

## **THE CRITERION FOR STATE SUPPORT FOR SINGLE-INDUSTRY TOWNS IS REGISTERED UNEMPLOYMENT?**

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In solving personnel problems in single-industry towns, the previous problem of combating unemployment has gradually been replaced in recent years by a very real threat for today's Russia of a shortage of the necessary personnel. This is all the more important in the context of recent years after the start of the military operation (SVO). Thus, in 2024, the main priority of the discussed budget of the Russian Federation, according to Finance Minister A. Siluanov, is determined by the task of strengthening the country's defense capability (this is 29% of all government spending), but the budget is still not "military", since even more will go to social government spending - 30.5%. At the same time, according to President Putin at the congress of the RSPP (Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs) in 2024, the problem of personnel shortage in Russia cannot be solved by labor migration [1].

In recent years, the unemployment rate in Russia has generally decreased to a minimum, which may adversely affect the country's economy, leading to new (even in nature) problems for Russian single-industry towns. The "defense direction" of many single-industry towns under the SVO has led in recent years to the fact that in general in Russia the largest defense enterprises have increased their capacities and, among other things, recruited employees from single-industry towns, where some of the workers went on contract service.

In this situation (for example, according to Alexey Poroshin, member of the General Council of Delovaya Rossiya and CEO of the First Group company [2]), single-industry towns do not need measures aimed at combating unemployment – it is more appropriate to direct state support to the development of new technologies. Thus, it is possible to develop targeted technological plans and concepts for cities of strategic and technological importance for single-industry towns with the involvement of key employers.

In 2024, the criterion for state support of single-industry towns will be clarified - there are now 17-20 of them (according to the Federation Council) or 30 (according to the Ministry of Economic Development) out of the previously identified 321 single-industry towns. The criterion may be the three-year level of unemployment registered in them, which remains half the average for the Russian Federation - which is confirmed by the Ministry of Labor as the only objective indicator of the socio-economic situation of single-industry towns.