

Kremlin Asks Specialists to Explain Putin's Falling Trust Ratings

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Andrei Lyubimov / Moskva News Agency

Russian sociologists should explain President Vladimir Putin's record-low trust levels amid his growing approval ratings, the Kremlin said on Thursday.

A recent state-funded survey said that public trust in Putin has [dropped](#) to its lowest level since 2006. The same survey showed Putin's approval rating [grow](#) from 61 percent in January to 65 percent this month.

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"We're waiting for some analysis by our respected specialists on how these data correlate. How can trust level fall, but [approval] rating rise?" Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov was [quoted](#) as saying by Interfax.

Valery Fyodorov, head of the state-funded VTsIOM pollster whose results raised the

Kremlin's eyebrows, later [explained](#) that two distinct methodologies were used to arrive at both indicators.

While around two-thirds of Russians approved of Putin's job as president, he told Kommersant FM, fewer people named him outright when asked to identify politicians they trust the most.

"It would be a big exaggeration to say that trust in politicians is limited by those who remember them unprompted," Fyodorov said.

Another state survey conducted at the request of the Kremlin [said](#) that less than half of Russian respondents would vote for Putin if elections were held this weekend.

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