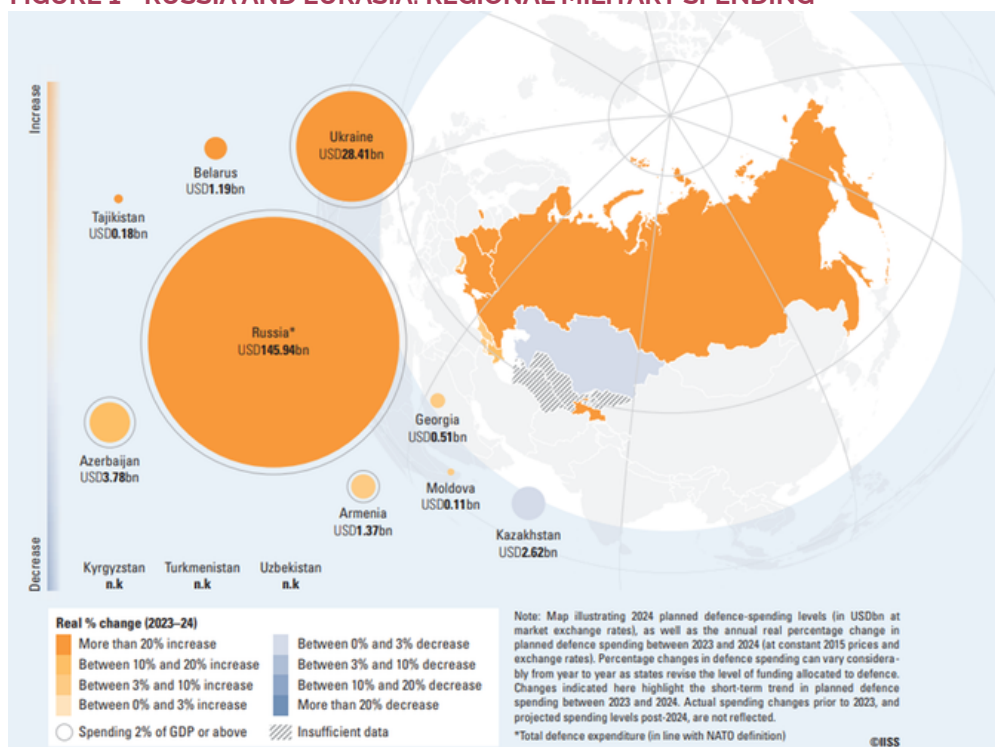


DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Bolivia-Russia

RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

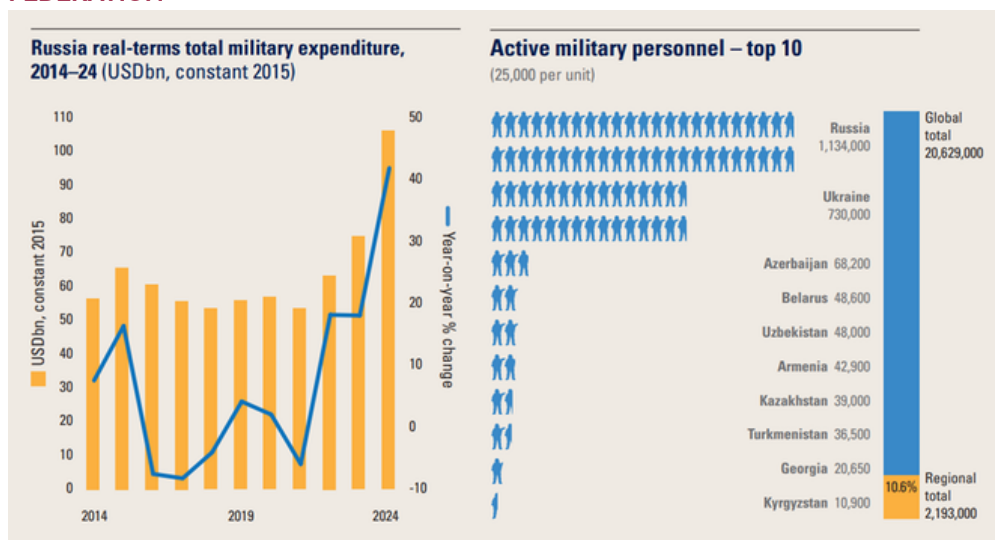
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities,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

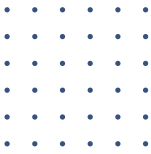
- Numerically large armed forces
- Arsenal inherited from the USSR and modernized
- Emphasis on missiles, air defense, and hybrid warfare

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:

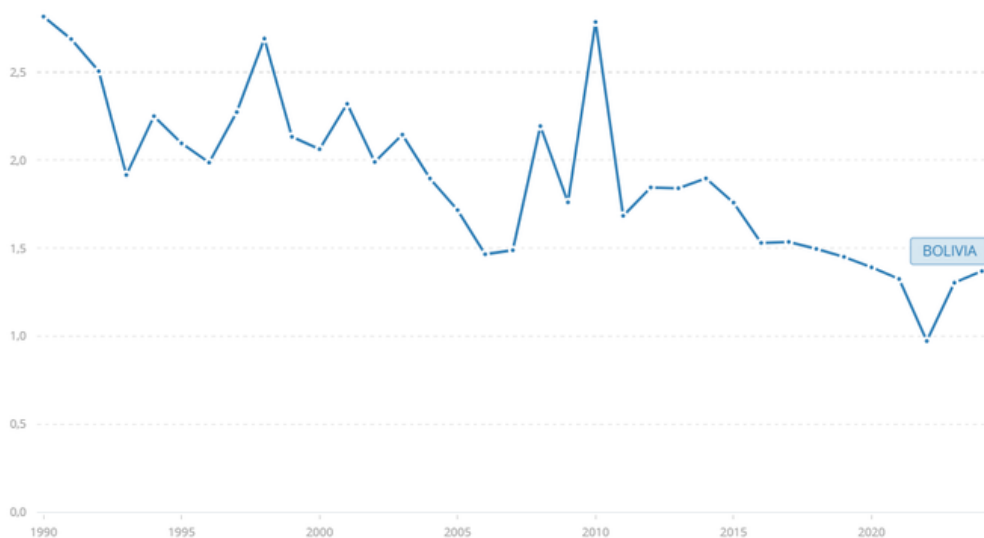
Bolivia-Russia



BOLIVIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

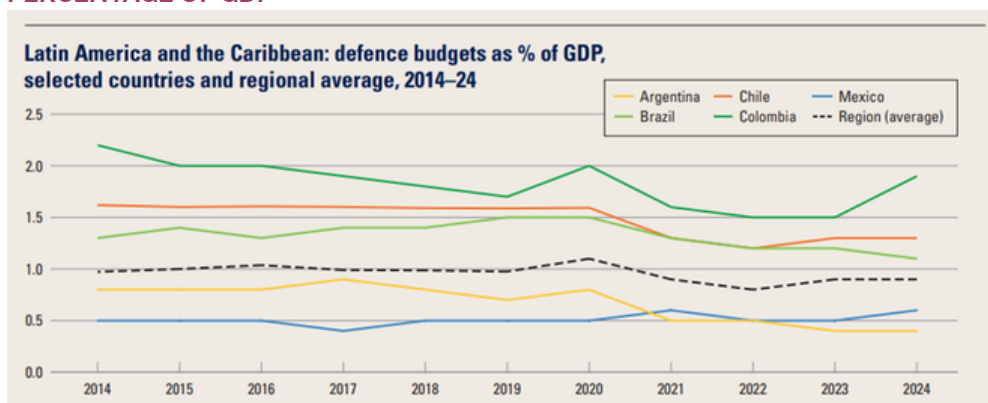
Bolivia structures its defense policy around the protection of national sovereignty, border security, and addressing transnational threats such as drug trafficking, smuggling, and human trafficking. Under the coordination of the Ministry of Defense, the Armed Forces also perform functions related to risk management, civil protection, the preservation of natural heritage, and the strengthening of international cooperation. Military modernization prioritizes investments in technology, natural resource monitoring, and professional training, while the national defense industry, led by COFADENA, produces military equipment and develops technologies for strategic sectors such as energy and mining. Despite allocating a relatively limited share of resources to the sector, Bolivia seeks to strengthen its defense capabilities through institutional modernization and international partnerships.

FIGURE 3 – BOLIVIA'S MILITARY EXPENDITURE (% OF GDP) (1990–2024)



Source: World Bank Data (2024)

FIGURE 4 – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: DEFENSE EXPENDITURE AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP



Source: The Military Balance 2025

BOLIVIA'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Smaller-scale military power in South America
- 1.4% of GDP allocated to defense (2024)
- One of the region's smallest military budgets
- Priority given to border security and transnational threats

DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

- Production led by COFADENA
- Manufacturing of ammunition and explosives
- Development of technologies for the energy and mining sectors
- Support for the modernization of national capabilities

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Bolivia-Russia

BOLIVIA AND RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

Defense relations between Bolivia and Russia have been structured since 2009, with the signing of the Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement, and have been expanded through cooperation in strategic sectors, particularly in the nuclear field. The construction of the Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center, developed by Rosatom in partnership with the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Agency, has become the main bilateral project and has strengthened Russia's technological presence in Latin America. In addition to nuclear cooperation, Russia seeks to expand its regional influence and consolidate access to strategic sectors, while Bolivia seeks to develop technological capabilities and attract investment. However, geopolitical factors, such as United States influence and China's growing presence in the exploitation of Bolivian lithium, limit the expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Bolivia Imports from Russia

- Military technical cooperation
- Cooperation in nuclear technology
- Technical assistance
- Scientific development

Russian Strategic Interests

- Expansion of regional influence
- Cooperation in nuclear energy
- Access to strategic sectors
- Diversification of markets and partnerships

CONSTRAINING FACTORS AND CONTEXT

Framework Agreement (2009)

Defense cooperation was formalized through the Military-Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in 2009, constituting the main legal framework for the bilateral relationship.

Nuclear Cooperation

The partnership is marked by the construction of the Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center, carried out by Rosatom in cooperation with the Bolivian Nuclear Energy Agency.

Strategic Resources

Russian interest also focuses on strategic Bolivian sectors, particularly nuclear energy and mineral resources.

External Influence

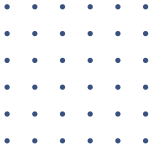
United States influence and geopolitical competition hinder the deepening of military-technical cooperation between Bolivia and Russia.

Competition for Lithium

China's growing presence in the exploitation of Bolivian lithium intensifies competition for strategic resources and reduces the space for new Russian projects.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Bolivia-Russia



SUMMARY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS



STRATEGIC COOPERATION: The partnership between Bolivia and Russia focuses on strategic technological sectors, with particular emphasis on the nuclear field.



TECHNOLOGICAL PROJECTION: The Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center represents the main bilateral project and expands Russia's technological presence in Latin America.



MUTUAL INTERESTS: The relationship combines Russia's objectives of international projection with Bolivia's interest in developing technological capabilities.

LIMITATIONS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



U.S. INFLUENCE: The strategic predominance of the United States in the Americas hinders the deepening of military-technical agreements with Russia.



GEOPOLITICAL COMPETITION: Competition for strategic resources, particularly with China, limits the scope for expanding Russia's presence.



TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES: Access to sensitive military technologies remains constrained by the restrictions imposed by the international context.

FUTURE PROSPECTS



CONTINUITY OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION: The nuclear sector is likely to remain the main axis of the bilateral partnership.



TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION: Projects related to strategic sectors may continue to constitute the focus of the relationship between the two countries.



COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES: The evolution of the relationship will also depend on international competition for strategic minerals and the regional geopolitical environment.