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Russian Auditor Finds $12Bln in Government Spending Violations

April 23, 2019



Anastasia Diyeva / TASS

Russia's public finance watchdog has uncovered 772.7 billion rubles ($12.12 billion) in government spending violations last year.

The volume of total violations has decreased substantially from 1.87 trillion rubles in 2017 as detections increased by 43 percent, the RBC news website reported Tuesday.

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Procurement accounted for the highest share of budget violations at 294.6 billion rubles, followed by 268.2 billion rubles in forming and implementing the budget, the Audit Chamber said in its annual report published Tuesday.

The Audit Chamber found 3,800 violations in 2016, then 6,400 in 2017 and 9,200 last year.

A total of 40 criminal cases and 85 administrative cases have been launched in connection with the infractions and 7.75 billion rubles returned to the state budget.

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