



# Russia's 2022 Invasion of Ukraine: Overview of U.S. Sanctions and Other Responses

Updated October 21, 2022

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched an undeclared [war](#) against Ukraine, a country Russia first invaded and partially occupied in 2014. The [United States](#) and many [countries](#) around the [world](#) have condemned Russia's "unprecedented military aggression" as "unprovoked and unjustified." On March 2, 2022, the U.N. General Assembly [voted](#) 141-5 to demand Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw" from Ukraine (47 countries, including China and India, abstained or did not vote). In response to Russian efforts to claim Ukrainian territory in fall 2022, the General Assembly [declared](#) by a vote of 143-5 that Russia's "illegal so-called referendums" and "attempted illegal annexation" of occupied Ukrainian regions "have no validity under international law."

After Russia launched its new invasion in 2022, the United States, the European Union (EU), and others imposed a [series](#) of increasingly severe [sanctions](#) on Russia and substantially increased [military](#), [humanitarian](#), and [economic assistance](#) to Ukraine. To date, FY2022 and FY2023 supplemental appropriations have included \$66 billion in assistance for Ukraine and other affected countries, as well as funding for U.S. European Command operations and the administration and operations of U.S. agencies that have responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Congress also has enacted legislation enabling the expedited leasing or lending of defense articles to Ukraine (P.L. 117-118). The House and Senate have passed related resolutions (H.Res. 956, S.Res. 546, S.Res. 589, S.Res. 623).

## U.S. Sanctions

Prior to 2022, the United States had imposed [sanctions](#) on Russia in response to Moscow's 2014 invasion of Ukraine and other malign activities. Beginning in December 2021, the United States and others [warned](#) Russia's leadership that a new attack on Ukraine would lead to severe new sanctions (in addition to increased security [assistance](#) to Ukraine and an enhanced [NATO](#) presence in Central and Eastern Europe).

Sanctions designations and related actions the Biden Administration and Congress have taken since February 2022 include actions targeting Russian government assets, international trade, broad economic sectors, and specific individuals and entities. These sanctions and related actions include the following:

**Congressional Research Service**

<https://crsreports.congress.gov>

IN11869

- **Restrictions** on transactions with Russia’s central bank, limiting its ability to draw on dollar-denominated foreign reserves, as well as on transactions with Russia’s Ministry of Finance and National Wealth Fund.
- **Export controls** that target Russia’s defense, aerospace, and maritime sectors; **energy production**; and “**a wide range of commercial and industrial operations**.” Export controls include **restrictions** on “sensitive U.S. technologies produced in foreign countries using U.S.-origin software, technology, or equipment.”
- Legislation suspending normal trade relations with Russia and its ally Belarus (P.L. 117-110) and prohibiting the import to the United States of Russian oil and other energy products (P.L. 117-109). Prior to this legislation’s passage, President Biden established a **ban** via executive order on the U.S. import of Russian crude oil, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, and coal.

Since February, the Biden Administration also has prohibited the following:

- New U.S. **investment** in Russia.
- U.S. import of Russian **gold, diamonds**, seafood, and alcoholic beverages.
- Export of U.S. **luxury goods** and dollar-denominated banknotes.
- The provision of **accounting**, trust and corporate formation, management consulting, and **quantum computing** services.
- Secondary-market **transactions** by U.S. financial institutions in Russian sovereign debt.
- Entrance into and use of U.S. **airspace** by Russian aircraft.
- Entrance into U.S. **ports** by Russian-affiliated vessels.
- U.S. **trade or investment** in Russia-occupied regions of eastern Ukraine.

The Administration also has targeted Russian individuals and entities (including with restrictions on transactions and access to U.S.-based property). New targets since February 2022 include the following:

- Russian President Vladimir **Putin**, Prime Minister Mikhail **Mishustin**, and members of Russia’s **Security Council** and **Administration**, including ministers of foreign affairs, defense, and finance, and heads of the armed forces and central bank.
  - The **State Duma** and **Federation Council** (Russia’s legislature) and their members.
  - Six of Russia’s largest **banks**, including the largest two (**Sberbank** and **VTB Bank**) that account for 80% of bank deposits.
  - **VEB**, a large state development bank, and the Russian Direct **Investment Fund**.
  - **Rostec**, a state-owned defense, industrial, and technology conglomerate.
  - **Alrosa**, the world’s largest diamond-mining company.
  - **Severstal** and **MMK**, major steel producers.
  - **Skolkovo**, a prominent technology development park.
  - **Nord Stream 2 AG**, the parent company for a Russian natural gas pipeline project to Europe.
  - **Dozens** of Russia’s **Kremlin-connected business elite** (many of whom are referred to as *oligarchs*), their family members, and **business executives**.
  - **Dozens** of aerospace and **defense-industrial firms**, **disinformation** and **propaganda operations**, **sanctions evaders**, and **virtual currency** mining companies.
  - Russian or proxy occupation **officials**.
-

The Administration also has imposed visa [restrictions](#) on [thousands](#) of Russian military officers and [officials](#).

In addition, the Administration has imposed [restrictions](#) against new equity investment and financing for several companies including Gazprom, a state-owned energy company and Russia's largest firm; Sovcomflot, Russia's largest maritime and freight shipping firm; and Russian Railways.

## International Sanctions

The [EU](#), the [United Kingdom](#), other countries in Europe (including Switzerland), Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan, among others, have imposed sanctions, export controls, or both in response to Russia's war against Ukraine. Many of these [sanctions](#) are identical or similar to U.S. sanctions. The EU, with U.S. support, [directed](#) the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) and other specialized financial messaging services to cease serving 10 leading Russian financial institutions. In addition, two days before Russia's attack, the German government [suspended](#) certification of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline.

Starting in December 2022, the EU is to [ban](#) most Russian oil imports. Countries in the Group of Seven (G7) also have [stated](#) they intend to establish a cap on the price of Russian oil exports worldwide.

Since March 2022, the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Treasury have collaborated with counterpart agencies in the EU, other G7 countries, and Australia in forming a Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) [Task Force](#) to strengthen enforcement of sanctions and other measures.

In addition to sanctions, hundreds of U.S. and international [companies](#) have withdrawn from Russia or suspended or curtailed their Russia-based operations.

Also see CRS In Focus IF12062, *New Financial and Trade Sanctions Against Russia*; CRS In Focus IF12092, *Russia's War on Ukraine: The Economic Impact of Sanctions*; and CRS Insight IN11897, *Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: European Union Responses and Implications for U.S.-EU Relations*.

## Author Information

Cory Welt  
Specialist in Russian and European Affairs

---

## Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.

---

