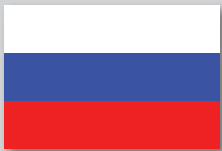


## Russian Federation



### About Russia

**Capital City:**

- Moscow

**Monetary Unit:**

- Russian Ruble (RUB)

**Major Languages:**

- Russian

**Main Exports:**

- Petroleum & petroleum products
- Natural gas
- Metals
- Wood & wood products

### Our Immigration Services in Russia

**Business Travel** – Guidance & assistance with business visa applications filed with the Russian Foreign Ministry via its Embassies & Consulates abroad

**Work Visas** – For foreign nationals who will be directly hired by a Russian legal entity or employees of representative/branch office

**Immigrant Status for Foreign Nationals seeking Permanent Residency** – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Russia for extended assignments or permanent relocation

### The Economy of Russia

Home to over 138.7 million people, Russia is the largest country in the world in terms of land area. It has the eleventh largest economy in the world by nominal value and the sixth largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Russia has an abundance of natural gas, oil, coal, and precious metals. The state-run gas monopoly Gazprom is the world's largest producer and exporter, and supplies a growing share of Europe's needs. The EU is Russia's biggest trading partner, accounting for over forty-five percent of its overall trade in 2010, and by far the most important investor for Russia. It is estimated that up to seventy-five percent of foreign direct investment in Russia came from EU member states.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has moved from an isolated/centrally-planned economy to a more market-based/globally-integrated economy. It is one of the most industrialized of the former Soviet republics. Besides its resource-based industries, it has developed large manufacturing capacities, notably in metals, food products, and transport equipment. Russia is now the world's third-largest exporter of steel and primary aluminum. Russia inherited most of the defense industrial base of the Soviet Union, so armaments remain an important export category for Russia.

According to the 2010 U.S. Trade Representative's National Trade Estimate, Russia continues to maintain a number of barriers with respect to imports. Discussions continue within the context of Russia's WTO accession to eliminate these measures or modify them to be consistent with internationally accepted trade policy practices. Non-tariff barriers are frequently used to restrict foreign access to the market and are also a significant topic in Russia's WTO

negotiations. Russia's long-term challenges include a shrinking workforce, a high level of corruption, difficulty in accessing capital for smaller, non-energy companies, and poor infrastructure in need of large investments. Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/3anysy>; <http://www.economywatch.com>

For detailed information about Russia's Economic Outlook, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/428txnr> or <http://tinyurl.com/3kw93py>

### Business Travel to Russia

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Russia for business should ensure their passports are valid for at least six months beyond the intended dates of stay and contain at least two blank visa pages. Unless visa exempt, most foreign nationals who wish to travel to Russia for business will typically require a business visa for entry. Permissible activities as a business visitor include engaging in business meetings and negotiations, attending trade fairs, examining goods for potential purchase, and entering as a representative of a foreign company to install, dismantle, service, or repair the company's equipment. Business visa applications are typically sponsored by a Russian entity and the visas are issued for single entry, double entry or multiple entries. Business visas may be issued with a validity of one year with no more than a 90 day stay allowable and a total of no more than 180 day stay allowable in a year. Foreign nationals are prohibited from working in Russia or engaging activities that involve taking direction or compensation from the Russian host as a business visitor. Business visitors who spend more than three days in Russia should register their visa and migration card (issued upon arrival) through their Russian sponsor.

*Continued on next page.*

U.S. and Canadian citizens, as well as many EU-state passport holders require a visa to enter Russia for business purposes as indicated above. Recent talks between the European Union and Russia indicate that in the future an agreement will be met for visa-free travel among EU countries and Russia. To read more about this, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/425q29d>.

### Living in Russia

Russia is the world's largest country spanning from Eastern Europe to North East Asia. The nerve and center point of Russia remains its capital, Moscow. Mainly multinational companies have established offices in Russia, including Chevrolet, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, Ford, thus the expatriate population has increased over the years. Although Moscow is consistently ranked most desirable amongst Russian cities by expatriates, expatriate communities exist in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

### Russian Business Culture

Russians are transactional and do not need to establish long-standing personal relationships before engaging in business. Business meetings should be scheduled as far out as possible. If meeting with government officials, meetings will be scheduled as far out as six weeks. Generally, the first meeting is to establish one's credibility for future business dealings. Be sure to prepare business materials in both English and Russian. At the end of business meetings, be prepared to sign a "protokol", which is a summary of what was discussed.

Russian language ability is a must and an interpreter should be hired if necessary. An increasing number of Russian businesspeople speak a courtesy level of English; however, many prefer to conduct business discussions in Russian. Source: <http://tinyurl.com/5oznwx>

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at [jill.bussey@goellaw.com](mailto:jill.bussey@goellaw.com) or +1 703.796.9881.

\*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

## Russia Work Permit Process

- 1 Russian sponsoring company to submit Application/Declaration for projected need to hire foreign national employees to the Interregional Information Business Center in order to obtain work permit quota numbers
- 2 Employment Permit application submitted with the Federal Migration Service (FMS) for the Russian sponsor
- 3 Work permit for the foreign national employee, followed by visa application at Russian consulate abroad

### How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Russia

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Russia. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business' reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit

and Visa Application preparation and filing; detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Russian Embassy or Consulate abroad and Local Police or Immigration Department may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Russia. Thus, if your company's Russian office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

**Goel & Anderson, LLC**  
1984 Isaac Newton Square East  
Suite 203  
Reston, Virginia 20190  
USA

Phone: +1 703.796.9898  
Fax: +1 703.796.9005  
E-mail: [info@goellaw.com](mailto:info@goellaw.com)

[www.goellaw.com](http://www.goellaw.com)