

Russian Hospital Tells Doctors They Have Huge Salaries, Sparking Uproar

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Maternity doctors in central Russia had a hearty laugh after hearing their boss read out salaries three to four times higher than their actual pay, a video posted to Russian social media showed.

The simple yet defiant act of laughter captured national attention this week at a time when Russians' real incomes have [slumped](#) for five straight years.

Related article: [Russia Ditches Real Income Data That Has Slumped for Five Years](#)

In the video from the Salavat maternity [hospital](#) 1,500 kilometers east of Moscow, doctors and nurses [gasp and laughed](#) when the head of the hospital listed average salaries during a meeting with a representative from the presidential human rights council.

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Albina Fatykhova, the head of the hospital, said that doctors earn 61,200 rubles (\$940) and midwives earn 35,400 rubles (\$544) per month during the meeting.

“The numbers [she read] were massively inflated,” one of the nurses present at the meeting was cited as [saying](#) by the Dozhd television channel. “Our salaries are three to four times lower.”

Fatykhova later [criticized](#) the laughter as a “scripted performance.”

Officials [say](#) dozens of hospital employees had quit — for reasons including low pay — before footage of the laughing doctors went viral. Regional authorities [terminated](#) an agreement allowing a private company to run the hospital following the scandal.

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