

Russia Cuts Foreign Aid for the First Time Since 2012

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Russia has cut foreign aid for the first time since 2012, [according to](#) a study by the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA).

Russia's international development assistance had grown since 2013 and topped \$1 billion in the past two years, the RBC business newspaper [reported](#) Tuesday, citing the RANEPA study.

But foreign aid fell from \$1.16 billion in 2015 to \$1.02 billion in 2016, according to the study.

RANEPA states that debt relief is the main form of Russia's foreign aid, totaling nearly \$425 million last year. Russia has [written off](#) loans to its biggest debtors — Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia — over the past year and a half.

Other categories include grants, loans and other forms of financial, material or service assistance to partner countries.

Assistance to self-proclaimed states like Abkhazia and South Ossetia is not included in the data.

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