

# USDA expects four-year low for sunflower seeds

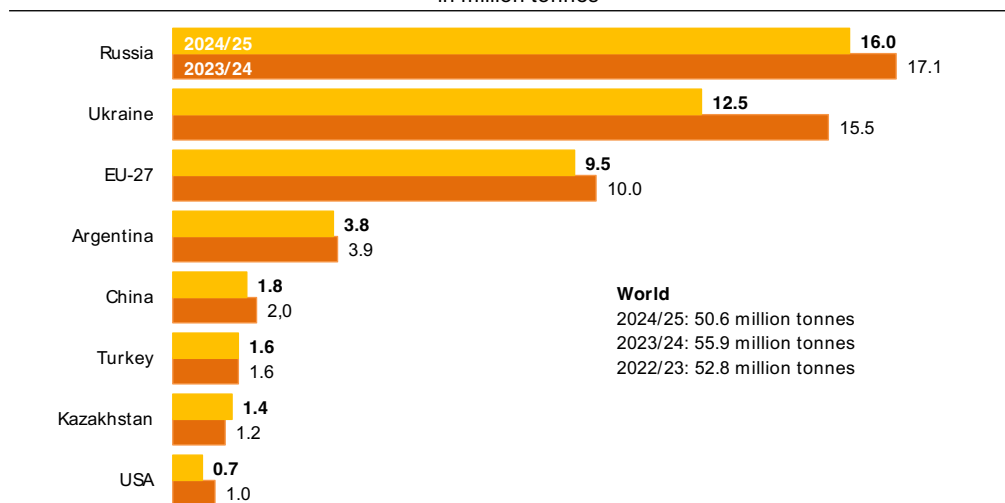
Berlin, 18 September 2024. – According to the latest forecast by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), the sunflower seed harvest is set to decline worldwide. In particular the EU-27 and Ukraine are seen to bring in smaller harvests.

In the current USDA forecast for 2024/25, global sunflower seed production is estimated at 50.6 million tonnes, much lower than the August forecast of 52.5 million tonnes. This would represent the smallest harvest in four years. Consequently, supply is seen to drop 5.3 million tonnes compared to the previous year.

According to investigations conducted by Agrarmarkt Informations-Gesellschaft (mbH), the revision is mainly due to anticipated smaller harvests in the EU-27 and Ukraine. For the EU, the USDA projects production at 9.5 million tonnes, around 650.000 tonnes lower than the previous estimate and 500,000 tonnes less than the 2023 harvest. The revision reflects both the reduction in production area and lower yields. Ukrainian production is expected to reach 12.5 million tonnes. In other words, the USDA lowered its forecast 1 million tonnes on the previous month based on the persistent drought and heat waves over the past few months, which have likely reduced the yield potential.

The forecast for Russian production remained unchanged from August at 16.0 million tonnes, only around 1.1 million tonnes less than in 2023/24. This means that the country is set to remain the world's most important supplier of sunflower seeds.

Harvest estimates for sunflower seeds  
in million tonnes



Source: USDA

Note: 2024/25 forecast

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