

CSI DAILY NEWS

8.12.2025



Russia Boosts FX Sales to Two-Year High as Ruble Faces Year-End Pressures

The Russian Finance Ministry has sharply increased its foreign currency sales, prompting questions about the ruble's prospects heading into year-end. Since 5 December, the ministry and the central bank have been selling around 14.5bn rubles worth of foreign currency per day — the highest volume seen in nearly two years. The surge in sales reflects an anticipated shortfall of 137.6bn rubles in December oil and gas budget revenues, as well as adjustments to the fuel-dampening mechanism. Although the operations are formally tied to the budget rule, the volume of currency entering the market is roughly 1.5 times higher than a month earlier. Economists say the increased sales could provide modest support to the ruble, potentially strengthening it by 2–2.5 rubles, particularly amid seasonal year-end trends. But analysts do not expect any substantial appreciation. The exchange rate remains largely driven by global oil prices, the availability of “friendly” currencies in trade, and the impact of sanctions. The Finance Ministry and the central bank are effectively maintaining market balance rather than exerting pressure to guide the ruble. Most forecasts indicate the US dollar will remain in the ₽75–78 range in December, with a notable weakening of the ruble by year-end considered unlikely.

Sunflower Yields Fall 20–30% in Russia's Don Region After Switch to Domestic Seeds

Sunflower yields in Russia's Don region have fallen sharply in 2025 as farmers transition from imported to domestic seed varieties. Producers report that the move, encouraged under the country's import-substitution policy, has led to significant performance issues in the field.

According to the Russian Grain Union, the switch to Russian seeds has become the agricultural sector's “disappointment of the year,” with experts noting that local breeding still lags behind foreign hybrids in key agronomic traits.

Farmers estimate that yields have declined by 20–30% compared with previous seasons when imported seeds were used. Many domestic varieties reportedly lack sufficient resistance to diseases and adverse weather, resulting in weaker plant development and lower productivity.

The issue has sparked wide debate among agricultural stakeholders in the region. Growers say Russian seeds often fail to meet commercial expectations and require greater labor and financial inputs to achieve acceptable results.

Despite government support for expanding domestic seed production, farmers remain concerned about the long-term sustainability of their operations. Market participants stress that raising the quality and competitiveness of Russian seeds is becoming increasingly urgent as competition intensifies.

Russian Agri-Food Exports to Uzbekistan Rise in 2025

Uzbekistan, a key agricultural producer in Central Asia and a major historical trading hub along the Silk Road, continues to expand its role in regional food trade while remaining a net importer of agricultural products. The country ranks among the world's top 10 producers and exporters of cotton and is developing its fruit, vegetable and nut sectors.

Uzbekistan's economy grew by 6.5% in 2024, with the poverty rate falling to 10.9%. Economic growth of around 5.9% is forecast for 2025, supported by strong domestic demand, remittance inflows and rising investment activity.

Russia exported around 990,000t of food products to Uzbekistan in 2024, with shipments valued at more than \$1bn, according to industry estimates. By value, the leading export categories were sugar (17%), sunflower oil (10%), chocolate (10%), soybean meal and oilcake (9%), and baby food (6%).

Exports continued to grow in 2025. During the first 10 months of the year, Russia supplied more than 900,000t of agricultural products to Uzbekistan, worth approximately \$940mn. This represented a 10% increase in volume and a 15% rise in value compared with the same period a year earlier.

Commodity Auctions: Results For 5.12.2025

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,150 ₽/t | 600 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybean 37 (with VAT) | 30,500 ₽/t | 400 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,500 ₽/t | 300 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,400 ₽/t | 279 tons

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,574 ₽/t | 1,200 tons

V.I. Derevyanko Peasant Farm

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,600 ₽/t | 300 tons

V.I. Derevyanko Peasant Farm

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 14,600 ₽/t | 3,000 tons

Russia Boosts Agricultural Sales to EAEU Countries to \$6.2bn

Russia's agricultural exports to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) reached an estimated \$6.2bn in the first nine months of 2025, marking a 17pc year-on-year increase, according to industry analysts.

Belarus and Kazakhstan remained Russia's largest markets, jointly accounting for nearly 90pc of total agricultural export value.

Export Breakdown by Country (Value Share):

- Belarus — 45%
- Kazakhstan — 42%
- Kyrgyzstan — 7%
- Armenia — 5%

Belarus continued to be the top buyer of Russian agricultural products, driven by strong purchases of pork, sunflower oil, rapeseed, confectionery and pet food. Exports to Belarus totalled over \$2.8bn, up 27pc from a year earlier.

Kazakhstan ranked second, with demand concentrated in sugar, chocolate, confectionery, sunflower oil and processed meat products. Deliveries to the country exceeded \$2.6bn from January to September, an 8pc annual increase.

Kyrgyzstan remained the third-largest destination, importing primarily sunflower oil, chocolate, confectionery, wheat, sugar and poultry meat. Russian exports to Kyrgyzstan surpassed \$460mn, up 14pc year-on-year.

Armenia rounded out the group with import volumes valued at more than \$320mn, also reflecting 14pc growth. Key categories included wheat, chocolate, sunflower oil and beverages, including alcohol.

European Rapeseed Oil Prices Rise on Strong Futures Support

European rapeseed oil (RSO) prices increased across all delivery periods on Friday, except for May–June–July (MJJ), supported by crushers' efforts to protect margins amid higher Euronext rapeseed futures and lower rapeseed meal (RSM) prices.

RSM values have come under pressure on expectations of weaker meal consumption in Spain following the outbreak of African swine fever, market participants said. Additional downside risk for RSM also stems from the provisional one-year delay to the EU's deforestation regulation (EUDR), which will allow unrestricted imports of soybean meal next year.

RSO prices also found support from rising US soybean oil futures and firmer gasoil prices.

Trading activity remained brisk, with participants focused primarily on forward positions. The February–March–April (FMA) strip traded at €1,070/t and was assessed €3.50/t higher on the day. MJJ traded at €1,055/t and €1,057/t, with the assessment slipping by €1.50/t to €1,056/t, reflecting the average of completed deals.

The August–September–October (ASO) strip rose by €1.50/t to €1,017.50/t, with bids at €1,015/t and offers at €1,020/t by the close.

The prompt RSO price for loading within 5–40 days increased by €1/t to €1,079.50/t, based on weighted interest for December at €1,075–1,090/t and for January at €1,070–1,078/t at Friday's close.

EU Soft Wheat Exports Edge Higher Excluding Poland, Still Trail Five-Year Average

EU non-durum wheat exports rose marginally on the year in the July–November period when excluding missing data from Poland, but shipments still remained below the bloc's five-year average, according to European Commission data.

Soft wheat exports from the rest of the EU reached 9.29mn t by 30 November in the 2025-26 (July–June) marketing year, slightly higher than 9.24mn t a year earlier. However, volumes were well below the 2020–24 average of 11.4mn t for the same group of member states. Polish wheat export data have been absent from commission updates since 21 September.

Including the limited Polish data available, total EU wheat exports stood at 9.66mn t by the end of November, compared with 10.14mn t a year earlier and a five-year average of 12.6mn t for the same point in the season. Poland has ranked among the bloc's largest wheat exporters in recent years, accounting for over 10pc of EU soft wheat shipments between 2020 and 2024.

EU exports are expected to continue facing stiff competition this season from major global producers, several of which are heading for record harvests. Australia is forecast to produce 36mn

t of wheat, up from 34.1mn t last season, while Argentina's crop is projected to reach 24.5mn t, sharply higher than 18.5mn t in 2024-25, according to US Department of Agriculture estimates.

Competition among exporting origins is expected to intensify further following Algeria's latest milling wheat tender. EU, Black Sea and Argentinian wheat are all likely candidates to supply the North African buyer, despite higher freight costs for South American cargoes.

Algeria Buys About 900,000t of Milling Wheat in Latest Tender (Correction)

Algeria's state grains agency OAIC has purchased around 900,000t of milling wheat in its latest international tender, which closed on 3 December, market participants said.

The wheat was bought at \$256/t cfr Algerian ports for February shipment, marking a \$2.50/t decline from OAIC's previous tender for delivery to major ports.

Supplies are expected to be sourced mainly from the Black Sea region, which remains the most competitive origin for deliveries to Algeria. Freight rates from Black Sea ports to Algeria are currently near \$25/t, implying that traders would need to secure wheat at roughly \$230/t fob to realise margins on the tender.

On 3 December, Argus assessed 11.5pc protein wheat fob Constanta/Varna/Burgas (CVB) at \$231.50/t for loading between 18 December and 17 January, the highest-priced origin in the Black Sea. This compared with Ukrainian 11.5pc wheat at \$229/t fob and Russian 12.5pc wheat at \$226/t fob Novorossiysk. Russian wheat has accounted for only about 18pc of Algeria's imports so far in the 2025-26 (July-June) season.

Southern hemisphere wheat could also compete, particularly from Argentina, where production is set to rise sharply. Freight from Argentina to Algeria is estimated at around \$48/t, meaning traders would need to source Argentinian 11.5pc wheat near \$208/t fob to remain competitive. However, Argentinian fob Upriver prices jumped from \$208/t to \$215.50/t on Wednesday amid concerns over limited availability of higher-protein wheat. Prices could ease again if greater volumes of 11.5pc wheat reach export terminals.

Grains, oilseeds and veg oils tenders								
Buyer	Issued	Closes	Status	Cargo	Shipment/delivery	Price	Seller	Notes
Jordan's MIT	4 Dec	10 Dec	Open	100,000-120,000t feed barley	Jan-Feb			cfr Aqaba
Jordan's MIT	3 Dec	9 Dec	Open	100,000-120,000t milling wheat	Jan-Feb			cfr Aqaba
Japan's MAFF	2 Dec	4 Dec	Closed	132,713t milling wheat	16 Jan-5 March			US Western White, Dark Northern Spring, Hard Red Winter, Canada Western Red Spring
Algeria's OAIC	1 Dec	3 Dec	Closed	900,000t milling wheat	Feb (1 month earlier if from southern hemishpere)	\$256/t	Cargil, Bunge, Olam, LDC, Casillo, Nibulon, Buildcom, Amber, Ameropa, Cofco, Aston	cfr Algerian ports
Jordan's MIT	27 Nov	3 Dec	Closed	100,000-120,000t feed barley	Jan-Feb			cfr Aqaba
Jordan's MIT	26 Nov	2 Dec	Cancelled	100,000-120,000t milling wheat	Jan			cfr Aqaba

China on Track for Record 110mn t Soybean Imports Despite November slowdown

China's soybean imports declined in November as South American shipments tapered off at the end of the export season, but full-year arrivals remain on course to reach a record high.

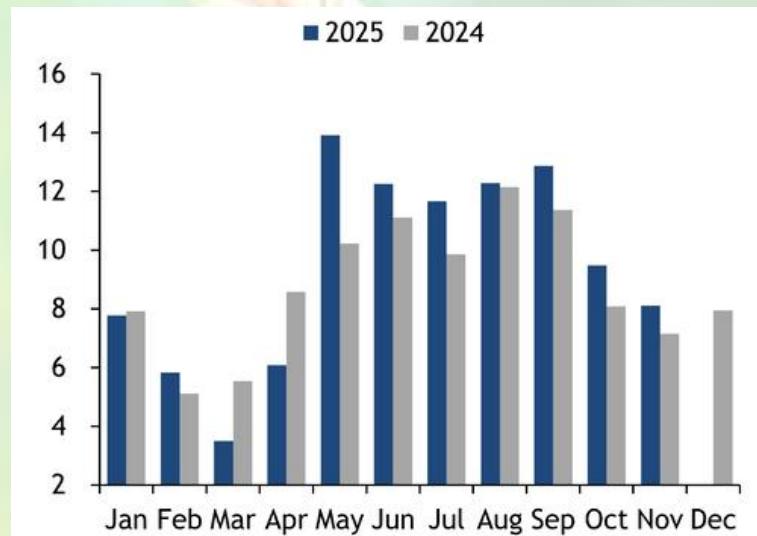
Preliminary customs data show that China imported 8.11mn t of soybeans in November, down 14pc or 1.37mn t from October. Cumulative imports in the first 11 months of the year reached 103.77mn t, approaching the 105mn t brought in during the whole of 2024.

Imports in December are expected to be close to 7mn t, according to vessel tracking data from Kpler, which would lift China's total soybean imports for 2025 to around 110mn t, a new record.

China's customs authority has not yet released a detailed breakdown by origin, but Kpler estimates that roughly 70pc of November arrivals came from Brazil, with about 20pc sourced from Argentina.

The first shipments of US soybeans under the new season are expected to reach China in mid-to-late December or January, with voyage times estimated at 20-25 days from the US Pacific Northwest and over 45 days from the US Gulf Coast.

China soybean imports (mn t)



State traders step in for US soybean deal

A second state-controlled Chinese reserve company is expected to return to the US soybean market in the coming weeks, as private firms are unlikely to fulfil China's purchase commitments under a recent bilateral trade deal, market participants said.

Under the agreement reached in late October, China is expected to buy 12mn t of US soybeans by the end of 2025. State-owned trader Cofco is already expected to cover about 4mn t of this volume. A second state-controlled reserve firm is now widely expected to enter the market to procure the remaining 8mn t, according to sources.

Private Chinese crushers are likely to remain on the sidelines because Brazilian soybeans continue to undercut US prices and face fewer import taxes. Tariffs on US agricultural products have increased this year, while geopolitical uncertainty has further discouraged commercial buyers, sources said.

Renewed participation by state reserve firms would signal Beijing's continued backing of the bilateral trade agreement. Chinese authorities have yet to issue an official statement on the 12mn t commitment. But US treasury secretary Scott Bessent said on 3 December that Chinese government purchasing was proceeding "well into the correct cadence".

Cofco has nearly completed its expected buying programme, according to market participants, though the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has so far confirmed only 2.71mn t of large-volume soybean sales to China. The USDA has also reported 355,000t of soybean sales to

unknown destinations since resuming China-linked reporting, which traders believe are also destined for China.

Additional smaller-volume sales are expected to be reported as the USDA works through a backlog of export data.

Meanwhile, uncertainty has emerged over the deadline for completing the purchase programme. While the original target was 31 December, Bessent indicated on 3 December that the deadline could be extended to 28 February.

Argentina wheat harvest accelerates with strong yields but low protein

Argentina's wheat harvest gathered pace in the latest week, delivering strong yields but persistently low protein levels as harvesting moved into southern regions typically known for higher-quality grain.

The harvest advanced by 11.4 percentage points in the week to 3 December, reaching slightly over 45pc completion, the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (Bage) said. Reported yields ranged from 3.5 to 5.9t/ha, with the national average at a record 3.92t/ha. Bage maintained its production forecast at 25.5mn t.

Yields in Argentina's core agricultural belt — spanning parts of Buenos Aires, Cordoba and Santa Fe provinces — were even higher, ranging from about 5t/ha to as much as 7t/ha, according to the Rosario Board of Trade (BCR). However, wheat quality in the core region was uneven, with highly variable test weights by variety and "extremely low" protein and gluten levels, the BCR said.

Harvesting was once again delayed by rain in parts of central and southern Buenos Aires province, although progress improved in central areas while work was only beginning in the south, the Agriculture Secretariat (SAGyP) reported.

Southern areas of Buenos Aires province, particularly around the port of Bahia Blanca, typically produce lower yields but higher protein wheat. Market participants said yields in the region are likely to exceed normal levels this season, though they will remain below those seen further north.

Soybean planting overtakes corn

Soybean sowing advanced by 8.7 points in the week to 3 December to reach 44.7pc completion, Bage said, trailing last year's pace by 9 points and sitting 1.1 points below the five-year average.

Planting of early soybeans is close to completion, though wet fields delayed operations in parts of central Buenos Aires province. Late soybean planting is advancing behind wheat and other crop harvesting, the Exchange said.

Recent rainfall has left soil moisture at favourable levels across much of the core region, the BCR reported. Some farmers are increasing fertilizer use in hopes of improving yields, though financial constraints are limiting this practice for part of the sector.

Corn planting lagged soybean sowing, advancing 5 points to 44pc completion. Of the area sown, 86pc of crops were rated in good to excellent condition, while 94pc of the total intended area had adequate to optimal moisture, Bage said.

Barley harvesting also continued despite some flooded fields. The crop remained in generally good condition, though some disease pressure has emerged, with yields ranging from 2.9t/ha to 4.3t/ha, according to SAGyP.

Southern Hemisphere Wheat Supply Rises, Pressuring Global Prices

Wheat production forecasts in the Southern Hemisphere continue to strengthen, adding downward pressure to global market prices.

Australia's 2025/26 wheat output outlook improved further in December, with the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) raising its estimate to 35.6mn t, up 1.5mn t from the previous season. If realised, this would mark the country's second-largest crop on record.

In Argentina, the Buenos Aires Grain Exchange (BAGE) also upgraded its projection a week earlier, lifting expected wheat production to a record 25.5mn t, an increase of 6.9mn t year on year, supported by higher-than-anticipated yields in several regions.

Despite the strong volume outlook, quality concerns persist in Argentina. A significant share of the new crop is showing protein levels of only 9–10%, below the 11.5% usually required for export. This has widened quality spreads between Argentine and Russian wheat:

- Argentina: US\$15–20/t
- Russia: US\$3–5/t

Analysts at Agroexport say that while the Southern Hemisphere's bumper harvest is set to weigh on global wheat values, continued quality issues in Argentina could shift additional demand toward Russian supplies.

Price and Data

Description	Unit	Price	Date
CORN UKRAINE CPT POC SPOT	USD/t	208-	5.12.2025
WHEAT 11.5PC UKRAINE FOB POC SPOT	USD/t	228↓	5.12.2025
WHEAT 12.5PC RUSSIA FOB NOVOROSSIYSK SPOT	USD/t	228↑	5.12.2025
SOYBEAN OIL ARGENTINA WATERBORNE FOB UPRIVER USD/T MONTH 1 – HOUSTON CLOSE	USD/t	1.117,52↓	5.12.2025
Rapeseed oil fob Dutch Mill RSO quarter 1	USD/t	1.070↑	5.12.2025
SUNFLOWER OIL FOB NORTHWEST EUROPE 6 PORTS SPOT - LONDON CLOSE	USD/t	1.352,50-	5.12.2025

↓ Price dropped in comparison to last report.

↑ Price raised in comparison to last report.

- Price has not changed.

References:

www.direct.argusmedia.com

www.ksm-agro.com

Agroexport Telegram Channel

World Trade Telegram Channel

KSM Telegram Channel

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