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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

China Posts First Annual Decline in Trade With Russia Since 2020

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A compressor station for the Power of Siberia gas pipeline in the republic of Sakha (Yakutia). **Gazprom**

The flow of trade between Russia and China contracted for the first time in five years in 2025 amid falling demand for Chinese car imports in Russia and a drop in the value of Russian crude oil exported to China, Reuters reported Wednesday, citing official data.

The value of imports and exports between the two countries last year totaled $228.1 billion, marking a 6.9% decrease from the record-high $244.8 billion in 2024, according to China's General Administration of Customs.

That decline ended four years of consecutive growth in bilateral trade.

Chinese exports to Russia dropped by 9.9% year-on-year, Reuters reported, attributing most of the decline to a 46% fall in vehicle exports between January and November 2025.

The value of imports from China, meanwhile, fell by 3.4%. According to Reuters, the decline was largely driven by falling oil prices.

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Despite the annual slump, trade began to rebound in December 2025, with Chinese exports to Russia growing by 2.2% and imports surging by 17.1%.

China and Russia have strengthened their political and economic ties since President Vladimir Putin ordered the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. The countries have declared a "no limits" partnership as they align themselves against the West.

Globally, China's General Administration of Customs reported record-high trade of $6.48 trillion in 2025, marking a 3.8% year-on-year increase.

Exports grew by 6.1%, largely driven by non-U.S. markets, while imports remained nearly flat at 0.5% growth.

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