The Moscow Times
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25% of Russians Still Skeptical of Climate Change – Poll

August 25, 2021



Russia's Arctic National Park **Olga Gommerstadt (CC BY-SA 4.0)**

More than one-fourth of Russians remain skeptical of climate change despite the country being battered by intensifying natural disasters in recent years, according to a poll by the SuperJob job portal published Wednesday.

Superjob polled 1,600 "economically active" Russians aged 18 and older from Aug. 17-23, two weeks after United Nations climate scientists released a landmark report that "unequivocally" linked climate change to human activity. The poll was conducted as Russia grappled with unprecedented wildfires in Siberia that experts say were exacerbated by climate change.

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Fifty-one percent of Russian respondents said they believe that climate change is real, a 2% increase from the last SuperJob survey in 2009.

But 26% of Russians do not believe that the climate crisis is real, compared to 33% in 2009.

“They most often explain their view from a ‘conspiracy theory’ position: ‘This is not global warming, but a global deceit of all mankind’,” Superjob said, “or ‘If it’s getting warmer, this warming isn’t necessarily caused by humans’.”

Another 23% of Russians said they aren’t sure whether they think climate change is real or not.

Younger adults in the 25-34 age group were most likely (55%) to describe the climate crisis as a real problem while those older than 45 were least likely (46%) to hold this view. The share of climate deniers remained roughly the same in each age group.

Men were more likely to say climate change isn’t real (30%) compared to 23% of women.

A UN People’s Climate Vote poll published in January said that 65% of Russians think the climate crisis is real. Unlike Superjob’s survey, the UN’s poll collected responses from people aged 14 and older.

Another poll, conducted in 2020 by the Russian state-run polling agency VTsIOM, said that 57% of adult Russians say they already feel the climate crisis’ impact on their daily lives.

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