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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russian Premier League Attendance Skyrockets 71% After World Cup

August 01, 2018

Over 27,000 fans came to Rostov's new stadium for the first game of the Premier League season. **Valery Matytsin / TASS**

The World Cup effect appears to have rubbed off on the Russian Premier League, which saw a 71 percent spike in attendance this week following the country's hosting of the global football tournament.

Russia spent an estimated $3.4 billion on constructing nine new stadiums from scratch and renovating three others for the World Cup. The high maintenance costs of the new stadiums has fueled speculation that smaller cities may struggle to maintain the infrastructure without sell-out crowds.

Related article: What Will Russia Do With Its Giant World Cup Stadiums?

The first matchday of the Russian Premier League's (RPL) new season, which kicked off with

eight games last weekend, set an attendance record of 169,600 fans, the league said in a press release Tuesday, with an average of 21,200 fans per match.

Last year, the same eight games were attended by less than 100,000 fans.

High stadium attendance was also observed at games in Russia's second-division, the Football National League (FNL), with venues in World Cup host cities including Volgograd, Nizhny Novgorod and Kaliningrad averaging almost 20,000 fans.

Saransk, Russia's smallest host city, saw 26,000 people attend a second-division game two days after the World Cup final.

Here is a selection of Instagram posts from the new season.

Mordovia Arena, Saransk

July 17. Mordovia vs. Nizhny Novgorod (FNL: second division)

26,564 spectators.

Embed:

Публикация от Анютка (@bysechka28) 29 Июл 2018 в 8:46 PDT

Embed:

Публикация от Valeria (@valeri_9495) 29 Июл 2018 в 8:25 PDT

Spartak Stadium, Moscow

July 17. Spartak vs. Orenburg (RPL: first division)

36,672 spectators.

Embed:

Публикация от Юлия Миронова (@juliyamironova89) 1 Авг 2018 в 2:09 PDT

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Публикация от Татьяна Касаткина (@kasatkina_tata) 30 Июл 2018 в 6:37 PDT

Embed:

Публикация от Ilona Namatevs (@ilonanamatevs) 29 Июл 2018 в 10:54 PDT

Rostov Arena, Rostov-on-Don

July 28. Rostov vs. Terek (RPL: first division)

27,975 spectators.

Embed:

Публикация от unityparty88 (@unityparty8_8) 30 Июл 2018 в 12:07 PDT

Volgograd Arena, Volgograd

July 22. Rotor vs. Luch (FNL: second division)

30,611 spectators.

Embed:

Публикация от ★Ďαñύλ★ (@danya_bit_) 24 Июл 2018 в 3:18 PDT

Embed:

Публикация от Serious Serg (@alkamfel) 26 Июл 2018 в 9:13 PDT

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