Peanut Blog
An ounce of information

Senegal's Groundnut Oil Exports Hit Six-Year High as Local Processing Grows

Crude groundnut oil exports nearly tripled to 22,441 tons in 2025.
Export revenue rose to CFA20.52 billion ($36 million).
Raw groundnut exports fell sharply as Senegal gave local processors priority.

Senegal exported 22,441 tons of crude groundnut oil in 2025, the highest volume in six years, as the country's policy to favor local processing coincided with a sharp shift from raw groundnut exports toward oil.

The volume was nearly three times the 5,997 tons shipped a year earlier, according to data compiled by the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) in its annual foreign trade report published on July 30. It was also the largest volume exported since 2019, when shipments reached 62,846 tons.

Export revenue also nearly tripled to CFA20.52 billion, or about $36 million. The figures point to a recovery in the sector's export performance after several years of fluctuations. While the ANSD report does not provide a detailed explanation for the rebound in 2025, the increase comes as local groundnut processing has returned to the center of government policy.

A Renewed Industrialization Policy Since 2024

Senegal has strengthened its support for local groundnut processing in recent years, including through a temporary suspension of raw groundnut exports. In November 2024, the government temporarily halted groundnut seed exports during the 2024/2025 marketing season to secure supplies for domestic oil processors and encourage local processing. The measure reflected the government's aim to direct more domestic production toward Senegalese factories and retain more value within the country.

The policy marked a shift for a sector that had previously relied heavily on exports of unprocessed groundnuts to international markets.The government does not intend to permanently close the export market. Instead, domestic processors receive priority, with surplus production allowed onto international markets when supplies permit.

Raw groundnut exports subsequently fell sharply in 2025, while crude oil shipments surged. According to ANSD, Senegal exported just 1,393 tons of unroasted groundnuts in 2025, down from 65,308 tons in 2024.The opposite trends in raw groundnut and crude oil exports could signal an early shift toward more domestic processing.

More Processing Capacity on the Way

As part of this new direction, state-owned oilseed company Sonacos, Senegal's largest processor, restarted operations at some of its groundnut processing plants in October 2024, including facilities in Ziguinchor and Louga. The Louga plant had been idle for nearly two years.

The company also plans to increase its industrial capacity. In October 2025, Sonacos signed a memorandum of understanding with Focus Investment Group (FIG) for a new industrial facility in the Touba Special Economic Zone.

The project is expected to increase domestic groundnut processing capacity and support the government's goal of capturing more value from national production. Private investment is also adding capacity. In January 2026, Mavamar Industries SA inaugurated a vegetable oil refinery in Rufisque with stated annual capacity of 180,000 tons.

The facility can process several oilseed crops, including groundnuts and palm nuts. These investments reflect renewed interest in Senegal's oilseed processing industry. As new capacity comes online, the country could process a larger share of its domestic groundnut harvest, which stands at around 1 million tons a year.

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