

# Number of Russian Billionaires Grows by Third in 2 Years — Forbes

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Viktor Vekselberg and Vladimir Lisin **Mikhail Metsel / TASS**

The number of Russian billionaires has grown by 29 in two years despite geopolitical tensions between Moscow and the West and economic sanctions, Russian Forbes said in its new list for 2018.

Forbes' ranking suggested that Russia's wealthiest people lost an estimated \$12 billion in one day last week after seven Russian oligarchs were added to a U.S. sanctions blacklist over "malign activities."

**Related article:** [50 Richest Russians Lose Close to \\$12Bln After Latest U.S. Sanctions](#)

Despite Western sanctions, the Forbes list of Russian billionaires [published](#) Thursday grew from 77 in 2016 to 96 in 2017 and 106 this year.

Since 2017, the businessmen's net worth climbed by \$25 billion to a collective \$485 billion in

2018.

“Despite market stagnation and the expectation of new Western sanctions, 2017 turned out to be a successful year for most of its members,” Forbes remarked.

Steel tycoon Vladimir Lisin topped the Forbes rich list with \$19.1 billion in wealth. Fellow steel tycoon Alexei Mordashov ranked second with \$18.7 billion and metals magnate Vladimir Potanin placed third at \$15.9 billion.

The ranking’s newcomers [include](#) Ivan Savvidis, who was banned from attending Greek football matches for three years after storming a pitch with a gun at his side in Thessaloniki last month; sanctioned oligarch Oleg Deripaska’s ex-wife, Polina Deripaska; and the chief investor in a shopping mall in Siberia where 64 people were killed in a massive fire last month, Denis Shtengelov.

Forbes [said](#) three billionaires left the list this year, including real estate tycoon Boris Mints, banker Mikail Shishkhanov and insurance businessman Danil Khachaturov.

Before adding seven Russian oligarchs and 17 officials to a new sanctions blacklist this month, the U.S. Treasury Department released a so-called “Kremlin List” in January of 96 businessmen as possible targets of future sanctions.

The list, which did not impose punitive measures against its members, faced criticism for copying the Forbes’ 2017 list of 96 Russian billionaires.

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