

Russian Oil Product Exports Reach Record High Despite Embargo

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The Russian oil port of Primorsk on the Baltic Sea. **Tara17 (CC BY-SA 4.0)**

Russia exported a record volume of oil products in March as Moscow successfully developed alternative routes for its deliveries one month after a Western embargo came into force, the Vedomosti business daily [reported](#) Wednesday.

Supplies of seaborne Russian oil products totaled 3.13 million barrels per day (bpd) in March 2023, according to the commodities analyst Kpler, a 31.2% year-on-year increase and just over the previous record of 3.1 million bpd exported in February 2022, the month Russia invaded Ukraine.

The G7 economies, the European Union, and Australia all stopped buying Russian oil products in February 2023, with the EU setting additional price caps for diesel, fuel oil, and other products.

At the same time, the EU lifted sanctions and price caps on Russian-extracted oil products that are produced outside the country and mixed with other suppliers' oil products.

As a result, EU members Greece and Malta accounted for 88% of Russian oil product exports last month, Vedomosti cited energy expert Kirill Rodionov as saying.

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Kpler's breakdown of Russian oil product exports showed most of the country's 1.28 million bpd of diesel going to Turkey and Brazil, followed by Libya and Morocco, according to Vedomosti.

One-fifth of the exported Russian diesel was delivered to unknown customers, the publication said.

Russian fuel oil exports also reached an all-time high of 208,000 bpd, with the main buyers being the United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Singapore, and India.

Industry analyst Yekaterina Krylova noted that markets in the European Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Middle East were less logistically challenging for Russian oil product exports and involved far shorter delivery routes.

From there, Russian oil products can be re-exported to the Asia-Pacific region, Krylova told Vedomosti.

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