

World trade in soybean meal continues to break records

Berlin, 19 August 2026 – According to estimates by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), global trade in soybean meal continues to increase for the fourth consecutive year in 2026/27, driven by ample feedstock supply and globally rising demand.

The currently projected 89.4 million tonnes would mark the fourth record volume in a row, although growth is expected to slow somewhat compared with the three previous marketing years. This translates into a year-on-year increase of roughly 4.3 per cent. For comparison, ten years ago, global shipments amounted to just 65.4 million tonnes of soybean meal. The main factor behind this increase is growing consumption for animal feed. Argentina leads the list of key global suppliers, with an export volume of 29.6 million tonnes, up from 29 million tonnes in the previous year. Brazil and the US follow in second and third place, with exports of 27.1 million tonnes and nearly 20.6 million tonnes, respectively.

As a result, global imports have also increased significantly over the past four marketing years. In 2026/27, overall imports are expected to reach approximately 85.4 million tonnes, representing an increase of about 3.5 per cent compared with the previous season and setting a new record high. The EU is expected to receive the largest volume, with imports presumably rising 300,000 tonnes to 20.4 million tonnes. According to research by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), Vietnam and Indonesia rank second and third, with 6.9 million tonnes and 6.8 million tonnes, respectively.

The Union zur Förderung von Oel- und Proteinpflanzen e. V. (UFOP) views this development as highlighting the urgent need to promote the cultivation of protein crops in the EU, with a focus on security of supply and sustainable resilience. Therefore, the protein strategy presented by the EU Commission at the beginning of July should now be implemented. UFOP holds member states responsible for ensuring that sustainability in arable farming and greater security of protein supply become a reality. The association has pointed out that 20.4 million tonnes of soybean meal imports are the equivalent of a crop area of approximately 7.2 million hectares – roughly 62 per cent of Germany's cropland.

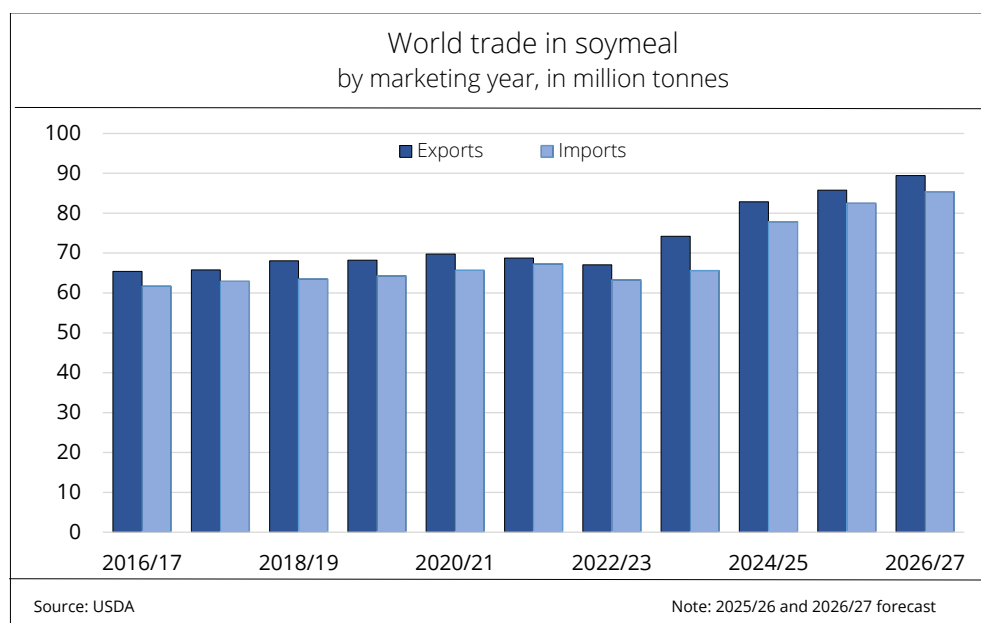


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Quick information on UFOP e. V.:

The Union for the Promotion of Oil and Protein Crops e. V. (UFOP) represents the political interests of companies, associations and institutions involved in the production, processing and marketing of domestic oil and protein crops in national and international bodies. UFOP supports research to optimise agricultural production and for the development of new utilisation possibilities in the food, non-food and feed sectors. UFOP public relations aim to promote the marketing of domestic oil and protein crop end products.