

Putin's Approval Rating Steadily Increases to 68%, Survey Says

July 05, 2019



Moskva News Agency

President Vladimir Putin's approval rating has grown in recent months but remains at pre-Crimean annexation lows, an independent Levada Center polling agency survey said on Friday.

Putin's approval ratings have hovered in the mid-to-low 60s since he enacted unpopular reforms gradually increasing Russians' retirement ages last summer.

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Putin's job approval has climbed to 68 percent this month from 66 percent in April–May and 64 percent in January–March, Levada Center's poll results said.

These minor gains within the margin of error could climb even higher after this month's increase in pension payouts, Levada's head of research Alexei Levinson told The Moscow

Times.

"If we see that [Putin's] approval level remains the same or goes up by fall, we'll be able to talk about changes in public opinion over the pensions increase," Levinson said.

Putin's approval rating [reached](#) an all-time high of 87 percent in August 2014 in the aftermath of Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

It began falling throughout 2018 and [hit](#) its lowest mark since 2013 last fall.

Levada conducted the survey among 1,608 respondents in 50 Russian regions between June 27 and July 4.

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