

Introduction

Russia, the world's largest nation, borders European and Asian countries as well as the Pacific and Arctic oceans. Its landscape ranges from tundra and forests to subtropical beaches. It's famous for novelists Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, plus the Bolshoi and Mariinsky ballet companies. St. Petersburg, founded by legendary Russian leader Peter the Great, features the baroque Winter Palace, now housing part of the Hermitage Museum's art collection.

Extending across the entirety of northern Asia and much of Eastern Europe, Russia spans eleven time zones and incorporates a wide range of environments and landforms. From north west to southeast, Russia shares land borders with Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland (both with Kaliningrad Oblast), Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, China, Mongolia, and North Korea. It shares maritime borders with Japan by the Sea of Okhotsk and the U.S. state of Alaska across the Bering Strait.



Note: Representative Map

Population

The total population of Russia during 2015 was 142,423,773. Russia's population density is 8.4 people per square kilometre (22 per square mile), making it one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world. The population is most dense in the European part of the country, with milder climate, centering on Moscow and Saint Petersburg. 74% of the population is urban, making Russia a highly urbanized country. Russia is the only country

in the world where more people are moving from cities to rural areas, with a deurbanisation rate of 0.2% in 2011, and it has been deurbanising since the mid-2000s.

Economy

Russia has undergone significant changes since the collapse of the Soviet Union, moving from a centrally planned economy towards a more market-based system. Both economic growth and reform have stalled in recent years, however, and Russia remains a predominantly statist economy with a high concentration of wealth. Economic reforms in the 1990s privatized most industry, with notable exceptions in the energy, transportation, banking, and defence-related sectors. The protection of property rights is still weak, and the state continues to interfere in the free operation of the private sector.

Russia is one of the world's leading producers of oil and natural gas, and is also a top exporter of metals such as steel and primary aluminium. Russia's reliance on commodity exports makes it vulnerable to boom and bust cycles that follow the volatile swings in global prices.

The economy, which had averaged 7% growth during 1998-2008 as oil prices rose rapidly, has seen diminishing growth rates since that time due to the exhaustion of Russia's commodity-based growth model.

Key Economic Indicators of Russia during 2015

GDP	\$3.471 trillion
Real growth rate	-3.9%
Per capita	\$23,700
Composition	agriculture: 4.4%, industry: 35.8%, services: 59.7%
International Trade	
Export	\$337.8 billion
Major Export Item	petroleum and petroleum products, natural gas, metals, wood and wood products, chemicals, and a wide variety of civilian and military manufactures
Major Export partner	Netherlands 14%, China 7.5%, Italy 7.4%, Germany 7.3%, Turkey 5%
Import	\$197.3 billion
Major Import Items	machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical products, plastic, semi-finished metal products, meat, fruits and nuts, optical and medical instruments, iron, steel
Major Import partner	China 17.6%, Germany 11.5%, US 6.6%, Italy 4.4%, Belarus 4.2%, Ukraine 4%

Source: CIA Fact book

A combination of falling oil prices, international sanctions, and structural limitations pushed Russia into a deep recession in 2015, with the GDP falling by close to 4%. Most economists expect this downturn will continue through 2016. Government

support for import substitution has increased recently in an effort to diversify the economy away from extractive industries. Although the Russian Ministry of Economic Development is forecasting a modest growth of 0.7% for 2016 as a whole, the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) is more pessimistic and expects the recovery to begin later in the year and a decline of 0.5% to 1.0% for the full year. Russia is heavily dependent on the movement of world commodity prices and the CBR estimates that if oil prices remain below \$40 per barrel beyond 2016, the resulting shock would cause GDP to fall by up to 5%.

INDIA'S EXPORTS OF HANDICRAFTS TO RUSSIA (2014-2016)

US\$ Millions

Sl. no	Items	2014-15	2015-16	Growth rate
1.	Wood wares	1.76	1.68	-4.52
2.	Imitation jewellery	0.42	0.26	-37.69
3.	Artmetal ware	11.48	2.85	-75.17
4.	Shawls as art ware	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Zari and Zari goods	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Hand knitted and crocheted goods/ Embroiders	0.35	0.20	-40.86
7.	Hand printed textiles and scarves	0.19	0.24	24.56
8.	Miscellaneous items	2.98	64.33	2061.09
9.	Total	17.18	69.57	305.02

Source- DGCI&S Kolkata

India is also a major trading partner of Russia. India exported US \$1,587.81 Million of goods to Russia during 2015-16 while imported US \$4,584.98 Million during the same period. The value of Indian handicrafts export to Russia was 69.57 US\$ million in 2015-16 which was (4.38) % share of the total export to Russia.

RUSSIA

SL N o	ITEMS	DETAILS
1	LOCATION OF COUNTRY	North Asia bordering the Arctic Ocean, extending from Europe (the portion west of the Urals) to the North Pacific Ocean
2	GOVERNMENT & ADMINISTRATION	semi-presidential federation
3	HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT	Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of Russia
4	CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY	Moscow
5	CLIMATE AND TEMPERATURE	Ranges from steppes in the south through humid continental in much of European Russia; subarctic in Siberia to tundra climate in the polar north; winters vary from cool along Black Sea coast to frigid in Siberia; summers vary from warm in the steppes to cool along Arctic coast.
6	TIME	UTC/GMT +3 hours
7	ECONOMIC REGION/ZONE	
8	NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES	<p>Azerbaijan</p> <p>Belarus</p> <p>China (southeast)</p> <p>China (south)</p> <p>Estonia</p> <p>Finland</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>Kazakhstan</p> <p>North Korea</p> <p>Latvia</p> <p>Lithuania (Kaliningrad Oblast)</p> <p>Mongolia</p>

		Norway
		Poland (Kaliningrad Oblast)
		Ukraine
9	AREA COVERED	17,098,242 sq km
10	OFFICIAL LANGUAGE	Russian
11	LANGUAGE SPOKEN	Tatar (Tartar), Ukrainian, Chuvash, Bashir, Mordvin, Circassian and Chechen.
12	POPULATION in 2015	142,423,773
13	RELIGION	Russian Orthodox 15-20%, Muslim 10-15%, other Christian 2%
14	ELECTRICITY SUPPLY SYSTEM - VOLTAGE	242.2 million kW
15	AIRPORTS	1,218
17	PORTS AND TERMINALS	105
18	MAJOR PORTS	Baltic Basin, Far East Basin, Black Sea Basin, North Russian Ports
19	GDP PER CAPITA	\$3.471 trillion
20	CURRENCY	Russian ruble
21	EXCHANGE RATE	1 Russian Ruble =0.016 US Dollar
22	LABOUR FORCE	74.89 million
23	AIRPORTS	Sheremetyevo International Airport, Domodedovo International Airport , Vnukovo International Airport , Pulkovo Airport , Simferopol International Airport
24	RIVERS	Braila, Galati (Galatz), Mancanului (Giurgiu), Tulcea (Danube River)
25	MAJOR STATES	St Petersburg, Moscow, Kazan , The Golden Ring, Novgorod Veliky, Volga cruise, Lake Baikal, Yekaterinburg
27	BUSINESS CITIES	Yekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk , Novosibirsk , Omsk ,Rostov-on-Don, Samara, Krasnoyarsk
28	INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation (CCI of Russia)

		Bldg. 1, 6/1, Ilyinka st., Moscow, 109012 Tel.: +7 (495) 620-00-09 Fax.: +7 (495) 620-03-60 e-mail: tpprf@tpprf.ru																																																
29	HOLIDAYS - NATIONAL/PUBLIC	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Jan 1</td><td>New Year's Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 4</td><td>New Year Holiday Week</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 5</td><td>New Year Holiday Week</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 6</td><td>New Year Holiday Week</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 7</td><td>Orthodox Christmas Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 8</td><td>New Year Holiday Week</td></tr> <tr><td>Jan 14</td><td>Old New Year</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 14</td><td>Valentine's Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 23</td><td>Defender of the Fatherland Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb 27</td><td>Special Operations Forces Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar 7</td><td>New Year Holiday Substitution</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar 8</td><td>International Women's Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar 20</td><td>March equinox</td></tr> <tr><td>May 1</td><td>Orthodox Easter Day</td></tr> <tr><td>May 1</td><td>Spring and Labor Day</td></tr> <tr><td>May 2</td><td>Spring and Labor Day observed</td></tr> <tr><td>May 3</td><td>New Year Holiday Substitution</td></tr> <tr><td>May 9</td><td>Victory Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun 12</td><td>Russia Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun 13</td><td>Russia Day observed</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun 20</td><td>June Solstice</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep 22</td><td>September equinox</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov 4</td><td>Unity Day</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec 21</td><td>December Solstice</td></tr> </table>	Jan 1	New Year's Day	Jan 4	New Year Holiday Week	Jan 5	New Year Holiday Week	Jan 6	New Year Holiday Week	Jan 7	Orthodox Christmas Day	Jan 8	New Year Holiday Week	Jan 14	Old New Year	Feb 14	Valentine's Day	Feb 23	Defender of the Fatherland Day	Feb 27	Special Operations Forces Day	Mar 7	New Year Holiday Substitution	Mar 8	International Women's Day	Mar 20	March equinox	May 1	Orthodox Easter Day	May 1	Spring and Labor Day	May 2	Spring and Labor Day observed	May 3	New Year Holiday Substitution	May 9	Victory Day	Jun 12	Russia Day	Jun 13	Russia Day observed	Jun 20	June Solstice	Sep 22	September equinox	Nov 4	Unity Day	Dec 21	December Solstice
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30	EMBASSY OF RUSSIA IN INDIA	Yaroslav Tarasyuk Ambassador Russian Federation in India Plot No 6&7, Block 50-E, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi - 110021. Tel. 26889153, 26873195, fax 26873189, e-mail: rusintrade@mail.ru website: www.rustrade.in																																																
31	EMBASSY INDIA IN RUSSIA	Pankaj Saran Ambassador Embassy of India, Moscow Main Building of the Embassy (6-8, Vorontsovo Polye)																																																

		Tel: (7495)-783-7535 (10 lines) Fax: (7495)-916-3632; 917-2285 Website: www.indianembassy.ru
32	TRAVEL INFORMATION	Russia National Tourist office http://www.russiatourism.ru
33	PLACES OF TOUISTS INTEREST	Saint Basil's Cathedral, Hermitage Museum, Moscow Kremlin, Suzdal, Lake Baikal, St Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod, Kizhi Island, Valley of Geysers, Mount Elbrus, Trans-Siberian Railway
34	TRADE FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS HELD RELATED TO HANDICRAFTS	GIFTS EXPO MOSCOW, RUSSIA 20-23 SEPTEMBER, 2016
		FURNITURE 2016 Sibexpocentre Irkutsk Russia Sept. 20 - 23, 2016
		APPAREL TEXTILE SALON 2016 All-Russian Exhibition Center (VVC Fairgrounds) Moscow, Russia Sept. 20 - 23, 2016
		TEXTILLEGPROM 2016 Moscow, Russia Sept. 20 - 23, 2016
		ART GALLERY. KAZAN 2016 Kazan, Russia Oct. 03 - 07, 2016
		FASHION INDUSTRY 2016 St. Petersburg, Russia Oct. 06 - 09, 2016
		HOMI MOSCOW 2016 Moscow, Russia Oct. 12 - 15, 2016
		FASHION & STYLE. KAZAN 2016 Kazan, Russia Nov. 16 - 20, 2016

Source: CIA Fact

book