

Table 1. Russian nuclear forces, 2021.

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 ^a
SS-19 M3 Stiletto	RS-18 (UR-100NUTTH)	0	1980	6 x 400 (MIRV)	0 ^b
SS-19 M4	? (Avangard)	4	2019	1 x HGV	4
SS-25 Sickle	RS-12M (Topol)	27	1988	1 x 800	27
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)	135	2010	4 x 100? (MIRV)	540 ^c
SS-27 Mod 2 (silo)	RS-24 (Yars)	20	2014	4 x 100? (MIRV)	80
SS-X-29 (silo)	RS-28 (Sarmat)	-	(2022)	10 x 500? (MIRV)	-
Subtotal		310			1,189^d
SLBMs					
SS-N-18 M1 Stingray	RSM-50	1/16	1978	3 x 50 (MIRV)	48 ^e
SS-N-23 M1	RSM-54 (Sineva)	6/96	2007	4 x 100 (MIRV) ^f	384 ^g
SS-N-32	RSM-56 (Bulava)	4/64	2014	6 x 100 (MIRV)	384 ^h
Subtotal		11/176ⁱ			816^j
Bombers/weapons					
Bear-H6/16	Tu-95MS6/MS16/MSM	55	1984/2015	6-16 x AS-15A ALCMs or 14 x AS-23B ALCMs	448
Blackjack	Tu-160/M	13	1987/2021	12 x AS-15B ALCMs or AS-23B ALCM, bombs	132
Subtotal		68^k			580^l
Subtotal strategic offensive forces		554^m		2,585ⁿ	
<i>Nonstrategic and defensive weapons</i>					
ABM/Air/Coastal defense					
S-300/S-400 (SA-20/SA-21)		750	1992/2007	1 x low	~290
53T6 Gazelle		68	1986	1 x 10	68 ^o
SSC-1B Sepal (Redut)		8 ^p	1973	1 x 350	4
SSC-5 Stooge (SS-N-26) (K-300P/3M-55)		60	2015	(1 x 10) ^q	25
Land-based air					
Bombers/fighters (Tu-22M3(M3M)/Su-24M/Su-34/MiG-31K)		~300	1974-2018	ASMs, ALBM, bombs	~500
Ground-based					
SS-26 Stone SSM (9K720, Iskander-M)		144	2005	1 x 10-100	70 ^r
SSC-7 Southpaw GLCM (R-500/9M728, Iskander-M) ^s					
SSC-8 Screwdriver GLCM (9M729) ^t		20 ^u	2017	1 x 10-100	20
Naval					
Submarines/surface ships/air				LACM, SLCM, ASW, SAM, DB, torpedoes	~935
Subtotal nonstrategic and defensive forces					1,912^v
TOTAL STOCKPILE					
Deployed					4,497
Reserve					1,600
					2,897
Retired warheads awaiting dismantlement					1,760
Total inventory					6,257

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

^aIt is possible that the SS-18s have been downloaded 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.

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

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

^dOnly about 800 of these warheads are deployed. The rest are in storage for potential loading.

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

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

^gAt 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.

^hIt is possible that Bulava SLBMs have been downloaded to carry only four warheads each for Russia to meet the New START limit on deployed strategic warheads.

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

^jAt any given time, one or two SSBNs are in overhaul and do not carry nuclear weapons, so not all 816 warheads are deployed - perhaps only around 624.

^kOnly about 50 of the bombers are thought to be deployed.

^lThe total bomber force can theoretically carry more than 800 nuclear weapons, but weapons are probably only assigned to deployed bombers. 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.

^mThis number of total deployed strategic launchers is higher than the 510 listed in the New START aggregate data as of September 1, 2020, 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 250 non-deployed launchers, many of which are mothballed or in the process of being dismantled.

ⁿOnly about 1,600 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.

^oWe assume that the warheads for the Gazelle interceptors are kept in central storage under normal circumstances. All previous 32 Gorgon missiles have been retired.

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

^qThe US National Air and Space Intelligence Center lists the ground-, sea-, and sub-launched 3M-55 as "nuclear possible."

^rThis estimate includes warheads for both SS-26 and SSC-7.

^sThe US National Air and Space Intelligence Center lists the R-500/9M728 as "Conventional, Nuclear Possible."

^tIt is possible that the SSC-8 launchers are co-located with some of the Iskander brigades.

^uThis figure assumes five SSC-8 battalions, each with four launchers. Each launcher has four missiles for a total of 80 missiles. It is assumed there is at least one reload for at least 160 missiles.

^vAll nonstrategic warheads are thought to be in central storage. The 1,912 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 unreported nuclear-capable non-strategic systems.