

Bike Sales Spike in Movement-Starved Russia

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Russians are gradually emerging from self-isolation after more than six weeks of nationwide coronavirus lockdown. **Gavriil Grigorov / TASS**

Russia's bicycle sales have spiked by 6,000% so far this month as Russians gradually emerge from self-isolation after more than six weeks of nationwide coronavirus lockdown, the online retail giant Wildberries [told](#) state media Wednesday.

Overall, Russia's largest online retailer said sporting goods sales jumped sixfold on May 1-24 compared with the same period in 2019.

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Wildberries sold 60 times more bicycles, 10 times more jump ropes and skateboards and eight times more scooters in that period, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency's economic desk reported.

“The temporary closure of fitness clubs, bike, scooter and roller skate rentals has led to a surge in purchases of sports equipment,” it quoted Wildberries’ press service as saying.

President Vladimir Putin declared a nationwide “non-working” period to slow the spread of Covid-19 in late March, closing non-essential businesses and ordering employers to continue paying staff. He ordered to lift the “non-working” period six weeks later on May 12, authorizing regional leaders to start easing restrictions according to the local epidemiological situation.

Major Russian cities have seen [increasing](#) numbers of people going outside their homes since then, according to data collected by Russian tech giant Yandex.

Wildberries has [launched](#) online sales training sessions for entrepreneurs, focusing on sectors hit hardest by the coronavirus outbreak, including entertainment, fitness, culture, education and restaurants.

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