

14% of Russians Are Considered Middle Class – Official Data

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Sergei Kiselyov / Moskva News Agency

Less than 15 percent of Russians are considered to be part of the middle class, according to an analysis of official data by the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

Russians' real incomes and ability to save money have suffered from low oil prices and Western sanctions in the past five years. Independent polling has [said](#) that Russians are most unhappy with President Vladimir Putin over the unequal distribution of wealth in the country.

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Fourteen percent of Russia's population is able to afford a mortgage and a car lease and have some cash left over afterward, RIA Novosti said on Monday.

Russia's oil- and gas-rich Yamal-Nenets autonomous district has the highest share of the country's middle-class population at 45.2%, according to RIA Novosti's [ranking](#) based on

official data.

The gold-mining Magadan region ranked second with 34.5%, while the resource-rich Chukotka autonomous district ranked third with 33.8%. The Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district (32.1%) and the Nenets autonomous district (28.9%) closed out the top five.

Moscow and St. Petersburg placed in seventh and eighth, with 26.8% and 25.7% of its populations considered middle class according to RIA's methodology.

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Russian regions in and around the North Caucasus comprised the last six spots on the ranking with an average of 3.45% of their populations able to save a little after their expenses. Overall, Russia's republic of Ingushetia ranked last in the country, with 1.9% of its population considered middle class.

Nationwide, the news agency categorized 14.2% of Russians as middle class.

RIA based its analysis on State Statistics Service (Rosstat) data of households with at least one member employed by a large or medium company over the past year. It classified middle-class households as those with double the minimum wage left over after monthly mortgage and car payments.

A recent bank report [said](#) the share of Russians whose wealth places them in the middle class dropped from 37% in 2014 to 30% this year.

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