

# Russia Imports \$30M in U.S. Dollar, Euro Banknotes From Rwanda Despite Sanctions – Vyorstka

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Russia imported more than \$29 million in U.S. dollar and euro banknotes from Rwanda this year, despite Western sanctions on cash imports, the investigative outlet Vyorstka [reported](#) on Monday, citing confidential customs data.

The United States and the European Union banned the export of their banknotes to Russia in March 2022 following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Since then, an estimated \$2.27 billion in dollars and euros [has been sent](#) to Russia from countries like Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and others that have not imposed such restrictions.

According to Vyorstka, on Jan. 23, Russia's state-controlled arms exporter Rosoboronexport imported \$29.21 million worth of \$100 bills from Rwanda's Defense Ministry.

Earlier, on Jan. 18, a lesser-known company called Aero-Trade, which provides duty-free

shopping services for flights and airports, registered two shipments into Russia: one worth \$20 million and another for 20 million euros (\$22.14 million). These were reportedly the last imports of what Russia publically refers to as “toxic” currencies until at least April 30.

Reuters identified Aero-Trade as the only company that declared foreign currency imports for 2022 and 2023, reporting a total of \$1.5 billion in banknotes across 73 shipments, each valued at \$20 million in either dollars or euros. The exact source and destination of the cash could not be determined.

In a statement at the time, Aero-Trade said that it was “not involved in the supply of hard currency to Russia.”

Rwanda was among the overwhelming majority of UN members who [condemned](#) Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

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