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By JULIET LINDELMAN and MARTHA MENDOZA August 25, 2022

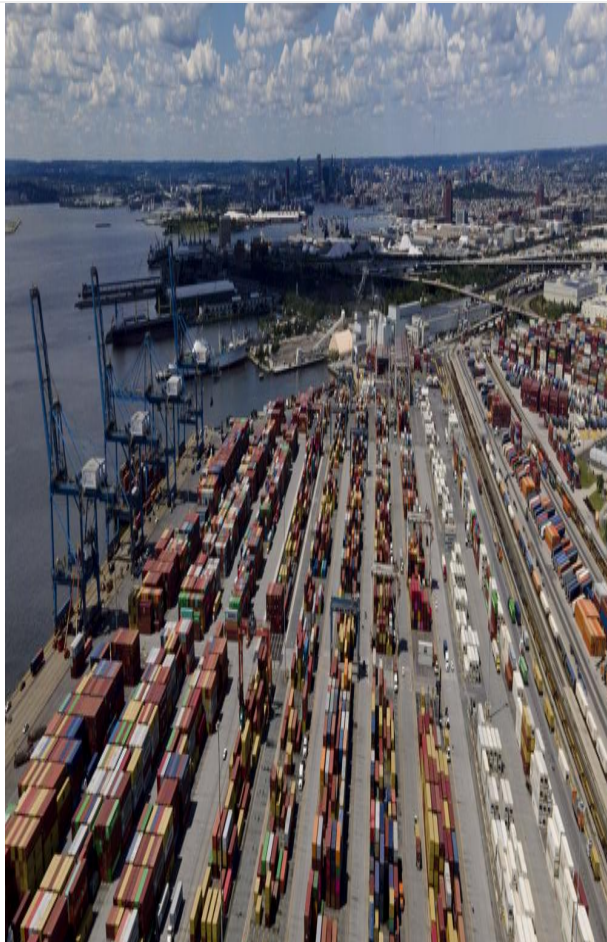
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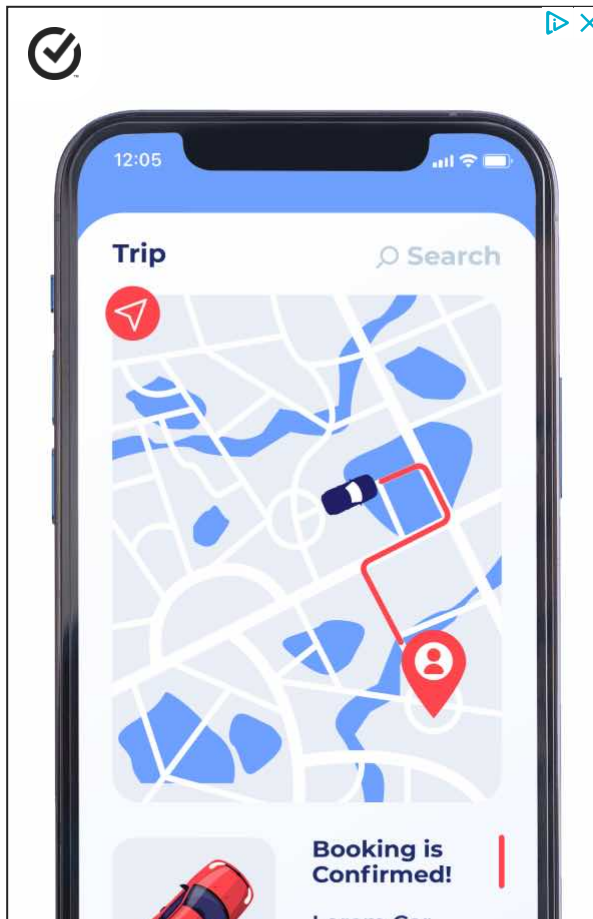
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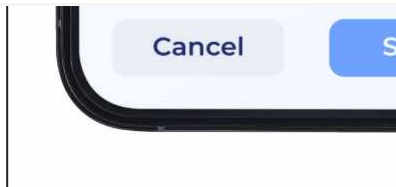
...last day this summer, a massive container ship pulled into the Port of Baltimore loaded with sheets of plywood, aluminum rods and radioactive material – all sourced from the fields, forests and factories of Russia.

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President Joe Biden promised to “inflict pain” and deal “a crushing blow” on Vladimir



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RESTRICTIONS ON
commodities
like vodka,
diamonds and
gasoline in the
wake of Russia's
invasion of
Ukraine six
months ago. But
hundreds of
other types of
unsanctioned
goods worth
billions of
dollars,
including those
found on the
ship bound for

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St. Petersburg,
Russia, continue
to flow into U.S.
ports.

The Associated
Press



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wood, metals, rubber and other goods have arrived at U.S. ports from Russia since it began launching missiles and airstrikes into its neighbor in February. That's a significant drop from the same period in 2021 when about 6,000 shipments arrived but it

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more than \$1 billion worth of commerce a month.

Import volume



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Wood

Metal (steel, aluminum,
titanium, iron powder)

Food

Oil and gas

Rubber

Miscellaneous

Fertilizers

Vehicle parts

Radioactive materials

Ammunition

Source: Panjiva, Import Geni

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in reality, no
one involved
actually
expected trade
to drag to a halt
after the



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World New

imports of
certain items
would likely do
more harm to
those sectors in
the U.S. than in
Russia.

RUSSIA- UKRAINE WAR

UN EU to
inspectors tighten
head to travel
Ukraine rules for
nuclear Russians,
plant in but no
war zone visa ban

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gas through
major offer mixed
pipeline, view of
citing Gorbachev'
maintenance legacy



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“When we

could disrupt
global trade. So
our job is to
think about
which sanctions
deliver the most
impact while
also allowing
global trade to
work,”
Ambassador Jim
O’Brien, who
heads the State
Department’s
Office of
Sanctions
Coordination,
told the AP.

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Experts say the
global economy
is so
intertwined that
sanctions must
be limited in



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prices in an
already unstable
market.

Also, U.S.
sanctions don't
exist in a
vacuum; layers
of European
Union and U.K
bans result in
convoluted
trade rules that
can be
confusing to
buyers, sellers
and
policymakers.

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for example,
the Biden
administration
and the EU
released
separate lists of



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cannot receive
exports, but at
least one of
those
companies —
which supplies
the Russian
military with
metal to make
fighter jets
currently
dropping bombs
in Ukraine -- is
still selling
millions of
dollars of metal
to American and
European firms,

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while some U.S.
importers are
sourcing
alternative
materials
elsewhere,



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In the case of
wood imports,
Russia's dense
birch forests
create such
hard, strong
timber that
most American
wooden
classroom
furniture, and
much home
flooring, is
made from it.
Shipping
containers of
Russian items
— groats,

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snoes, crypto
mining gear,
even pillows —
arrive at U.S.
ports almost
every day.



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from Russia shows some items are clearly legal and even encouraged by the Biden administration, like the more than 100 shipments of fertilizer that have arrived since the invasion. Now-banned products like Russian oil and gas continued to

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ports long after the announcement of sanctions due to "wind down" periods,



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complete
existing
contracts.

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In some cases,
the origin of
products
shipped out of
Russian ports
can be difficult
to discern. U.S.
energy
companies are
continuing to

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kazakhstan
through Russian
ports, even
though that oil
is sometimes
mixed with



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with that

Russian suppliers are unreliable, and opaque corporate structures of most major Russian companies make it difficult to determine whether they have ties to the government.

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“It is a general rule: when you have sanctions, you’ll have all kinds of murky

...said Russian
economist
Konstantin
Sonin, who
teaches at the
University of
Chicago. "Still,
sanctions make
sense because
even though you
cannot kill
100% of
revenues, you
can reduce
them."

Many American
companies are
choosing to cut

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trade. Coors
beer, for
example,
returned a
shipment of
hops to a state-



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as part of a
commitment to
suspend all
business in the
country, said
Molson Coors
Beverage Co.
spokeswoman
Jennifer
Martinez.

Russia and the
U.S. were never
major trading
partners, and so
sanctioning
imports is only
a very small
slice of the

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strategy.
Restrictions on
exports from
the U.S. -- of
technology in
particular --



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Russian economy, and sanctioning the Russian Central Bank has frozen Russia's access to roughly \$600 billion in currency reserves held across the U.S. and Europe.

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Nonetheless

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a symbolic weight beyond the financial harm they might inflict, particularly for



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...formed by the
war.

Here's a look at
some of the
goods that have
flowed between
the two
countries:

METALS

Russia is a key
exporter of
metals like
aluminum, steel
and titanium;
cutting off that
trade could
dramatically

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...for Americans
already
grappling with
inflation, said
Morgan Stanley
economist



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with sanctions
is that you're
trying to act in a
way that causes
more pain to the
other side and
less pain to
yourself," he
said.

Most American
companies
dealing in
metals have
longstanding
relationships
with Russian
suppliers. Such

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particularly of
aluminum, has
continued
virtually
uninterrupted
since the



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AP found more than 900 shipments totaling more than 264 million tons of metals since February. Russia is one of the largest producers of unwrought aluminum outside of China

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global exporter. But the war has affected that global market as well.



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Association
spokesperson
Matt Meenan,
“we have seen
supply chain
impacts in
terms of
increased
energy costs
and other
inflationary
pressures which
the invasion
exacerbated.”

Russian
aluminum ends
up in American

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airplanes, soda
cans and cables,
ladders and
solar racks. The
largest U.S.
buyer at the



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of Russian

owned global aluminum giant Rusal. In April, Rusal America's senior executives bought the U.S.-based part of the company and rebranded it as PerenniAL. In July alone, PerenniAL imported more than 35,000 tons from Russia. The

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not respond to requests for comment.

Also, among the private



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from Russia are
U.S.
government
contractors
supported by
federal tax
dollars. Boeing,
the world's
largest
aerospace
company signed
a federal
contract for up
to \$23.8 billion
in 2021; it
imported 20
tons of
aluminum in

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kamensk-
Uralsky
Metallurgical
Works. In
March, the U.S.
banned exports



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it supplies
metals to the
Russian
military, but
placed no
restrictions on
imports. A
Boeing
representative
said the
company made
the decision to
end trade with
Russia in March,
and explained
that the
shipment that
arrived in June

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purchased four
months before.

Another metal
importer, Tirus
US, is owned by

Russia



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AVISMA, the world's largest titanium producer. VSMPO also provides metal to the Russian military to build fighter jets. The company's broad global footprint and specific product — titanium — underscores the challenges of isolating Russia from global

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sells titanium to more than 300 companies in 48 countries, including a range of U.S.



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to aerospace
companies.

The company
said only that
due to
significant
challenges in
the U.S., it has
been working
with several
American
companies to
alleviate supply
chain issues.

WOOD

Russia's vast
forests are some

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the world. After
Canada, Russia
is the second
largest exporter
of wood, and
has some of the



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strong, solid
Baltic birch
plywood,
flooring used
throughout the
U.S.

This year, the
Biden
administration
began imposing
tariffs on
Russian wood
exports, a move
which infuriated
Ronald
Liberatori, a
Nevada-based
wood dealer

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Russian grown
Baltic birch to
all the major
furniture
makers,
construction



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Manufacturers

in the U.S.

“The problem here is Russia is the only country in the world that makes this product,” he said. “There’s no alternative source.”

He said that on top of the tariff, he had to put up an \$800,000 bond to ensure he’d pay the tax,

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turner driving up prices.

“Who’s paying for this? Who? You and every

with the first time



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“We’re so
damned upset
with what Biden
has done. This
is a government
versus
government
issue.”

Liberatori said
decision-makers
need to
consider who is
going to be
more hurt by
tariffs before
imposing them.

Another wood

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importer told
AP that while it
stopped any
new orders in
February, it had
vast amounts of



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already had
been paid for;
the final
shipment
arrived in the
U.S. in July.

FUEL

On March 8,
Biden
announced the
United States is
banning all
imports of
Russian oil, gas
and energy,
“targeting the
main artery of

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Russia's
economy.”

“That means
Russian oil will
no longer be



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people will deal
another
powerful blow
to Putin's war
machine," he
said.

Within hours,
there were
reports that a
ship carrying 1
million barrels
of Russian oil to
the U.S.
changed course
to France. But
plenty of others
pushed on.

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that week,
about a million
barrels of
Russian crude
oil had arrived
off the port of



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ANNOUNCED ON
refinery Monroe
Energy.
Meanwhile, a
tanker with
about 75,000
barrels of
Russian tar oil
pulled into the
port of Texas
City, Texas,
bound for
Valero's
refineries after a
long north
Atlantic
crossing,
according to

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line shipments
continued to
Valero,
ExxonMobil and
others.
ExxonMobil



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At a July 28
delivery was of
Kazakh origin
and not subject
to sanctions.
She said Exxon
“supports the
internationally
coordinated
efforts to bring
Russia’s
unprovoked
attack to an end,
and are
complying with
all sanctions.”

Monroe
spokesman

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said the
company has
not received any
more Russian
fuel and doesn’t
“anticipate



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future. Vitol
did not respond
to requests for
comment.

Andrea
Schlaepfer, a
spokesperson
for Dutch fuel
exporter Vitol,
said that all of
its oil and gas
shipments since
April 22 have
been from
Kazakhstan,
where pipelines
and rail
networks run

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landlocked
country's oil
fields and
refineries to
neighboring
Russian ports.



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infrastructure,
moorings and
fees, Russia
makes about
\$10 million each
year.

Schlaepfer said
U.S. Customs
and Border
Protection
agents review
and verify that
its shipments
entering the
U.S. don't
contain Russian
products. But

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answer repeated
questions about
how it handles
sanctions and
bans on Russian
goods. A CBP



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enforcing prohibitions on imports, however a spokesman repeatedly referred The AP to the State and Treasury departments.

OTHER

So far this year, almost 4,000 tons of Russian bullets have also arrived in the

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were distributed to gun shops and ammo dealers. Some were sold to U.S. buyers by



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companies,
while others
came from at
least one
sanctioned
oligarch. Those
shipments
slowed
significantly
after April.

AP also tracked
millions of
dollars worth of
shipments of
radioactive
uranium
hexafluoride
from Russian

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tenex JSC, the
world's largest
exporter of
initial nuclear
fuel cycle
products, to



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South Carolina.

Nuclear material is not sanctioned.

Westinghouse spokeswoman Cathy Mann said that as part of the nuclear fuel manufacturing process, their fuel fabrication facilities receive enriched uranium product and convert it into

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said Westinghouse doesn't own the uranium used to make fuel. That material belongs



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nuclear power
plants
throughout the
world.

“As a result, our
customers have
the
accountability
to determine
where and from
whom the
materials are
procured –
some of which
is sourced from
Russia or
enriched by a
Russian

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said.
“Westinghouse
condemns
Russia’s
invasion and the
resulting



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In addition,
some of the
products sent to
the U.S. from
Russian ports
continue on to
Mexico and
Canada. Toyota
vehicle
components, for
example, arrived
last month in
New Orleans
bound for a
Mexican plant
run by Toyota
Tshusho, the car
company's

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radioactive
material sent
from Russia to
the U.S. is
hailed north of
the border to



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medical
supplies used
throughout
North America.

Although
imports of some
food items, such
as seafood and
vodka, have
been restricted,
the Treasury
Department last
month
published a fact
sheet reiterating
that agricultural
trade between
the U.S. and

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very much
allowed.

The Red
October
chocolate

for more information



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Moscow. Today
it's a tourist
attraction with
apartments,
stores and
restaurants. But
the company,
Krasny Oktyabr,
still makes and
sells candy and
other traditional
treats from a
production
plant on the
outskirts of
Russia.

In Brooklyn,

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Grigory
Katsura, at the
U.S. offices of
Krasnyi Oktyabr
Inc, said they
continue to



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...
childhood for
Russian
immigrants.

“Of course
they’re used to
it,” he said.

And so every
few weeks, the
shipments
arrive at their
warehouse from
Russia:
buckwheat,
dried fruit and
their world-
renowned

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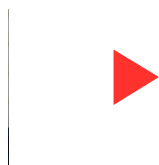
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journalist Larry
Fenn in New
York



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reported from
Santa Cruz,
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\$139, But Few
Know This...**



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Keilini

These Trees Are Spreading North in...

Wired

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