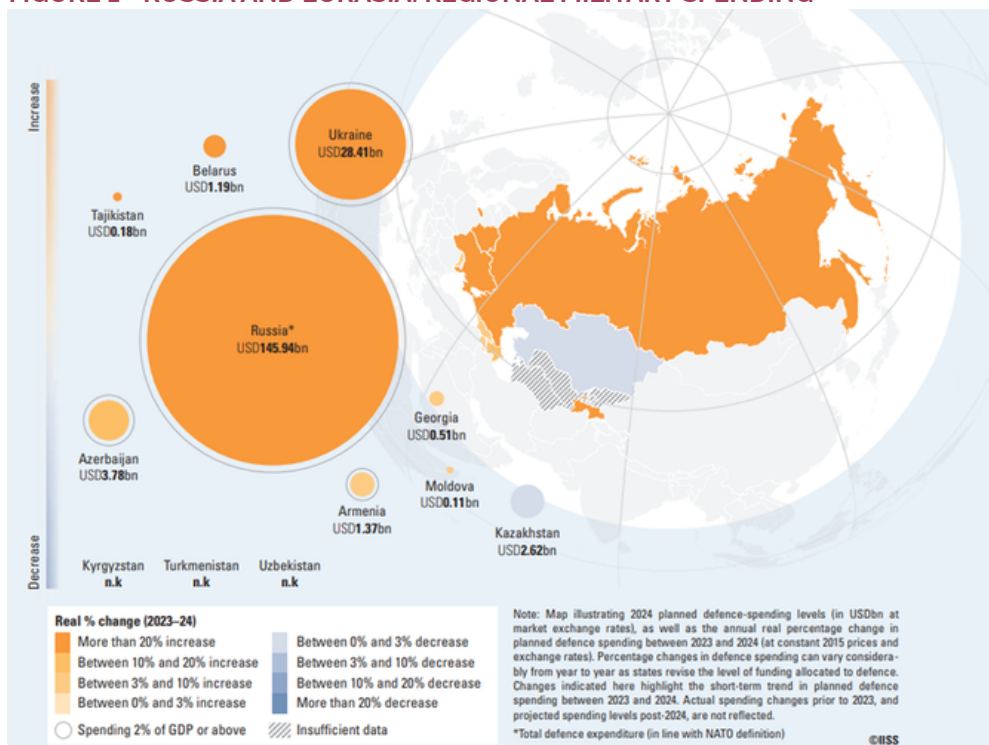


DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS: Paraguay-Russia

RUSSIA: DEFENSE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

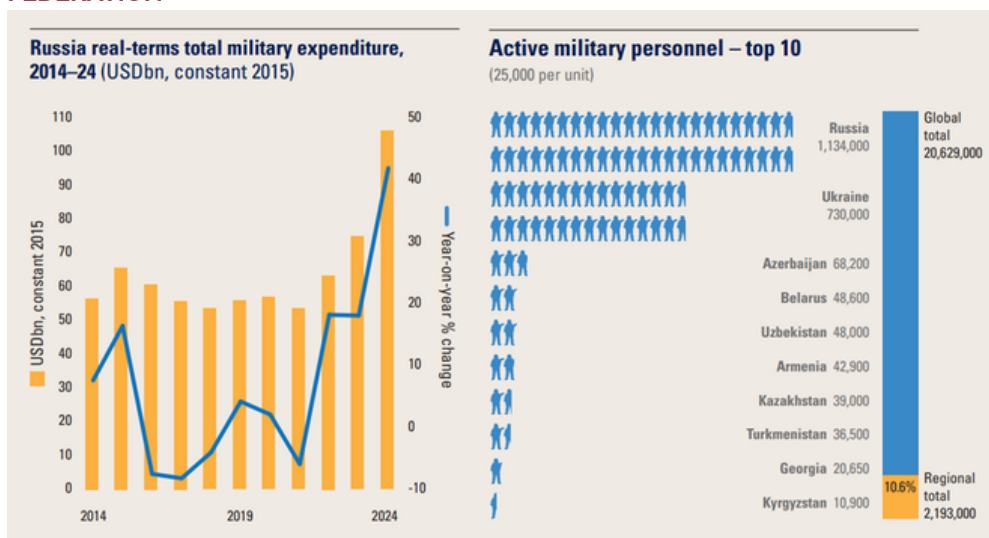
The Russian Federation remains one of the world's leading military powers, supported by high levels of defense spending, a vast conventional and nuclear arsenal, and a historically well-established military-industrial complex. The war in Ukraine has significantly reoriented the country's strategic priorities,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

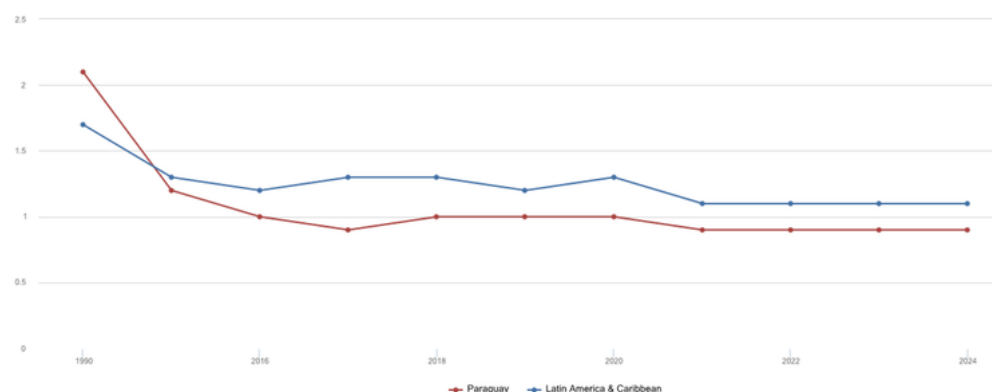
DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Paraguay–Russia

PARAGUAY: INTERNATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

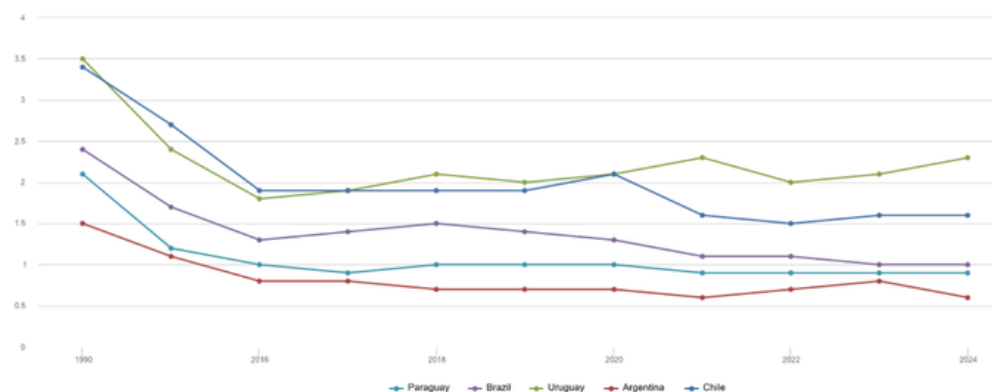
Paraguay's defense system is coordinated by the Ministry of National Defense and articulated by the National Defense Council (CODENA), which is responsible for advising the Presidency of the Republic in formulating and overseeing the National Defense Policy. The defense strategy is directed toward preserving sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the well-being of the population, with a particular emphasis on safeguarding strategic resources. These include the binational hydroelectric plants of Itaipu and Yacyretá, as well as the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway, which is deemed vital for the nation's international insertion. Despite possessing a consolidated institutional framework, Paraguay maintains modest military expenditures and prioritizes inter-institutional cooperation to address threats such as transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism.

FIGURE 3 – MILITARY EXPENDITURES OF PARAGUAY AND LATIN AMERICA (% OF GDP)



Source: World Bank Data (2026)

FIGURE 4 – MILITARY EXPENDITURES IN THE SOUTHERN CONE (% OF GDP)



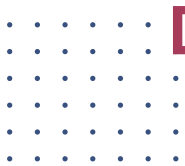
Source: World Bank Data (2026)

PARAGUAY'S GLOBAL POSITION

- Military expenditures ranging between 0.9% and 1.0% of GDP
- Below the Latin American and Caribbean average
- Military effort inferior to that of Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay
- Prioritization of internal security and territorial defense

STRATEGIC AREAS

- Itaipu and Yacyretá
- Paraguay–Paraná Waterway
- Border security
- Combating transnational organized crime



DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Paraguay–Russia

RUSSIA AND PARAGUAY: DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS

Defense relations between Paraguay and Russia have developed pragmatically, albeit in a limited fashion, remaining peripheral to the primary strategic partnerships established by Moscow in Latin America. While Russia seeks to expand its regional influence and diversify markets for its defense industry, Paraguay maintains a security policy primarily oriented toward combating organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism. As a result, bilateral cooperation has concentrated on institutional dialogues and initiatives related to customs intelligence and confronting cross-border illicit activities, without evolving into significant arms acquisitions or structural military partnerships.

Paraguayan Imports

- No significant arms acquisitions
- Institutional dialogues
- Cooperation in customs intelligence
- Declarations of intent to combat cross-border illicit activities

Russian Strategic Interests

- Expansion of regional influence
- Search for new markets
- Offering of surveillance technologies
- Cooperation in cyber intelligence

RESTRICTIVE FACTORS AND CONTEXT

Limited Cooperation

Bilateral cooperation has remained concentrated on institutional initiatives, failing to result in significant arms transfers or military alliances.

Internal Security

Paraguayan defense policy prioritizes tackling transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, and terrorism, thereby diminishing the scope for conventional military cooperation with Russia.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic dependence and historical alignment with the United States constrain the deepening of technical-military relations with Moscow.

Cooperation with the U.S.

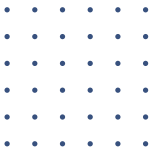
Recent agreements between Asunción and Washington have expanded joint operations and military exchanges, further restricting the adoption of Russian equipment and doctrines.

Russia's Role

The Russian footprint in Paraguayan defense remains restricted to diplomatic dialogue and specific, ad hoc security initiatives.

DEFENSE AND SECURITY RELATIONS:

Paraguay–Russia



SYNTHESIS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



LIMITED COOPERATION: The bilateral defense relationship remains confined to institutional and security initiatives, devoid of any relevant arms acquisitions.



DIPLOMATIC PRAGMATISM: Cooperation focuses on customs intelligence and combating cross-border illicit activities.



LOW STRATEGIC RELEVANCE: Paraguay is not among Russia's priority partners in Latin America.

LIMITS OF THE RELATIONSHIP



ALIGNMENT WITH THE U.S.: Military cooperation between Paraguay and the United States curtails the potential for rapprochement with Moscow.



NATIONAL PRIORITIES: Defense policy centers on internal security and combating emerging threats.



ABSENCE OF MILITARY COOPERATION: The relationship has not progressed toward arms commercialization or operational military alliances.

FUTURE PROSPECTS



INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE: Cooperation is likely to remain focused on institutional exchanges and security-related initiatives.



AD HOC COOPERATION: Projects concerning intelligence and surveillance technologies may persist as the primary areas of mutual interest.



CONTINUITY OF WESTERN ALIGNMENT: The historical strategic alignment with the United States constrains prospects for expanding military cooperation with Russia.