

CSI DAILY NEWS



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Russia to Nearly Double Sunflower Oil Export Duty in April

Russia will sharply increase its export duty on sunflower oil in April, with the rate set to almost double month-on-month, according to materials published by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The duty will rise to 16,222.4 rubles per tonne in April from 9,687 rubles per tonne in March.

At the same time, Russia will also reintroduce an export duty on sunflower meal, setting the rate at 749.6 rubles per tonne after it remained at zero for the previous three consecutive months.

The sunflower oil duty was calculated based on an indicative price of \$1,270.9 per tonne, compared with \$1,258 per tonne used for March.³

Niche Oilseed Trends Shift in Russia as Flax and Safflower Grow

Interest in niche oilseed crops such as mustard and borage continued to weaken in Russia by the end of 2025, with both sown area and production declining sharply, according to data from Oleoscope analysts.

Sown areas under mustard fell by 32% year-on-year, while borage acreage dropped by 48%.

Mustard production has contracted significantly over the past three years, with the gross harvest falling from 315,000 tonnes to 96,000 tonnes, including a 17% decline recorded in 2025.

Borage output also declined last year, dropping by more than one-third from 15,000 tonnes to 9,000 tonnes.

In contrast, flax continued to show strong momentum. Production rose by 54% and exceeded 2 million tonnes.

Safflower also posted growth in 2025, with planted area increasing by 31% year-on-year to 154,000 hectares, while output rose by 33% year-on-year to 96,000 tonnes.⁵

Commodity auctions: results for 25.03.2026

Purchase

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 39, incl. VAT | 32,250 P/t | 500 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 38, incl. VAT | 31,750 ₺/t | 200 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 37, incl. VAT | 30,750 ₺/t | 1,200 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 40, incl. VAT | 33,750 ₺/t | 2,100 tons

Zakazchik No. 1 LLC

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,800 ₺/t | 620 tons

OZK Trading LLC

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,900 ₺/t | 600 tons

OZK Trading LLC

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,800 ₺/t | 3,000 tons ⁵

Russia Seeks Closer Monitoring of Agri Export Plans as 2030 Goal Looms

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrushev has instructed the Ministry of Agriculture to closely monitor the implementation of export plans for domestic agricultural products, according to a statement released by his office following a meeting on the development of agricultural exports.

During the meeting, Patrushev reiterated the export target set by President Vladimir Putin, under which Russia aims to increase agricultural exports by 50% from 2021 levels by 2030.

In value terms, the target exceeds \$55 billion.

Patrushev said meeting this goal will require coordinated efforts between government authorities and the business community.⁴

Food Wheat Prices in Greater Odesa Ports Continue to Rise

Food wheat prices in the ports of Greater Odesa continued to edge higher this week, with the market on a CPT port basis showing a firm upward trend, according to APK-Inform.

The increase has been supported by steady buyer demand and farmers' reluctance to sell large-volume lots while waiting for potentially higher prices. Earlier gains in FOB grain prices have also lent support to the market, alongside rising logistics costs.

As of March 25, 2026, bid prices for second-class milling wheat were most commonly reported at \$217-227 per tonne CPT port, up by \$1-2 per tonne compared with the end of last week.

At the same time, hryvnia-denominated purchase prices remained largely stable, mostly quoted at 10,800-11,200 UAH per tonne CPT port.²

Ukraine Wins Access to Chinese Market for Pulses Exports

China has officially opened its market to imports of Ukrainian pulses following an audit of Ukrainian enterprises and laboratory capabilities, creating new export opportunities for domestic suppliers, Ukraine's State Service on Food Safety and Consumer Protection said on March 25.

According to the agency, the decision followed a review by China's General Administration of Customs (GACC) of technical documentation and video materials covering operating conditions at Ukrainian enterprises, as well as laboratory testing capacity related to pulses exports.

Following the assessment, Ukraine received approval to export pulses to China.

The State Service said that, so far, China's customs authorities have registered two Ukrainian pulses storage and processing enterprises that participated in the audit. Under the bilateral protocol, exports to China can be carried out from these facilities, with the information already published on the official GACC website.

In addition, three Ukrainian companies have been included in the list of businesses planning to export pulses to China, while four companies have been listed as growers of pulses intended for the Chinese market.

The agency added that Ukrainian enterprises involved in cultivation, storage, processing and export must comply with the requirements of the Road Map governing access to the Chinese market. Relevant export documentation is also available on the State Service's web portal.²

Ukrainian Crushers Lift Sunflower Seed Bids as Logistics Disrupt Deliveries

Ukrainian sunflower seed prices continued to rise over the past week as domestic processors remained aggressively active in the market amid tight raw material supplies, firm export demand for sunflower oil and elevated edible oil prices.

Processors are continuing to face a shortage of sunflower seed supply, prompting them to raise purchase prices in order to secure volumes. Market sentiment has also been influenced by higher diesel costs, which have significantly disrupted transportation across Ukraine and further constrained deliveries to crushing plants.

During the week, sunflower seed purchase prices in Ukraine increased by 500-700 UAH/tonne to 30,500-31,500 UAH/tonne delivered to plant basis for seed with 50% oil content. In dollar terms, prices rose by \$10-15/tonne to \$610-630/tonne excluding VAT.

At the same time, the interbank dollar exchange rate weakened by 20-30 kopecks, limiting additional support for hryvnia-denominated prices.

Demand prices for Ukrainian sunflower oil also moved higher, increasing by \$10/tonne over the week to \$1,290-1,300/tonne for delivery to Black Sea ports, providing further support to sunflower seed values.

Earlier expectations of a sharp rally in vegetable oil prices linked to tensions involving Iran have not materialized. Instead, vegetable oil markets have remained broadly stable, while reports of possible negotiations between the United States and Iran have put downward pressure on crude oil prices, which could also weigh modestly on vegetable oil values going forward.

In Argentina, sunflower harvesting was estimated at 50-60% complete as of March 20 and is expected to finish by mid-April. The country continues to ship sunflower seed to Bulgaria under previously agreed contracts. However, elevated pesticide residues have reportedly been detected in the third batch delivered, including deltamethrin levels said to be double the permitted limit.

Bulgaria has so far received around 120,000 tonnes out of the 600,000 tonnes contracted. As a result, part of the resulting sunflower oil and meal may be redirected away from the EU market and instead offered into the Black Sea market at discounted prices, potentially increasing competition for Ukrainian and Russian exporters.

Against this backdrop, the current price environment remains favorable for Ukrainian farmers, although the risk of softer vegetable oil prices suggests that active selling may be advisable while margins remain attractive.²

France Plans Aid for Farmers Amid Higher Fuel Costs

France plans to provide support to farmers facing rising fuel costs, Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Minister Annie Genevard said in an interview with BFMTV.

According to Genevard, the government is preparing a set of measures aimed at easing short-term financial pressure on farms, including deferrals of social security contributions and certain tax payments.

She also said France will introduce a short-term fuel loan to help the farms most affected by higher fuel prices manage liquidity pressures.

At the same time, French officials stressed that there is no immediate concern over fuel availability in the country.

Genevard said France is not facing fuel supply problems, while government spokesperson and Minister Delegate for Energy Maud Brejon told France Info radio that there is no risk of a supply disruption.

Brejon added that France currently holds fuel reserves sufficient for more than 90 days.

Fuel prices across Europe have continued to rise amid ongoing tensions in the Middle East. ¹

Romanian Rapeseed Outlook Remains Promising Despite Regional Concerns

Rapeseed remains one of the most profitable crops for Romanian farmers, supported in part by its favorable price relationship with the crude oil market, while crop conditions overall remain broadly promising.

Current field conditions are generally positive, with crops actively developing leaf mass amid warm weather and adequate soil moisture reserves.

However, farmers in south-eastern Romania report weaker crop development following a cold and wet autumn. According to market participants, some plants in the region may fail to survive or deliver commercially viable yields, which could reduce the harvested area there this season.

In contrast, farmers in western Romania are expecting strong yields. Producers in the region attribute the more favorable outlook not only to weather conditions, but also to the consistent use of effective agronomic practices and crop management technologies.

Despite regional differences, the overall production potential for Romania's rapeseed crop remains favorable. Market participants note that maintaining sufficient soil moisture through the spring will be critical, as crop water demand is expected to rise sharply with warmer temperatures.

Spring field treatments have already begun in western Romania as farmers target maximum yields.¹

EU Demand Lifts Moldova's Sunflower Oil Exports in 2025/26

Moldova sharply increased sunflower oil exports in the first eight months of the 2025/26 season, supported by the recovery of domestic processing and higher production volumes, according to Agroexpert.md.

From July 2025 through February 2026, Moldova exported 66,800 tonnes of sunflower oil, up nearly sixfold from 11,600 tonnes in the same period of the previous season.

The average export price also rose by around one-third to 22.20 lei/kg, while the total value of shipments reached 1.484 billion lei, equivalent to about \$85 million.

EU countries remained the main destinations for Moldovan sunflower oil exports, with Italy importing 30,500 tonnes, followed by France with 11,800 tonnes and Romania with 10,500 tonnes.

According to the report, the sharp increase in shipment volumes highlights both stronger European demand for Moldovan sunflower oil and improved efficiency at the country's processing plants.¹

Iran Says 'Non-Hostile' Vessels May Transit Strait of Hormuz

Iran has informed the United Nations that "non-hostile" vessels may continue to transit the Strait of Hormuz, provided they coordinate with Iranian authorities and comply with the country's declared safety and security rules, according to Reuters.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry sent a note on Sunday to the UN Security Council and Secretary-General António Guterres, with the document also circulated to members of the International Maritime Organization on Tuesday.

In the note, Iran said vessels that do not participate in or support actions against the country may be allowed safe passage through the strait, subject to consultation with the relevant Iranian authorities and full compliance with applicable regulations.

At the same time, Tehran said it has taken what it described as necessary and proportionate measures to prevent the Strait of Hormuz from being used by "aggressors and their allies" for hostile operations against Iran.

Iran also clarified that the right of passage would not apply to vessels, equipment or other assets linked to the United States, Israel or other parties it considers involved in aggression against the country.¹

Chinese-Linked Container Ship Pays Iran for Hormuz ‘Safe Corridor’ Transit

The Chinese feeder container ship Newvoyager became the first vessel owned by a mainland Chinese-registered company to transit the Strait of Hormuz after reportedly paying Iran for passage through the “safe” corridor near Larak Island, according to analytics firm Lloyd’s List.

The transit took place over the weekend and marks the second confirmed case of a vessel paying for access to the corridor. Earlier last week, the first such payment was reportedly made by a tanker, which paid around \$2 million to Iran.

According to vessel databases, Newvoyager sails under the Panamanian flag and is owned by Bengbu Shengda Transportation, based in Anhui Province, China, while technical management is handled by Shanghai-based United Pioneer Shipping. The vessel’s ultimate beneficial owner has not been identified.

Lloyd’s List said the transit was arranged through a Chinese maritime service company, which also handled the payment to Iranian authorities. The amount paid and the payment mechanism were not disclosed.

Newvoyager’s passage underscores growing use of the “safe” corridor near Larak Island, where more than 20 vessels are currently reported to be transiting. Most of these ships are said to be Greek-owned, although vessels linked to India, Pakistan, Syria and Iran have also used the route.

Iranian authorities are reportedly reviewing transit requests on a case-by-case basis, while some governments, including India, are seeking broader clearance arrangements for their fleets.

AIS tracking data cited in the report showed that Newvoyager activated its automatic identification system near Larak Island on March 22 at 07:30 local time and proceeded along Iran’s southern coast while transmitting the message “DUQM ALL CREW CHINA.”

The vessel had departed Jebel Ali on February 21, was later recorded at Bandar Abbas anchorage on March 2, and is currently sailing in the Gulf of Oman en route to Duqm.

The transit highlights how Chinese-linked operators are using private channels and maritime intermediaries to secure passage through the strategically sensitive Strait of Hormuz amid heightened regional tensions.¹

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