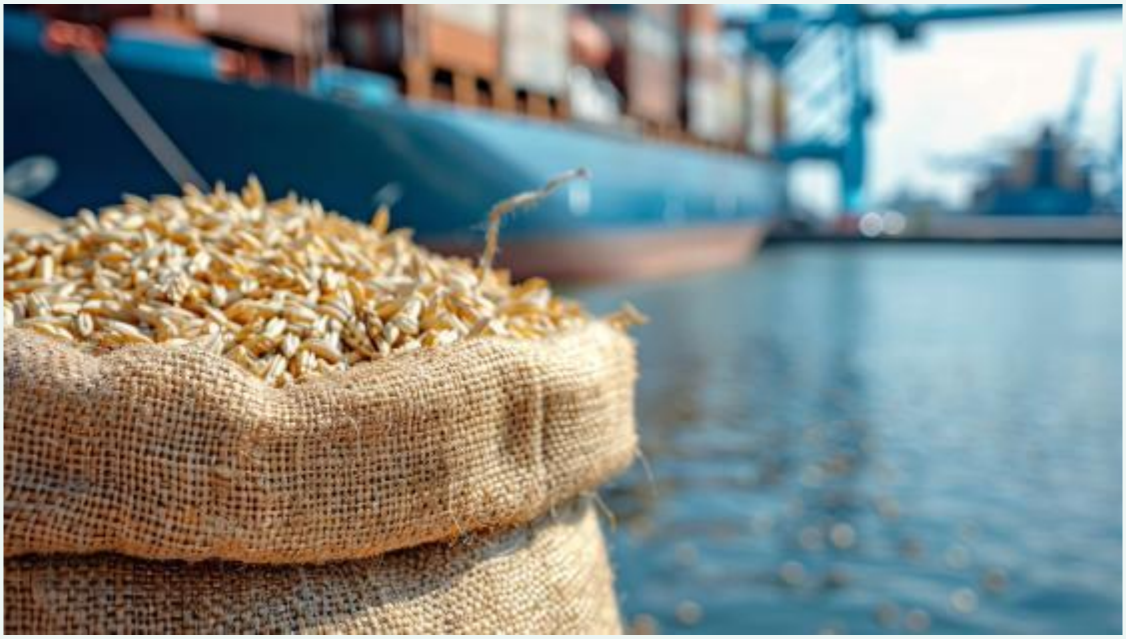
CSI DAILY NEWS

12.02.2026



Krasnodar Krai Seaports Ship Over 2.6 Mln Tonnes of Grain in January 2026

Grain exports through the seaports of Russia's Krasnodar Krai exceeded 2.6 million tonnes in January 2026, including grain and processed products, according to regional data.

Countries in the Middle East and North Africa continued to account for the bulk of demand for Russian grain. Egypt emerged as the top buyer, importing 955,100 tonnes, followed by Turkey with 528,100 tonnes and Sudan with 227,500 tonnes.

Wheat dominated export volumes, totaling approximately 2.2 million tonnes, while shipments of barley reached 125,900 tonnes and corn amounted to 63,300 tonnes.

All consignments exported via Krasnodar Krai ports underwent mandatory inspections by specialists from the Southern Interregional Department of Rosselkhoznadzor. The checks are designed to ensure compliance with the phytosanitary standards of importing countries and meet plant quarantine requirements.[6]

Russian Buckwheat Enters Philippine Market with First Shipment to Manila

Russian food producer OOO "Resource" has signed an export contract with K&K Healthcare Corp to supply Uvelka-brand products to the Philippines, marking the entry of Russian buckwheat into the local market. The Russian Trade Representation in the Philippines reported that all required registrations were completed, import permits obtained, and the first shipment has already arrived in Manila.

The Chelyabinsk-based company, one of Russia's leading producers of cereals and health-focused foods, offers a broad product portfolio. Cooperation between the trade mission and OOO "Resource" is expected to expand, including deliveries of packaged and bulk products. Export volumes and the range of supplied goods are also set to increase.

Market observers note that the launch is notable, as buckwheat is not traditionally consumed in large quantities in the Philippines or Southeast Asia, where buckwheat flour is more commonly used. The move is seen as part of a broader healthy-eating trend, with buckwheat increasingly promoted as a "superfood" in new markets.

Despite the long logistics route from Chelyabinsk to Manila, the shipment underscores growing opportunities for Russian manufacturers to access niche segments abroad, provided sufficient investment is made in product promotion and market development.[7]

Russia’s 2025 Trade Turnover Falls to $697.3 Billion

Russia’s total foreign trade turnover declined by 2.8% in 2025 to $697.3 billion, according to data from the Federal Customs Service.

Exports fell by 3.7% year-on-year to $418.3 billion, while imports slipped 1.4% to $279 billion. As a result, Russia’s foreign trade surplus narrowed by 8.2% compared with 2024, reaching $139.3 billion.

Mineral products continued to dominate Russia’s export structure, accounting for more than half of total shipments abroad.

Asian countries remained Russia’s main trading partners, representing 73.4% of overall trade, although turnover with the region also edged lower. Trade with Europe dropped by 8.6%, while commerce with the Americas posted a modest increase of 6.3%.

Despite ongoing export activity, overall foreign trade volumes showed a moderate contraction over the year. [8]

February Wheat Export Forecast Raised as Russia Boosts January Grain Shipments

Russia exported nearly 29.7 million tonnes of wheat between July 2025 and January 2026, down 8% year-on-year, according to official data.

At the same time, the forecast for wheat exports in February 2026 has been revised upward by 125,000 tonnes to 3.4 million tonnes, compared with 2.07 million tonnes in the same month last year. Approximately 1.1 million tonnes were shipped during the first ten days of February.

Total exports of grain and processed grain products in January 2026 reached 4.5 million tonnes, up 6% year-on-year, data from the Argus-Phyto federal information system showed.

Shipments of Russian wheat to international markets rose 18% to 2.8 million tonnes in January. Exports of soybeans increased by 50% to 128,400 tonnes, soybean meal by 69% to 71,400 tonnes, while sorghum exports surged fourfold to 2,000 tonnes.

Rosselkhoznadzor highlighted the strongest growth in supplies to Cameroon (up seven times), followed by Kazakhstan, Latvia, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia (each up threefold). Exports also doubled to Lebanon and Afghanistan, while shipments to Turkey jumped 97% year-on-year.[8]

Russian Seaports Cut Grain and Fertilizer Throughput in January

Cargo turnover at Russian seaports declined 7% year-on-year in January 2026, totaling 66.9 million tons, according to the Association of Sea Trade Ports.

Dry cargo handling dropped by 10.4% to 31 million tons, with grain shipments falling 14.5% to 3.4 million tons and fertilizer transshipment down 3.3% to 3.8 million tons.

Liquid cargo volumes also weakened, decreasing 3.8% to 35.9 million tons. Within this segment, food cargo saw a sharp contraction, plunging 50.5% to just 0.3 million tons.

Overall, exports through Russian ports declined 5.9%, imports fell 13.9%, and transit volumes dropped 26.8%, while coastal shipping (cabotage) recorded a 5% increase. [5]

Ukraine Boosts Oilseed Processing and Exports After Introducing 10% Export Duties

Ukraine significantly increased domestic processing of soybeans and rapeseed, as well as exports of value-added products, following the introduction of a 10% export duty on the two crops, Deputy Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Economic Development Dmytro Kysylevskyi said.

Posting on Facebook, Kysylevskyi noted that during July–December 2025, compared with the same period a year earlier, rapeseed crushing rose 1.8 times, while rapeseed oil exports also increased 1.8 times. Foreign currency revenue from rapeseed oil shipments jumped 2.2 times. Over the same period, rapeseed meal production grew 1.8 times, exports climbed 1.7 times, and export earnings rose 1.4 times.

He added that in September–December 2025, Ukraine recorded a 22.4% increase in soybean oil production, while exports advanced 23.3% and foreign currency revenue grew 1.5 times year-on-year. Overall soybean processing into oil and meal exceeded raw soybean exports by 3.7%.

Kysylevskyi said the results demonstrate the effectiveness of shifting Ukraine's agricultural sector away from raw material exports toward domestic processing, even in the first season after the duties were introduced.

"The added value now retained in Ukraine amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars, while additional tax revenues to the state budget reach billions of hryvnias," he said, stressing that the government intends to continue supporting processing rather than raw commodity exports.[2]

Ukraine's Grain Exports Down Nearly 40% in 2025/26 Season as of Feb. 9

Ukraine exported 19.512 million tonnes of grain and leguminous crops in the 2025/26 marketing year as of February 9, marking a decline of 7.763 million tonnes, or 39.7%, compared with the same period last season, according to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food.

Wheat shipments reached 8.497 million tonnes, down 34.9% year-on-year, or nearly 3.0 million tonnes.

Barley exports totaled 1.338 million tonnes, a sharp 57.4% decrease from last year, while rye exports were minimal at just 0.2 thousand tonnes.

Corn deliveries to foreign markets amounted to 9.373 million tonnes, representing a 41.5% drop, or almost 3.9 million tonnes, year-on-year.

Exports of flour stood at 39.8 thousand tonnes, equivalent to 53.1 thousand tonnes in grain terms, which is 14.3% lower than a year earlier. [1]

Ukrainian Barley Prices Rise as Farmers Hold Back Sales and Turkish Tender Lifts Market

Ukrainian farmers continue to delay sales of grain, shifting from weather-related concerns earlier in the season to expectations of further price growth. This tightening of available supply is forcing traders to increase bids for prompt deliveries.

Rising prices for feed wheat and corn are adding momentum to the barley market. Feed wheat has climbed to around UAH 10,200 per tonne, while corn is trading at UAH 10,400–10,500 per tonne delivered to ports, supporting higher barley values.

Over the past week, prices for feed barley in Ukraine rose by UAH 100 per tonne to UAH 10,800–11,100 per tonne, equivalent to $220–222 per tonne, driven in part by stronger purchase prices at a recent Turkish tender.

Market participants report that Turkey's state food procurement agency TMO bought approximately 225,000 tonnes of feed barley out of a planned 255,000 tonnes at a tender held on February 11. Cargoes of 5,000–50,000 tonnes are scheduled for delivery between February 23 and March 23 at prices ranging from $266.2 to $273.6 per tonne C&F, with an average of $269.7 per tonne C&F. This level is nearly $5 per tonne higher than the January tender and slightly above prices paid by Algeria's OAIC at its February 3 auction.

Russian companies supplied most of the barley purchased by TMO, with some volumes already delivered to Turkish warehouses.

Despite the recent price gains, Ukrainian barley export activity remains subdued. In the 2025/26 marketing year as of February 9, Ukraine exported only 1.38 million tonnes, compared with 2.11 million tonnes over the same period last season. Market sources expect export shipments to accelerate in the spring.[1]

Export Duty on Sunflower Seeds Pushing Kazakh Farmers into Losses — AZRK

Kazakhstan's Agency for Protection and Development of Competition (AZRK) has ruled that the current export duty on sunflower seeds is improperly designed and economically ineffective, warning that it is pushing farmers into losses while processing companies continue exporting.

According to AZRK's findings, the duty has disrupted the market, leaving agricultural producers struggling to sell their harvest. The agency has recommended a gradual reduction of the export levy to stabilize the sector and support farm incomes.

Speaking at the Mazhilis Committee on Agricultural Affairs, MP Nurzhan Ashimbetov said farmers' warehouses are overflowing with sunflower seeds, with part of the crop even stored outdoors due to weak sales. Producers in the Pavlodar region are reportedly operating at a loss, despite having export opportunities, including shipments to China, which are burdened by an additional export charge of around €100 per tonne.

Ashimbetov noted that the issue was reviewed by the Interdepartmental Commission and subsequently referred to AZRK for assessment. The agency confirmed that the duty is constraining processing development and harming primary producers, prompting recommendations to revise the policy at the next interdepartmental meeting.

While sunflower oil exports are rising, Ashimbetov pointed out that roughly 70% of shipments consist of unrefined oil, reflecting limited progress in deeper processing. He stressed that although processing capacity should be expanded, this must not come at the expense of farmers.

AZRK data also show that sunflower seed exports fell by 20% in 2024, exacerbating storage pressures on producers. Officials believe that easing the duty could help revive export flows and provide much-needed relief to Kazakhstan's agricultural sector.[1]

Tunisia Issues Tender for 50,000 Tons of Feed Barley

Tunisia's state grain agency, ODC, has announced an international tender to purchase 50,000 tons of feed barley of any origin.

Bids will be accepted until February 12, with the tender scheduled to take place the same day. The volume will be split into two consignments of 25,000 tons, with delivery planned between March 15 and April 20, 2026.[3]

Market Questions Grow Over Reliability of USDA Crop Data After Corn Estimate Revision

The credibility of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) statistics is coming under increased scrutiny following a sharp upward revision to its corn harvest estimates, Reuters reported.

The unexpected adjustment has prompted the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) to launch an internal review of its data collection and reporting procedures. Former Deputy Secretary Spiro Stefanou said staffing reductions at the Farm Service Agency have disrupted the processing of planting data and delayed its transfer to NASS, undermining the accuracy of official estimates.

In January, the USDA raised its corn harvested area forecast to 91.3 million acres, up 1.3% from the previous estimate and 5.2% above June figures. The revision significantly boosted production projections and triggered a 5.4% drop in corn futures, catching markets off guard. Analysts noted that revisions of this magnitude between summer and final estimates are highly unusual.

Concerns have been compounded by workforce reductions across the department. Thousands of employees reportedly left the USDA last year as part of broader federal downsizing efforts, with experts warning that the loss of staff has materially weakened the agency's capacity to deliver timely and reliable agricultural data.[6]

Cargill Sees Growth in China's Rapeseed Crushing and Vegetable Oil Demand in 2026

Cargill Investments (China) Ltd. expects China's rapeseed crushing volumes to rise to 3.4 million tonnes by 2026, with potential to reach 4 million tonnes, company representatives said at an industry conference in Kuala Lumpur.

Ryan Chen, Director of China Import and Export at Cargill Investments, noted that soybean crushing may edge lower this year, as supplies of alternative protein products are projected to increase compared with 2025.

China's combined demand for soybean, rapeseed, palm and sunflower oils is forecast to grow by around 1% year-on-year in 2026. Imports of palm olein are expected to climb to 3 million tonnes in 2026, up from 2.7 million tonnes in 2025, while total demand for palm-based products currently stands at approximately 7.2 million tonnes.

Consumption of cooking oil used by the food service sector surged 21% year-on-year in 2025, driven by a favorable price spread versus palm olein. This segment is projected to expand by a further 8% in 2026.

Demand for hydrogenated palm oil, used across food and industrial applications, jumped 50% in 2025 and is expected to grow by another 5–6% this year. Meanwhile, imports of palm fatty acids are forecast to reach 420,000 tonnes, following a 335% year-on-year increase in 2025, as China seeks to offset shortages of palm acid oil and mill wastewater.

Cargill also anticipates China's bioenergy feedstock exports to rise 5.2% year-on-year to 4.9 million tonnes in 2026, supported mainly by hydrotreated vegetable oils and sustainable aviation fuel.

China's soybean oil exports surged 340% in 2025 to 560,000 tonnes, with India and South Korea as the main destinations. However, exports are projected to fall to around 260,000 tonnes in 2026, amid increased competition from new South American supplies.[1]

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