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Global Flour Trade Reshapes as Russian Exports Fall and Turkey Holds Lead

Flour exports from Russia declined sharply in 2025 after three consecutive years of strong growth, reflecting currency movements, changing export duties, and shifts in global demand. According to industry data, Russian flour shipments abroad are expected to total around 600,000 tons in 2025, down significantly from the record 1.19 million tons exported in 2024.

Prior to 2022, Russian flour exports remained relatively modest, averaging between 200,000 and 260,000 tons annually. However, a weaker ruble and grain export restrictions boosted flour shipments dramatically, peaking over the past three years. In 2025, a strengthening ruble and reduced grain export duties weakened export competitiveness, slowing overseas deliveries and reshaping buyer geography.

One major factor was the collapse in demand from Afghanistan, which had accounted for more than one-third of Russian flour exports in 2024 but reduced purchases fivefold in 2025. As a result, new leading destinations emerged, including Turkmenistan, Iraq, and China, while exports to Armenia also increased.

Globally, wheat flour exports exceed 12.3 million tons annually, valued at more than $6.3 billion. Turkey remains a dominant player, holding roughly 20% of the global market. Nevertheless, Turkish flour exports also declined in the past year, falling 22.5% to approximately 2.345 million tons, worth $873.2 million.

Despite lower volumes, Turkish exporters maintained strong pricing power. Data from the Turkish Flour Producers' Federation (TUSAF) shows that average export prices rose to $373 per ton, supported by sustained demand for premium and semi-premium flour products.

According to Milling Middle East & Africa, Syria emerged as a key growth market for Turkish flour, with imports reaching nearly 630,000 tons last year. Turkish exporters also expanded shipments to emerging markets such as Ghana, Somalia, Cuba, and Indonesia, highlighting their logistical flexibility and competitive positioning.

Looking ahead, Turkish millers aim to increase exports to 3 million tons by 2026, reinforcing their leadership despite intensifying global competition and shifting trade conditions. [4]

Grain Producer Profitability in Rostov Region Falls to Zero in 2025

Grain producers in the Rostov region have seen profitability collapse to near zero in 2025, according to Anatoly Kolchik, head of the regional grain union, in comments to Vedomosti Yug.

A substantial number of farms have reported financial losses ranging from 10,000 to 20,000 rubles per hectare, underscoring mounting pressure on the sector.

The downturn marks a sharp reversal from previous years. Profitability in grain production reached 15.9% at the end of 2023 but dropped to 8% in 2024 before deteriorating further this year.

Industry representatives warn that recovery will be challenging. Farmers in the region have faced two consecutive years of drought and recurring spring frosts, severely affecting yields. At the same time, rising costs for fuel and fertilizers, combined with stagnant or weaker grain prices, have deepened the imbalance between input expenses and farm revenues.

Producers caution that without structural adjustments or support measures, financial strain in one of Russia's key agricultural regions may persist. [6]

Russia Sets Record in Lentil Exports in 2025

Russia set a new record for lentil exports in 2025, with overseas shipments reaching 300,000 tons valued at $183 million. The results mark the highest export volume in the country's history for this product.

Exports remained highly concentrated, with the top five importing countries accounting for 89% of total deliveries.

The leading buyer was Turkey, which imported 175,000 tons — a 79% increase compared to 2024. Other major destinations included:

- **Iran** — 38,000 tons (-6%)
- **Egypt** — 32,000 tons (+71%)
- **India** — 18,000 tons (+68%)
- **United Arab Emirates** — 18,000 tons (-31%)

Early 2026 data indicates continued positive momentum, with approximately 22,000 tons exported in the first period of the year. The main destinations remain Turkey, India, and Afghanistan.

According to data published by Agroexport, the figures confirm Russia's strengthening position in the global lentil market. [5]

Russia Wheat Export Pace Expected to Accelerate After February Slowdown

Russia's wheat exports are projected to reach approximately 3.5 million tons in March 2026, supported by stronger export pricing and delayed shipments carried over from February, according to market analysis from Russagrotrans.

Export prices for Russian wheat with 12.5% protein for March delivery increased slightly to $234 per ton FOB, up $1 week-on-week. However, competing origins recorded sharper gains, with French wheat rising to $240 per ton, Romanian wheat to $238.5 per ton, U.S. wheat to $247 per ton, and Ukrainian wheat (11.5% protein) reaching $230 per ton.

Russian barley export prices remained stable at around $242 per ton FOB. Wheat futures reached their highest levels in five to seven months last week before showing signs of correction.

Domestic prices also strengthened. In deep-water ports, wheat prices for road delivery rose to 15,500–15,800 rubles per ton excluding VAT, up 200 rubles week-on-week. Rail delivery prices remained steady at 15,800–16,200 rubles per ton.

Weather conditions have improved soil moisture levels across key agricultural regions, including Krasnodar region, Stavropol region, and Rostov region, supporting favorable prospects for winter crop development.

Meanwhile, the February 2026 wheat export forecast was revised downward by 400,000 tons to 3 million tons due to adverse weather conditions affecting port loading operations. Between February 1 and 24, total shipments reached 2.4 million tons.

The expected rebound in March exports reflects both improving logistics and the rollover of delayed February volumes, signaling continued strong global demand for Russian wheat. [7]

Russian Oilseed Meal Export Geography Shifts Toward Eastern Markets

Russia has significantly shifted the geography of its oilseed meal exports over the past three years, with Asian and neighboring countries sharply increasing their share of total shipments, according to data from Agroexport.

In the first five months of the 2025/26 agricultural season, exports of sunflower, soybean, rapeseed, and flaxseed meal reached approximately 1.5 million tons, broadly in line with the same period last year.

Export geography shifts toward Asia and neighboring markets

The most notable trend has been the rapid growth in shipments to Asian and neighboring countries, whose combined share rose from 30% in the 2022/23 season to more than 66% in the current marketing year.

The Middle East has maintained a stable position, accounting for around 24% of exports over the past three years.

In contrast, exports to the European Union declined significantly following the introduction of protective import duties on Russian agricultural products.

Meanwhile, North Africa has emerged as a new growth destination. While Russian meal exports to the region were negligible just a few years ago, shipments to countries such as Morocco and Egypt are now being recorded, raising the region’s share to approximately 2%. Analysts note substantial potential for further expansion across African markets.

Strong supply supports future export growth

Looking ahead, exports of rapeseed and soybean meal are expected to increase further, supported by abundant oilseed supplies following Russia's record harvest in 2025.

Key buyers of these products include China, Belarus, Turkey, and Kazakhstan, reflecting Russia's growing orientation toward regional and Asian markets. [4]

Russia to Raise Sunflower Oil Export Duty by 2% in March

Russia will raise the export duty on sunflower oil by 2% in March, bringing the rate to 9,687 rubles per ton, according to Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation. The current duty stands at 9,495 rubles per ton.

Meanwhile, the export duty on sunflower meal will remain unchanged at zero for the third consecutive month, reflecting continued government support for meal exports. [6]

Ukraine's Agricultural Trade with EU Declines After 2024 Record

Foreign trade turnover in agricultural and food products between Ukraine and the European Union decreased by 9% in 2025 compared to the record $17.2 billion achieved in 2024, totaling $15.7 billion.

The decline was primarily driven by a reduction in Ukrainian agricultural exports to EU member states, which also led to a narrowing of the trade surplus. Although the balance remained positive for Ukraine, it fell to $5.9 billion.

The figures were released by the National Scientific Center Institute of Agrarian Economics. According to Deputy Director Mykola Pugachev, the leading European trade partners last year were Poland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, France, Romania, and Belgium. Together, these countries accounted for nearly 80% of Ukraine's total agri-food trade with the EU.

Imports from the EU Increase

In 2025, Ukraine imported agricultural products from EU member states worth approximately $4.9 billion, nearly 15% more than in 2024.

Unlike exports, imports did not demonstrate a clearly defined structure, though several product categories stood out. The largest share was spent on alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages ($514 million), followed by various food products and extracts ($429 million), animal feed and residues ($397 million), cocoa and chocolate products ($394 million), and tobacco products ($384 million).

Dairy products accounted for 6.6% of total agri-food imports from the EU, reaching $324 million — 17% higher than the previous year. Cheese remained the dominant item within this category, with purchases totaling $270 million. Imports of processed grain products amounted to $304 million.

Overall, these product groups represented 56% of Ukraine's total food imports from the EU in 2025.

According to projections by the Institute's analysts, EU countries are expected to maintain their leading position in Ukraine's regional food import structure in 2026. [1]

Ukraine: Millet Purchase Prices in Ports Rise Sharply Amid Tight Supply

Purchase prices for millet in Ukrainian ports have increased significantly since the beginning of 2026, reflecting tightening supply conditions in the domestic market.

According to monitoring data from APK-Inform, maximum bid prices for millet have risen by UAH 2,000 per ton compared to levels observed at the end of last year.

Market participants attribute the upward price movement primarily to a seasonal reduction in available stocks among agricultural producers and traders. As the marketing year progresses, on-farm inventories traditionally decline, limiting the volume of grain offered for sale and strengthening sellers' price positions.

Traders operating in port areas report increased competition for remaining high-quality batches, particularly those meeting export specifications. While overall trading activity remains moderate, limited supply has provided clear support to price levels.

Analysts note that further price dynamics will depend on the pace of stock depletion, farmer selling activity, and demand from export markets. If supply remains constrained in the coming weeks, the upward trend in millet prices could continue. [2]

Jordan Seeks 120,000 Tons of Feed Barley in Fresh Tender

On February 25, Jordan canceled a previously announced international tender for the purchase of 120,000 tons of feed barley, according to market sources. No purchases were made under the initial procedure.

Following the cancellation, the country's state procurement authority promptly issued a new tender for the same volume — up to 120,000 tons of barley. The deadline for submitting price offers has been set for March 4.

Grain deliveries under the renewed tender are scheduled for June–July shipment.

Traders note that the decision to relaunch the tender may reflect dissatisfaction with the price levels or other commercial terms offered in the previous round. Market participants will closely monitor the outcome of the new bidding process, as it may provide further signals on price trends in the regional feed grain market.[1]

Saudi Arabia Issues Tender to Buy 655,000 Tons of Wheat

Saudi Arabia has announced an international tender to purchase 655,000 metric tons of wheat, according to the kingdom's General Food Security Authority (GFSA).

The wheat is scheduled for delivery between May and July. Market sources reported that price offers must be submitted by February 27, with the results expected to be announced on March 2.

Traders indicated that the tender covers 11 separate shipments distributed across four ports. The GFSA is seeking one vessel for Jazan, three for Dammam, three for Yanbu, and four for Jeddah.

In detail, up to 240,000 tons are requested for Jeddah for shipment between May 1 and July 15. Yanbu is expected to receive 180,000 tons between May 15 and June 30, while Dammam is set to take 180,000 tons between May 1 and July 15. A further 55,000 tons is planned for Jazan, with arrival targeted for June 1–15.

Shipments to Jeddah, Dammam, and Yanbu are structured in consignments of 60,000 tons each. Traders also noted that the final purchase volume could exceed the announced 655,000 tons.

In its previous tender held on January 19, the GFSA secured approximately 907,000 tons of hard wheat, highlighting the kingdom's active procurement strategy to maintain strategic grain reserves.[3]

First Argentine Sunflower Shipment Arrives in Bulgaria, 10 Vessels Planned

The first vessel carrying Argentine sunflower seeds has arrived at Port of Varna-West, marking the beginning of a planned series of imports, according to Agroportal.bg.

The vessel, m/v CRATER, delivered approximately 40,000 tons of oilseeds. Another shipment is expected within the coming week. In total, around 10 vessels are scheduled to arrive, with combined deliveries projected at roughly 400,000 tons of sunflower.

Market participants view this initial import as a significant development. The move is seen as a turning point, with traders praised for taking what industry observers describe as a bold step capable of reshaping current market dynamics.

The inflow of Argentine sunflower is expected to influence domestic price levels and secure additional raw material supplies for regional processing plants, potentially easing pressure on the local oilseed market. [1]

Indonesia May Struggle to Fulfill Expanded U.S. Grain and Soy Deal

Indonesia could face significant challenges in fulfilling its commitments to sharply increase imports of U.S. agricultural products under a newly concluded trade agreement, traders told Reuters.

Under the deal finalized last week, U.S. tariffs on Indonesian goods were reduced from 32% to 19%, while key exports such as palm oil, cocoa and rubber were exempted from import duties. In exchange, Indonesia pledged to substantially raise its annual purchases of American farm commodities.

The agreement includes boosting wheat imports from the United States to 2 million tons per year, up from 1.1 million tons last year, increasing soybean purchases to 3.5 million tons from 2.2 million tons, and expanding soybean meal imports to 3.8 million tons from just over 216,000 tons.

Market participants say the wheat target appears more achievable. According to one international grain trader, Indonesian mills have already increased U.S. wheat purchases to 1.1 million tons in 2025, compared with 750,000 tons a year earlier. However, he estimated that imports may only reach 1.25–1.3 million tons in 2026 — still below the new commitment.

The soybean pledge presents additional complications. Indonesia already sources most of its soybeans from the United States to satisfy growing demand for tofu and tempeh, but the new 3.5 million-ton target exceeds the country's typical annual consumption. Data from the Indonesian Soybean Importers Association indicate that national soybean demand stands at around 2.7–2.9 million tons per year, almost entirely met through imports.

Industry representatives have cautioned that import targets should be aligned with domestic demand to avoid oversupply and market imbalances.

The most ambitious increase concerns soybean meal. In 2025, Indonesia imported roughly 216,000 tons of U.S. soybean meal — about 50% more than the previous year — but far short of the 3.8 million tons pledged under the agreement.

Traders suggest that to meet these expanded obligations, the government may rely on the state-owned company Berdikari, recently authorized to purchase animal feed, to secure additional volumes even if U.S. supplies are priced above competing origins.[1]

Rapid Growth: China Increases Soybean Meal Imports from Russia

China Increases Soybean Meal Imports from Russia More Than Sevenfold

China sharply increased its imports of soybean meal from Russia in 2025, highlighting strengthening trade ties in the oilseed processing segment.

According to data from the expert-analytical center “AB-Center,” shipments reached 25,500 tons last year, compared to just 3,500 tons in 2024 — an increase of more than seven times.

China’s total soybean meal imports from all supplier countries amounted to 85,800 tons in 2025, representing a 2.7-fold rise year-on-year. Analysts at AB-Center noted that while absolute volumes remain relatively modest, the pace of growth is significant.

Production Trends in Russia

Data from Oleoscope indicate that overall vegetable meal production in Russia declined by 2% in 2025, falling from 14.747 million tons to 14.418 million tons.

However, the soybean segment demonstrated resilience. Soybean meal production increased by 2%, reaching 4.748 million tons. For the first time, soybean meal accounted for more than one-third of Russia’s total vegetable meal output.

Market observers suggest that continued expansion of soybean processing capacity and growing demand from Asian markets may further strengthen Russia’s position in this segment.[6]

U.S. Wheat Futures Slip While Corn and Soybeans Advance on February 25

Grain markets showed mixed performance on Wednesday, February 25, with winter wheat futures edging lower while corn and soybeans closed in positive territory on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT).

May soft red winter wheat futures fell to $209.34 per ton. Hard red winter wheat contracts in Kansas City also declined, while spring wheat futures in Minneapolis posted gains ahead of the close.

In daily trading, March SRW wheat in Chicago settled at $5.65 3/4 per bushel, down 1 3/4 cents, while May contracts lost 3 1/2 cents to close at $5.69 3/4. Kansas City HRW March futures dropped 1 3/4 cents to $5.52 1/2, with May down 2 3/4 cents at $5.64 1/4. In contrast, March MGEX spring wheat rose 4 cents to $5.84 1/2, and May gained 1 1/2 cents to $5.97.

Market participants are awaiting weekly U.S. export sales data for the week ended February 19, due Thursday. Traders expect old-crop wheat sales to range between 250,000 and 500,000 tons, while new-crop sales are projected at up to 50,000 tons.

Internationally, Algeria reportedly purchased around 600,000 tons of wheat in a recent tender. Meanwhile, analytical firm RadEcon trimmed its forecast for Russian wheat exports in the 2025/26 season by 0.3 million tons to 45.4 million tons, but raised its outlook for the following season by 2.1 million tons to 41.7 million tons.

Corn futures advanced during Wednesday's session. March corn settled at $4.30 1/2 per bushel, up 2 3/4 cents, while May gained 3 1/2 cents to $4.42. July contracts also closed higher.

According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. ethanol production averaged 1.113 million barrels per day in the week ending February 20, slightly below the previous week. Ethanol stocks rose to 25.646 million barrels, while exports declined modestly.

Export sales data for U.S. corn, also due Thursday, are expected to show old-crop sales between 0.9 and 1.8 million tons. In Asia, Taiwan purchased 65,000 tons of corn in a tender, reportedly sourced from the United States.

Soybean futures strengthened, supported by firm soybean meal prices. March soybeans closed at $11.48 1/4 per bushel, up 8 cents, while May rose 9 cents to $11.65. Dry weather forecasts in Argentina as the soybean crop approaches the end of its growing season lent additional support to the market.

Traders are also monitoring upcoming biofuel blending requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), expected to be submitted this week for review.

In Europe, wheat futures on Euronext (MATIF) declined again. March milling wheat settled at €193 per ton, while May futures closed at €196.50. Corn contracts showed mixed movement.

Overall, global grain markets remain sensitive to export demand, weather developments in South America, and policy signals from the United States.[1]

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