

# Geographic Snapshot: Europe-Eurasia



A summary of INFER forecasts on elections, diplomacy, and geopolitical events in the region.

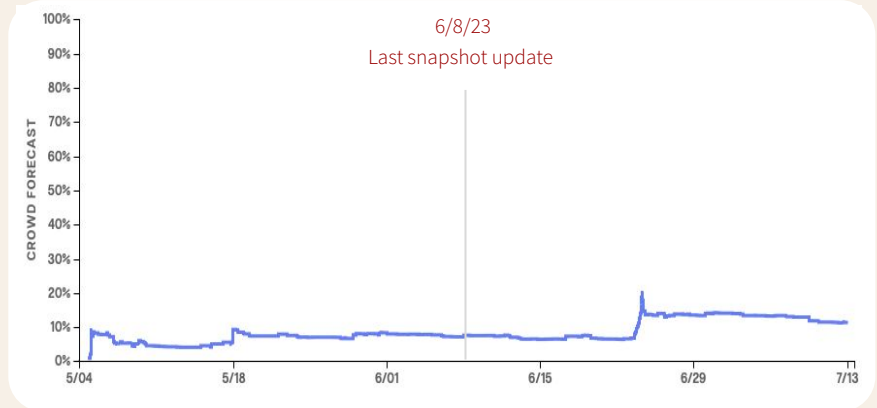
Data as of 13 July 2023

## Europe and Eurasia Region

Will Vladimir Putin cease to be the president of the Russian Federation before 1 May 2024?

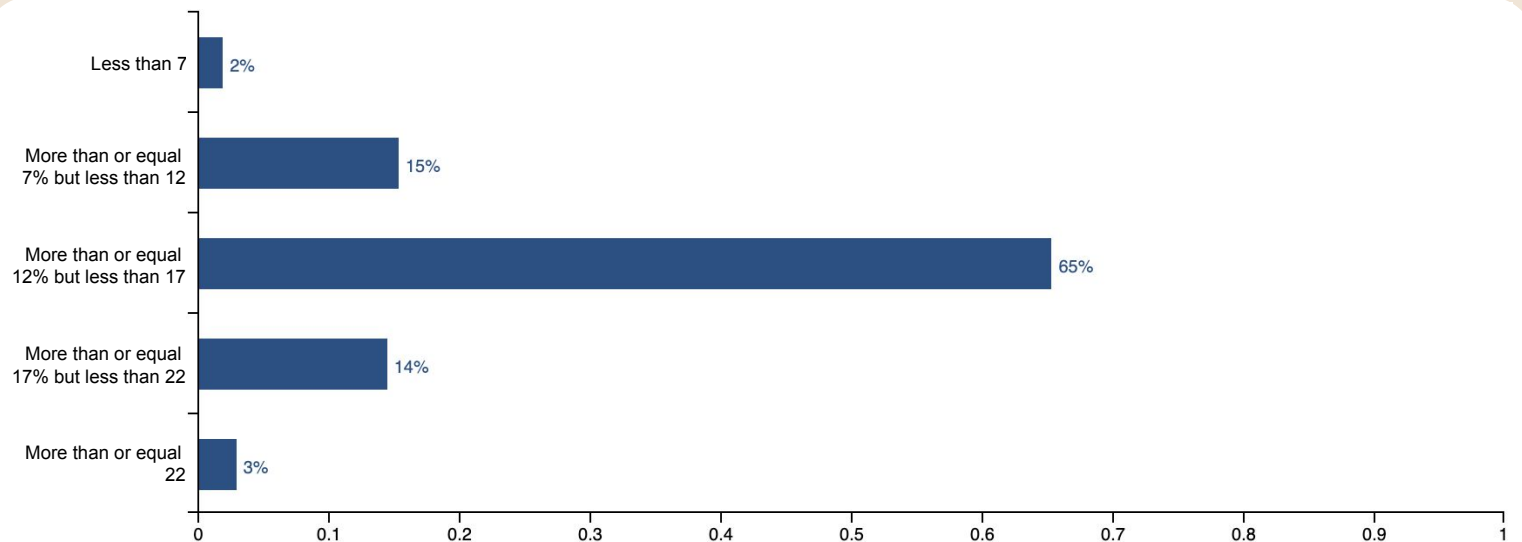
**11%** chance

↑ Up 3% from 6/8/23  
Based on 386 forecasts



[See detailed forecast rationales](#) • [See consensus trend and crowd profile](#)

What percentage of Ukrainian territory will be held by Russia in December 2023?



Based on 195 forecasts

[See detailed forecast rationales](#) • [See consensus trend and crowd profile](#) • [NEW: Blog post on Ukraine's counteroffensive](#)

# APPENDIX: Forecaster Rationale Summaries

This section presents a high-level summary of forecasters' rationales for each question in the report, along with the crowd forecast and change in consensus since the last report (in parentheses). Rationales can be found in full by clicking “See detailed forecast rationales”, and a list of sources linked within rationales can be found by clicking “See source links”. The data in this report is from 1 June through 13 July 2023.

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## Will Vladimir Putin cease to be the president of the Russian Federation before 1 May 2024?

**Crowd Forecast: 11% chance (↑3%)** | [See detailed forecast rationales](#) | [See source links](#)

| Higher probability forecasts discuss...   | Lower probability forecasts discuss...   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rumors of declining health:</b> There are rumors that Putin's health is declining and that he may even have a terminal illness. His frequent absences and canceled public appearances support these speculations.</li> <li>• <b>Internal unrest:</b> There are increasing conflicts within the Russian security forces, especially between the official military and private military companies like Wagner Group. These internal conflicts may spiral out of control and lead to Putin's ouster.</li> <li>• <b>Impacts of Ukraine war:</b> The war in Ukraine is going somewhat poorly for Russia, damaging its economy and Putin's popularity. This could weaken Putin's grip on power if losses mount or the stalemate continues.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Putin's hold on power:</b> After 20+ years as President, Putin has built mechanisms to keep him in power as long as possible, including constitutional changes allowing him to run again in 2024 and control over the country's media outlets. Unless there is a major catastrophe like the fall of Crimea or complete economic/military collapse, it is unlikely the political culture in Russia would enable regime change while Putin is still alive.</li> <li>• <b>Lack of true opposition:</b> Putin retains support from Russian elites, with no signs of major internal unrest or splits that could threaten his rule. Putin is also notoriously adept at keeping his rivals in check.</li> <li>• <b>Continuing Popularity:</b> While his approval rating may have declined, Putin still maintains the support of much of the population. Additionally, as long as Putin avoids a major defeat, the war in Ukraine may actually bolster his popularity -- he can blame any economic troubles on Western sanctions.</li> </ul> |

## What percentage of Ukrainian territory will be held by Russia in December 2023?

**Crowd Forecast most likely outcome: 65% chance of Russia holding 12-17% of Ukraine (↑5%)**

[See detailed forecast rationales](#) | [See source links](#)

| Forecasts anticipating more Russian control discuss...   | Forecasts anticipating less Russian control discuss...   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Russian control:</b> Russia currently occupies around 20% of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea and parts of eastern Ukraine, and aims to annex more land. Russia has steadily gained ground and is unlikely to give up control willingly.</li> <li>• <b>Russia's military advantage:</b> Russia has a military advantage and more resources to sustain prolonged conflict. They have launched counterattacks and defended positions, limiting Ukraine's advancements.</li> <li>• <b>Ukraine's limited progress:</b> Ukraine's counteroffensive has struggled and advancements have been limited. They have not deployed their full military reserves yet, indicating a long-term strategy, but Russia has been able to limit their progress so far.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ukraine's international support:</b> Ukraine has significant international support and military aid which could eventually help them regain ground, especially if provided faster and in larger quantities.</li> <li>• <b>Stalemate:</b> The conflict is approaching stalemate, and neither side has made rapid progress in months. Major changes in territorial control seem unlikely in the next 6 months barring unexpected events.</li> <li>• <b>Russia's limited gains:</b> While Russia holds around 20% of Ukrainian territory now, they captured more earlier in the invasion. They have struggled to advance from the territory they already control, indicating they may have reached their limit.</li> <li>• <b>Morale advantage for Ukraine:</b> Morale is higher among Ukrainian troops who are defending their homeland. Russian troops, on the other hand, have little motivation to continue fighting a prolonged war in a foreign country.</li> <li>• <b>Potential for unexpected events:</b> Unforeseen events like negotiation of a ceasefire, shift in international support, or other geopolitical changes could lead to loss of Russian-held territory.</li> </ul> |

Read detailed perspectives in the blog post [“INFER forecasters weigh Ukraine’s counteroffensive”](#).

## B. The Forecasters

The forecasters who have participated thus far in these questions have the following profile:

- 161 total forecasters
- 40% are “INFER Pros” - participants in INFER’s Pro Forecaster Program, who were selected based on their accuracy track record of at least 1 year on INFER or other similar forecasting sites or programs.

### Demographics

| Country                            | Ratio |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| USA                                | 35%   |
| Canada, UK, Australia, New Zealand | 6%    |
| Europe                             | 31%   |
| Latin America, Caribbean           | 20%   |
| Asia                               | 8%    |
| Africa                             | 1%    |

## C. Report Methodology

Rationales of INFER forecasters have been selected and summarized by Claude, an AI assistant tool created by Anthropic. To build the rationale summaries presented in this report, we provided forecasts (probabilities and narrative rationales) to Claude to summarize into bulleted lists of arguments. We then manually edited the bulleted summaries for accuracy and readability to ensure that each list item accurately represented forecasters' rationales and was assigned to the proper list.

Each question in the report also includes links to the crowd forecasts, rationales, and source links used by forecasters.