

# Sunflower Meal Market - Forecast from 2026 to 2031

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## Abstracts

Sunflower Meal Market is expected to grow at a 5.66% CAGR, achieving USD 11.409 billion in 2031 from USD 8.202 billion in 2025.

Sunflower meal—the protein-rich cake remaining after mechanical or solvent extraction of sunflower seed oil—continues to rank as the world’s fourth-largest oilseed meal behind soybean, rapeseed/canola, and cottonseed. Typical specifications range from 28–32 % crude protein (as-fed) for expeller-pressed meal to 34–40 % for de-hulled, solvent-extracted grades, with crude fiber varying inversely from 20–28 % down to 12–16 %. Its amino-acid profile is notably strong in methionine and cystine yet remains limited by lysine (3.5–3.8 % of protein), making it an excellent complement to lysine-rich soybean meal in least-cost formulations.

Demand is firmly anchored in three high-volume livestock segments. In ruminants—particularly dairy and beef backgrounding—sunflower meal excels as a highly rumen-degradable protein source (RDP 70–80 %) with moderate bypass value. Its residual oil (8–14 % in expeller grades) delivers cost-effective energy while boosting milkfat percentage and conception rates in lactating cows. Poultry and swine formulations use lower-fiber, de-hulled grades at 5–20 % inclusion to balance methionine without exceeding fiber limits. Aquaculture—especially omnivorous species (carp, tilapia, catfish)—is a fast-emerging outlet for high-protein, low-aflatoxin, expeller-pressed meal as fishmeal prices remain elevated.

Asia-Pacific has emerged as the dominant consuming region by a wide margin. China alone accounts for >40 % of global imports, driven by its massive pig, layer, and ruminant feed sectors. India, Vietnam, and Thailand follow as significant secondary markets, where sunflower meal frequently displaces more expensive soybean meal when the protein-unit price ratio falls below 1.15–1.20. Regional crushing capacity remains limited outside Ukraine and Russia, making Asia structurally import-dependent

and highly sensitive to Black Sea supply flows.

Supply originates overwhelmingly from Ukraine and Russia (70–75 % of world trade), with Argentina, the EU, and Turkey providing the balance. De-hulled, high-protein grades command \$30–60/t premiums over standard 28–30 % material, while expeller-pressed “non-GMO” meal for organic and specialty aquaculture channels can trade \$80–120/t above solvent grades. Seasonal export restrictions, logistical disruptions in the Black Sea corridor, and occasional anti-dumping investigations continue to introduce volatility that savvy Asian buyers hedge via multi-origin sourcing and forward contracting.

Quality segmentation is sharpening. Premium de-hulled, solvent-extracted meal (38 % protein) is increasingly specified for broiler and layer diets, while expeller grades with 10–14 % residual oil dominate dairy and organic channels. Aflatoxin and pesticide residue thresholds have become non-negotiable for major Chinese and EU importers, driving investment in optical sorting and dedicated non-GMO crushing lines.

Competitive positioning versus soybean meal remains the primary economic driver. Sunflower meal consistently trades at a 10–25 % discount on a protein-unit basis, making it highly attractive whenever soybean futures exceed \$400–450/t CFR Asia. Its higher fiber and lower lysine constrain maximum inclusion levels, but modern least-cost formulation software routinely captures these nuances, enabling dynamic substitution within tight economic windows.

For feed millers and nutritionists, sunflower meal represents a classic opportunistic protein source: structurally short in key exporting regions yet nutritionally complementary to soybean meal, with excellent palatability and no anti-nutritional factors. Strategic buyers maintain approved supplier lists with rigorous mycotoxin testing protocols and secure 3–6 month forward coverage when Black Sea freight and political risk premiums compress. Large compounders able to store 30–60 days of inventory and rapidly adjust formulations capture the largest margin upside during periods of favorable pricing.

Overall, sunflower meal occupies a resilient, price-driven niche within the global protein complex. While structurally constrained by geography and fiber content, its cost competitiveness, methionine strength, and growing acceptance in dairy and aquaculture ensure steady demand growth in line with Asian livestock intensification. Traders and crushers able to guarantee consistent high-protein, low-contaminant grades and offer reliable Black Sea or Argentine origin are positioned to extract stable margins from this

commodity-yet-specialized feed ingredient.

#### Key Benefits of this Report:

**Insightful Analysis:** Gain detailed market insights covering major as well as emerging geographical regions, focusing on customer segments, government policies and socio-economic factors, consumer preferences, industry verticals, and other sub-segments.

**Competitive Landscape:** Understand the strategic maneuvers employed by key players globally to understand possible market penetration with the correct strategy.

**Market Drivers & Future Trends:** Explore the dynamic factors and pivotal market trends and how they will shape future market developments.

**Actionable Recommendations:** Utilize the insights to exercise strategic decisions to uncover new business streams and revenues in a dynamic environment.

**Caters to a Wide Audience:** Beneficial and cost-effective for startups, research institutions, consultants, SMEs, and large enterprises.

#### What do businesses use our reports for?

Industry and Market Insights, Opportunity Assessment, Product Demand Forecasting, Market Entry Strategy, Geographical Expansion, Capital Investment Decisions, Regulatory Framework & Implications, New Product Development, Competitive Intelligence

#### Report Coverage:

Historical data from 2021 to 2025 & forecast data from 2026 to 2031

Growth Opportunities, Challenges, Supply Chain Outlook, Regulatory Framework, and Trend Analysis

Competitive Positioning, Strategies, and Market Share Analysis

Revenue Growth and Forecast Assessment of segments and regions including countries

Company Profiling (Strategies, Products, Financial Information, and Key Developments among others.

Segmentation:

By Form

Pellets

Cakes

Ground up Powder

By End-Use

Dairy

Beef

Sheep

Swine

Poultry

By Geography

North America

USA

Canada

Mexico

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Others

Europe

Germany

France

United Kingdom

Spain

Others

Middle East and Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Others

Asia Pacific

China

India

Japan

South Korea

Indonesia

Thailand

Others

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