

Kyrgyz Banks Suspend In-App Money Transfers to Russia

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The flag of Kyrgyzstan. **Abylai Saralayev / TASS**

Major banks in Kyrgyzstan have suspended money transfers to Russia via their mobile apps following U.S. sanctions, local media [reported](#) Wednesday.

The former Soviet republic is [one of several](#) Central Asian countries that have become a “backdoor” for Russia to maintain economic ties with the West despite sanctions imposed over its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

A survey of 16 banks conducted by the news outlet 24.kg revealed that 13 temporarily suspended transfers to Russian lenders like Sberbank, MTS and T-Bank (formerly Tinkoff Bank).

Three of the banks that suspended transfers said the service was still available through international money transfer systems like Western Union, Zolotaya Korona and the U.S.-sanctioned Unistream.

Only Kompanion Bank, ESB and Ayil Bank told 24.kg that transfers within their own systems remained possible with Russian bank cards.

The suspensions come after the United States in June [introduced](#) new sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine, including restrictions on the Moscow Exchange. In response, major Kyrgyz banks [announced](#) they would halt money transfers via external systems.

Last week, South Korea's Kookmin Bank also [announced](#) the suspension of U.S. dollar SWIFT transfers for Kyrgyz banks starting next month, prompting many of them to search for alternatives.

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