

Table 1. Russian nuclear forces, 2026.

Type/NATO designation	Russian designation	Launchers	Year deployed	Warheads x yield (kilotons)	Total warheads ^a
<i>Strategic offensive weapons</i>					
ICBMs					
SS-18 M6 Satan	RS-20V (Voevoda)	40 ^b	1988	10 × 500–800 (MIRV)	400 ^c
SS-19 M4	Avangard	12	2019	1 × HGV	12
SS-27 Mod 1 (mobile)	RS-12M1 (Topol-M)	18	2006	1 × 800?	18
SS-27 Mod 1 (silo)	RS-12M2 (Topol-M)	50 ^d	1997	1 × 800	50
SS-27 Mod 2 (mobile)	RS-24 (Yars)	180	2010	3 × 100? (MIRV)	540 ^e
SS-27 Mod 2 (silo)	RS-24 (Yars) ^f	24	2014	3 × 100? (MIRV)	72
SS-29 (silo)	RS-28 (Sarmat)	–	(2026)	10 × 500? (MIRV)	–
?	? (Sirena-M)	3	2022	Command and control module	– ^g
Subtotal		327			1,092^h
SLBMs					
SS-N-23 M2/3	RSM-54 (Sineva/Layner)	5/80	2007	4 × 100 (MIRV) ⁱ	256 ^j
SS-N-32	RSM-56 (Bulava)	8/128	2014	6 × 100 (MIRV)	672 ^k
Subtotal		13/208^l			928^m
Bombers/weapons					
Bear-H6/16	Tu-95MS6/MS16/MSM ⁿ	45	1984/2015	6 × AS-15A ALCMs or 14 × AS-23B ALCMs	430 ^o
Blackjack	Tu-160/M	15	1987/2021	12 × AS-15B ALCMs or AS-23B ALCMs, bombs	156
Subtotal		60			586^p
Subtotal strategic offensive forces		595^q			2,606^f
<i>Nonstrategic and defensive weapons</i>					
Naval					
Submarines/surface ships/air				LACMs, SLCMs, ASWs, SAMs, DBs, torpedoes	767
Land-based air					
Bombers/fighters	Tu-22 M3(M3M)/Su-24 M/Su-34/MiG-31K	292	1974–2018	ASMs, AAMs, ALBMs, bombs	488
ABM/Air/Coastal defense					
SA-20/SA-21	S-300/S-400	744	1992/2007	1 × low	200
Gazelle	53T6	68	1986	1 × 10	68 ^s
SSC-1B Sepal	Redut	8 ^t	1973	1 × 350	4
SSC-5 Stoooge (SS-N-26)	K-300P/3 M-55	56	2015	(1 × 10) ^u	35
Ground-based					
SS-26 Stone SSM	9K720, Iskander-M	156	2005	1 × 10–100	130 ^v
SSC-7 Southpaw GLCM	R-500/9M728, Iskander-M ^w				
SSC-8 Screwdriver GLCM	9M729 ^x	16 ^y	2017	1 × 10–100	30
SSC-X-9 Skyfall GLCM	Burevestnik	–	2028	1 x ?	–
SS-X-31	Oreshnik	12	2024	6 × 250	72
Subtotal nonstrategic and defensive forces					1,794^z
TOTAL					4,400
Deployed					1,796
Reserve					2,604 ^{aa}
Retired warheads awaiting dismantlement					1,020
Total inventory					5,420

Abbreviations used: AAM = air-to-air missile; 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.

^aAll warhead numbers come with significant uncertainty because of the limited transparency of Russia's nuclear-capable forces. The numbers for nonstrategic nuclear weapons in particular are highly uncertain.

^bThis is a change from last year and assumes that a third SS-18 regiment at Dombarovsky (175th) is also active.

^cIt is estimated that the SS-18s carry only five warheads each to meet the New START limit for deployed strategic warheads. Although New START has expired, Russia has stated that they will continue to abide by the treaty's central limits in the near-term.

^dSatellite imagery analysis suggests that the 165th Missile Regiment at Tatishchevo has been disarmed of its SS-27 Mod 1 ICBMs to prepare for its rearmament with SS-27 Mod 2 ICBMs. The status of the 86th Missile Regiment, which was previously assessed to be empty and in caretaker status, is uncertain.

^eIt is estimated that the SS-27 Mod 2s carry only three warheads each.

^fIt appears that there are multiple variants of the Yars system: one is reportedly equipped with "light warheads," and another (known as Yars-S) is reportedly equipped with more powerful, medium-yield warheads for use against hardened targets.

- ⁹Although they would presumably still be counted as launchers under New START, the Sirena-M systems at Yurya serve as back-up launch code transmitters and do not carry nuclear warheads. Therefore, the total number of nuclear-armed ICBMs is 324.
- ^hThrough analysis of satellite imagery, New START data, and statements from high-ranking Russian generals, we estimate that only about 892 of these warheads are deployed; the rest are in storage for potential loading.
- ⁱThe current version of the RSM-54 SLBM might be the Layner (SS-N-23 M3), a variant of the previous version—the Sineva (SS-N-23 M2). However, the US Air Force’s National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) did not include the Layner in its 2020 report on ballistic and cruise missile threats, and there is some uncertainty regarding its status and capability. In 2006, the US intelligence estimated that the missile could carry up to 10 warheads, but it lowered the estimate to 4 in 2009. The average number of warheads carried on each missile has probably been limited to 4 multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles (MIRVs) to meet the New START limits. Although New START has expired, Russia has stated that they will continue to abide by the treaty’s central limits in the near-term.
- ^jOne Delta-IV SSBN, on average, is assumed to be out for maintenance and overhaul at any given time. We estimate that warheads are only assigned for the remaining four boats, for a total of 256 warheads. We assume that all of these warheads are deployed.
- ^kOne Borei SSBN, on average, is assumed to be out for maintenance and overhaul at any given time. We estimate that warheads are only assigned to the remaining seven boats, and that Bulava SLBMs carry only four warheads each for Russia to meet the New START limit on deployed strategic warheads. Although New START has expired, Russia has stated that it will continue to abide by the treaty’s central limits in the near-term. We assume that approximately 448 of these warheads are deployed.
- ^lThe first figure is the number of active SSBNs; the second is the total number of missiles (launchers) on those SSBNs. We assume that an average of two SSBNs are undergoing maintenance or in overhaul at any given time.
- ^mThis is the maximum number that Russia’s 13 SSBNs could potentially carry but, given that two submarines are assumed to be out for maintenance and overhaul at any given time, we estimate that Russia’s nuclear stockpile only includes warheads for 11 boats, for a total of 704 warheads.
- ⁿThe START Treaty distinguished between the Tu-95MS6 and Tu-95MS16 variants, of which the MS6 could carry six ALCMs internally and the MS16 an additional 10 on wing pylons for a total of 16. We assume all remaining Tu-95MS16s no longer have external pylons but can only carry missiles internally. The current MSM upgrade adds four pylons with a capability to carry eight Kh-101/102 cruise missiles plus, potentially, six Kh-55 missiles internally.
- ^oThis number assumes that approximately 25 of the Tu-95s have been modernized, therefore enabling them to carry up to 350 warheads, whereas 20 legacy Tu-95MS versions can carry up to 120 warheads. Seven Tu-95 aircraft are believed to have been destroyed by Ukrainian drone strikes in June 2025.
- ^pThis number assumes weapons are only assigned for operational bombers, which we estimate is approximately 54 of a total of 60 bombers. Some bombers are being upgraded. Bomber weapons are not deployed on the aircraft under normal circumstances. We estimate that approximately 200 weapons are present at bomber bases, with the remainder in off-base central storage.
- ^qThis is the total number of active launchers (ICBMs, SLBMs, and bombers) in service. Of those, an estimated 557 are thought to be operational. Russia also has several hundred non-deployed launchers, many of which are mothballed or in the process of being dismantled.
- ^rOnly about 1,796 of these warheads are estimated to be deployed on missiles and at bomber bases.
- ^sWe 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.
- ^tIt is assumed that all SSC-1B units, except a single silo-based version in Crimea, have been replaced by the K-300P by now.
- ^uThe US National Air and Space Intelligence Center lists the ground-, sea-, and sub-launched 3M55 as “nuclear possible.”
- ^vThis estimate includes warheads for both SS-26 and SSC-7.
- ^wA 2021 US National Air and Space Intelligence Center report listed the R-500/9M728 as “Conventional, Nuclear Possible.”
- ^xIt is possible that SSC-8 launchers are co-located with some of the Iskander brigades.
- ^yThis figure assumes four battalions (each with four launchers) deployed with four brigades. Since each launcher appears to be equipped to carry four missiles, this would indicate a total of 64 missiles (possibly 128, if each launcher has one reload missile set). We estimate approximately 10 warheads per brigade.
- ^zRussia’s nonstrategic nuclear weapons are believed to be in storage and are not collocated with their launchers, and therefore are not formally counted as “deployed” in this Nuclear Notebook; however, many regional storage sites are located relatively close to their launcher garrisons, and in practice warheads could be transferred to their launch units on short notice.
- ^{aa}Of Russia’s approximately 2,604 warheads in reserve, about 810 of these are strategic and about 1,794 are non-strategic.