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MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - In Russia, 105.7 **million** tonnes of grain and grain legume crops (in bunker weight) were harvested as of November 1, which is 16.1% than on the same date last year, the Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) said on Wednesday.

In particular, the harvest at agricultural organizations amounted to 79 **million** tonnes.

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In Crimea 1.1 **million** tonnes of grain were threshed, which is 58.8% more than on the same date of last year.

The harvest of sunflower seeds at farms of all categories was 8.1 **million** tonnes (down 1.5%). Sugar beet harvest was 28.6 **million** tonnes (down 2%). The potato harvest amounted to 30.5 **million** tonnes (up 2.8%) and 13.8 **million** tonnes of vegetables were harvested (up 0.5%).

Rosstat said that by November 1, grain and grain legume crops were threshed from 91.8% of the planted area, of this grain corn from 79.8%. Potatoes were harvested from 99% of the planting area and vegetables from 97%. Sugar beets were gathered from 89.9% of the area and sunflower seeds from 83.7%.

As in previous years, the main share of grain (74.7%), sugar beets (89.5%) and sunflower seeds (70.6%) were grown at agricultural organizations, potatoes (80.8%) and vegetables (70.7%) at small farms.

At private farms, 24.5% of the total grain harvest was gathered (level with 2013), sugar beets 9.8% (9.6%), sunflower seeds 29% (28.6%) and vegetables 13.2% (level with 2013).

According to data of the Russian Agriculture Ministry, which are based on operating information of the regional authorities for the management of agriculture, on October 31 (there was no data for November 1) 108 **million** tonnes of grain in bunker weight was harvested.

Russia exported 16.242 **million** tonnes of grain between July 1 and November 12, 2014, which was 39% more than it did in the same period of last year (11.7 **million** tonnes), the Russian Agriculture Ministry said.

Most exports, 13.2 **million** tonnes, were wheat. Barley exports totaled 2.2 **million** tonnes, corn - 658,000 tonnes, and other grain - 140,000 tonnes.

The ministry also said the world grain market saw an increase in prices last week due to unfavorable weather conditions for harvesting in a number of grain producing countries.

As of November 13, average export prices for soft wheat to the U.S. (FOB, Gulf of Mexico) were \$242 per tonne. The price grew by \$8, or 5.2%, over the week.

The Agriculture Ministry said the country's export potential totaled 30 **million** tonnes for this year. Experts from the grain market have said some 20 **million** tonnes of grain would be exported before the end of 2014.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) – Russian grain exports in the current agricultural year (July 2014-June 2015) will top 20 **million** tonnes by the end of December, Russian Grain Union President Arkady

Zlochevsky forecast. He also said it is not worth counting on **China** as a large buyer of Russian grain, particularly wheat. Meanwhile, Jordan has asked Russia to supply nearly double the amount of grain it did last year and Russia's UGC said it has shipped about 50,000 tonnes of grain to North Korea and Nicaragua in November as humanitarian aid.

Grain exports

"Total exports by New Year's will definitely top 20 **million** tonnes of grain and we expect the total for the entire season [agricultural year] in the neighborhood of 32 **million**-32.5 **million** tonnes," Zlochevsky said on Thursday.

Russia exported 25.4 **million** tonnes of grain in the previous farm year.

It has exported 18 **million** tonnes of grain since July 1, Zlochevsky said. "Everything is within the forecast parameters. The current exchange rate picture facilitates maintenance of high export rates; the weakening ruble is stimulating grain exports," he said.

It is also firming up prices on the domestic market, he said. "In addition, after a fairly strong decline in October futures, prices have begun recovering somewhat, at least, in the last three days prices have risen. This is also a driver of domestic prices," Zlochevsky said.

The current price of Class 3 wheat is 8,300-8,400 rubles/tonne in the central regions, 8,000 rubles/t in the Volga region, 7,800 rubles/t in Southern Urals and 8,100 rubles/t in Siberia. Class 4 wheat is cheaper by 500-600 rubles/t and fodder wheat prices are lower by 1,000 rubles/t, he said.

Prices for flour, which normally lag grain prices by four to six weeks, are flat at the moment. "Grain millers will have to bump up prices," Zlochevsky said. The price of top grade flour is currently averaging 13,000 rubles/t.

Grain prices will rise in the short term, he said. "Going forward, prices will move with the dollar exchange rate," he said.

The grain harvest this year will total about 104 **million** tonnes, according to Russian Grain Union forecasts. "To be more exact: 103.7 **million** tonnes," Zlochevsky said, noting that the harvest forecast "has returned to the initial, midsummer figure," down from the 105 **million** tonnes forecast in October. The wheat harvest will total 59 **million**-60 **million** tonnes, he added.

Chinese demand

It is not worth counting on **China** as a large buyer of Russian grain, particularly wheat, Zlochevsky said. "It's not worth placing bets that **China** will **buy** our grain 'like a blue streak,'" he said.

Zlochevsky added that talks were underway concerning the terms of grain shipments from Russia to **China**. "But we are well aware that without a political decision from the **Chinese** authorities, this issue will not be resolved. It's necessary to remove obstacles stemming from phytosanitary measures that simply cannot be carried out currently. On the basis of the requirements the **Chinese** phytosanitary service has set for Russian grain, it's always possible to close shipments," he said.

Zlochevsky said that even if the issue received a positive response, **China** would not make large **purchases** of Russian grain. This is shown by the experience of Kazakhstan, which exports grain to **China**, he said, adding that volumes have not yet exceeded 100,000 tonnes per year.

Discussing **China's** need for imported wheat, Zlochevsky said: "In certain years, procurement volumes abroad reach up to 6-7 **million** tonnes, but this happens when there is no need to import wheat." In addition, he said **China** was one of the world's largest wheat producers with an average of 120 **million** tonnes.

Zlochevsky also said it was possible that **China's** need for Russian grain would disappear at some point. "**China** has tasked its scientists with developing genetically modified wheat by 2015 that is resistant to rust and drought, and [**China**] is planning to launch an informational propaganda campaign on overcoming negative views towards genetically modified products. If this is done, there will be no need for Russian grain," he said.

Agriculture Minister Nikolai Fyodorov said on Wednesday that talks on shipments of Russian grain to **China** were over.

Jordanian request

Meanwhile, Jordan has asked Russia to supply nearly double the amount of grain it did last year, Agriculture Minister Nikolai Fyodorov said at the conclusion of the second session of the Russian-Jordanian intergovernmental commission to develop economic and technical-scientific cooperation in Moscow on Thursday.

"Our goal, alongside major projects such as construction of the first nuclear power plant in Jordan, is to practically double Russian grain shipments to Jordan," Fyodorov said. "Russia currently supplies about 25% of the grain that Jordan imports. Jordan is asking that we double that share to 50%," he said.

Jordan in turn expects to substantially increase deliveries of fruit and vegetables to Russia, he said.

During the meeting, the two sides agreed that trade needed to grow not just by increasing volumes of existing trade goods, but by broadening the assortment of goods traded and by more deeply diversifying trade and economic relations between the two countries, the Agriculture Ministry reported.

Russia exported 393,000 tonnes of grain to Jordan in the latest agricultural year (July 2013-June 2014), including 111,000 tonnes of barley, according to data from ProZerno LLC.

North Korean, Nicaraguan aid

Elsewhere, United Grain **Company** (UGC), the Russian government's agent for the federal grain intervention fund, shipped about 50,000 tonnes of grain to North Korea and Nicaragua in November as humanitarian aid.

Overall aid to North Korea exceeded 46,000 tonnes, UGC told Interfax. The first ship with 23,000 tonnes set sail from the Novorossiysk port in early August and a second ship with the same amount of grain departed in November.

At the beginning of this week, UGC dispatched a ship carrying 25,000 tonnes of grain from the reserves of the intervention fund to Nicaragua.

The humanitarian aid is being provided under orders from the Russian president and government, issued on the basis of intergovernmental agreements.

UGC was founded on March 20, 2009 to develop grain market infrastructure, realize the export potential of Russian grain and conduct trading on the domestic grain market.

As its contribution to UGC's **equity**, the government gave the **company** stakes in 30 enterprises located in 18 regions of the country. The government now owns 50% plus one share of UGC and the second largest shareholder is the Summa **Group**.

BARNAUL. Nov 18 (Interfax) - The Altai Territory plans to export flour and cereals to **China**, chief of the territorial food processing, pharmaceutical and bioengineering industries department Tatyana Zelenina told journalists.

"We will ask the Agriculture Ministry and the federal veterinary and phytosanitary oversight service Rosselkhoz nadzor to extend the list of grain processing products cleared to be exported to **China**," she said.

The region could export some 300,000 tonnes of flour to **Chinese** partners each year, Zelenina also said.

"We have capacities large enough to produce 1.8 **million** tonnes of flour annually, so we could quietly produce an extra 300,000 tonnes of flour to be exported to **China**," she said.

Besides flour, Altai grain processing companies would like to export cereals and mixed fodder. The Altai territory's production potential could grow significantly due to exports to the **Chinese** market, she said.

"If companies see markets, they will be encouraged to upgrade production facilities, expand production and enter these markets, Zelenina said.

Altai Territory is one of Russia's main flour producers.

ASTANA. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Kazakhstan will this year harvest 17.6 **million** tonnes of grain in clean weight, Minister of Agriculture Asylzhan Mamyrbekov said.

"We expect this year's grain harvest to come to about 17.6 **million** tonnes in clean weight, as a result of which our export potential will reach 7 **million** tonnes," he said.

Kazakh farmers have already harvested 18.3 **million** tonnes of grain to date from 14.5 **million** ha or 96.5% of the area under crop.

This year the harvested campaign was hindered by heavy rains in most of the agricultural regions.

In 2013 Kazakhstan harvested 20 **million** tonnes of grain and legume in net weight and 18.2 **million** tonnes in clean weight, wheat accounting for 76.5% of the harvest.

He also said the Agriculture Ministries of Kazakhstan and Russia are discussing grain swap **operations** to cut transport costs. "As for the grain hub, we received a few proposals including the one from Russia to create a united grain holding," Mamybekov said.

The Ministry finds this plan feasible, "given that so many Russian regions have to transport grain from the south of Russia, Krasnodar region and Stavropol at high transportation costs," he said.

Swap contracts may be beneficial for both countries. "For example, the Moscow and St. Petersburg markets are equal to the Kazakh market in terms of grain consumption. We could supply grain to Moscow, and import Russian grain from the Black Sea," he said.

This way the parties could cut transportation costs, Mamybekov said.

He also said current prices for **bread** and first grade flour in Kazakhstan will remain stable until September next year. "The state committee has made a decision to keep the price of **bread** and flour of the first grade stable until September of next year. No sharp spike in prices will occur," he told reporters.

KYZYLORDA. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Zhan Arai Zhem LLP in December this year plans to start up a feed mill in Kyzylorda, the regional administration reported.

The plant has design capacity of 80 tonnes of fodder per day. The total cost of the project is 376 **million** tenge, with 49% contributed by Baikonur Civic-Entrepreneurial Corporation (CEC) and 51% of **company's** own funds.

The **company** will also build a 150-tonne rice mill, storage facilities, a lab, packing plant, flour mill and pasta line.

The production waste generated at these production facilities will be used by a feed mill.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - EuroChem **Group** AG, the holding **company** of the EuroChem**group**, posted net loss of \$240.5 **million** for the third quarter of 2014 versus profit of \$92.6 **million** a year before, the **company** said in a press release.

This is holding **company's** first quarterly report. EuroChem **Group** AG was registered in July in Zug, Switzerland.

"Below the operating profit line, we recognized unrealized financial foreign exchange losses of \$370 **million**, as opposed to a \$32 unrealized gain in the third quarter of 2013. The changes observed in these noncash items reflect the fluctuations of the Russian ruble exchange rate on the **company's** primarily US dollar-denominated debt," the press release says.

The falling ruble caused the **group's** earnings before taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) to rise 4% in Q3 to \$364.57 **million**. Revenue fell 4.4% in Q3 to \$1.187 **billion**.

Revenue fell 6% in January-September 2014 to \$3.941 **billion**, while EBITDA grew 2.3% to \$1.09 **billion**. Net profit fell to \$63.17 **million** from \$307.8 **million** in the same period of last year.

As of September 30, 2014, the strengthening of the dollar brought net working capital down to \$676 **million** from \$815 **million** in the previous quarter. "The year-on-year decrease mainly reflected the effects of the US dollar against the ruble-based prices for finished goods and raw materials at our **operations** within Russia," the **company** said.

The **group's** debt in loans was \$2.4 **billion** as of September 30, up 6% from the beginning of the year. This included \$525 **million** in current debt.

"As at September 30, 2014, the **Group** had a net debt to 12-month rolling EBITDA ratio of 2.14x, as compared to 2.19x at the end of September 2013. As part of the **Group's** ongoing corporate reorganization, approximately 70% of debt will be transferred from AO MCC EuroChem to the Swiss-based holding **company**. EuroChem **Group** AG covenant calculations will be based on the US\$, the **Group's** reporting currency. As a result of this change, management expects a reduction in net leverage to below 2.0x. For the twelve-month period ended 30 September 2014, had covenant

calculations been based on USD, as opposed to Russian rubles, the **Group's** net debt to EBITDA ratio would have been 1.92x," the press release reads.

Capex was \$346 **million** in the third quarter, of which \$140 **million** was used on potash projects, \$97 **million** on the phosphate segment and \$84 **million** on the nitrogen segment.

"Third quarter sales volumes, excluding raw material **mining** and hydrocarbons, amounted to 4.0 **million** tonnes (MMT), which represented a 14% increase on the 3.5 MMT **sold** in the third quarter of 2013. Sales volumes for the first nine months of the year climbed 12% year-on-year to 12.7 MMT," EuroChem said.

Sales in the nitrogen segment advanced 12% in Q3 to 2.088 **million** tonnes, while revenue from this segment increased 5.7% to \$712 **million**.

Sales in the phosphate segment fell 9% to 513,000 tonnes, mostly due to an 18% drop in feed phosphates and a 15% drop in nitrogen-phosphorus fertilizer. Sales of **iron ore** and baddeleyite fell 9% to 1.433 **million** tonnes.

EuroChem **Group** AG owns 89.83% of shares in OJSC EuroChem Mineral and Chemical **Company**, which plans to transfer to the new Swiss-based **company** foreign assets and no less than 70% of the **group's** debt. This includes a five-year club loan of \$1.3 **billion** raised in August 2013, as well as obligations on bilateral loans. EuroChem Mineral and Chemical **Company** will continue to carry obligations on Eurobonds totaling \$750 **million** and ruble **bonds** amounting to 10 **billion** rubles. EuroChem **Group** AG will become the **group's** capital center.

LONDON. Nov 12 (Interfax) - International ratings agency Fitch has affirmed the Long-term Issuer Default Ratings in foreign and national currency on EuroChem at "BB" with stable outlook, the agency said in a press release.

A "BB" rating was also assigned to recently creating holding **company** EuroChem **Group** AG, registered in Switzerland. Outlook is also stable.

EuroChem's long-term national scale rating was affirmed at "AA-(rus)" with stable outlook, while the short-term issuer default rating in foreign currency is at "B."

"The affirmation reflects Fitch expectations for EuroChem's funds from **operations** (FFO) adjusted net leverage (leverage) to decline to 2.3x-2.4x over the next two years from 2.8x at end-2013 and against 2.5x in our negative rating sensitivity guidance. The ratings are underpinned by EuroChem's high 'BB' **business** profile with self-sufficiency in ammonia and phosphates in Russia, strong market presence in Europe and CIS, and robust diversification across fertilizer products," Fitch said.

"Factors constraining the ratings include the **company's** sizeable investments in two potash projects, inherent price volatility in the fertiliser sector and the corporate governance discount Fitch typically applies to most Russian issuers," the press release says.

In 2014, EuroChem is planning to switch to a divisional **operations** management structure. The holding has five divisions: sales, logistics, fertilizers, **mining**, and **oil** and gas.

The EuroChem **Group** includes five production facilities in Russia - OJSC Nevinnomysskiy Azot, OJSC Novomoskovskiy Azot (NAK Azot), Phosphorit, Belorechensk Minudobreniya and Kovdorskiy GOK - as well as the Lifosa phosphate fertilizer plant in Lithuania and the EuroChem Antwerpen factory in Belgium.

Andrei Melnichenko is the **company's** main beneficiary.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - A consortium of Indian companies led by the state-controlled National Mines Development Corporation (NMDC) might close a deal by the end of this year to **buy** a 30% **stake** in the potash project of Acron, a major Russian mineral fertilizer producer.

Indian media reported that the consortium of NMDC, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF), National Fertilizers Ltd (NFL), Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd (FACT) and Kribhco is holding negotiations to **buy** 30% of Acron itself. However, Acron said earlier that the talks concerned the possible **sale** of a 30% **stake** in the operator of the potash project, CJSC Verkhnekamsk Potash **Company** (VPC), to Indian investors.

The Economic Times reported that the deal could be worth INR10 **billion** (about \$162 **million**). This is more than a third less than the valuation of VPC in a deal Acron made with Sberbank Investments in February, when Acron **sold** 19.9% of VPC to Sberbank Investments for 6.7 **billion** rubles (about \$186 **million**).

The agreement on the **purchase** could be signed this year during President Vladimir Putin's visit to India, the newspaper reported.

India also plans to sign an off-take contract with Acron on potash supplies for the country's farmers.

It was reported a year ago that the issue of Indian investors buying into the phosphate and potash projects of Acron was discussed during Putin's talks with then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. A source at Acron confirmed to Interfax at the time that negotiations were being held.

Acron, through VPC, is developing the Talitsky section of the Verkhnekamsk potassium and magnesium salts deposit. In the fall of 2013, Acron pushed back the **launch** of the potash project from 2016 to 2021, and the timetable for the mine to reach full capacity of 2 **million** tonnes of potash per year from 2018 to 2023.

Acron also partially changed the investors in the project, buying out 10.95% of VPC shares from Raiffeisenbank and then selling 19.9% of the subsidiary to Sberbank Investments. The deal left Acron with 51% of VPC; state lender VEB holds 20% minus one share and the Eurasian Development Bank holds 9.1%.

India had been interested for years in buying part of the state **stake** in Belarusian potash giant Belaruskali. There was talk of acquiring a **stake** of 20% or slightly more, but the issue never advanced to substantive negotiations between representatives of Indian companies and the Belarusian government.

India, the world's second largest potash market after **China**, is expected to import 3.7 **million-4 million** tonnes of potash this year.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - Russian mineral fertilizer producer Acron cut net loss to Russian Accounting Standards (RAS) 19% year-on-year in January-September 2014 to 2.557 **billion** rubles, the **company** said in a report.

"A weaker ruble adversely affected the **Company**'s net profit due to revaluation of foreign currency loans. It is important to remember that this revaluation was non-monetary and that Acron's RAS net profit does not reflect the actual situation. The RAS financial statements are not consolidated and do not include the results of other companies in the **Group**. The RAS statements also do not reflect the actual profit from **sale** of part of our Uralkali **stake**," Acron First Vice President Alexander Popov was cited as saying in the report.

Revenue grew 2.6% to 26.665 **billion** rubles.

Profit from sales was 8.8 **billion** rubles, having increased 12%. The main reason for this was the rise in product sales volume.

Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) grew by 14% amid the weakening of the ruble and were 9.515 **billion** rubles. EBITDA margin was 36% against 32% a year earlier.

The amount of long-term debt liabilities as of September 30 was 27.035 **billion** rubles, having fallen 5% in comparison with the beginning of the year. Short-term liabilities rose by 37% to 44.6 **billion** rubles.

The Acron holding is one of Russia's largest mineral fertilizer producers, including compound fertilizers (NPK and bulk blends) and (urea, AN, UAN). Its main production enterprises are OJSC Acron (Veliky Novgorod), OJSC Dorogobuzh (Smolensk region), Hongri Acron (**China**), North-Western Phosphorous **Company** (Murmansk region), Verkhnekamsk Potash **Company** (Perm territory) in which Acron has a 70.9% **stake** and North Atlantic Potash Inc (Canada).

Vyacheslav Kantor controls Acron via Subero Associates.

In H1 Acron **sold** a 0.64% **stake** in Uralkali for \$87 **million**.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - OJSC Dorogobuzh, which is part of Russian mineral fertilizer producer Acron, saw net profit to Russian Accounting Standards (RAS) fall 30% in January-September 2014 to 2.35 **billion** rubles, the **company** said in a report.

Revenue declined 9% to 12.225 **billion** rubles.

MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Russia increased production of meat, sunflower **oil** and **cheese** in October, while **milk** production dropped.

Production of meat and by products grew 14.8% year-on-year in October to 1.6 **million** tonnes. Meat production increased 12% in the 10 months.

Russia produced 10% more poultry year-on-year in October and 7.7% more in the 10 months to 3.2 **million** tonnes, the Russian Statistics Service reported.

Sausage output rose 5.4% in January-October, but at 1.4 **million** tonnes was down 0.1% on the previous October.

Unrefined sunflower **oil** output climbed 9.3% in October and 26.1% in the ten months to 3.2 **million** tonnes.

Russia produced 17.9% more **cheese** and **cheese** products in October and 11% more in January-October to 402,000 tonnes. The increase was attributed to increased demand for Russian **cheese** due to the food embargo that was introduced in early August.

Production of **milk** went down 1% in October and 0.9% in the 10 months to 4.5 **million** tonnes. Russia produced 0.3% more kefir in October but there was a drop of 1.2% in the ten months to 918,000 tonnes.

Production of wheat and muslin flower dropped 1.8% in October and 2.1% in January-October to 7.2 **million** tonnes. Production of short storage life baked goods fell 1.4% in October and 1.8% in the ten months to 5.2 **million** tonnes.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) - Canadian pork producers will not be able to return to the Russian market after Russia lifts restrictions on food imports because the Federal Veterinary and Phyto-Sanitary Oversight Service (Rosselkhoznadzor) is banning imports of this meat effective November 14, and the same fate awaits U.S. poultry farmers.

Imports of these products are currently banned under the restrictions on food imports that Russia imposed on August 7 for a period of one year.

The head of the Russian food safety watchdog, Sergei Dankvert told Interfax that the ban on Canadian pork is being imposed the Canadian authorities have not completed work on determining why ractopamine, a drug used to promote leanness in animals, is getting into pork and have not worked out a plan to detect harmful substances.

"They gave guarantees that they would take steps to carry out Russian requirements, but as practice has shown this was not done, so we were forced to impose restrictions," Dankvert said.

Now Rosselkhoznadzor, taking advantage of the pause in trade, due in part to the food embargo, will build relations on a new foundation, Dankvert said. He said that in Canada the veterinary service answers to two ministries - healthcare and agriculture.

"We need to understand which institution provides real guarantees of safety, whose guarantees we can accept," Dankvert said.

"On the whole, we should relaunch the mechanism of giving Canadian pork companies access to the Russian market, but one thing is already clear, that the companies in whose products ractopamine was found will not return to us," Dankvert said.

He also said that Canadian shrimp might be banned after the food embargo is lifted. "Harmful substances were constantly being found in them, the veterinary service does not have a sound system for investigating violations," Dankvert said.

He also said that American poultry farmers might not return to the Russian market after Russia lifts its food import restrictions because the watchdog also has many complaints about their products, particularly their use of antibiotics. In addition, on October 24 the United States introduced a system under which some of the government functions concerning control over the safety of poultry were handed over to private companies, while 90% of American poultry producers were included in the list of suppliers to Russia under guarantees from the U.S. veterinary service.

Rosselkhoznadzor will hold negotiations with its American counterparts on Thursday. As a rule, this is the last procedure before restrictions are imposed.

Dankvert said his agency's requirements for all suppliers of products subject to oversight are the same.

"Even now, opening markets to alternative, 'banned' countries, such as Latin American countries and South Africa, without fail we conduct inspections of potential suppliers. Now, for example, two groups of our inspectors are in Argentina to inspect enterprises for three weeks," Dankvert said.

Prior to the restrictions on food imports, Canada was one of the biggest suppliers of pork to Russia and the United States was one of the biggest suppliers of poultry.

SIMFEROPOL. Nov 14 (Interfax) - The Customs Union countries - Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan - have approved a ban on importation of unprocessed pork from Montenegro effective from November 18, Russian agricultural watchdog Rosselkhoz nadzor chief Sergei Dankvert said.

Russia had earlier banned import of finished meat products from Montenegro.

"We only allowed deliveries of half and quarter carcasses. After a recent meeting with our colleagues from Belarus and Kazakhstan, we arrived at the conclusion that it had to be closed off entirely, because it wasn't pork from Montenegro. Our Montenegrin colleagues filed documents and delivered [to Russia] pork that at best was from Holland and at worst - Poland. At worst because there is African swine fever in Poland," Dankvert said at a press conference in Simferopol on Friday.

The ban will take effect next Tuesday," he said.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) - Russia is not lifting its ban on shipments of frozen and chilled pork and pork by-products from Belarus to Russia, Rosselkhoz nadzor's official spokesman Alexei Alekseyenko told Interfax.

Russia pulled the pork supply permits of a number of Belarusian meat-packing plants on October 31 in connections with African swine fever. The ban was planned to last until November 11.

"But the possibility currently does not exist to renew the certificates since it is not clear where the enterprises got the meat of the infected animals. Several variants exist, but there is no proof," he said.

In addition, the food safety process for shipments has not yet been worked out. "Our Belarusian colleagues proposed several options. They will be discussed and the most effective ones will be included in a general document that will contain all the terms for shipping pork products from Belarus," Alekseyenko said.

As reported, the signing of such a document was agreed upon at a meeting between the chiefs of the veterinary services of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan in Moscow on Tuesday.

Rosselkhoz nadzor is also keeping its ban on shipments of finished meat products from the Bobruysk, Mogilev, Orsha and Minsk meat-packing plants, as well as from Belatmeat. African swine fever was discovered in products from these enterprises in 11 Russian regions.

MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Cherkizovo **Group**, one of the leading producers of meat and meat products in Russia, boosted its net profit to US GAAP to \$228.1 **million** in 9M 2014 from \$23.1 **million** in the same period of last year.

In Q3 net profit grew to \$112.8 **million** from \$14.1 **million** in Q3 2013.

Consolidated revenue for the 9 **M** increased by 15% to 1.374 **billion** against \$1.195 **billion** for the same period in 2013. This figure in Q3 rose by 21% to \$501.2 **million** in comparison with \$415.4 **million** in Q3 2013.

Adjusted earnings before taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) grew 178% to \$322.9 **million** from \$116.1 **million** in the same period of last year. In addition, this figure grew 214% in Q3 to \$146.6 **million** from \$46.8 **million** in Q3 2013.

EBITDA margin increased to 24% for the 9M from 10% and to 29% in Q3 from 11%.

Gross profit soared 83% to \$440 **million** in January-September 2014 from \$240.2 **million** in the same period of last year. Gross profit in the third quarter was up 106% at \$184.8 **million** versus \$89.6 **million** in Q3 2013.

Gross margin advanced to 32% for 9M 2014 from 20%, and to 37% for Q3 2014 from 22% in Q3 2013.

Net debt was \$615.1 **million** as of September 30, 2014, while the effective cost of debt was 3.8% in 9M 2014 versus 2.7% in 9M 2013. The cash conversion ratio (CCR) was 111%.

"Despite the increasing volatility on both meat/grain and currency markets, Cherkizovo **Group** demonstrated strong nine months and Q3 results. The **Company** continues to develop through the combination of organic growth, investing into new projects and improving the efficiency of existing ones, and strategic acquisitions, such as **acquisition** of Lisko-Broiler in Q1. Meat prices in the period were quite strong, which made it possible to achieve high profitability in the poultry and pork segments, but at the same time meat processing division was under pressure and its profitability decreased significantly. Now pork prices returned to the level seen at the beginning of the year after reaching historical highs," Cherkizovo CEO Sergei Mikhailov is quoted in the statement as saying.

"Looking forward, macro situation looks difficult in general. Sharp devaluation of the local currency that influences direct and indirect costs, predicted consumption slowdown and growth of interest rates for loans will be limitation factors for the future growth. However, we are confident that a well-balanced, vertically integrated **business** model of our **Company** will allow us to cope with negative trends and achieve maximum benefits out of positive trends," he said.

Cherkizovo **Group**, the leading Russian producer of pork and poultry meat, is noting the negative effect of the devaluation of the ruble and sees risks of a fall in demand for meat products due to the quickening of inflation and the reduction of the population's real income, but is planning to increase production in 2015.

"Cherkizovo management is confident that the **Company** has all the resources and capabilities to operate on stagnating market as successfully as on growing one, and plans to increase production output in key segments in 2015," the **company** said in a statement.

"In Q4 2014, we see a number of trends that may exert pressure on the country's meat market and Cherkizovo's financial performance. Significant ruble devaluation caused a notable increase of costs denominated in USD/EUR (for example, feed components) and also triggered grain prices growth, since the increase of export prices in rubles leads to a price increase on domestic grain market," Cherkizovo said.

"Growing inflation and predicted decrease in households' disposable income will most likely **lead** to the decrease of meat consumption," the **company** said.

"In these challenging circumstances, capability to cut and control costs, as well as strong marketing and distribution, will be key success factors," the statement said.

MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Pork production at Miratorg has exceed 1 **million** tonnes for the first time since 2008.

Miratorg said in a press release that CJSC Korocha, a slaughter and meat processing plant, exceeded 1 **million** tonnes of production.

Korocha produces products of more than 300 **brand** names for retail and corporate clients. Of the total volume of ready products more than 35% is accounted for by chilled meat in industrial packaging for **sale** in small wholesale trading and retail chains.

The enterprise began **operations** in November of 2008 and subsequently increased production. At present, it processes 3 **million** head of pigs a year.

Korocha CEO Anatoly Oleynik, who was cited in a statement, said that in October of this year the capacity of pork processing increased by 9% to 9,100 head a day.

Miratorg is among the leading pork producers in Russia with a market share of 13.7% (according to the estimate of the National Union of Pig Breeders). Investments in the development of domestic meat production have exceeded 110 **billion** rubles.

The companies in the holding provide full-cycle production "from the field to the counter."

The holding includes grain companies, fodder plants, elevators, 27 major automated hog farms, meat processing **company** CJSC Korocha, a transport **company**, five low-temperature automated distribution centers and a distribution **company** with branches in major cities around the country.

Miratorg operates in 15 Russian regions and has more than 16,000 clients.

The brothers Viktor and Alexander Linnik own the **company**.

KOSTANAI. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Global Beef KZ LLP has commissioned a farm complex worth 4 **billion** tenge (over \$22 **million** at the current exchange rate) in Kostanai region, the Taraonovsky district administration told Interfax.

The state-of-the-art cattle breeding farm and feed station is in the village of Smailovka.

The breeding farm has capacity for 3,000 head of cattle and the feed station can hold 5,000 head. All planned deliveries of cattle to the farm have been received. The complex will produce 2,200 head of cattle a year.

Global Beef KZ, established in 2013 and specializing in animal production, implemented the project using its own resources. Global Beef Investors (North Dakota) delivered the animals and equipment.

OJSC KazAgroFinance took part in project financing the project, which is included in the industrialization road map.

MOSCOW. Nov 12 (Interfax) - Mauritius is starting to ship fish to Russia, Russian agricultural watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor said.

Permits were given to 21 enterprises that produce frozen, chilled, salted and canned fish, fish **oil** and fishmeal.

In addition, one Mauritius-based **company** is now allowed to export feed, feed additives and fishmeal to Russia.

As reported, Mauritius asked to be allowed to ship fish to Russia immediately after Russia banned imports of food, including fish, from a number of countries. The main issues to organize trade between the two nations have recently been resolved.

Rosselkhoznadzor chief Sergei Dankvert and Mauritius' Ambassador to Russia Indira Sidaya are set to meet in Moscow on Thursday to discuss future cooperation.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) - Russia's consumer rights watchdog Rospotrebnadzor has imposed a ban on another **group** of Ukrainian food exports - **cheese**-like products.

"Starting from November 13, 2014, Rospotrebnadzor suspends the import of **cheese**-like products (codes 1516 and 1517 in Russia's Nomenclature of Goods subject to Foreign Trade) manufactured in Ukraine to the territory of the Russian Federation. Information to that effect has been forwarded to the Federal Customs Service and Rospotrebnadzor's branches in the regions of the Russian Federation," the watchdog said in a press release.

Examinations of sandwich spread, its intermediate product and margarine-based solid products (codes 1516 and 1517 in Russia's Nomenclature of Goods subject to Foreign Trade) delivered to the Russian market from Ukraine uncovered multiple violations of Russia's consumer rights laws and safety requirements, Rospotrebnadzor said.

Rospotrebnadzor and Russia's agricultural sector watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor earlier banned almost all food imports from Ukraine, including **dairy** products, meat, confectionary products and alcohol.

KRASNOGORSK. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Finland's Valio is considering the possibility of constructing a new plant in the Moscow region, deputy minister of the regional government Denis Butsayev said at the First International Agricultural **Dairy** Forum in Krasnogorsk.

"Valio is planning an opening. Valio and a number of other international companies discussed some conditions of several regions, and in that regard, the Moscow region is the priority for them from the point of view of proximity to sales markets, Butsayev said.

He said that besides Valio, the Moscow region authorities "are speaking with all interested parties that come to the territory of the region."

He said the Moscow region is expecting the arrival of several companies from New Zealand.

Finland's Valio, founded in 1905, is owned by 18 **dairy** cooperatives and about 7,800 farmers. The **company** operates 15 plants in Finland, two in Estonia and one in Russia. Turnover in 2013 exceeded 2 **billion** euro.

LLC Valio, the Russian division of the **company**, was established in 1994 in St. Petersburg. It imports and promotes Valio products on the Russian market and produces certain **brand**-name products. The **company** has a plant in Moscow region with a logistics and distribution center, warehouse and a production line for Viola **cheese** spread and sliced **cheese**.

MOSCOW. Nov 12 (Interfax) - The pending visit of Director General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Jose Graziano da Silva to Moscow and plans of opening a FAO liaison office in Moscow were in the center of attention of a meeting of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov and the FAO Director General.

"Topical aspects of cooperation between Russia and FAO were discussed with an emphasis on further intensification of bilateral cooperation, including the planned opening of a FAO liaison office in Moscow and the coming visit of Jose Graziano da Silva to Russia in 2015," a Wednesday statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry on the outcome of the Tuesday meeting says.

"The sides stressed the importance of continuing the growing contribution of Russian industry experts in the work of the organization," the report says.

Gatilov also confirmed Russia's intentions to continue active involvement in FAO efforts in the sphere of food supplies, the report says.

KYIV. Nov 14 (Interfax) - The Lauffer **Group** has said that the accusations of Crimean authorities that the **group** is unable to provide residents of the peninsula with high-quality products in the required volume are groundless.

"Any information on the possible bankruptcy of the said enterprises and the necessity in their nationalization is groundless," the **company** said.

Lauffer said that Krymkhlib and Simferopol Grain Production Center have enough resources to fully ensure stable operation of production facilities.

"Financial reserves are enough to pay wages to employees and to invest in the modernization of production facilities. There are no unbiased preconditions for bankruptcy," the **company** said.

Since early 2014, investment in production of enterprises operating on the peninsula came to around RUR 35 **million**, and it is planned to invest another RUR 15 **million** by the end of this year.

"Taking into account a large social importance of Krymkhlib and Simferopol grain production center and the increased interest to the operation of the enterprises both from authorities and the public, the companies initiate the introduction of a public discussion to protect the development plan for 2015-2017 at a meeting of the investment committee," the **company** said.

Earlier Russian mass media, referring to the Crimean agriculture minister, reported that the government of Crimea is preparing a solution on the mandatory buyout of the region's largest **bread** producer, Krymkhlib.

Lauffer is one of the largest Ukrainian **business** groups in the field of processing agricultural products and food production.

MOSCOW. Nov 18 (Interfax) - Russia may ban shipments of crops from Albania and Macedonia.

"Most likely, we will introduce a ban on shipments of crops in connection with violations in the system of their certification," Rosselkhoznadzor chief Sergei Dankvert told Interfax.

He said that incidents of falsifying certificates were uncovered as well as the import of products with blank documents.

"The issue for us is clear - under the guise of these countries' products are things that should not be imported into Russia," he said. "We have counterfeit certificates, we 'closed' supplies for that reason earlier, and we will act in the same fashion now."

The Rosselkhoznadzor chief said that if a country-supplier wants to work normally, it should create protective forms of certificates, introduce a system of electronic confirmation of the shipment of goods, and so on.

The watchdog said a meeting took place on Tuesday between Rosselkhoznadzor Deputy Chief Alexey Saurin and the Charge d'affaires at Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia in Moscow, Jani Bogoevski.

Russia told the Macedonian service for plant protection and quarantine that it doubted the authenticity of the phytosanitary certificates that accompanies the consignments of goods. Russia requested that the service present the previously requested materials within a week on the verification system of quarantined goods being exported, as well as confirmations that a number of certificates are authentic.

"If the information presented is insufficient or inadequate, Rosselkhoznadzor is not ruling out the likelihood of imposing restrictions on shipments of Macedonian plant products to the Russian market," the statement says.

TOMSK. Nov 18 (Interfax) - Tomsk-based **Company** LLC Artlife and South Korean **company** Haesong Kns., are jointly supplying Siberian Chaga to the U.S. market, Artlife Director Alexander Avstrieviskh, told Interfax.

"We have starting selling Chaga in Chicago and Los Angeles, going through Korea. Undoubtedly, the U.S. market is negative about Russian companies, so we have [included] the Seoul **company**," he said.

Siberian Chaga is **sold** under the Artlife Korea Inc., **brand**. The first offices of the **company** opened in Chicago and Los Angeles this month.

The **company** is counting on these exports due to the exoticness of Chaga abroad.

"Going to America with, let's say, vitamin C, is useless. Because America has its own biotechnology industry and it is a hundred times bigger than Russia's. But it does not have Chaga," he said.

Products based on Chaga with the Artlife Korea Inc. **brand** are also to be supplied to the Southeast Asia market.

LLC Artlife reported earlier that it would deliver 20 tonnes of Chaga to the retailer E-Mart, a Samsung subsidiary, in South Korea, before the end of the year. Supplies are to be boosted to 100 tonnes in 2015.

Chaga is a medicinal mushroom that grows on trees, especially on birch trees. It is used to treat several illnesses, including respiratory and cardiovascular problems. Chaga is also used in cancer treatments and for stomach diseases.

LLC Artlife specializes in producing food additives, foods and cosmetics. Production is full cycle from the processing of vegetable and mineral resources to packaging finished products.

OMSK. Nov 13 (Interfax) - The Directorate of Russian agricultural watchdog Rosselkhoznadzor for Omsk region stopped several large consignments of apples, pears and Beijing cabbages from Poland at the time of their transportation to Russia from Kazakhstan, Rosselkhoznadzor said.

The two consignments of fruit and vegetables totaling 39.5 tonnes were stopped at Isilkul border check point in Omsk region; there was no fumigation certificate on them, while an inspection revealed labels pointing to their Polish origin, it said.

On Thursday, another batch containing 21 tonnes of apples from Kazakhstan was stopped. Markings on boxes were either removed or blacked out but labels were found in a cargo section holding apples, which pointed to their Polish origin, according to the statement.

The consignments were stopped with violators brought to administrative responsibility.

TBILISI. Nov 11 (Interfax) - Georgia, where the citrus fruit harvest continues, has already shipped the first lots to Russia, Zurab Lipartiya, the head of phyto-sanitary supervision at the Georgia Agriculture Ministry's National Food Agency, told Interfax on Sunday.

"Several small lots of mandarin oranges have already been supplied to Russia via the Verkhny Lars customs checkpoint," Lipartiya said.

Citrus exports to Russia and other markets are increasing as the harvest enters the active stage, Lipartiya said.

All of the citrus being exported is closely supervised, from the growing phase to the loading phase, and duly certified by the exporter, he said.

Georgia's citrus harvest will be smaller this year than last due to the weather, but will be of higher quality, he said. In Adjara, which accounts for about 80% of Georgia's harvest, up to 80,000 tonnes will be harvested, 6% less than in 2013.

Georgia's citrus fruit harvest totaled 110,400 tonnes in 2013, 43.4% more than in 2012, including 84,600 tonnes in Adjara, 63% more.

Georgia's citrus exports increased 120% to 37,900 tonnes last year, mainly because the Russian market opened up after being closed for seven years. Exports to Russia totaled 12,100 tonnes of mandarins, 31.9% of all citrus exports.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - The Russian Agriculture Ministry may reduce salt supplies from Ukraine, but it is not forecasting any shortages.

"One of the main suppliers of salt to Russia is located in Ukraine, there are fears that supplies will be complicated, despite the fact that there are no restrictions on the import of salt into Russia," Russian Deputy Agriculture Minister Andrei Volkov told journalists on Friday in Moscow.

Nevertheless, he said, there will be no salt shortage, because there is domestic production in the country and a large part of the salt supplied from Ukraine because supplies from there were more profitable.

"The flows are being reviewed today, I am certain that the balance will be normal," he said.

Speaking on Friday at a food forum, Volkov said that for Russia to achieve food security for salt, the share of domestic production must be no less than 80%. At present the share is lower, but he did not name a figure.

NOVOSIBIRSK. Nov 13 (Interfax) - LLC Mondelez Rus, which belongs to Mondelez International **group** (formerly Kraft Foods), has begun the construction of a factory to produce chocolate and cookies at a cost of \$110 **million** in the Novosibirsk region, the **company** said.

"Mondelez Rus has received construction permits and began work on the construction of a multi-category factory outside of Novosibirsk," the **company** said a statement.

The construction is being carried on the territory of the Industrial and Logistics **Park**. The launch of the **operations** at the factory is marked for Q3 2015.

The enterprise will reach full design capacity - up to 50,000 tonnes of products a year - no later than 2020. At the factory 180 jobs will be created and **company** brands such as Alpen **Gold**, Milka, Jubileynoe, Medvezhonok Barni and TUC will be produced.

Mondelez Rus has been working in Russia for 19 years and owns five plants in the country, in Vladimir, Leningrad and Novgorod regions. The **company** has invested \$1 **billion** in Russia.

Mondelez International's turnover in 2013 was \$35 **billion**.

The Industrial and Logistics **Park** covers 2,000 hectares and is located 12 kilometers from Novosibirsk and 6 kilometers from Tolmachevo International Airport (MOEX: ATLM).

KYIV. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has announced that a contract to sell the Roshen confectionery corporation may be signed soon.

"We're in talks on the **sale** [of Roshen] with a large investment bank. I'm sure we'll be able to sign contracts in the near future," Poroshenko said in an interview with Germany's Bild published on Monday.

As was reported, Poroshenko earlier hired Rothschild in a consortium with Ukrainian-based ICU to arrange the **sale** of his assets, as was pledged during his presidential election campaign.

Forbes reported earlier, citing two sources familiar with progress in the deal, that the main contender to **purchase** Roshen's Russian assets is the KDV **Group** holding, which is interested in Roshen's recently modernized production facility in Lipetsk and 32,000 square meter logistics center.

Roshen's Lipetsk Confectionery Plant boosted revenue 23% to 2.16 **billion** rubles in 2013. Gross profit increased 4.8% to 227.2 **million** rubles and the gross profit margin was 10.5%. Operating profit increased 3.7% to 21.6.7 **million** rubles and net profit rose 5.7% to 177.9 **million** rubles.

Roshen's assets in Russia command considerable interest despite its relatively small size compared with the overall Russian market, estimated to total 700 **billion** rubles, Finnam Management's Maxim Klyagin said. Excluding flour-based confectionery, the plant's market share is less than 1%. "However, this market is highly consolidated and interest in the asset is high," Klyagin told Interfax.

High revenue growth rates are also a selling point, he said. Revenue grew 14% a year on average in the last four years and Lipetsk Confectionery Plant boosted revenue 23% in 2013. Rising costs weight to some extent on margins, but it is not critical given current growth rates, he said.

Lipetsk Confectionery Plant might have a market value of 2 **billion**-2.5 **billion** rubles based on the 2013 indicators. But the **company** has faced risks in 2014 stemming from geopolitics and a halt in production, Klyagin said.

Roshen Corporation includes four confectionery factories in Ukraine, one in Lithuania and one in Russia. Candy Industry's Top 100 ranks Roshen as the 20th biggest confectionary concern in the world with revenue of \$1.032 **billion** a year.

KOSTONAI. Nov 14 (Interfax) - Kostanai-based Bayan Sulu Confectionery Factory has put into operation a production line for panned sweets worth 558 **million** tenge, the **company** said.

The design capacity of the new line is 1,800 tonnes of panned sweets a year.

"The line is scheduled to reach the design capacity 2017. However, it also depends on the market conditions," the **company** said.

"It's an absolutely a new addition to our selection of confectionary products. We will produce sweets with a hard sugar coating and a variety of panned nuts," the **company** said.

The Bayan Sulu confectionery was built in 1974.

SIMFEROPOL. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Crimea's Economics Ministry has issued a first Russian national license to trade in alcoholic beverages, the ministry said.

Crimean Vodka **Company**, the republic's biggest distiller, received the license.

All alcohol retail licenses and permits currently in use were issued when Crimea was still part of Ukraine and are valid as originally prescribed.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) - Italian alcohol producer Gruppo Campari saw sales in Russia fall 19.9% year-on-year in January-September 2014 to 29.7 **million** euro, according to **company** materials.

The **company**'s Russian sales were affected by exchange rate difference, which led to a 12.2% drop in revenue, as well as by decreased sales volume by 7.7%.

Sales in the third quarter were also down amid complicated and volatile conditions on the market and compared with the high performance demonstrated last year, the **company** said. In addition, growth in the sparkling **wine** segment - the brands Cinzano, Mondoro and Riccadonna - was neutralized by a drop in the vermouth segment.

Gruppo Campari's overall revenue in the 9M grew 0.8% to 1.06 **billion** euro, despite the negative effect of exchange rate differences. Sales on the Italian market grew 7.8% to 287.9 **million** euro.

In other countries of Europe, where the **company** also placed Russia, sales grew 3% to 241.2 **million** euro.

ALMATY. Nov 19 (Interfax) - No official document has been issued by the Committee on Consumer Protection of the Kazakhstan's Ministry of National Economy to ban the **sale** of certain types of alcohol products from the Russian Federation, Raimbek **Group commercial** director Sergei Poluhin said.

"No official documents from the Ministry of National Economy have been issued yet. There is only a statement. We are waiting for the details to study the situation. In fact, it sounds very peculiar, since all products imported to Kazakhstan from the leader of the Russian market are certified and tested in an accredited lab. First of all, we pay all excise taxes and then verify the authenticity of goods, and only after that products are cleared for **sale**," Poluhin told journalists on Wednesday in Almaty.

Raimbek **Group** is the exclusive distributor of Russian vodka brands: Talca and Green Mark Rye that fell under the ban.

According to Poluhin, the state authorities most likely bumped into a random batch of counterfeit goods and drew the conclusion that it is not up to the technical regulations of the Customs Union.

However, "there is no direct competition with Kazakhstan's alcohol market. All imported alcohol beverages, including those from Russia, are much more expensive than locally produced brands. In terms of the amount of alcohol excise taxes and fees paid by importers, it is the size of all revenues generated by local alcohol industry," said Poluhin.

The Committee for Consumer Right Protection of Kazakhstan's Ministry of National Economy revealed that some alcohol beverages produced in Russia did not comply with food safety requirements. So, the **sale** of the Russian vodka brands, Talka, Empire, Wild Goose, Green Mark Rye, Russian Quality Guarantor, Ruble, Embassy is banned in Kazakhstan.

In addition, the **sale** of the beers, Miller Genuine Draft, Hoegaarden White, Grolsch Premium Lager, Brahma, Pilsner Urquell, Lada (two types), Zhigulevskoye (original), Bad, Lowenbrau Original, are also banned.

Earlier, Kazakhstan's Chief Medical Officer signed a decree banning from January 1, 2015 the **sale** of imported alcohol beverages that are not in line with the technical regulations of the Customs Union and the national legislation.

A ban on the **sale** of several alcoholic beverages from Russia in Kazakhstan "has private nature" and will not affect economic cooperation between the two countries, Head of Russia's State Duma Committee for the CIS Affairs, Eurasian Integration and Relations with Compatriots Leonid Slutsky has said.

It's quite possible under a multi-criteria verification system and one of these criteria is missing and "this is only but a detail", which will soon be rectified; these things may emerge in the future, but will not affect cooperation within the Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Union, Slutsky told reporters on Tuesday.

The Russian MP said this is his understanding because he did not communicate with Kazakhstan's agricultural watchdog Selkhoz nadzor. In any case, the sanctions apply to limited batches of beverages; this is "quite acceptable roughness", according to Slutsky.

As Slutsky noted Kazakhstan's relevant departments may really have a claim on the quality of these Russian alcohol beverages, although there is no doubt about their quality in Russia itself.

On Tuesday the Committee for Consumer Right Protection of Kazakhstan's Ministry of National Economy revealed that some alcohol beverages produced in Russia does not comply with food safety requirements.

So, the **sale** of the Russian vodka brands, Talka, Empire, Wild Goose, Green Mark Rye, Russian Quality Guarantor, Ruble, Embassy is banned in Kazakhstan, according to the press office of the Committee for Consumer Right Protection.

In addition, the **sale** of the beers, Miller Genuine Draft, Hoegaarden White, Grolsch Premium Lager, Brahma, Pilsner Uguell, Lada (two types), Zhigulevskoye (original), Bad, Lowenbrau Original, are also banned.

TBILISI. Nov 11 (Interfax) - Georgia exported 49.353 **million** bottles of **wine** (0.75 liter bottles) in January-October 2014, 49% more than in the same period of 2013, the Georgian Agriculture Ministry's National **Wine** Agency said.

Russia was the leading importer, receiving 31.736 **million** bottles or 64% of the total. The other top five importers were Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland and Belarus.

Revenue from **wine** exports to 42 countries amounted to \$157.3 **million**, up 49% compared with January-October 2013.

Georgia also exported 10.507 **million** bottles of brandy (0.5 liters) to 14 countries, earning about \$33.8 **million**, which was 46% more year-on-year.

Ukraine imported 5.493 **million** bottles of Georgian brandy and Russia imported 4.402 **million** bottles.

KOSTANAI. Nov 18 (Interfax) - Arasan **Firm** LLP has commenced an 8 **million** euro project for construction of a soft drink bottling plant in Kostanai, the administrative center of the Kostanai region.

"The production equipment for the plant will be supplied from Germany and Austria. Initially, the plant will produce 52 liters of bottled soft drinks a year," Dmitry Yerastov, the development director at Arasan **Firm** LLP, told Interfax.

The plant will be put into operation in May 2015.

Arasan **Firm** also owns a beer and soft-drink bottling plant in Rudny, a town in the Kostanai Region, and a brewery in Kostanai.

MOSCOW. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Lenta, a major Russian food retailer, does not expect the slowdown in the Russian economy to have a major impact on its **business**.

"At this stage we see the overall macroeconomic situation as stable. The negligible decline in consumer demand will not have a major impact on the **company's business**," Lenta said in its quarterly report.

The store format that Lenta is developing combines the characteristics of traditional hypermarkets, cash & carry stores and discounters, and is more resilient in the face of negative changes on the market, the **company** believes.

"Assessing the current macroeconomic situation in Russia as a whole and in most of its regions, it is necessary to note that we are seeing a certain slowdown of Russian economic growth related to both the deterioration of the geopolitical situation due to the events in Ukraine and the drop in prices for **oil**, a traditional Russian export that accounts for a significant portion of the country's GDP," Lenta said.

The **company** also said that the restrictions on food imports from certain countries that Russia imposed in August has not had a significant impact on its **business**, but has led to "negligible" growth of prices for certain groups of goods due to changes in logistics as supplies switched to other countries. Direct imports, as of the end of September, amounted to 4.01% of the total value of goods **purchased** by the retailer.

MOSCOW. Nov 13 (Interfax) - OJSC Dixy **Group**'s revenue grew by 29.5% year-on-year in October 2014 to 19.4 **billion** rubles, the **company** said in a statement.

In comparison with September's revenue growth (28.3%), revenue growth in October quickened.

For January-October, Dixy's revenue grew by 25.8% to 182.9 **billion** rubles.

"Retail revenue of DIXY neighborhood stores increased to 15.5 **billion** rubles by (\$381.0 **million**) by 33.7% in rubles (5.2% in dollars) in October 2014 compared to October 2013. For the 10M, it increased by 30.1% to 145.3 **billion** rubles" the statement said.

The revenue of Victoria supermarkets increased by 20.1% in October to 2.05 **billion** rubles and for the 10M - by 18.4% to 19.4 **billion** rubles. The retail revenue of neighborhood stores belonging to the Victoria Division increased by 6.7% in October and by 1.5% in the 10M to 3.9 **billion** rubles.

"Retail revenue of Megamart Division increased to 1.4 **billion** rubles (\$34.4 **million**) by 10.4% in rubles (decreased by 13.2% in dollars) year-on-year in October 2014," the **company** said. In the 10M, revenue increased by 6.4% to 13.6 **billion** rubles.

"As of October 31, 2014, the **Group** increased its selling space by 22% year-on-year to 714,026 square meters," the **company** said. This included the selling space of Dixy's chain of Dixy-**brand** neighborhood stores which rose by 25% to 571,900 square meters.

In October the retailer opened 26 stores, including 24 Dixy neighborhood stores. One neighborhood store was closed. In comparison with October of last year, when the **company** opened 25 new stores, the rate of organic growth slowed.

For the 10M, the **company** opened 320 new stores, including 311 Dixy neighborhood stores and 20 stores were closed.

Dixy manages Dixy convenience stores and the Minimart and Megamart compact hypermarkets. In June 2011, Dixy **purchased** the Victoria **Group**, which includes the Victoria supermarkets, the Kvartal, Deshevo and Semeynaya Kopilka discount stores, and the Cash cash & carry store.

At the end of October, the **company** had 2,093 stores, including 1,966 Dixy neighborhood stores and 46 Victoria supermarkets.

Dixy is expecting revenue growth of 20%-25% in 2014.

The **company**'s revenue growth for the 10M (25.8%) was higher than the upper limit of the current forecast.

"We would have liked [growth to be higher], but we are not ready for now to talk [about raising the forecast] [...] Dixy is looking to the future with confidence, we are very optimistic," Dixy's president, Ilya Yakubson told journalists.

He said the drivers of the acceleration in the growth of sales were the increase of quality and the attractive prices. "I would not say that a driver of growth was inflation [...] Inflation helps, but not very much," he said.

According to Rosstat, food inflation in October was 1.2% against 1.1% in October of last year.

The largest Russian retailer by sales volume and the number of stores, Magnit, also accelerated revenue growth in October in comparison with September to 36.14% against 34.37%. The remaining public companies of the sector did not disclose monthly sales data.

MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Standard & Poor's has affirmed its long-term "**B+**" rating on X5 Retail **Group** and improved the outlook to positive from stable, the agency said in a press release.

The agency did the same for X5 Retail **Group** subsidiary X5 Finance, whose rating is currently "**B+**."

"The rating actions reflect the **group**'s improved operating performance and credit metrics over the past few quarters following a management shake-up in 2013. We think that the **group** should be able to sustain similar or stronger operating performance and credit measures over the next few quarters, despite ongoing difficult economic conditions in Russia, which could **lead** to a higher rating over the next 12 months. We also note a more disciplined financial policy over the past four years, especially in terms of acquisitions, which, if continued, should support an upgrade," Standard & Poor's said.

"We continue to assess X5's **business** risk profile as 'fair,' reflecting our view of the **company**'s exposure to emerging-market risks, such as currency volatility, persistent cost inflation, and political uncertainty. The recent one-year ban on food imports to Russia has put additional pressure on the industry and may have a bigger impact on X5's operating performance if extended for a longer period. Still, we don't expect the ban to significantly affect our ratings on food retailers in the short term," the press release says.

"We continue to assess X5's financial risk profile as "aggressive." In our view, high capital expenditures on the refurbishment of existing stores and opening new ones in 2014-2015 would weigh on X5's cash flows, and we do not expect the **company** to significantly deleverage over the next one to two years," the agency said.

MOSCOW. Nov 18 (Interfax) - The first McDonald's restaurant in Russia located on Pushkin Square in central Moscow will be reopened on Wednesday, November 19 upon the expiration of a 90-day suspension as an administrative punishment imposed on it by a court, McDonald's Russia spokesperson Svetlana Polyakova told Interfax on Tuesday.

"The restaurant on Pushkin Square will open at about noon tomorrow," Polyakova said.

The other two McDonald's restaurants closed in Moscow will be reopened later, she said.

"As for the restaurant on Manezhnaya Square, we have started its modernization and full refurbishment, including the restaurant's decor. The work there will continue until the end of January. The McDonald's on Alekseyevskaya is undergoing planned re-equipment, and it will reopen" by the end of November, she said.

Lawyer Maxim Titarenko representing the **company**'s interests in courts told Interfax the administrative sanctions imposed on the **company** by district courts expire on November 18.

"The administrative cases have ended, the proceedings on them have been finished, and the punishment served. I am not aware of any other charges by [the consumer protection watchdog] Rospotrebnadzor," he said.

Rospotrebnadzor had ordered the suspension of **operations** at three McDonald's restaurants in Moscow on August 20, including the first Russian restaurant in the chain, which opened on Pushkin Square in 1990. Based on violations uncovered during inspections, Rospotrebnadzor specialists started administrative offence proceedings.

Moscow's Tverskoi District Court ruled on August 27 to suspend the **operations** of McDonald's restaurants on Pushkin Square and on Manezhnaya Square. The Ostankinsky District Court also ruled to suspend the **operations** of a McDonald's restaurant on Prospekt Mira Avenue near the Alekseyevskaya metro station for 90 days.

Polyakova had told Interfax in early September that nearly every other McDonald's restaurant in Russia had undergone inspections.

There are more than 430 McDonald's restaurants in Russia, including over 100 in Moscow. Russia's oldest McDonald's near Pushkin Square was among the chain's ten largest restaurants in Europe by turnover in 2013.

ASTANA. Nov 13 (Interfax) - The first McDonald's restaurant in Kazakhstan will open in the second half of 2015, the **company** said in a statement on Thursday.

The Kazakh businessman and CEO of Almay Asset Management **Company** Kairat Boranbayev will be **company**'s local developmental licensee. He is currently the **company**'s franchisee in Belarus.

Kazakhstan will become McDonald's 121st global market.

"Kazakhstan offers much development and growth potential, and our agreement with Kairat will enable us to continue to build our **brand**. We're committed to driving our **business** by growing same store sales, opening new restaurants in existing markets and looking at opportunities to enter new markets with development potential," Doug Goare, the president of McDonald's Europe, is quoted in the statement as saying.

McDonald's is the world's leading global food service retailer with more than 35,000 locations serving approximately 70 **million** customers in more than 100 countries each day.

ASTANA. Nov 19 (Interfax) - The Baiterek National Managing Holding and its subsidiaries: Kazakhstan Investment Fund (IFC) and Development Bank of Kazakhstan (DBK), together with the South Kazakhstan authorities relaunched textile factories in Shymkent that have been standing idle for the past few years.

In 2012 two textile factories Utex and Melange, part of Textiles.kz **group**, were put on the post-crisis recovery program until 2020. IFC, who bought their debt from DBK, developed a plan for rehabilitation of textile enterprises. Capital Logistics LPP, a 100% subsidiary of IFC, has been named as a supervisor of all production stages. DBK provided a credit facility to Capital Logistics LLP to finalize the construction of the production line of Utex.kz and **purchase** of raw cotton for Melange, Utex and Utex kz.

After the launch of Melange and Utex production facilities, the total capacity will reach 17,800 tonnes of yarn and 8.4 **million** linear meters of fabrics per year. Utex.kz is scheduled for completion and commissioning in 2016.

A total of 70% of bed linen, terry fabrics, combed yarn will be exported to Europe and **China**.

National railway **company** Kazakhstan Temir Zholy signed a long-term contract for the **purchase** of linen and workwear produced by Textiles.kz.

The global financial and economic crisis of 2008-2009 and the sharp fluctuations in raw cotton price in the world market led to companies' default on their DBK loans.

MOSCOW. Nov 18 (Interfax) - Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that had the Russian authorities not been confident of the potential of the domestic agricultural industry, they would have never introduced restrictions on agricultural imports.

"We are grown-ups and understand what is going on. Essentially, we took advantage of the incorrect behavior of our partners, especially, those countries which have successfully embraced the Russian agricultural market, but which, I think, exposed themselves by introducing the well-known sanctions against us," Putin said at the Action Forum organized by All-Russia People's Front.

"This gave us a moral and legal right to introduce retaliatory measures, but precisely in the industry which has been demonstrating very good growth rates in recent years," the Russian president stressed.

"It became clear that our agriculture sector is capable of dealing with practically all the issues on its own. Had we not felt, had I not felt that our agriculture is capable of dealing with those issues, we would have never introduced any retaliatory sanctions. It would have cost us more, so why create problems," Putin said.

KRASNOGORSK, Moscow region. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich is "almost certain" that additional state support will be provided to the agricultural sector in coming years.

"Will there be success in increasing state support next year and in subsequent years? I am almost certain there will be, but I won't guarantee it. That will depend on the situation in the country," Dvorkovich said at the International Agricultural **Dairy** Forum in Krasnogorsk on Monday.

The federal budget allocates an additional 25 **billion** rubles to the sector this year, including recapitalization for Russian Agricultural Bank (RusAg). "This will make it possible to repay debt under investment loans. This is very important for **dairy** cattle farming, since a lot of those loans went to this segment," Dvorkovich said.

The additional support will increase by 20 **billion** rubles next year, of which 20%-25% will go to the **dairy** industry. "That will make it possible to subsidize new projects and avoid cutting back support volumes under existing mechanisms, including per-liter subsidies for **milk** production, and provide subsidies for livestock breeding," he said.

Development of the logistical system will also help to raise efficiency in the sector.

Addressing various forms of **dairy** farming, particularly competition between farmers and major enterprises, Dvorkovich said "the ability to combine these two forms, balancing their interests, must be found."

Revised development program

The Russian government will approve a revised version of the state program for development of the agricultural sector in 2013-2020 in the next few weeks, Dvorkovich told journalists.

The updated program takes into account current realities on the nation's food products market.

"In the next few weeks, the government will approve the new version of the state program taking into account new mechanisms of state support, notably in the **dairy** sector, and these mechanisms will begin operating," Dvorkovich said.

Support for the **dairy** sector will not be reduced. The mechanisms will be adjusted with due consideration for the situation.

"Support volumes will not be cut. To the contrary, they will increase, by a little, because the budget constraints are severe," he said. "There will be further improvement to the extent the situation in the country stabilizes."

The mechanisms of support in the **dairy** industry including interest rate subsidies for investment loans with maturities up to 15 years, per-liter subsidies for **milk**, and a host of new mechanisms, notably project financing and state guarantees on loans to the **dairy** industry. Dvorkovich predicted that those mechanisms would start operating in the next few months.

The Agriculture Ministry has already submitted the new version of the state program to the government. It estimates that the agricultural sector will require nearly 580 **billion** rubles in supplementary financing to 2020.

State credit guarantees

Russian agriculture will receive no less than 20% of the total funds that are being used as state credit guarantees.

"We agreed, including with the deputies, that no less than 20% of total funds of the budget, put towards state credit guarantees, will be allocated to agriculture," Dvorkovich said.

He said this was several **billions** of rubles.

Dvorkovich said that such a form of support was stipulated in the new edition of the **dairy** subprogram, and that it would be used in combination with other forms of support. This particularly concerns a mechanism of project financing. "Part of the funds will go to agriculture and projects in the **dairy** sector will be the priority," the deputy prime minister said, noting that the development of greenhouses was also among the priority areas.

He said the new edition of the subprogram also provides a mechanism for the reimbursement of a part of the expenses with the implementation of investment projects. "It will earn, I hope, next year," Dvorkovich said. He also said that all remaining mechanisms of support for the **dairy** industry were also being kept.

Dvorkovich said that this year the state will pay back all its debts on investment loans. "The selection of new loans will be more thorough, depending on how efficiently the technologies and methods are used by those who announce these projects," he said.

The deputy prime minister said that despite the difficult budget situation, the level of state support for farms as a whole is being maintained, and in some sectors it has been increased. But some sectors, including the **dairy** sector, require more. "For now the budget limitations are not allowing this to be done, measures of support must be found and with limited resources for achieving greater results," he said.

"I am hoping that with account of the fact that the level of attention paid to the **dairy** industry is not being lowered, we will be able to make a step forward already next year," the deputy prime minister said.

MOSCOW. Nov 14 (Interfax) - The ban on food and agricultural imports from a number of countries has not had a serious impact on Russia's food balance, Deputy Agriculture Minister Andrei Volkov said at a forum on Russia's food security in Moscow on Friday.

"When we say that something happened that can seriously affect the food balance, this is not quite true," Volkov said, remarking that the import restrictions have only affected the **cheese** market. The share of restricted imports in **cheese** consumption is estimated at 30%.

He said that the share of banned imports in Russian meat consumption amounts to 8.2%, including 2.5% for beef, 12% for pork and 8% for poultry. The figures are 14.9% for fish, 10.2% for **milk** and **dairy** products and 5.8% for vegetables.

The Agriculture Ministry reckons that the share of countries subject to the import ban in total imports amounts to 47.2% for meat, including 9% for beef, 72.7% for pork and 84.8% for poultry; 52.3% for fish and seafood; 38.5% for **dairy** products, including 60% for **cheese**; and 29.6% for vegetables.

Volkov said that in light of the restrictions on food imports the Agriculture Ministry has revised the state agriculture development program, including a number of sub-programs aimed at the development of **dairy** farming, support for breeding, creation of wholesale and distribution centers and development of greenhouse vegetable farming. In addition, provisions have been made to improve the financial and credit system of the agribusiness sector.

He said that the implementation of existing and new measures will make it possible to increase meat production to 10 **million** tonnes by 2020 and thus reduce imports by 67%. **Milk** production could increase to 35.5 **million** tonnes and vegetable production could grow to 16.5 **million** tonnes, reducing imports by respectively 29.9% and 70.3%. The ministry expects to completely eliminate Russia's dependence on potato imports by 2020 by increasing domestic production to 32 **million** tonnes.

However, this will be possible given additional funding of 568.2 **billion** rubles in 2015-2020, including 20 **billion** rubles in 2020, Volkov added.

The updated draft of the state program has been submitted to the government, he said.

MINSK. Nov 12 (Interfax) - The Belarusian Ministry of Agriculture and Food estimates that the country's agribusiness lost \$160 **million** in August-October due to the depreciation of the Russian ruble.

"The Russian ruble is falling in value, which is not very good for us. Our losses total somewhere around 8.6% [of calculated profit], or \$160 **million** for August, September and October," Deputy Agriculture and Food Minister Vasily Sedin said at a press conference in Minsk on Wednesday.

He added that the Agriculture and Food Ministry was now taking certain steps to minimize losses. In particular, the country is reorienting itself towards exports of products with a higher return on sales and that are in demand.

"We have started actively selling cheeses. In October, we boosted sales 150% compared to the same period of 2013," Sedin said.

He added that Belarus might also up export prices on certain types of agriculture products.

MOSCOW. Nov 17 (Interfax) - Russia and Turkmenistan intend to expand cooperation in agriculture, including in the area of Turkmen agricultural exports to Russia, Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich said after a meeting on Saturday of the Russian-Turkmen intergovernmental commission for trade and economic cooperation.

"There is great and so far unrealized potential in the area of agriculture. This is the main agreement at this meeting, both in terms of trade and investment, and concerning supplies of equipment and training of specialists. We plan to dramatically expand the scale of cooperation. Our agencies have received the necessary signals," Dvorkovich told reporters.

He said this refers to shipments of food from Turkmenistan to Russia and shipments of Russian farm machinery to Turkmenistan.

The issue of training Turkmen specialists in the area of agriculture in Russia was also considered, Dvorkovich said.

MOSCOW. Nov 18 (Interfax) - Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin has expressed regret that Moscow was compelled to ban agricultural produce imports from Moldova, noting that it was a forced measure.

"Regrettably, problems have arisen over Moldovan farming produce supplies. In conditions of an open border with the European Union we have not managed to identify whether this produce had arrived from Moldova, or from some other country," Rogozin told leader of the Moldovan Party of Socialists Igor Dodon in Moscow on Tuesday.

Russians respect Moldovan agricultural produce, he said. "But not everything at all must be imported through Moldova, including genetically modified produce," Rogozin said.

He made a point that Russia was a traditional market for Moldovan farming produce, which has never had rivals on the Russian market. He praised Moldovan wines, saying that "they are much cheaper than European wines, but not inferior to them in quality."

Russia banned imports of Moldovan fruits, canned vegetables and fruit, meat and other products in 2014, earlier reports said. A government resolution that took effect in late August, introduced import duties on agricultural products from Moldova. The protection measures were introduced after Moldova signed an association agreement with the European Union on June 27 2014, which provides for the formation of a free trade zone between them.

Dodon said during the talks that Moldovan farmers failed to sell 200,000 tonnes of apples in 2014 as a result of the Russian ban. "This means that they have lost \$250 **million** - \$300 **million**," he said. "We have lost the Russian market, but did not get European buyers, where no one is waiting for us," the Moldovan politician said.

Dodon also said that almost 60% of the population of Moldova think Moldova must join the customs union. "The anti-European sentiment is strong, and the chance is high that a pro-Moldovan majority will be formed after parliamentary elections," he said.

Moldova's parliamentary elections are due to be held on November 30.

MOSCOW. Nov 19 (Interfax) - Russia had 0.3% inflation in the week of November 11-17, Rosstat reported on Wednesday.

Inflation in the previous week (holiday-shortened to just five days, November 6-10) was 0.2%, and amounted to 0.3% in the (nine-day) week of October 28-November 5, 0.2% in October 21-27 and 0.3% in October 14-20.

The average daily inflation rate through the first 17 days of November was 0.039%, down from 0.041% through the first 10 days, but still higher than the daily average of 0.026% in October and 0.019% in November 2013.

Prices rose 0.7% in the first 17 days of November (compared with 0.3% in the same period of 2013 and 0.6% in the entire month). Inflation in the year so far is 7.9%.

Rosstat stopped publishing same-date-last-year inflation figures in August 2014, but inflation was 0.1% in the week November 12-18 last year and 0.3% in the first 18 days of November.

Based on the Rosstat data, inflation in annual terms rose to 8.7%-8.8% on November 17, up from 8.5%-8.6% on November 10, 8.3% at the end of October, 8% at the end of September and 7.6% at the end of August.

ALMATY. Nov 13 (Interfax) - Kazakhstan produced 2.078 trillion tenge worth of agricultural products in January-October 2014, a decrease of 2% from the same period last year, the Statistics Committee of the National Economy Ministry said.

Livestock production came to 947.8 **billion** tenge in value, up 3.5% year-on-year, while crop production was worth 1.125 trillion tenge, down 6.1%.

Head of cattle grew by 2.4% year-on-year to 6.325 **million** head.

Head of goats decreased by 2.7% to 2.610 **million**, pigs by 12.2% to 0.977 **million** head, while the number of horses grew by 6.4% to 1.935 **million** head, sheep by 1.8% to 17 **million** head and poultry by 1.2% to 36.5 **million** head.

*** The Pyaterochka chain, which generates more than half of the revenue of Russia's second largest retailer X5 Retail **Group**, has found a way to boost store traffic and sales. It will provide its cash register infrastructure to partners operating under store-within-a-store arrangements, enabling it to include their sales in its reporting. Stores within stores in the Pyaterochka chain could have combined sales of 60 **billion**-80 **billion** rubles this year (Vedomosti, p. 11).

*** Agrokomplex, an agribusiness **group** with ties to the family of Krasnodar Territory Governor Alexander Tkachev, could become one of the five largest landowners in Russia. The **company** is buying all of the 14 farms of Valinor **Group**, which work 170,000 hectares in three southern regions. The **acquisition** would increase Agrokomplex's land holdings to 440,000 hectares (Vedomosti, p. 10).

*** Valio, a major Finnish **dairy company**, might build another plant in the Moscow Region, where, among other things, it might make hard cheeses previously imported from Finland. The **company** also intends to lease production lines at **milk** processing plants in the region in a bid to maintain its position on the Russian market, which accounted for half of Valio's exports before the imposition of the restrictions on food imports from certain countries (Kommersant, p. 9).

*** Russia's vodka market is set to grow in 2015 after shrinking for years, distillers believe. Poland's CEDC, which recently merged with Rustam Tariko's Russian Standard Vodka and other assets, hopes to improve sales for the first time in many years thanks to a freeze on excises and the government's fight against illegal product (Vedomosti, p. 11).

*** The Crimean authorities are imposing restrictions on food exports due to the possibility of food shortages on the Black Sea peninsula. Until April 1, 2015, it will only be possible to ship meat and **dairy** products, flour and baked goods, cereal grains and other "socially important" food goods out of Crimea with permission from the regional agriculture ministry. The government of Sevastopol is prepared to make a similar decision soon (Kommersant, p. 9).

*** Kazakhstan has banned the **sale** of a range of vodka and beer brands from Russia, including the vodkas of Roust and Kristall-Lefortovo and the Russian-made beers of Anheuser-Busch InBev and Efes. Kazakhstan said the products do not meet local food safety requirements, but market players suspect the ban is retaliation for Russia's decision to restrict imports of Kazakh vodka by individuals (Kommersant, p. 12).

Product	24.10.14	31.10.14	07.11.14	14.11.14
latest Oct -14 Nov-13				
Grade 3 wheat (23% gluten) (rubles/tonne)	7,950	8,215	8,455	9,165
710 7,950 7,759				
Grade 3 wheat (23% gluten) (\$/tonne)	\$190.1	\$195.8	\$176.6	\$193.4
\$16.8 \$193 \$236				
Grade 4 wheat (rubles/tonne)	7,305	7,565	7,790	8,450
660 7,329 7,134				
Grade 4 wheat (\$/tonne)	\$174.7	\$180.3	\$162.7	\$178.3
\$15.6 \$178 \$217				
Food rye (rubles/tonne)	4,525	4,605	4,705	5,095
390 4,400 5,450				
Food rye (\$/tonne)	\$108.2	\$109.7	\$98.3	\$107.5
\$9.2 \$107 \$166				
Fodder wheat (rubles/tonne)	6,830	7,075	7,340	7,820
480 6,816 6,356				
Fodder wheat (\$/tonne)	\$163.4	\$168.6	\$153.3	\$165.0
\$11.7 \$165 \$194				
Fodder barley (rubles/tonne)	5,500	5,675	5,825	6,285
460 5,515 5,978				
Fodder barley (\$/tonne)	\$131.5	\$135.2	\$121.7	\$132.6
\$11.0 \$134 \$182				
Brewing barley (rubles/tonne)	6,100	6,500	6,600	7,000
400 6,138 7,950				
Brewing barley (\$/tonne)	\$145.9	\$154.9	\$137.9	\$147.7
\$9.9 \$149 \$242				
Fodder corn (rubles/tonne)	6,000	6,225	6,465	7,105
640 5,946 5,041				
Fodder corn (\$/tonne)	\$143.5	\$148.3	\$135.0	\$149.9
\$14.9 \$144 \$154				

Product	24.10.14	31.10.14	07.11.14	14.11.14
latest Oct -14 Nov-13				
Top-grade wheat flour (rubles/tonne)	12,575	12,685	12,975	13,440
12,569 11,779				465
Top-grade wheat flour (\$/tonne)	\$300.8	\$302.3	\$271.0	\$283.6
\$305 \$371				\$12.6
Grade-1 wheat flour (rubles/tonne)	11,970	12,150	12,415	12,755
11,998 11,478				340
Grade-1 wheat flour (\$/tonne)	\$286.3	\$289.5	\$259.3	\$269.1
\$291 \$350				\$9.8
Grade-2 wheat flour (rubles/tonne)	10,210	10,340	10,465	10,815
10,235 10,098				350
Grade-2 wheat flour (\$/tonne)	\$244.2	\$246.4	\$218.6	\$228.2
\$248 \$308				\$9.6
Hulled rye flour (rubles/tonne)	8,180	8,180	8,190	8,810
8,153 8,930				620
Hulled rye flour (\$/tonne)	\$195.6	\$194.9	\$171.1	\$185.9
\$198 \$272				\$14.8

Product	24.10.14	31.10.14	07.11.14	14.11.14	latest
Oct -14 Nov-13					
Grade-1 buckwheat (rubles/tonne)	16,915	33,440	40,000	41,395	1,395
20,698 15,146					
Grade-1 buckwheat (\$/tonne)	\$404.6	\$796.9	\$835.5	\$873.5	\$38.0
\$500 \$461					
Grade-1 rice (rubles/tonne)	26,000	26,030	26,250	33,155	6,905
25,954 23,393					
Grade-1 rice (\$/tonne)	\$621.9	\$620.3	\$548.3	\$699.6	\$151.3
\$629 \$713					

Grade-1 millet (rubles/tonne)	11,265	11,790	12,215	12,865	650
11,339 11,554					
Grade-1 millet (\$/tonne)	\$269.4	\$281.0	\$255.1	\$271.5	\$16.3
\$275 \$352					
Product	24.10.14	31.10.14	07.11.14	14.11.14	
latest Oct -14 Nov-13					
Sunflower seeds (rubles/tonne)	13,740	14,590	15,375	16,035	660
13,423 9,884					
Sunflower seeds (\$/tonne)	\$328.6	\$347.7	\$321.1	\$338.3	
\$17.2 \$325 \$301					
Unrefined, sunflower,					
oil, (rubles/tonne)	31,155	32,160	33,535	37,165	3,630 30,878 27,624
Unrefined, sunflower, oil, (\$/tonne)	\$745.2	\$766.4	\$700.4	\$784.2	
\$83.8 \$748 \$841					

Currency	Per	Rate	Change, %
Australia (Dollar)	1	40.7416	-0.617
Azerbaijan (Manat)	1	59.9482	0.042
Armenia (Dram)	100	11.2780	-0.038
Belarus (Rubel)	10000	43.2852	-0.125
Bulgaria (Lev)	1	30.1645	0.594
Brazil (Real)	1	18.2108	1.098
Hungary (Forint)	100	19.3127	0.799
South Korea (Won)	1000	42.5075	-0.495
Denmark (Krone)	10	79.2475	0.571
United States (Dollar)	1	47.0294	0.106
EURO	1	58.9090	0.451
India (Rupee)	100	76.0563	-0.007
Kazakhstan (Tenge)	100	25.9946	0.131
Canada (Dollar)	1	41.5234	-0.327
Kyrgyzstan (Som)	100	81.6483	0.106
China (Yuan)	10	76.8429	0.125
Lithuania (Lita)	1	17.0867	0.593
Moldova (Lei)	10	31.1556	0.401
Romanian (Leu)	1	13.3032	0.553
Turkmenistan (Manat)	1	16.5015	0.106
Norway (Krone)	10	69.7579	0.373
Poland (Zloty)	1	13.9985	0.717
SDR (Special Drawing Rights)	1	68.9940	0.178
Singapore (Dollar)	1	36.1181	-0.233
Tajikistan (Somoni)	10	90.5980	0.106
Turkish (Lira)	1	21.1321	0.097
Uzbekistan (Sum)	1000	19.6218	0.106
Ukraine (Hryvna)	10	30.2849	0.106
United Kingdom (Pound STG)	1	73.4552	-0.092
Czech Republic (Koruna)	10	21.3092	0.596
Sweden (Krona)	10	63.7073	0.424
Switzerland (Franc)	1	49.1169	0.608
South Africa (Rand)	10	42.6737	0.781
Japan (Yen)	100	40.0864	-0.406

* SDR - Special Drawing Rights. It is the unit of account for the International Monetary Fund

Country	Currency	For \$1	For 1 ruble	For 1 EUR
Azerbaijan	manat	0.7845	0.0167	0.982
Armenia	dram	416.37	8.87	521.75
Georgia	lari	1.7643	0.037555	2.2077
Belarus	bel. ruble	10770	228.5	13440
Kazakhstan	tenge	180.87	3.88	225.94
Kyrgyzstan	som	57.6	1.2261	71.9597
Lithuania	litas	2.7647	0.058913	3.4528
Moldova	leu	15.1144	0.323	18.9164
Russia	ruble	46.9797		58.6448

Tajikistan	somoni	5.0806	0.107	6.3627
Turkmenistan	manat	2.85	0.061167	3.5631
Ukraine	hryvnia	15.20011	0.32355	19.021418
Uzbekistan	sum	2396.79	50.57	3006.43

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A Comprehensive Insight in Russian Meat and Meat Products Market in 2013-2014

CO ssjhoi : Federal State Statistics Service of Russia

IN i0100128 : Sugar Beet Farming | i010013202 : Edible Oil Plant/Seed Farming (except Soybean) | i0 : Agriculture | i01001 : Farming | i0100132 : Oilseed/Grain Farming | isugar : Sugar Farming

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