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Poverty and Rising Prices Most Acute Problems for Russians - Poll

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The majority of Russians (70 percent) consider inflation and ⊠rising prices to be their most acute problems, the Interfax news agency ⊠reported Tuesday, citing a poll by the ROMIR research group.⊠⊠

Some 66 percent of respondents said they are worried about poverty ⊠and low wages and 41 percent named ⊠unemployment as a major problem, ROMIR revealed. ⊠⊠

More Russians are also concerned about the problem of corruption (36 ⊠percent), compared to 30 percent in 2014.

The⊠⊠Russian economy plunged into a deep crisis in 2014 following Western⊠ sanctions imposed on the country over its role in the Ukraine crisis ⊠and falling global prices for crude

oil.

Russians saw their real wages fall sharply amid skyrocketing ⊠inflation and several million people were pushed below ⊠the poverty line last year. ⊠⊠

In the first quarter of 2016, the poverty rate in Russia reached 15.7 ⊠percent, according to official statistics.⊠⊠A recent poll by Moscow's Higher School of Economics (HSE) revealed ⊠that more than 40 percent of Russian households struggle to buy food⊠ or clothes.

The ROMIR poll was conducted among 1,500 people in all Russian federal ⊠districts, Interfax reported.

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