

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Tracking Russia's Financial Outflows, Again](#)

Article Link: <https://theovershoot.co/p/tracking-russias-financial-outflows>

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Publication	The Overshoot
Publication Date	October 17, 2023

Tweet: Revisiting Russia's current accounts, @M_C_Klein finds widespread capital flight. Cumulative current account surpluses were \$262 billion in 2022Q1-2023Q2. During the period, Russian residents had net capital flight of \$133 billion.

Summary: Most of Russia's cumulative current account surplus reflects capital flight by both Russians and non-Russians, with perhaps at most ~1/3 of the surplus (\$90 billion out of \$262 billion) reflecting anything resembling the accumulation of sovereign wealth or "shadow reserves". Russia's net international investment position, which accounts for changes in asset valuation, paints the same basic picture even more starkly. According to the CBR, the value of Russia's foreign assets as of June 30 2023 was \$100 billion lower than on December 31, 2021, while the value of Russia's liabilities to the rest of the world was down by \$432 billion. These persistent pressures help explain why the ruble has depreciated so much—down by half against the U.S. dollar since June 2022—after Russia's access to imports was restored.

Related Articles: [Pollution Reveals What Russian Statistics Obscure: Industrial Decline and Russians Have Emigrated in Huge Numbers Since the War in Ukraine](#) and [Russian Power in Decline](#)

Primary Topic: Trade (not deficits)

Topics: GDP, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Security, Trade (not deficits)

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