



CSI Daily News

26.05.2025



Türkiye's Oilseed and Grain Import Trends Amid Rising Duties and Volatile Markets

As of the marketing year July 2022 to June 2023, Türkiye has already received 1,780 thousand metric tons (KMT) of sunflower oil and 1,140 KMT of sunflower seed. For the current marketing year (July 2023 to June 2024), imports have reached 1,495 KMT of sunflower oil and 315 KMT of sunflower seed, with projections of 720 KMT of oil and 1,165 KMT of seed expected by May 2025. These import volumes and current stocks are expected to provide short-term relief in supply.

Import duties in Türkiye were increased on June 1, 2023, for various oilseeds (sunflower, safflower, rapeseed) and oils (crude sunflower, rapeseed, corn, safflower, and refined palm oil). Additionally, from May 1, 2023, a high 130% import duty was applied to wheat, barley, corn, oats, and rye.

The USD/TRY exchange rate remains highly volatile and recently surpassed 39. The Turkish Central Bank currently holds the interest rate at 46%.

Sunflower seed planting is nearly complete, with an estimated 850,000 hectares planted, expected to yield 1,625 KMT for the 2025/26 season, compared to 795,000 hectares and 1,275 KMT in 2024/25. Early wheat and barley harvesting is nearly finished, and corn and paddy rice planting is underway.

Current import duties are 20% for sunflower seed (SFS) and 36% for sunflower oil (SFO). There are no bans or restrictions on wheat imports. A new duty-free corn import quota of 1 million tons has been approved, valid until July 31, 2025. The Turkish Grain Board (TMO) has also booked 18 KMT of crude sunflower oil.

Russian wheat faces key weather risks

Temperatures are expected to rise in southern Russia, but no major threats to wheat production are anticipated unless extreme heat (near 40°C) and strong winds occur. While early-season drought and recent frosts — especially in northern Rostov and nearby areas — caused some damage, overall wheat production potential remains higher than it was in March-April.

Rains in late April and early May improved winter wheat conditions in key producing regions like Krasnodar and Stavropol, which together contribute about 26% of Russia's winter wheat. In contrast, Rostov — responsible for 19% of winter wheat — has seen only slight moisture improvement, with crop conditions still disappointing due to insufficient rainfall and earlier frost damage.

Despite localized issues, overall frost damage this year is significantly lower than in 2023. The Russian agriculture ministry reports that re-sown crop areas are eight times smaller than last year. However, Rostov farmers anticipate weak margins again this season due to limited yield improvements and low price prospects.

Meanwhile, winter wheat is developing well in central and Volga regions.

Kazakhstan has started shipping wheat to Vietnam for the first time since 2017

The Food Corporation of Kazakhstan will ship 15 thousand tons of high-quality wheat to Vietnam.

The delivery will be carried out according to a multimodal scheme: first, the grain will be delivered by rail from the Akmola region to the international seaport of Lianyungang in China through the Dostyk-Alashankou border crossing, then it will be reloaded onto sea vessels and sent to the Vietnamese port of Hai Phong.

The last delivery of Kazakh grain to Vietnam took place in 2017, then the batch amounted to 720 tons.

Ukraine spring crop sowing nearly complete

As of 22 May, Ukrainian farmers had planted 5.32 million hectares (ha) of spring grains and pulses—94% of the projected 5.68mn ha. Oilseed planting reached 6.38mn ha, covering 85% of the expected 7.47mn ha.

Grains:

Corn planting totaled 3.76mn ha, or 93% of the national target of 4.02mn ha—slightly below the 3.81mn ha planted by the same time in 2024. Most key regions have met their targets, though there may be reporting delays.

Spring barley and wheat sowing is nearly complete, with minimal progress in the past week. Barley is at 96% of the goal (743,600ha out of 776,100ha), while spring wheat stands at 95% (215,300ha of 227,500ha), both trailing last year's levels slightly.

Oilseeds:

Sunflower seed (SFS) planting reached 4.35mn ha, or 86% of the projected 5.06mn ha, lagging behind last year's 4.96mn ha by the same date. Soybean planting accelerated, reaching 2.03mn ha—84% of the 2.41mn ha target—surpassing last year's pace of 1.83mn ha, though still below the total 2.64mn ha sown in 2024.

Wheat: Southeast Asia buyers book Black Sea new crop

Southeast Asian buyers, especially in Indonesia, purchased new-crop Black Sea milling wheat this week, influenced in part by earlier gains in Euronext wheat futures. Prices for 11.5% protein Black Sea wheat rose to the mid-to-high \$250s/tonne (cfr Indonesia), up from previous offers in the low \$250s.

Euronext futures had surged earlier in the week—likely due to short-covering by investment funds and concerns over Russian frost—but by Friday had dropped €5.5/t (\$6/t) from a peak of €212/t, pulling down market sentiment.

Russia's spring wheat sowing reached 6 million hectares by 20 May, slightly ahead of last year's pace. However, total spring wheat acreage may decline due to poor weather and farmers favoring more profitable crops.

New-crop FOB wheat prices lost support as futures fell. Ukrainian 11.5% wheat dropped \$2/t, with sellers aligning more closely to buyer bids. Prices for 12.5% protein CVB wheat also fell, with more interest shifting toward Russian-origin wheat.

Meanwhile, U.S. wheat surprised the market with nearly 900,000 tonnes of new-crop sales for the week ending 15 May. Despite earlier wins for June shipments, U.S. wheat is now facing growing competition from cheaper Russian and Ukrainian supplies as the Black Sea harvest nears.

Feed grains: Mediterranean corn buyers slowly returning

Turkey and Spain may return to the corn spot market soon. Turkey has reportedly filled over half of its 1 million tonne duty-free corn import quota, and with no new quota in sight, buyers may resume spot purchases.

In Spain, although not active in recent U.S. corn sales (9–15 May), future activity could pick up—especially as trade tensions resurface with renewed talk of U.S. tariffs on the EU.

In the U.S., corn planting is progressing well west of the Mississippi, though farmers are hoping for more rain and warmth over the next few weeks. In the eastern corn belt, planting is on schedule and weather forecasts are favorable.

In China, corn demand temporarily eased late in the week, as feed producers shifted focus to the domestic wheat crop. Recent rains have raised concerns about sprouted wheat, increasing the likelihood it will be used as animal feed. With wheat and corn prices narrowing to within 100 yuan/tonne, wheat has become a more attractive feed option.

This shift may delay China's return to the international feed grain market. Meanwhile in France, support for local prices faded as new-crop feed barley sales to China slowed. Exporters reduced bids at French ports to a €11–12/tonne discount to Euronext September wheat futures, unable to justify earlier futures gains.

Egypt has almost completed the wheat harvest

The wheat harvest in Egypt is 98% complete. 3.1 million acres out of 3.4 million acres have already been processed.

3.2 million tons of new-crop wheat have already been purchased on the domestic market, the total harvest, according to the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, will be 10 million tons.

Egypt meets ~56% of domestic needs for wheat, the measures taken by the Government are aimed at increasing the share of domestic production in consumption to 65%.

Wheat Development Faces Contrasting Weather Challenges Worldwide

Rainfall is supporting winter wheat growth in the U.S. Central and Southern Plains, though drought persists in the southwest. In contrast, overly wet conditions in the Delta and Midwest are hindering soft red winter (SRW) wheat development.

The Black Sea region is benefiting from recent rains, though some frost damage may have occurred in the north. European wheat is also seeing positive effects from scattered showers, despite ongoing dryness in the northwest.

North Africa remains largely dry, but recent rain has offered some relief, albeit with harvest delays. In China, wheat-growing areas continue to suffer from dry conditions with no major rainfall expected.

In Canada, rain is improving soil moisture levels but is also slowing planting progress. In Argentina, while conditions are generally good, heavy rains in some areas could limit wheat sowing.

EU, UK oilseed crush edges higher in April

Oilseed crushing in the EU and UK edged up slightly in April, reaching 3.18 million tonnes, compared to 3.15 million tonnes in March, according to Fediol. This increase was mainly driven by a rise in soybean processing, which climbed by 85,000 tonnes to 1.33 million tonnes. The uptick was supported by strong Brazilian exports, with 1.17 million tonnes of soybeans shipped to the region in April.

However, this growth was partially offset by declines in rapeseed and sunflower crushing. Rapeseed crush fell by 25,000 tonnes to 1.52 million tonnes, as higher prices—linked to low Rhine river levels affecting transport—dampened demand. Sunflower seed crush also dropped by 26,000 tonnes to 332,000 tonnes, pressured by a sharp drop in Ukrainian seed exports, which plummeted over 95% compared to both March and April 2024.

Chinese farmers accelerate wheat harvest

Beijing, 26 May — China's winter wheat harvest has gained momentum in key agricultural regions, progressing 3–5 days ahead of last year's schedule due to favorable dry and lightly rainy weather on 24–25 May.

In the Yangtze River Basin, Hubei province has nearly completed its harvest, with 90% of the area harvested by 22 May—almost double the rate from two days prior—as farmers rushed to beat an incoming rainstorm. In Anhui province, around 10% of the wheat area has been threshed, especially in zones expecting heavy rain.

In the North China Plain, Henan province—China's top wheat producer—has harvested 1.54 million hectares, or 27.2% of its crop, as of 25 May. The pace reached 204,500 hectares per day

over the weekend, significantly ahead of the same period in 2024, when less than 5% was complete.

Harvesting also began late last week in Jiangsu and Shandong provinces, with acceleration expected through early June. Northwestern China's harvest is set to begin in early to mid-June.

Wheat Prices Diverge as Dry Weather, Export Policies, and Planting Delays Weigh In

Wheat prices were generally steady with slight downward pressure, though Minneapolis wheat gained 17¢ over the week due to dry weather forecasts in the Canadian Prairies and a notable rise in short positions by managed money.

Russia removed its \$250/mt minimum export price, allowing more competitive pricing. However, limited supply and weak global demand may cap export growth.

In France, wheat crop conditions declined slightly, with 71% rated good-to-excellent—down 2 points—as dryness in northern and western areas threatens yields.

Australia's weather outlook has turned wetter in the 11–15 day range, potentially aiding wheat crop establishment.

In Argentina, wheat planting is significantly behind schedule due to heavy rains, with only 3.4% of intended area sown compared to 13.4% at this time last year.

Turkey's wheat production is projected to decline by 5.8% year-on-year, falling to 19.6 million metric tons.

Ukrainian wheat exports are down 14% from last year, while the EU has reinstated quotas on Ukrainian grain imports, putting added strain on Black Sea trade flows.

Trump's EU tariff post sends US ag prices lower

U.S. corn and soybean futures dropped sharply before market opening on 23 May, after former President Donald Trump announced on social media that tariffs on EU imports would begin 1 June. This raised fears of retaliatory EU tariffs on U.S. agricultural goods, reigniting trade tensions.

Following the 7:43 a.m. ET post, July corn futures on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) opened at \$4.59/bushel, down 4¢, while December corn futures dropped 2¢ to \$4.51/bushel. Soybeans saw a similar decline, with July contracts down 8¢ to \$10.60/bushel and November futures also falling to \$10.48/bushel.

The market reacted negatively due to concerns that EU countermeasures could target U.S. agriculture. The EU has grown into a key export destination for U.S. soybeans and corn in the 2024–25 marketing year. As of 15 May, U.S. soybean sales to the EU were 5.03 million tonnes, up 24% year-on-year, and corn sales reached 3.68 million tonnes, compared to almost none the previous year.

Tariff Impact Timing Varies by Crop and Season

While the immediate tariff impact on 2024–25 exports is limited—since most sales (about 90%) are usually booked by early May—the 2025–26 marketing year, starting in September, faces greater risk. EU tariffs, if imposed, would compound existing Chinese tariffs on U.S. agriculture.

This is especially critical for soybeans, as China accounted for 47% (22.48 million tonnes) of U.S. soybean sales so far in 2024–25. New export contracting typically ramps up in June, but additional EU tariffs could delay and reduce 2025–26 sales, putting further pressure on prices.

For corn, the risk is less severe. China is not a major buyer of U.S. corn this year, with only 33,000 tonnes sold through 15 May. Although EU corn purchases have grown, they still represent under 6% of U.S. export volume. Despite trade tensions, U.S. corn remains globally competitive due to lower prices, which could actually support export volumes moving forward.

BR agriculture: Winter corn harvest begins

Brazil has begun harvesting its 2024–25 winter corn crop in key producing states, supported by favorable and consistent rainfall that has boosted crop development, according to national supply agency Conab.

Harvest progress is still under 1% of the nearly 17 million hectares planted. So far, only Mato Grosso, Paraná, and Mato Grosso do Sul—Brazil’s top corn-producing states—have started harvesting.

Paraná leads in harvest progress, with 1% of its 2.7 million hectares harvested as of 19 May, according to state agency Deral. Despite early-season drought, rainfall from mid-April significantly improved conditions, supporting a projected record output of 16.3 million tonnes based on average estimates from Conab and Deral.

In Mato Grosso, Brazil’s largest corn-producing state, about 0.9% of the 7 million hectares had been harvested by 18 May, according to Conab. Rainfall continued later than usual into mid-May, aiding crop development even in fields planted after the optimal window. Production is projected between 47.2 million tonnes (Conab) and 48.9 million tonnes (Imea), which would make it either the third- or second-largest harvest in state history.

In Mato Grosso do Sul, harvest progress is minimal at 0.1%, but crop conditions remain excellent. The state is expected to produce between 10.2 million tonnes (Famasul) and 11.7 million tonnes (Conab), marking its third-largest harvest on record.

Nationally, Conab forecasts Brazil’s winter corn output at 99.8 million tonnes, just short of the 2022–23 record of 102.3 million tonnes. However, some market participants believe the current crop could exceed that, with optimistic projections ranging from 105 to 113 million tonnes due to ideal weather conditions.

Price and Data

<i>Description</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>CORN UKRAINE CPT POC SPOT</i>	USD/t	229-	23.05.2025
<i>WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAINE FOB POC SPOT</i>	USD/t	220,50↓	23.05.2025
<i>WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSIA FOB NOVOROSSIYSK SPOT</i>	USD/t	227,50-	23.05.2025
<i>SOYBEAN OIL ARGENTINA WATERBORNE FOB UPRIVER USD/T MONTH 1 - HOUSTON CLOSE</i>	USD/t	967,83↑	23.05.2025
<i>RAPSEED OIL FOB DUTCH MILL RSO - LONDON CLOSE</i>	USD/t	1.004↑	23.05.2025
<i>SUNFLOWER OIL FOB NORTHWEST EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE</i>	USD/t	1.207,50↓	23.05.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑Price raised in comparison to last report.

-Price has not changed.

References:

www.direct.argusmedia.com www.agflow.com

Rus Grain Union Telegram Channel

