

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Pollution Reveals What Russian Statistics Obscure: Industrial Decline](#)

**Article Link:** [https://www.wsj.com/articles/pollution-reveals-what-russian-statistics-obscure-industrial-decline-cdd7103e?mod=economy\\_lead\\_pos2](https://www.wsj.com/articles/pollution-reveals-what-russian-statistics-obscure-industrial-decline-cdd7103e?mod=economy_lead_pos2)

Author(s)	Josh Zumbrun
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**Summary:** Here is a data point that is hard for Russia to fake: pollution emitted by its factories and detectable by satellites in outer space. Rather than showing an economy that suffered an initial shock and has since stabilized, this data reveals an industrial sector that, for the most part, has declined even further as the war has continued. This unusual bird's-eye view of Russia's economy comes courtesy of the European Space Agency's Sentinel-5P satellite, launched in 2017. To monitor the release of pollutants into the atmosphere, the satellite has a cutting-edge Tropospheric Monitoring Instrument, known as Tropomi, which can detect gases such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone, formaldehyde, methane and others. Over the past six months, urban pollution in Moscow and St. Petersburg has begun to increase (partially a reflection of traffic) but pollution in industrial regions has continued to drop, off 1.2% over the six months ended in April and down 6.2% over the past year—more than during the worst of the coronavirus pandemic. By contrast, Russia's official measure showed industrial production rose 1.2% in March from a year earlier.

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