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Russia's Medicine Imports Fall by Third in 2015

By The Moscow Times

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Russia imported medicine worth $6.8 billion last year, down 32.7 percent compared to 2014, the Federal Customs Service said in a statement Friday.

The import of drugs to Russia from outside the former Soviet Union dropped 32.9 percent to $6.7 billion. Imports into Russia from CIS countries were worth $119 million, 21 percent less than in 2014, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the volume of antibiotics imported into Russia decreased by 2.6 percent in 2015 to $84.2 million, according to the Federal Customs Service.

In December, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree limiting state purchases of foreign-made drugs.

According to the decree — aimed at reducing reliance on Western goods — foreign companies are banned from participating in tenders if there are at least two entries from Russia or

members of the Eurasian Economic Union.

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