

Despite World Cup Excitement, Russians Angry Over Retirement Reform

July 06, 2018



Dmitry Feoktistov / TASS

Watching the World Cup may be an enjoyable pastime, but an overwhelming majority of Russians are still angry about their government's long-term plan to raise the retirement age, according to recent polls.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev announced the reform, which would push the retirement age past the [life expectancy](#) of some Russians, on June 14, the opening day of the football tournament. The Kremlin was accused of using the World Cup as a cover to avoid dissent as it pushes through unpopular measures.

The World Cup did beat out the announcement of retirement reform as the most memorable event in June for Russians [surveyed](#) by the independent Levada Analytical Center.

Related article: [Russians Are Most Unhappy With Putin Over Wealth Inequality — Poll](#)

Fifty-six percent of people said the World Cup was the most unforgettable event of June, while only 31 percent named the government's proposal to reform the pension system. [Nearly half](#) of the Russian population over the age of four watched their country's opening match with Egypt.

But around 90 percent of Russians oppose the government's plan to raise the retirement age, [according to](#) a second Levada survey.

Popular discontent over the retirement proposal spilled into the streets in the past weeks, as both pro-Kremlin and opposition forces staged demonstrations all over Russia.

Both Levada and the state-run VTsIOM pollster have registered a significant drop in the population's trust toward Medvedev and, for the [first time](#) in several years, President Vladimir Putin.

"The resulting data was not surprising," Levada concluded.

Reuters contributed reporting to this article.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2018/07/06/world-cup-notwithstanding-most-russians-angry-over-retirement-reform-a62142>