

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

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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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