

3% of Russians Trust Officials' Income Declarations – Poll

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Andrei Lyubimov / Moskva News Agency

Only 3 percent of Russians believe that government officials submit trustworthy income declarations every year, according to an independent Levada Center survey.

The 2018 declaration [showed](#) President Vladimir Putin earning 8.6 million rubles (\$134,000), or less than half of what he earned in 2017. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's yearly pay rose to 9.9 million rubles (\$154,000).

A mere 3 percent said they believe that civil servants declare the entirety of their incomes and assets, according to results [published](#) by Levada on Tuesday.

Another 11 percent said that government officials declare "most" of their wealth, according to Levada's poll results.

A combined 77 percent said civil servants declare either a "small" or "negligible" part of their incomes and assets.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov defended the income declarations on Tuesday, telling reporters that “it’s a complicated system.”

“Perhaps there’s not enough information about how it’s verified, but this is the system that’s built and it works,” he was [quoted](#) as saying by Interfax.

Levada conducted the survey among 1,625 respondents in 50 Russian regions between April 18–23.

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