

Russia Cuts Prison Financing in Half

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Yury Tutov / TASS

The Russian government has cut its federal prison financing program by nearly half, from 96.5 billion rubles (\$1.5 billion) to 55 billion rubles (\$890 million).

Over 600,000 people are housed in 962 correctional facilities and detention centers, according to the 2018–2026 target program signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev [published](#) last week.

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The Russian government's new \$890-million correctional system development program aims to improve conditions for suspects and defendants housed in jails and prisons, including the construction of 11 new detention centers with a capacity of over 11,000 seats.

A similar 2017–2025 program allocated \$1.5 billion to build 10 detention centers with a

capacity of fewer than 10,000 seats.

Overcrowding at times [reached](#) 156 percent and remained most pronounced in the annexed Crimean peninsula, where there are on average 1.8 persons occupying one allocated space.

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