CSI DAILY NEWS

11.03.2026

Russian Wheat Prices Hit Seven-Month High as Export Pace Accelerates

Russian wheat prices have climbed to their highest level in seven months, while export shipments are gaining momentum.

According to analysts at SovEcon, Russian wheat exports in March are expected to reach 3.4–3.8 million tons, significantly above the 2.4 million tons shipped in the same month last year and higher than the average March volume of around 3.1 million tons.

Exports in February are estimated at about 2.9 million tons. Demand from international buyers continues to strengthen, although Russian farmers are holding back sales in anticipation of further price increases, temporarily tightening supply on the domestic market.

Despite this cautious selling, grain inventories in Russia remain at historically high levels.

According to SovEcon's monitoring, FOB prices for Russian wheat increased by $0.5 over the past week to $234–236 per ton, marking the highest level since August, when prices reached $238 per ton FOB. [4]

Russian Exporters Seek New Markets as North–South Corridor Slows

Shipments along the International North–South Transport Corridor have sharply declined after operations were effectively suspended on February 28, amid escalating military tensions involving the United States, Israel, and Iran.

According to industry sources, Russian exporters are currently fulfilling only previously agreed contracts, while actively searching for alternative markets in Africa and Latin America.

Analysts warn that the disruption could significantly increase logistics costs for Russian exporters. Longer delivery routes may raise transportation expenses by 20–30%, while delivery times to key markets such as India and Iran could increase from about 30 days to 45–60 days. This may reduce the profitability of exports including grain, metals, and petrochemical products.

Experts also note that only around 70% of cargo previously transported through the corridor can be redirected to alternative routes, potentially resulting in export revenue losses of $40–60 million per month.

Looking ahead, analysts expect a notable decline in cargo turnover on the route in 2026. Transshipment volumes could drop by at least 25%, although the final scale of the decline will largely depend on how long the regional conflict continues.[5]

Strong Demand Lifts Russian Wheat Exports and Prices

Russia's wheat exports in March could reach around 3.7 million tons, exceeding the five-year average of 2.9 million tons, according to estimates from the analytical center Russagrotrans.

In the first 10 days of March, approximately 1.2 million tons of wheat had already been shipped, indicating a strong start to the month.

Updated figures also show that Russian wheat exports totaled about 2.9 million tons in February, reflecting steady demand from international buyers.

Analysts at Russagrotrans note that the global wheat market continues to strengthen, partly supported by the escalating conflict in the Middle East, which has contributed to rising prices.

As a result, FOB prices for Russian wheat have increased to about $239 per ton, marking the highest level since August 2025.[4]

Russian Wheat Exports Seen Reaching 3.7 Million Tons in March

The global wheat market continued to strengthen between March 4 and March 11, 2026, according to data from the analytical center Rusagrotrans.

Market sentiment has been supported by ongoing tensions in the Middle East, which have increased uncertainty and encouraged importing countries to secure additional supplies.

Export prices for Russian wheat (12.5% protein) for March–April delivery rose to $239 per ton FOB, up $3 week-on-week and the highest level since August 2025. Offer prices are already above $240 per ton FOB.

Prices also strengthened across other key origins:

- France — $244/t FOB (+$1)
- United States — $258/t FOB (+$4)
- Ukraine (11.5% protein) — $235/t FOB (+$4.5)
- Romania — $241/t FOB (+$2.5)

Several importing countries have accelerated purchases amid the volatile market environment:

- Tunisia and Algeria bought around 300,000 tons of wheat
- Jordan purchased 50,000 tons of barley
- Turkey announced tenders for 175,000 tons of barley and 280,000 tons of corn

In Russia's domestic market, prices for 4th-class wheat (12.5% protein) in deep-water ports also increased.

- Road delivery: 16,300–16,450 rubles per ton (up 375 rubles week-on-week)
- Rail delivery: 16,000–16,400 rubles per ton (up 100 rubles)

Weather conditions in Russia are expected to remain warmer and drier than normal over the next two weeks, particularly in the Central and Volga Federal Districts. Temperatures are forecast to be 1–6°C above seasonal averages, which could lead to a gradual resumption of crop vegetation in southern parts of the Central Federal District.

In southern regions, temperatures may range between -1°C and +16°C, supporting active vegetation and the utilization of adequate soil moisture reserves. As conditions improve, sowing of early spring crops is expected to accelerate.

Export activity remains strong. Updated data show Russian wheat exports reached 2.9 million tons in February. Around 1.2 million tons were shipped in the first ten days of March, and the March export forecast has been raised to 3.7 million tons, compared with a five-year average of 2.9 million tons.[6]

USDA Cuts Russia's Wheat Export Forecast to 43.5 Million Tons

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has reduced its forecast for Russian wheat exports in the 2025/26 marketing year by 500,000 tons to 43.5 million tons in its latest March outlook.

In the same report, the USDA also revised export estimates for several other major suppliers:

- European Union — 30.5 million tons, down 1 million tons from the previous forecast.
- Argentina — 19 million tons, an increase of 1.5 million tons.

According to the USDA, the upward revision for Argentina reflects the country's strong competitiveness, as Argentine wheat remains among the lowest-priced supplies on the global market.

The USDA raised its global wheat production forecast slightly to 842.1 million tons, compared with 841.8 million tons projected in February. Meanwhile, the harvest outlook for Russia remains unchanged at 89.5 million tons.

Global wheat trade is now estimated at 221.6 million tons, about 200,000 tons higher than in the previous forecast.

Overall, the USDA expects global wheat consumption to reach 824.8 million tons, an increase of 700,000 tons from February and a new record level. [4]

Ukrainian Wheat Prices Rise at Odesa Ports Amid Strong Export Demand

According to analysts at APK-Inform, wheat prices at the Greater Odesa ports continued to move upward this week on a CPT-port basis.

The price increase was supported by higher FOB wheat prices, growing demand from exporters, and limited selling activity by farmers. Additional support came from the depreciation of the Ukrainian national currency against the U.S. dollar, which encouraged higher local price levels.

As of March 11, 2026, traders' bid prices for Class 2 milling wheat at the Greater Odesa ports were typically 10,600–11,000 UAH per ton CPT-port, representing an increase of 100–150 UAH per ton compared with the end of last week.

In U.S. dollar terms, bid prices have also strengthened and are mostly reported at $215–225 per ton CPT-port.

At the same time, some export-oriented companies have indicated slightly lower buying prices, citing a lack of immediate need to accumulate additional volumes after previously contracted shipments were secured. [2]

Ukrainian Oat Exports Collapse by 98% in Early 2026

According to monitoring by APK-Inform, Ukraine's oat exports dropped sharply in early 2026, falling by about 98%.

In January, the country exported 506 tons of oats, while shipments in February declined further to just 215 tons.

The sharp decrease is largely attributed to the suspension of purchases by Ukraine's main oat importers, particularly Turkey and India. In December 2025, these two markets accounted for the majority of Ukrainian oat exports, with Turkey representing 90.3% of shipments and India 4%.

Despite the significant drop in export activity, bid prices for oats have remained relatively stable. Since the beginning of 2026, prices have generally fluctuated within the range of 8,900–10,500 UAH per ton CPT-port.[2]

Kazakhstan Grain Exports Hit Record in 2025 Despite Early-February Dip

Kazakhstan recorded a noticeable slowdown in grain and processed product exports in early February, according to an analysis by the KazGrain.

Exporters noted that commercial and logistics services need to quickly determine the reasons behind the decline in order to restore the pace of shipments.

At the same time, January 2026 marked a record start to the year. Grain exports reached 1.45 million tons, representing a 38% increase compared with January 2025. Shipments of processed grain products also expanded significantly, totaling 229,000 tons, almost double the volume recorded a year earlier.

However, export activity slowed sharply in early February. During the first five days of the month, grain shipments amounted to 177,000 tons, which is 25% lower than the same period in 2025. Exports of processed products declined even more sharply, falling to 27,000 tons, a 42% year-on-year decrease. Market participants stress the need to address possible logistical or infrastructure constraints to restore normal export flows.

Overall, 2025 was a record year for Kazakhstan's grain exports. Total shipments increased by 31% to 14.2 million tons. In contrast, exports of processed products declined by 13% to 2.78 million tons, partly reflecting weaker domestic demand and changing import patterns in key markets.

Exporters also point to shifts in trade routes and destinations. The strongest growth in grain shipments was recorded to Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, as well as through transit routes toward Iran.

Meanwhile, exports to China dropped by more than half, largely due to logistical and macroeconomic factors. At the same time, deliveries to Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan are expanding rapidly, supported by growing demand for both grain and processed products.[1]

Middle East Conflict Triggers Food Shortages and Rising Prices Across the Region

The ongoing conflict in the Middle East is worsening food security in several countries, with residents in Lebanon, Iran, and the Gaza Strip facing food shortages, rising prices, and disruptions in supply chains. According to the United Nations, the hardest hit are displaced families and low-income households already struggling with high food costs, as reported by The New York Times.

In Lebanon, nearly 700,000 people have been displaced following an escalation in hostilities after rocket attacks by Hezbollah on northern Israel. Many residents fleeing the Dahiya area near Beirut report shortages of food, mattresses, and other basic necessities. Humanitarian organizations are providing at least one meal per day, but assistance remains insufficient to cover all needs.

In Iran, the conflict has intensified an already fragile economic situation, fueling food price inflation and increasing food insecurity. Limited access to foreign currency reserves may make it more difficult for the country to import essential food supplies. Residents report sharp price increases for staple foods such as eggs and bread, while some stores in Tehran are experiencing shortages.

The situation is also severe in the Gaza Strip. Border closures at the beginning of the conflict restricted humanitarian aid, worsening supply conditions. Although some crossings have since reopened, food prices remain elevated, forcing many residents to purchase only the most affordable products available.

The conflict is also affecting regional and global supply chains. Military tensions involving Iran have disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a key route for energy and agricultural inputs. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, around one-quarter of global fertilizer trade passes through the strait, meaning disruptions could lead to higher fertilizer, fuel, and ultimately food prices worldwide.

Experts warn that the full impact on agriculture and global food security may take several months to emerge, urging the international community to closely monitor developments and prepare additional support measures for affected regions.[1]

EU Grain Imports Drop 27% in 2025/26 Season

During the first 36 weeks of the 2025/26 marketing year, which began on July 1, 2025, EU countries imported around 16.9 million tons of grain and grain products, representing a 27% decline compared with the same period of the 2024/25 season. The data were reported by Zerno On-Line citing the European Commission.

CA Canada has become the largest supplier of wheat to the EU this season. Since the start of the marketing year, Canadian shipments to the bloc have included 1.01 million tons of soft wheat and 684,100 tons of durum wheat.

For other grains, the EU's import structure shows different leading suppliers. Barley imports mainly originate from the United Kingdom, which has delivered about 272,100 tons so far this season.

Corn imports are dominated by three major exporters:

- **Ukraine — 4.72 million tons**
- **United States — 3.59 million tons**
- **Brazil — 3.00 million tons**

These three suppliers account for the bulk of the EU's corn purchases during the current season.[1]

Product	Import (tons)	% Change vs Previous Season
Soft wheat	2,688,635	-55%
Soft wheat flour (grain equivalent)	141,861	-29%
Durum wheat	1,125,040	-14%
Wheat and flour, total	3,958,832	-47%
Barley	376,558	-57%
Malt (grain equivalent)	15,928	+5%
Corn	12,078,745	-18%
Sorghum	494,340	+3512%
Total grain	16,943,641	-27%

U.S. Soy Strengthens Presence in Poland's Feed Industry

The first major shipment of U.S. soybean meal to Poland since 2019 has arrived at the Port of Gdynia, marking the start of a procurement program valued at about $75 million, according to the U.S. Soybean Export Council.

The vessel M/V Archon delivered approximately 60,000 tons of soybean meal, which was purchased by the Polish subsidiary of Bunge.

According to USSEC, the shipment highlights the advantages of sustainably produced U.S. soybeans for Poland's expanding livestock and poultry sectors, which increasingly require reliable, high-quality protein feed ingredients.

The organization also noted that the cargo opens a new chapter of cooperation between U.S. soybean suppliers and Poland, potentially strengthening trade ties not only with Poland but also with the wider European Union feed and oilseed processing industries.

USSEC expressed optimism about the new partnership and said it expects further opportunities for cooperation with Polish and European feed manufacturers and oilseed processors in the future.[3]

China Becomes Top Buyer of Russian Vegetable Oils in 2025/26 SeasonTop of Form

China became the largest importer of Russian vegetable oils in the first half of the 2025/26 marketing year, according to calculations by the Agroexport center.

From September 2025 to February 2026, China imported almost 1 million tons of Russian vegetable oils, which is 16% more than in the same period of the previous season. The country returned to first place among buyers, overtaking India, which held the leading position around the middle of the previous marketing year.

The export volume to China during the first half of the current season is the second highest in the entire observation period, уступед only by the 1.2 million tons recorded in the first half of the 2023/24 season.

Analysts note that the growth was mainly driven by rising demand for Russian rapeseed oil in Asia. Shipments to China reached about 0.8 million tons, an increase of 19% year-on-year. This was partly due to reduced imports of canola from Canada amid a trade dispute with China, as well as slower deliveries of Australian oilseeds to Chinese processors.

At the same time, exports of sunflower, soybean and linseed oils from Russia to China in September–February of the 2025/26 marketing year remained generally in line with the levels of the same period a year earlier.

Another factor supporting China's rise among importers was the situation in the Black Sea region. Limited sunflower availability, stronger competition for raw materials among oil processors and slower crushing rates pushed FOB export prices to multi-year highs. This reduced purchasing interest from India and Turkey, which ranked second and third among the largest importers of Russian vegetable oils in the first half of the season.[3]

References:

1. www.ukragroconsult.com
2. www.apk-inform.com
3. Agroexport Telegram Channel
4. Agroexpert Telegram Channel
5. KSM Telegram Channel
6. Demetra Holding Telegram channel
7. Picture from www.commodity-board.com