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Rapeseed Oil Exports Near Record as Russia Strengthens Global Position

Russia significantly increased its exports of rapeseed oil in 2025, with shipments rising by 37% year-on-year to 1.58 million tons, according to preliminary estimates. Export revenues grew even faster, up 54% to more than $1.6 billion. The result marks the second-highest export volume in the country's history, narrowly trailing the 2023 record of 1.6 million tons.

China remained the key destination for Russian rapeseed oil, accounting for around 90% of total exports. Supplies to China reached 1.4 million tons in 2025, up 37% from the previous year and 6.5 times higher than in 2019. Over the same period, China's share of Russia's rapeseed oil exports expanded from 32% to 90%.

Other major importers included Iran, Norway, Tunisia and Latvia. Iran moved into second place after tripling its purchases, overtaking Latvia. Norway ranked third, increasing imports by 26% year-on-year.

Russia also expanded its export geography. Deliveries resumed to India for the first time since 2017 and to Algeria and Georgia after a pause since 2022. New markets in 2025 included Morocco, North Korea and Mauritius.

According to Ilya Ilyushin, head of Agroexport, the growth in exports has been driven by the rapid expansion of rapeseed production, which has increased by an average of 23% annually over the past six years. As a result, Russia has become the world's second-largest exporter of rapeseed oil. He emphasized that the next priority is to diversify export destinations and actively promote Russian rapeseed products in new international markets.[6]

Commodity Auctions: Results For 03.02.2026

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,325 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,700 ₽/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,350 ₽/t | 1,200 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,485 ₽/t | 300 t

Trading House Sodruzhestvo LLC

Soybean 40 (incl. VAT) | 32,750 ₽/t | 1,000 t

Trading House Sodruzhestvo LLC

Soybean 37 (incl. VAT) | 25,000 ₽/t | 100 t

Trading House Sodruzhestvo LLC

Soybean 40 Far East (incl. VAT) | 29,750 ₽/t | 1,000 t[4]

Russia Holds January Wheat Exports Steady at 2.7 Million Tons

Russia exported 2.7 million tons of wheat in January 2026, nearly matching the volume shipped in the same month a year earlier, according to data from the Russian Grain Union cited by Finmarket. Elena Tyurina, head of the union's analytical department, said export activity intensified toward the end of the month as traders rushed to ship grain ahead of the export quota scheduled to take effect on February 15.

Total exports of major grain crops declined by 18.9% year-on-year in January to 2.99 million tons. Since the start of the 2025/26 marketing season in July, Russia has exported 34.3 million tons of grain, down 16.3% compared with the same period last season.

The geography of exports also narrowed, with shipments sent to 22 countries versus 33 a year earlier. Egypt remained Russia's largest wheat buyer, while exports to Turkey surged 3.8-fold. Logistics routes were reduced as well, with grain shipped through 14 ports compared with 24 last year.

Analysts attribute the overall decline in grain exports to intensified competition from suppliers in the European Union, Australia and Argentina, as well as ongoing geopolitical constraints. [7]

Authorities Assess Winter Crops in Rostov Region as Stable

Winter crops in Russia's Rostov region are in satisfactory condition, and recent snowfall is expected to help replenish soil moisture reserves, the regional government's information policy department reported.

According to the statement, snowfall has compensated for the impact of low temperatures, while a brief warming period did not cause damage to crops. Regional Agriculture and Food Minister Anna Kasyanenko said the current weather conditions have not posed a threat to winter sowings.

Authorities noted that the 2025/26 autumn-winter season has been more favorable than the previous year. From November to January, the region received 101 mm of precipitation, compared with 84 mm during the same period of the 2024/25 season. In addition, a stable snow cover ranging from 2 to 14 cm has formed across the region.

The government emphasized that soil moisture reserves remain a key factor for crop development, while farmers also have a range of tools to manage yields, including climate-adapted crop management practices, balanced mineral fertilization and effective plant protection measures.[7]

Russia Raises Sunflower Oil Export Duty for February

Russia will increase the export duty on sunflower oil in February 2026, the Ministry of Agriculture has informed exporters. The duty will rise by 2.1% month-on-month to 9,495 rubles per tonne, up from 9,298.6 rubles in January. The export duty on sunflower meal will remain at zero for the second consecutive month.

Indicative prices used to calculate the duties increased for sunflower oil to $1,233.3 per tonne from $1,200.2 in January, while the indicative price for sunflower meal edged slightly lower to $195.2 per tonne from $195.7. Export duties are set at 70% of the difference between the base price and the indicative price, calculated as the monthly average of market quotations.

The base price is set at 82,500 rubles per tonne for sunflower oil and 15,875 rubles per tonne for sunflower meal.

Russia introduced the so-called "sunflower damper" mechanism on September 1, 2021. Initially, duties were calculated in U.S. dollars, but the system switched to ruble-based calculations in July 2022. In August 2024, the government extended the floating duty mechanism until September 1, 2026, and in October 2025 further prolonged it through August 31, 2028. [8]

Russian Wheat Export Outlook Brightens as Prices Rise

Global wheat prices moved higher last week as exchange markets hit multi-month highs, driven by weather risks and fund activity. Speculative investors covered short positions amid growing concerns about the outlook for the 2026 harvest.

Export offers for Russian wheat with 12.5% protein for February shipment held at $231 per tonne FOB, while asking prices climbed to $235 per tonne, the highest level since late August 2025. Ukrainian 11.5% protein wheat strengthened to $227.5/t, up $1.50. French, Romanian, and U.S. wheat rose to around $236/t, gaining between $2.50 and $5, while Argentine wheat remained steady at $217/t FOB.

Markets were supported by fears of crop damage after unusually cold weather and freezing rain in the United States, along with the risk of frost and ice crust affecting winter crops in southern Russia, Ukraine, and parts of Poland. Prolonged sub-zero temperatures could threaten fields with limited snow cover.

The U.S. market also found support from a weaker dollar. The dollar index dropped to its lowest level since 2022 before showing signs of recovery late in the week.

In Russia, offer prices for 12.5% protein, fourth-class wheat at deep-water ports rose slightly to 15,600–15,800 rubles per tonne excluding VAT for road delivery. Rail-delivered prices held at 15,800–16,200 rubles, while prices in shallow-water ports remained unchanged due to slow trade caused by bad weather. Domestic prices were largely stable over the week.

Cold conditions are expected to persist, with forecasts pointing to abnormally low temperatures in many regions. Although most winter crops are protected by snow, localized frost damage remains possible where snow cover is thin.

Wheat exports from Russia are projected at around 3.3 million tonnes in February 2026, well above the 2.07 million tonnes seen in February 2025 and close to the five-year average. Updated data show January 2026 exports reached 2.8 million tonnes. [3]

Ukraine Says It Is Too Early to Assess Condition of Winter Crops

Ukraine's authorities say the condition of winter crops and the impact of recent weather patterns cannot yet be assessed objectively and will only become clear once temperatures rise and vegetation resumes, Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture Taras Vysotskyi said.

Speaking about the current state of the agricultural season, Vysotskyi noted that the situation remains typical for this time of year, with no active fieldwork underway. In some cases, farmers may apply mineral fertilizers, but he stressed that such measures are not urgent and can be postponed until later without negative consequences. At present, winter crops remain in a dormant state, awaiting the resumption of vegetation.

The deputy minister also said that Ukraine has not yet fully completed its corn harvest, but described the situation as non-critical. According to him, harvesting operations can resume once weather conditions improve and allow machinery to return to the fields.

Commenting on the potential impact of weather on winter crop development, Vysotskyi emphasized that conditions vary significantly across the country depending on regional factors, including snow cover and temperature levels. As a result, he said, it would be premature to draw conclusions at the national level.

“Everything is highly individual. In some areas the impact may be negative, while in others it may not be significant at all,” Vysotskyi said. He added that a more objective assessment would be possible in the spring, and in certain regions as early as late February, once warmer weather sets in and vegetation resumes.

Ukrainian authorities are continuing to closely monitor the situation and collect data from across the country. Vysotskyi expressed hope that the combination of weather factors this season will not have a critical impact on winter crops, but stressed that definitive conclusions will depend on how conditions evolve in the coming weeks. [1]

Vessels Linked to Ukrainian Ports Face Possible Entry Ban to Russia’s Black Sea Ports

Shipowners whose vessels have previously called at Ukrainian ports may face restrictions on entering Russian ports, according to an internal memo issued by the Tuapse Bulk Terminal and circulated among shipowners and fleet operators. A copy of the document was obtained by Latifundist.com.

The memo follows earlier reporting by Argus, which said that since January 2026 vessels that recently visited Ukrainian ports have largely been denied access to Russia’s Black Sea ports.

According to the document, Russian authorities are preparing new rules governing access to Black Sea ports for vessels that have previously called not only at Ukrainian ports, but also at ports in Romania and Bulgaria. The memo is dated January 22, 2026, and summarizes a meeting held at the RN–Tuapse Marine Terminal attended by representatives of Russia’s Federal Security Service (FSB), customs authorities, the Ministry of Defence, and administrations of Black Sea ports.

During the meeting, Rear Admiral Viktor Kochemazov said that Russia’s Ministry of Transport is expected to prepare a regulatory document within two to three weeks that would formalize a ban on entry into Russia’s territorial waters for certain cargo vessels.

The memo outlines a number of criteria under which vessels could be subject to restrictions. These include having ports in Ukraine, Romania or Bulgaria among their last ten port calls; the use of newly issued ship documentation; a recent change of ownership within the last ten voyages; a change of flag or port of registry; the presence of Ukrainian or Azerbaijani nationals among the crew; and chartering immediately after undergoing repairs.

Military officials also justified the diversion of vessels by citing not only the presence of what they described as “dangerous cargoes,” but also security concerns. According to the memo, some berths and port waters are located in areas exposed to potential shelling, which authorities said could pose risks to port infrastructure.

In addition, the meeting discussed the possible installation of boom barriers at the entrance to the port of Tuapse, as well as the potential financial participation of terminal operators in such infrastructure works. The memo concludes that information on the proposed vessel requirements has been forwarded to responsible officials for further communication to market participants.

Market participants say the memo is already having a tangible impact. Konstantin Sobol, founder of Marelis Navigation S.A., told Latifundist.com that one foreign shipowner had refused to call at Ukrainian ports after reviewing the document.

“He said it directly: if I enter Ukraine now, I will be excluded from the Russian market for six months,” Sobol said.

Freight broker Ivan Mashchenko of Larona Freight & Commodity Services also confirmed that the memo is being widely circulated among shipowners and is being used as justification for refusing calls at Ukrainian ports.

“Publicly, only this memo exists. But the real situation is what is happening on the ground, in the ports,” Mashchenko said. “If Ukraine appears among a vessel’s recent calls, it is simply not accepted. And this does not depend on the captain or the shipowner.” [1]

Kazakhstan’s Legume Harvest Tops 1.1 Mln Tons, Market Faces Oversupply

Kazakhstan has harvested a record crop of grain legumes in the current season, with preliminary data showing total output exceeding 1.1 million tons, Kintal Islamov, chairman of the board of Atameken Agro JSC, said at the international KAZAKH GRAIN & LOGISTIC FORUM in Almaty.

According to the data presented, lentils accounted for the bulk of production at 842,000 tons, while pea output reached 222,000 tons and chickpea production stood at 22,000 tons. Lentil production in Kazakhstan has almost doubled compared with previous seasons, significantly outpacing growth in domestic consumption.

Islamov warned that the record harvest, combined with large legume crops in other major producing countries, is putting pressure on prices and squeezing producer margins. He noted a sharp decline in legume prices in 2025, particularly for green lentils, whose prices have nearly converged with those for red lentils.

Among the key factors weighing on the market, Islamov pointed to a significant increase in pea production in Russia, as well as strong harvests in Canada and Australia. In addition, large carryover stocks of legumes in exporting countries are intensifying competition on global markets.

Given the scale of the 2025 harvest and high ending stocks, Islamov said Kazakh producers would need to adapt their production strategies to maintain profitability. He outlined several priorities, including diversifying legume plantings, selectively reallocating acreage in favor of peas and chickpeas, which experienced a smaller price decline in 2025, and exercising caution when planning crop structures.

He also warned that competition in the pea market is likely to remain intense, noting that Canada and Russia both hold substantial carryover stocks. Following the end of the trade dispute between Canada and China in January 2026, Canada's position in the global pea market has strengthened further, adding pressure on prices.

Islamov said that increasing domestic processing capacity is another key task for Kazakhstan's legume sector, as higher value-added products could help offset price volatility on raw exports.

Commenting on export markets, Islamov said Turkey remains the main destination for Atameken Agro's lentil shipments, accounting for 80–90% of total exports, supported by established logistics chains. The company has also supplied lentils to the United Arab Emirates, although he described this route as logistically challenging. Looking ahead, he identified the EAEU countries, China and Afghanistan as promising growth markets.

"If everyone continues to grow lentils, we will ultimately have to follow the Canadian model and extend storage periods, or significantly reduce production costs and keep competing for market share," Islamov said. [2]

Kazakhstan Resumes Wheat Exports to Vietnam After Eight-Year Break

Kazakhstan has exported more than 15,000 tons of wheat to Vietnam for the first time in eight years, marking a resumption of grain supplies to the Southeast Asian market, officials said following talks between the two countries' governments.

The shipments were carried out in 2025 using a new logistics format that combined direct multimodal transportation without container transshipment. According to the Kazakh side, the approach helped reduce both delivery times and transportation costs. Officials described the experience as an important step toward positioning Kazakhstan as a reliable supplier of food products to Southeast Asian countries.

The issue was discussed at a meeting between Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Economy Serik Zhumangarin and Vietnam's Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Hoa Binh. The talks focused on expanding bilateral trade and strengthening cooperation in the agri-food sector.

Zhumangarin said Kazakhstan sees significant potential to broaden exports to Vietnam beyond wheat, including supplies of flour, meat and dairy products, as well as oilseeds. In this context, the Kazakh side proposed intensifying coordination on a veterinary cooperation agreement and signing the document at the second meeting of the bilateral agriculture subcommittee.

According to Zhumangarin, Kazakhstan aims to double bilateral trade with Vietnam by 2026 and is prepared to send a trade and economic mission to Vietnam in the middle of this year to advance commercial ties.

The sides also discussed institutional support for business cooperation. Kazakhstan proposed signing a memorandum later this year on the establishment of a Kazakhstan–Vietnam business council to facilitate contacts between companies and promote joint projects.[2]

Ukraine's Sunflower Oil Output Falls Sharply Amid War and Lower Harvests

Rising prices for sunflower oil in Ukraine are primarily the result of a sharply smaller sunflower seed harvest, with the situation further exacerbated by damage to infrastructure and declining export volumes, Svitlana Lytvyn, head of the analytical department at the Ukrainian Club of Agrarian Business (UCAB), said in comments broadcast by LVIV.MEDIA.

According to Lytvyn, before the start of the full-scale war Ukrainian farmers harvested around 16 million tons of sunflower seed annually. This year's output is estimated at about 10 million tons, down from 11 million tons last year, reflecting both a reduction in planted areas and the continued occupation of part of Ukraine's territory. As a result, the country's raw material base has contracted significantly, leading to lower sunflower oil production.

Based on the available supply of sunflower seed, Ukraine is expected to produce around 4 million tons of sunflower oil this year, compared with 5–6 million tons in the pre-war period, Lytvyn said. While these volumes are sufficient to fully cover domestic demand of 400,000–500,000 tons, they substantially limit export potential and reduce foreign currency revenues.

Ukraine is attempting to partially offset the shortfall by expanding the processing of other oilseeds. Under an optimistic scenario, production of soybean oil and rapeseed oil could each reach about 500,000 tons this year, or roughly 1 million tons in total. However, Lytvyn said this would still not fully compensate for the decline in sunflower oil output.

Given the constrained supply, a near-term decline in sunflower oil prices is unlikely, she said. At the same time, global market dynamics remain an important factor, as many countries consume a mix of vegetable oils. As a result, sunflower oil prices are closely linked to price movements in soybean, rapeseed and palm oils, while competition on the global market is intensifying.

Lytvyn noted that Russia, which previously exported significantly less sunflower oil than Ukraine, is now increasing shipments, including volumes produced in occupied Ukrainian territories. She also said ongoing attacks on infrastructure related to oil production and exports are adding pressure to the market and indirectly supporting higher global prices. Geopolitical factors continue to influence trade flows, with Turkey, China and India emerging as the main buyers of Russian sunflower oil, while Ukraine's exports remain focused on EU markets, where logistics are more favorable.

Despite the challenges posed by the war, Lytvyn said Ukraine continues to hold a leading position in the global sunflower oil market, supported by long-established trade relationships, advanced processing technologies and the high oil content of Ukrainian sunflower seeds.[2]

China Plans to Expand Agricultural Imports to Balance Domestic Supply

China plans to further increase imports of agricultural products to address structural imbalances in its domestic food market, Han Wenshu, head of the Agricultural Leading Group of the Communist Party of China, said.

China, the world's second-largest importer of agricultural products, purchased $20.74 billion worth of agri-food products from foreign suppliers in 2025. According to Han, imports of commodities such as soybeans, meat, dairy products, fresh and dried fruits, and wine play a key role in balancing supply and demand in the domestic market.

"These agricultural and food products help eliminate structural mismatches between production and consumption within China," Han said, commenting on the country's import policy.

Russia remains one of China's important suppliers. According to estimates from the federal center Agroexport, Russia shipped agricultural products worth $6.7 billion to China in the first 11 months of 2025, an increase of 14% compared with the same period a year earlier.

China's intention to expand agricultural imports is expected to support continued growth in trade with key exporting countries amid evolving global food market dynamics.[5]

Canada Shifts Canola Meal Exports Away from China as Trade Tariffs Impact Shipments

Canada's canola exports to China have collapsed in the early part of the 2025/26 marketing year, as Beijing's extremely high import duties continue to suppress shipments, according to data from Oil World.

In the first four months of the current marketing year, Canada exported only 0.2 million tonnes of canola to China, compared with 2.6 million tonnes shipped during August–November 2024. The sharp decline comes amid a record Canadian canola harvest of 21.8 million tonnes this season, up from 17 million tonnes last year, making access to China — historically Canada's largest canola market — a critical issue for exporters.

China has typically imported 6–7 million tonnes of Canadian canola annually, but high tariffs have curtailed trade in recent months. Market observers expect shipments to resume after the two countries reached an agreement to significantly reduce and partially eliminate tariffs starting March 1, 2026.

China remains an important market for other Canadian oilseeds. Canadian soybean exports to China reached a record 1 million tonnes in August–November 2025, up 48% year-on-year, accounting for 36% of Canada's total soybean exports compared with 26% in the previous year.

Meanwhile, Canadian canola processors have increased discounts, boosting demand for canola meal in markets outside China, particularly the United States. Canola meal exports from Canada to the US rose to a record 1.42 million tonnes in August–November 2025, up from 1.29 million tonnes a year earlier.

Canada also significantly expanded rapeseed meal exports to the European Union, the UK, Vietnam, Thailand and South Korea in the first four months of the 2025/26 marketing year. These shipments helped offset a 0.7 million-tonne reduction in exports to China, illustrating how Canadian exporters are diversifying trade flows amid tariff barriers.[1]

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