

Mail.ru Q1 Sales Up 25%

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Internet group Mail.Ru expects revenue growth this year of 22 to 24 percent.

Internet group Mail.Ru confirmed its full-year outlook as it reported growth in first-quarter sales that was ahead of guidance while noting more challenging economic and political conditions.

Businesses in **Russia** are nervous about the possible implications of Moscow's involvement in Ukraine, which is taking a toll on **Russia's** economy and investments.

"The underlying economic and geopolitical environment has become more challenging, which impacts the longer-term visibility and makes forecasting more problematic," Dmitry Grishin, Mail.Ru chief executive officer, said in a statement on Thursday.

"Notwithstanding this, the underlying market remains broadly supportive, and the structural drivers of our business are unchanged," he said, while repeating an earlier outlook.

Mail.Ru, controlled by **Russia**'s richest man Alisher Usmanov, said in February it expected revenue growth this year of 22 to 24 percent and a margin on EBITDA of 53 to 54 percent.

The company, which owns 52 percent of **Russia**'s biggest social network VKontakte and operates email and games services, said first-quarter sales rose to 7.8 billion rubles (\$218.5 million) from 6.3 billion a year ago.

The growth was driven by a 39 percent increase in revenue from games and a 27 percent increase in advertising sales.

Revenue from paid services in social networks grew 16 percent to 2.6 billion rubles, the biggest share of the total.

The company had around 35 billion rubles of cash with no debt outstanding as of March 31.

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