

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

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On February 24, 2022, Russia [launched](#) an undeclared war against Ukraine. The [United States](#) and [countries](#) around the [world](#) have condemned Russia's "unprecedented military aggression" as "unprovoked and unjustified." The United States, the European Union (EU), and member countries of the EU and NATO have provided or pledged new military assistance to Ukraine (\$1.35 billion in immediate U.S. security [assistance](#) since the [start](#) of the war). Members of legislatures, local governments, businesses, and [publics](#) in the United States and elsewhere have expressed support for Ukraine and have condemned Russia's invasion. Many U.S. and other [companies](#) have suspended or withdrawn operations in Russia.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 others have [warned](#) Russia's leadership that severe sanctions would follow a new attack on Ukraine, which Russia first invaded and partially occupied in 2014. The United States, the EU, and others imposed an initial round of sanctions on February 21-23, 2022, in response to Russia's alleged recognition of two areas in eastern Ukraine as independent. Since Russia launched its attack on February 24, the United States, the EU, and others have imposed a series of increasingly severe sanctions.

Congress has provided substantial support for Ukraine since the start of the war. The Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103, Division N) [provided](#) \$13.6 billion "in humanitarian, security, and economic assistance for Ukraine and neighboring countries." The House and Senate have agreed to resolutions supporting Ukraine (H.Res. 956) and condemning Russian atrocities (S.Res. 546). Dozens of other bills and resolutions intended to respond to Russia and support Ukraine are before Congress, including the House-passed H.R. 7108, which would suspend permanent normal trading relations treatment for Russia and Belarus. On March 16, 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addressed Congress virtually.

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U.S. Sanctions

Recent rounds of U.S. sanctions and related actions could have a greater impact than sanctions the United States has imposed on Russia to this point (see CRS Report R45415, *U.S. Sanctions on Russia*). Sanctions and related actions the United States imposed from February 21 through March 17, 2022, include the following (for more information on several key sanctions, see CRS In Focus IF12062, *New Financial and Trade Sanctions Against Russia*).

- **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).
- **Ban** on the **import** of Russian crude oil, petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, coal, seafood, alcoholic beverages, and non-industrial diamonds. President Biden also has **announced** his intent to work with Congress to suspend permanent normal **trade relations** treatment for Russia.
- **Ban** on the export of luxury goods and dollar-denominated banknotes and on “any approval, financing, facilitation, or guarantee” of transactions by foreign persons that would be prohibited to U.S. persons or in the United States.
- **Ban** on new investment in Russia’s energy sector.
- Export controls on trade with Russia and **Belarus**, including **restrictions** on “sensitive U.S. technologies produced in foreign countries using U.S.-origin software, technology, or equipment” and oil and gas **extraction equipment**.
- **Restrictions** on secondary-market transactions by U.S. financial institutions in Russian sovereign debt (previous restrictions applied to primary-market transactions).
- **Restrictions** on transactions by U.S. financial institutions (including correspondent and payable-through accounts) with Sberbank, Russia’s largest bank 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 property or interests in property) on
 - Russian President Vladimir **Putin**, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov;
 - **VTB Bank** (Russia’s second-largest financial institution); VEB, a state development bank that “**provides** financing for large-scale projects”; and **four other** financial institutions (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;
 - Additional **members** of Russia’s Kremlin-connected **business elite** (sometimes referred to as **oligarchs**) and family members. In coordination with international partners, the U.S. government has **established** an interagency Task Force KleptoCapture to strengthen enforcement of sanctions and other measures, **as well as** a Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program.
 - **Defense-related** entities and **disinformation** operations; and
 - **Belarusian** entities and individuals in response to Belarus’s support for Russia’s invasion.

- [Restrictions](#) against new equity investment and financing for 13 companies, including
 - Gazprom, a state-owned energy company and Russia's largest firm;
 - 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](#) on U.S. trade or investment in Russia-occupied areas of eastern Ukraine and sanctions against those who operate in those areas.

International Sanctions

The [EU](#), the [United Kingdom \(UK\)](#), other non-EU 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 invasion of Ukraine. Many sanctions imposed by other countries are identical or similar to U.S. sanctions, including restricting transactions with Russia's central bank, suspending preferential trade treatment, 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, Russia's largest bank).

The EU and the UK have imposed sanctions on hundreds of Russian legislators for supporting Russia's alleged recognition of the separatist areas of eastern Ukraine and have [suspended broadcasting](#) of Russian state-owned network RT (the EU also suspended Sputnik, another state-owned network). Two days before Russia's attack, the German government [suspended](#) certification of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, preventing it from becoming operational.

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