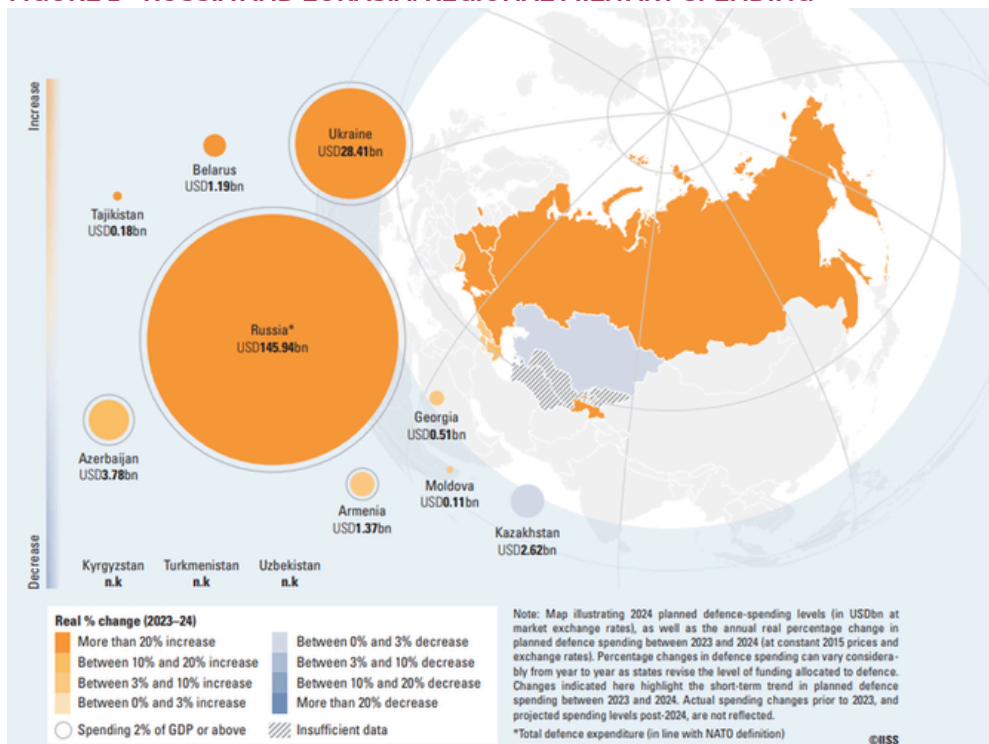


DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Mexico-Russia

RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

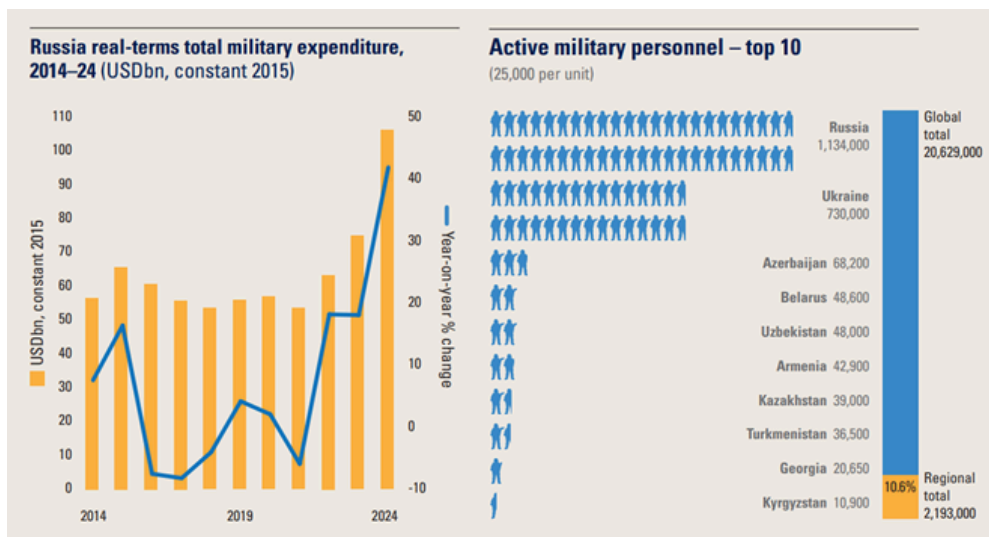
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities,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

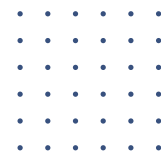
ARMED FORCES AND CAPABILITIES

- 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

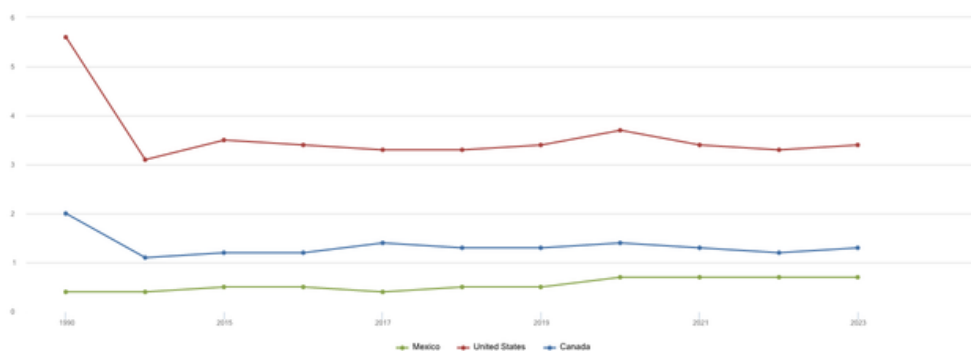
DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Mexico-Russia



MEXICO: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mexico's defense policy is characterized by a dual institutional structure, based on the joint operations of the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA) and the Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR), both of which report directly to the Executive Branch. This structure ensures a high degree of civilian control and operational specialization among the land, air, and naval forces. The mission of the Armed Forces extends beyond conventional territorial defense, incorporating core functions of internal security, combating organized crime, border control, and systematic support for the civilian population. Instruments such as the DN-III-E Plan and the Navy Plan institutionalize military action in natural disasters and public emergencies. In the strategic realm, Mexico adopts a defensive posture, prioritizing tactical mobility, regional interoperability, and constabulary operations over external military projection. This orientation reflects its integration into North American security frameworks, while simultaneously preserving a tradition of non-intervention.

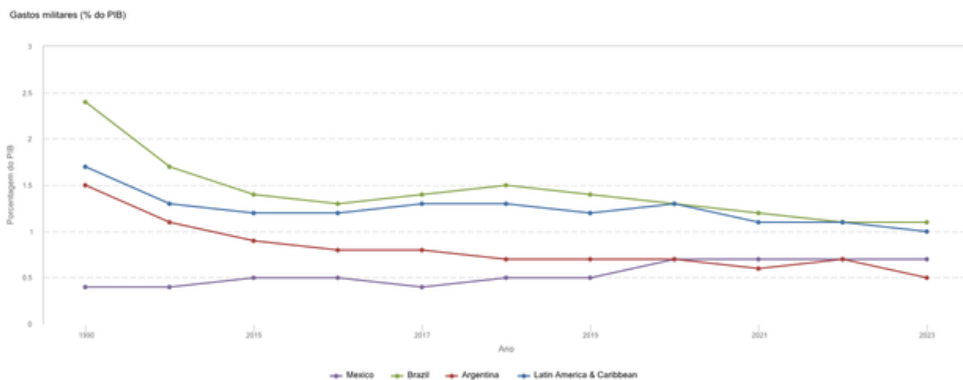
FIGURE 3 - MILITARY SPENDING IN NORTH AMERICA (% OF GDP)



Series: Military expenditure (% of GDP)
Source: World Development Indicators
Created on: 12/09/2025

Source: World Bank Group Data

FIGURE 4 - MILITARY SPENDING IN LATIN AMERICA (% OF GDP)



Series: Military expenditure (% of GDP)
Source: World Development Indicators
Created on: 12/09/2025

Source: World Bank Group Data

MEXICO'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Regional military power in North America and Latin America
- Third-largest military force on the North American subcontinent
- Defense budget growing at a moderate pace
- Defensive and non-interventionist doctrine
- Emphasis on internal security and asymmetric operations

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

- Dual structure: SEDENA and SEMAR
- Lack of a unified ministry
- Low level of military industrial autonomy
- Dependence on foreign technology
- Predominance of the import-based model

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Mexico-Russia

RUSSIA AND MEXICO: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

The defense relationship between Mexico and Russia is pragmatic in nature, limited in scope, and strongly influenced by Mexico's geopolitical proximity to the United States. Although diplomatic rhetoric supports multipolar cooperation, the practical aspects of the relationship remain limited. Since the 1990s, Mexico has been among the Latin American countries that have purchased Russian military equipment, particularly helicopters. However, unlike Venezuela or Cuba, this relationship has never evolved into a structured strategic partnership. Cooperation is based primarily on cost-benefit and functionality criteria, focusing on the supply of robust platforms for domestic operations. After 2012, the commercial relationship stagnated, with Western suppliers becoming increasingly dominant. International sanctions and logistical difficulties exacerbated this trend, reinforcing Russia's marginalization in the Mexican defense market.

Mexico Imports from Russia

- Mi-8/Mi-17 helicopters
- Ural heavy-duty vehicles
- Igla man-portable systems
- Spare parts and maintenance services
- One-time purchases

Russian Strategic Interests

- Symbolic presence in North America
- Expansion into markets near the U.S.
- Geopolitical diversification
- Reduction of international isolation
- Entry into alternative markets

CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND CONTEXT

Technical Agreements (2020–2021)

Airworthiness Agreement facilitates the certification and maintenance of Russian aircraft.

Dependence on the U.S.

Integration into U.S. security frameworks limits autonomy.

International Sanctions

Jeopardize logistics and supply chains.

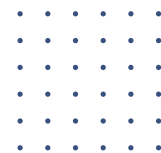
Lack of Industrial Policy

Absence of a robust national defense strategy.

Geopolitical Pressures

Washington's sensitivity to the Russian presence.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Mexico-Russia



SUMMARY OF THE RELATIONSHIP



PRAGMATIC COOPERATION: A relationship based on specific technical needs.



STRATEGIC ASYMMETRY: The structural dominance of U.S. influence.



LOW LEVEL OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION: Lack of permanent mechanisms for cooperation.

LIMITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES: Integration with the U.S. and NATO limits autonomy.



TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE: Heavy reliance on Western suppliers.



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

FUTURE PROSPECTS



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



LOGISTICS COOPERATION: Focus on maintenance and technical support.



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