

Russian Passport Issuance Plummeted 45% in 2024

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Kirill Kukhmar / TASS

Russian immigration authorities issued fewer passports to foreign citizens last year than they have since at least 2020, the Kommersant business newspaper [reported](#) Thursday, citing Interior Ministry data.

Authorities granted 209,000 Russian passports in 2024, nearly 45% fewer than in 2023. The number of temporary residency approvals fell more than 50% to 44,500, while permanent residence permits dropped more than 20% to 214,900.

The Interior Ministry attributed the decline to stricter immigration controls and a slowdown in the so-called [passportization](#) of occupied Ukrainian regions, Kommersant noted.

At the same time, a record 190,200 people were deported from Russia, with 157,000 forced to leave for legal violations — figures up more than 30% and nearly 45%, respectively, from 2023. The ministry also barred 267,200 people from entering Russia, a nearly 55% increase from the previous year.

Russian immigration authorities, meanwhile, have ramped up [denaturalization](#) efforts, [revoking](#) the citizenship of 1,757 naturalized Russians in 2024.

“Russia has lost the desire to hand out citizenship,” said Vyacheslav Postavnin, a former deputy director of the Federal Migration Service and head of migration analysis at the Russian House of International Scientific and Technical Cooperation.

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