

Russia

Russian Federation



Key Facts

World Freedom Press Global Index Ranking (Overall): 149 (50.31)

Head of State: President Vladimir Vladimirovich PUTIN (since 7 May 2012)

Head(s) of Government: Premier Dmitriy Anatolyevich Medvedev (since 8 May 2012); First Deputy Premier Anton Germanovich Siluanov (since 18 May 2018); Deputy Premiers Maksim Alekseyevich Akimov (since 18 May 2018), Yury Ivanovich Borisov (since 18 May 2018), Konstantin Anatolyevich Chuychenko (since 18 May 2018), Tatyana Alekseyevna Golikov (since 18 May 2018), Olga Yuryevna Golodets (since 21 May 2012), Aleksey Vasilevich Gordeyev (since 18 May 2018), Dmitriy Nikolayevich Kozak (since 14 October 2008), Vitaliy Leontyevich Mutko (since 19 October 2016); Yury Petrovich Trutnev (since 31 August 2013)

Capital: Moscow

Population: 142,122,776 (July 2018 est.)

Official Language(s): Russian (official) 85.7%, Tatar 3.2%, Chechen 1%, other 10.1% (2010 est.)

Ethnic Groups: Russian 77.7%, Tatar 3.7%, Ukrainian 1.4%, Bashkir 1.1%, Chuvash 1%, Chechen 1%, other 10.2%, unspecified 3.9% (2010 est.)

Currency: Russian Ruble

Gross domestic product (PPP): \$4.016 trillion (2017 est.)

Internet penetration: 76.4%

Most trusted medium of information: N/A

Legal System: civil law system; judicial review of legislative acts

Political system: semi-presidential federation

Journalists Jailed/Killed 2019: 0

Media Environment: Television is the most powerful sector of the Russian media industry. The main national networks are either run directly by the state or owned by companies with close links to the Kremlin. There are more than 400 daily newspapers, catering for most tastes. The most popular titles support Kremlin policy, and several influential dailies have been bought by companies with close links to

the Kremlin. Hundreds of radio stations crowd the dial, around 40 in Moscow alone. State-run networks compete with music-based private FM radios. The market leader is privately-owned music station Russkoye Radio. Around 109 million Russians use the internet (Internetworldstats.com, 2017). While still less tightly controlled than traditional media, the Kremlin has made moves to restrict online freedoms.

Media Issues: More journalists are now in prison than at any time since the fall of the Soviet Union and more and more bloggers are being jailed. By trying to block the instant messaging service Telegram, despite the significant collateral damage, the Kremlin has demonstrated its determination to control the Internet, a goal referred to as the “sovereign Internet.” The leading human rights NGOs have been declared “foreign agents.” Russian journalists run the risk of attack and even murder if they delve too deeply into sensitive subjects such as corruption, organized crime or rights abuses. Russia is a regular target for criticism and condemnation from media freedom watchdogs. A law which came into force in 2016 caps foreign ownership of media outlets at 20 per cent. Since then, foreign companies have either quit the market or else ceded majority control of their Russian operations to local partners. Laws allow the authorities to block websites without explanation, require popular bloggers to register with the mass media regulator Roskomnadzor and demand that internet companies give the authorities access to users' information. Internet users have increasingly found themselves the target of criminal prosecutions for their online activity, sometimes resulting in prison terms.

Popular Forms of Media Consumption

Digital Media: Television is the most popular form of media in Russia, with 74% of the population watching national television channels routinely and 59% routinely watching regional channels.