CSI DAILY NEWS

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Turkey to Extend Navigation Control System to the Black Sea

Turkey plans to expand its navigation safety and monitoring system to cover the Black Sea, Turkish Transport and Infrastructure Minister Abdülkadir Uraloğlu said on December 23.

Speaking to NTV, Uraloğlu noted that Turkey already monitors ship traffic through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles using its navigation control system and intends to extend the same framework to the Black Sea as part of broader efforts to enhance maritime safety.

The minister added that authorities are also preparing to urgently deploy the system in the Eastern Mediterranean, allowing closer monitoring of maritime activity in the area stretching from Mersin to Cyprus.

The announcement comes amid rising concerns over maritime security in the region. On December 16, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan warned that attacks on vessels in the Black Sea threaten navigation safety, stressing that such actions "benefit no one."

Earlier, on December 13, Turkey's Foreign Ministry called for an end to attacks on port infrastructure linked to the conflict in Ukraine. Erdoğan has repeatedly emphasized that the Black Sea should not become an arena for confrontation.

On December 2, Russian President Vladimir Putin described attacks on tankers in the Black Sea as acts of piracy, stating that Russia would respond by expanding strikes on Ukrainian ports and vessels entering them.

Top Buyers of Russian Wheat Identified for July–December 2025

The analytical center Rusagrotrans has released figures identifying the largest importers of Russian wheat between July and December 2025.

Egypt ranked first with purchases of 4.8 million tons, followed by Turkey at 4.1 million tons. Iran imported approximately 1.8 million tons, while Bangladesh and Libya bought 1.45 million tons and 1.05 million tons, respectively.

Analysts reaffirmed their earlier forecast for Russian wheat exports in the second half of 2025, estimating shipments at around 26.6 million tons. This figure exceeds the five-year average of 24.5 million tons, but remains below exports recorded during the same period last season, which reached 29.1 million tons. Total Russian wheat export potential for the 2025–26 marketing year is projected at 44–45 million tons.

Russia Raises Sunflower Oil Export Duty by 36.5% in January

Russia will raise the export duty on sunflower oil in January 2026 by 36.5% to 9,298.6 rubles per tonne, up from 8,214.5 rubles per tonne in December, according to official data.

At the same time, the export duty on sunflower meal will be reduced to zero, marking the first such move since October 2022.

Indicative prices have been set at $1,200.2 per tonne for sunflower oil and $195.7 per tonne for sunflower meal. The duty is calculated under the “sunflower damper” mechanism, amounting to 70% of the difference between the base and indicative prices.

Authorities also confirmed that the floating duty regime will remain in effect until August 31, 2028.

Russian Grain Export Duties Updated for Mid-January 2026

Russia has updated its grain export duties for the period of January 12–13, 2026, according to data released by the Union of Grain Exporters and Producers.

The export duty on wheat has been set at 97.3 rubles per tonne, down 11.8 rubles from the previous level of 109.1 rubles per tonne applied between December 24, 2025 and January 11, 2026.

Meanwhile, export duties on barley and corn remain at zero, unchanged from the previous period.

The adjustments reflect ongoing revisions under Russia’s floating export duty mechanism for grain.

Commodity Auctions: Results For 26.12.2025

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,525 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO EFKO-Semena

Podsolnechnik-E (incl. VAT) | 39,600 ₽/t | 300 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybeans 40 (incl. VAT) | 33,000 ₽/t | 1,700 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,600 ₽/t | 620 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,350 ₽/t | 75 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,733 ₽/t | 1,200 tons

Russian Exports of Finished Grain Products Hit Record High in 2025

Russia’s exports of finished grain-based food products have reached a historic high, with shipments in the first nine months of 2025 doubling the previous record, according to expert estimates.

During the period, Russia exported around 15,000 tonnes of finished products made through grain puffing or roasting, with total export revenues exceeding $38 million. This marks a twofold increase over the previous record, which was set in 2021 at just over $19 million.

In value terms, Kazakhstan emerged as the largest destination, importing products worth approximately $14 million, followed by Belarus with more than $11.5 million. Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan each accounted for over $3 million in imports, while Georgia purchased more than $1 million worth of these products.

The product category includes a wide range of value-added grain foods, such as ready-to-eat breakfasts, muesli, fruit-and-cereal bars, breadsticks, snacks, puffed rice, corn sticks, popcorn, and similar items.

Cost Pressures and Logistics Risks Keep China's SBM Market Tight

China's soybean meal (SBM) prices remained elevated, supported by firm basis levels, despite sufficient inventories and cautious buying from downstream feed producers, as high soybean import costs and ongoing supply chain frictions continued to underpin the market.

Feed mills showed limited willingness to purchase at higher prices during the typical January pre-holiday stocking period, opting instead for hand-to-mouth procurement. Sellers, meanwhile, have encouraged buyers to increase purchase volumes, citing inventory pressure at crushing plants. While the market anticipates stronger SBM demand in February–March, post-holiday consumption levels remain uncertain.

Cost pressures remain the primary support factor. Elevated prices for imported soybeans, including both commercial cargoes and state reserve supplies, have constrained crushers' ability to reduce SBM basis levels. Crushing margins remain insufficient to absorb potential price declines, prompting processors to keep SBM prices firm to protect profitability.

Additional support has come from logistics uncertainties, with port clearance speeds expected to influence soybean delivery timing to crushing plants. Any delays could limit crushing operations and further tighten SBM basis levels, according to market participants. Meanwhile, state reserve soybean auctions have had a limited impact on overall supply, as only small volumes enter the commercial market.

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