

IKEA Website Crashes as Russians Flock to Buy Final Deals

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The Russian website for home retail giant IKEA crashed Tuesday as the company launched its final sale before leaving the country.

Buyers were unable to log into their accounts, add items to their carts or place orders.

A message on IKEA's website [said](#) later that online carts were unavailable for "technical reasons."

Disruptions linked to the ikea.ru domain name started in cities including Moscow, Kazan, St. Petersburg and Novosibirsk shortly after midnight, Russian website outage service [downradar.ru](#) [reported](#).

The disruptions continued throughout the afternoon.

The liquidation sale coincides with IKEA's decision to [close its Russian stores](#) after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The sale, which is limited to 11 Russian cities, was originally scheduled for July 1 before being delayed until Tuesday.

IKEA employees were filmed last week storming one of the company's stores in the town of Khimki, northwest of Moscow, for a staff-only sale with a 15% discount, according to footage [shared](#) by the Baza Telegram channel on June 27.

Another video [published](#) by the Life Shot Telegram channel Tuesday afternoon suggested that IKEA employees may have bought out all items remaining in the company's warehouses.

"There's nothing left," an unnamed IKEA employee said in the video. "They got everything."

IKEA was one of Russia's largest Western employers in Russia, with 15,000 staff members. Half of the company's workforce is expected to be laid off by the end of the summer.

Meanwhile, Russian news outlets [reported](#) a rise in IKEA products offered via popular Russian online retailers, often with hefty price markups.

The Swedish furniture giant moved to close its retail stores after announcing a scale-down last month.

Brand owner Inter IKEA has said it would start looking for buyers for four of its factories, cut staff and close two offices in Moscow and Minsk.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2022/07/05/ikea-website-crashes-as-russians-flock-to-buy-final-deals-a78207>