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Russia Boosts Agricultural Exports to Armenia by 18% in 2025

Russia significantly expanded its agricultural exports to Armenia in 2025, recording notable growth in both volume and value.

According to expert estimates, total shipments reached approximately 530,000 tons, exceeding \$470 million in value. Compared to 2024, exports rose by 11% in volume and 18% in monetary terms, indicating stronger demand and higher pricing.

The export structure shows a diversified portfolio, with wheat and chocolate confectionery products leading the list, each accounting for 10% of total export value. They were followed by sunflower oil (7%), flour-based confectionery (6%), and margarine (6%).

In addition, Russia continues to supply Armenia with a broad range of food products, including poultry, pork, bottled water, sauces, sugary confectionery, and pasta.

Over the longer term, the trade relationship has strengthened considerably. Between 2020 and 2025, the total value of agricultural exports from Russia to Armenia increased by more than 58%, reflecting sustained growth in bilateral agri-food trade. ⁴

Russia Bans Third-Party Customs Payments Starting April 1

Starting April 1, customs payments in Russia can no longer be made by third parties following a regulatory change initiated by the Prosecutor General's Office.

According to the supervisory authority, the Ministry of Finance has updated the rules governing the transfer of funds to unified personal customs accounts. The new regulation, formalized by Order No. 58n dated May 16, 2025, removes the возможность for third parties to make advance, customs, or other related payments on behalf of payers.

Previously, the procedure for maintaining unified personal accounts did not clearly define who was authorized to make such payments. Authorities noted that this gap created opportunities for незаконное обналичивание средств and circumvention of banking oversight.

The issue was raised by the Prosecutor General's Office, which subsequently informed the Ministry of Finance. As a result, the updated framework now requires that only account holders themselves can replenish their customs-related accounts.

Officials emphasized that the new rules are expected to strengthen financial transparency and improve enforcement mechanisms within the customs payment system. ⁶

Russia's Wheat Shipments Hit New Seasonal Momentum

Russia's wheat exports are gaining momentum in the 2025/26 season, with key importing countries significantly increasing their purchases.

According to estimates from the Analytical Center of Russagrotrans, the top five importers of Russian wheat between July and March have generally expanded their import volumes compared to the previous season.

Egypt retained its position as the leading buyer, importing 7.6 million tons, unchanged year-on-year. Turkey recorded a sharp increase, raising imports to 5.8 million tons, more than doubling compared to last season. Iran followed with 1.86 million tons, marking a 2.5-fold rise.

Israel imported 1.67 million tons, reflecting a 40% increase, while Sudan nearly tripled its purchases to 1.66 million tons.

Overall, Russia's wheat exports for the July–March period of the 2025/26 season are projected to reach 37.7 million tons, surpassing the 36.3 million tons recorded in the same period last season. This marks the first time this season that export volumes have outpaced the previous year's performance.⁵

Russia Forecasts Hotter-Than-Normal Summer with Increased Rainfall

Russia's Hydrometeorological Center has warned that the upcoming summer is likely to bring higher-than-normal temperatures across most regions of the country.

Forecasters estimate there is a greater than 60% probability that air temperatures will exceed seasonal norms during the summer months. In addition to the heat, the season is expected to be both hot and rainy, with increased precipitation in several areas.

Regional forecasts indicate varied weather patterns. In April, below-average precipitation is expected in Crimea, the southern parts of the Ural Federal District, and much of the Trans-Baikal Territory compared to the same period last year.

During July and August, above-average rainfall is most likely in the northeastern areas of the North-West Federal District as well as in the North Caucasus Federal District.

Looking ahead to September, temperatures are expected to remain close to long-term averages, while the north and west of the Central Federal District and the North-West Federal District are forecast to receive more precipitation than in 2025.³

Ukraine May Expand Sunflower Planting by Up to 20% in 2026

Sunflower cultivation in Ukraine is expected to expand in 2026, particularly in the southern regions, as farmers prioritize profitability and resilience amid ongoing challenges.

According to Oleksandr Kotygora, agricultural technology development manager for the Southern region at LNZ Group, sunflower planting areas could increase by 5–20% on average. The shift is driven by the crop's strong economic performance and its role in sustaining farm income.

Despite concerns over crop rotation нарушения, many farmers—especially in the south—continue to favor sunflower due to its stable market demand and relatively lower risk profile. Kotygora noted that in the event of field damage caused by shelling, financial losses from sunflower crops tend to be lower compared to wheat or flax.

Favorable winter conditions, including sufficient soil moisture and precipitation, have further supported this trend, reinforcing sunflower's position as a priority crop. At the same time, the expansion of high-oleic sunflower varieties is being considered as a strategic measure to help agricultural enterprises maintain financial stability under pressure.¹

Ukraine's grain exports reach 3.4 million tons in March

Ukraine exported 3.4 million tons of grain and pulses in March 2026, marking a 2% increase compared to the same month last year, according to data from the State Customs Service.

The export structure showed mixed trends across key commodities. Wheat shipments totaled 794 thousand tons, which is 22% lower than in March 2025. Barley exports also declined to 49 thousand tons, down 25% year-on-year.

In contrast, corn exports increased to 2.59 million tons, rising by 14% compared to the previous season. Flour exports also recorded strong growth, reaching 6.4 thousand tons, up 33% from the same period last year.

In the 2024/25 marketing year, Ukraine exported a total of 40.6 million tons of grain and pulses, including 15.7 million tons of wheat, 2.3 million tons of barley, 10.8 thousand tons of rye, and 22 million tons of corn. Flour exports for the same period amounted to 71.1 thousand tons.¹

Ukraine Feed Corn Prices Continue to Rise on Strong Demand and Tight Supply

The feed corn market in Ukraine remained on an upward trajectory last week, with prices continuing to strengthen amid robust demand and constrained supply.

Price support came from active purchasing by domestic consumers and export-oriented companies, while limited farmer selling, ongoing logistical challenges, and firmer sentiment on the export market further underpinned the market. Producers largely continued to withhold sales, expecting additional price gains in the near term.

The strongest demand levels were recorded in the southern regions, where buyers showed the greatest willingness to pay. However, most market participants were generally prepared to purchase corn at prices up to UAH 9,800 per tonne CPT.

Overall, demand prices for feed corn were reported within the range of UAH 9,100–10,600 per tonne CPT, while CPT-port bids stood at \$210–217 per tonne.²

EU Oilseed Imports Fall 17% Amid Stronger Domestic Supply

EU countries reduced their oilseed imports during the current season, reflecting stronger domestic production and lower reliance on external supplies.

According to data from the European Commission, cited by Zerno On-line, total EU oilseed imports reached 12.82 million tonnes between July 1, 2025 and March 24, 2026, marking a 17% decline compared to the same period last season.

Soybeans remained the dominant import, accounting for nearly 70% of total volumes. However, soybean imports fell by 11% year-on-year, reaching their lowest level in three years. The share of supplies from the United States declined to around 47%, while Brazil, the second-largest supplier, exported approximately 2.7 million tonnes to the EU, slightly below last year's level.

Rapeseed imports recorded the sharpest drop, decreasing by 33% compared to the previous season, with total volumes staying below 3.5 million tonnes. Ukraine remained the leading supplier, delivering around 1.2 million tonnes.

Sunflower seed imports were the only category to show growth, increasing by 17%. Despite this rise, volumes remain relatively small, at roughly one-sixteenth of soybean imports.

Separately, earlier reports indicated that shipments of Argentine sunflower to the EU failed to meet food safety standards and will be redirected for processing rather than entering the food market.¹

Tunisia Buys 100,000 T of Soft Wheat at Higher Prices in March 31 Tender

Tunisia's state grains agency purchased approximately 100,000 tonnes of soft wheat in its March 31 international tender, with accepted prices showing an increase from the previous tender earlier this month.

According to trade estimates, the wheat was bought at \$274.73–275.49/t C&F, versus a lowest accepted price of \$271.69/t in the early March tender.

Reported awards were as follows:

- **Cargill** — 25,000 t at \$274.74/t
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- **Casillo** — 25,000 t at \$275.49/t
- **Buildcom** — 25,000 t at \$274.73/t

Shipment is scheduled for early May to early June, depending on origin. The tender was concluded on an optional origin basis.

Traders said firmer wheat values reflect broader strength in global commodity markets, with sentiment recently supported by heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.¹

India Renews Yellow Pea Import Framework for Another Year

India has extended its existing yellow pea import policy for another year, keeping the current regime in place until March 31, 2027.

Under the policy, yellow peas may continue to enter the country without a minimum import price requirement and without port restrictions. Imports remain subject to a 10% import duty and a 20% AIDC levy.

The existing policy for lentils and mung beans also remains unchanged, with both commodities still eligible for duty-free import.

Market sources said the extension should help maintain supply visibility and reduce uncertainty for the pulses trade. Industry representative Bimal Kothari said the move was a positive step that would ensure longer-term stability for the industry.⁴

Jordan Buys 60,000 T of Milling Wheat in March 31 Tender

Jordan has purchased approximately 60,000 tonnes of milling wheat in an international tender that closed on March 31, according to traders.

The winning offer was reportedly submitted by Cargill, which sold the cargo at \$275.95 per tonne CIF, with shipment scheduled for the second half of July. The tender was conducted on an optional origin basis, allowing suppliers flexibility in sourcing the grain.

Traders said several other major international houses also took part in the tender, including CHS Inc., Bunge, Ameropa, COFCO, and Buildcom, but their offers were above the winning price.

At the same time, Jordan has returned to the market with a new international tender for 120,000 tonnes of wheat. The deadline for submitting offers is April 7, with shipment expected in 60,000-tonne consignments during June and July.¹

USDA Sees Lower U.S. Wheat and Corn Acreage in 2026/27, Soybean Area Expands

The USDA released its first estimate for U.S. planted areas in MY 2026/27 in the Prospective Plantings report, showing a decline in wheat and corn acreage, while soybean area is expected to increase, though by less than many analysts anticipated following the February Outlook Forum.

According to the report, total wheat planted area is projected at 43.775 million acres, down 3% year-on-year from 45.3 million acres and below the average analyst estimate of 44.79 million acres. This is also slightly below the 45 million acres projected during the USDA's February Outlook Forum.

Within wheat, winter wheat area is forecast at 32.41 million acres, down by 730,000 acres from last year and marking the lowest level since 1919. Spring wheat area is expected to decline by 485,000 acres to 9.42 million acres, while durum wheat plantings are estimated at 1.95 million acres.

Corn acreage is forecast at 95.34 million acres, down by 3.46 million acres from a year earlier, but still above the average analyst estimate of 94.34 million acres and the USDA Outlook Forum projection of 94 million acres.

At the same time, soybean area is expected to rise by 3.5 million acres to 84.7 million acres. However, this is still below the average trade estimate of 85.55 million acres and the 85 million acres indicated during the February Outlook Forum. Cotton plantings are also projected to increase by 4% to 9.64 million acres.

Market participants note that rising geopolitical risks, including the conflict involving Iran, along with higher nitrogen fertilizer prices, could still influence final planting decisions and lead farmers to reassess their crop mix ahead of the season.

Chicago futures moved higher following the acreage data. May SRW wheat gained 1.5% to \$226.4/t, soybeans rose 1.0% to \$430.3/t, and corn added 0.4% to \$180.2/t.

Separately, the USDA also released its Quarterly Grain Stocks report for March 1, 2026, which showed year-on-year increases across the major crops.

U.S. wheat stocks were reported at 35.38 million tonnes, up 4.8% from last year but slightly below the average analyst estimate of 35.65 million tonnes. Corn stocks rose 10.7% year-on-year to 229 million tonnes, compared with an average estimate of 231 million tonnes, while soybean stocks increased 10.2% to 57.3 million tonnes, above the trade estimate of 56.26 million tonnes.¹

Record Canadian Wheat Crop Could Boost Global Export Competition in 2025/26

Improved yields are expected to lift Canada's total wheat production, including durum, to a record 39.96 million tonnes in MY 2025/26, according to the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS).

If achieved, the crop would be 11% higher year-on-year and 23% above the five-year average, surpassing the previous all-time high of 37.59 million tonnes recorded in 2013/14 by around 6%, the FAS said in its Feb. 2 update.

The year-on-year increase is mainly attributed to better yields for Canadian Western Red Spring (CWRS) wheat, followed by Canadian Western Amber Durum (CWAD) and winter wheat. Average total wheat yields are forecast to rise from 3.37 t/ha to 3.75 t/ha, while planted area is expected to increase by 1% to 10.66 million hectares.

Spring wheat production is projected at 29.3 million tonnes, up 10.3% from the previous season, driven by stronger yields of 3.95 t/ha versus 3.51 t/ha in 2024, which more than offset a 2.1% decline in harvested area.

Durum wheat output is forecast to rise 11.8% to 7.1 million tonnes, supported by improved yields and a higher harvest rate. Durum yields are estimated at 2.75 t/ha, compared with 2.49 t/ha a year earlier.

Winter wheat production is expected to increase 17% to 3.6 million tonnes, mainly due to a larger harvested area, despite a slight decline in yields to 5.75 t/ha from 5.84 t/ha in 2024.

Following a 3.3 million-tonne upward revision to Canada's 2025/26 wheat production estimate, the FAS also raised its wheat export forecast by 900,000 tonnes to 29.5 million tonnes, equivalent to roughly 67% of total domestic supply.

For comparison, Canadian wheat exports were estimated at 29.3 million tonnes in the previous marketing year and 25.4 million tonnes in 2023/24.

The FAS noted that Canada remains one of the world's most export-oriented wheat suppliers, having shipped 53% to 71% of its total wheat supply annually over the past five years.

Meanwhile, domestic wheat consumption in 2025/26 is projected at 9.35 million tonnes, representing around 21% of total supply, up from 8.4 million tonnes in 2024/25 and broadly in line with the recent three-year average.¹

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