

Russia Revises Defense Budget Plan Amid Soaring Military Expenditures – Reuters

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Alexander Demianchuk / TASS

Russia has nearly doubled its defense budget plan after spending more in the first half of 2023 than originally targeted for the entire year, Reuters [reported](#) Friday, citing a government document it obtained.

Defense spending has increased every month since President Vladimir Putin sent troops into Ukraine in February last year. In June, Russia [stopped](#) the disclosure of detailed data on its budget spending, casting the government's finances deeper into secrecy.

The 5.59 trillion rubles (\$59 billion) spent on defense in January–June this year marks a 12% increase from the [originally targeted](#) 4.98 trillion rubles (\$54 billion) on defense spending for all of 2023, according to the document cited by Reuters.

Almost 1 trillion rubles went toward military salaries, more than double the amount paid in

the first six months of 2022, the publication said.

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Russia has nearly doubled its defense spending target to 9.7 trillion rubles (\$102 billion) for 2023, according to Reuters.

The extra spending, combined with the effects of Western sanctions and a collapse in energy sales to Europe, have pushed Russia's budget into a \$28 billion deficit in the first half of 2023.

Russia's national defense budget for 2023 was officially [announced](#) at 4.98 trillion rubles.

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