The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Drone Strikes on Refineries Push Russia's Gasoline Prices to Record Highs

August 18, 2025



Vladimir Gerdo / TASS

Wholesale gasoline prices in Russia have soared to historic highs after a wave of Ukrainian drone strikes forced several major oil refineries offline, deepening concerns of potential fuel shortages across the country.

The benchmark price of AI-92 gasoline on the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange climbed to 71,500 rubles ($890, according to spot foreign exchange market data published by Reuters) per ton on Monday, while AI-95 reached 80,430 rubles ($1,000) per ton. The prices rose by 1.3% and 2.2% in a single day, respectively.

Since the start of the year, AI-92 has jumped 38% and AI-95 nearly 49%.

The surge comes after attacks this month knocked out operations at three major refineries: Rosneft's Novokuybyshevsk plant on Aug. 2, its Saratov plant on Aug. 11 and Lukoil's Volgograd refinery — the largest in southern Russia and one of the country's top 10 producers — on Aug. 14.

The shuttered facilities account for nearly 30 million tons of annual refining capacity, or about 11% of Russia's total output in 2023, according to Reuters.

Related article: Russia Set to Restrict Gasoline Exports for 2 Months – Reuters

Rosneft's largest refinery, in Ryazan, has also suspended half its capacity since Aug. 2. Additional strikes have targeted the Syzran, Slavyansk and Afipsky refineries.

The Kremlin imposed a temporary ban on gasoline exports until the end of August to contain the crisis and later extended it through September.

Analysts say that measure is unlikely to have much effect, as Russia exports relatively little gasoline. The greater risk, sources told Reuters, is a full-fledged domestic shortage.

Signs of strain are already emerging at the pump. In annexed Crimea, AI-95 has disappeared from most gas stations and remaining supplies are distributed mainly by ration cards. And it has vanished altogether in the towns of Krasnokamensk and Borzya in the Zabaikalsky region.

Stations are restricting sales to businesses and organizations in at least two other regions.

The Energy Ministry has sought to reassure the public, insisting on Aug. 13 that supplies remain stable and logistics uninterrupted. The shortfall, it said, is being offset by higher output at other refineries.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/08/18/drone-strikes-on-refineries-push-russias-gasoline-prices-to-record-highs-a90271