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Overview Of Russian Supply Chains In 1ST Half of 2025

In 2025 the Russian international trade is demonstrating sustainable growth at the backdrop of stabilized and expanded economy. By results of the 1st half of the year, the Russian GDP has grown by almost 2% year-on-year, enabling expansion of foreign economic ties, especially with the key regions – Middle East, Asia and Africa. Specific features of the economic structure and trade partners have a direct impact on building supply chains and developing transport corridors, ensuring reliable and efficient logistics.

Asia is now the key area of the foreign trade of Russia. Over the first six months of 2025 the turnover of goods with China has increased by 8%, reaching up to about $60 billion. The exports have exceeded $50 billion, including energy commodities (crude oil, gas), metals, grains and vegetable oils. The volume of the railway transit route RF-PRC-RF by the middle of 2025 has grown by 30%, supported by ongoing upgrades of the Trans-Siberian Railway and expansion of the existing logistics corridors. The seaports of Vladivostok and Nakhodka have handled 12% more cargo, facilitating expedited exports of components and high-tech products to the South-East Asia countries – South Korea, Vietnam and Japan. Let us point out, that the seaport complex of the Far East has become an important hub for multimodal transit, following the large-scale reconstruction of port berths, completed in 2024. This has accelerated handling of container cargos, including transit shipments.

The trade turnover of Russia with Middle Eastern countries over the 1st half of 2025 has increased by 7%, going over $15 billion. More than 60% of the exports are energy products, including liquefied natural gas (LNG). There has been significant

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growth of Russian grain and fertilizer shipments – by 15%, due to rising demand in the Persian Gulf countries, especially in the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The logistics in the region are actively developing on the back of the use of the Black Sea ports of Novorossiysk and Taman, which had gone through upgrade phases over 2024-2025, increasing their throughput capacity by 10-15%. Air cargo transportation through Moscow's Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports is also ramping up, including the Dubai international air hub, cutting transit times and ensuring greater supply chain flexibility.

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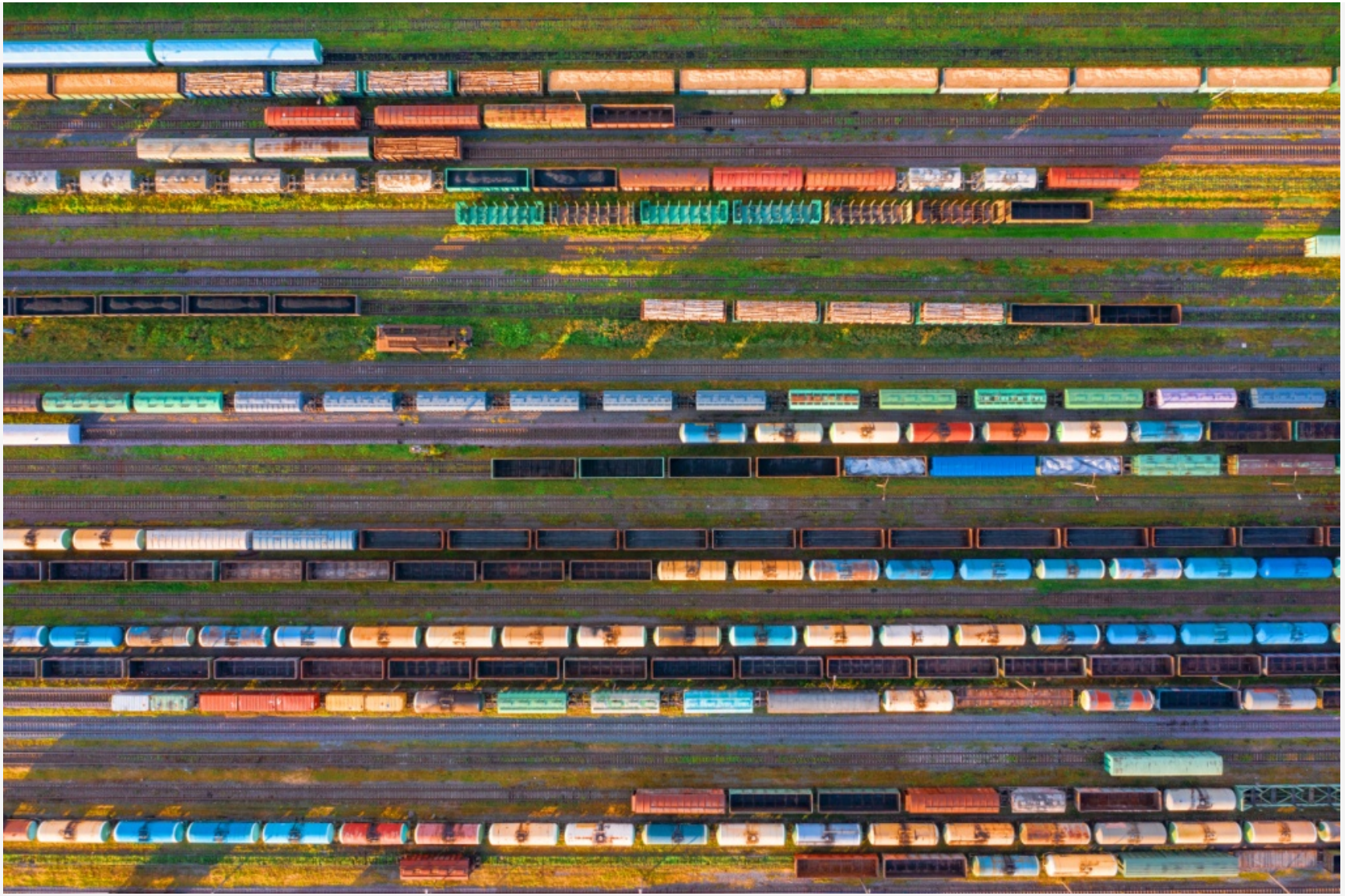

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Speaking of the air logistics, it should be noted that the cargo turnover of Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports in the first half of 2025 has grown by at least 10%. Sheremetyevo continues developing its throughput capacity with the aim of handling up to 350 thousand tons of cargo per year in the future. Domodedovo is implementing a project to increase its warehousing capacity and set up automated cargo handling systems. These investments support growth of international cargo transport, including pharmaceutical products, electronics and high-tech equipment, in demand in the countries of the Middle East and Asia.

The African market continues its dynamic development: its turnover of goods with Russia has climbed by 9%, going over $20 billion. The key trading partners are Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. The Russian exports are primarily focused on wheat, fertilizers, metals, and the imports feature mineral resources and agricultural products. Taking into account underdeveloped infrastructure in some African countries, Russia is expanding cooperation for development of multimodal logistics projects. In this regard, a joint logistics cluster has been built in the seaport of Durban (SAR), bringing together maritime, railway and truck transportation, with an immediate effect of higher cargo turnover rates and more efficient delivery of Russian goods to East and South African countries.

The Northern Sea Route (NSR) maintains strategical importance in the international logistics of Russia. Over the first half of 2025 the NSR cargo turnover amounted to 25 million tons, which is 10% higher than over the same period of 2024. The NSR is actively used for transportation of energy products and raw materials to Asian and Middle Eastern countries, reducing transit time on the average by 30-40% versus the traditional Suez Canal route. Icebreaker fleet expansion and seaport infrastructure upgrade (for example, in Sabetta) projects have enabled higher throughput capacity and safer navigation. The Trans-Siberian Railway remains a key overland transit corridor, with its transportation volumes having increased by 7% due to implementation of innovative solutions and expansion of freight car fleet.

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Digitalization of logistics has become a common standard for major Russian exporters: more than two thirds of companies use various solutions to automate cargo flow management and customs processing. Particularly, the Black Sea ports and Moscow airports operate electronic control systems, expediting logistics processes and improving cooperation with Middle Eastern and African partners.

The issues of responsibility for the environmental conditions of the regions, hosting the supply chains of the Russian business, are also viewed as priority. The environmental sustainability has become especially important in the transport logistics sector, which is being rapidly “retooled” to alternative power sources for transportation – over the first half of 2025 the share of this type of transport has exceeded 16%. Major logistics companies are investing into electric cars, hydrogen and hybrid trucks, including unmanned ones, enabling Russian logistics operators to comply with strict international environmental standards and maintain their competitive edge at the global markets.

Therefore, sustainable economic growth, transport infrastructure upgrades, active implementation of digital technologies and environmental focus are becoming the key drivers for development of supply chains for Russian international trade in 2025, despite any adverse geopolitical events whatsoever. Specific features of economic sectors and regional partners in Asia, in the Middle East and in Africa determine the structure and dynamics of Russia’s foreign economic ties. These factors promote further integration of the country into the global trade processes and strengthen its positions at the international arena.

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