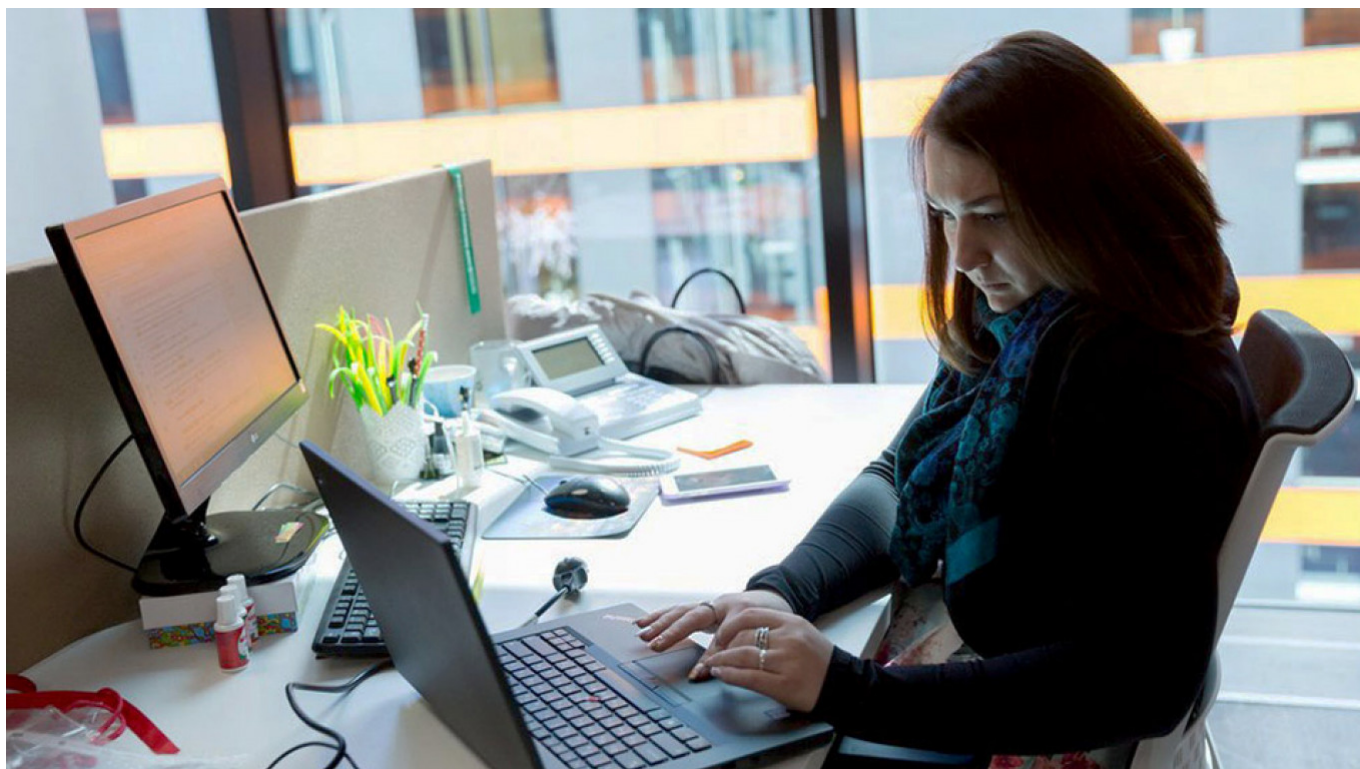


Half of Working Russians Earn Less Than \$550 a Month

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Half of Russian workers earn salaries of less than 35,000 rubles (\$550) a month, despite a small increase in average monthly income over the past year, according to newly released official data.

[Stagnation](#) in real disposable income has led to a slow deterioration in the quality of life for ordinary Russians and is feeding a growing propensity for social [unrest](#). Russians have [named](#) wealth inequality as the biggest reason why they're unhappy with Putin.

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The median income of 27 million employees in more than 101,000 enterprises totaled 34,335 rubles this April, according to the State Statistics Service's (Rosstat) biennial wage distribution data [published](#) Wednesday.

Meanwhile, overall nominal monthly income [averaged](#) 46,300 rubles in January–June 2019, up 7% over January–June 2018.

The Rosstat data also found that the share of Russians who earn more than 1 million rubles (\$15,900) per month totaled 0.1% of the working population, or 11,287 people.

Another 775,000 people earned less than the minimum wage of 11,280 rubles a month.

Once every two years, Russia's statistics service calculates the salaries of large and medium-sized enterprise employees in a given month.

“The median wage would be even lower if you take into account all enterprises,” Vladimir Gimpelson, the head of the Higher School of Economic's center for labor market studies, [told](#) the RBC news website on Friday.

Around 14 million people work in small and micro-enterprises, economist Yelena Yegorova was cited as saying by RBC.

“If they're included in the calculation, they'll pull the average and median lower down,” Yegorova added.

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