

***This news is about increase in  
excise taxes on cigarettes.***

*The decision of the Ministry of Finance is a hided support for the  
economy of Belarus, which under Lukashenko has become the  
main tobacco smuggler in Europe.*

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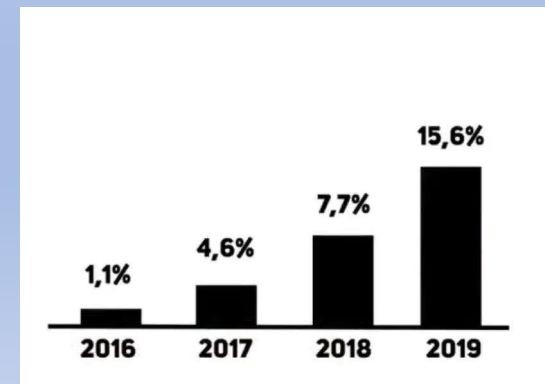
## Why this happened?

1. We have a lot of smokers. Fact. Smokers compensate for part of the budget's spending on helping the population and businesses
2. Rised cigarette prices will also help the neighboring state. Lukashenko openly says that the income from the sale of cigarettes adds half a billion dollars. Also, without the ability to buy expensive cigarettes, people will start buying illegal cigarettes. Every year, about 5 billion cigarettes are illegally delivered to Russia from Belarus.

## How this situation affects the buisness?

First of all, the budget of the Russian Federation goes down. I think that without bringing illegal products, Russians would have continued to buy the same cigarettes that they smoked. They are guided by habit and precise knowledge of which cigarettes are suitable for them and which are not. They may be angry or swear for a long time, but this will not change their habit. Instead of using the dependence on cigarettes of citizens like a pros, the government turned it into a loss for the budget of the Russian Federation

Part of illegal cigarettes in Russia. (in 2020, the last week recorded an increase to **30%**)



# Dictionary

Precise – точный

Compensate – компенсировать

Income – доход, прибыль