CSI DAILY NEWS

15.01.2026

Russian Wheat Shipments to Surge Past 3 Million Tonnes in January

Russia is set to post record wheat exports in January 2026, with shipments projected at 3.0–3.4 million tonnes, well above January 2025's 2.3 million tonnes, according to market forecasts.

The strong performance is being driven by competitive pricing and robust global demand. Russian wheat is currently offered at $225–227 per tonne, undercutting EU prices of around $232. In December, Egypt's state buyer Mostakbal Misr purchased about 700,000 tonnes, the majority of which was sourced from Russia.

Export volumes in recent months have already hit historic highs. November shipments reached a record 5.1 million tonnes, while December exports totaled 4.2 million tonnes, the strongest result in eight years. High harvests and favorable profitability continue to support aggressive export flows.

For the 2025/26 season, total wheat exports are forecast at up to 44.6 million tonnes, although the planned introduction of a 20-million-tonne grain export quota from mid-February may curb further growth later in the season.

Russia Doubles Agricultural Exports to Sudan in 2025

Russian agricultural exports to Sudan surged more than twofold in 2025, reflecting rapidly expanding trade ties between the two countries, according to data from the federal export center Agroexport.

In both volume and value terms, shipments rose 2.3 times compared with 2024, reaching a total of 1.7 million tonnes of agricultural products over the year. The sharp increase highlights Sudan's growing reliance on Russian food supplies, particularly amid ongoing challenges in its domestic agriculture and logistics sectors.

Wheat dominated the export structure, generating more than $408 million in revenue, making it by far the most valuable commodity shipped from Russia to Sudan. The strong demand for Russian wheat was supported by its competitive pricing, stable quality, and reliable delivery routes, which have strengthened Russia's position in Sudan's food import market.

Beyond wheat, active yeast emerged as the second-largest export by value, with shipments worth over $570,000, while wheat and rye-wheat flour ranked third, exceeding $260,000. These products are widely used in Sudan's baking and food-processing industries, underscoring Russia's growing role not only as a grain supplier but also as a provider of processed agricultural inputs.

Market analysts say the expansion reflects both Sudan’s rising food import needs and Russia’s broader strategy to deepen agricultural trade with African countries, using competitive prices and large exportable surpluses to strengthen its footprint in emerging markets.

Commodity Auctions: Results For 14.01.2026

Purchase

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40 Far East (excluding VAT) | 22,500 ₽/t | 2,000 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 38 (excluding VAT) | 31,000 ₽/t | 2,500 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40 (excluding VAT) | 33,000 ₽/t | 2,300 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) | 16,300 ₽/t | 75 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,654 ₽/t | 1,200 tons

OOO CHERKIZOVO-MASLA

Soybeans, Grade 40 (excluding VAT) | 33,050 ₽/t | 300 tons

Russian Wheat Prices Hold Steady as Global Supply Outlook Weighs on Markets

Russian wheat prices remained largely unchanged in early January, even as competing exporters in Europe and Australia recorded gains and the latest U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) report pointed to rising global grain supplies.

Prices for Russian wheat with 12.5% protein for January–February shipment were quoted at $225–227 per tonne FOB, unchanged from the end of December. This stability contrasted with price increases in key exporting countries: French wheat rose to $232 per tonne, German to $240, Romanian to $233, and Australian to $238. By comparison, U.S. wheat edged lower to $227 per tonne, while Ukrainian wheat slipped to $226 per tonne.

The price environment reflects Russia's continued strong competitiveness in global tenders, particularly in price-sensitive markets in the Middle East and North Africa. On January 6, Jordan's state buyer MITS purchased 60,000 tonnes of wheat from trading company Buildcom, most likely of Romanian origin, at $260 per tonne CFR for delivery in the first half of April. Adjusted to FOB Novorossiysk, this corresponds to around $222 per tonne for Russian wheat with 12.5% protein, underlining Russia's ability to undercut rivals in nearby markets.

Global grain markets were also influenced by the USDA's January supply and demand report, which traders viewed as bearish, particularly for corn. The agency raised its forecast for global wheat production in the 2025/27 season by 4.4 million tonnes to 842.2 million tonnes, reflecting higher expected output in Argentina and Russia. Meanwhile, the world corn crop forecast for 2025/26 was increased by 13.1 million tonnes to 1.296 billion tonnes, including a 6.8 million-tonne upward revision for the United States, driven by expanded planted area and record yields.

In the United States, the winter wheat area for the 2026 harvest slightly exceeded market expectations, reaching 13.35 million hectares, only marginally below the 13.4 million hectares sown for the 2025 crop. This reinforced expectations of ample future supplies, adding further pressure to global grain prices.

On the domestic market, wheat prices in Russia's deep-water ports remained stable. Wheat with 12.5% protein delivered by truck was quoted at 15,200–15,300 rubles per tonne excluding VAT, while deliveries by rail were priced at around 16,000 rubles per tonne. Prices for shipments from low-water ports were lower, at about 14,500 rubles per tonne.

Looking ahead, analysts expect Russia's wheat exports in January 2026 to reach 2.8–3.0 million tonnes, up from 2.5 million tonnes in January last year, supported by competitive prices and steady demand from key importing countries despite the more bearish global supply outlook.

Egypt and Turkey Lead Imports as Russian Wheat Shipments Reach 26.7 Million Tonnes in 2025

Russia exported 26.7 million tonnes of wheat between July and December 2025, slightly below the record 29.7 million tonnes shipped in the same period of 2024, according to data from the analytical center Russagrotrans. Despite the year-on-year decline, Russia maintained its position as one of the world's largest wheat suppliers, supported by strong demand from key markets in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia.

Egypt once again ranked as the largest importer of Russian wheat, purchasing 5.1 million tonnes during the six-month period. The country has remained Russia's top customer for several years, driven by its large state-run procurement program and the competitiveness of Russian grain in global tenders.

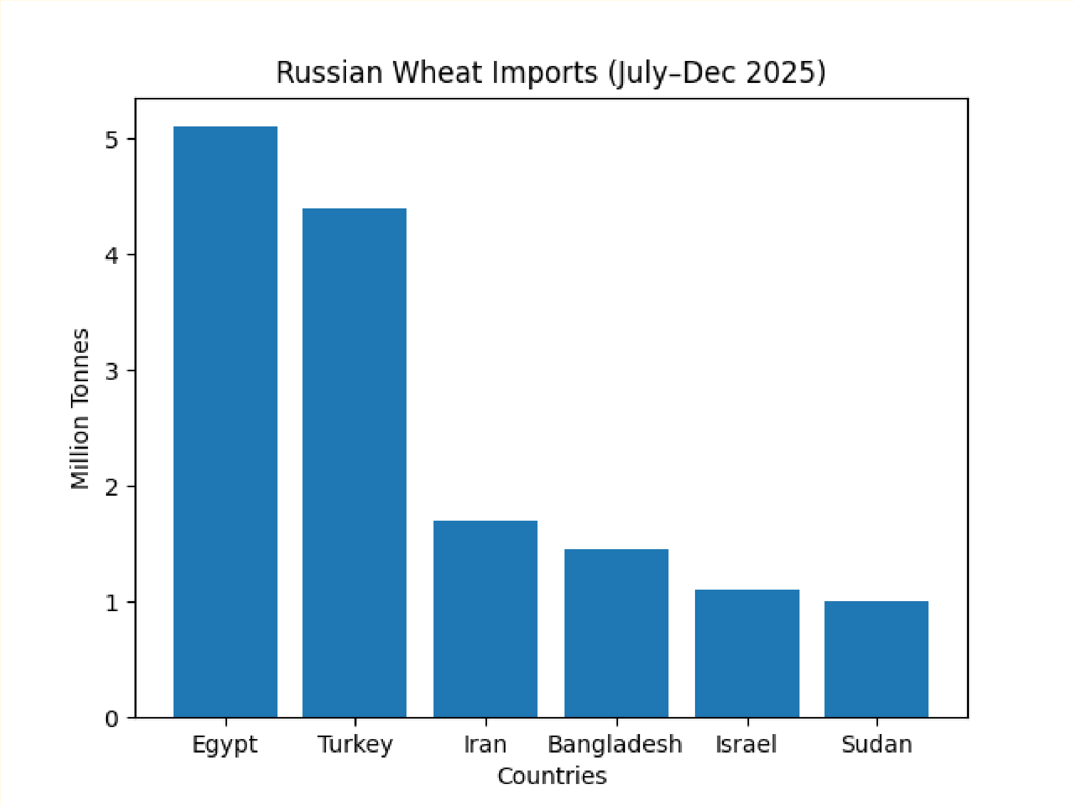
Turkey took second place, sharply increasing its imports 2.2 times from the previous year to nearly 4.4 million tonnes. The surge reflects strong domestic demand and Turkey's growing role as a hub for flour milling and re-exports to regional markets.

One of the most notable shifts came from Iran, which climbed from eighth place to third, boosting its purchases 2.9 times to 1.7 million tonnes. Analysts attribute the jump to higher import needs and a greater reliance on Russian supplies amid shifting trade patterns.

Bangladesh ranked fourth, importing 1.45 million tonnes, while Israel placed fifth with 1.1 million tonnes, continuing its steady procurement of Russian wheat.

Among other fast-growing buyers, Sudan stood out, increasing its imports 2.2 times to nearly 1 million tonnes. The rise highlights Sudan's expanding dependence on Russian grain as it seeks stable and affordable wheat supplies.

Overall, the rankings show that while total shipments were slightly below last year's record, demand for Russian wheat remained strong and geographically diverse, with significant growth from countries in the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.



Russian Wheat Gluten Exports Surge in 2025 as Global Demand for Plant Protein Grows

Wheat gluten — a key ingredient used in bakery, pasta, confectionery and plant-based food production — continued to gain importance in global food markets in 2025, with Russia significantly expanding its presence in this fast-growing segment.

Wheat gluten, also known simply as gluten, is valued for its ability to improve dough elasticity, texture and stability, making it especially important for bread and pasta production. In pasta manufacturing, it helps products retain their shape and firmness during cooking. Beyond traditional food uses, gluten is increasingly in demand as a plant-based protein, widely used in meat alternatives and vegetarian products. It is also applied in the production of high-protein animal feed, particularly for poultry.

Global market

By the end of 2024, global exports of wheat gluten exceeded $1.6 billion, reflecting the steady expansion of food processing and alternative protein markets worldwide. China remained the world's largest exporter of wheat gluten, followed by Belgium in second place and Germany in third, underlining Europe's strong role in the sector.

Russia’s growing exports

Russia recorded strong growth in wheat gluten exports in 2025, according to preliminary expert estimates. Over the year, shipments reached about 20,000 tonnes, while export revenue exceeded $23 million. Compared with 2024, this represents a 2.3-fold increase in volume and a 2.6-fold rise in value, highlighting rapidly rising foreign demand for Russian supplies.

In value terms, Norway emerged as the largest buyer, importing Russian wheat gluten worth more than $11 million. Turkey ranked second with purchases exceeding $3.5 million, while Saudi Arabia placed third with imports of over $2.4 million. These markets are driven by expanding food processing industries and growing demand for protein-rich ingredients.

Analysts note that Russia’s export growth reflects both competitive pricing and increasing global demand for plant-based proteins and functional food ingredients. As consumption of vegetarian and high-protein foods continues to rise, wheat gluten is expected to remain one of the most dynamic segments of the agricultural processing market.

Exporters seeking to enter new markets such as Brazil and Turkey can find detailed guidelines in the “Exporter’s Library”, while specialists from Agroexport continue to provide support to companies looking to expand their international sales.

China Remains Russia’s Top Food Market as Agricultural Exports Climb to $6.7 Billion in 2025

China retained its position as the largest buyer of Russian agricultural products in 2025, with shipments in the first 11 months of the year exceeding $6.7 billion, according to industry estimates. This marked a 14% increase compared with the same period in 2024, underscoring the growing importance of the Chinese market for Russia’s food exporters.

The People’s Republic of China continues to be the leading destination for a wide range of Russian products, including rapeseed oil, frozen fish, crustaceans, poultry, beef, oats, flaxseed, buckwheat and soybeans. By the end of 2025, China was also expected to become the largest importer of Russian pork by-products, oilcakes and oil press cakes, while potentially reclaiming first place among buyers of Russian peas and honey.

In the structure of Russian agri-food exports to China, frozen fish dominated in 2025. From January to November, shipments rose 44% year on year to reach $1.3 billion. About half of this volume consisted of frozen pollock, while cod accounted for 18% and herring for 10%, reflecting China’s strong demand for affordable, high-quality seafood.

Rapeseed oil ranked second, with exports to China exceeding $1.2 billion over the 11-month period — a 42% increase from a year earlier. China has traditionally been one of the world’s largest buyers of Russian rapeseed oil, using it both for food processing and industrial purposes.

Crabs completed the top three, with shipments to China rising 6% to more than $1 billion. The vast majority of these deliveries consisted of live, fresh and chilled crabs, a premium segment that continues to command strong demand in the Chinese market.

Other fast-growing categories included peas, which generated $380 million in exports during January–November 2025 — twice as much as a year earlier — and flaxseed, with shipments worth around $370 million, up 57% year on year.

Market participants say these figures confirm China's reputation as a deep and rapidly expanding market capable of absorbing large volumes of Russian food products. As a result, strengthening trade ties with China is expected to remain one of the key strategic priorities for Russian agricultural exporters in 2026, amid ongoing efforts to diversify markets and increase value-added exports.

Switzerland Aligns With EU, Expands Sanctions on Russian Individuals, Firms and Shipping Vessels

Switzerland has announced that it is adopting a new round of sanctions targeting Russia, bringing its measures into closer alignment with those recently adopted by the European Union. The Swiss government said the expanded restrictions will include additional individuals, companies and maritime vessels linked to ongoing geopolitical tensions.

According to an official statement, on January 12, 2026, the Federal Department of Economic Affairs updated several annexes to existing sanctions legislation — specifically Appendices 8, 14, 15b and 33 of the relevant decree. As a result of these amendments, five Russian citizens and four corporate entities have been added to Switzerland's sanctions lists. In addition, 41 ships flying the Russian flag have been designated under the expanded measures.

The updated sanctions package is set to come into force at 23:00 Swiss local time on January 13, which corresponds to 01:00 on January 14 in Moscow. Once effective, the new entries will be subject to Swiss asset freezes and travel bans, and the listed ships may face operational restrictions in Swiss and allied ports.

Swiss officials said the move reflects "continued coordination with international partners" and underscores Bern's commitment to enforcing restrictive measures in response to developments involving Russia. By mirroring EU action, Switzerland joins a broader coalition of countries that have progressively tightened sanctions, with implications for financial institutions, logistics firms and commercial networks linked to the added individuals and entities.

Observers note that the inclusion of vessels represents an expansion of Switzerland's sanctions regime into the maritime domain, potentially complicating shipping operations for affected companies and altering logistics patterns. The updated lists are expected to be published alongside explanatory materials to help businesses and financial intermediaries comply with the new requirements.

Saudi Arabia Launches Tender for Nearly 600,000 Tonnes of Milling Wheat

Saudi Arabia's General Food Security Authority (GFSA) has announced a new international tender to purchase approximately 595,000 tonnes of milling wheat, signaling continued strong demand from one of the Middle East's largest grain importers.

According to the tender notice, bids will be accepted until January 16, with the tender results expected to be announced the same day. The wheat is scheduled for delivery during April–May 2026, allowing suppliers several months to arrange shipments to Saudi ports.

The purchase is part of GFSA's regular procurement program aimed at ensuring stable domestic supplies of bread and flour in the kingdom, which relies almost entirely on imports for its wheat needs. Saudi Arabia is a major buyer in global grain markets, frequently sourcing from exporters in the Black Sea region, Europe, Australia, and North America depending on price and freight competitiveness.

Market participants say the tender is likely to attract strong interest amid active competition among exporters, particularly as Black Sea wheat continues to trade at relatively competitive levels compared with European and Australian supplies. The size of the tender also makes it an important price signal for the regional wheat market, often influencing spot and forward prices in the Middle East and North Africa.

With deliveries scheduled for the spring of 2026, traders will be watching closely to see which origins win the business and how the results reflect shifting price dynamics and freight costs in the global wheat trade.

Global Soy Traders Quit Amazon Protection Pact After Years of Deforestation Fight

A group representing Brazil's largest grain trading and processing companies has formally notified officials in the agricultural powerhouse state of Mato Grosso that it and many of its members are withdrawing from a nearly 20-year-old voluntary pact designed to curb deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, according to documents and industry sources.

The agreement, known as the Amazon Soy Moratorium, was established in 2006 and became one of the most prominent private sector strategies for preventing soy-driven deforestation. Under the moratorium, signatory firms agreed not to purchase soybeans grown on land in the Amazon biome that was deforested after July 2008, a provision credited with slowing forest loss for nearly two decades.

In a letter to the Mato Grosso state government, the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries (Abiove) said it had begun the process of withdrawing from the pact. The announcement was confirmed by Mato Grosso Governor Mauro Mendes, who said the industry group and many of its members had submitted an official notice of their intent to exit the agreement.

Abiove's membership includes some of the world's most powerful agribusiness firms — such as ADM, Bunge, Cargill, COFCO and Louis Dreyfus — which together handle large volumes of Brazil's soy exports. The group later acknowledged that discussions had begun to formally sever ties with the moratorium agreement.

A key factor behind the decision was a change in tax legislation in Mato Grosso that took effect on January 1, 2026, removing tax incentives previously offered to companies that participated in the moratorium. Traders had benefited from millions of reais in tax breaks under the earlier framework, and the removal of these benefits has significantly altered the economics of compliance.

Environmentalists and watchdog groups immediately criticized the move, warning that the dismantling of the pact weakens one of the most effective private mechanisms for protecting the Amazon. The moratorium had been widely credited with slowing the expansion of soy cultivation into forested areas, a dynamic that has long been linked to broader deforestation pressures in Brazil.

"Ending the agreement represents an environmental setback," said a statement from WWF-Brazil, noting that the moratorium played a central role in collaborative monitoring and accountability efforts. Critics also point to concerns that individual company pledges to avoid deforestation lack the transparency and collective enforcement mechanisms that the moratorium provided.

Industry representatives argue that the agreement had achieved its core goals and that the legacy of two decades of monitoring will not be lost, even as companies pursue individual sustainability commitments and adhere to Brazil's national environmental legislation. Abiove said that each member will still be responsible for fulfilling its own conservation obligations and complying with existing laws.

The move signals a significant shift in Brazil's approach to private sector-led forest conservation and highlights the growing tension between economic incentives tied to agriculture and longstanding environmental goals. As major traders exit the pact, both domestic policymakers and international buyers are closely watching how commitments to reduce deforestation in agricultural supply chains will evolve.

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Picture from www.bosswallah.com