

Fact sheet – Russia

Since the end of the 1990s, economic growth in Russia has averaged roughly seven percent. However, this enormous upswing has been based largely on the exploitation of extensive oil and gas reserves. In 2010, the Russian government launched a modernization offensive to reduce the country's dependence on raw materials.



Russia – Key figures

Population	143 million (January 2013)
Area	17 million km ²
Population density.....	8 people / km ² (Germany: 230 people / km ²)
Population growth	+0.2 percent per year
Total GDP (2012; IMF)	US\$2.0 trillion (Germany: US\$3.5 trillion)
Per capita GDP (2012; IMF) ...	US\$14,246 (Germany US\$42,625)
President.....	Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
Prime Minister	Dmitry Anatolyevich Medvedev

- At nearly twice the size of the U.S., Russia is the world's largest country in terms of area. It is also one of the world's most thinly populated countries. A very extensive and solid infrastructure is, accordingly, indispensable. However, most of the country's existing transportation networks are in great need of modernization.
- Russia owns the world's largest deposits of raw materials, including the world's largest reserves of natural gas – some 32 percent of the world total – and about half of all known coal reserves. It is one of the world's two leading exporters of oil – alongside Saudi Arabia. The lion's share of the country's revenue comes from the export of raw materials.
- Germany is Russia's most important partner in the EU. This applies to both economic and research cooperation. In 2005, the two countries signed a strategic partnership agreement in the areas of education, research and innovation.
- Experts at the investment bank Goldman Sachs assume that Russia will be one of the world's top six economic powers by 2020.
- With a population of some 12 million, **Moscow**, the capital of the Russian Federation, is the largest city in Europe and the country's political, economic and cultural center. With eight major train stations, three international airports and three inland harbors, the city is Russia's transportation hub. It is also the country's largest industrial city.
- With a population of roughly five million, **Saint Petersburg** is Russia's second-largest urban center. It is considered one of the world's most beautiful cities and is often referred to as Russia's architectural and cultural bridge to Western Europe. Boasting more than 120 institutions of higher education, the city is – after Moscow – Russia's most important education and research center.