

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

Updated March 4, 2022

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale air, land, and sea attack on the independent and democratic state of Ukraine (see CRS Insight IN11872, *Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: Military and Intelligence Issues and Aspects*). The [United States](#) and its [allies](#) around the [world](#) have condemned Russia's "unprecedented military aggression" as "unprovoked and unjustified." President Biden [said](#),

Now the entire world sees clearly what [Vladimir] Putin and his Kremlin allies are really all about. This was never about genuine security concerns.... It was always about naked aggression, about Putin's desire for empire by any means necessary.... Putin's actions betray his sinister vision for the future of our world—one where nations take what they want by force.

The United States and allies, including the European Union (EU), EU members, and the United Kingdom (UK), have provided or pledged new military assistance to Ukraine. Members of legislatures, local governments, businesses, and [publics](#) in the United States and many other countries have expressed support for Ukraine and have condemned Russia's invasion. Several large multinational companies have [suspended](#) or withdrawn from operations in Russia. On March 2, 2022, the U.N. General Assembly [voted](#) 141-5 to demand Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw" from Ukraine (34 countries, including China and India, abstained).

Since December 2021, the United States and allies had [warned](#) Russia's leadership they were prepared to impose severe new sanctions if Russia launched a new invasion of Ukraine, a country Russia first invaded and partially occupied in 2014. The United States and allies imposed an initial round of sanctions on February 21-23, 2022, in response to Russia's alleged recognition of two Russia-occupied regions in eastern Ukraine as independent states. Since Russia launched its military attack on February 24, the United States and allies have imposed a series of increasingly severe sanctions.

Members of Congress are considering legislation to require additional sanctions and other actions in response to Russia's invasion. On March 2, 2022, the House agreed 426-3 to a resolution (H.Res. 956) expressing strong support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

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U.S. Sanctions

Recent rounds of U.S. sanctions and related actions appear to be more impactful than sanctions the United States had imposed on Russia prior to its new aggression (see CRS Report R45415, *U.S. Sanctions on Russia*). Sanctions and related actions the United States has imposed from February 21 through March 3, 2022, include the following:

- **Restrictions** on transactions with Russia's central bank, limiting its ability to draw on dollar-denominated foreign reserves, and transactions with Russia's Ministry of Finance and National Wealth Fund (with exceptions for **energy-related** transactions).
- **Restrictions** on transactions by U.S. financial institutions (including correspondent and payable-through accounts) with Sberbank, Russia's largest financial institution and one of Russia's five largest companies (with exceptions for **energy-related** transactions, among others).
- Full blocking sanctions (including restrictions on transactions and access to U.S.-based assets) on
 - **VTB Bank** (Russia's second-largest financial institution) and **four other** Russian financial institutions, including two operating in Russia's defense sector (with the above-mentioned exceptions);
 - VEB, a major state development bank that "**provides** financing for large-scale projects to develop the country's infrastructure and industrial production" (with the above-mentioned exceptions);
 - Russian Direct **Investment Fund**, one of Russia's sovereign wealth funds, and its chief executive officer (CEO);
 - **Nord Stream 2 AG**, the parent company of Russia's Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline project, and its CEO;
 - Several **defense-related** entities;
 - Russian President **Putin**, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov;
 - Members of Russia's Kremlin-connected **business elite** (sometimes referred to as **oligarchs**) and their family members;
 - certain Russian **disinformation** operations; and
 - **Belarusian** entities, officials, and elites in response to Belarus's support for Russia's invasion.
- Export controls on **Russia** and **Belarus** that the U.S. Commerce Department **describes** as "the most comprehensive application of Commerce's export authorities on U.S. items." In addition to new controls on exports from the United States, Commerce imposed restrictions on "sensitive U.S. technologies produced in foreign countries using U.S.-origin software, technology, or equipment." These controls are intended to restrict the ability of many foreign manufacturers to export to Russia "semiconductors, telecommunication, encryption security, lasers, sensors, navigation, avionics and maritime technologies."
- **Export controls** on oil and gas extraction equipment.
- **Restrictions** against secondary-market transactions by U.S. financial institutions in Russian sovereign debt (previous restrictions applied to transactions in the primary market).

- **Restrictions** against new equity investment and financing for 13 top Russian companies, including
 - Russia's largest firm, state-owned energy company Gazprom;
 - Alrosa, the world's largest diamond-mining firm;
 - Sovcomflot, Russia's largest maritime and freight shipping firm;
 - Russian Railways; and
 - Alfa Bank, Russia's largest private bank.
- **Ban** on Russian aircraft entering and using U.S. airspace.
- **Prohibitions** against U.S. trade or investment in Russia-occupied regions of eastern Ukraine and sanctions against those who operate in those regions.

Allied Sanctions

The **EU**, the **UK**, other non-EU countries (including Switzerland), Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan, among others, have imposed or announced sanctions, export controls, or both in response to Russia's actions. The United States has coordinated sanctions decisions with the EU and other allies. Many sanctions imposed by U.S. allies are identical or similar to U.S. sanctions, including restricting transactions with Russia's central bank and airspace bans. In addition, the EU has **prohibited** specialized financial messaging services, including the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT), the world's primary such service, from serving seven Russian financial institutions (excluding Sberbank). The EU has imposed sanctions on most members of the Duma, the lower house of Russia's parliament, for their support of Russia's alleged recognition of the separatist regions of eastern Ukraine, and has **suspended** broadcasting of Russian state-owned networks Sputnik and RT. Prior to Russia's full-scale invasion, the German government **suspended** certification of Nord Stream 2, preventing the pipeline from becoming operational.

For more information on new financial and trade sanctions on Russia, see CRS Insight IN11871, *Russia's Invasion of Ukraine: New Financial and Trade Sanctions*.

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