

Russian Regions Ration Gasoline as Drone Strikes Cripple Refineries

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Nikolay Burmatov / TASS

Gas stations across Russia have started rationing fuel sales as drone strikes on oil refineries by Ukraine deepen a supply crisis, the pro-Kremlin daily Izvestia [reported](#) Wednesday.

Stations in several regions are limiting drivers to 10-20 liters of gasoline per purchase or offering only diesel, Pavel Bazhenov, president of the Independent Fuel Union (NTS), told Izvestia.

"These measures should help chain owners weather the difficult period of shortages and avoid temporarily closing their gas stations, as happened previously with some small stations," Bazhenov said.

The restrictions are in place in central Russia, the Volga region, the south and the Far East, according to NTS.

Fuel retailers in the Moscow, Leningrad, Ryazan and Nizhny Novgorod regions confirmed to

Izvestia that limits had been imposed.

Related article: [Gasoline Prices in Russia Continue to Soar, Beating August Record](#)

Major companies have also introduced curbs. Lukoil has banned canister sales at some Moscow stations and stopped accepting fuel cards at several stations in Nizhny Novgorod.

By mid-September, shortages had been reported in 21 regions ranging from Chukotka and Sakhalin in the Far East to Ryazan and Samara in central Russia, NTS data showed.

Ukraine has ramped up drone attacks on Russian refineries since August, knocking at least five plants partly or fully offline.

The outages have [cut](#) Russia's refining capacity by 17%, or 1.1 million barrels per day, driving up wholesale fuel prices, according to Reuters.

Gasoline prices on the St. Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange [hit](#) record highs on Tuesday, with AI-92 climbing to 73,600 rubles (\$880) per ton and AI-95 trading at 71,100 rubles (\$850).

Prices have risen 40-50% since the start of the year, [prompting](#) the Russian government to order oil companies to activate reserve capacity, delay scheduled maintenance and coordinate rail shipments of fuel.

Officials are also considering extending a ban on gasoline exports and imposing a temporary ban on diesel exports for all suppliers until the end of the year, the state-run TASS news agency [reported](#).

The gasoline export ban is currently in place until Sept. 30.

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