The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Higher Prices Dent Putin's Sky-High Popularity — Paper

By The Moscow Times

August 28, 2015



Women walk past graffiti depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin, dressed in a Judogi and sitting next to a girl, on the facade of a children's health center in Yalta, Crimea. The painted word reads "Ours."

Russians' concern over rising prices has eroded President Vladimir Putin's approval ratings but these remain extremely high, Vedomosti business daily reported on Friday.

It cited a poll by the state-run Public Opinion Foundation (VTsIOM) showing that 72 percent of Russians would have voted for Putin in August, down from 76 percent in May.

Another poll, by the independent Levada Center pollster, showed that in August 83 percent of Russians approved of the president's actions, down from an all-time high of 89 percent in May.

The paper quoted experts as saying the fall reflected public dissatisfaction about prices during the summer, when many regulated prices such as utility and transport charges are raised.

Putin’s popularity ratings remain extremely high by both international and historical standards, boosted by his response to political upheaval in Ukraine last year.

His annexation of Crimea and denunciation of Western actions stirred patriotic fervor in Russia.

According to the Levada Center’s poll, Putin’s approval rating in November 2013 was 61 percent, the lowest since 2000 when he was first elected president, but it surged above 80 percent early last year.

Consumer price inflation was 15.6 percent in July, having hit a 13-year high of 16.9 percent in March after a slump in the ruble caused by a collapse in oil prices and Western sanctions over the Ukraine conflict.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2015/08/28/higher-prices-dent-putins-sky-high-popularity-paper-a49220