

Russia's War Against Ukraine: Overview of U.S. Sanctions and Other Responses

Updated December 20, 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, registered abstentions or did not vote). In response to Russian efforts to annex additional Ukrainian territories in fall 2022, the General Assembly [declared](#) by a vote of 143-5 that Russia's actions had "no validity under international law."

The United States, the [European Union](#) (EU), and others have imposed a [series](#) of increasingly severe [sanctions](#) on Russia and substantially increased [security](#), [humanitarian](#), and [economic assistance](#) to Ukraine. FY2022 and FY2023 supplemental appropriations to date have included \$66 billion in emergency assistance for Ukraine and other countries impacted by the war, as well as funding for U.S. European Command and other U.S. agency operations. In response to a request by the President, the proposed FY2023 omnibus appropriations bill [includes](#) about \$45 billion in Ukraine-related supplemental funds. Congress also has enacted legislation enabling the expedited leasing or lending of defense articles to Ukraine (P.L. 117-118). The House and the 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:

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- [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](#) targeting Russia's defense, aerospace, and maritime sectors; [energy production](#); and "[a wide range of commercial and industrial operations](#)"
- A ban on the import to the United States of Russian oil and other energy products (P.L. 117-109; [E.O. 14066](#)) and suspension of normal trade relations with Russia and its ally Belarus (P.L. 117-110)

Since February, the Biden Administration also has prohibited the following with respect to Russia:

- New U.S. [investment](#)
- U.S. import of [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](#)
- Entrance into U.S. [ports](#)
- 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](#), 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), and [regional governors](#)
- Russia's legislature (the [State Duma](#) and [Federation Council](#)), [Central Election Commission](#), and their members
- Seven of Russia's largest [banks](#), including the largest two ([Sberbank](#) and [VTB Bank](#)), which account for 80% of bank deposits
- State development bank [VEB](#) and the Russian Direct [Investment Fund](#)
- Defense, industrial, and technology conglomerate [Rostec](#)
- [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](#), and [sanctions evaders](#)
- Russian or proxy occupation [officials](#)

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The Administration also has [banned](#) entry into the United States for [thousands](#) of Russian [officials and military personnel](#).

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 \(UK\)](#), other countries in Europe (including Norway and Switzerland), Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea, among others, also have responded to Russia's war against Ukraine with sanctions. 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 December 5, 2022, the EU has [banned](#) most Russian oil imports. The United States has joined the EU, the UK, Canada, Japan, and Australia in [setting](#) a global price cap of \$60 per barrel on Russian oil exports by banning nationals from providing maritime transport services for transactions above that price.

Since March 2022, the U.S. Departments of Justice and the Treasury have collaborated with counterpart agencies internationally 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 exited the Russian market.

For more, see CRS In Focus IF12062, *New Financial and Trade Sanctions Against Russia*; and CRS In Focus IF12092, *The Economic Impact of Russia Sanctions*.

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