Overseas Market Analysis | Target Country: Romania | Main Category: Soybean Oil

Romania Soybean Oil Overseas Market Analysis Report

Report Updated: July 1, 2026

Romania Soybean Oil Key Conclusions

Romania consumes about 180,000 tons of soybean oil annually, with insufficient domestic crushing capacity and **import dependency over 70%**. In H1 2026, the lower Brazilian soybean crop forecast and Black Sea logistics disruptions widened the FOB Argentina–Ukraine spread, driving up import costs. The EU RED III policy is boosting biodiesel demand, intensifying competition for soybean oil feedstock. Retail prices rose approx. 12% YoY, with supply tightness risk in H2.

Import Dependency	73%
Annual Domestic Crush	~50,000 tons
Refined Soy Oil Wholesale Price	€1.35/L ▲12%
Soy Oil Share in Biodiesel Feedstock	22% ▲

Source: National Institute of Statistics (Romania), June 2026; European Commission Agricultural Market Observatory, July 2026

Supply & Demand Fundamentals

Romania's soybean oil supply is heavily import-dependent, with domestic crushing meeting only about 28% of demand. In H1 2026, imports grew 5% year-on-year. Food processing and biodiesel jointly drove consumption growth, resulting in a small surplus from stock changes.

Indicator	Volume (10,000 tons)
Domestic Production	5.2
Imports	13.5
Total Supply	18.7
Domestic Consumption	17.8
Exports/Stock Changes	0.9

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Romania), July 2026 Supply & Demand Report

China Market Status

China's soybean oil market is balanced to slightly loose. Crushing utilization remains around 60%, and port inventories are at seasonal highs. Imported soybean oil volumes keep declining as domestic crushing capacity is ample. Exports to Europe are suspended due to anti-dumping investigations.

1st Grade Soy Oil Ex-Factory Coastal Average	¥9,200/ton ▲2.3%
National Crushing Utilization	62%
Soybean Oil Inventory	880,000 tons
Export Status to Europe	Suspended (anti-dumping investigation)

Source: Mysteel Agri, July 9, 2026 Weekly Report

Romania Market Status

Local refined soybean oil retail prices are elevated, with imports mainly from Ukraine, Brazil, and Argentina. Household consumption still dominates, but the industrial segment is expanding as biodiesel blending rates rise.

Retail Price	6.8–7.2 RON/L (approx. €1.37–1.45)
Import Dependency	73%
Main Sources	Ukraine 38%, Brazil 25%, Argentina 15%
Consumption Structure	Household 55% | Food Industry 25% | Biodiesel & Chemical 20%

Source: INS (Romania), June 2026; European Commission, July 2026

Product Segmentation

Soybean oil imports are mainly crude oil, which is refined for food and industrial channels. Hydrogenated soybean oil accounts for a small share but offers high added value. Demand is growing steadily in margarine and industrial lubrication.

Type	Import Share	Reference Price (July 2026)
Crude Soybean Oil	60%	CFR $980/ton
Refined Soybean Oil	35%	Wholesale €1,350/ton
Hydrogenated Soy Oil/Stearin	5%	~€1,500/ton

Source: Argus Media, July 2026 Oils & Fats Market Report

Core End-Product Supply & Demand

Biodiesel and food processing are the twin engines of soybean oil consumption, together accounting for approx. 177,000 tons. A domestic deficit of 120,000 tons must be covered by imports. Tightening EU ILUC regulations may drive up premiums for low-risk-origin soybean oil.

Biodiesel Production	350,000 tons (2026)
Soy Oil Feedstock Demand (Biodiesel)	77,000 tons
Food Processing Consumption	100,000 tons
Import Gap	~120,000 tons Tight Supply

Source: Eurostat, June 2026; Romanian Ministry of Energy, July 2026

Intermediate & Raw Material Values

Global soybean prices remain elevated. CBOT futures and Brazilian soybean premiums underpin soybean oil costs. Ukrainian crude soybean oil maintains price competitiveness on logistics advantages. Refining processing fees are relatively stable.

CBOT Soybean Futures	$12.8/bushel
Brazil FOB Soybeans	$510/ton
Argentine Crude Soy Oil CFR Constanța	$970/ton
Ukrainian Crude Soy Oil CFR	$920/ton
Refining Fee	$180/ton

Source: CME, July 2026; Trade Data Monitor, July 2026

Trade & Macro Indicators

Romania's macroeconomy is growing moderately with controlled inflation. The Port of Constanța, as an Eastern European oils & fats hub, has significant logistical advantages. The EU continues duty-free access for Ukrainian agricultural products, affecting soybean oil import patterns.

2026 GDP Growth (Forecast)	2.8%
Inflation Rate	4.2%
RON/USD Exchange Rate	≈4.55
Soybean Oil Related Imports (2025)	€120 million
H1 2026 Import YoY	▲8%

Source: World Bank, June 2026 forecast; National Bank of Romania (BNR), July 2026

Risks & Opportunity Windows

Geopolitical tensions in the Black Sea and tightening EU ILUC regulations are the main downside risks. RON exchange rate fluctuations add cost uncertainty. However, expanding refining capacity, the port hub role, and renewable energy policy drivers create structural opportunities.

⚠ Risk	Black Sea logistics disruption, ILUC restrictions
⚠ Risk	Brazil soybean output cuts push up global prices
√ Opportunity	Refining capacity expansion & toll-processing re-export
√ Opportunity	EU renewable energy policy continues to drive demand
√ Opportunity	Port of Constanța expanding into Balkan markets

Source: European Commission, July 2026 policy communication; Romanian Investment Promotion Agency, 2026

Key Data Sources

- National Institute of Statistics (INS), Romania – June 2026 trade and consumption data
- European Commission Agricultural Market Observatory – July 2026 Oilseeds and Oils Report
- Mysteel Agri – July 9, 2026 China Soybean Oil Weekly
- Argus Media – July 2026 Global Oils & Fats Market Report
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- Trade Data Monitor – July 2026 Trade Flow Data
- World Bank – June 2026 Global Economic Prospects
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- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Romania – July 2026 Supply & Demand Report
- Eurostat – June 2026 Biodiesel Production Statistics
- Romanian Ministry of Energy – July 2026 Renewable Energy Feedstock Data
- Romanian Investment Promotion Agency – 2026 Investment Policy Guidance