The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Has Delayed $116Bln in State Construction Projects Since Invading Ukraine

November 19, 2026



Construction of a water supply conduit to the North Crimean Canal. **diasgp.ru**

Russia has delayed nearly 300 federally backed construction projects worth 9.5 trillion rubles ($115.9 billion) since launching its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, an analysis of government records by The Moscow Times' Russian service found.

The delays show how strains on Russia's budget are reaching civilian infrastructure as the Kremlin continues to fund its war in Ukraine.

The projects already behind schedule and those yet to break ground are together worth more than 10.5 trillion rubles ($128.1 billion), roughly what Russia spends on the war in six months.

For residents, the delays mean a longer wait for services they already need, from cancer care in Stavropol to a more reliable water supply in eastern Crimea.

Officials most often cited a lack of funding when extending deadlines. The number of

extensions rose from 15 in 2021, the year before the invasion, to 86 in 2025. Authorities had already extended deadlines 81 times in 2026 at the time of the review.

Of the 1,238 projects reviewed, 294 were behind schedule, 402 had been completed and 160 were still on track. Work had yet to begin on the remaining 382.

The government has made no formal announcement that any of the delayed projects have been suspended or canceled.

"Officially acknowledging that a project has been put on hold means admitting failure," economist Igor Lipsits said. "So nobody says, 'We're putting construction on hold.' They say, 'We're moving the deadline.'"

Related article: Regions Calling: Budget Cuts Are Hitting Ordinary Russians Hard. Will They Protest?

Transport accounted for the most delays, with 128 projects worth more than 3.4 trillion rubles ($41.5 billion) behind schedule. They include the Northern Latitudinal Railway, an 850 billion ruble ($10.4 billion) line linking Russia's Arctic Yamal-Nenets region to the rail network in the Urals. Work began in 2011, and the line is now due to open in 2031.

In the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, officials pushed back the opening of a light rail line from 2026 to 2029 after its projected cost rose from 89 billion rubles ($1.09 billion) to 122.9 billion rubles ($1.50 billion).

A city official said residents were counting on the line to cross the city without sitting in traffic. The new opening date falls a year after Krasnoyarsk's 400th anniversary.

Authorities also extended deadlines for 43 hospitals and specialist clinics worth 438.5 billion rubles ($5.35 billion), including six children's medical facilities.

Related article: As Wartime Slump Deepens, Russia's Construction Sector Is on Shaky Ground

In the southern Stavropol region, where a new cancer treatment facility is behind schedule, patients have reported waiting up to six weeks for appointments. One woman told a local news outlet that her father, who had stage 4 cancer, died before his appointment.

The most expensive delayed project is a 3.5 trillion ruble ($42.7 billion) gas processing and export complex at the Baltic port of Ust-Luga, whose first phase was originally due to open in 2023. The latest schedule calls for its gas processing and petrochemical plants to open in 2026 or 2027 and its liquefied natural gas plant in 2027 or 2028.

In June, the Construction Ministry recommended deferring projects that had yet to break ground so funding could go toward finishing those already underway. The projects awaiting a start include 47 education facilities and 34 medical facilities. Those with published estimates alone are worth more than 1 trillion rubles ($12.2 billion).

"It's easier to delay the start of construction than to cut pensions, wages or payments under

existing contracts," economist Nikolai Kulbaka said.

Lipsits compared the delays to the late Soviet period, when officials would break ground with whatever money they could secure and suspend work when it ran out.

Economist Dmitry Nekrasov said the delays were on a much smaller scale today and described the slowdown as an adjustment after construction expanded unusually quickly in the first years of the war.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/11/19/russia-has-delayed-116bln-in-state-construction-projects-since-invading-ukraine-a94310