

# 3% of Russians Agree With Kremlin That There Are 'No Oligarchs in Russia'

April 12, 2018



Roman Abramovich **Sergei Savostyanov** / TASS

The Kremlin's claim that there are no oligarchs in Russia has resonated with only 3 percent of the population, according to a state-run poll that also named Roman Abramovich the most famous Russian oligarch.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov took offense at the term "oligarchs" last week ahead of a new wave of U.S. sanctions against Russian tycoons that sent the ruble and Russian markets into a two-day tailspin this week.

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An overwhelming 94 percent of Russians surveyed by the state-controlled VTsIOM pollster said that they believe that their country does have oligarchs. Just under 45 percent said

oligarchs “bring more harm” than good to Russia while 9 percent said they “bring more benefits.”

“Roman Abramovich leads in the people’s rating for the popularity of Russian oligarchs (15 percent named him),” VTsIOM [said](#) of the billionaire Chelsea Football Club owner in a press release accompanying the report.

Abramovich was followed by sanctions-hit steel tycoon Oleg Deripaska at 8 percent and 2012 presidential contender Mikhail Prokhorov at 7 percent.

The survey was conducted by phone among 2,000 Russians between April 7 and April 8.

Valery Fyodorov, the head of VTsIOM, said the poll’s results showed that the negative perception of Russian oligarchs has “blurred.”

“Oligarchs today are perceived as a given, as an integral element of the domestic business landscape,” Fyodorov said.

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