

# Putin's Approval Rating Soars to 87%, Poll Says

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

President Vladimir Putin's approval rating has reached a record high of 87 percent, according to the results of a survey published Wednesday by the independent Levada Center pollster.

In May, Putin enjoyed an approval rating of 83 percent, its highest since 2008, according to major U.S. pollster Gallup.

Putin's popularity at home has skyrocketed against a backdrop of increased diplomatic isolation connected with the crisis in Ukraine, where the West claims that the Kremlin's aggressive policies continue to destabilize the nation and inflict casualties.

His latest popularity boost comes on the heels of yet another round of EU and U.S. sanctions against Russian officials.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's approval rating sits at 71 percent, the Levada poll revealed. Sixty-six percent of respondents also said they believe Russia is "moving in the right direction."

The poll was conducted from Aug. 1 to 4, among 1,600 adults across 134 Russian cities.

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