.3	4.2	4.2	4.0		4.0		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	8.7	-2.8	8.7	1.2	-5.8	-8.2	-2.8	-4.7	-2.8	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	11.6	10.7	11.6	8.1	3.7	5.3	10.7	8.6	10.7	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	20.7	11.0	20.7	11.8	-9.7	-5.1	11.0	2.3	11.0	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	21.1		21.1	17.3	16.7	22.2		26.7		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	15.5		15.5	12.2	17.0	24.5		28.8		
• SMEs	% YoY	29.9		29.9	24.7	16.3	18.9		23.7		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	20.0	19.3	24.3	20.8	17.9	16.7	21.8	21.4	24.4	26.4
Business Climate Index	p, SA	8.9	6.9	8.0	8.1	7.2	5.5	7.0	7.8	9.0	5.2
• Current estimates	p, SA	2.5	-0.1	1.6	1.2	0.8	-1.3	-1.0	0.03	-0.2	0.7
• Expectations	p, SA	15.5	14.2	14.7	15.1	13.9	12.5	15.4	15.8	18.6	9.8

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

**Core indicators. Ural Main Branch**

*Table 6*

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.0	5.9	9.0	10.1	9.5	8.2	5.9	6.9	5.9	
Core inflation	% YoY	8.5	5.7	8.5	9.7	9.0	7.9	5.7	6.3	5.7	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	1.9		1.4	-2.4	-1.2	-1.1		0.4		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	8.8		8.8	-4.9	-8.6	-11.3				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	2.8		1.0	0.6	-1.9	-3.4		-5.5		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	0.6		-2.2	-6.1	-8.7	-6.8		8.2		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	10.7		9.3	2.7	1.2	3.1		3.8		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	6.3		9.1	3.1	7.0	3.5		3.0		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	10.0		9.4	1.7	3.8	1.5				
Real disposable income	% YoY	8.4		10.0	6.0	7.8	3.4				
Unemployment	% SA	1.9		1.6	1.6	1.5	1.5		1.5		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	5.2	-3.5	5.2	-1.7	-8.1	-10.2	-3.5	-5.8	-3.5	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	6.4	7.9	6.4	3.7	0.7	3.5	7.9	6.5	7.9	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	5.9	6.1	5.9	11.5	-4.5	-3.7	6.1	-0.5	6.1	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	15.6		15.6	17.8	14.5	12.0		12.7		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	14.7		14.7	17.8	14.9	14.6		15.4		
• SMEs	% YoY	20.0		20.0	17.9	13.0	1.5		1.1		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	18.2	10.4	21.4	12.6	10.7	11.2	7.3	9.2	7.5	18.8
Business Climate Index	p, SA	6.5	-0.4	5.1	2.7	-2.6	-5.5	3.9	3.0	5.9	8.6
• Current estimates	p, SA	1.0	-5.4	-1.3	-0.2	-7.0	-11.2	-3.0	-4.8	1.5	2.8
• Expectations	p, SA	12.2	4.8	11.8	5.8	1.9	0.4	11.1	11.1	10.3	14.5

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

## Core indicators. Siberian Main Branch

Table 7

		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	9.5	6.0	9.5	11.0	10.3	8.4	6.0	7.2	6.0	
Core inflation	% YoY	9.5	5.6	9.5	10.8	9.8	8.1	5.6	6.3	5.6	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	2.2		2.5	-2.2	-2.5	-1.6		-0.8		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	6.0		6.0	16.0	9.6	0.7				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	-3.8		-2.4	6.6	5.7	-0.7		-9.9		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	0.1		-16.6	23.8	-16.6	-14.4		6.0		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	9.6		7.2	2.8	3.2	3.6		3.9		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	3.5		3.5	2.1	0.5	2.9		3.7		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	8.2		7.0	1.6	3.0	2.9				
Real disposable income	% YoY	7.2		4.1	6.6	7.4	3.3				
Unemployment	% SA	3.0		2.9	3.1	3.0	2.8		2.9		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	2.4	-6.5	2.4	-4.2	-10.5	-13.4	-6.5	-8.6	-6.5	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	6.6	5.9	6.6	2.3	-1.0	1.2	5.9	4.6	5.9	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	5.2	10.7	5.2	1.0	-6.3	0.1	10.7	-0.2	10.7	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	13.5		13.5	11.7	7.6	1.7		2.3		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	13.8		13.8	13.0	9.1	2.5		3.9		
• SMEs	% YoY	12.3		12.3	7.6	3.1	-0.9		-2.9		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	21.4	19.2	25.1	22.0	16.0	16.9	22.1	24.5	22.2	27.8
Business Climate Index	p, SA	8.7	2.5	6.0	3.9	2.5	2.2	1.2	2.6	-1.9	1.3
• Current estimates	p, SA	1.4	-6.5	-1.2	-3.6	-6.6	-7.4	-8.4	-6.2	-11.8	-7.0
• Expectations	p, SA	16.4	11.9	13.5	11.8	12.0	12.4	11.3	11.8	8.4	9.9

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

**Core indicators. Far Eastern Main Branch**

*Table 8*

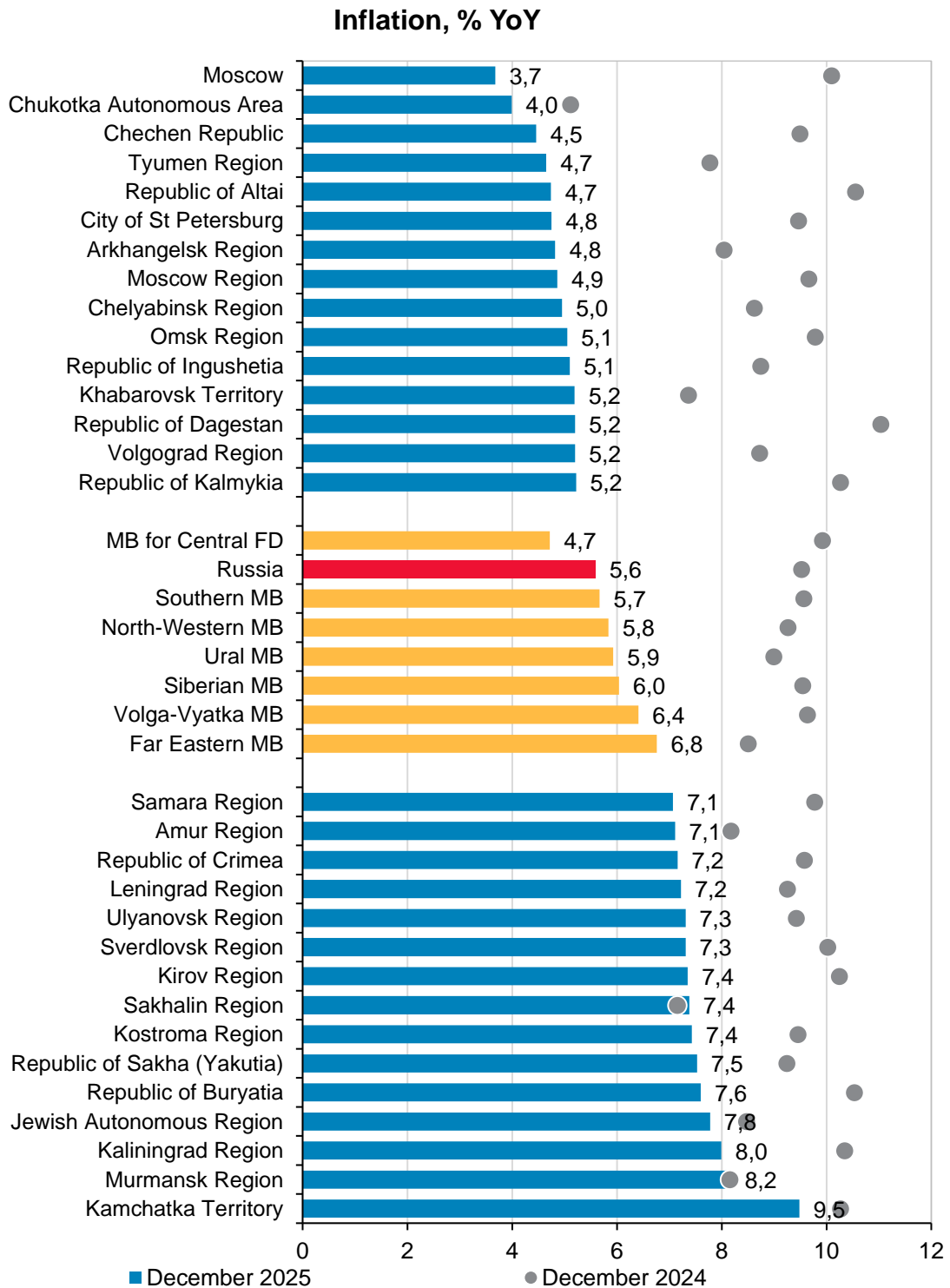
		2024	2025	2024	2025	2025	2025	2025	Nov	Dec	Jan
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Inflation	% YoY	8.5	6.8	8.5	9.5	9.0	8.2	6.8	7.2	6.8	
Core inflation	% YoY	8.2	6.2	8.2	9.0	7.8	7.3	6.2	6.3	6.2	
Industrial production	3MMA, % YoY	3.4		4.3	2.3	0.8	-0.1		3.1		
Fixed capital investment	Cumulative, % YoY	13.2		13.2	8.1	3.8	2.9				
Construction	3MMA, % YoY	-3.8		-2.0	15.0	-2.8	6.4		11.7		
Housing commissioning	3MMA, % YoY	1.7		-11.3	-9.1	-8.7	8.2		33.6		
Retail	3MMA, % YoY	8.2		8.5	8.9	4.3	3.8		3.5		
Commercial services	3MMA, % YoY	1.3		-0.4	-3.2	-2.3	-1.6		0.4		
Real wages	3MMA, % YoY	7.9		6.0	3.6	3.7	3.5				
Real disposable income	% YoY	5.9		1.9	8.3	9.6	4.8				
Unemployment	% SA	2.4		2.3	2.2	2.0	1.9		1.8		
Outstanding consumer loans	% YoY	0.7	-7.5	0.7	-5.1	-11.5	-14.1	-7.5	-9.8	-7.5	
Outstanding mortgage loans	% YoY	10.4	6.0	10.4	5.5	3.6	3.7	6.0	5.8	6.0	
Funds in escrow accounts	% YoY	19.5	14.9	19.5	32.8	18.8	13.9	14.9	9.3	14.9	
Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans	% YoY	13.8		13.8	8.1	5.0	3.6		8.1		
• Large borrowers	% YoY	14.3		14.3	7.4	5.1	4.2		9.5		
• SMEs	% YoY	11.7		11.7	11.4	4.5	1.0		1.2		
Companies' price expectations	Balance of responses, p, SA	16.6	15.8	19.6	16.8	14.4	13.8	18.5	21.4	20.3	23.7
Business Climate Index	p, SA	8.0	6.9	6.4	7.1	6.9	5.7	7.9	6.0	10.2	9.6
• Current estimates	p, SA	3.2	2.2	0.4	3.8	1.8	0.1	3.3	-0.4	7.7	5.5
• Expectations	p, SA	13.0	11.7	12.6	10.6	12.1	11.4	12.5	12.7	12.8	13.9

Sources: monitoring of businesses, Bank of Russia, Rosstat, calculations by the Bank of Russia MBs.

## APPENDIX NO. 2

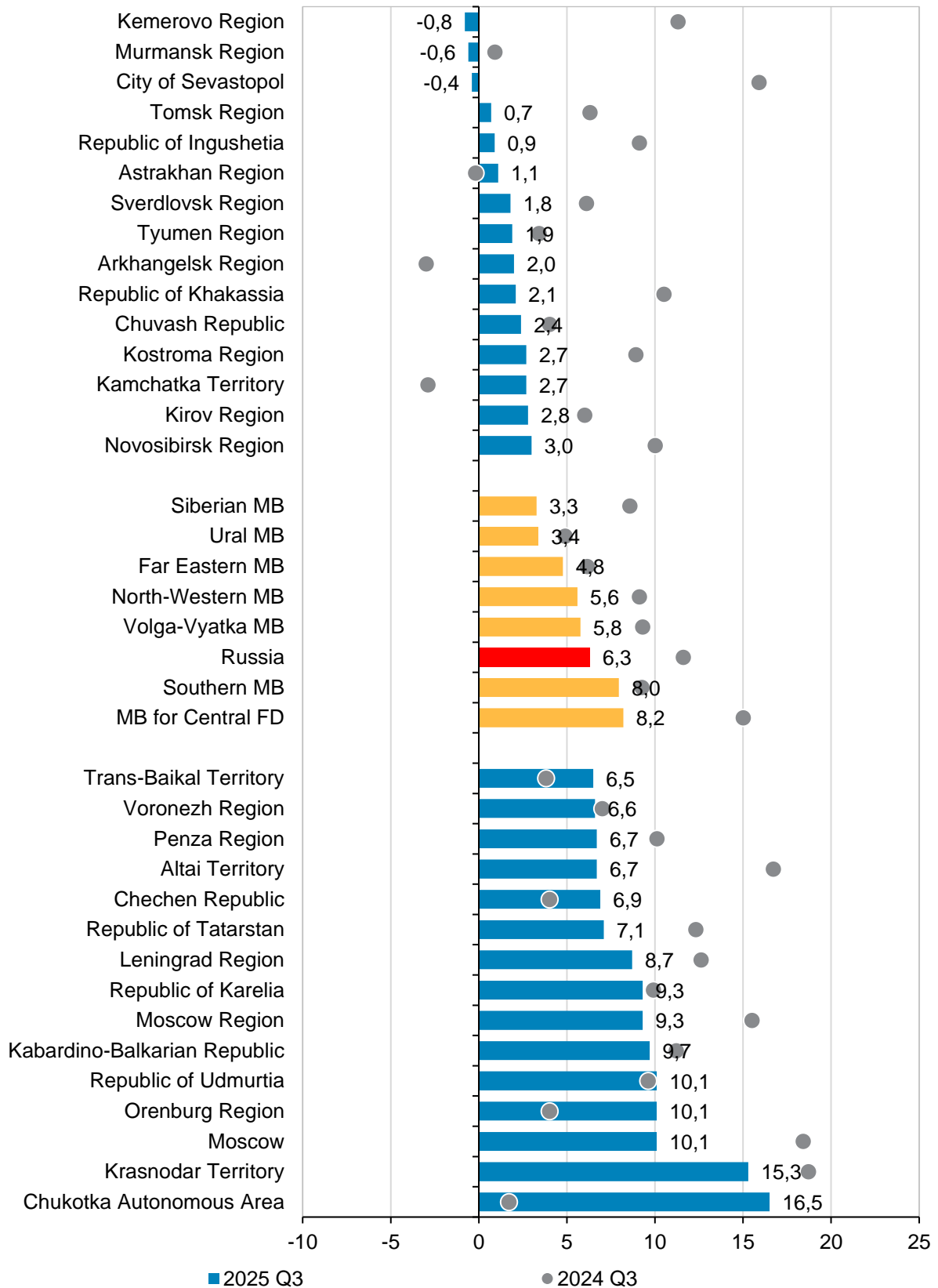
### CORE ECONOMIC INDICATORS BY REGION

The graphs in Annex 2 contain values for all MBs, Russia as a whole, 15 regions with the highest values of the relevant indicators and 15 regions with the lowest ones.



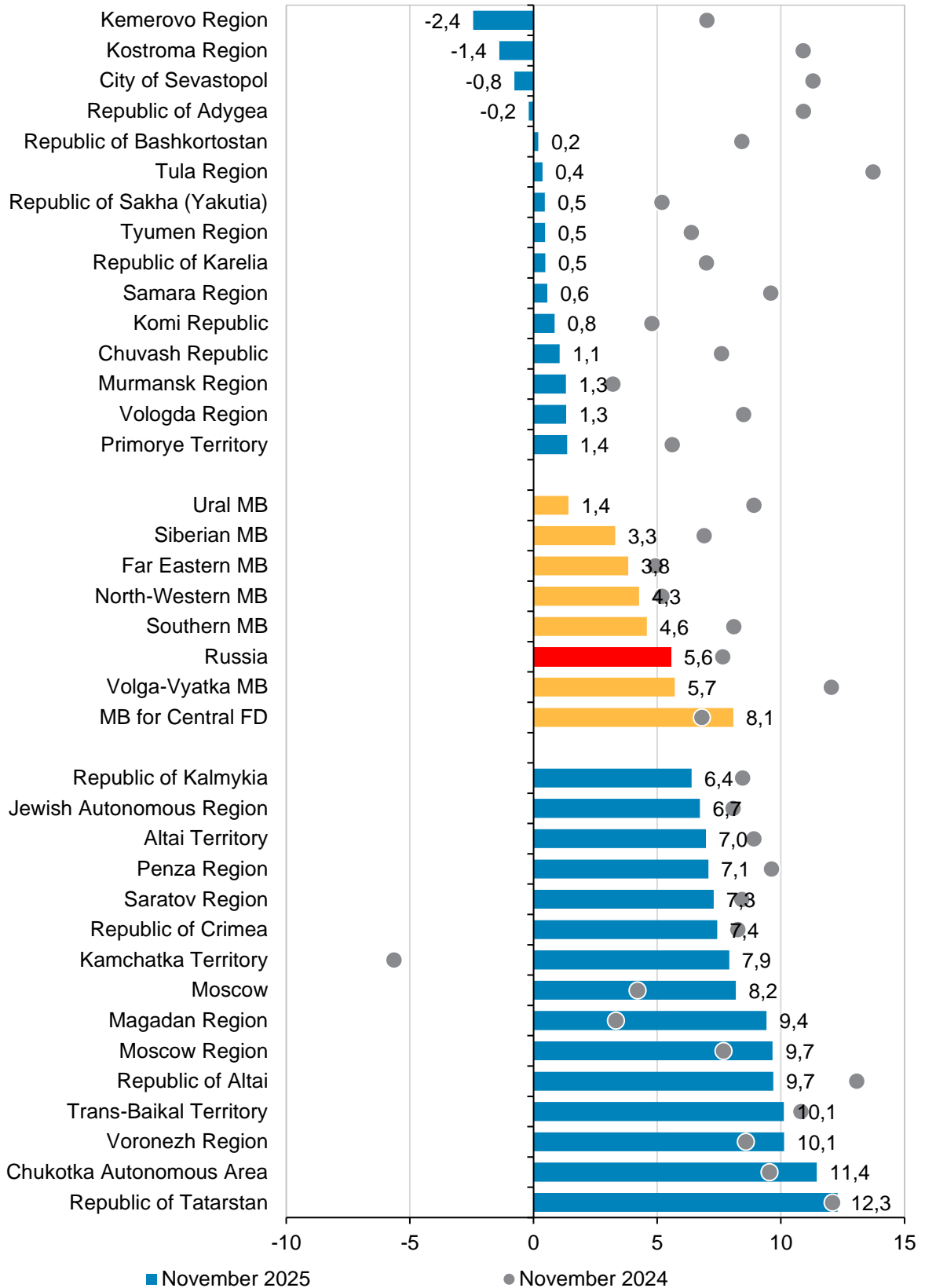
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Real disposable income, % YoY



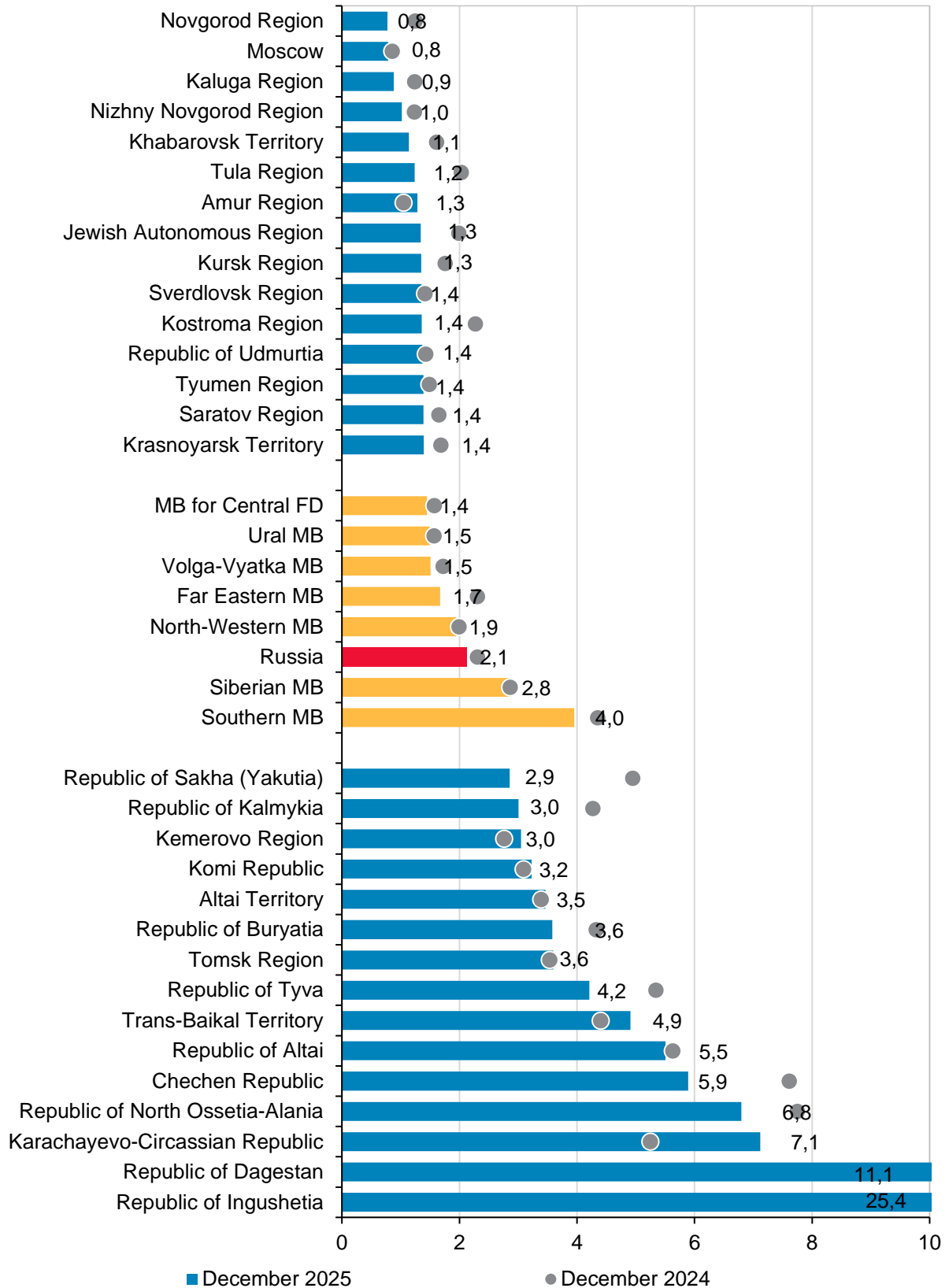
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

## Real wages, 3MMA, % YoY



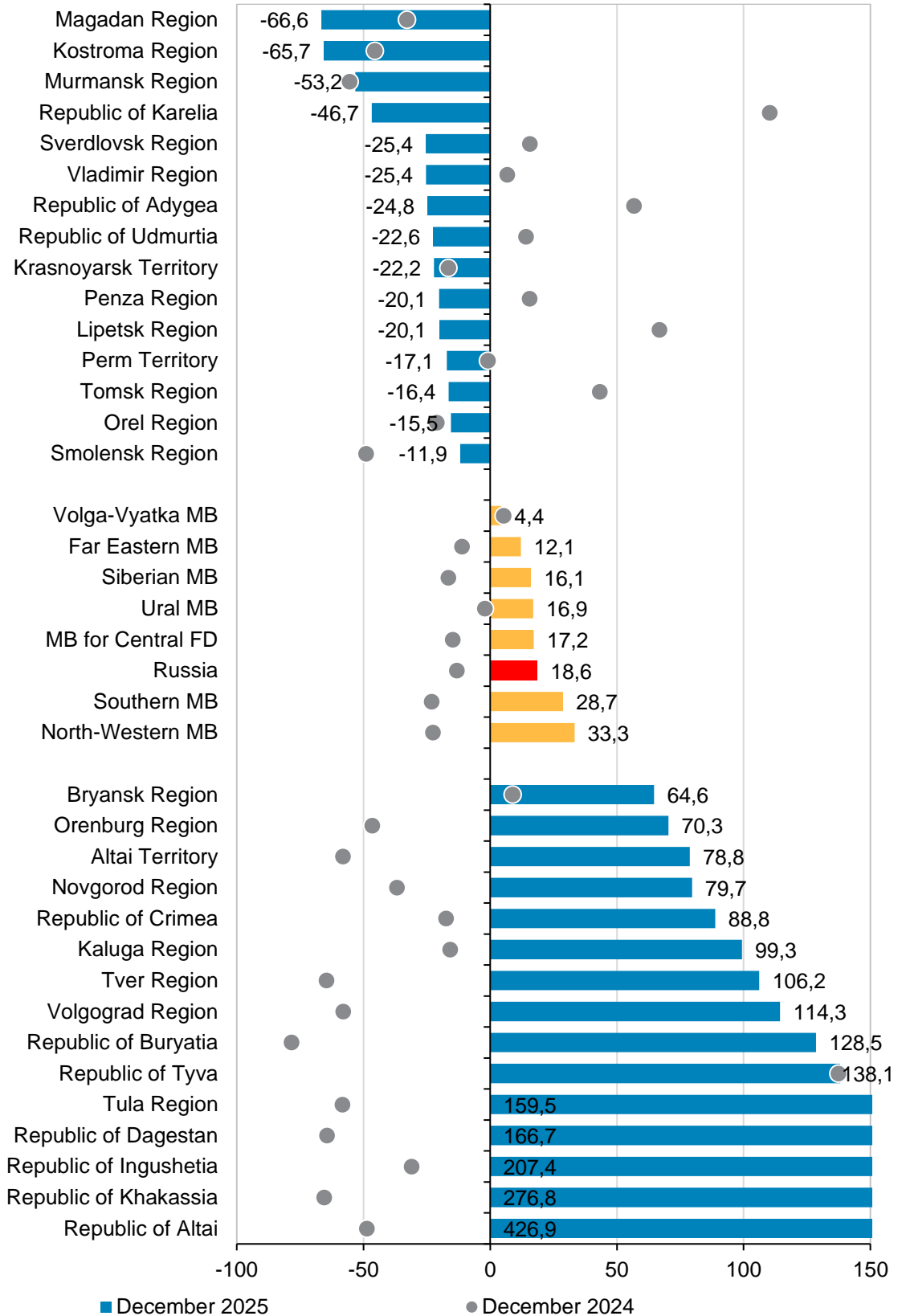
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Unemployment, % SA



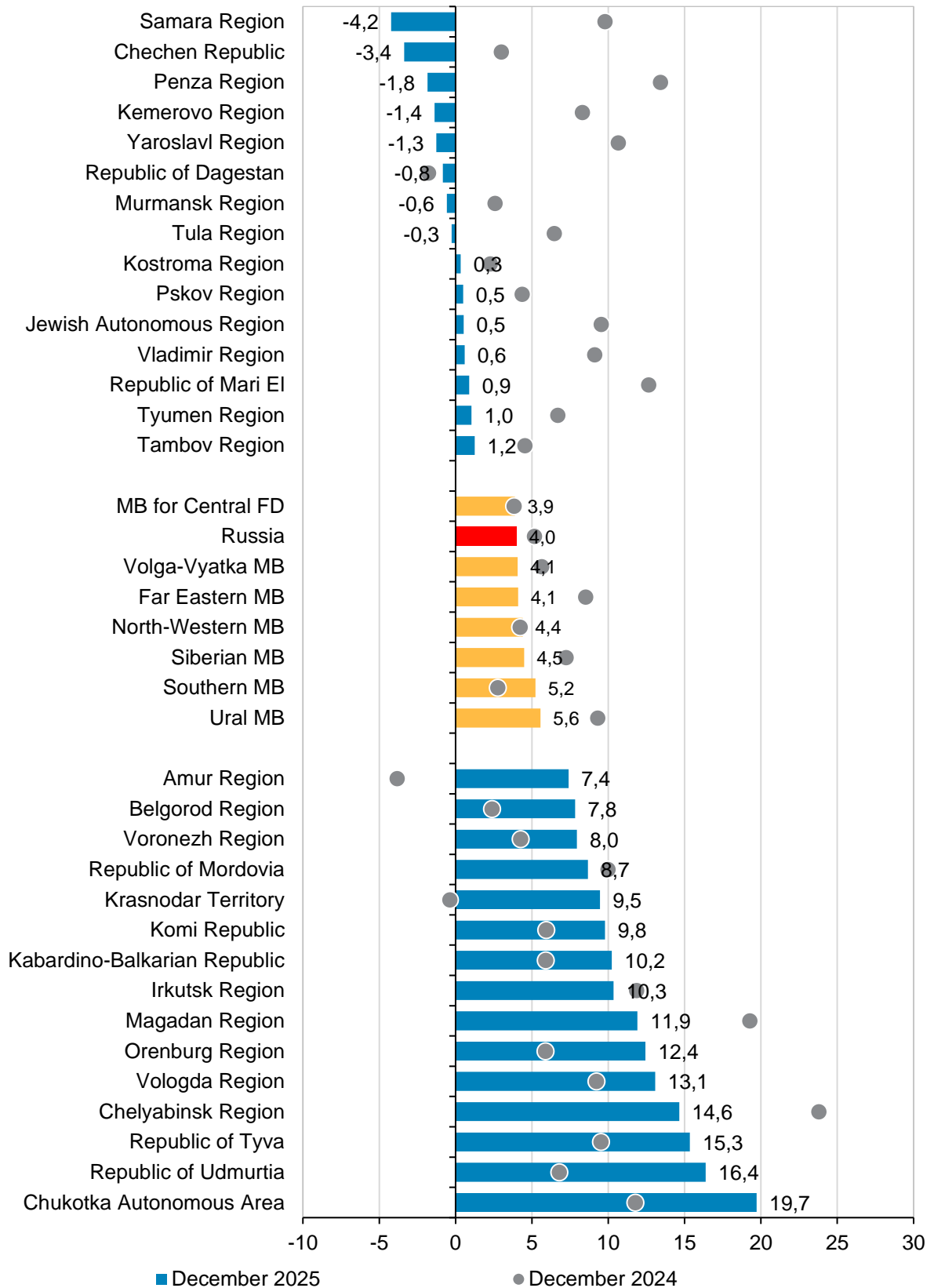
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Housing commissioning, 3MMA, % YoY



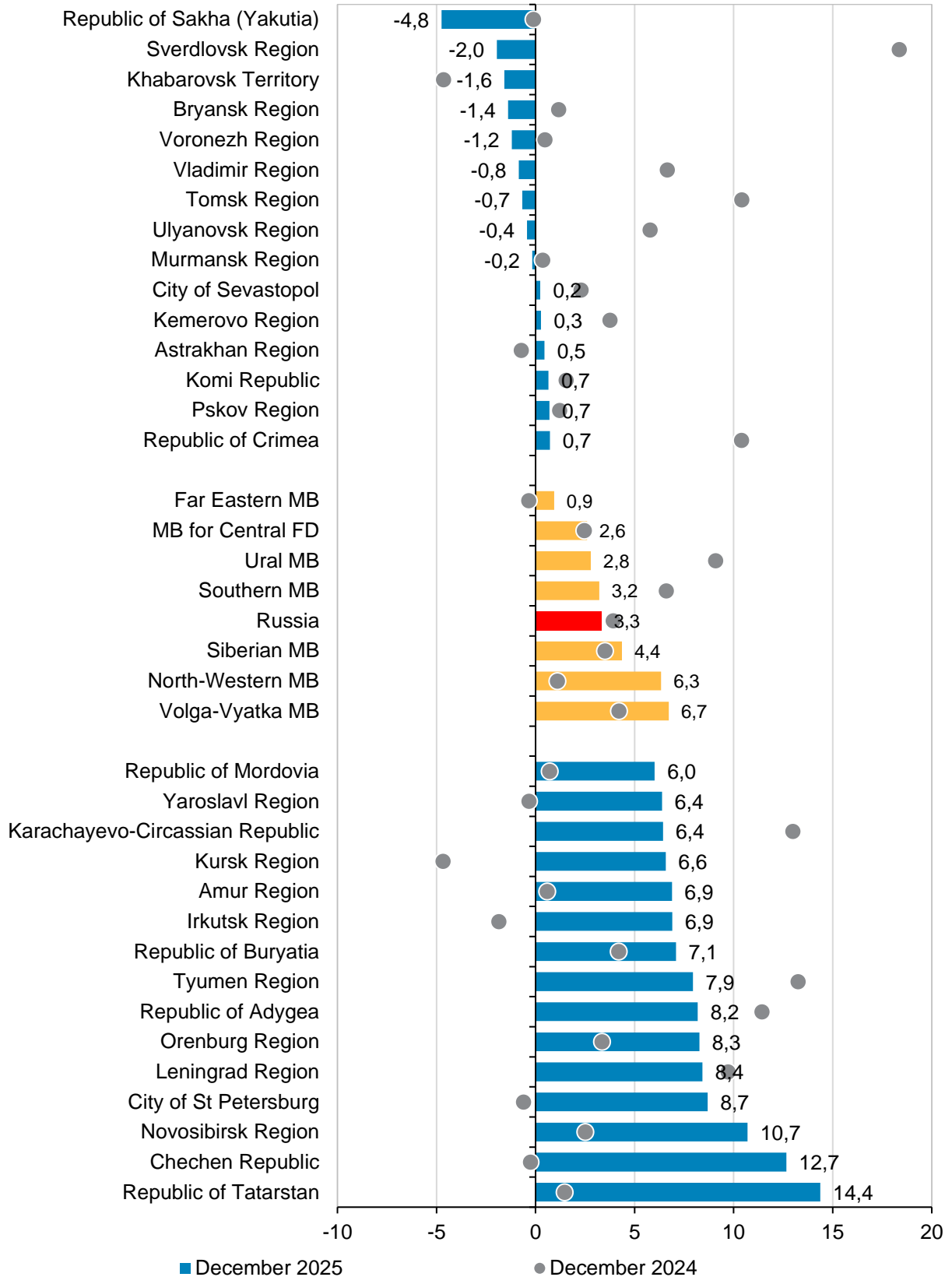
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Retail, 3MMA, % YoY



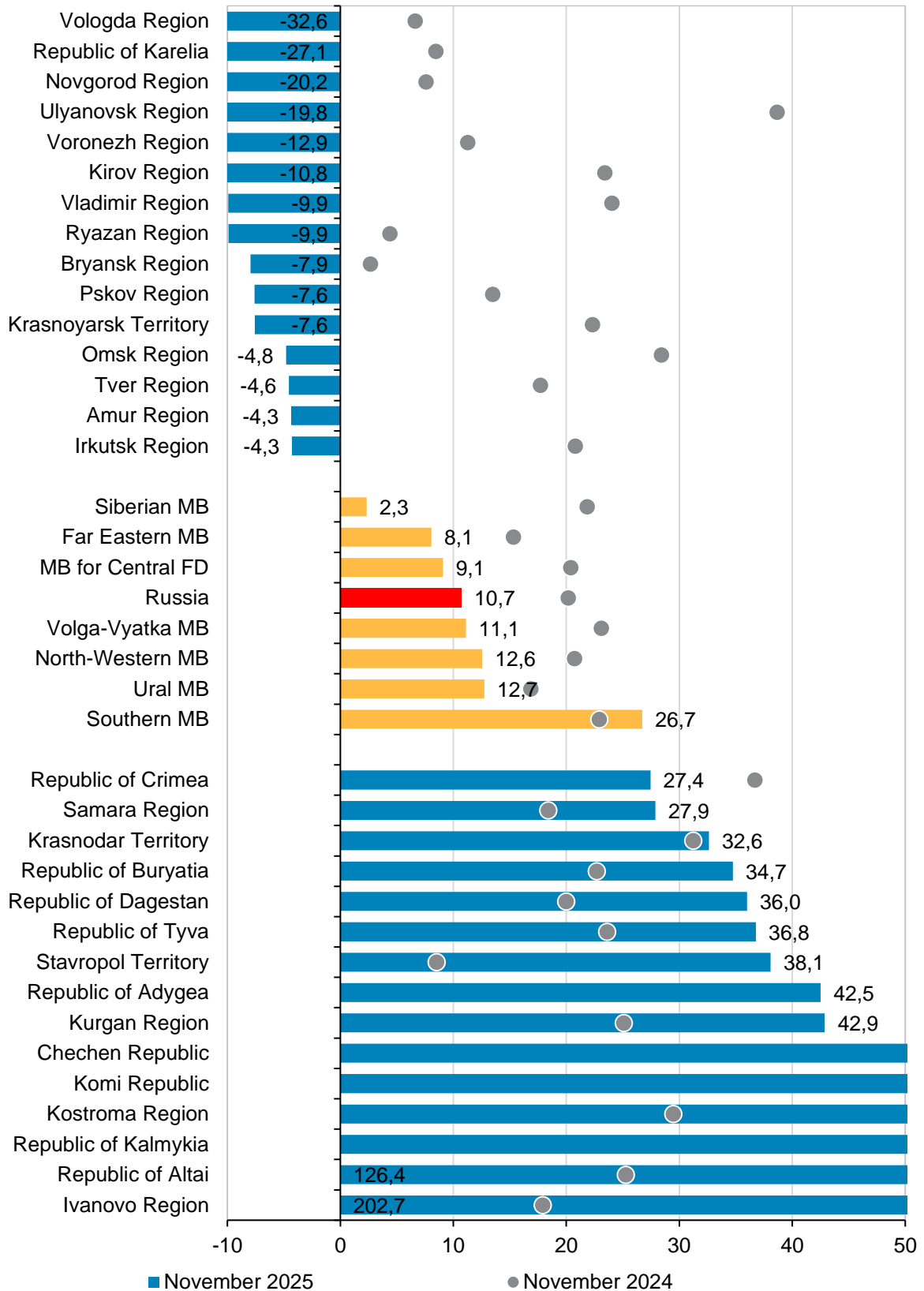
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Commercial services, 3MMA, % YoY



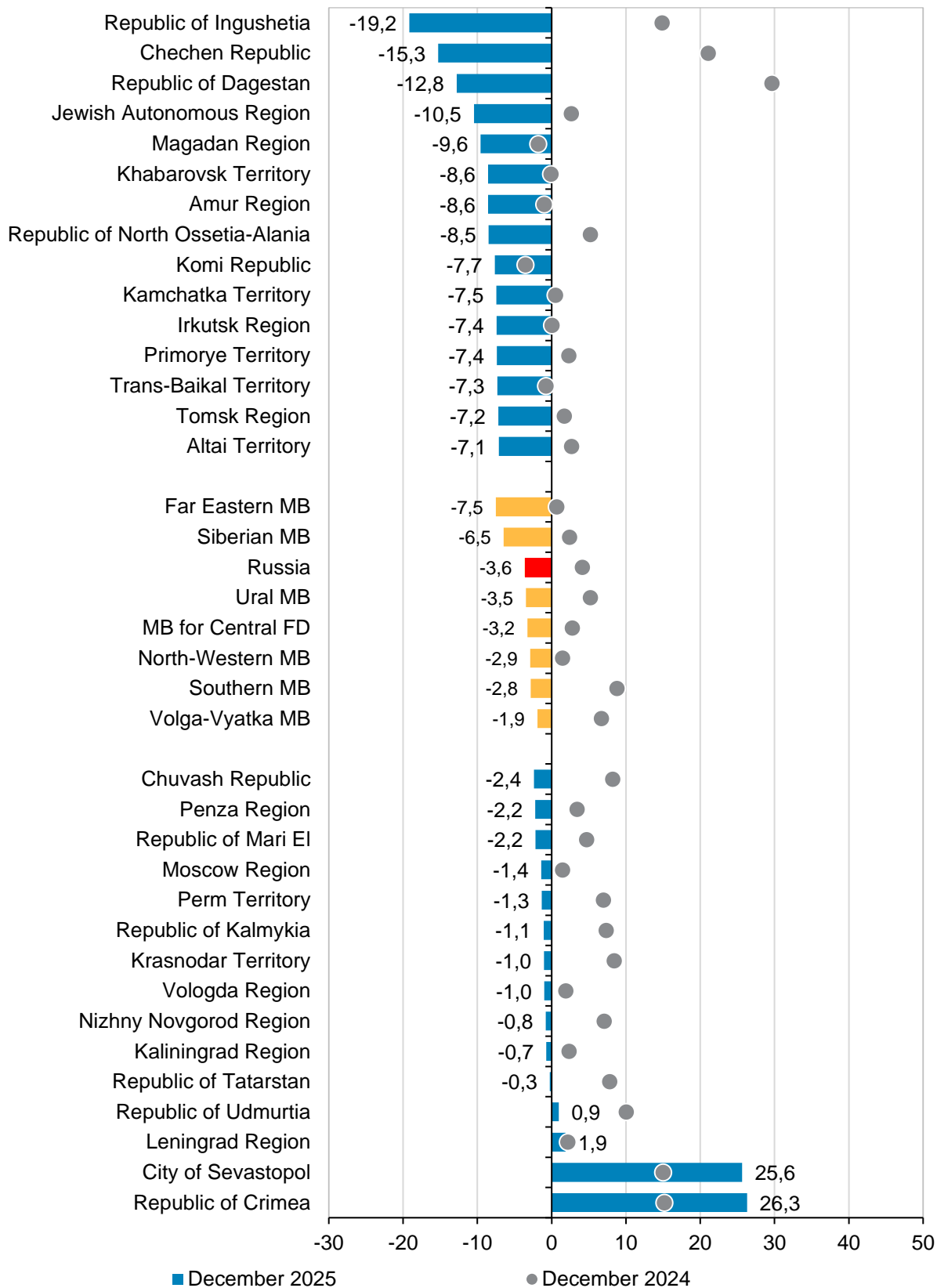
Sources: Rosstat, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Non-financial organisations' outstanding bank loans, % YoY



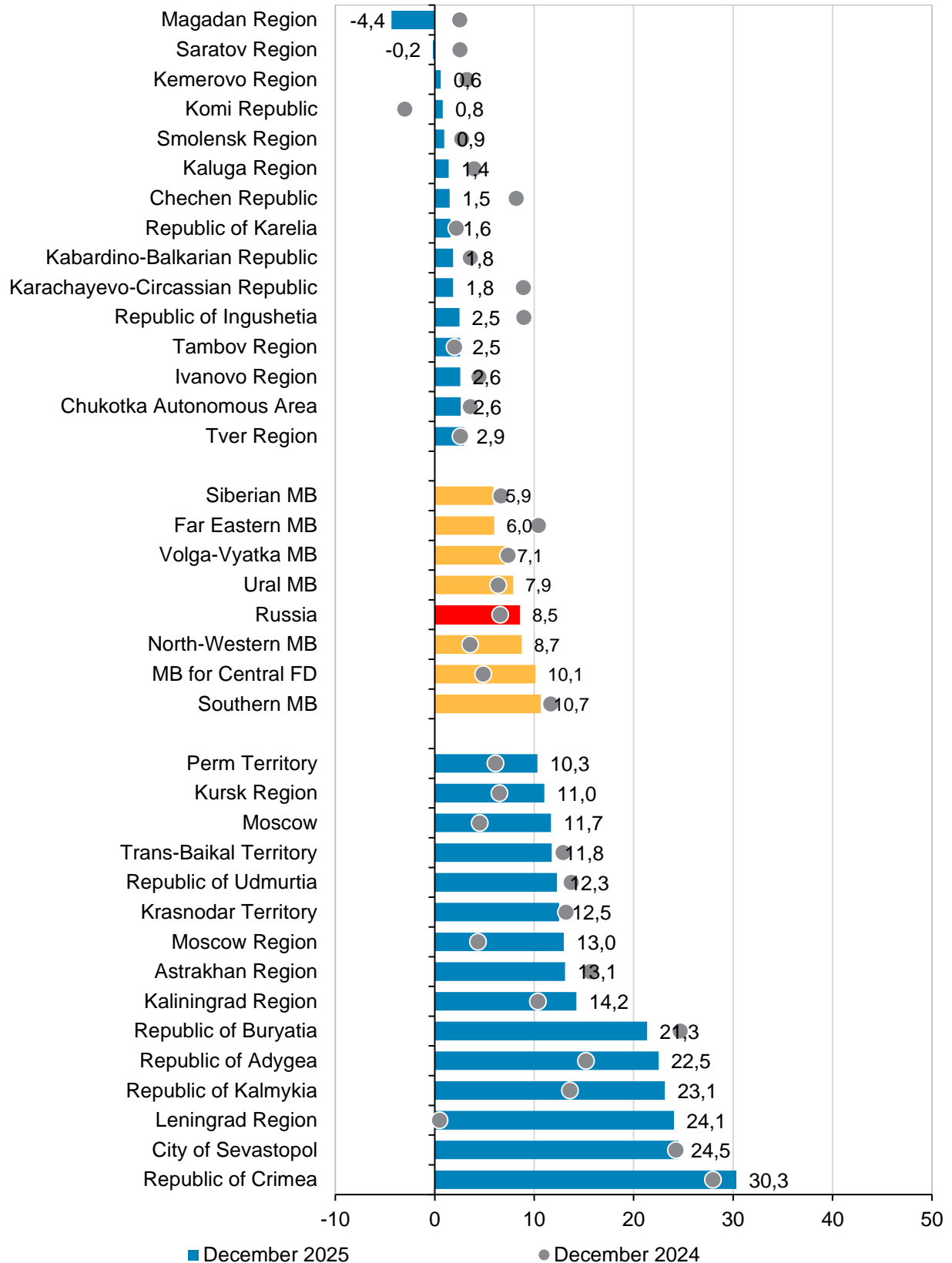
Sources: Bank of Russia, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Outstanding consumer loans, % YoY



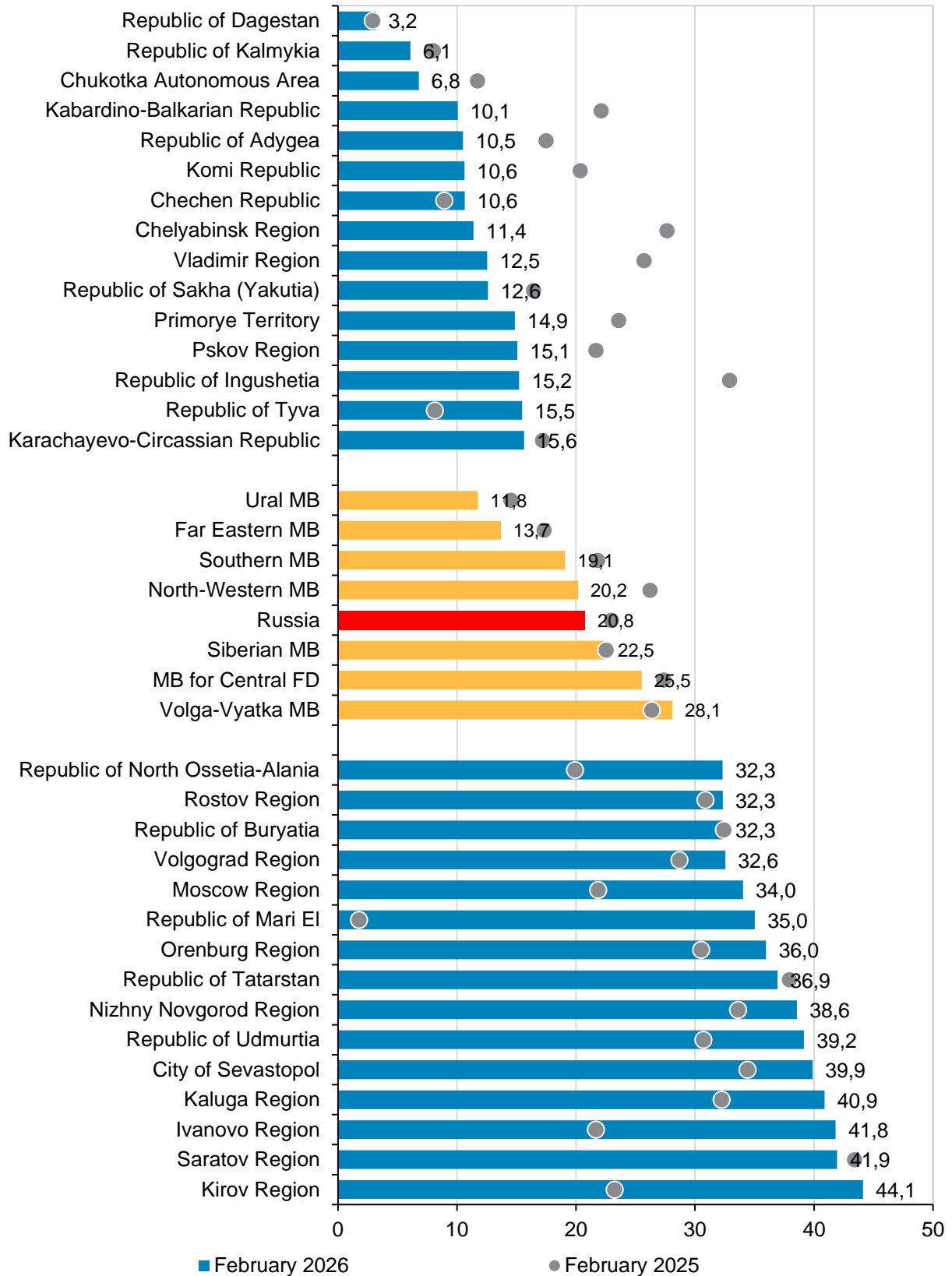
Sources: Bank of Russia, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Outstanding mortgage loans, % YoY



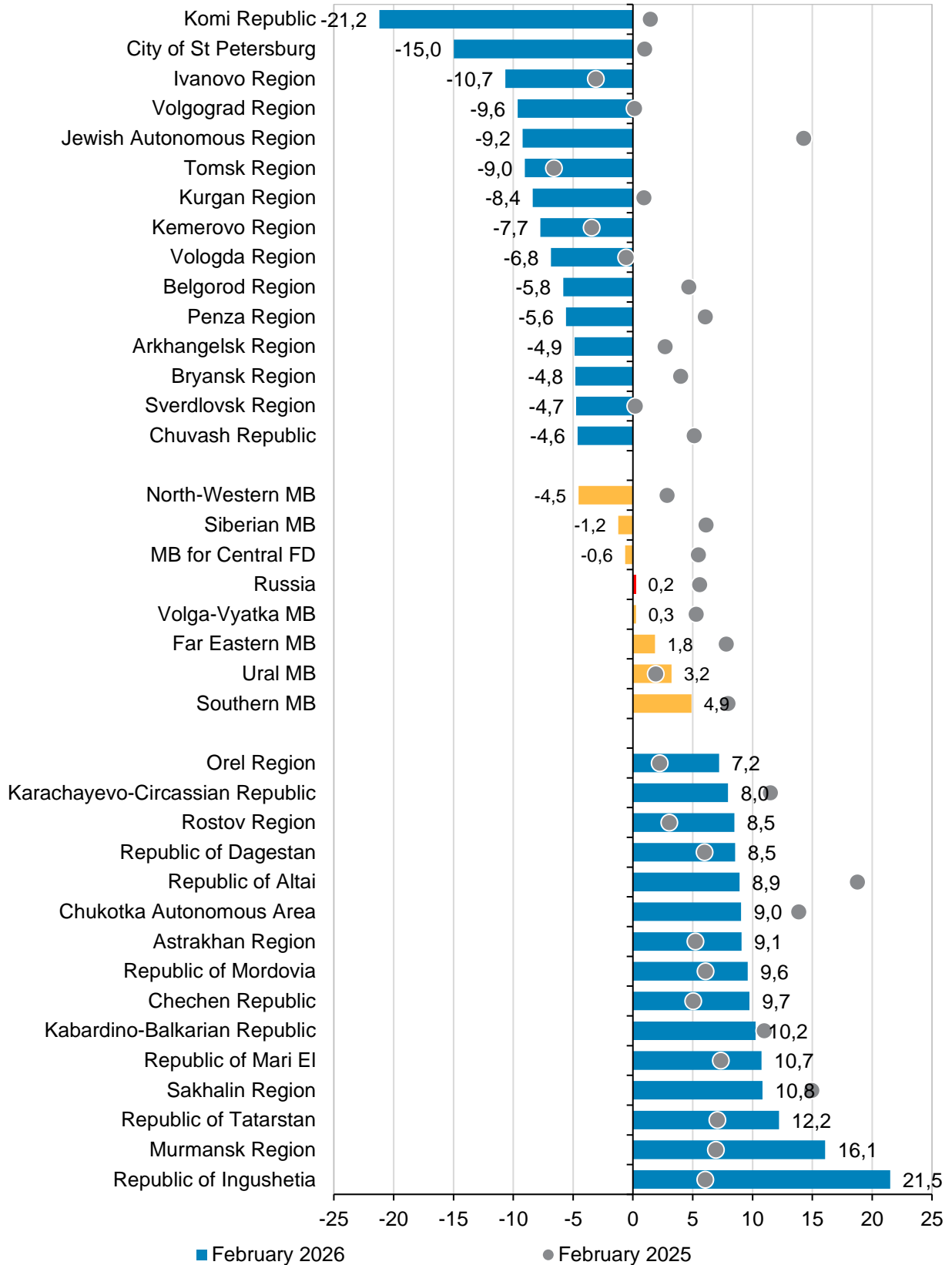
Sources: Bank of Russia, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Companies' price expectations, balance of responses, p, SA



Sources: Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.

### Business Climate Index, p, SA



Sources: Bank of Russia's monitoring of businesses, calculations by Bank of Russia MBs.