

Table 1
Russian nuclear forces, 2020

Type/name	Russian designation	Launchers	Year deployed	Warheads x yield (kilotons)	Total warheads
<i>Strategic offensive weapons</i>					
ICBMs					
SS-18 M6 Satan	RS-20V	46	1988	10 x 500/800 (MIRV)	460 ¹
SS-19 M3 Stiletto	RS-18 (UR-100NUTTH)	0	1980	6 x 400 (MIRV)	0 ²
SS-19 M4	? (Avangard)	2	2019	1 x HGV	2
SS-25 Sickle	RS-12M (Topol)	36	1988	1 x 800	36
SS-27 Mod 1 (mobile)	RS-12M1 (Topol-M)	18	2006	1 x 800?	18
SS-27 Mod 1 (silo)	RS-12M2 (Topol-M)	60	1997	1 x 800	60
SS-27 Mod 2 (mobile)	RS-24 (Yars)	126	2010	4 x 100? (MIRV)	504 ³
SS-27 Mod 2 (silo)	RS-24 (Yars)	14	2014	4 x 100? (MIRV)	56
SS-X-28 (mobile)	RS-26 (Yars-M)	-	-	4 x 100? (MIRV)	-
SS-X-29 (silo)	RS-28 (Sarmat)	-	(2020)	10 x 500? (MIRV)	-
Subtotal		302			1136⁴
SLBMs					
SS-N-18 M1 Stingray	RSM-50	1/16	1978	3 x 50 (MIRV)	48 ⁵
SS-N-23 M1	RSM-54 (Sineva)	6/96	2007	4 x 100 (MIRV) ⁶	384 ⁷
SS-N-32	RSM-56 (Bulava)	3/48	2014	6 x 100 (MIRV)	288 ⁸
Subtotal		10/160⁹			720¹⁰
Bombers/weapons					
Bear-H6	Tu-95 MS6	25	1984	6 x AS-15A ALCMs	150
Bear-H16	Tu-95 MS16	30	1984	16 x AS-15A ALCMs or 8 x AS-23B ALCM	480
Blackjack	Tu-160	13	1987	12 x AS-15B ALCMs, bombs	156
Subtotal		68¹¹			786¹²
Subtotal strategic offensive forces		530¹³			~2,642¹⁴
<i>Nonstrategic and defensive weapons</i>					
ABM/Air/Coastal defense					
S-300/S-400 (SA-20/SA-21)		~1000	1992/2007	1 x low	~290
53T6 Gazelle		68	1986	1 x 10	68 ¹⁵
SSC-1B Sepal (Redut)		8 ¹⁶	1973	1 x 350	4
SSC-5 Stooqe (SS-N-26) (K-300P/3M-55)		48	2015	(1 x 10) ¹⁷	20
Land-based air					
Bombers/fighters (Tu-22M3/Su-24M/Su-34/MiG-31K)		~300	1974/2006/ 1983	ASMs, bombs	~500
Ground-based					
SS-21 Scarab SSM (9K79, Tochka)		-	1981	1 x 10-100	-
SS-26 Stone SSM (9K720, Iskander-M)		132	2005	1 x 10-100	70
SSC-7 GLCM (9M728) ¹⁸					
SSC-8 GLCM (9M729) ¹⁹		20 ²⁰	2017	1 x 10-100	20
Naval					
Submarines/surface ships/air				LACM, SLCM, ASW, SAM, DB, torpedoes	~815
Subtotal nonstrategic and defensive forces					~1,880²¹
TOTAL STOCKPILE					~4,520²²
Deployed					1,572
Reserve					2,950
Retired warheads awaiting dismantlement					1,850
Total inventory					6,370

ABM = antiballistic missile; ALCM = air-launched cruise missile; AS = air-to-surface; ASM = air-to-surface missile; ASW = antisubmarine weapon; DB = depth bomb; GLCM= ground-launched cruise missile; ICBM = intercontinental ballistic missile; LACM = Land-Attack Cruise Missile; MIRV = multiple independently targetable reentry vehicle; SAM = surface-to-air missile; SLBM = submarine-launched ballistic missile; SLCM = sea-launched cruise missile; SRAM = short-range attack missile; SSM = surface-to-surface missile

¹ It is possible that the SS-18s have been downgraded from ten to six warheads each to meet the New START limit for deployed strategic warheads. It is also possible that a fourth regiment at Dombrovsky is operational.

² It is thought that all SS-19 ICBMs have been retired, although activities continue at some former regiments.

³ It is possible that the SS-27 Mod 2s now carry only three warheads each to meet the New START limit on deployed strategic warheads.

⁴ Only about 812 of these warheads are deployed. The rest are in storage for potential loading.

⁵ The Delta III-class SSBNs are in the process of being retired, with possibly only one remaining fully operational.

⁶ The Sineva is a modified SS-N-23 and probably carries four warheads with MIRVs. In 2006, US intelligence estimated that the missile could carry up to 10 warheads, but it lowered the estimate to four in 2009.

⁷ At any given time, only 320 of these warheads are deployed on five operational Delta IV submarines, with the sixth boat in overhaul. Often two boats are out.

⁸ It is possible that Bulava SLBMs now carry only four warheads each for Russia to meet the New START limit on deployed strategic warheads.

⁹ The first figure is the number of operational SSBNs; the second is the total number of missiles (launchers) on the SSBNs. Note that several SSBNs may be in overhaul at any given time.

¹⁰ At any given time, a few of the 10 SSBNs are in overhaul and do not carry nuclear weapons, so not all 720 warheads are deployed.

¹¹ Only about 50 of the bombers are thought to be deployed.

¹² Nuclear weapons are only assigned to the 50 deployed nuclear-capable bombers. The number shows maximum loading although the actual number may be lower. Bomber weapons are not deployed on the aircraft under normal circumstances, but we estimate a couple hundred weapons are present at the two bomber bases, with the remainder in central storage.

¹³ This number of total fielded strategic launchers is higher than the 513 listed in the New START aggregate data as of September 1, 2019, because some bombers are not counted as deployed. This is the total number of operational launchers (ICBMs, SLBMs, and bombers) in service. Russia also has more than 240 non-deployed launchers, many of which are mothballed or in the process of being dismantled.

¹⁴ Only about 1,570 of these warheads are deployed on missiles and at bomber bases. New START counts fewer deployed warheads because it does not count weapons in storage on bomber bases and because at any given time, some SSBNs are not fully loaded.

¹⁵ We estimate that the warheads for the remaining Gazelle interceptors are kept in central storage under normal circumstances. All previous 32 Gorgon missiles have been retired.

¹⁶ It is assumed that all SSC-1B units, except a single fixed version in Crimea, have been replaced by the K-300P by now.

¹⁷ The US National Air and Space Intelligence Center lists the ground-, sea-, and sub-launched 3M55 as “nuclear possible.”

¹⁸ The SSC-7 and SS-26 form part of the same Iskander brigades, which may have led to rumors that the SSC-7 is also nuclear-capable.

¹⁹ It is possible that SSC-8 launchers are co-located with Iskander brigades.

²⁰ This figure assumes five SSC-8 battalions, each with four launchers. Each launcher has four missiles plus reloads.

²¹ Numbers may not add up due to rounding. All nonstrategic warheads are in central storage. The 1,880 listed make up the estimated nominal load for nuclear-capable delivery platforms. Only some of these may

be available for deployment by operational forces. It is possible there are more nuclear-capable nonstrategic systems, in which case the number of such warheads would be greater.

²² Numbers may not add up due to rounding.