

CSI DAILY NEWS



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Turkey Steps Up Barley Imports as Domestic Harvest Falls, Russia Remains Leading Supplier

Turkey continues to ramp up its barley purchases on the international market, driven by a sharp decline in domestic production during the 2025/26 season. According to market estimates, Turkey's barley harvest fell to around 6.1 million metric tons, down from approximately 7 million tons in the previous season, significantly tightening domestic supply.

Against this backdrop, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) forecasts a substantial rise in Turkey's barley imports in the current marketing year. Total imports are expected to reach 1.3 million tons, a dramatic increase compared with just 0.15 million tons imported in the 2024/25 season.

Market analysts at Agroexport report that since the start of the 2025/26 season, Turkey has been actively securing barley supplies through international tenders. To date, the country has already contracted roughly 0.9 million tons, with a significant share sourced from Russia. Russia has consolidated its position as Turkey's key barley supplier, accounting for more than half of total shipments and surpassing other exporters such as Ukraine, Romania, and Germany.

From the beginning of the 2025/26 season through the end of 2025, Russian barley shipments to Turkey are estimated at around 0.5 million tons, more than double the volume shipped during the same period a year earlier, when exports stood at approximately 0.2 million tons.

Looking ahead, analysts expect trading activity between Turkey and major barley exporters to remain strong in the near term as import demand persists. However, Agroexport cautions that growing competition from the European Union could limit further gains. EU countries harvested a record barley crop of about 56 million tons this season, an increase of 5.7 million tons compared with 2024/25, which may intensify competition in key import markets, including Turkey. ⁴

Russia Sets Grain Export Duties at Zero for Late January Period

Russia has set export duties on its main grain crops at zero for the period from January 21 to January 27, 2026, according to updated data released by the Union of Grain Exporters and Producers. The decision applies to wheat, barley, and corn, marking another week of unchanged and minimal tax pressure on grain exports.

Under the published schedule, the export duty on wheat is maintained at 0 rubles per ton, with no week-on-week change. Duties on barley and corn are also fixed at 0 rubles per ton, remaining unchanged from the previous reporting period of January 14–20, 2026. The figures indicate a continued suspension of grain export taxes amid current market conditions.

Market participants note that the zero-duty regime supports the competitiveness of Russian grain on the global market, particularly at a time when international trade flows remain sensitive to price dynamics and strong competition from other exporting regions. With no additional tax burden, exporters are better positioned to maintain shipments, especially to key destinations in the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia.

The unchanged export duties also reflect the authorities' assessment of domestic supply and price stability. By keeping export taxes at zero, Russia signals confidence in internal grain availability while allowing exporters to respond flexibly to foreign demand.

Industry analysts say that further decisions on export duties will depend on global price trends, domestic market conditions, and export volumes in the coming weeks. For now, the zero-duty level provides a stable framework for grain trade as the market moves deeper into the winter trading period.⁷

Commodity Auctions: Results For 16.01.2026

Purchase

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40 Far East (excluding VAT) | 22,500 ₺/t | 1,000 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 39 (excluding VAT) | 31,500 ₺/t | 500 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 37 (excluding VAT) | 30,000 ₺/t | 300 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,100 ₺/t | 600 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,575 ₺/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,300 ₺/t | 75 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,490 ₺/t | 300 t

AO Granari Resources

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,600 ₺/t | 90 t (namex)³

Grain Exports from Russia's Rostov Region Drop Sharply in 2025

Grain exports from Russia's Rostov region declined significantly in 2025, reflecting weaker external shipments compared with the previous year. According to data cited by Expert South from the Rosselkhozadzor Department for the Rostov, Volgograd, and Astrakhan Regions and the Republic of Kalmykia, exports of grain products fell by 34% year on year.

Total grain shipments abroad from the region amounted to 12.86 million metric tons in 2025, down from the levels recorded in 2024. The figures highlight a noticeable contraction in export activity from one of southern Russia's key grain-producing and logistics hubs.

The data show that 6.16 million tons of grain were exported directly to end-consumer countries, while a further 6.7 million tons were shipped via the port of Kavkaz, underscoring the continued importance of transit routes and port infrastructure in regional export flows.

Rostov-region grain was primarily supplied to traditional destination markets, including Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Lebanon, and Israel. These countries remain among the main buyers of Russian grain from southern ports, although overall volumes shipped to foreign markets declined during the year.

Industry observers note that the reduction in exports may be linked to a combination of factors, including changes in harvest volumes, logistics constraints, and shifting market conditions in key importing countries. Further developments in export dynamics will depend on domestic production, pricing trends, and demand from major importing regions in the coming months.⁶

First Spot Grain Trades in Russia Generate Nearly 16 Million Rubles in Turnover

The first day of spot grain trading in Russia resulted in transaction volumes of nearly 16 million rubles, according to data released by the National Commodity Exchange (NCE). A total of seven deals were concluded during the inaugural trading session, marking the official launch of spot grain trading on the exchange.

The majority of the transactions involved wheat with a protein content of 12.5%. Six deals were concluded for the sale of wheat worth a total of 11.26 million rubles, priced at 15,600 rubles per metric ton, with delivery provided by road transport. In addition, one separate transaction was executed for 4.62 million rubles at a higher price of 16,500 rubles per ton, with delivery by rail.

All transactions were conducted on a CPT Novorossiysk basis, underscoring the continued importance of the Black Sea port as a key logistics and export hub for Russian grain supplies. The combined volume of grain traded during the session totaled approximately 1,000 metric tons.

Market participants view the launch of spot grain trading on the NCE as a significant step toward improving price transparency and liquidity in the domestic grain market. Analysts note that the platform could provide farmers, traders, and processors with a more flexible tool for managing sales and purchases, while also helping to establish market-based price benchmarks.

The opening session's activity suggests cautious but tangible interest from market players, with expectations that trading volumes and participation could increase as the mechanism becomes more familiar and confidence in the new format grows.⁵

EU and MERCOSUR Seal Landmark Free Trade Deal After 25 Years of Negotiations

The European Union and the South American trade bloc MERCOSUR have formally signed a long-awaited free trade agreement, concluding more than 25 years of negotiations and marking one of the most significant trade accords in the EU's history. The agreement was signed on Saturday, January 17, in Paraguay by senior representatives of both sides.

MERCOSUR comprises Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and together with the EU the deal creates a vast free trade area covering a combined market of around 700 million consumers. The agreement aims to reduce tariffs, expand market access, and strengthen economic ties between Europe and South America, significantly boosting bilateral trade and investment flows.

The signing follows a political breakthrough last week, when the agreement received approval from a majority of EU member states. Despite broad political support, the deal has faced strong opposition from some European farming groups and environmental organizations. Critics warn that increased imports of competitively priced agricultural products from South America could put pressure on European farmers, while also raising concerns about potential environmental impacts, including deforestation in the Amazon region.

According to official data, trade between the EU and MERCOSUR reached approximately €111 billion in 2024, underscoring the economic importance of the partnership. EU exports to the bloc are dominated by high-value manufactured goods such as machinery, chemicals, and transport equipment. In contrast, MERCOSUR countries primarily export agricultural commodities, as well as minerals, pulp, and paper products to the European market.

Supporters of the agreement argue that it will enhance supply chain resilience, open new opportunities for European exporters, and strengthen the EU's strategic presence in Latin America.

The deal is also seen as a geopolitical signal of closer cooperation between the two regions at a time of shifting global trade dynamics. However, its implementation will depend on ratification procedures within EU member states, where debates over agricultural protection and environmental safeguards are expected to continue in the months ahead.⁵

Saudi Arabia Moves to Secure Nearly 600,000 Tons of Durum Wheat Through New Import Tender

Saudi Arabia is preparing to purchase close to 600,000 metric tons of durum wheat as part of its ongoing efforts to ensure food security and replenish strategic grain reserves. The results of an international tender launched by the Kingdom's General Food Security Authority (GFSA) are expected to be announced on Monday, January 19, according to industry sources cited by Milling Middle East & Africa.

The GFSA opened the tender at the beginning of the year, setting January 16 as the deadline for the submission of price offers. Under the tender terms, the authority plans to procure ten separate consignments of durum wheat with a minimum protein content of 12.5%, sourced from various origins. Deliveries are scheduled for April and May, reflecting continued reliance on imported supplies to meet domestic demand.

Market participants note that the size of the tender highlights Saudi Arabia's sustained dependence on foreign wheat purchases. The previous GFSA tender, held on November 24, resulted in the acquisition of 300,000 tons of wheat. The larger volume sought in the latest tender points to steady import demand, as the Kingdom works to maintain adequate stock levels and respond to rising consumption needs.

Saudi Arabia typically sources wheat from a range of exporting regions, including the European Union, the Black Sea region, Australia, and North America. Final purchasing decisions are largely driven by price competitiveness, compliance with quality specifications, and freight and delivery costs.

Wheat remains a staple food in Saudi Arabia and a key raw material for the country's flour milling and baking industries, which supply both household consumption and the food service sector. The Kingdom is among the world's largest wheat importers, following a significant decline in domestic production over the past decade. In 2016, Saudi Arabia phased out large-scale wheat cultivation as part of a policy shift aimed at conserving scarce water resources, replacing domestic production with imports and overseas agricultural investments to safeguard long-term food security.⁸

Algeria Launches New Tender to Purchase Up to 500,000 Tons of Wheat

Algeria's state grain agency, the Office Algérien Interprofessionnel des Céréales (OAIC), has announced a new international tender for the purchase of up to 500,000 metric tons of milling wheat, continuing the country's active presence on the global grain market.

According to the tender conditions, applications and price offers from suppliers are being accepted until January 19, 2026. The purchased wheat is scheduled for delivery in March 2026, with shipment windows and exact timing depending on the origin of the grain.

Market participants note that Algeria remains one of the world's largest wheat importers, regularly conducting large-scale tenders to ensure stable domestic supplies. The latest tender underlines the government's ongoing efforts to secure sufficient grain volumes for food security and to meet steady demand from the domestic flour milling sector.

OAIC typically sources wheat from a wide range of origins, including the European Union, the Black Sea region, and other major exporting countries, selecting suppliers based on price competitiveness, quality specifications, and freight costs. The outcome of the tender is expected to provide further indications of current price levels and supplier competitiveness in the international wheat market.

The announcement comes amid heightened activity in global grain trade, as importing countries continue to replenish reserves and manage supply risks ahead of the new marketing season.²

Trump Announces New Tariffs on European Imports, Links Measures to Greenland Dispute

Former U.S. President Donald Trump has announced the introduction of new trade tariffs targeting a group of European countries, marking a sharp escalation in transatlantic trade tensions. According to a statement published on his Truth Social platform, the United States will impose a 10% tariff on all goods imported from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Finland, and the Netherlands starting February 1, 2026.

Trump said the tariff rate would increase to 25% from June 1, 2026, unless the United States proceeds with what he described as the "full and absolute purchase of Greenland." He stated that the tariffs would remain in force until an agreement on the issue is reached.

In his remarks, Trump argued that Washington has for many years effectively subsidized Denmark and the European Union by allowing duty-free access to the U.S. market without receiving what he considers adequate compensation in return. He framed the planned tariffs as a corrective measure aimed at rebalancing trade relations and protecting U.S. economic interests.

The announcement adds to a series of recent trade measures outlined by Trump. Earlier, he declared the imposition of tariffs of up to 25% on countries described as economic partners of Iran, signaling a broader strategy of using trade restrictions as a tool of foreign and economic policy.

The proposed measures are likely to draw strong reactions from European governments and businesses, particularly given the scope of the affected countries and the potential impact on key sectors such as manufacturing, automotive exports, and consumer goods. Analysts note that if implemented, the tariffs could significantly disrupt transatlantic trade flows and further strain relations between the United States and its European allies.⁵

Financial Strain Deepens Across U.S. Farm Belt as Low Prices and High Costs Persist

Conditions across the U.S. farm belt are becoming increasingly challenging, as farmers enter another season marked by weak commodity prices, rising production costs, and mounting financial pressure. Many growers are facing difficult decisions about whether they can continue operating, while access to credit is tightening at a critical time in the agricultural cycle.

Banks in several regions are scaling back lending to farmers, cutting off financing for some operations just as producers need cash to cover planting, input purchases, and debt obligations. The reduced availability of credit has intensified concerns across rural communities, where farm income remains under pressure amid persistently large grain supplies.

The strain is spreading beyond farms themselves. Thousands of workers are losing jobs as meatpacking facilities shut down or reduce operations, and major farm equipment manufacturers are scaling back production in response to declining demand. Unsold tractors and combines are increasingly visible on dealer lots, reflecting farmers' reluctance or inability to invest in new machinery under current market conditions.

Agribusiness companies are also feeling the impact, with several reporting weaker earnings as oversupply in grain markets continues to weigh on prices. Analysts note that abundant harvests in recent seasons have created a prolonged period of low margins, leaving producers with limited financial buffers to absorb rising costs for fuel, fertilizer, labor, and land.

Industry observers warn that unless market conditions improve or costs ease, financial stress in the farm economy could deepen further, with lasting consequences for rural employment, local businesses, and the broader agricultural supply chain.¹

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