

Russia Has Earned \$300M on Vaccine Exports So Far, Lags China

In the first five months of 2021, Russia sold more vaccines abroad than in the last three years combined.

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Russian Sputnik-V vaccines arrived at Aurora International Airport in Guatemala City **Johan ORDONEZ / AFP**

Russia exported more than \$300 million worth of vaccines in the first five months of the year, customs data shows — more than the entire value of vaccines sold in the previous three years combined.

The increase was driven by foreign sales of Russia’s flagship Sputnik V anti-coronavirus vaccine, with millions of doses shipped overseas to customers including Argentina, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Hungary and Serbia.

The figure also includes sales of non-coronavirus vaccines — mainly shots against yellow fever and flu. But the Trade Ministry [told](#) the RBC business site that the large jump in sales

was mainly due to Sputnik V exports.

Related article: [As Russia's Vaccine Diplomacy Falters, One Caribbean Country Goes All in on Sputnik V](#)

Russia has not revealed specific details on how much money it has made, or expects to make, from selling Sputnik V around the world.

In the whole of 2019, Russia exported \$60 million of vaccines — a figure which grew in 2020 to \$70 million.

In the first five months of 2021, Moscow's vaccine exports surged to a total of \$304 million, according to customs data analyzed by RBC. That compares to just \$10 million during the same period of 2020.

But amid production delays and numerous [delivery](#) issues among key Sputnik V customers, Russia's growth in vaccine exports significantly lags the increases in sales registered by other countries exporting coronavirus shots.

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China increased its vaccine exports almost 100-fold during the first five months of 2021 — selling \$1.8 billion worth compared to just \$19 million in the same period last year. While the European Union has sold \$6.4 billion in vaccines outside the bloc, up from \$4.3 billion, and the U.S. also exported more than \$1.5 billion.

Russia is hoping a successful Sputnik V export drive could help the country break into the lucrative medical exports market, providing both a new income stream for coronavirus vaccines, and also opening the door for Russia to sell other pharmaceutical products around the world.

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