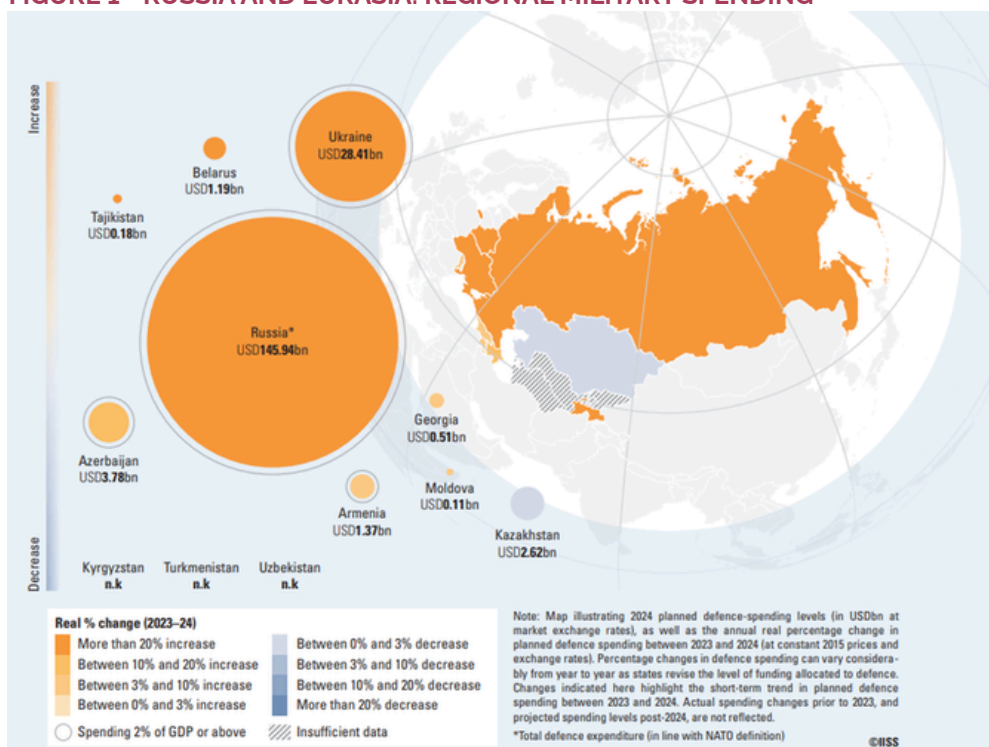


DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

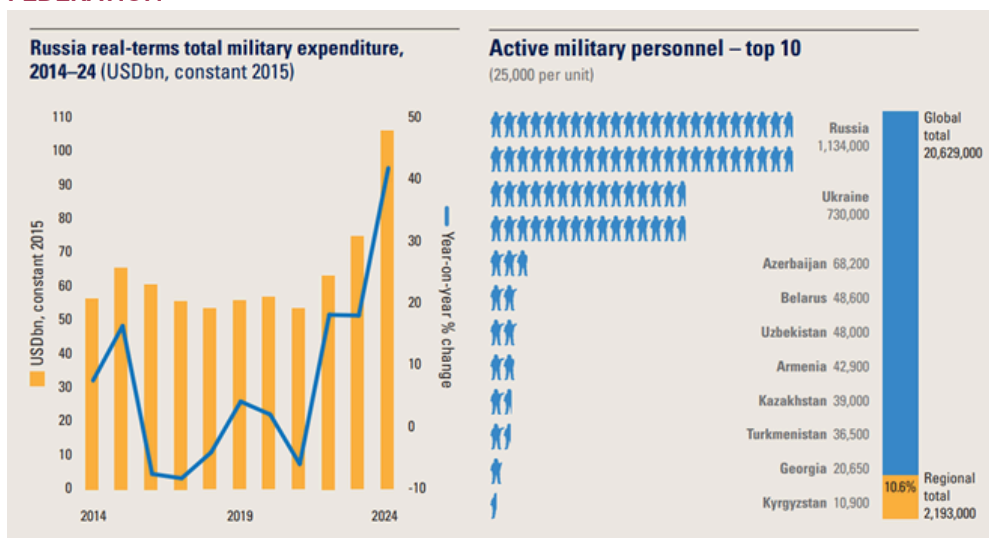
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities, 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

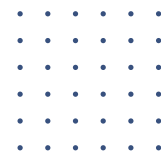
ARMED FORCES AND CAPABILITIES

- 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

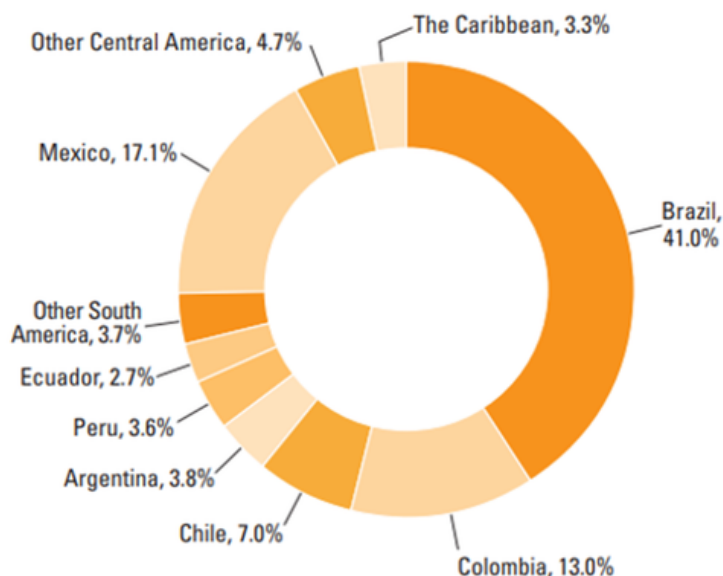
DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia



COLOMBIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

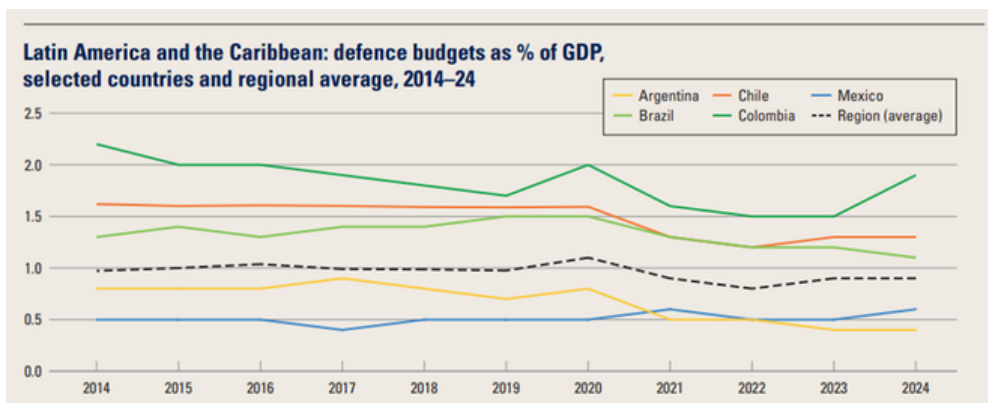
Colombia has a defense policy strongly focused on internal security, the fight against drug trafficking, organized crime, and illegal armed groups. Its Armed Forces operate under the coordination of the General Command of the Military Forces, which reports to the Ministry of National Defense and centralizes strategic planning and operational management for the sector. National defense is conceived as a fundamental instrument for the preservation of sovereignty, constitutional order, and internal stability. In addition to conventional capabilities, there is a notable emphasis on counterinsurgency operations, border surveillance, and cooperation with civilian authorities, especially in regions affected by illicit economies. The Colombian government has also been expanding investments in cybersecurity, intelligence, and the protection of critical infrastructure, seeking to modernize its capabilities in the face of transnational threats. This structure reflects the centrality of public security in the country's strategic agenda.

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

COLOMBIA'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Regional military power in northern South America
- 3.4% of GDP allocated to defense (2024)
- Military spending estimated at \$15.1 billion
- Emphasis on internal security and territorial control
- Professional and operational armed forces

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

- Dominance of the state-owned company INDUMIL
- Domestic production of small arms, ammunition, and explosives
- History of technological cooperation with Israel (through 2024)
- Current focus on independent development
- Direct support for the Colombian Armed Forces

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia

RUSSIA AND COLOMBIA: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

Defense relations between Colombia and Russia have historically been limited and shaped by Colombia's strategic alignment with the United States. During the 20th century, Colombian foreign policy prioritized the containment of communism, limiting rapprochement with the Soviet Union. In the 1990s, differences between Bogotá and Washington opened the door to occasional rapprochement with Moscow. In 1996, a Technical-Military Cooperation Agreement was signed, accompanied by the acquisition of Mi-17 helicopters and the strengthening of cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking. In the 21st century, the intensification of the partnership between Russia, Venezuela, and Nicaragua generated regional tensions, leading Colombia to reinforce its alignment with the United States. In 2017, the country became a global partner of NATO, which further reduced the scope for deepening cooperation with Russia. As a result, the bilateral relationship remains pragmatic, limited, and of low strategic significance.

Colombia Imports from Russia

- One-off equipment purchases
- Purchase of military helicopters (Mi-17)
- Limited military-technical cooperation
- Low volume of defense trade

Russian Strategic Interests

- Diplomatic and military outreach in Latin America
- Diversification of partners outside the Western bloc
- Political presence in northern South America

CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND CONTEXT

Framework Agreement (1996)

Defense cooperation was established under the Technical-Military Agreement signed in 1996, which remains the primary legal framework for the relationship.

Alignment with the U.S.

The historic partnership with the United States limits the expansion of strategic ties with Russia.

Regional Context

Tensions with Venezuela and Nicaragua influence Colombian foreign policy and reinforce its dependence on the Western axis.

Impact of Sanctions

Sanctions since 2022 have restricted Russia's supply of sensitive equipment.

Russian Priorities

The war effort in Ukraine has reduced Russia's export capacity.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Colombia-Russia



SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONSHIP



LIMITED COOPERATION: The defense relationship between Colombia and Russia exists in name only, but is not very well institutionalized.



POLITICAL ASYMMETRY: Colombia's alignment with the United States limits the expansion of cooperation with Moscow.



MODERATE PRACTICAL RELEVANCE: The partnership has a limited impact on Colombian defense policy.

LIMITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT WITH THE WEST: Cooperation with the U.S. and NATO is the cornerstone of defense policy.



LIMITED POLITICAL MANEUVERING ROOM: Little willingness to deepen military ties with Russia.



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

FUTURE PROSPECTS



LIMITED CONTINUITY: The relationship is likely to remain formal and low-key.



ONE-TIME TECHNICAL COOPERATION: Potential progress is limited to maintenance, training, and technical exchanges.



STABILITY OF THE CURRENT ALIGNMENT: There are no signs of a significant shift in Colombia's strategic orientation.