

Administrative divisions of Russia

Russia is divided into a number of different types of entity. The main focus for this paper, and of principal interest to the cartographer, is the first-order administrative level divisions (ADM1s). These are the federal subjects (субъекты Российской Федерации, *sub'yekty Rossiyskoy Federatsii*), of which there are 83. Although Russia also includes the Ukrainian territories of Crimea and Sevastopol' in its own view of the ADM1s, meaning that Russian sources list 85 federal subjects, the UK does not recognise the annexation of these territories by Russia and they should continue to be shown as part of Ukraine on HMG products.

Additionally, one may see reference to 8 federal districts (федеральные округа, *federal'nye okruga*). These are not administrative in nature: they are groupings of administrative divisions, and each federal district has a presidential envoy. There are also 4 military districts: Western, Southern, Central and Eastern; press reporting may sometimes refer to these districts, but they would not usually appear on a map or be used to describe the sub-divisions of Russia.

The 83 federal subjects comprise various different types of unit; these are viewed as administratively equal, though some enjoy significantly more autonomy than others: specifically there are 46 oblast', 21 republics, 9 kray, 4 autonomous okrug, 2 cities of federal significance and 1 autonomous oblast'.

The other purpose of this information paper is to provide guidelines on standard presentation of these administrative names. PCGN policy for Russia is to take the Russian Cyrillic names from official Russian sources and romanise these according to the BGN/PCGN Romanisation System for Russian¹. The case-endings present in Russian mean that a specific name cannot simply be derived by removing the generic term (e.g. Astrakhanskaya Oblast' cannot meaningfully be represented simply as Astrakhanskaya). For that reason PCGN recommends in the majority of cases that the full form (in its romanized version) should be used to refer to the political entity: this approach is recommended for the oblasts, krays and autonomous okrugs². Russian government English-language websites in fact use anglicised forms for the federal subjects (e.g. Astrakhan Oblast)³. However, we would recommend, though these might be usefully be used for reference purposes in English-language texts, that in keeping with the usual style of HMG mapping, these anglicised forms do not need to appear on maps.

The republics, which are each home to an ethnic majority (e.g. Chechens in Chechnya), each have a short Russian form and it is these short forms that we suggest may be used on maps if space dictates that the full form cannot be used or in an English-language text. Additionally, amongst the republics, there are arguably a few instances for which a recognisable 'conventional' name exists that differs from the romanization of the short form (e.g. North Ossetia vs. Severnaya Osetiya-Alaniya), and we would recommend that for these names too the romanization be used in reference to the 'political' entity (i.e. the republic), e.g. republic of Ingushetiya, where it appears amongst other Russian republic names (e.g. on a map or a list) but that the conventional names might be employed where deemed appropriate according to the context, for instance in a running text focusing on the particular area. We would suggest that the only sufficiently recognisable conventional names differing from the romanization are Ingushetia, Karelia and North Ossetia.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/320274/Russian_Romanisation.pdf

² The geographical entity may also be represented differently: e.g. Kaliningradskaya Oblast' is the name of the administrative division but Kaliningrad may be used if referring to the geographical region.

³ Anglicised forms of the federal subject names are listed here: http://www.gov.ru/main/regions/regioni-44_en.html.

Federal subjects of Russia (ADM1s)⁴

Oblast'

BGN/PCGN Romanization – full form (recommended for HMG use)	Russian Cyrillic	Administrative centre (PPLA)	Coordinates of geographical centre of unit
Amurskaya Oblast'	Амурская Область	Blagoveshchensk	54° 00' 00" N, 128° 00' 00" E
Arkhangel'skaya Oblast'	Архангельская Область	Arkhangel'sk	64° 00' 00" N, 044° 00' 00" E
Astrakhanskaya Oblast'	Астраханская Область	Astrakhan'	47° 00' 00" N, 048° 00' 00" E
Belgorodskaya Oblast'	Белгородская Область	Belgorod	50° 45' 00" N, 037° 30' 00" E
Bryanskaya Oblast'	Брянская Область	Bryansk	53° 00' 00" N, 033° 30' 00" E
Chelyabinskaya Oblast'	Челябинская Область	Chelyabinsk	54° 00' 00" N, 060° 30' 00" E
Irkutskaya Oblast'	Иркутская Область	Irkutsk	56° 00' 00" N, 106° 00' 00" E
Ivanovskaya Oblast'	Ивановская Область	Ivanovo	57° 00' 00" N, 041° 45' 00" E
Kaliningradskaya Oblast'	Калининградская Область	Kaliningrad	54° 45' 00" N, 021° 30' 00" E
Kaluzhskaya Oblast'	Калужская Область	Kaluga	54° 30' 00" N, 035° 30' 00" E
Kemerovskaya Oblast'	Кемеровская Область	Kemerovo	55° 00' 00" N, 086° 00' 00" E
Kirovskaya Oblast'	Кировская Область	Kirov	58° 00' 00" N, 050° 00' 00" E
Kostromskaya Oblast'	Костромская Область	Kostroma	58° 30' 00" N, 044° 00' 00" E
Kurganskaya Oblast'	Курганская Область	Kurgan	55° 30' 00" N, 064° 00' 00" E
Kurskaya Oblast'	Курская Область	Kursk	51° 30' 00" N, 036° 00' 00" E

⁴ A map showing the administrative divisions can be found on the Russian Federal State Statistics Service website: <http://www.gks.ru/> (Russian).

There is an English version at http://www.gks.ru/wps/wcm/connect/rosstat_main/rosstat/en/main/ but please note that the names shown are not the PCGN recommended spellings.

Leningradskaya Oblast'	Ленинградская Область	Oblast' government officials are located in St Petersburg, but this is not recorded as the official administrative centre.	60° 00' 00" N, 032° 00' 00" E
Lipetskaya Oblast'	Липецкая Область	Lipetsk	52° 30' 00" N, 039° 00' 00" E
Magadanskaya Oblast'	Магаданская Область	Magadan	63° 00' 00" N, 154° 00' 00" E
Moskovskaya Oblast'	Московская Область	Oblast' government officials are located in Moscow, but this is not recorded as the official administrative centre.	55° 45' 00" N, 037° 30' 00" E
Murmanskaya Oblast'	Мурманская Область	Murmansk	68° 00' 00" N, 034° 00' 00" E
Nizhegorodskaya Oblast'	Нижегородская Область	Nizhniy Novgorod	56° 00' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E
Novgorodskaya Oblast'	Новгородская Область	Velikiy Novgorod	58° 30' 00" N, 032° 30' 00" E
Novosibirskaya Oblast'	Новосибирская Область	Novosibirsk	55° 00' 00" N, 080° 00' 00" E
Omskaya Oblast'	Омская Область	Omsk	56° 00' 00" N, 073° 00' 00" E
Orenburgskaya Oblast'	Оренбургская Область	Orenburg	52° 00' 00" N, 056° 00' 00" E
Orlovskaya Oblast'	Орловская Область	Orël	53° 00' 00" N, 036° 15' 00" E
Penzenskaya Oblast'	Пензенская Область	Penza	53° 00' 00" N, 044° 30' 00" E
Pskovskaya Oblast'	Псковская Область	Pskov	57° 30' 00" N, 029° 00' 00" E
Rostovskaya Oblast'	Ростовская Область	Rostov-na-Donu	47° 26' 25" N, 041° 04' 51" E
Ryazanskaya Oblast'	Рязанская Область	Ryazan'	54° 15' 00" N, 040° 30' 00" E
Sakhalinskaya Oblast'	Сахалинская Область	Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk	50° 00' 00" N, 143° 00' 00" E
Samarskaya Oblast'	Самарская Область	Samara	53° 00' 00" N, 050° 00' 00" E
Saratovskaya Oblast'	Саратовская Область	Saratov	51° 30' 00" N, 047° 00' 00" E
Smolenskaya Oblast'	Смоленская Область	Smolensk	55° 00' 00" N, 033° 00' 00" E
Sverdlovskaya Oblast'	Свердловская Область	Yekaterinburg	58° 00' 00" N, 062° 00' 00" E

Tambovskaya Oblast'	Тамбовская Область	Tambov	52° 45' 00" N, 041° 30' 00" E
Tomskaya Oblast'	Томская Область	Tomsk	58° 30' 00" N, 082° 30' 00" E
Tul'skaya Oblast'	Тульская Область	Tula	54° 00' 00" N, 037° 30' 00" E
Tverskaya Oblast'	Тверская Область	Tver'	57° 00' 35" N, 035° 00' 18" E
Tyumenskaya Oblast'	Тюменская Область	Tyumen'	57° 20' 00" N, 068° 30' 00" E
Ul'yanovskaya Oblast'	Ульяновская Область	Ul'yanovsk	54° 00' 00" N, 048° 00' 00" E
Vladimirskaia Oblast'	Владимирская Область	Vladimir	56° 00' 00" N, 040° 30' 00" E
Volgogradskaya Oblast'	Волгоградская Область	Volgograd	49° 00' 00" N, 044° 00' 00" E
Vologodskaya Oblast'	Вологодская Область	Vologda	60° 00' 00" N, 042° 00' 00" E
Voronezhskaya Oblast'	Воронежская Область	Voronezh	51° 00' 00" N, 040° 30' 00" E
Yaroslavskaia Oblast'	Ярославская Область	Yaroslavl'	58° 00' 00" N, 039° 30' 00" E

Republics

<i>Name Recommended for HMG use (Romanized short form with English conventional in italics where appropriate)</i>	<i>Russian Cyrillic – full form</i>	<i>BGN/PCGN Romanization – full form</i>	<i>Administrative centre (PPLA)</i>	<i>Coordinates of geographical centre of unit</i>
Adygeya	Республика Адыгея	Respublika Adygeya	Магкоп	45° 00' 00" N, 040° 00' 38" E
Altay	Республика Алтай	Respublika Altay	Gorno-Altaysk	51° 00' 00" N, 087° 00' 00" E
Bashkortostan	Республика Башкортостан	Respublika Bashkortostan	Ufa	54° 00' 00" N, 056° 00' 00" E
Buryatiya	Республика Бурятия	Respublika Buryatiya	Ulan-Ude	53° 00' 00" N, 109° 00' 00" E
Chechnya	Чеченская	Chechenskaya	Groznyy	43° 15' 00" N, 045° 50' 00" E

	Республика	Respublika		
Chuvashiya	Чувашская Республика	Chuvashskaya Respublika	Cheboksary	55° 30' 00" N, 047° 00' 00" E
Dagestan	Республика Дагестан	Respublika Dagestan	Makhachkala	43° 00' 00" N, 047° 00' 00" E
Ingushetiya (<i>Ingushetia</i>)	Республика Ингушетия	Respublika Ingushetiya	Magas	43° 10' 00" N, 045° 00' 00" E
Kabardino- Balkariya	Кабардино- Балкарская Республика	Kabardino- Balkarskaya Respublika	Nal'chik	43° 30' 00" N, 043° 30' 00" E
Kalmykiya	Республика Калмыкия	Respublika Kalmykiya	Elista	46° 30' 00" N, 045° 30' 00" E
Karachayevo- Cherkesiya	Карачаево- Черкесская Республика	Karachayevo- Cherkesskaya Respublika	Cherkessk	44° 00' 00" N, 042° 00' 00" E
Kareliya (<i>Karelia</i>)	Республика Карелия	Respublika Kareliya	Petrozavodsk	64° 00' 00" N, 032° 30' 00" E
Khakasiya	Республика Хакасия	Respublika Khakasiya	Abakan	53° 20' 00" N, 090° 00' 00" E
Komi	Республика Коми	Respublika Komi	Sykt'yvkar	64° 00' 00" N, 054° 00' 00" E
Mariy-El	Республика Марий-Эл	Respublika Mariy-El	Yoshkar-Ola	56° 30' 00" N, 048° 00' 00" E
Mordoviya	Республика Мордовия	Respublika Mordoviya	Saransk	54° 30' 00" N, 044° 00' 00" E
Sakha (Yakutiya)	Республика Саха (Якутия)	Respublika Sakha (Yakutiya)	Yakutsk	65° 00' 00" N, 130° 00' 00" E
Severnaya Osetiya-Alaniya (<i>North Ossetia</i>)	Республика Северная Осетия-Алания	Respublika Severnaya Osetiya- Alaniya	Vladikavkaz	43° 00' 00" N, 044° 15' 00" E
Tatarstan	Республика	Respublika	Kazan'	55° 20' 00" N, 051° 00' 00" E

	Татарстан	Tatarstan		
Tuva (<i>Tuva</i>)	Республика Тыва	Respublika Tyva	Kyzyl	51° 30' 00" N, 095° 00' 00" E
Udmurtiya	Удмуртская Республика	Udmurtskaya Respublika	Izhevsk	57° 00' 00" N, 053° 00' 00" E

Kray

BGN/PCGN Romanization – full form (recommended for HMG use)	Russian Cyrillic	Administrative centre (PPLA)	Coordinates of geographical centre of unit
Altayskiy Kray	Алтайский Край	Barnaul	52° 30' 00" N, 083° 00' 00" E
Kamchatskiy Kray	Камчатский Край	Petropavlovsk- Kamchatskiy	58° 30' 00" N, 160° 30' 00" E
Khabarovskiy Kray	Хабаровский Край	Khabarovsk	55° 00' 00" N, 134° 00' 00" E
Krasnodarskiy Kray	Краснодарский Край	Krasnodar	45° 19' 00" N, 038° 43' 59" E
Krasnoyarskiy Kray	Красноярский Край	Krasnoyarsk	58° 00' 00" N, 093° 00' 00" E
Permskiy Kray	Пермский Край	Perm'	59° 00' 00" N, 057° 00' 00" E
Primorskiy Kray	Приморский Край	Vladivostok	45° 00' 00" N, 135° 00' 00" E
Stavropol'skiy Kray	Ставропольский Край	Stavropol'	45° 00' 00" N, 044° 00' 00" E
Zabaykal'skiy Kray	Забайкальский Край	Chita	52° 00' 00" N, 117° 00' 00" E

Autonomous Okrug

BGN/PCGN Romanization – full form (recommended for HMG use)	Russian Cyrillic	Administrative centre (PPLA)	Coordinates of geographical centre of unit
Chukotskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug	Чукотский Автономный Округ	Anadyr'	67° 30' 00" N, 172° 00' 00" E
Khanty-Mansiyskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug-Yugra	Ханты-Мансийский Автономный Округ–Югра	Khanty-Mansiysk	62° 00' 00" N, 072° 00' 00" E
Nenetskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug	Ненецкий Автономный Округ	Nar'yan-Mar	67° 30' 00" N, 054° 00' 00" E
Yamalo-Nenetskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug	Ямало-Ненецкий Автономный Округ	Salekhard	66° 00' 00" N, 076° 00' 00" E

Cities of federal significance

Name Recommended for HMG use (Short form with English conventional in brackets)	Russian Cyrillic	BGN/PCGN Romanization – full form	Coordinates of geographical centre of unit
Moskva (Moscow)	Город Москва	Gorod Moskva	55° 45' 00" N, 037° 35' 00" E
Sankt-Peterburg (St Petersburg)	Город Санкт-Петербург	Gorod Sankt-Peterburg	59° 53' 40" N, 030° 15' 51" E

Autonomous Oblast'

Name recommended for HMG use (BGN/PCGN Romanization with English in brackets)	Russian Cyrillic	Administrative centre (PPLA)	Coordinates of geographical centre of unit
Yevreyskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast' (Jewish Autonomous Oblast')	Еврейская Автономная Область	Birobidzhan	48° 30' 00" N, 132° 00' 00" E

Mergers

There were a series of mergers of the first-order divisions between 2005 and 2008. The PCGN paper *Russia: The amalgamation of administrative-territorial units as part of the Kremlin's centralisation process*⁵, dated October 2008, gives further details on these mergers.

Generic term translations

Translations of some of the generic terms sometimes differ in reports and other sources. However, PCGN has developed a standard translation for each term, to limit ambiguity and to facilitate derivation of the original Russian term. The PCGN agreed standards are:

<i>Russian Cyrillic</i>	<i>Romanization</i>	<i>PCGN recommended form</i>	<i>May also be seen as</i>
субъект Российской Федерации	sub'yekt Rossiyskoy Federatsii	subject of the Russian Federation, federal subject	constituent entity of the Russian Federation
республика	respublika	republic	
край	kray	kray	territory
область	oblast'	oblast'	region
город федерального значения	gorod federal'nogo znacheniya	city of federal significance	city of federal importance
автономная область	avtonomnaya oblast'	autonomous oblast'	autonomous region
автономный округ	avtonomnyy okrug	autonomous okrug	autonomous area, autonomous district

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⁵ <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140402150947/http://www.pcgng.org.uk/Russia%20-%20admin%20units%20October%202008.pdf>