

Trust in Putin Doubles After Kremlin Criticizes Poll

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Mikhail Metsel / TASS

Public trust in President Vladimir Putin has more than doubled hours after the Kremlin asked sociologists to explain why his trust and approval ratings differ.

A state-funded survey published May 24 said that trust in Putin slipped to a 13-year low of 31.7 percent. The Kremlin on Thursday [asked](#) the VTsIOM pollster to explain how that figure correlates with Putin's approval rating of 65 percent in the same survey.

Related article: [Kremlin Asks Specialists to Explain Putin's Falling Trust Ratings](#)

VTsIOM published new figures on Friday showing trust in Putin [skyrocketing](#) to 72.3 percent after the Kremlin's criticism.

"We now ask the respondents directly whether or not they trust [politicians] and mention specific first and last names," Valery Fyodorov, the head of VTsIOM, [told](#) the RBC news

website.

When the respondents were asked open-ended questions, trust in Putin dropped further to 30.5 percent.

Related article: [Less Than Half of Russians Would Vote for Putin Today – State Poll](#)

Political analyst Mikhail Vinogradov [called](#) the pollster's inclusion of both open-ended and multiple-choice questions a "clever" move.

"Some respondents will simply not answer an open-ended question, whereas here you have a stark choice: yes or no," Denis Volkov, deputy head of the independent Levada Center pollster, told RBC.

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