CSI DAILY NEWS

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Turkey Cuts Imports from Russia by 22% in Early 2026

Turkey significantly reduced its imports from Russia in the first four months of the year, cutting purchases by $3.5 billion, or 22.8%, according to Trade Minister Ömer Bolat. This marks the steepest decline among all of Ankara's major trading partners.

By comparison, imports from other countries also declined but at a slower pace, including the United Arab Emirates, Italy, France, and Bolivia, the latter seeing an especially sharp contraction.

At the same time, Turkey increased imports from several alternative suppliers. Purchases from China rose by $1.8 billion, while imports from the United States, Kazakhstan, Switzerland, and Mexico also recorded gains.

The shift suggests that Turkey is intensifying efforts to diversify its foreign trade portfolio. However, despite the broader rebalancing, Ankara continues to rely on Russia in key sectors such as natural gas, indicating that strategic energy ties remain largely unchanged. [5]

Russia's Flax Exports to China Exceed Previous Season Total

Russia's exports of oilseed flax to China have already surpassed the total volume recorded for the entire previous agricultural season, highlighting a sharp shift in trade dynamics. From the start of the 2025/26 season in September through the end of March, shipments exceeded 0.75 million tons—around one-third higher than the same period a year earlier and above the full 2024/25 season total of 0.7 million tons.

Analysts note a significant change in export structure, with China now accounting for approximately 78% of Russia's total flax exports. This marks a substantial increase compared to the 2023/24 season, when China's share did not exceed 50% and European countries such as Belgium, Poland, and Latvia were key buyers. Following the introduction of protective duties in the EU, exports to the region declined sharply, with Kazakhstan stepping in to fill part of the gap.

China's growing dominance as a destination market underscores its rising importance for Russian exporters. At the same time, demand has expanded in other countries, including Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Turkey, which recorded notable increases in imports. Globally, China and Belgium remain leading importers of flax, while demand for processed products such as linseed oil, meal, and oilcake continues to grow across Europe, Turkey, and parts of Asia and Latin America. This trend points to further opportunities for Russia to expand exports of higher value-added flax products. [4]

Ukrainian Sunflower Prices Climb on Tight Supply and Rising Competition

Prices in the Ukrainian sunflower market rose sharply over the past week, supported by stronger competition among buyers and a tightening supply of raw materials, according to analysts at APK-Inform.

At the beginning of the reporting period, bid prices were in the range of UAH 31,800–32,000 per ton CPT. By the end of the week, purchase prices had increased to UAH 32,500–33,000 per ton CPT plant, with some معاملات reaching as high as UAH 33,200–33,300 per ton for standard oil content.

Trading activity remained largely concentrated in central and southern regions of Ukraine, where the bulk of transactions took place during the week. [2]

Commodity Auctions: Results For 04.05.2026

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,650 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybeans, grade 37, incl. VAT | 35,500 ₽/t | 100 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 16,325 ₽/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 17,100 ₽/t | 75 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Class 4, 12.5%, excluding VAT | 15,550 ₽/t | 90 tons [6]

Ukraine’s Corn Exports Rise 8% in April, Turkey Leads Imports

Ukraine increased its corn exports in April 2026 to 2.688 million tons, up 8% from March’s 2.503 million tons, according to analysts at Spike Brokers. Since the start of the 2025/26 marketing year in October, total shipments have reached 15.91 million tons.

Analysts noted that April’s export volume was among the highest this season, underscoring Ukraine’s continued strong presence in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern markets despite intense competition from South American suppliers.

Turkey was the largest importer in April, purchasing 1.017 million tons, or nearly 38% of total exports. Other key destinations included Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Israel, Libya, Netherlands, and South Korea.

On global markets, corn prices remained supported. Futures on the Chicago Board of Trade held near recent highs, with the July contract staying firm and the December contract testing the $5.00 per bushel level. Market sentiment was underpinned by concerns over lower yield potential in the United States due to high fertilizer costs, risks to Brazil's safrinha crop, and strong U.S. export sales. However, technically overbought conditions limited further upward momentum.

In the domestic market, price movements were more subdued. The SPIKE Spot Commodity Index Ukraine (CPT Odesa basis) showed corn at $222 per ton, up $1 week-on-week. Meanwhile, buyers along the western border continued to outbid seaports for the second consecutive month, with CPT Chop (Nider terminal) prices ranging between $220 and $222 per ton. [1]

Ukraine's Soybean Exports Slow as Supply Tightens and Competition Grows

Ukraine recorded a sharp slowdown in soybean export shipments in the final week of April, driven by constrained raw material availability, intensifying competition from South American suppliers, and disruptions to port infrastructure following Russian attacks, according to analysts at APK-Inform.

Overall, soybean exports from Ukraine declined by 18% in April, reflecting mounting pressure on the sector.

Despite weaker shipment volumes, export prices showed a modest increase. Over the past week, soybean prices rose by $3–5 per ton to reach $439–450 per ton CPT port. However, analysts noted that the price uptick was limited in scope due to subdued trading activity on the market.[2]

Grain Shipments in Kazakhstan Rise on Strong Export Growth

Kazakhstan increased grain transportation volumes by 15% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2026, reaching 4.1 million tons, according to the Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Export shipments accounted for the bulk of the total at 3.2 million tons, up 18%, while domestic transportation rose 8% to 0.9 million tons.

A significant rise in exports was recorded դեպի Central Asian markets, where volumes jumped 48% to 2.1 million tons, including 1.5 million tons shipped to Uzbekistan.

Shipments to and via Russia totaled 512,000 tons. Meanwhile, deliveries to Afghanistan increased more than fourfold to 302,000 tons. In the direction of China, feed meal exports doubled to 1 million tons.

The figures were presented during a meeting of the Operational Headquarters for Grain Transportation, where officials, carriers, and industry representatives reviewed the current logistics situation and outlined coordinated measures to ensure stable and uninterrupted grain flows.

Authorities stated that the штаб's work will continue on a regular basis to enhance coordination among market participants and maintain the resilience of the transportation system.[7]

Kyrgyzstan's Wheat Imports Surge 17-Fold, Russia Dominates Supply

Kyrgyzstan recorded a dramatic surge in wheat imports in January–February 2026, with volumes rising 17-fold year-on-year to 703,400 tonnes, according to official trade data.

Russia accounted for nearly all of the increase, supplying 670,500 tonnes, while deliveries from Kazakhstan fell sharply to 32,900 tonnes. The reasons behind this significant shift in supply structure have not been officially disclosed, but the expansion in imports was almost entirely driven by Russian shipments.

A year earlier, the situation was markedly different: Kazakhstan held a dominant position in the Kyrgyz market, accounting for around 70% of wheat supplies, while Russia played a more limited role. The latest figures indicate a near-complete reversal, with Kyrgyzstan now heavily reliant on Russian wheat imports. [1]

Jordan Issues Tender for 120,000 Tons of Feed Barley

Jordan's state grain buyer has launched an international tender to purchase up to 120,000 metric tons of feed barley, European traders reported. The deadline for price submissions is set for May 6, 2026.

The tender follows an earlier attempt to secure the same volume that ended without a purchase. If successful, shipments are expected in consignments of 50,000–60,000 tons, scheduled for delivery between August 1–15 and August 16–31.

In parallel, Jordan has issued a separate tender for 120,000 tons of milling wheat, with bids due by May 5. The move signals a renewed increase in the country's grain procurement activity on the global market. [2]

Strait of Hormuz Traffic Drops as Security Operation Begins

Maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has slowed dramatically following the launch of a U.S. military operation, according to data analyzed by Bloomberg. The assessment is based on vessel tracking, including ships that may have disabled their transponders to avoid detection.

Over the past 24 hours, vessels with active Automatic Identification System (AIS) signals have been navigating the strait exclusively through a narrow northern corridor authorized by Tehran.

The United States Central Command confirmed the start of Operation "Freedom" on May 4, aimed at restoring safe commercial navigation along the critical route.

The operation involves a significant military presence, including U.S. guided missile destroyers, more than 100 aircraft operating from land and sea, unmanned platforms, and approximately 15,000 personnel. [3]

Indonesia’s Palm Oil Output at Risk as El Niño and Costs Bite

Indonesia’s crude palm oil (CPO) production could decline by up to 2 million tonnes in 2026, pressured by dry weather linked to the El Niño phenomenon and sharply higher fertilizer costs, industry officials said.

According to Eddy Martono, head of the GAPKI, fertilizer prices have risen by around 30% since the escalation of conflict in the Middle East. He warned that smallholder farmers—who manage roughly 37% of the country’s oil palm plantations—may cut back or delay fertilizer use, potentially weighing on yields.

Indonesia’s meteorological agency has forecast a longer and more intense dry season in 2026, increasing drought risks and adding further uncertainty to production.

Setiyono, chairman of the ASPEKPIR, noted that prices for some fertilizers have surged by more than 50%, prompting farmers to switch partially to organic alternatives to manage costs.

Despite these concerns, Indonesia produced 51.66 million tonnes of crude palm oil in 2025, up 7.3% year-on-year, according to GAPKI. The United States Department of Agriculture forecasts output at around 48 million tonnes in the coming period, compared with 46.7 million tonnes previously. [1]

Canada’s Grain Output Seen Falling 6% in 2026/27 Season

Production of major grains in Canada is projected to decline by around 6% in the 2026/27 marketing year, primarily due to lower yields, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Wheat output, including durum, is forecast at 36.2 million tonnes, down 10% from the previous season. The decline reflects a return to average yields following a record harvest in 2025/26, when production reached 39.9 million tonnes. A modest reduction in planted area is also expected, as farmers shift toward more profitable crops such as soybeans in eastern provinces and barley and canola in the Prairies, amid ample wheat stocks and comparatively weaker prices.

As a result, Canadian wheat exports are projected to fall by 4% to 28.5 million tonnes, supported by a stronger currency and tighter supplies. Barley production is also expected to decrease by 10% after last season’s highs.

In contrast, corn production is forecast to increase by nearly 6% to 15.7 million tonnes, driven by expanded planting and improved soil moisture conditions, particularly in Ontario, which accounts for the majority of national output.

Higher corn availability is expected to lift domestic consumption by 6% to 15.5 million tonnes, supported by feed and industrial demand. Meanwhile, corn imports into Canada are projected to decline by 8% to approximately 1.7 million tonnes in the 2026/27 season. [1]

Australia’s Wheat Exports Set to Fall on Lower Output

Wheat exports from Australia are expected to decline in the 2026/27 marketing year as production falls due to lower yields, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Output is forecast at 29 million tonnes, down from around 36 million tonnes in the previous season. Analysts attribute the decline primarily to reduced yields, while the planted area is also expected to decrease slightly.

Despite a generally favorable start to the season, uncertainty over rainfall and elevated fertilizer costs are seen as key risks to crop performance.

The wheat area is projected to shrink by about 600,000 hectares, or 4.8%, as farmers adjust planting plans in response to rising nitrogen fertilizer prices following tensions in the Middle East. Average yields are forecast at 2.46 tonnes per hectare—above the 10-year average but well below last season's 2.9 t/ha.

Exports are expected to fall to 23.5 million tonnes, around 2.5 million tonnes lower year-on-year, largely reflecting reduced production. Indonesia remains the крупнейший buyer of Australian wheat, accounting for roughly one-fifth of shipments in recent years.

As one of the world's top five wheat exporters, a decline in Australian supply could reshape global trade flows, potentially opening opportunities for other major suppliers, including Russia, where production forecasts remain relatively strong. [7]

Argentine Sunflower Oil and Meal Exports Hit Record Highs

Argentina has significantly expanded exports of sunflower seeds and processed products in the 2025/26 marketing year, according to data from Oil World.

Since the start of 2026, sunflower oil exports have risen by 55% to 963,000 tonnes, with key destinations including India and Egypt. Shipments of sunflower meal surged by 72% to a record 1.06 million tonnes. Meanwhile, exports of sunflower seeds reached 846,000 tonnes, a sharp increase from just 35,000 tonnes in the same period a year earlier.

The European Union remained the крупнейший buyer with 580,000 tonnes, followed by Turkey and South Africa.

Analysts expect a large share of Argentina's export potential to be realized before June, as suppliers aim to ship volumes ahead of the Northern Hemisphere harvest. Total exports of sunflower-related products are projected to approach 5 million tonnes this season, up from 2.9 million tonnes a year earlier.

A widening price gap is also influencing market dynamics. According to the OleoScope, South American sunflower oil has recently traded at a discount to Black Sea offers on the Indian market, a trend that could increase competitive pressure on suppliers from Russia and the broader region. [7]

Global Price Gap Widens as U.S. Soybean Oil Rally Accelerates

The United States biodiesel industry is recovering after a challenging year but may struggle to meet newly tightened biofuel blending requirements set by the Environmental Protection Agency. The updated targets, introduced in late March amid rising energy prices linked to tensions involving Iran, call for a sharp increase in production.

Output of biodiesel and renewable diesel is expected to rise from 3.35 billion gallons in 2025 to 5.4 billion gallons in 2026 and 5.7 billion gallons in 2027. However, the regulator estimates actual supply needs to reach 6.07 billion gallons, accounting for exports and fuels that do not generate compliance credits under the Renewable Fuel Standard.

Industry participants warn that scaling up production quickly enough could prove difficult. Meeting the targets would require generating roughly 915 million renewable identification number (RIN) credits per month—well above current levels—raising the risk of a credit shortage and potential increases in diesel prices.

Producers are nonetheless ramping up operations. Facilities across the Midwest are increasing utilization, with plants in Iowa running at full capacity and Minnesota Soybean Processors restarting an idled facility and aiming to produce up to 35 million gallons by year-end.

Expansion, however, is constrained by high construction costs, labor shortages, and logistical bottlenecks. Analysts note that achieving government targets will require existing plants to operate at 85–90% capacity alongside significant investment in new facilities.

Policy changes are also reshaping the market. Since 2025, the U.S. has limited subsidies for biofuels produced from imported oils, intensifying demand for domestic feedstocks and pushing up soybean oil prices. Futures on the Chicago Board of Trade have surged to their highest levels since 2022.

Despite rising demand, soybean oil inventories continue to grow due to increased crushing activity. Meanwhile, exporters in Brazil and Argentina are offering soybean oil at a steep discount to U.S. prices, widening the gap in the global market. [1]

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