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Russia Boosts Wheat Exports to Georgia by 21% in January Despite Monthly Decline

Russia increased its wheat exports to Georgia in January, with import values rising by 21% compared to the same month last year, according to calculations by RIA Novosti based on data from Georgia's national statistical service.

The total value of Georgia's wheat imports from Russia reached $5.7 million during the month. However, on a month-to-month basis, supply volumes dropped sharply, decreasing by nearly 1.9 times compared to December levels.

Meanwhile, Russian buckwheat exports to Georgia saw a significant decline, falling by half year-on-year.

Russia maintained its position as Georgia's leading wheat supplier in January. In addition to Russian shipments, Georgia also imported wheat from Kazakhstan worth $1.3 million and from Turkey totaling approximately $3,600. ksm

Early Spring Expected in Central Russia as Snowmelt Begins in Mid-March

Spring is set to arrive earlier than usual in Central Russia in 2026, with snow expected to begin melting by mid-March, meteorologists said.

In comments to RIA Novosti, Nikolay Tereshonok, head of the meteorology and climate department at the central administration for hydrometeorology and environmental monitoring, said long-term forecasts indicate that average daily temperatures will steadily rise above freezing by the middle of March.

However, the complete disappearance of the winter snow cover is projected only by the end of March. Sustained warmer weather — with temperatures consistently exceeding +5°C — is expected to settle over central Russia around mid-April, marking the full transition to spring conditions.ksm

Russia Signals Readiness to Expand Agricultural Exports to Madagascar

Russia is prepared to boost exports of agricultural products to Madagascar, including poultry and grain supplies, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation said following talks between Agriculture Minister Oksana Lut and Madagascar's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Jose Rasatirimanana.

According to the ministry, Moscow considers Madagascar an important regional partner. While the island nation exports tropical fruits, cocoa beans, cloves and vanilla to Russia, Moscow is ready to expand shipments of domestically produced goods, particularly poultry and grain.

Trade in mineral fertilizers was also highlighted as a promising area of cooperation. The Russian side noted strong potential for increasing fertilizer supplies to the Malagasy market, as reported by TASS.

In addition, Russia expressed its willingness to share scientific and technical expertise, especially in breeding and seed production. This includes the possible supply of Russian rice varieties and hybrids adapted to Madagascar's climate conditions. ksm

Russia Keeps Wheat Export Duty at Zero for Late February–Early March

Russia will maintain a zero export duty on wheat from February 23 to March 3, with rates for barley and corn also remaining at zero during the same period.

The duty levels are calculated based on updated indicative prices per tonne, which currently stand at $229.9 for wheat (up from $228), $231.4 for barley (unchanged), and $207 for corn (previously $198.6).

Flexible export duties on wheat, barley and corn were introduced in 2021 as part of the grain damper mechanism. The duty is set at 70% of the difference between the indicative price and the base price. Indicative prices are determined using export contracts registered on the Moscow Exchange. expert

IGC Raises Russia's 2025–26 Wheat Export Forecast to 44.4 Million Tons

The International Grains Council (IGC) has increased its forecast for Russian wheat exports in the 2025–2026 agricultural season to 44.4 million tons, up from 44.2 million tons projected in its January report.

The council left its estimate for Russia's wheat harvest unchanged at 87.6 million tons. However, the outlook for total grain production was slightly revised upward to 126.8 million tons, compared to the previous estimate of 126.5 million tons.

At the same time, the IGC lowered its forecast for Russia's overall grain export potential to 51.1 million tons, down from 51.8 million tons in January.

Globally, grain production in the 2025–2026 season is expected to reach 2.46 billion tons — 1 million tons below the earlier estimate, though still a record level and 6% higher year-on-year. The downward adjustment reflects revised data on barley output.

Preliminary projections also suggest that the 2026–2027 season could see a decline in wheat production alongside continued growth in global consumption.expert

IGC Grain and Oilseed Price Index Climbs 4% to 223 Points

The International Grains Council (IGC) has raised its grain and oilseed price index by 4% compared to its January estimate, bringing the indicator to 223 points.

The increase was driven primarily by a 7.6% rise in the soybean sub-index and a 4.1% gain in the barley sub-index, according to the council's latest grain market report released on February 19.

In the same report, the IGC projected global soybean production at 428 million tons, down slightly — by 1 million ton — from last season's record harvest. Forecasts for wheat, corn and rice production were left unchanged. Rus grain

Russia's Agricultural Exports May Reach $43.5 Billion in 2026 Amid Strong Harvest Outlook

Russia's agricultural exports could rise to $43.5 billion in 2026 under an optimistic forecast, according to the Industry Expertise Center of Rosselkhozbank. Export volumes are projected to exceed 90 million tons next year, reflecting continued growth in the sector.

In 2025, Russia exported agricultural products valued at $40.9 billion, setting a solid base for further expansion.

A key factor behind the projected growth is the size of the upcoming harvest. Under the optimistic scenario, Russia's grain production is expected to range between 148 million and 154 million tons, supported by improved yields and the recovery of sown areas. The baseline forecast places the grain harvest between 139 million and 148 million tons.

The agricultural sector has been assigned a long-term objective of boosting exports to $55 billion by 2030, highlighting the government's strategic focus on expanding its global agri-food footprint. Rus Grain

Feed Barley Prices Edge Higher in Ukraine Amid Tight Supply

Feed barley prices in Ukraine increased slightly this week, according to APK-Inform.

The upward movement is attributed to limited supply on the domestic market, firm pricing trends in the export segment, and sustained demand from traders. Market participants continued to secure additional volumes by fixing maximum bid prices.

As of February 20, bid prices for feed barley rose by 100 UAH per ton, reaching 9,100–10,300 UAH/ton CPT. The highest price levels were traditionally observed in the southern regions of the country.apk

Ukraine’s Grain Exports Down 25% in 2025/26 Season as of February 20

Ukraine exported approximately 21.2 million tons of grain and leguminous crops in the 2025/26 marketing year as of February 20, marking a decline of 7 million tons, or 25%, compared to the same period last season, according to data from the State Customs Service of Ukraine.

Wheat exports totaled 8.8 million tons, down 2.9 million tons, or 25%, year-on-year. Barley shipments exceeded 1.35 million tons, representing a 36% decrease compared to the same date last season.

Rye exports amounted to just 0.2 thousand tons, ten times lower than the 10.8 thousand tons exported a year earlier.

Corn exports reached 10.7 million tons, a 23% decline from last season’s level. Meanwhile, flour exports stood at 41.8 thousand tons, down 14% year-on-year.web

Kazakhstan’s Grain Exports Rise Nearly 20% in First Half of 2025/26 Season

Kazakhstan exported 6.4 million tons of grain from its 2025 harvest between September and February 19, marking a 19.7% increase compared to 5.4 million tons shipped during the same period of the 2024/25 marketing year, the Ministry of Agriculture of Kazakhstan reported, citing data from Kazakhstan Temir Zholy.

The expansion in exports was supported by stronger trade flows to traditional markets across Central Asia and neighboring countries.

Shipments to Uzbekistan surged by 46%, rising from 2 million tons to 3 million tons. Exports to Kyrgyzstan increased 1.7-fold, from 104,000 tons to 180,000 tons, while deliveries to Afghanistan climbed 1.9 times, from 236,000 tons to 466,000 tons.apk

Ukraine and Germany Launch New Phase of Agro-Policy Dialogue to Align with EU Standards

Ukraine and Germany have outlined an action plan under a new phase of the German-Ukrainian Agro-Policy Dialogue project, aimed at accelerating the alignment of Ukraine's agricultural policy with European Union standards.

The initiative was discussed during a meeting between Deputy Minister of Economy, Environment and Agriculture of Ukraine Denys Bashlyk and Yvonne Gall, the newly appointed agricultural attaché of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian ministry's press service.

The parties agreed to enhance expert support for implementing European approaches to agricultural policymaking. Kyiv proposed involving German research institutions, including the Thünen Institute (Johann Heinrich von Thünen-Institut), in training ministry specialists in agricultural market analysis, statistics and evidence-based policy development in line with EU practices.

Particular focus will be placed on adopting key European regulations and instruments. These include the implementation of the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Products (EUDR), designed to ensure transparent supply chains and facilitate Ukrainian access to the EU market, as well as preparations for integration into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Planned steps include establishing a Paying Agency, developing the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS), and introducing strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures consistent with EU requirements.

According to Bashlyk, implementing European regulations is not merely a formal step but a mechanism for comprehensive modernization of Ukraine's agricultural sector. He noted that clearer rules, higher environmental and quality standards, and digital management tools would provide producers with stable access to the EU market and broaden export opportunities, including access to European financial support instruments.

The sides also discussed coordination of humanitarian food initiatives, including Grain from Ukraine and Food from Ukraine, which aim to strengthen Ukraine's role in ensuring global food security. web

Bangladesh Emerges as Strategic Wheat Battleground After New US Trade Deal

Bangladesh could become a key arena of competition in the global wheat market following a new bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Bangladesh signed in mid-February.

The agreement is expected to boost planned purchases of US agricultural products by approximately $3.5 billion and significantly ease market access barriers for American exporters. Preferential access will cover a broad range of products, including wheat, corn, soybeans, cotton, dairy goods, beef, poultry and nuts, according to industry reports.

The deal also provides duty-free access for certain Bangladeshi garment exports made with American cotton and textiles, further integrating Bangladesh's apparel industry with US agricultural and industrial supply chains.

Wheat Trade in Focus

The new arrangement builds on earlier wheat agreements. Bangladesh previously committed to purchasing 700,000 metric tons of American wheat over five years and has nearly fulfilled that pledge ahead of schedule, importing 676,000 tons as of January 29.

For US producers, Bangladesh's large population and steadily growing food demand make it an attractive long-term growth market.

Implications for Russian Exports

The development raises questions about the future of Russian wheat exports to Bangladesh. According to Agroexport, Russia shipped 3.9 million tons of wheat to Bangladesh in 2024, making it the third-largest destination for Russian wheat that year.

Meanwhile, projections from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicate record-low wheat opening stocks in Bangladesh for the 2025/26 season at 0.8 million tons, down from 1.3 million tons a year earlier. Domestic consumption is forecast to rise to 7.7 million tons, up 0.3 million tons year-on-year, while imports could increase by 0.9 million tons to 6.7 million tons.

On the surface, rising import demand appears positive for Russian exporters. However, competition is intensifying.

Growing Competitive Pressure

Beyond Russia, Ukraine and Canada remain major suppliers, delivering 1.2 million and 1.1 million tons respectively in 2024. According to Statistics Canada, Canada's wheat production in 2025/26 is projected to reach a record 40 million tons, 4.1 million tons higher than the previous season.

With domestic consumption declining, Canadian exports have already risen 8% year-on-year in the current marketing season.

The arrival of a more assertive US presence — backed by preferential trade terms — could significantly reshape competition in Bangladesh. Additional suppliers such as Australia and Argentina are also expected to seek greater market share amid rising demand.

As Bangladesh's wheat import needs expand, the market is likely to become increasingly contested, turning the country into a strategic battleground among the world's leading grain exporters.world

China Turns to Argentina for Wheat Imports in Bid to Diversify Supply

China has begun importing wheat from Argentina, expanding the geography of its grain purchases and reducing reliance on traditional suppliers. Until recently, more than 70% of Chinese wheat imports came from Canada and Australia, but South America is now entering the supply mix.

According to data from Signal Ocean, approximately 107,000 tons of Argentine wheat are scheduled for shipment to China in the coming weeks. These will be the first deliveries following Beijing's update of quarantine and registration requirements for Argentine suppliers.

The largest cargo — about 65,000 tons — is set to be loaded at the port of Timbúes under a program managed by the state-owned corporation COFCO. Two additional shipments of 20,000 tons and 22,000 tons will depart from the port of Bahía Blanca with the participation of Cargill.

The new trade flow has been enabled by Argentina's record wheat harvest in the 2025/26 season, estimated at 27.5–27.8 million tons, with export potential of around 17.5 million tons.

Although China remains the world's largest wheat producer, imports play a key role in balancing domestic supply and demand. In recent years, annual purchases have fluctuated between 6 million and more than 12 million tons, depending on harvest size and price conditions. Expanding cooperation with Argentina is expected to enhance supply stability and strengthen food security.

From a logistics standpoint, the new shipments are unlikely to immediately alter China's overall import structure, where around 70% of volumes are transported by Panamax vessels and roughly 20% by Supramax. However, the Argentine route presents specific challenges, including reliance on the Paraná–Paraguay river system and draft limitations at certain ports, which may influence cargo sizes and vessel selection.

Analysts say the entry of Argentine wheat into the Chinese market signals intensifying competition among global exporters. Nevertheless, the broader balance of world trade is unlikely to shift significantly in the near term, as future dynamics will depend on harvest outcomes, pricing trends and Beijing's long-term diversification strategy.

USDA: U.S. Farmers to Shift Toward Soybeans in 2026 as Corn Area Declines

American farmers are expected to plant more soybeans and fewer acres of corn in 2026 compared to last year, according to projections from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Despite the acreage shift, total production of both crops could rank as the second highest on record, Reuters reported.

The USDA forecasts corn plantings at 94 million acres, down from 98.8 million acres in 2025 — the highest level in 89 years. Soybean acreage, meanwhile, is projected to increase from 81.2 million to 85 million acres.

Market Pressures Shape Planting Decisions

Farmers are facing challenging conditions amid global oversupply, weak commodity prices and rising input costs, including seeds and fertilizers. Farm income is projected to decline by 0.7% this year, even as government payments — expected to account for nearly 29% of producers' revenues — approach near-record levels.

In the Midwest, where crop rotation between corn and soybeans is standard practice, some growers may deviate from traditional patterns if profit opportunities shift.

Low corn prices and large stockpiles following a record 2025 harvest were expected to discourage acreage expansion. However, solid demand from exporters and biofuel producers is seen as preventing a sharper decline.

Soybeans Supported by Domestic Demand

The expansion in soybean acreage comes despite ongoing trade tensions with China and intensified competition from Brazil, which is harvesting a record crop. Strong domestic demand for soybean oil from renewable fuel producers has helped support prices.

Assuming normal weather conditions, the USDA projects the 2026 corn harvest at 15.755 billion bushels and the soybean crop at 4.450 billion bushels.

By the end of the 2026/27 marketing year on August 31, 2027, U.S. corn stocks are forecast at 1.837 billion bushels, below the seven-year high of 2.127 billion bushels. Soybean stocks are expected to rise slightly, from 350 million to 355 million bushels.

Corn exports in 2026/27 are projected at 3.1 billion bushels, down 200 million bushels year-on-year due to stronger competition from South American suppliers. In contrast, soybean exports are expected to increase by 125 million bushels to a two-year high of 1.7 billion bushels. Domestic soybean processing demand is forecast to reach a record 2.655 billion bushels.

U.S. wheat stocks are projected at 933 million bushels by the end of 2026/27, nearly unchanged from the previous season, as weaker exports — amid record harvests in Argentina and Australia — offset lower domestic production. Wheat exports are forecast at 850 million bushels, 50 million below the current season's level.

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