

# Wildberries Eyes State Support, Seeks Warehouses in Kazakhstan Amid Ukrainian Drone Strikes

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A woman rides a train past a screen advertising the Wildberries online retailer in Moscow. **REUTERS / Anastasia Barashkova**

Russia's biggest online retailer Wildberries is seeking warehouse space in Kazakhstan after a wave of Ukrainian drone strikes on its facilities, the Kommersant newspaper reported, as the company also holds talks with the Russian government over possible financial support.

The Russian government is exploring ways to support Wildberries and businesses that sell on its platform following the attacks, with state-controlled lender VTB expected to play a central role, two sources [told](#) Reuters on Wednesday. The Kremlin confirmed to Reuters that discussions took place but said no decisions have been made.

Kommersant, citing four commercial real estate market sources, [reported](#) Wednesday that Wildberries is looking for about 100,000 square meters (1.1 million square feet) of warehouse space in Kazakhstan.

One source told the newspaper the company was prepared to lease all available warehouse capacity in the country. The move is intended to protect part of the company's logistics network from Ukrainian drone attacks, the sources said.

**Related article:** [At Least 6 Dead After Ukrainian Drones Hit Wildberries Warehouses and Industrial Facility](#)

Finding sufficient warehouse space in Kazakhstan may prove difficult.

According to real estate consultancy NF Group, Kazakhstan had 1.9 million square meters of modern logistics space at the end of 2025, with a vacancy rate of just 5.8%.

Stanislav Akhmedzyanov, managing partner at IBC Global, told Kommersant that no single warehouse block of 100,000 square meters currently exists in Kazakhstan. As of the end of June, only around 130,000 square meters of warehouse space was available nationwide, scattered across several cities.

Average warehouse rents stood at 5,180 tenge per square meter per month, equivalent to 854.3 rubles (\$10.76) per square meter per month, or about 10,300 rubles (\$129.78) per square meter annually, Kommersant cited NF Group as saying. That is broadly comparable with warehouse rents in Moscow and the surrounding region.

Kommersant's sources said Wildberries is also exploring additional warehouse expansion in Russia, but owners of vacant facilities have become reluctant to sign new lease agreements due to the risk of drone attacks.

In a statement cited by Kommersant, the company said that it was continuing with planned construction of logistics facilities in countries where it operates, including logistics centers of more than 100,000 square meters in Almaty and more than 160,000 square meters in Astana.

Wildberries said its immediate priority was redistributing inventory across its warehouse network to improve inventory turnover and support its business partners.

Drone attacks in recent weeks have damaged at least seven Wildberries warehouses, destroying about 10% of the company's storage capacity, disrupting operations and inflicting losses on tens of thousands of merchants that sell through the platform.

The company has [announced](#) a relief package for merchants that sell their goods on its platform including reduced storage fees, promotional discounts for select products and waived regional transit charges. Last week, it [said](#) it would freeze loan repayments for small and medium-sized businesses whose inventory was destroyed.

However, some merchants have [complained](#) that the compensation payouts fell well short of the value of their lost goods.

Sources told Reuters that government support under discussion could include loans from state-owned banks to Wildberries or its sellers, as well as tax breaks or subsidies. VTB First Deputy CEO Dmitry Pyanov told Reuters that the bank would be open to providing lending support if requested.

Ukraine has said it targeted Wildberries because of its alleged role in supplying the Russian military, a claim that the company denies. A Ukrainian defense industry executive also cited the company's partnership with VTB, Russia's second-largest bank.

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