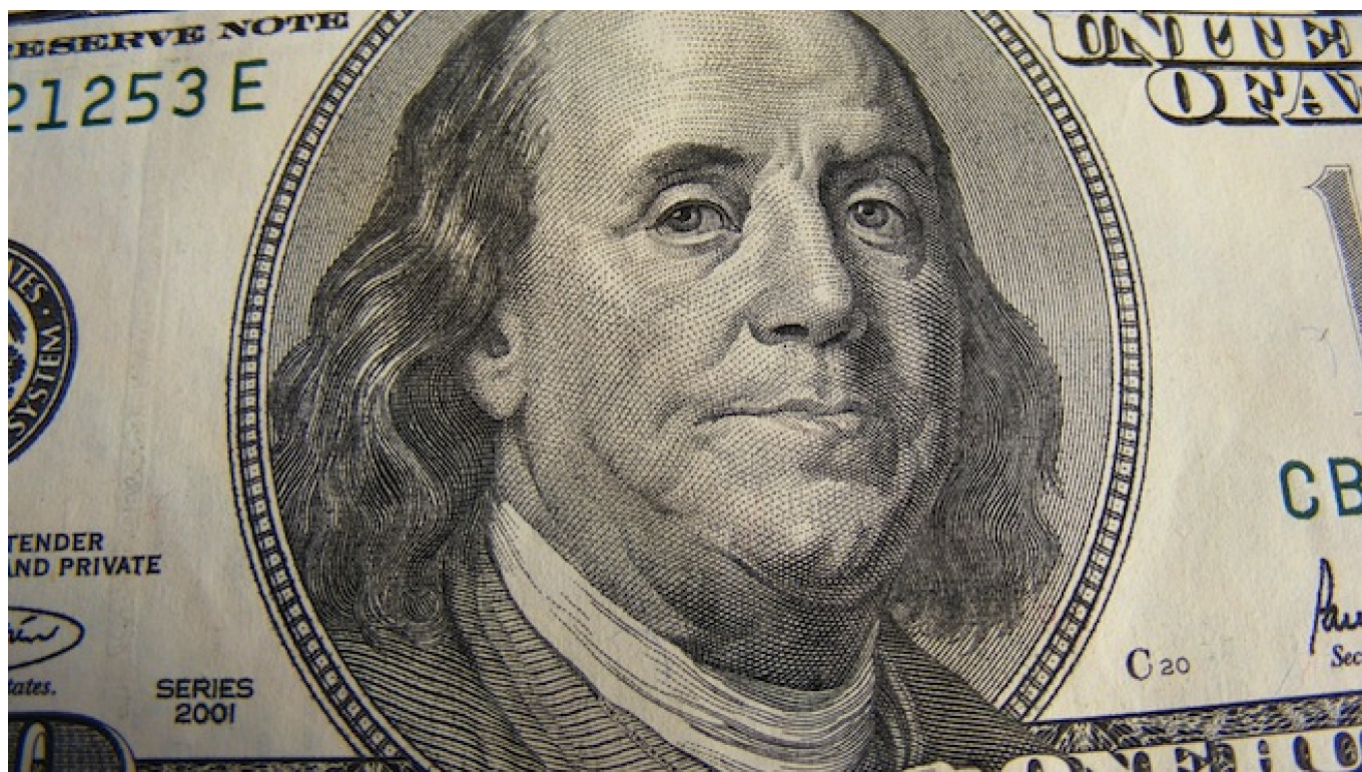


# Russian Ruble Strengthens Against U.S. Dollar and Euro as Oil Prices Rise

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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The Russian ruble rose sharply on Friday amid growing oil prices and reached its highest point since the beginning of January, the Interfax news agency reported.

Official ruble exchange rates against the U.S. dollar and euro strengthened to 72.82 and 79.72 respectively on Friday morning.

On Friday oil prices accelerated their growth in anticipation of an OPEC meeting later this month devoted to discussing the stabilization of oil prices.

The price for Brent crude oil reached \$36.43 this week, showing a significant 30 percent increase since mid-February, Interfax reported.

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