



Public opinion in Germany: Russia as an important economic partner

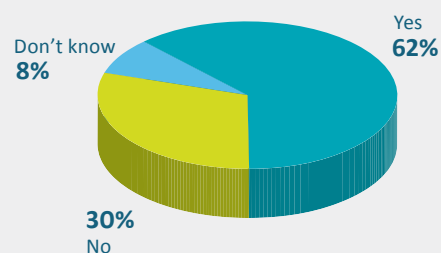
In May 2021, the independent opinion research institute forsa conducted a representative survey to find out what the German public thinks about the economic and political relations with Russia and other Eastern European neighbouring countries.¹

Majority of Germans: Intensify economic relations with Russia

62% of German citizens would support closer economic ties between the EU and Russia. That is even 7% more than in the previous year. Only just under a third (30%) reject closer collaboration.

Overall, German citizens have a positive view of the Eastern European economic partners. Accordingly, two thirds (67%) would support the EU forming a common economic area with the Eastern European neighbouring countries and Russia.

Should economic ties between the EU and Russia be intensified?

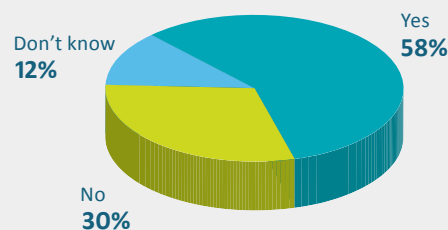


Energy transition: Engaging Russia as a partner

Climate-friendly hydrogen can be obtained from natural gas through carbon separation. Hydrogen is an important building block for the energy transition. Should we import hydrogen that has been produced from natural gas in Russia? Yes, say almost 60% of the respondents. Only just under a third are opposed to the idea.

Electricity from Russia that is produced from renewable energies is also popular with the Germans. A majority of 52% are in favour of importing green electricity from Russia.

Should Germany cooperate with Russia on hydrogen?



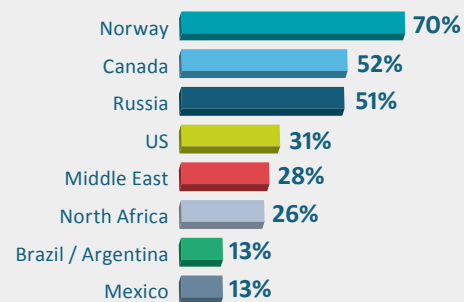
¹ Nationwide survey conducted between 29 April and 10 May 2021. 1,001 citizens aged 18 and over were selected in the Federal Republic of Germany by means of random sampling. The figures in the graphs are percentages.

Norway, Canada and Russia: reliable countries for natural gas

Energy consumption in the EU is rising, while domestic production of natural gas is in decline. To close this supply gap, Germans rely primarily on three countries. The leader is Norway (78%), followed by Canada and Russia (52% and 51%).

The “Trump effect”, which was still evident in the previous year’s result, ranked the United States in one of the bottom places. At that time, only 10% regarded the US as a reliable supplier. Following this year’s presidential election, the US has recovered again from this effect. In the current survey, almost one in three Germans now trust the US as a reliable supplier.

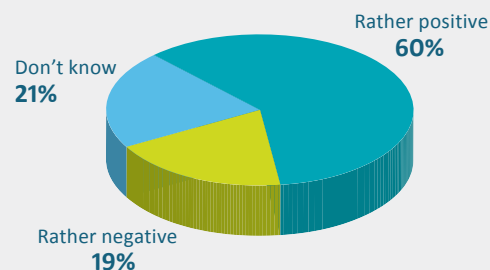
Reliable partners to compensate for declining natural gas production²



Good marks for natural gas from Russia

Europe has been supplied with natural gas from Russia for more than 50 years. For this, the energy partnership now receives good marks: the majority of Germans (60%) regard the close cooperation with Russia on energy as positive, a clear increase over the previous year (49%).

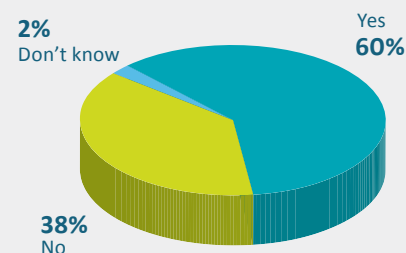
How do you rate the close cooperation with Russia in the supply of natural gas?



High willingness to be vaccinated with “Sputnik V”

The COVID-19 pandemic situation is currently easing. Infections are decreasing in Germany; the number of people vaccinated is rising. Against this backdrop, we wanted to know: Would you get vaccinated with the Russian vaccine “Sputnik V” if it was approved by the EU? 60% of Germany say “yes”. This too is an expression of trust in the eastern neighbour.

Would you get vaccinated with “Sputnik V”?

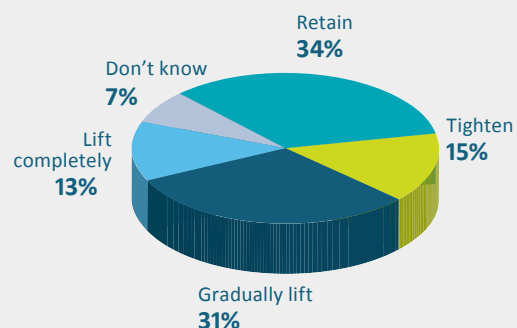


Divided opinion: Economic sanctions against Russia

The EU has been imposing economic sanctions against Russia for several years due to the conflict in Ukraine. Public opinion in Germany on this issue remains divided. While about one third support retaining the sanctions, a third are in favour of gradually lifting them. 15% of the respondents would like to tighten the sanctions. One in six, on the other hand, want to end them completely.

Germans have a clear – but rather critical – opinion when it comes to future cooperation between the EU and Russia. Only one in three (32%) believe that this cooperation will experience a renaissance in the coming years. 60% expect it to be kept to a minimum. This is not a good sign for the important cooperation between the two big neighbours.

EU economic sanctions against Russia



² Multiple answers possible