

Russian Vodka Exports Soar

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Andrei Makhonin / Vedomosti

Russian vodka exports soared by 14⊠ percent last year, with the country selling 49 million liters⊠of the spirit abroad in 2016.

The trend mirrors growing vodka⊠production in Russia as a whole, with distilleries bottling on⊠average 16 percent more spirit than in 2015.

Germany came first place among importers of Russian vodka, buying 6.9 million liters in⊠2016,

<u>a report by the Federal and Regional Alcohol Markets (TSIFFRA)</u><u>announced on</u> <u>Thursday.</u>

It was followed by Ukraine, which imported 6.4 million liters, Britain with 3.5 million liters, and the United States with 2.5 million liters.

Both the Americans and the China are**Z** showing an increasing appetite for Russian vodka, with exports to**Z** both countries growing by 178,000 liters and 32,000 liters per

month**⊠**respectively.

The news will be welcomed by producers and businesses, who saw revenue from exports fall by 40 percent in 2015 as anti-Russian sanctions began to bite.

Sales to Ukraine — the biggest⊠importer of Russian alcohol before the annexation of Crimea —⊠are continuing to suffer thanks to the country's ongoing conflict⊠with Moscow, with exports falling by 148,400 liters a month, TSIFFRA⊠reported.

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