

CSI DAILY NEWS



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Russia Harvests Record Rapeseed Crop as Siberian Regions Drive Growth

Russia has recorded the largest rapeseed harvest in its history, underscoring the crop's rising importance in the country's oilseed sector. According to official data from Rosstat, the gross rapeseed harvest reached 5.57 million tons, marking an increase of 19.6 percent, or nearly 912,000 tons, compared with the previous year.

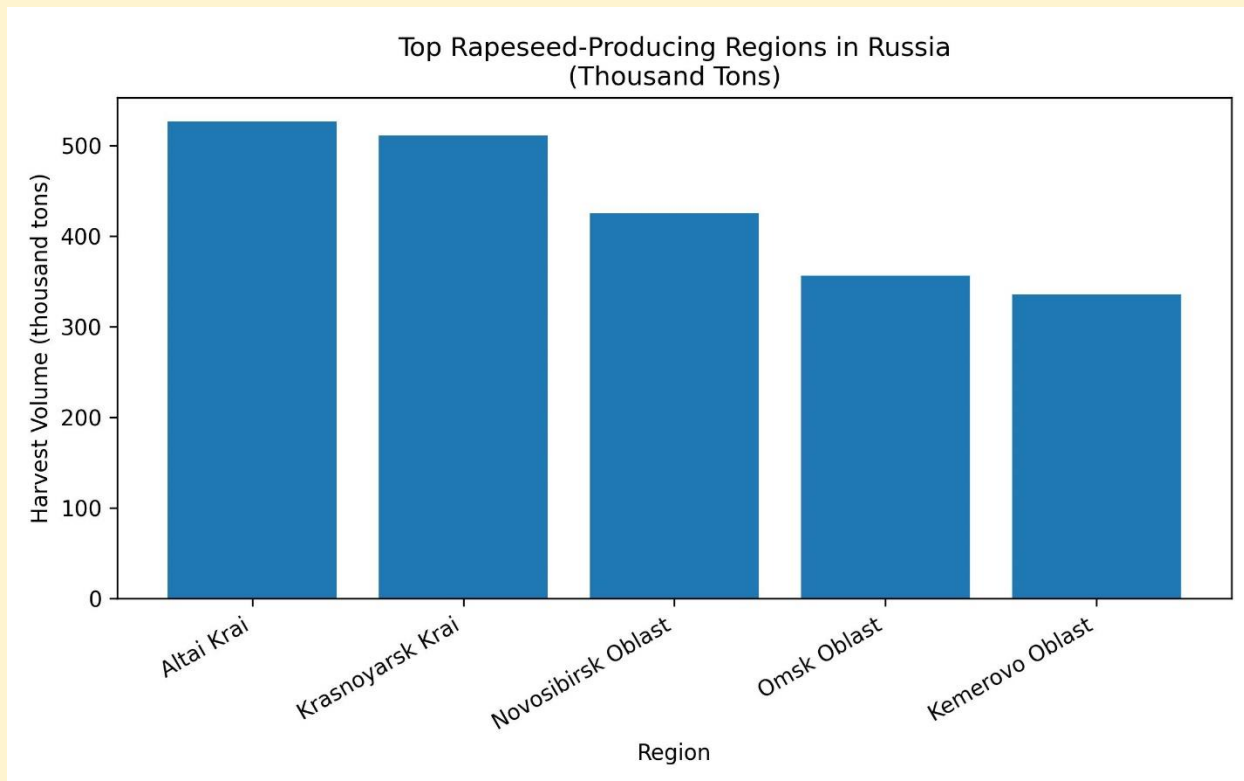
The record-breaking result was supported by both expanded planting and improved productivity. Sown areas increased by 8.2 percent year on year, while average yields rose by around 10 percent, reflecting favorable weather conditions and continued investment in agronomic practices.

Growth in rapeseed output was largely driven by Siberian regions, which strengthened their position as the core of Russia's rapeseed production. Data compiled by AB-Center show that Altai Krai emerged as the country's leading producer, harvesting 526,300 tons of rapeseed. This represented a sharp increase of 48.8 percent compared with the previous year and highlights the region's expanding role in oilseed cultivation.

Several other Siberian regions also posted strong gains. Krasnoyarsk Krai ranked among the top producers with a harvest of 511,000 tons, up 28.5 percent year on year. Novosibirsk Oblast recorded one of the fastest growth rates, producing 425,500 tons, an increase of 60.7 percent. Omsk Oblast followed with 356,100 tons, up 56.7 percent, while Kemerovo Oblast harvested 335,600 tons, marking a 34.7 percent rise.

Analysts note that the surge in rapeseed production reflects sustained demand from the domestic processing industry as well as export markets, particularly in Asia. With expanding acreage and rising yields, Russia is further consolidating its position as a major global supplier of rapeseed and related products.

If current trends continue, industry experts expect rapeseed to remain one of the fastest-growing segments of Russia's crop production, supported by regional specialization in Siberia and ongoing improvements in farming efficiency.⁵



Russia to Introduce Mandatory Permits for Domestic Trucking from March 2027

New regulatory requirements governing the transportation of goods by road within Russia will come into force on March 1, 2027, significantly tightening access to the domestic trucking market.

Under the new rules, only companies and individual entrepreneurs holding a special permit will be allowed to carry out commercial trucking operations inside the country. To obtain this permit, carriers must be registered either in the Russian register of road transport carriers or in the existing register of Russian legal entities and individual entrepreneurs authorized to engage in international road transportation.

The dedicated register for domestic road carriers has not yet been created. It is expected to be maintained on the digital “GosLog” platform. Inclusion in the register will require carriers to submit a notification to Rostransnadzor via the State Services (Gosuslugi) portal, informing the authorities of the start of transportation activities and providing a prescribed set of information. A permit will be deemed valid from the date the notification is officially entered into the register, provided that at least one vehicle is also listed.

Transitional provisions have been introduced for existing market participants. Companies and individual entrepreneurs that have already reported, or will report by February 28, 2027 inclusive, the commencement of their activities under the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Legal Entities and Individual Entrepreneurs will be required to submit information in accordance with the new rules no later than March 30, 2027.

The legislation also introduces stricter legal consequences for non-compliance. If a transportation contract is concluded by a carrier that does not hold the required permit, a court may declare the transaction invalid at the request of the cargo sender. The same risk applies if the vehicle used for transportation is not included in any of the prescribed registers. An exception is provided for cases where the parties have already fully fulfilled their contractual obligations.

At the same time, the new requirements will not apply to all types of trucking operations. In particular, vehicles with a technically permissible maximum weight of up to 3.5 tons inclusive are exempt from the permit regime, preserving simplified rules for small-scale and light commercial transport.

In addition to the permit system, the reform package includes a number of other regulatory changes aimed at increasing transparency and oversight in the road transport sector. Authorities say the measures are intended to improve safety, combat illegal перевозки, and create a unified digital framework for monitoring freight transportation across Russia.⁶

Commodity Auctions: Results For 15.01.2026

Purchase

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,250 ₺/t | 600 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybeans, grade 40 (excluding VAT) | 33,000 ₺/t | 200 t

OOO Trading House Sodruzhestvo

Soybeans, grade 37 (excluding VAT) | 30,000 ₺/t | 100 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,600 ₺/t | 620 t

OOO Zakazchik No. 1

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,600 ₺/t | 620 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 16,250 ₪/t | 75 t

OOO OZK Trading

Wheat, Grade 4, 12.5% (excluding VAT) | 15,550 ₪/t | 300 t

OOO CHERKIZOVO-MASLA

Soybeans, Grade 40 (excluding VAT) | 33,050 ₪/t | 1,000 t ²

UAE Agricultural Imports Offer Strong Growth Opportunities for Russian Exporters

The United Arab Emirates remains one of the world's largest net importers of agricultural products, with its import structure shaped by steady domestic consumption and the country's role as a key trade, logistics, and re-export hub for the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia.

Poultry meat ranks among the UAE's most important agricultural imports, reflecting high and stable consumer demand. Beef and edible cattle by-products also feature prominently, alongside beet and cane sugar, flour-based confectionery, and bakery products. Powdered milk completes the list of the five largest imported agricultural commodity groups. Together, the top ten product categories account for more than 30 percent of the UAE's total agricultural imports, highlighting a relatively concentrated and predictable import structure.

Against this backdrop, Russia has significantly strengthened its position in the Emirati market. In 2024, bilateral trade in agricultural products between Russia and the UAE reached a record value of USD 439.2 million. Nearly 90 percent of this turnover was generated by Russian exports, underlining the growing role of Russia as a supplier of food and agricultural commodities to the Emirates.

The expansion of trade was driven primarily by a sharp increase in shipments of grain and animal products. Russian exports of barley rose more than threefold, while wheat deliveries increased by 16.7 percent. Supplies of poultry meat almost doubled, growing by 96.5 percent year on year. These dynamics point to sustained demand from Emirati importers and the competitiveness of Russian products in terms of price, quality, and logistics.

Looking ahead, analysts estimate that the potential volume of Russian agricultural exports to the UAE could reach USD 550–600 million by 2030. Grain crops, particularly wheat and barley, are expected to remain core export items. Additional growth opportunities are seen in dried legumes such as lentils, peas, and chickpeas, as well as poultry meat and by-products.

Vegetable oils, including sunflower and soybean oil, are also considered promising, alongside flour-based products and confectionery. Beef and crustaceans are increasingly mentioned as niche

but high-value segments with export potential, given the UAE's demand for diversified protein sources.

With stable import demand, a transparent market structure, and a long-standing history of trade relations, the UAE continues to be viewed as one of the most accessible and strategically important destinations for Russian agricultural exports. Its role as a regional distribution hub further enhances opportunities for suppliers seeking to expand their presence across the wider Middle East and beyond.³

India's Palm Oil Imports Hit Eight-Month Low as Buyers Shift to Soyoil and Sunflower Oil

India's palm oil imports declined to their lowest level in eight months in December, as domestic refiners increasingly turned to alternative vegetable oils amid weaker seasonal demand during the winter period, according to a leading industry trade body.

Market participants said purchases of palm oil fell as cooler temperatures in northern parts of the country reduced consumption, given that palm oil tends to solidify in lower temperatures. At the same time, refiners stepped up imports of competing oils, including soybean oil and sunflower oil, which are more suitable for winter use and have become more price-competitive in recent months.

The shift in buying patterns reflects India's flexible oilseed import strategy, under which refiners regularly adjust purchases based on relative prices, availability, and seasonal consumption trends. As the world's largest importer of vegetable oils, changes in India's demand have a significant impact on global markets.

Analysts noted that lower palm oil imports by India could lead to rising inventories in major producing countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia. This, in turn, may put downward pressure on benchmark Malaysian palm oil futures in the near term. Conversely, stronger demand for alternative oils is expected to provide support to U.S. soybean oil futures and potentially to sunflower oil prices.

The December data highlight how seasonal factors and price dynamics continue to influence India's vegetable oil import mix, with refiners balancing cost considerations against functional requirements in food processing and household consumption. Industry observers will be closely watching import trends in the coming months to assess whether palm oil demand rebounds as temperatures rise and market conditions shift.¹

Algeria Moves to Reallocate Shipping Traffic Between Ports to Ease Congestion

Algerian authorities have announced new measures to redistribute vessel traffic among the country's main ports in an effort to ease congestion, reduce waiting times, and improve the efficiency of maritime logistics.

The decision is outlined in a memorandum issued on January 6, 2026, by the General Directorate of the Merchant Navy and Ports and addressed to the state-owned Serport group, which manages several of Algeria's key port facilities. The document formalizes the government's initiative to limit vessel waiting times at anchorage to a maximum of 24 hours.

Under the new approach, ships may be redirected to alternative ports when congestion reaches critical levels, allowing for a more balanced use of port infrastructure across the country. Authorities said the redistribution will be carried out with strict attention to navigational safety and operational feasibility.

Special priority will be given to the handling of sensitive and hazardous cargoes, ensuring that such goods are routed through ports equipped with the appropriate facilities and safety standards. Officials emphasized that the measure aims not only to speed up vessel turnaround times but also to reduce risks associated with prolonged anchorage and overcrowded port areas.

The initiative forms part of a broader strategy to modernize Algeria's port system and strengthen the country's maritime transport capabilities. The reforms build on policies promoted by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to improve logistics performance, support foreign trade, and enhance the competitiveness of Algerian ports in the Mediterranean region.

By optimizing ship allocation and reducing bottlenecks, authorities expect the measures to contribute to smoother cargo flows, lower transport costs, and improved reliability for importers and exporters. Further steps to upgrade port infrastructure and digitalize port operations are expected to follow as part of the ongoing modernization program.⁶

IGC Lifts Global Grain Production Forecast to Record High for 2025–26 Season

The International Grains Council (IGC) has revised upward its forecast for global grain production in the 2025–2026 marketing year, projecting a record harvest of 2.46 billion tons. The updated estimate represents an increase of about 6 percent compared with the previous agricultural season, reflecting improved outlooks across several major crops.

According to the IGC, the upward revision is largely driven by higher expected output of corn and wheat, supported by favorable growing conditions in key producing regions. Strong yield prospects for barley and sorghum have also contributed to the improved global supply outlook.

The Council raised its forecast for global wheat production to 842 million tons, up from 830 million tons in its November assessment. The increase reflects better-than-expected yield potential in several exporting countries, as well as adjustments to harvested area estimates.

Analysts note that the larger grain crop could help ease supply pressures on international markets, particularly if demand growth remains moderate. At the same time, the expanded production outlook may influence price dynamics and trade flows in the coming season, especially for feed grains and milling wheat.

The revised projections underline the importance of corn and wheat as the main drivers of global grain balances, while robust barley and sorghum harvests are expected to support feed and industrial demand. The IGC said it will continue to monitor weather developments and planting progress, which remain key factors for final production outcomes in the 2025–2026 season.⁴

Argentina’s Sunflower Exports Accelerate as Overseas Demand Strengthens

Argentina has stepped up sunflower seed exports, with shipment volumes rising sharply toward the end of 2025 and strong export activity continuing into the early months of this year, according to market estimates.

In December 2025, sunflower exports from Argentina totaled around 63,000 tons, reflecting an acceleration in shipment rates compared with earlier months. Exporters report that loading activity has remained robust at the start of the new year, supported by steady external demand and improved logistics.

The bulk of December shipments was directed to countries in the Black Sea region, which emerged as the main destination for Argentine sunflower seeds. Smaller volumes were also exported to South Africa and to several European Union markets, indicating a diversified export geography.

Looking ahead, analysts forecast a further increase in shipments in the coming quarters. Sunflower seed exports are expected to reach about 400,000 tons in the January–March period, followed by an estimated 290,000 tons in April–June 2026. As a result, total exports in the 2025/26 marketing year could amount to approximately 860,000 tons.

Industry sources note that South African countries are likely to account for a significant share of these deliveries, reflecting growing demand and favorable trade conditions. The positive export outlook underscores Argentina’s strengthening position in the global sunflower market and highlights the country’s role as a reliable supplier of oilseeds to a broad range of international buyers.⁵

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