

CSI DAILY NEWS



29.01.2026



Rosstat Revises Russia's 2025 Grain Harvest Estimate Downward

Russia's Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) has slightly reduced its forecast for the country's total grain harvest, lowering the estimate to 138.8 million tons, according to newly released materials from the agency.

The updated figure is 611,000 tons lower than the previous projection issued in December. The revision reflects modest downward adjustments across several major crop categories, while other data remained unchanged.

The largest correction was made to wheat production, which was revised from 91.4 million tons to 90.9 million tons, representing a reduction of 464,000 tons. Barley output was also adjusted lower, declining from 19.7 million tons to 19.6 million tons, a decrease of 110,000 tons.

In addition, Rosstat trimmed its estimate for legume crops, revising the figure from 8.01 million tons to 7.95 million tons, a drop of 54,000 tons.

Despite these reductions, the overall harvest remains historically strong, and Rosstat noted that all other crop indicators were left unchanged from the December assessment.

The updated data comes as global markets continue to closely monitor Russia's agricultural output due to its influence on international grain supply and prices. ⁴

Commodity Auctions: Results For 28.01.2026

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,250 P/t | 600 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,650 P/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,200 P/t | 1,200 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,350 P/t | 300 t

OOO CHERKIZOVO-MASLA

Soybeans 41 (incl. VAT) | 34,050 P/t | 2,000 t³

Russia's Agriculture Sector Needs Over 130,000 New Workers Each Year, Government Says

Russia's agricultural sector faces an annual replacement demand of more than 130,000 workers, according to amendments to the state program for the development of agriculture.

The document highlights that, looking ahead to 2030, employers will continue to show the strongest demand for skilled workers and mid-level specialists, reflecting the sector's need for technically trained and professionally qualified personnel.

To address the кадровый (staffing) gap, the government plans to strengthen workforce supply through several key measures. These include hiring graduates from agricultural universities and colleges, expanding professional development programs for current employees, and introducing new educational and training initiatives aligned with modern agricultural technologies.

In addition, the program предусматривает (envisions) the expansion of a system of targeted education and the creation of agrotechnology-focused classes, aimed at preparing students for specific roles in the industry from an early stage.

The document also emphasizes the importance of career guidance and initiatives to raise the prestige of agricultural professions, noting that these steps are expected to improve graduate employment rates and make the sector more attractive to young specialists.

Officials say the measures are designed to ensure a steady inflow of qualified personnel into agriculture as the industry modernizes and adapts to new technological and economic challenges.⁴

Russian Vegetable Oil Exports to UAE Surge More Than Threefold in 2025

Russia has sharply increased its exports of vegetable oils to the United Arab Emirates, with shipments in 2025 rising 3.5 times in value compared with the previous year, according to data presented at the Gulfood 2026 exhibition in Dubai.

"In 2025, Russia exported more than 21,500 tons of vegetable oils to the UAE worth over \$26.5 million," Ilya Ilyushin, Head of the Federal Center "Agroexport," told journalists on the sidelines of the event. He noted that compared with 2024, deliveries grew 2.8 times in volume and 3.5 times in monetary terms, reflecting both higher shipments and stronger pricing.

The main driver of growth was sunflower oil, which accounted for the largest share of exports. In 2025, Russia shipped more than 13,500 tons of sunflower oil to the UAE, valued at nearly \$18

million. This represented a 2.4-fold increase in physical terms and a threefold rise in value year-on-year.

In addition to sunflower oil, Russia expanded its product range in the Emirati market. For the first time on record, Russian exporters began supplying rapeseed oil to the UAE. Deliveries in 2025 exceeded 900 tons, with a total value of almost \$1 million.

Exports of soybean oil also rose significantly. Over the course of 2025, Russia shipped more than 7,000 tons of soybean oil to the UAE, worth nearly \$8 million. This marked a 3.6-fold increase in volume and a 4.6-fold increase in value compared with the previous year.

A wide range of products from Russian food and agricultural exporters is being showcased from January 26 to 30 at the National Exposition of the Russian Federation, organized by REX at Gulfood 2026, the world's largest trade event for the food and beverage industry.

The strong performance highlights the UAE's growing role as a key destination and regional hub for Russian agri-food exports.⁵

Russia's Oilseed Stocks Jump 23% Year-on-Year by End of 2025

Stocks of oilseeds held by Russian agricultural organizations rose sharply at the end of 2025, exceeding last year's levels by more than a fifth, according to official data.

As of the end of December 2025, oilseed inventories in agricultural enterprises totaled 6.4 million tons, which is 23% higher than in December 2024. The increase reflects strong harvest results and slower drawdowns of reserves over the year.

Sunflower seed stocks also expanded, climbing 15% year-on-year to 2.4 million tons. Regional dynamics varied significantly. In the Central Federal District, sunflower reserves rose 12% to 655,800 tons, while in the Volga Federal District they surged 44% to 846,400 tons. The Siberian Federal District recorded an 18% increase to 375,400 tons. In contrast, stocks in the Southern Federal District declined by 17% to 413,500 tons, reflecting higher processing or export activity in that region.

At the same time, inventories of grain and leguminous crops, including corn, also increased markedly. Total stocks reached 31.5 million tons, which is 20% higher than a year earlier and 8% above the five-year average, signaling a generally comfortable supply situation in the sector.

Within this category, wheat reserves rose 21% compared with 2024 to 18.6 million tons, while corn stocks increased by 11% to 3.8 million tons.

Analysts say the higher stock levels provide a buffer for domestic markets and export operations, though they may also add pressure to prices if demand growth does not keep pace with supply.⁶

Rosselkhoznadzor Urges Grain Exporters to Renew CIFER Certification on Time

Russia's Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (Rosselkhoznadzor) has reminded participants in the grain and oilseed markets of the need to renew their certification in China's CIFER system in a timely manner in order to maintain access to the Chinese market.

According to the agency, 341 Russian enterprises are currently registered in CIFER under Category 06 "Edible Oils," while 103 companies are certified under Category 09 "Products of the Milling Industry and Malt."

In 2026, the certification period is set to expire for a significant number of exporters. Specifically, registration will lapse for 157 facilities in Category 06 and 17 facilities in Category 09 unless renewal procedures are completed on schedule.

Rosselkhoznadzor emphasized that companies that initially passed certification under a simplified procedure must urgently submit an application to CIFER to amend their records and upload a full package of required documentation. Only after this application is approved can exporters submit a formal request to extend their certification period.

The agency also clarified the strict timing rules. Applications for renewal can be submitted only within a window of three to six months before the expiration date of the current registration. All requests must be filed through the GACC (General Administration of Customs of China) system, well in advance, so that Rosselkhoznadzor's territorial offices can issue the necessary declarations of conformity and complete the required inspection checklists.

Once this window has passed, it will be impossible to apply for an extension, the watchdog warned.

If a company's CIFER registration expires, its cargo will not be permitted for import into China, effectively cutting off access to one of the world's largest agri-food markets.

Rosselkhoznadzor urged exporters to monitor their certification status closely and begin renewal procedures early to avoid disruptions to trade.⁸

Ukraine's Sunflower Seed Prices Ease as Processors Turn More Cautious

Sunflower seed prices in Ukraine are beginning to edge lower after holding at elevated levels in recent weeks, as oilseed processors scale back purchasing activity, according to analysts from the PUSK agricultural cooperative under the Ukrainian Agrarian Council (UAC).

The analysts say a relatively strong supply of sunflower seed has enabled processors to cover around 60–70% of their February requirements, reducing the urgency to buy additional volumes.

As a result, buyer activity is gradually weakening, and the willingness to pay premiums above indicative price levels has largely disappeared.

“At the start of last week, many buyers were still ready to negotiate and offer markups. Now we are seeing the first attempts to put pressure on prices,” PUSK noted in its market commentary.

The cooperative expects sunflower seed quotations to continue softening in the short term. During the recent peak, sunflower seed with 48% oil content traded at 29,500–29,700 hryvnias per ton for small lots. Currently, prices are mostly seen in the range of 28,800–29,000 hryvnias per ton.

“We are observing a local high in the market. In the near term, prices may correct by 500–700 hryvnias per ton,” the analysts said.

At the same time, experts do not anticipate a sharp downturn. They point out that sunflower seed supplies remain relatively limited, helping to form a stable price base.

“In the absence of significant negative factors in February–March, the market may once again attempt to test levels of 29,500–30,000 hryvnias per ton,” PUSK concluded.

The outlook suggests that while short-term pressure is building, the broader fundamentals of the Ukrainian sunflower seed market remain supportive.²

Ukraine Exports 18.4 Million Tons of Grain in 2025/26 Season as of Late January

Ukraine has exported 18.425 million tons of grain and leguminous crops since the start of the 2025/26 marketing year (MY), including 2.893 million tons shipped in January, according to preliminary data from the State Customs Service cited by the Ministry of Economy’s press service.

The figures show a slower pace of exports compared with last season. As of January 27, 2025, total shipments stood at 25.516 million tons, including 3.284 million tons exported in January, highlighting a noticeable year-on-year decline in volumes.

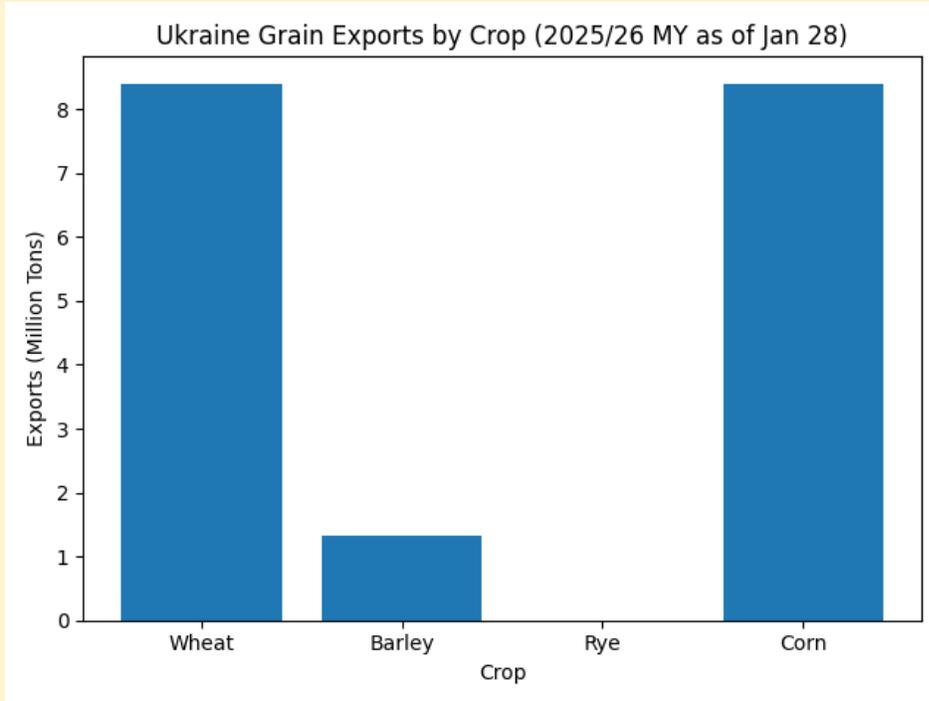
By crop, wheat remains one of the main export items. Since the beginning of the season, Ukraine has shipped 8.39 million tons of wheat, with 438,000 tons exported in January alone. Corn also continues to play a key role, with exports totaling 8.404 million tons since the start of the MY, including 2.439 million tons shipped in January.

Exports of barley reached 1.333 million tons for the season, although January shipments were modest at just 13,000 tons. Rye exports remain negligible, totaling only 200 tons so far, with no shipments recorded in January.

In addition to raw grain, Ukraine has also continued to export processed products. Total flour exports since the start of the season as of January 28 are estimated at 37,800 tons, including 3,500

tons shipped in January. Of this volume, wheat flour accounted for the overwhelming majority, with 36,700 tons exported in total, including 3,400 tons in January.

The data underscores the challenges facing Ukraine’s grain export sector in the current season, as logistics, market conditions, and external demand continue to shape shipment dynamics.²



Kazakhstan Raises Wheat Export Forecast to Record 12.55 Million Tons

The Kazakhstan Grain Union (KGU) has increased its forecast for total exports of wheat, wheat flour and feed flour (in grain equivalent) by 400,000 tons to 12.55 million tons, setting a new record for the country’s grain shipments, according to Eugeniy Karabanov, head of the KGU Analytics Committee.

The upward revision reflects a strong start to the 2025/26 marketing year (MY), driven by a sharp rise in exports of wheat and feed flour during the first four months of the season. Karabanov said that total wheat exports from Kazakhstan in grain equivalent rose by 47% year-on-year, reaching 6.219 million tons over this period.

December proved especially strong, with total exports in grain equivalent hitting a monthly record of 2.349 million tons, underlining robust external demand for Kazakh grain products.

Regional Demand Drives Growth

Several key markets significantly increased their purchases:

- Uzbekistan boosted imports by 64%, mainly due to higher wheat shipments.
- Afghanistan raised imports by 14%, supported by stronger wheat demand despite a decline in wheat flour purchases.
- China increased imports 1.8 times, driven by a sharp rise in feed flour deliveries.
- Turkmenistan lifted imports 1.7 times on the back of higher wheat flour shipments.
- Kyrgyzstan also grew imports 1.7 times, due to stronger demand for both wheat and wheat flour.
- Georgia expanded imports 8.5 times, fueled by higher wheat purchases.
- Turkey posted the biggest jump, increasing imports 27-fold, largely due to higher purchases of durum wheat.

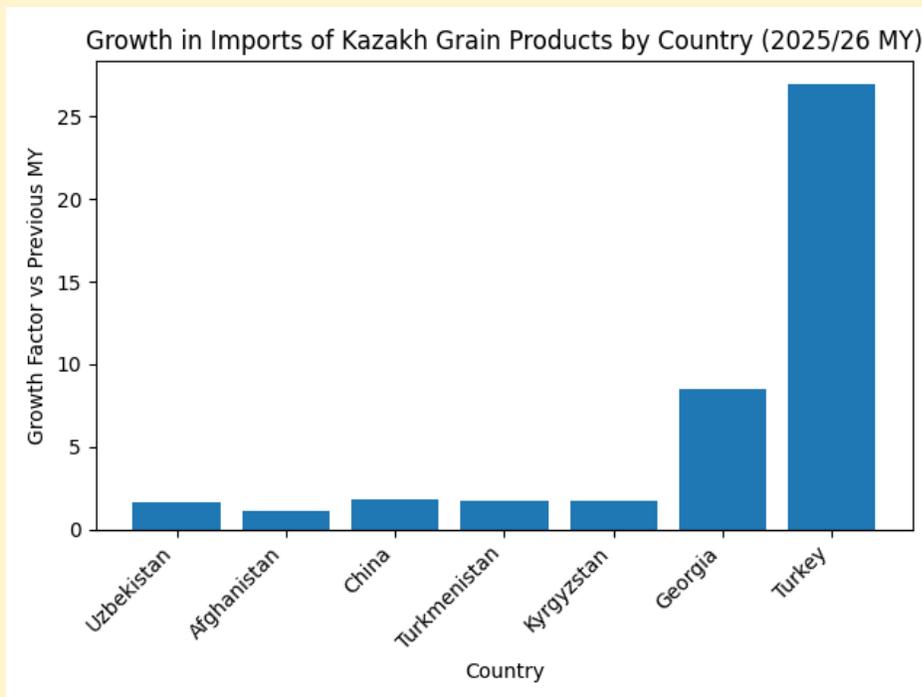
New Markets and Shifting Trade Flows

In addition to traditional buyers, Iran, Algeria, Portugal and the Netherlands emerged as new destinations for Kazakh grain products in the current season. No exports to these countries were recorded in the first four months of the previous marketing year.

At the same time, shipments declined to several markets:

- Azerbaijan cut imports by 25% due to lower wheat purchases.
- Italy reduced imports 6.7 times, reflecting weaker demand for durum wheat.
- Latvia lowered imports 3.7 times, also linked to reduced durum wheat buying.
- Tajikistan decreased imports by 5% on lower wheat demand.
- Russia cut imports by 12% as wheat flour purchases fell.
- Norway slashed imports by 53%, due to lower wheat shipments.

KGU analysts say the strong export performance highlights Kazakhstan's growing role in regional and global grain markets, with demand increasingly diversified across both neighboring countries and more distant destinations.²



China Set to Remain Net Exporter of Soybean Oil as Domestic Demand Softens – USDA

China is expected to remain a net exporter of soybean oil for the second consecutive year, shipping more product abroad than it imports, according to a new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Information Service (USDA FAS).

The shift is being driven largely by record export volumes to India, which have more than offset China’s limited import needs. Much of this growth has come in the form of crude soybean oil, as Indian tariff policies favor imports of unrefined product. At the same time, China has also shipped significant volumes of refined soybean oil to South Korea, further supporting export expansion.

While exports are rising, the report highlights a more structural change: a steady decline in China’s soybean oil imports, even though the country remains the world’s largest consumer of vegetable oils overall.

As recently as the 2012/13 marketing year, China was the world’s largest importer of soybean oil, a position fueled by rapid economic growth and rising household incomes. Since then, however, the country has transformed into the world’s leading producer of soybean oil, following major investments in crushing and processing capacity to meet demand for both protein meal and vegetable oils.

Looking ahead, USDA FAS expects oil consumption growth in China to slow, with only a modest increase in use coming mainly from higher processing volumes rather than from stronger end-user demand.

The report attributes the weakening demand outlook to a combination of declining consumer appetite and demographic trends, including an aging population and a gradual decline in overall population size.

“These developments mean that domestic soybean oil production now exceeds demand, which is driving the expansion of exports,” the USDA report said.

The findings underscore how China’s oilseed sector is evolving from a primarily import-driven market into a key supplier to regional and global vegetable oil markets. ¹

Global Barley Market Shows Signs of Recovery on Strong Import Demand

The global barley market began to recover in late 2025 and early 2026, supported by strong buying interest from key importing countries in Asia and the Middle East, according to Jerry Klassen, an analyst at Resilient Capital.

Klassen said improved barley yields in Canada, combined with competitive price levels, helped attract increased demand from international buyers. Canadian barley production in 2025 is estimated to have risen by around 25%, boosting export availability and making supplies more attractive on the world market.

China emerged as a major buyer, taking advantage of lower prices earlier in the season. Between September and December, China purchased approximately 1.47 million tonnes of Canadian barley, much of it at the discounted levels seen in August and September. These purchases provided significant support to the market and helped absorb surplus supplies.

Additional demand came from Saudi Arabia, which imported an estimated 251,000 tonnes of Canadian feed barley from September through November. The reappearance of Saudi Arabia as a buyer is seen by market participants as a particularly important signal.

“The market traditionally views Saudi Arabia’s return as an indication that prices in Western Canada have reached a bottom,” Klassen said. “When one of the world’s largest barley importers steps in, it usually does so at the lowest price levels, after which the market has room to recover.”

On the domestic front, demand from the livestock sector tends to be seasonal, strengthening during the winter months. However, heavy selling by farmers in the fall—when grain is marketed immediately after harvest—coincides with lower cattle-on-feed numbers, temporarily weighing on prices.

As the market moves into December and January, conditions begin to shift. Export activity gradually eases, while domestic feed demand reaches its seasonal peak. At the same time, concerns over weather risks and relatively limited on-farm stocks could further tighten available supplies.

Together, these factors are expected to create a more supportive environment for prices in 2026, raising expectations that the barley market may continue its gradual recovery in the months ahead.¹

Heatwave and Drought Threaten Argentina's Corn and Soybean Crops

Hot and dry weather across Argentina is putting the country's corn and soybean harvests at risk, with soaring temperatures and a lack of rainfall raising concerns over yield losses, according to a report by Reuters.

In recent days, temperatures in major farming areas have surged to nearly 40°C, while vast stretches of the country's core agricultural regions remain in urgent need of moisture. Meteorologists say there is little chance of meaningful rainfall relief before February, prolonging stress on crops during a critical stage of development.

"This heat will reduce corn yields," said meteorologist German Heinzenknecht, adding that production estimates are likely to be revised downward. He noted that early-planted corn crops are expected to suffer the most damage. According to Heinzenknecht, the central farm belt — particularly southern Santa Fe province and northern Buenos Aires province — requires at least 70–80 millimeters of rain to stabilize conditions.

The drought is hitting just as farmers near the end of planting. Data from the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange show that 93.1% of the planned corn area and 96.2% of the soybean area have already been planted, leaving limited flexibility to adjust acreage in response to weather stress.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) had previously forecast Argentina's corn crop at 53 million tonnes and its soybean crop at 48.5 million tonnes. Analysts warn those figures may now come under pressure if dry conditions persist.

Beyond crops, the drought is also affecting livestock production. Pastures and forage crops have withered, forcing farmers to rely more heavily on feed. Some producers report sorghum yields of just 2.5 tonnes per hectare, far below the expected 7 tonnes per hectare, highlighting the severity of the impact.

There have been isolated improvements. Over the weekend, parts of La Pampa province and northwestern Buenos Aires received 60–70 millimeters of rainfall, offering temporary relief. Farmer Marcelo Rodriguez described the rains as easing what he called a "hellish crisis" caused by extreme heat and prolonged dryness.

Argentina is a key player in global agricultural markets. It is the world's leading exporter of soybean meal and soybean oil and the third-largest exporter of corn, meaning any significant drop in production could have ripple effects on international prices and supply chains.¹

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