

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Post:** Sarajevo

### Crop Situation Update

**Report Categories:**

Grain and Feed

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**Report Highlights:**

The spring planting which started in late April in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) is still ongoing. The 2018/2019 corn will be planted on approximately 175,000 hectares (ha) versus the 194,113 ha in 2017/2018, which is a ten percent decrease, due to farmers' increased interest in soy production. This could translate into a corn production of approximately 962,500 metric tons (MT), significantly higher than the 709,374 MT of 2017/2018 corn, when average yield was only 3.7 MT/ha due to unfavorable weather conditions. The 2018/2019 wheat will be harvested from a planted area of 69,556 ha and is expected to produce 278,000 MT versus the 288,738 MT harvested from 69,453 ha in 2017/2018.

## **General Information:**

### **Corn**

Corn planting, which is usually done in the first half of April, is still ongoing in areas with higher elevations. Most farmers are reporting that the weather and soil conditions for corn planting are optimal. The 2018/2019 corn will be planted on approximately 175,000 hectares (ha) versus the 194,113 ha in 2017/2018, which is a ten percent decrease, due to farmers' increased interest in soy production for which a higher subsidy will be provided this year. This could translate into a production of 962,500 metric tons (MT) with an expected average of 5.5 metric ton/hectare (MT/ha), versus low 3.7 MT/ha in 2017/2018 due to the prolonged summer drought.

### **Wheat**

Winter wheat (2018/2019) was sown on 69,556 ha. With an expected average yield of 4 MT/ha, a total production of approximately 278,200 MT is expected. The current wheat area is similar to the 2017/2018 wheat when 288,738 MT was harvested from 65,181 ha with an average yield of 4.4 MT/ha.

### **Barley**

Winter barley (2018/2019) was sown on 14,322 ha and the expected production is 50,130 MT (an average of 3.5 MT/ha). The barley area increased by three percent from the 13,908 ha in 2017/2018. The 2017/2018 barley production was 48,053 MT.

### **Oats**

Winter oats (2018/2019) was sown on 4,420 ha, and area increased by seven percent from 4,117 ha in 2017/2018, which could translate into a production of approximately 13,260 MT (an average of 3 MT/ha). The 2017/2018 production was 14,777 MT. Spring oats will be sown on approximately 6,000 ha with an expected production of 18,000 MT.

### **Rye**

Winter rye area increased from 2,947 ha in 2017/2018 to 3,249 ha in 2018/2019 that is expected to produce 11,370 MT (an average of 3.5 MT/ha). The 2017/2018 production was 10,959 MT.

### **Triticale**

Triticale was sown on 13,422 ha in 2018/2019 and an expected production is 57,000 (an average of 4.0 MT/ha).

### **Trade statistics**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) does not produce enough grains for its needs and is highly dependent on imports. The country's annual needs are approximately 550,000 MT of wheat and 1,200,000 MT of corn. In 2017, BiH imported 419,056 MT of wheat valued at \$86 million (local currency Convertible Mark/KM 138 million) mainly from Hungary, Serbia, and Croatia. In the same year, BiH imported 237,643 MT of corn valued at \$53 million (KM 85 million). Approximately 85 percent of the imported corn came from Serbia.

In 2017, the 34,139 MT of barley imports were valued at \$6 million (KM 10 million), while the oats imports of 6,157 MT were valued at \$1.1 million (KM 1.7 million), and the rye imports of 1,012 MT were valued at \$212,500 (KM 340,000).

Regarding grain exports, in 2017 BiH exported 31,148 MT of wheat valued at \$7 million (KM 11.4 million) and 99 percent was destined to Turkey. In the same year, BiH exported 28,340 MT of corn valued at \$8.2 million (KM 13.2 million). Similar to wheat, approximately 97 percent of the exported corn went to Turkey.

In 2017, BiH increased its exports of wheat flour by 44 percent compared to 2016, which reached 115,001 MT valued at \$33.3 million (KM 53.4 million). This increase is due to implementation of the free trade agreement with Turkey, as 103,000 MT or 87 percent was destined to Turkey. However, due to the complaints of its milling industry, Turkey recently decided to limit duty free import of wheat flour from BiH to 85,000 MT annually.

In the same year, imports of wheat flour were 79,359 MT valued at \$20.3 million (KM 32.6 million), and decreased by 12 percent compared to the 2016 flour imports.

Exports of other grains were insignificant.