



Grains fundamentals: New crop fundamentals shape export outlook

21 July 2026



Ishan

Bhanu

Lead Agricultural
Commodities Analyst



Madeleine

Overgaard

Dry Market Data
Manager



Matt

Darragh

Grains & Oilseeds
Analyst





01

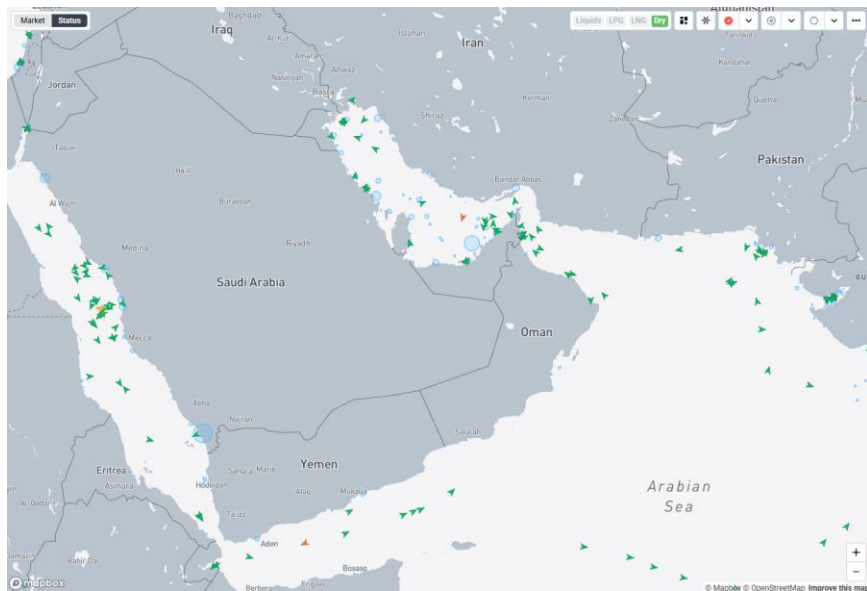
Trade disruption across key straits



Strait of Hormuz grain and fertiliser trade

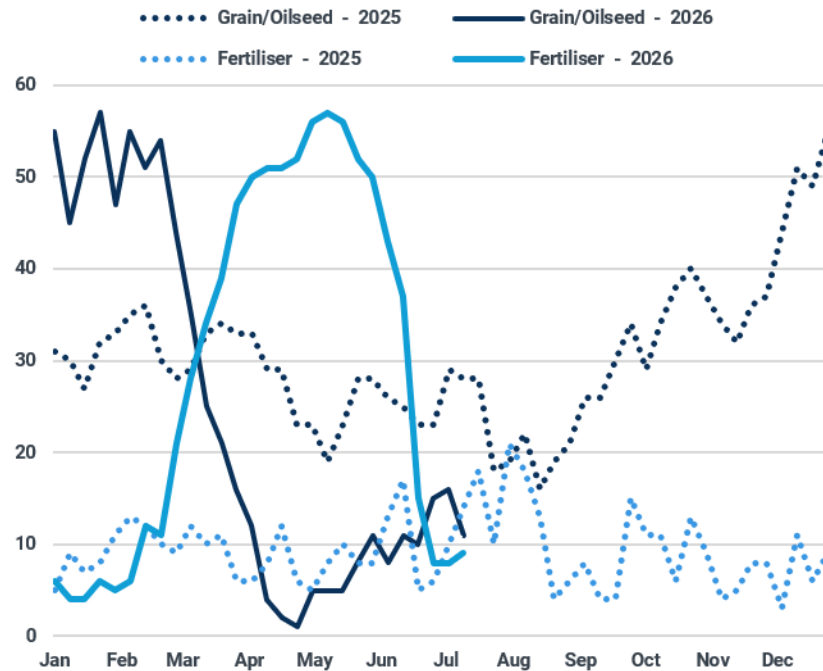
The end of the ceasefire sees a continuation of disrupted trade for the Middle East Gulf

Grain/Oilseed and fertiliser cargoes (as on 18 July)



Source: Kpler

Laden vessels in the MEG (#)

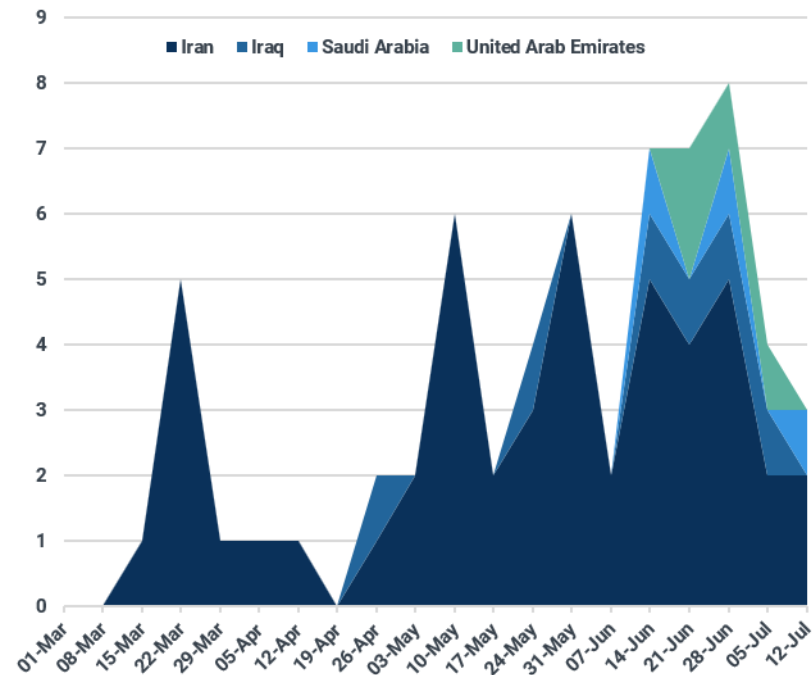


Source: Kpler

GCC grain and oilseed trade

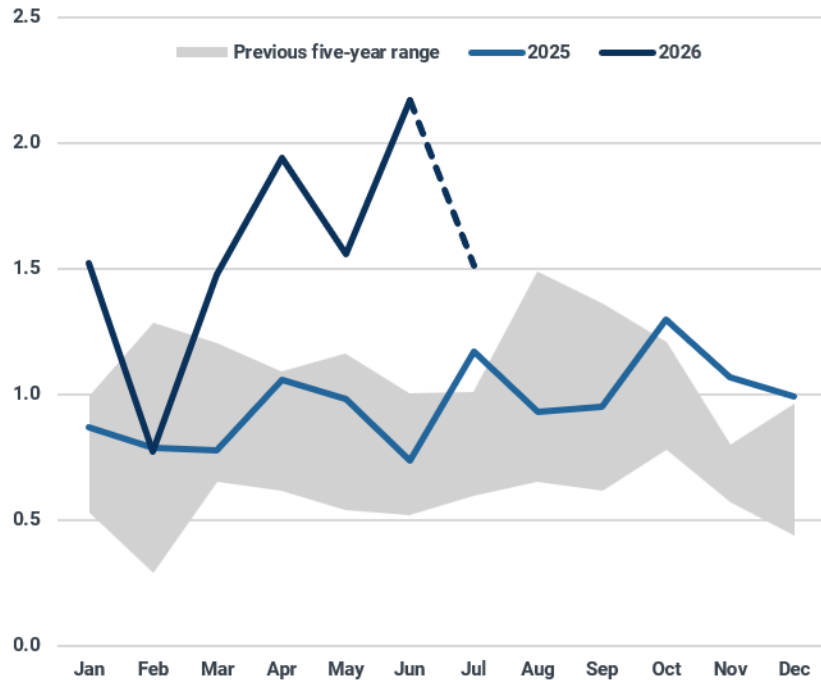
The memorandum of understanding had boosted SoH trade, however renewed conflict has seen this short lived

Grain/Oilseed cargoes entering MEG by destination (#)



Source: Kpler

GCC grain/oilseed imports outside of MEG (Mt)

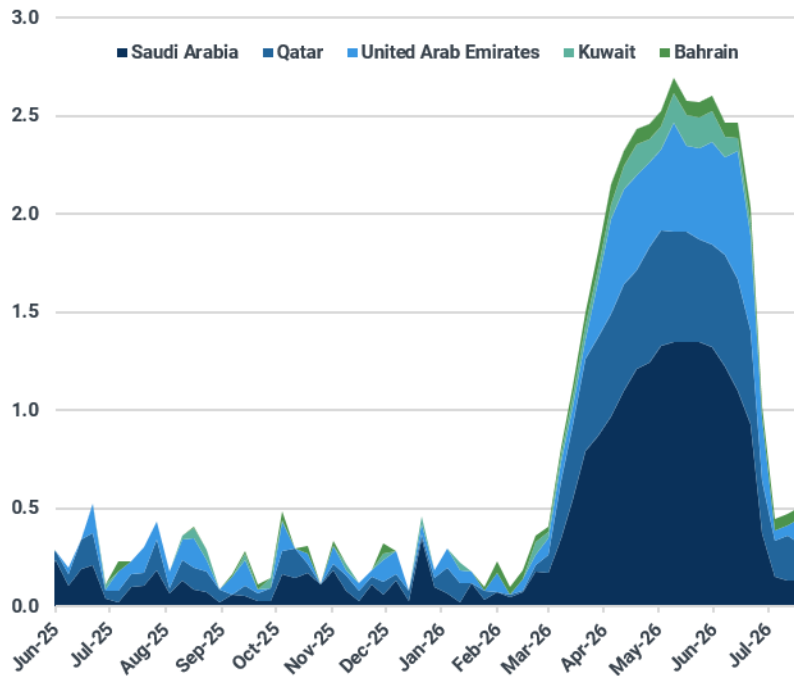


Source: Kpler

MEG fertiliser trade

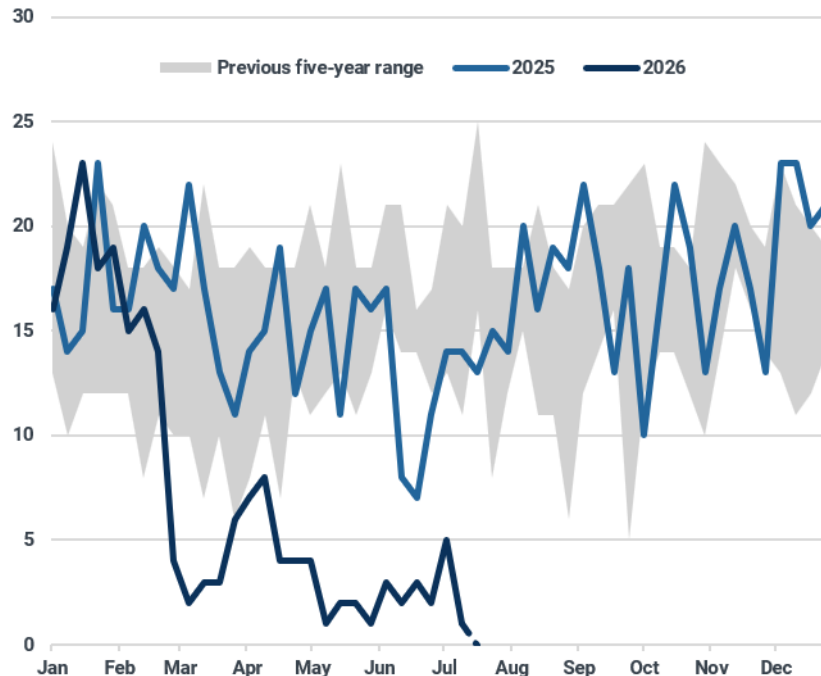
After a flush of fertiliser cargoes exited the Middle East Gulf, there are limited ballast vessels looking to enter and load

Volume of fertiliser within MEG (Mt)



Source: Kpler

Ballast vessels enroute to load fertiliser in MEG (#)

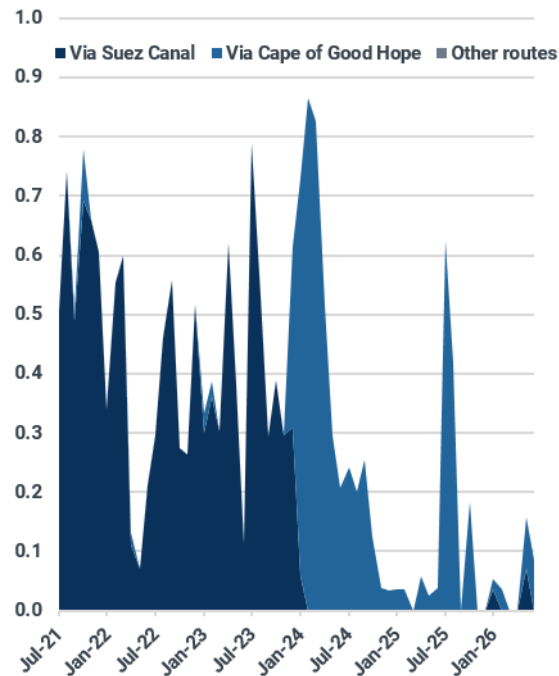


Source: Kpler

Trade routes of grain and oilseed products

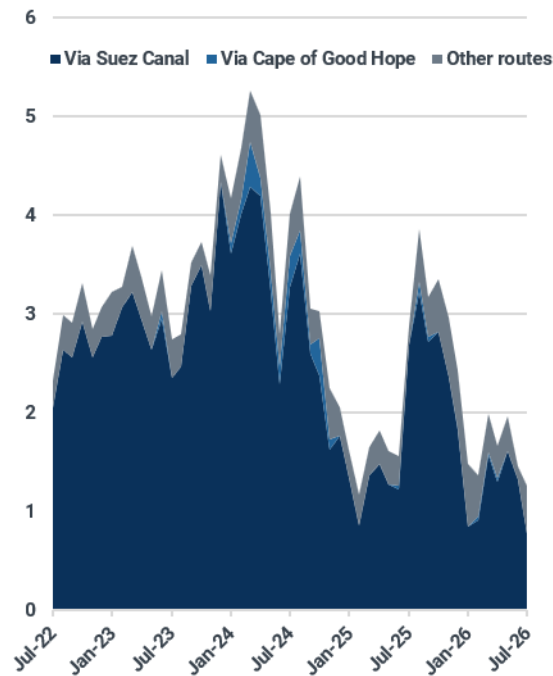
Threat of Houthi attacks at Bab el-Mandeb Strait sees some exporters shift from usual trade route

North American and Western European exports to Asia (Mt)



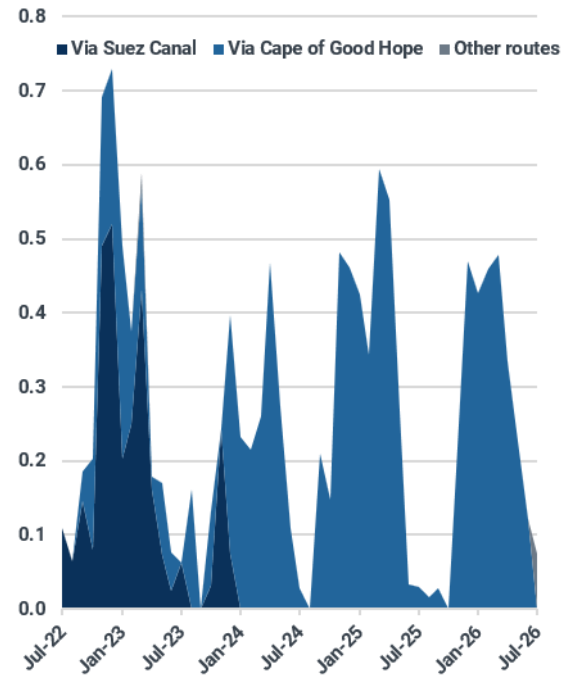
Source: Kpler

Black Sea exports to Asia (Mt)



Source: Kpler

Australia exports to Europe (Mt)



Source: Kpler



02

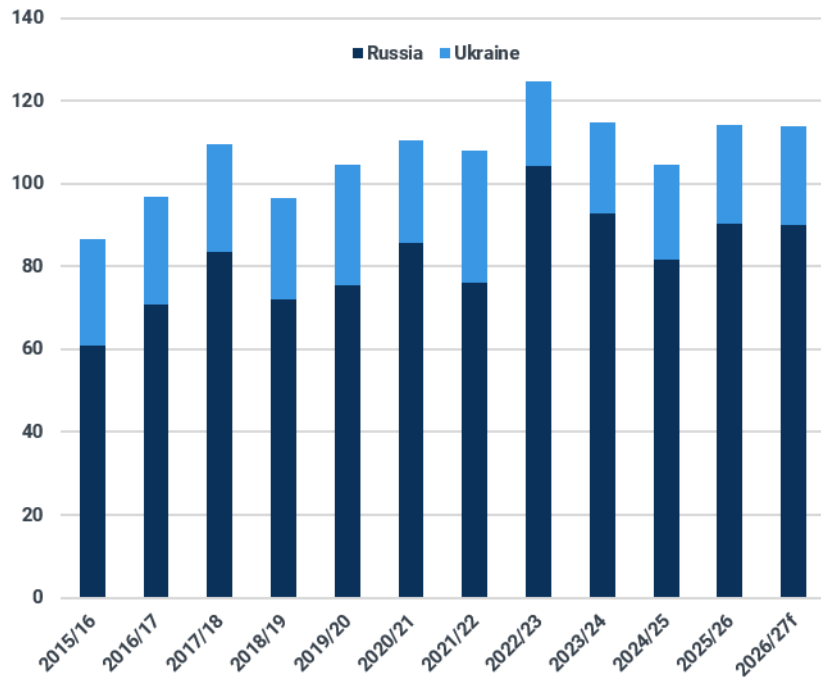
Black Sea wheat exports



Russian and Ukrainian wheat supply

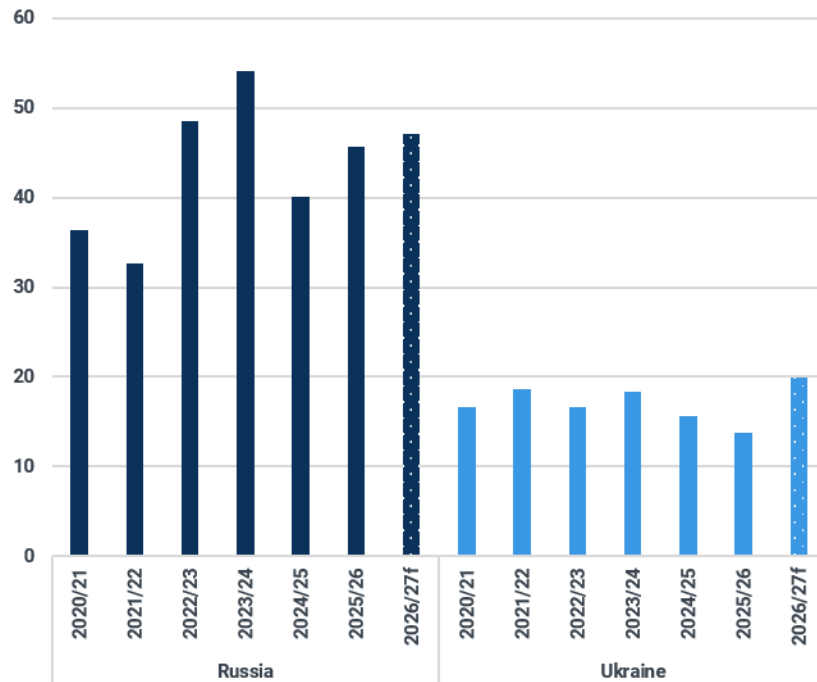
Given the favourable outlook for Black Sea production, export forecasts had been optimistic

Production (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight

Exports (Mt)

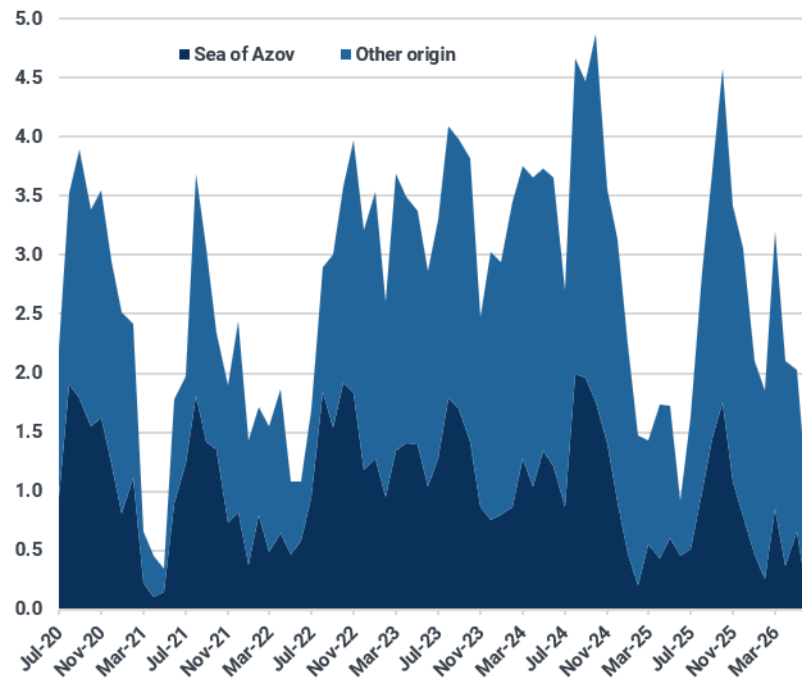


Source: Kpler Insight

Russian wheat exports

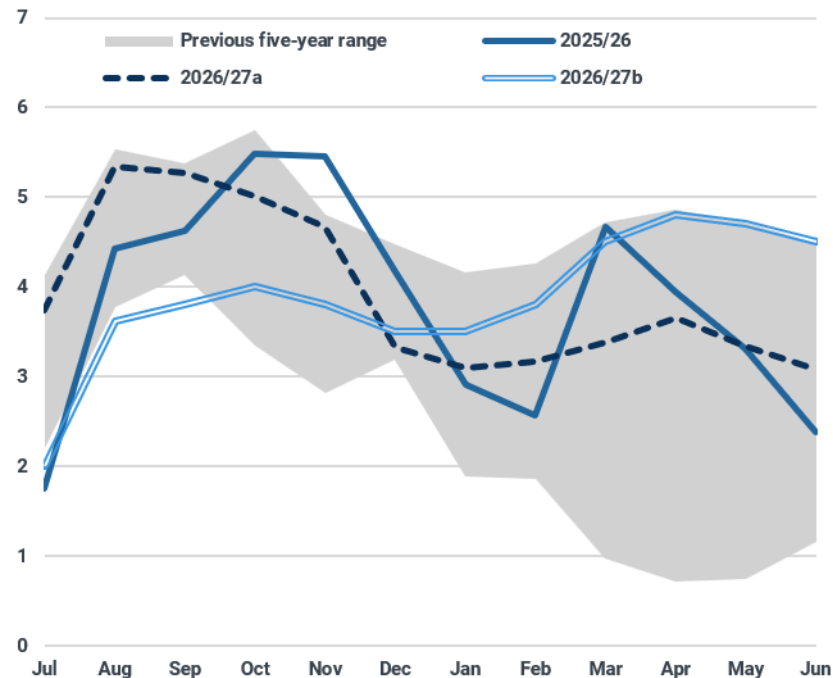
Approximately one-third of Russian wheat exports originate from the Sea of Azov

Seaborne exports (Mt)



Source: Kpler

Export scenarios (Mt)

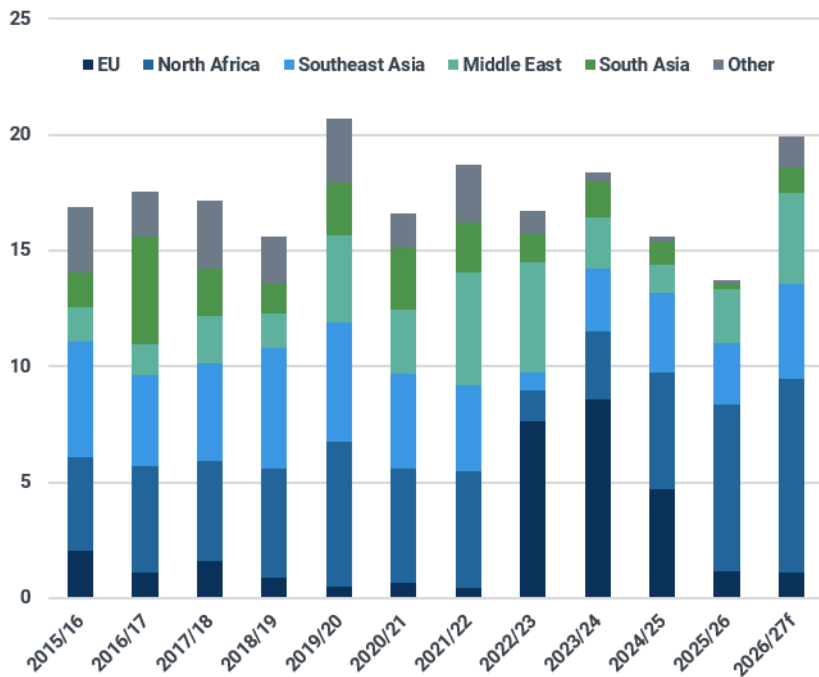


Source: Kpler Insight

Ukraine wheat exports

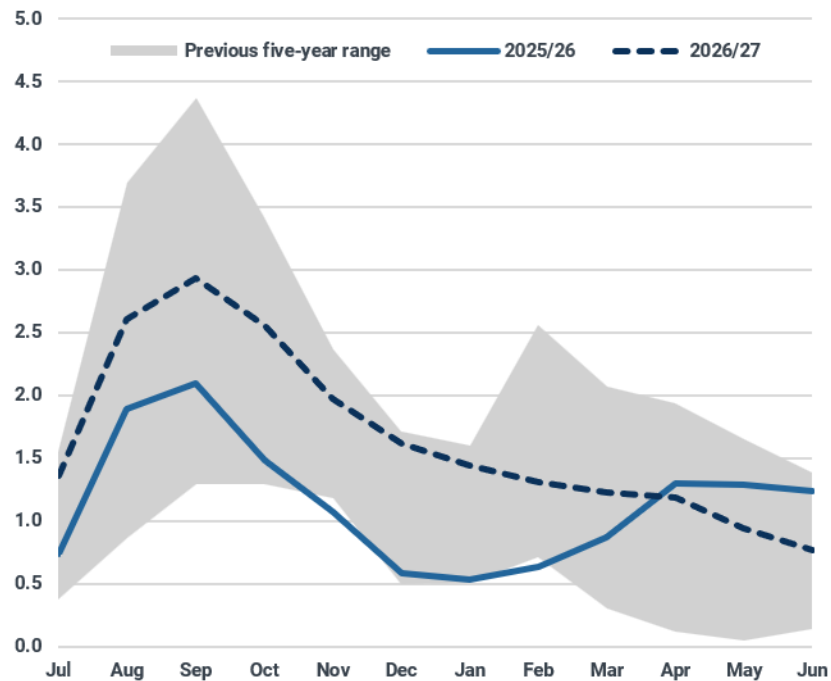
Considerable ending stocks saw Ukraine reliant on a strong export campaign to prevent building stocks further

Total exports by destination (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight

Monthly exports (Mt)

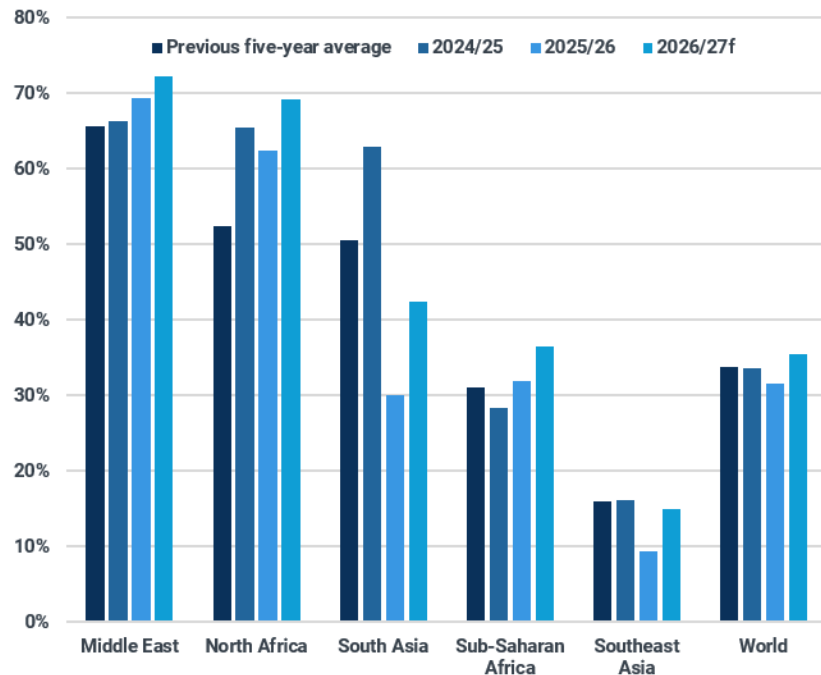


Source: Kpler Insight

Share of Russian and Ukrainian wheat exports

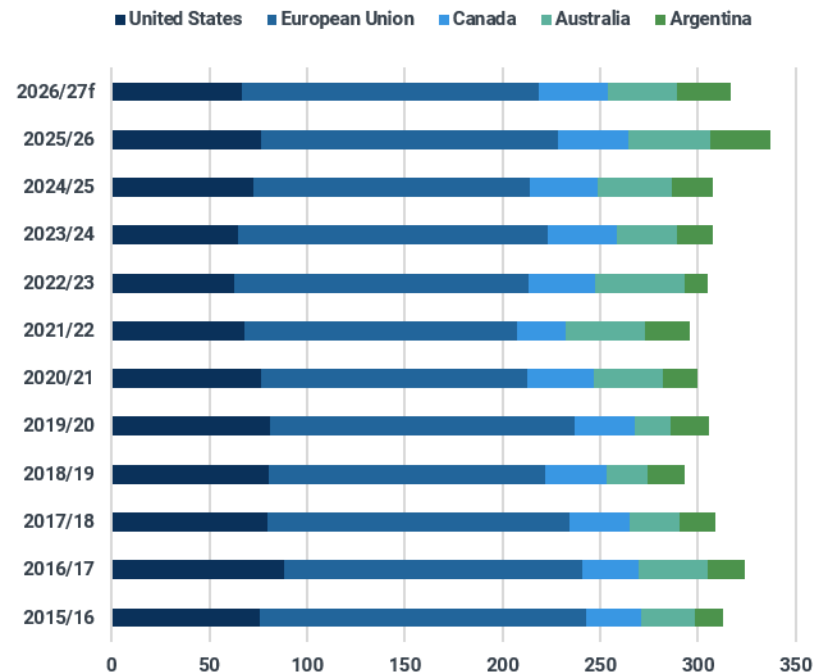
Several subcontinents are directly impacted from reduced Black Sea supply, though global supply offers options

Russian and Ukrainian wheat share of trade year total



Source: Kpler Insight

Total supply across alternate major exporters (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight



03

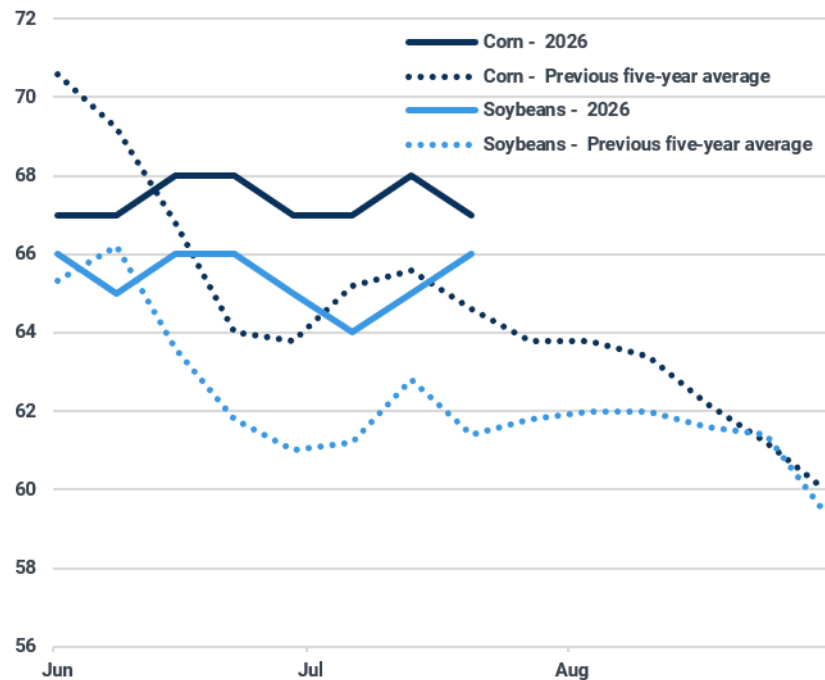
US corn and soybean development



US corn and soybean crop development

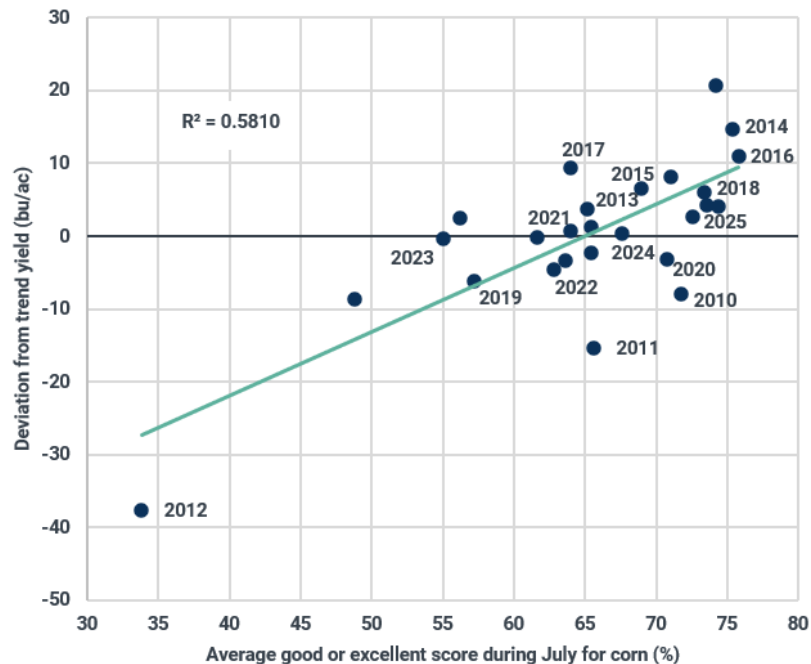
As crop development reaches pollination stages, current conditions are yet to show much concern

Corn and soybean crop in good or excellent condition (%)



Source: USDA

Relationship between US corn condition and deviation from trend yield



Source: USDA, Kpler Insight



04

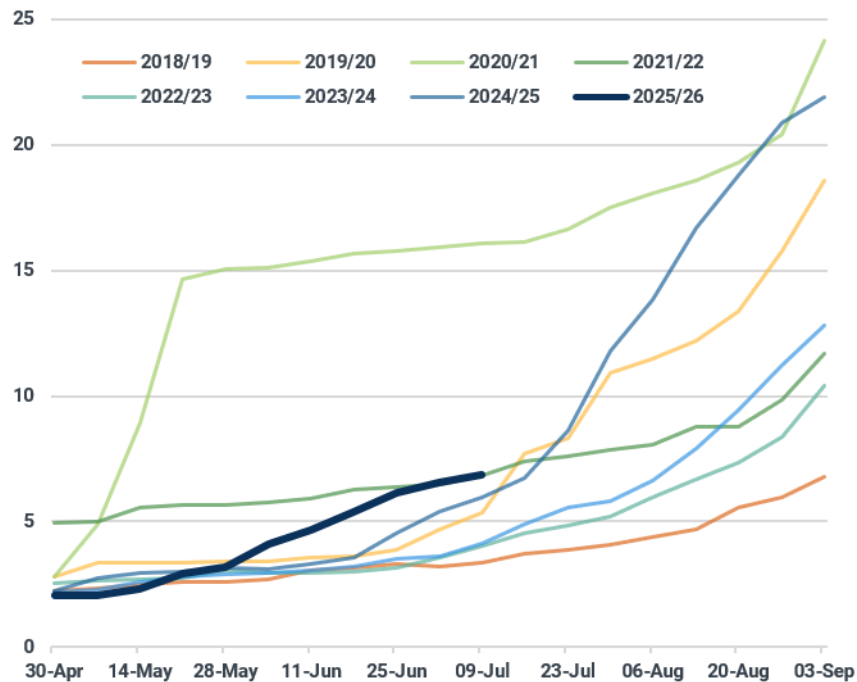
US vs South American corn



US corn sales

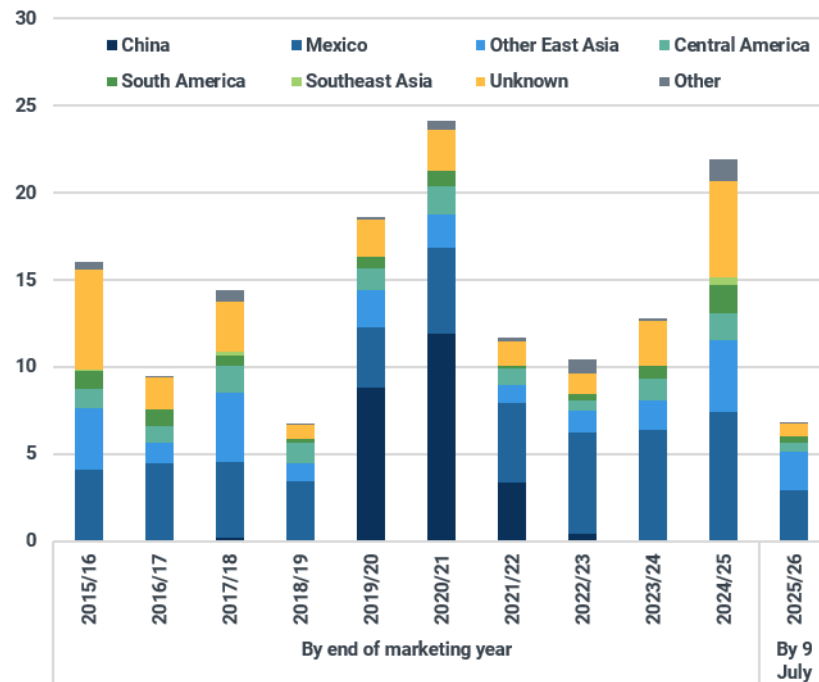
Sales of US corn for the next marketing year picks up momentum

US corn sales for next marketing year (Mt)



Source: USDA

US corn sales for next marketing year (Mt)



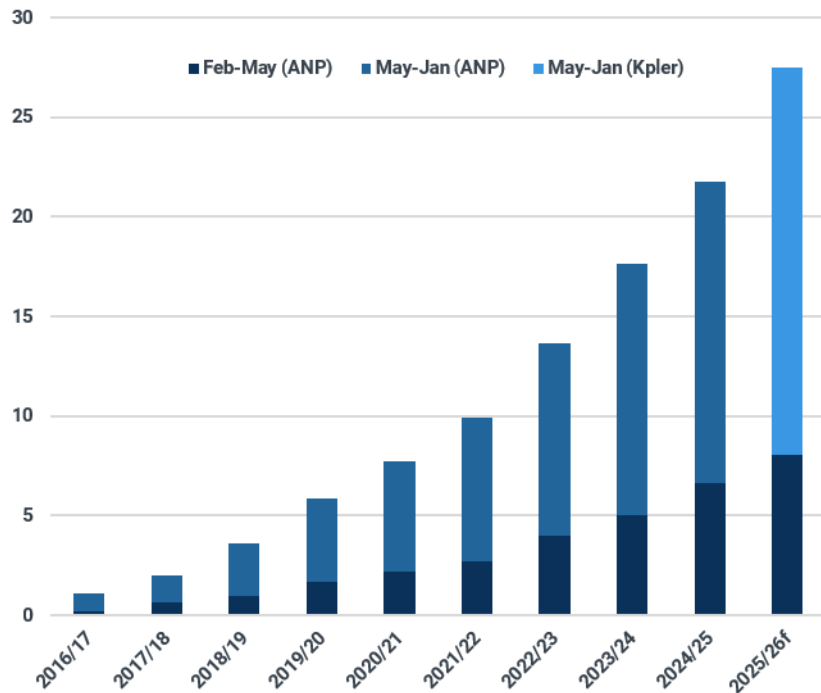
Source: USDA

Brazil's domestic corn demand

Strong domestic corn demand in Brazil limits export competitiveness

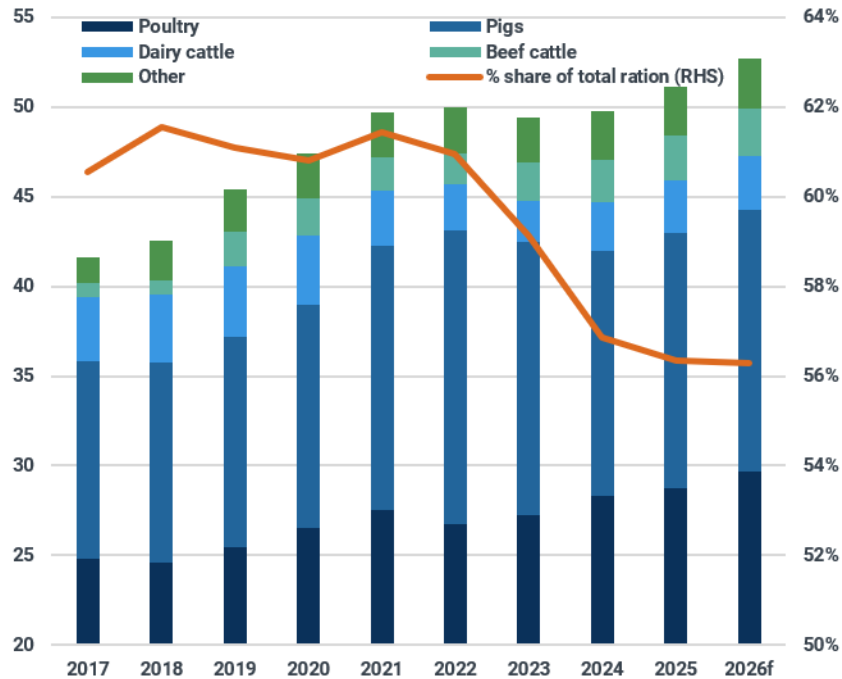
16

Corn ethanol demand (Mt)



Source: Brazilian Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas, and Biofuels (ANP), Kpler Insight

Commercial animal feed demand for corn (Mt)

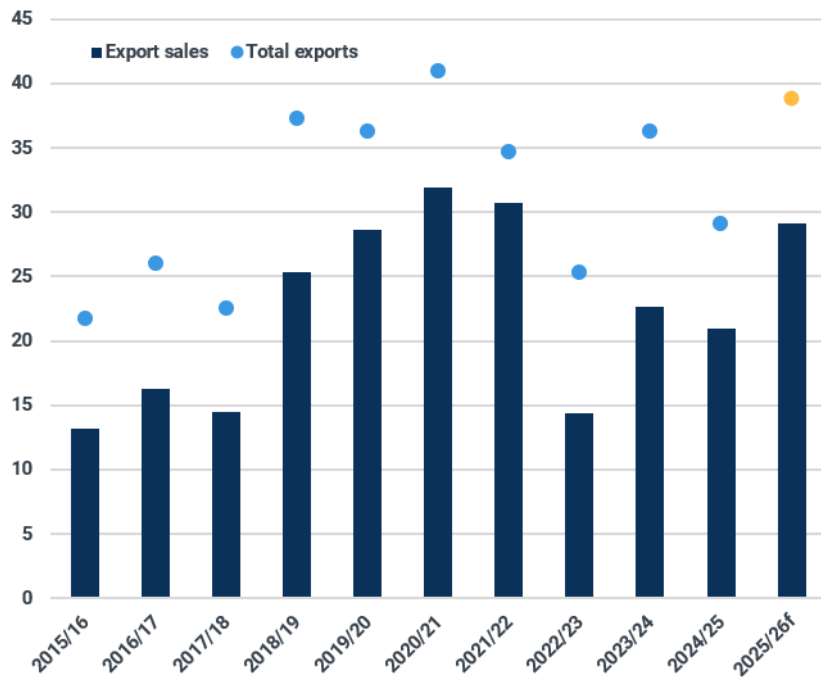


Source: Sincirações

Argentine corn demand

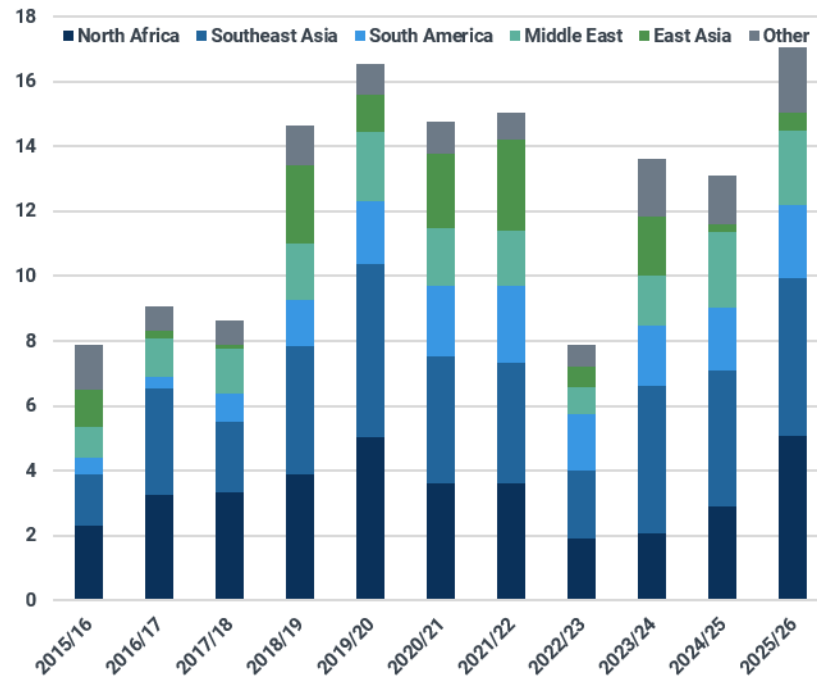
Strong Argentine export sales and pace support outlook of larger export campaign

Export sales by second week of July and completed export volume for marketing year (Mt)



Source: Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Kpler Insight

Argentine corn exports (Mar-Jun, Mt)

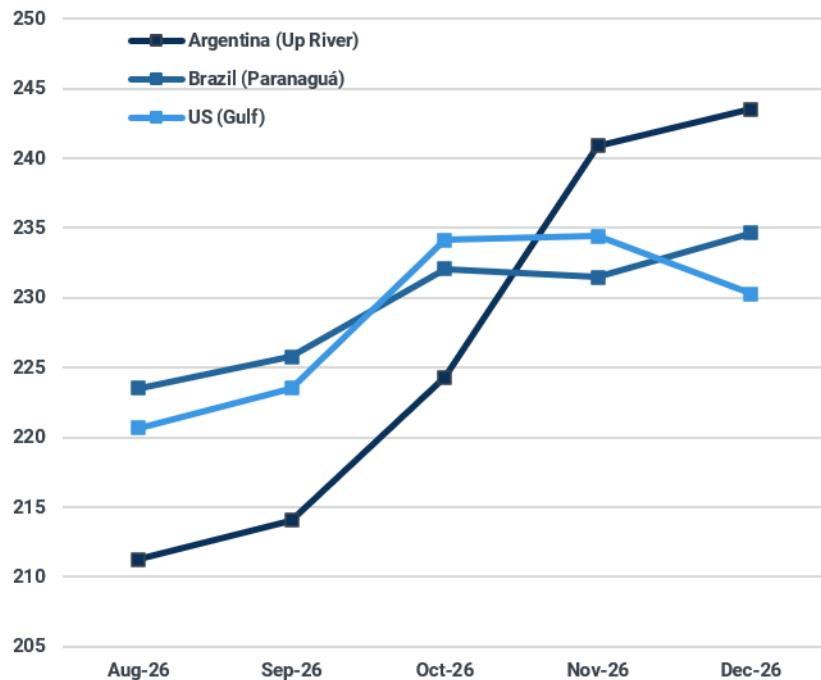


Source: Kpler Insight

US vs South American corn export competitiveness

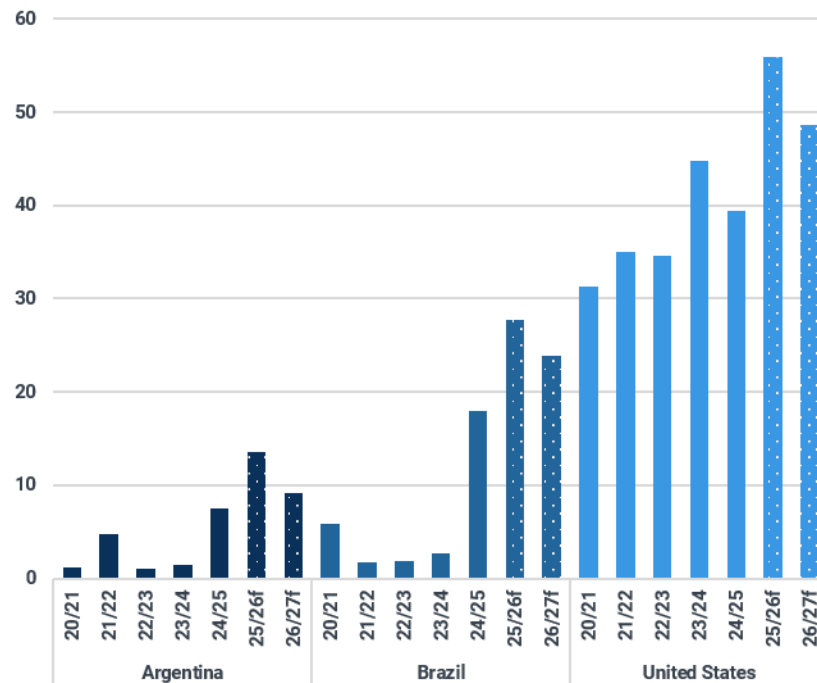
Freight market weighs on South American export competitiveness, to the benefit of the US campaign

Corn FOB offers (as on 20 July, \$/t)



Source: Barchart

Corn ending stocks by marketing year (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight

|

05

US-China trade update

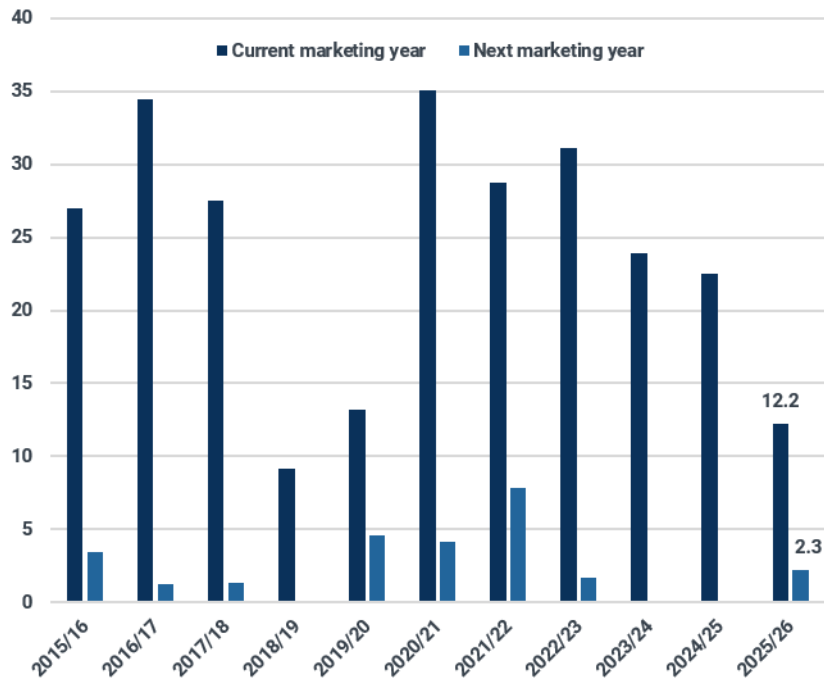


US agricultural trade to China

China completes 2025/26 soybean commitment, and is building momentum for new crop sales

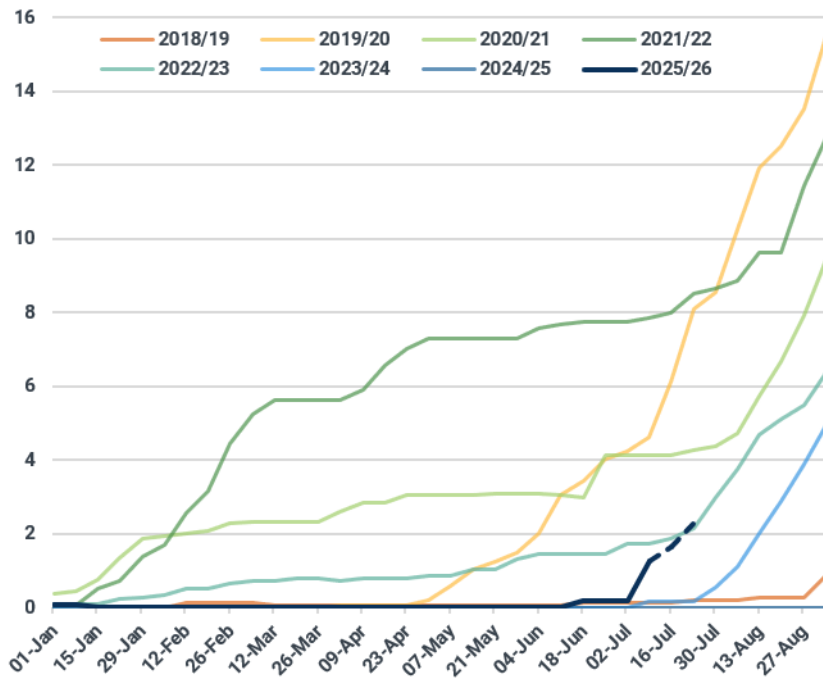
20

Total US soybean export commitments to China (Mt)



Source: USDA

Next marketing sales for US soybeans to China (Mt)

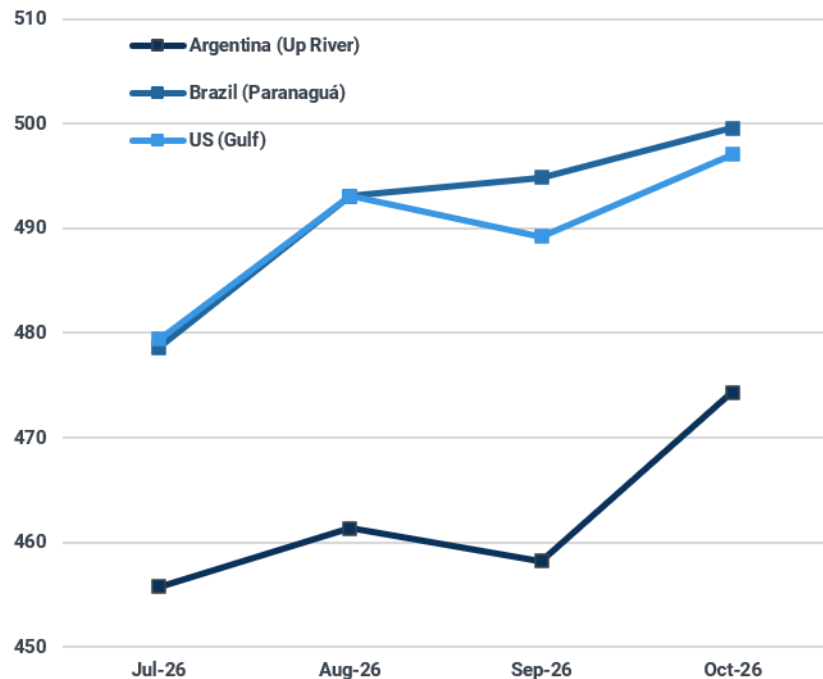


Source: USDA

Soybean export competitiveness

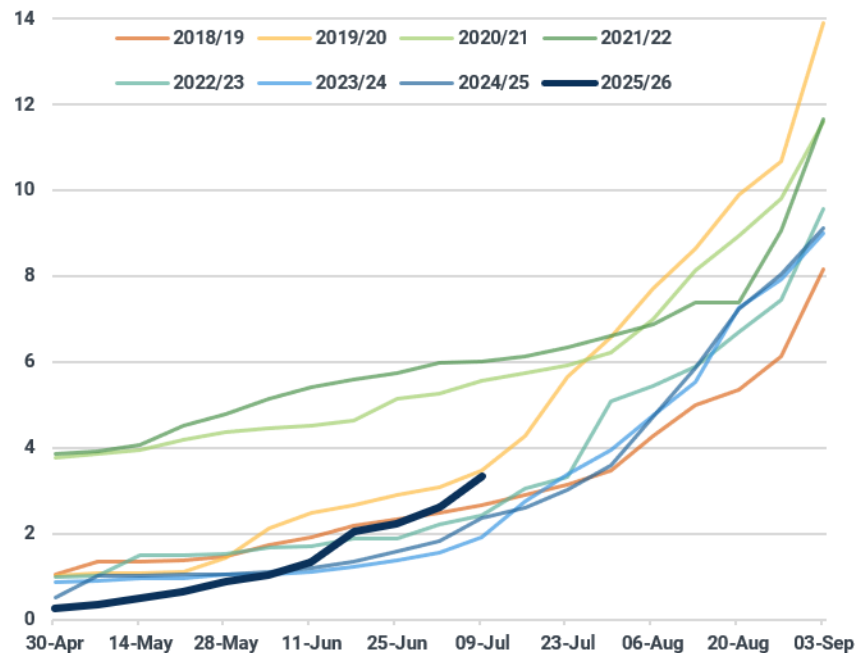
US and Brazil price at parity for the near-term, however US discount can be seen for months ahead

Soybean FOB offers (as on 20 July, \$/t)



Source: Barchart

Next marketing sales for US soybeans to ex-China destinations (Mt)



Source: USDA



06

Short term drivers

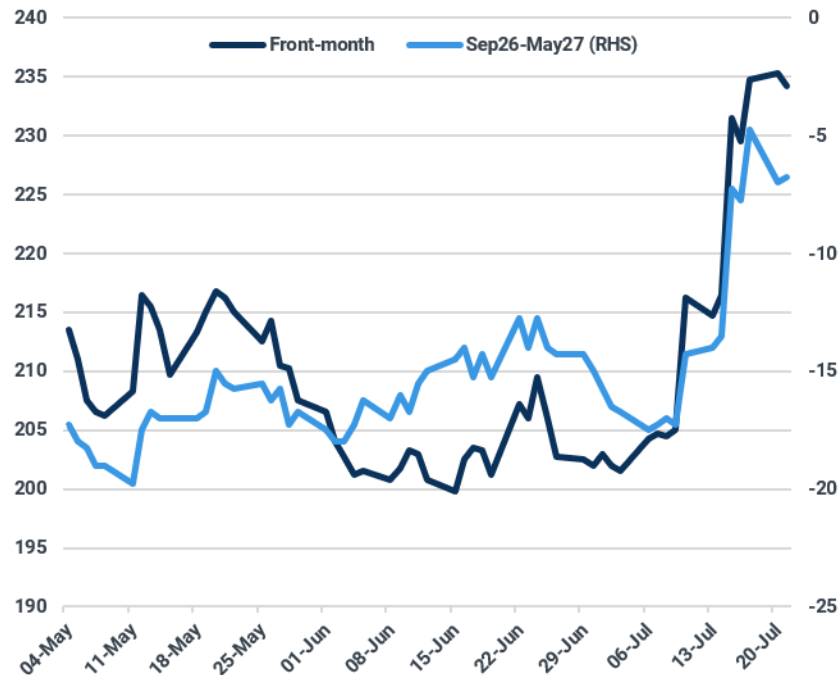


Short term drivers

Disruption to Black Sea wheat exports elevates wheat market volatility

- The flow of **Russian grain** has been severely **restricted** and direct Russian attacks on vessels loading Ukrainian product will limit Ukraine's export too. Contagion will spread beyond Matif.
- **US corn export competitiveness shows little sign of waning**, with sales for the next marketing year above last years previously strong performance. Ample South American supply is yet to price more aggressively to see more elastic destinations pivot.
- Renewed US-Iran conflict sees **return of restricted trade through the Strait of Hormuz** and concerns trade through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait too. Players have mostly secured grains routes by now.
- **US agricultural sales to China are beginning to build momentum**, seeing the market turn more optimistic about China honouring its purchase commitments.

MATIF milling wheat (€/t)



Source: Barchart

kpler

Thank you!

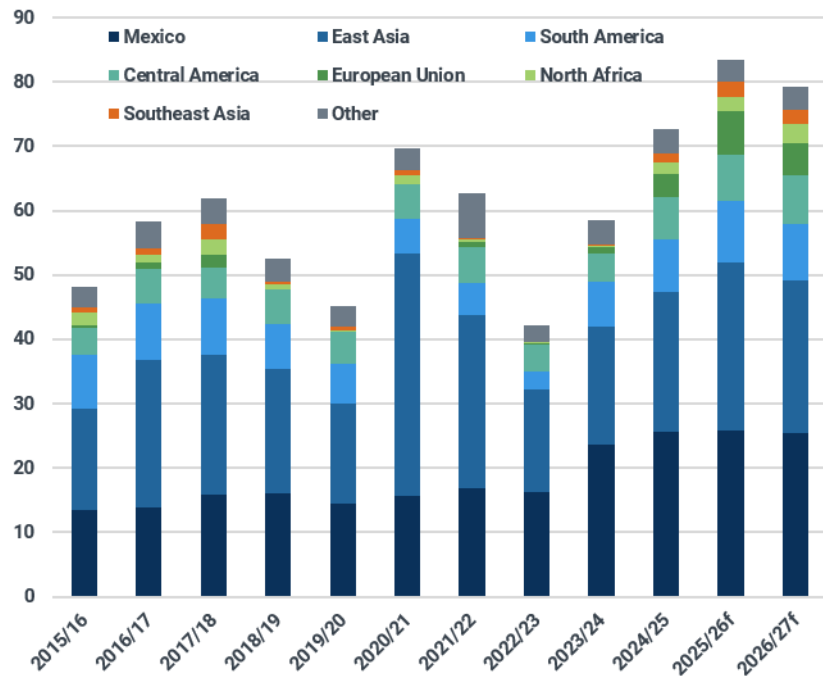
ags@kpler.com

terminal.kpler.com

US export outlook

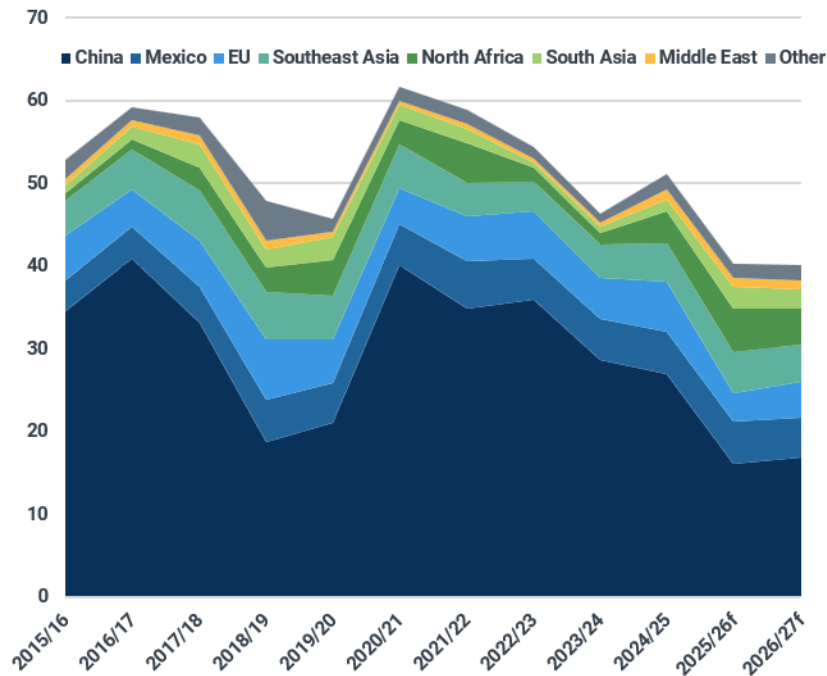
Another sizable corn harvest would support export pace, while soybeans are still awaiting confidence in Chinese demand

US corn exports (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight

US soybean exports (Mt)



Source: Kpler Insight