

'Abrupt Regime Change' Poses Risk to Russian Economy, Moody's Says

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Dmitry Ermakov / Moskva News Agency

Moody's Investors Service has for the first time named "abrupt regime change" as a risk factor for the Russian economy.

Analysts have [forecast](#) increasing competition within the Kremlin and growing popular [discontent](#) over social issues as Vladimir Putin's fourth presidential term approaches its end in 2024.

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Moody's named regime change as one of several "distant but tangible" key risks to the Russian economy, the RBC news website [reported](#) Monday.

"Moody's first mention of this risk [in its analysis] signals the beginning of a countdown," [writes](#) Russia's The Bell business outlet.

The credit rating agency says that Putin's high popular approval doesn't carry over to the rest of the political system, as demonstrated by the difficulties Kremlin-backed candidates faced at the gubernatorial elections last year.

Moody's identified other key areas of concern to the Russian economy, including state dominance, new foreign sanctions, capital outflow and a declining population, RBC reported.

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