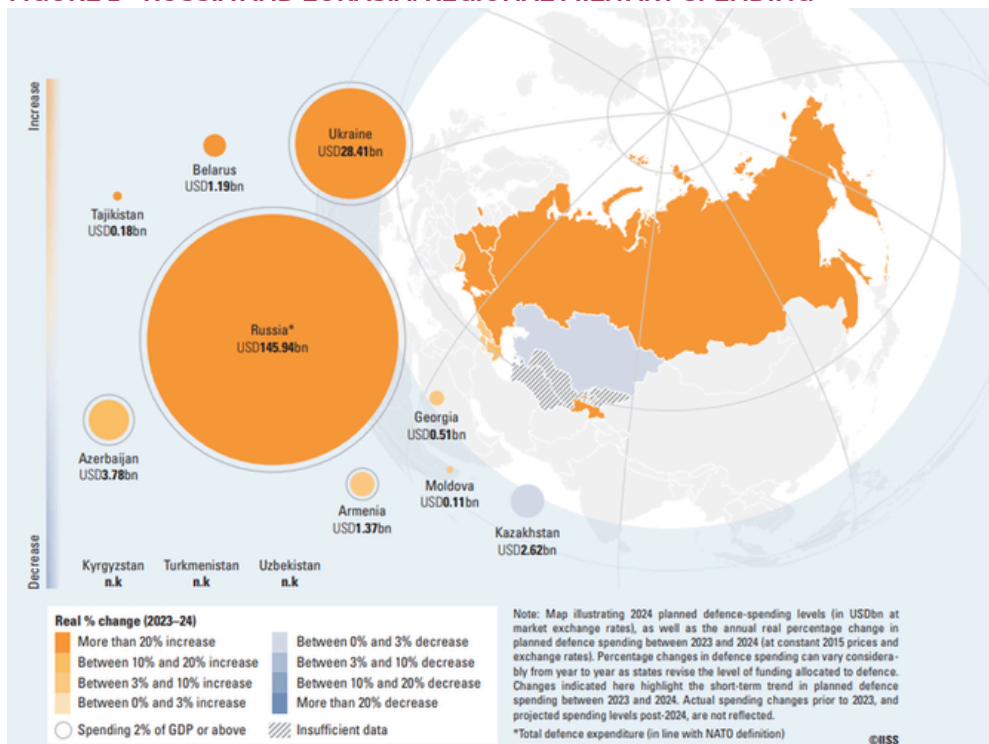


# DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Chile-Russia

## RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

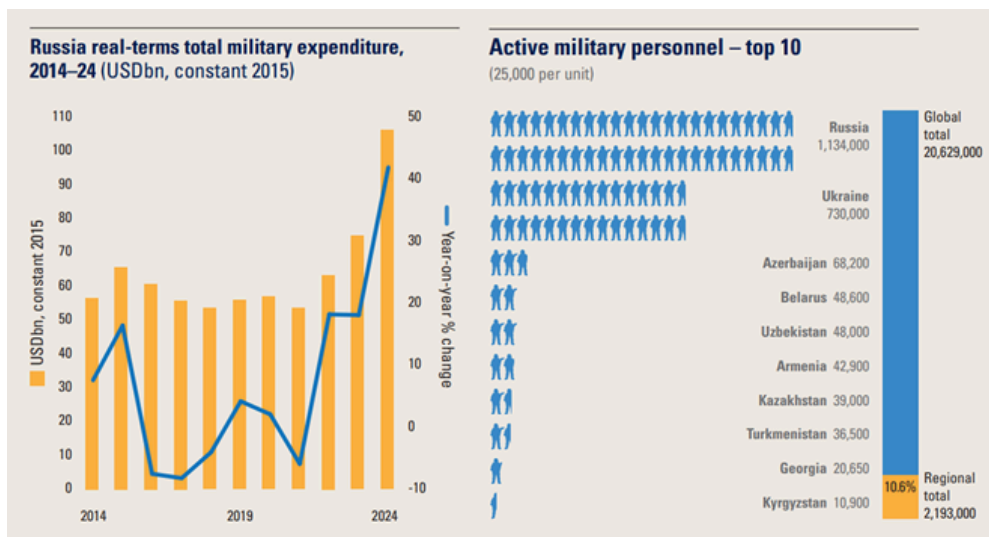
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities, intensifying the mobilization of its defense industry and expanding state military efforts. At the same time, international sanctions imposed since 2022 have restricted Russia's access to traditional markets, supply chains, and sensitive technologies, prompting a search for new partners and spheres of influence outside the Western bloc.

FIGURE 1 - RUSSIA AND EURASIA: REGIONAL MILITARY SPENDING



Source: The Military Balance 2025

FIGURE 2 - MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND ARMED FORCES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



Source: The Military Balance 2025

### RUSSIA'S GLOBAL POSITION

- 3rd highest military spending in the world
- 6.7% of GDP allocated to defense (2024)
- A budget close to Europe's combined military spending
- A military power currently engaged in armed conflict

### ARMED FORCES AND CAPABILITIES

- Numerically large armed forces
- Arsenal inherited from the USSR and modernized
- Emphasis on missiles, air defense, and hybrid warfare

### DEFENSE INDUSTRY

- Industrial mobilization for the war effort
- Direct impact of international sanctions
- Decline in exports in recent years
- Search for alternative markets outside the Western bloc

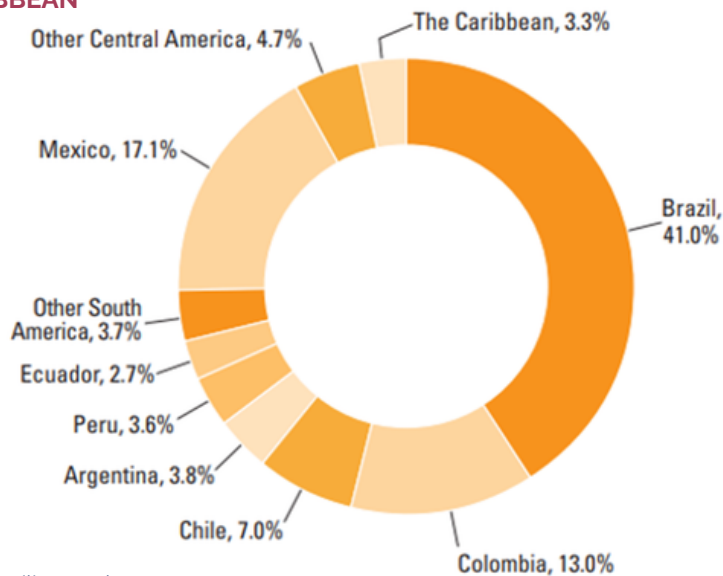
# DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Chile-Russia



## CHILE: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

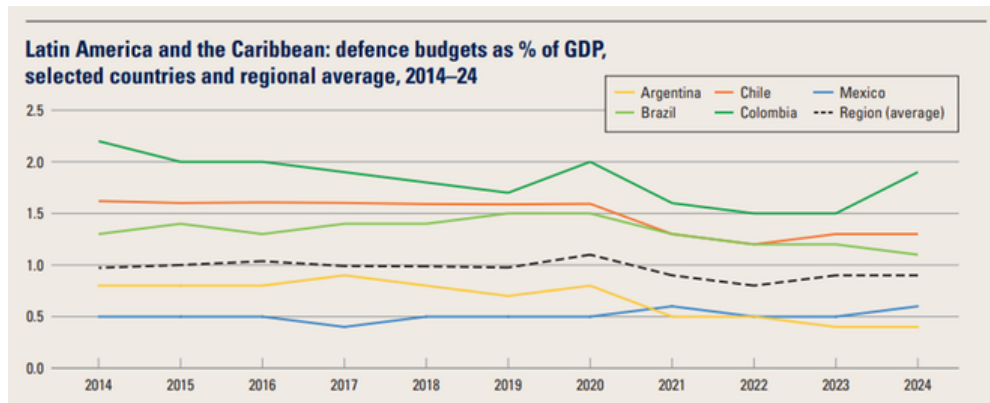
Chile has an institutionally well-established defense policy aligned with Western standards, with a strong emphasis on the ongoing modernization of its Armed Forces and strategic cooperation with the United States. National defense is conceived as a central function of the state, combining conventional military capabilities with non-traditional missions, such as responding to natural disasters and supporting internal security, which gives the Armed Forces a significant role even in times of peace. This institutional structure is coordinated by the Ministry of National Defense through the Undersecretariat of Defense (focused on technological and industrial development), the Undersecretariat for the Armed Forces (administrative management), and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which assists the Ministry in the strategic employment of forces.

**FIGURE 3 - PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEFENSE SPENDING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



Source: The Military Balance 2025

**FIGURE 4 - LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: DEFENSE BUDGET AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP**



Source: The Military Balance 2025

### CHILE'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Regional military power in the Southern Cone
- 1.4% of GDP spent on defense (2024)
- Expanding defense budget: a 2% increase between 2023 and 2024 earmarked specifically for the modernization of Army equipment
- Professionalized and modernized Armed Forces

### DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

Three major state-owned companies:

- FAMAE (land-based technology)
- ASMAR (shipbuilding and maintenance)
- ENAER (aircraft modernization)

# DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Chile-Russia

## RUSSIA AND CHILE: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

Defense relations between Chile and Russia are recent, limited, and of low strategic significance. Formalized only in 2014 through a Technical-Military Cooperation Agreement, these interactions take place within a context marked by Chile's historical alignment with the United States. This alignment solidified after the ouster of Salvador Allende (1970–1973)—whose government shared ideological similarities with the Soviet Union—by the military junta led by Augusto Pinochet. This political and military alliance with the U.S. remains in place to this day, limiting the scope for partnerships with Russia and, due to the limited political space for the projection of Russian influence in the country, resulting in superficial and sporadic cooperation.

### Chile Imports from Russia

- Occasional military acquisitions
- Limited technical-military cooperation
- Low transaction volume

### Russian Strategic Interests

- Diplomatic and military influence
- Diversification of partnerships
- Political presence in South America

## CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND CONTEXT

### Framework Agreement (2014)

Defense cooperation is formally structured under the Technical-Military Cooperation Agreement signed in November 2014, which remains the primary legal framework for the relationship.

### Alignment with the U.S.

Chile's historic and institutional partnership with the United States limits the expansion of strategic ties with Russia.

### Historical Context

The end of rapprochement with the Soviet Union after 1973 consolidated Chile's orientation toward the Western bloc.

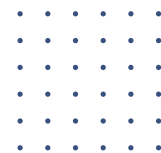
### Impact of Sanctions

International sanctions since 2022 have restricted Russia's ability to supply sensitive technology and equipment.

### Russian Priorities

The war effort in Ukraine has reduced the availability of military equipment for export.

# DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Chile-Russia



## SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONSHIP



**SUPERFICIAL COOPERATION:** The defense relationship between Chile and Russia exists in name only, but lacks strategic depth.



**POLITICAL ASYMMETRY:** Chile's strong alignment with the United States limits the expansion of cooperation with Russia.



**LOW PRACTICAL RELEVANCE:** The partnership has little impact on Chilean defense policy.

## LIMITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



**HISTORICAL CONTEXT:** Focused on maintaining the Technical-Military Cooperation Agreement signed in November 2014, which remains the primary—albeit limited—legal framework between the two countries



**LIMITED POLITICAL MANEUVERING ROOM:** Chile shows little willingness to expand military ties with Russia.



**ADVERSE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT:** Sanctions and Russia's diplomatic isolation reduce incentives for cooperation.

## FUTURE PROSPECTS



**CONTINUIDADE LIMITADA:** A relação tende a permanecer formal e de baixo perfil.



**ONE-TIME TECHNICAL COOPERATION:** Potential progress is limited to technical and institutional exchanges.



**STABILITY OF THE CURRENT POLICY DIRECTION:** There are no signs of a significant shift in Chile's strategic direction.