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Report Highlights:

In the 2026-2027 marketing year, Post forecasts that UAE imports of wheat, rice, corn, and barley will rise to meet growing domestic demand. Population growth, tourism, and a thriving hotel, restaurant, and institutional sector will continue to drive increased consumption of wheat and rice although recent geopolitical developments may weigh on these projections. The government's robust food security policy that mandates maintaining adequate wheat and rice stocks for three to six months further supports higher import volumes. Meanwhile, an expanding poultry and dairy industry will fuel rising demand for corn and barley.

Executive Summary

In the 2026-2027 marketing year (MY), strong tourism, population growth, and expanding poultry and dairy sectors will increase demand for wheat, rice, corn and barley. With the absence of local grain production, the UAE will rely on imports to meet this increased demand. Maintaining strategic reserves enough for three to six months of basic food commodities, including grains, continues to be a top priority for the UAE's food security policy.

Table 1: Consumption and Import Forecast Changes

Commodity	MY	Consumption		Imports	
		MY 2026/27	MY 2025/26	MY 2026/27	MY 2025/26
Wheat	June-July	1.65 MMT, up 3 percent or 50,000 MT	1.6 MMT, No change	2.0 MMT, up 1 percent or 20,000 MT	1.980 MMT, No change
Rice	January-December	1.1 MMT, up 2.3 percent or 25,000 MT	1.057 MMT, upward 5.7 percent or 57,000 MT	1.1 MMT, up 10 percent or 100,000 MT	1.0 MMT, upward 2.5 percent or 25,000 MT
Corn	October-September	610,000 MT, up 1.6 percent or 10,000 MT	600,000 MT, upward by 31 percent or 145,000 MT	610,000 MT, up 1.6 percent or 10,000 MT	600,000 MT, upward by 29 percent or 135,000 MT
Barley	October-September	375,000 MT, up 2.7 percent or 10,000 MT	365,000 MT, upward 1.3 percent or 5,000 MT	375,000 MT, up 2.7 percent or 10,000 MT	365,000 MT, no change

Source: Post

Note: Not official USDA data

Report Coverage and Common Terms

This report covers wheat, rice, corn, and barley. Wheat includes wheat grain (HS 1001), wheat flour (HS 1101), pasta (HS 190219, HS 190230), couscous (HS 190240), and bulgur (190430) all converted to the wheat grain equivalent. Rice includes milled rice (HS 100630), broken rice (HS 100640), rough or paddy rice (HS 100610), and brown rice (HS 100620), all converted to the milled equivalent. Corn is HS 1005 and barley is HS 1003.

ADAFSA: Abu Dhabi Agriculture and Food Safety Authority

APHIS: United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

COVID-19: coronavirus disease 2019

CY: calendar year

EU: European Union

FSI: food, seed, and industrial

PAFTA : Pan-Arab Free Trade Area

GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council

HA: hectare

HS: Harmonized System

IMF: International Monetary Fund

KIZAD: Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi

MFN: most favored nation

MMT: million metric ton

MT: metric ton

MY: marketing year

UAE: United Arab Emirates

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

WTO: World Trade Organization

Commodity: Wheat

Table 2: Production, Supply, and Distribution of Wheat

Wheat Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jul 2024		Jul 2025		Jul 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
United Arab Emirates						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	621	621	571	571	0	551
Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	1900	1900	1975	1980	0	2000
TY Imports (1000 MT)	1900	1900	1975	1980	0	2000
Total Supply (1000 MT)	2521	2521	2546	2551	0	2551
MY Exports (1000 MT)	250	250	250	250	0	250
TY Exports (1000 MT)	250	250	250	250	0	250
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	150	150	150	150	0	150
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	1550	1550	1600	1600	0	1650
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	1700	1700	1750	1750	0	1800
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	571	571	546	551	0	501
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	2521	2521	2546	2551	0	2551
Yield (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0

(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column
 TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = July 2026 - June 2027
 OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: [PSD Online Advanced Query](#)

Production

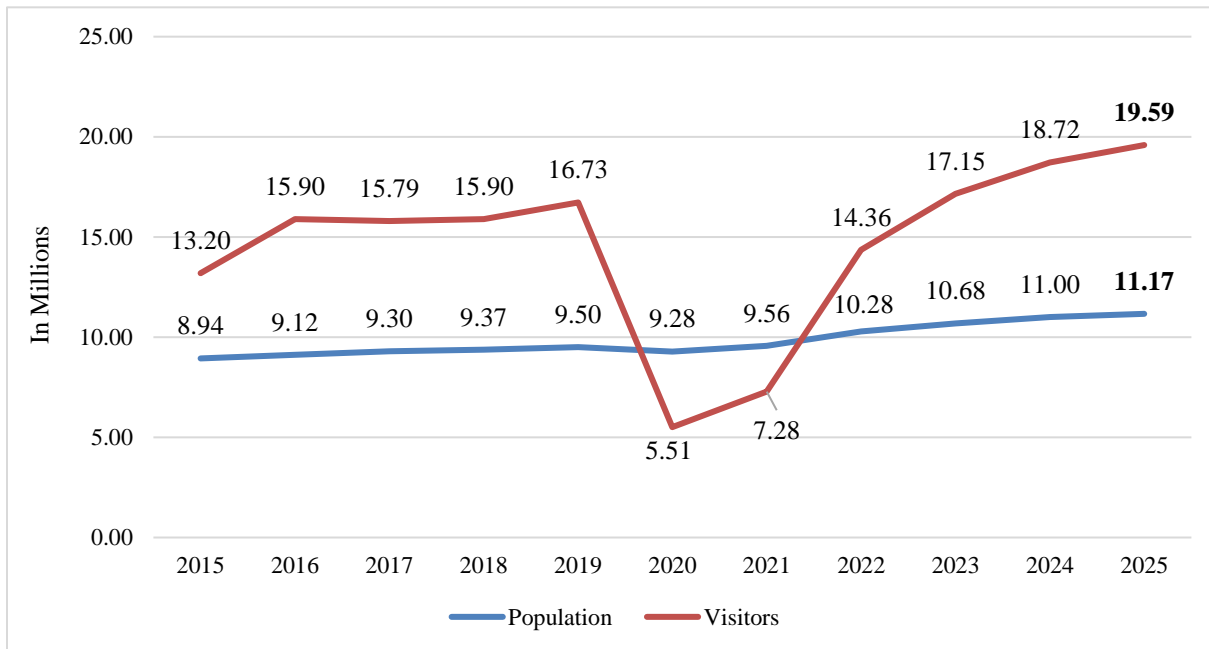
The United Arab Emirates is an arid country with limited water resources and little natural water recharge. Demand for water is mainly met through costly desalination programs and water recycling. Negligible rainfall precludes the production of row crops like wheat where the demand is primarily met through import and storage programs. Despite this, the government is attempting to increase rainfall, grow crops in desert areas that can withstand heat, and invest in agricultural production abroad. More information on these efforts may be found in the annual reports for Grain and Feed for [2023](#) and [2024](#).

Consumption

In the 2026-2027 marketing year (MY), the UAE's all wheat consumption (July 2026-June 2027) is forecast to increase by 3 percent or 50,000 MT at 1.65 MMT versus 1.60 MMT estimated for MY 2025/26. The primary drivers of the UAE's wheat consumption are the country's growing population and continued annual increases in foreign visitors. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) [projected](#) the UAE's population to increase in 2027 by 80,000 to reach 11.25 million versus 11.17 million in 2026, yearly to reach 11.47 million by 2030 (Figure 1). Around 88 percent of the UAE's population are foreign nationals, a dynamic that is unlikely to change. The UAE's economic strategy centers on strengthening the country's position as an ideal destination to live, work, and invest. It does this, in part, by introducing new policies to attract foreign residence, leading to an influx of foreign workers.

For each of the last 10 years except during the COVID-19 pandemic, more tourists visited Dubai than the country’s entire population. According to [Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism](#), 19.59 million international overnight visitors have visited Dubai in 2025 versus 18.72 million in 2024, an increase of 4.6 percent of 870,000 visitors. This growth aligns with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 launched two years ago to further consolidate the Emirate’s position as one of the top three global cities for business and leisure, and the best city to visit and in which to live and work. Nonetheless, recent geopolitical developments in the region may affect future visitor figures.

Figure 1: UAE Population Growth and Foreign Visitors to Dubai, 2015-2025



Source: IMF Population Numbers, Dubai Statistics Center, and Government of Dubai

More than 200 nationalities live in the UAE, of which 12 percent of the population are UAE citizens, and the remaining 88 percent are expatriates. The largest group of foreign nationals in the UAE hail from India and Pakistan, representing more than 50 percent. For these groups and UAE citizens, wheat is a staple food, and various wheat-based items, including bread, pasta, pastries, and breakfast cereals are an integral part of their local diet. Bread features in the main dishes, often consumed two to three times per day. With the high-income levels of a large segment of UAE’s population, consumers can afford to pay more to get their preferred wheat-based commodities and wheat flour that is used to make their preferred bakeries and pastas. These consumers are not willing to shift or substitute their wheat flour products to other commodities.

Since January 2, 2025, the UAE government announced updates to its price policy that sets a six-month price freeze on nine basic food commodities including wheat and bread. Price increases for the listed nine food items must receive approval from UAE’s Ministry of Economy and Tourism and not occur before six months prior to the previous increase. The government expects that the regulation will provide stability for these basic food commodities and safeguard consumers from sudden price hikes. In addition, the UAE’s government announced ministerial decrees that aim to monitor the market. This includes Ministerial Decree 246 of 2024 that focuses on prices of basic food commodities through

detected teams to ensure no price increases without prior approval. Consumers will have the ability to file complaints against any price increases they noticed in the local market. The Sabaa Sanabel all-purpose organic wheat flour brand produced from wheat grown on a Sharjah farm is sold at \$20.78 for a 5-kilogram package.

Wheat milling and processing is driven by re-export demand and local consumption. Diverse baked goods reflect the international origins of the UAE's population, with Arab, Eastern, and Western baked goods widely available. White medium hard wheat accounts for 70 percent of wheat imported to the UAE; the remainder is a blend of white hard and soft wheat. Soft red wheat is the least imported given its limited use in local baking.

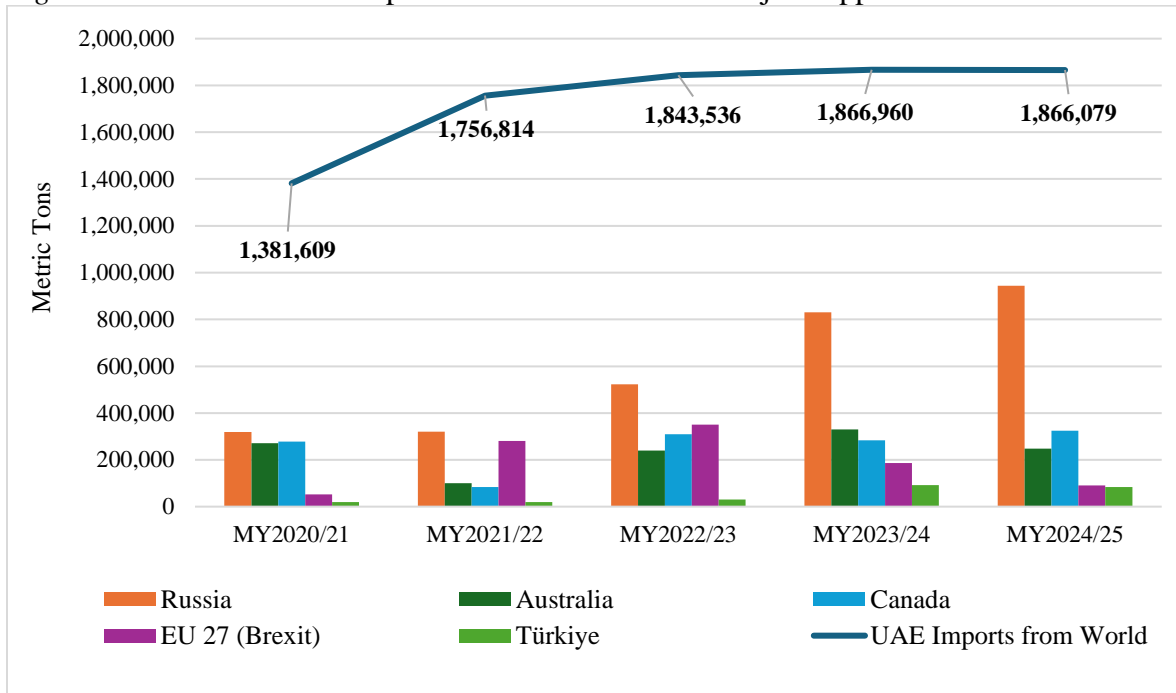
Trade

Imports

The UAE's July 2026-June 2027 MY of all wheat imports is forecast to increase slightly by 1 percent or 20,000 MT at 2.00 MMT compared to 1.98 MMT in previous marketing year. Post attributes this increase to the rising of domestic consumption because of the growing population and improved tourism sector. Around 92 percent of the UAE's wheat imports are raw products with the remainder coming in the form of wheat products such as flour, pasta, and couscous. Securing food commodities is a top priority for UAE's government as part of its food security strategy. Given the UAE's fiscal strength, the main food security challenge will not be grain prices but the availability of commodities at countries of origin and ease of logistics. Fiscal strength will allow the UAE to continue to diversify wheat origins so long as oil rents remain high.

Trade Data Monitor reports that the MY 2024/25 all wheat imports slightly dropped by less than 1 percent or 881,000 MT at 1,866,097 MT compared to 1,866,960 MT in the previous marketing year. Russia continues to regain its position as the UAE's major wheat supplier after the significant drop in exports in MY 2020/21 following Russia export measures to restrict wheat exports after the COVID-19 pandemic. In MY 2024/25, Russia was the largest all wheat supplier followed by Canada, Australia, the European Union (EU), and Türkiye (Figure 2)

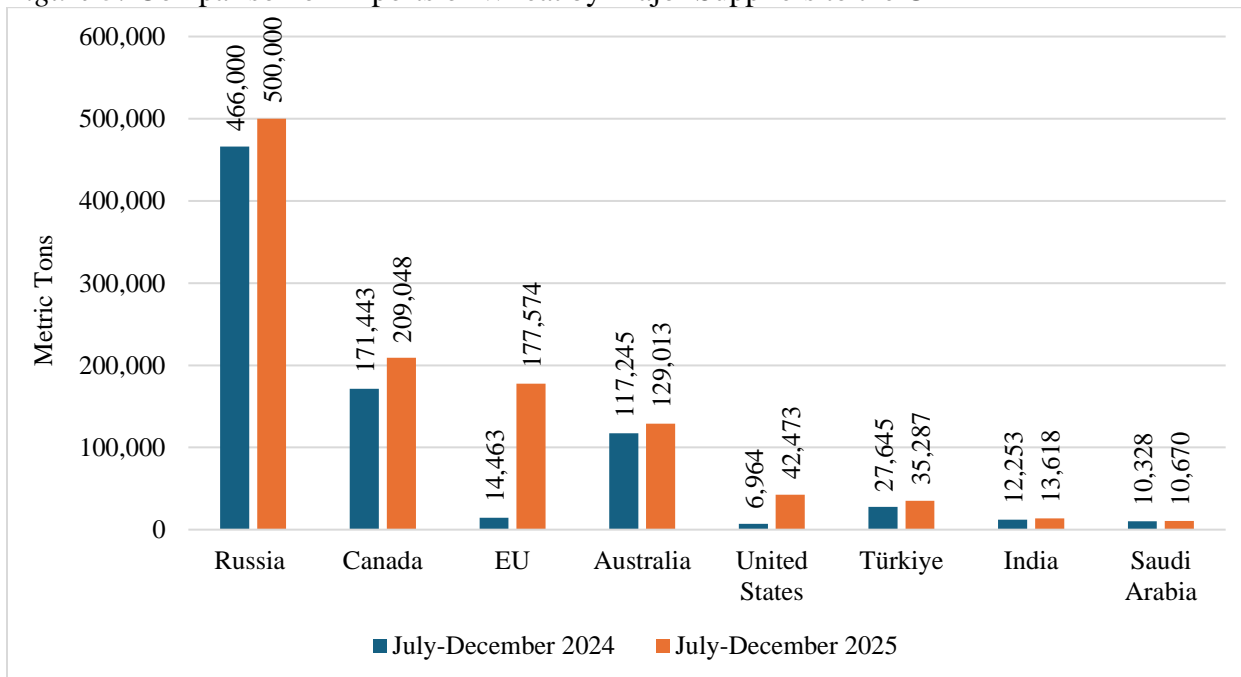
Figure 2: UAE All Wheat Imports from the World and Major Suppliers



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

From July through December 2025, all wheat exports to UAE increased by 32 percent or 285,870 MT at 1,177,343 MT compared to 891,473 MT during the same period of 2024. Russia was the top supplier followed by Canada, the EU, Australia and Türkiye (Figure 3)

Figure 3: Comparison of Exports of Wheat by Major Suppliers to the UAE



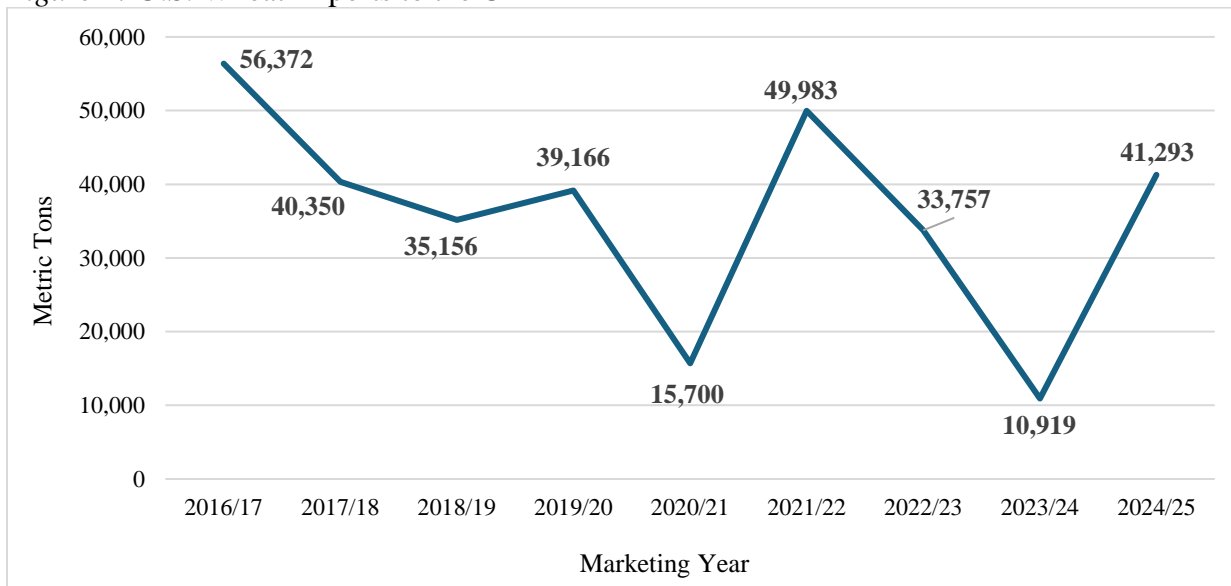
Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

U.S. Exports

Post forecasts that for MY 2026/27, U.S. all wheat exports to the UAE at 80,000 MT compared to 41,293 MT, an increase of 94 percent or 38,707 MT. From July 2025 through February 2026, U.S. exports of all wheat to the UAE increased 660 percent to 72,012 MT, compared to 9,472 MT during the same period of the previous marketing year, a gain of 62,540 MT. By the end of MY 2025/26, U.S. wheat exports to the UAE could reach their highest level since MY 2009/10, when exports totaled 84,842 MT.

In MY 2024/25, U.S. exports of all wheat to the UAE increased by 278 percent or 30,374 MT at 41,293 MT compared to 10,919 MT MY 2023/24 (Figure 4). The competitive prices primarily offered by Russia, Canada, Australia, the EU, and Türkiye provided opportunities for these origins to fulfill most UAE domestic consumption needs. As of March 2026, U.S. wheat prices quoted \$269/MT versus \$252/MT during the same period in 2025, Russia \$235/MT versus \$247/MT, the EU \$240/MT versus \$241/MT, Canada \$271/MT versus \$256/MT, Australia \$262/MT versus \$261/MT, and Argentina \$209/MT versus \$240/MT, respectively. UAE traders cite distance, the lack of regular vessel strings, and an inability to do grocery boats and unload at multiple ports of call as major reasons the United States remains a minority exporter. Some UAE flour producers appreciate the quality of U.S. wheat compared to other origins and will regularly buy at least one or two cargos for blending purposes.

Figure 4: U.S. Wheat Exports to the UAE



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

The UAE maintains zero import tariffs on wheat grain, wheat flour and 5 percent on pastas, couscous and bulgur (Table 3). These are most favored nation (MFN) tariffs charged on imports from all nations excluding preferential tariffs under free trade agreements. The UAE is a signatory and member of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that includes six countries and a signatory and member of the Pan-Arab Free Trade Area (PAFTA) that includes all Arab countries. GCC and PAFTA members enjoy 0-level tariffs. The UAE is a signatory party of GCC regional trade agreements with Singapore and the European Free Trade Association (which includes Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland). In

addition, the UAE is a signatory of several bilateral free trade agreements including with India, Morocco, Türkiye, New Zealand, and Australia where the 5 percent MFN tariff on pasta, couscous, and bulgur becomes zero.

The UAE is member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and has no import restrictions on wheat or wheat products. However, wheat and wheat shipments are subject to certain regulations to confirm the safety of the product and its fitness for human consumption. The UAE has negotiated a model health certificate for grain imports with several suppliers including the United States. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) phytosanitary certificate is accepted by the UAE. U.S. grain suppliers should be aware that all shipments are subject to a 14-day maximum allowance from the date of inspection to the date of export. Post departure issuance of phytosanitary certificates is generally not allowed.

Table 3: MFN Import Tariffs on Wheat Tariff Lines

Heading	HS Code	Description	Import Tariff Percentage
1001		Wheat and meslin	
	10011100	Durum wheat: Seed	0
	10011900	Durum wheat: Other	0
	10019100	Other: Seed	0
	10019910	Other: Normal Wheat	0
	10019920	Other: Thin Wheat	0
	10019930	Other: Meslin	0
1101		Wheat or meslin flour	
	11010010	Wheat flour	0
	11010020	Flour of mixed wheat and rye	0
1902		Pasta, whether or not cooked or stuffed (with meat or other substances) or otherwise prepared, such as spaghetti, macaroni, noodles, lasagna, gnocchi, ravioli, cannelloni; couscous, whether or not prepared	
	19021910	Macaroni, vermicelli and the like such as spaghetti or cannelloni in shape of shells, stars, letters and the like	5
	19021920	Pastas, frozen	5
	19021930	Chips of potato flour, macaroni-shaped, not ready	5
	19023000	Other pasta	5
	19024000	Couscous	5
1904		Prepared foods obtained by the swelling or roasting of cereals or cereal products (for example, corn flakes); cereals (other than maize [corn]) in grain form or in the form of flakes or other worked grains (except flour, groats, and meal), pre-cooked, or otherwise prepared, not elsewhere specified or included	5
	19043010	Containing cocoa	5
	19043090	Other	5

Source: [UAE Government Portal](#)

Exports

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 UAE all wheat exports to remain unchanged from MY 2025/26 volumes at 250,000 MT. Most UAE exports are wheat flour and pasta that are locally produced by local flour mills and pasta manufacturers. In MY 2024/25 UAE's all wheat exports dropped by 2.3 percent or 4,442 MT at 189,203 MT versus 193,645 MT in MY 2023/24. According to Trade Data Monitor, around 40 countries imported wheat and wheat products from UAE in MY 2024/25. Senegal was the largest importer of all wheat from the UAE with total imports at 31,313 MT versus 388 MT in the previous marketing year, an increase of 7,970 percent or 30,925 MT. Saudi Arabia was the second largest importer with total imports of 28,924 MT versus 27,924 MT. Other importers included Bahrain, the Philippines, the United States, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka. More than 90 percent of UAE exports are wheat flour and pasta with limited wheat grain. The UAE exports of wheat are wheat grain imported by local importers for local consumption; however, the importer may decide to re-export this wheat to other destinations. As the wheat has entered the UAE (and not the free zone areas), it is recorded as exports. However, the re-export data is mainly for products traded by traders in the free zone areas.

Re-Exports

Dubai is one of the largest re-export hubs in the world and home to the port of Jebel Ali, one of the world's largest commercial ports and among the 10 busiest, and the adjoining free zone hosts more than 20,000 companies taking advantage of the free zone. In 2023, UAE's Cabinet approved the "National Agenda for Re-Export Development 2030" that seeks to double re-exports from the UAE over the next seven years and deliver a 50 percent increase in the added value to the UAE economy. This will be achieved through 24 new initiatives and programs that are designed to strengthen and deepen re-export markets, expand product categories for re-export, and streamline processes to attract more re-exports to the UAE.

The UAE is a major regional center in international container trade, with large container ports in Jebel Ali, Sharjah, and Khalifa. Many products never get unloaded at the UAE's large free zones while some are lightly processed before being re-exported. Due to low tariffs and tax agreements both within the GCC and Arab League, many traders in the UAE import products only to quickly resell them in other markets. This heavily affects trade and consumption numbers. Other local traders and distributors sell these imported goods to foreign buyers once the product has officially entered the UAE and is recorded as "imports." Other big local companies import the products into the UAE and then decide to re-export the products to other countries.

Stocks

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 wheat ending stocks to drop by 9 percent or 50,000 MT at 501,000 MT compared to 551,000 MT in previous marketing year. In cooperation with industry, the UAE government maintains large stocks in accordance with the federal strategic food reserve ensuring at least three months' stock. The UAE has a wheat milling capacity of 1.67 MMT per year and total storage capacity of around 920,000 MT; these capacities have not been changed since Post's previous annual year report (Table 4).

Table 4: UAE's Wheat Flour Milling Capacity in MT

Company	Annual Flour Milling Capacity	Storage Capacity
Al Dahra (Etihad Mills)	500,000	300,000
IFFCO	500,000	130,000
Al-Ghurair (National Mills)	300,000	300,000
Agthia (Grand Mills)	300,000	150,000
Others	70,000	40,000
Total	1,670,000	920,000

Source: Post

Commodity: Rice

Table 5: Production, Supply and Distribution of Rice

Rice, Milled Market Year Begins United Arab Emirates	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Jan 2025		Jan 2026		Jan 2027	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	275	275	465	465	0	390
Milled Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rough Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milling Rate (.9999) (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	1240	1240	1000	1000	0	1100
TY Imports (1000 MT)	1240	1240	1000	1000	0	1100
Total Supply (1000 MT)	1515	1515	1465	1465	0	1490
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consumption and Residual (1000 MT)	1050	1050	1075	1075	0	1100
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	465	465	390	390	0	390
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	1515	1515	1465	1465	0	1490
Yield (Rough) (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column						
TY = Trade Year, which for Rice, Milled begins in January for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = January 2027 - December 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Production

The United Arab Emirates is an arid country with limited water resources and little natural water recharge. Demand for water is mainly met through costly desalination programs and water recycling. Negligible rainfall precludes the production of row crops like rice where the demand is primarily met through import and storage programs. Despite this, the government is striving to increase rainfall, grow crops in desert areas that can withstand heat, and invest in agricultural production abroad.

Consumption

In MY 2026/27 (January-December 2027), the UAE's rice consumption is forecast to increase slightly by 2.3 percent or 25,000 MT at 1.100 MMT compared to 1.075 MMT estimates for MY 2025/26. Post has revised rice consumption in MY 2025/26 upward by 5.7 percent or 57,000 MT. Post attributes the increase in rice consumption to increasing tourism, the HRI sector, and a growing population.

The IMF [projected](#) the UAE's population to increase in 2027 by 80,000 to reach 11.25 million in 2027 versus 11.17 million in 2026 yearly to reach 11.47 million by 2030 (Figure 1). Around 88 percent of the UAE's population are foreign nationals, a dynamic that is unlikely to change. The UAE's economic growth and government's strategy to strengthen its position as an ideal destination to live, work, and

invest by introducing new policies to attract foreign residence have led to an influx of foreign workers to the country.

More than 200 nationalities live in the UAE of which around 12 percent of the population are UAE citizens, and the remaining 88 percent of the population made up of expatriates. Basmati rice is the most popular rice variety in the UAE and consumed by locals, expatriates, and international visitors. The largest group of foreign nationals in the UAE hails from India and Pakistan, representing more than 50 percent. For these groups and UAE citizens, rice is a staple food, and various rice-based dishes are part of their local diet. With the high-income levels of large segments of the UAE's population, consumers can afford to pay more to get their preferred basmati rice. This rice is offered at premium higher prices compared to other rice varieties. These consumers are not willing to shift and substitute their basmati rice with any other commodities. Basmati rice is featured in the main dishes, often consumed two to three times per day. The average retail price for 5-kilogram package of Indian Basmati rice is \$4.60 to \$21.20, locally packaged basmati rice \$5.17 to \$8.80, Pakistani basmati rice \$10.56 to \$17.24, Australian medium grain rice \$11.38, and Egyptian medium grain rice \$8.6.

In early 2025, the UAE government announced a new pricing policy that sets a six-month price freeze on nine basic food commodities including rice. This means that local sellers can submit a request for a rice price increase only if the last price increase for the food item was six months prior to the request. The government expects that the regulation will provide stability in the prices of these basic food commodities and safeguarding consumers from sudden price hikes. In addition, the government announced ministerial decrees that aim to monitor the market. This includes Ministerial Decree Number 246 of 2024 on monitoring prices of basic food commodities to ensure no prices are not raised without approval. Consumers will have the ability to file complaints against any rice price increases they noticed in the local market.

Most rice is packaged in bulk bags and sold through super- and hyper- markets. Indian and Pakistani basmati rice is prevalent but other rice varieties from other origins like the United States, Australia, Thailand, Egypt, and the Philippines are available. The Al-Dahra rice facility, which was launched in 2016 and is owned by Al-Dahra Holdings, located in the Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD), is the UAE's major rice mill that packs and distributes basmati rice. Al-Dahra imports white basmati rice mainly from India for re-packaging for the local market.

The Al-Dahra facility has up to 120,000 MT production capacity with 40 silos with storage capacity of 750 MT each which brings total storage capacity to 30,000 MT. Around 20,000 MT of basmati rice are stocked in the facility for the operation and as part of the government's strategic reserve. The stock is distributed when needed to certain areas in UAE and not the whole country. According to Al-Dahra, the facility has never run on full production capacity. The highest capacity ever reached was 80,000 MT during the COVID-19 pandemic due to increased demand and to support government aid initiatives.

Trade

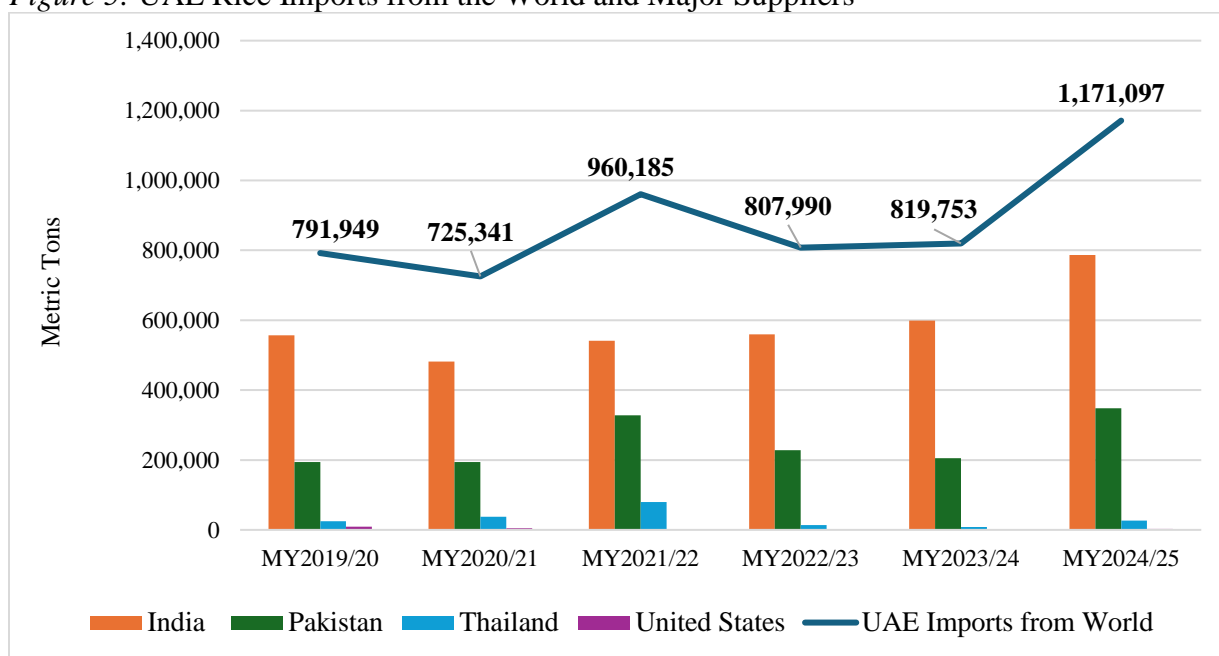
Imports

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 rice imports (January-December 2027) to increase by 10 percent or 100,000 MT at 1.10 MMT compared to 1.00 MMT estimates for MY 2025/26. Post has revised UAE's rice

imports in MY 2025/26 upward by 2.5 percent or 25,000 MT. Post attributes this increase to strong local consumption and the UAE government’s mandatory policy to keep stocks for at least three months. Around 98 percent of the UAE’s rice imports are milled and semi-milled while the other 2 percent arise brown and broken rice. Indian and other Asian expatriates represent most of the UAE population who prefer rice that originates from their home countries, mainly basmati rice.

According to Trade Data Monitor, India, Pakistan, and Thailand made up the major rice suppliers to the UAE in MY 2023/24. They are expected to maintain the same position for the coming marketing year, especially with the competitive prices offered due to improved local production (Figure 5).

Figure 5: UAE Rice Imports from the World and Major Suppliers



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

According to Trade Data Monitor, in MY 2024/25 the UAE’s rice imports increased by 43 percent or 351,344 MT at 1,171,097 MT compared to 819,753 MT in the previous marketing year.

In MY 2024/25, India’s rice exports increased by 31 percent or 187,980 MT at 786,444 MT compared to 598,464 MT in previous marketing year. In late September 2024, India lifted its export ban on non-basmati white rice, which resulted in higher exports and easing local prices of popular varieties that are in high demand by UAE consumers. The UAE-India free trade agreement that entered into force in 2022 had no significant impact on India rice exports as UAE tariffs on all rice varieties are zero. Pakistan was the second-largest exporter of rice to the UAE with total exports at 347,803 MT compared to 205,348 MT in the previous marketing year, an increase of 69 percent or 142,455 MT. Thailand was the third largest exporter of rice to UAE with total exports of 26,525 MT compared to 8,580 MT in the previous marketing year, an increase of 209 percent or 17,945 MT. Other rice suppliers to UAE market included the United States, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, the EU, and Egypt.

The UAE maintains zero import tariffs on all nations. The UAE is member of the WTO and has no import restrictions on rice. However, rice imports are subject to certain regulations to confirm the safety

of the product, and its fitness for human consumption. The UAE has negotiated model of health certificates for grain imports with numbers of suppliers including the United States. APHIS's Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577) is accepted by the UAE. However, U.S. grain suppliers should be aware that all shipments are subject to a 14 days' maximum allowance from the date of inspection to the date of export. Post departure issuance of phytosanitary certificates is not generally allowed.

Exports

Post forecasts UAE rice exports to remain at zero in MY 2026/27. The UAE's centrality to global food trade flows, especially to the Middle East and North Africa, have enabled the country's emergence as a re-export hub. Exports numbers in Trade Data Monitor, reported importing countries buying rice from UAE, should be counted as re-exports from UAE. UAE imports minimal amounts of paddy rice from Pakistan, around 200 MT, and so there is no full milling process in the country. The rice milling industry does basic processing by cleaning and packaging the imported basmati rice to be sold mainly in the local market with small quantities re-exported to other countries.

According to Trade Data Monitor, in MY 2024/25, UAE rice exports increased by 17 percent or 3,442 MT at 23,516 MT compared to 20,074 MT in the previous marketing year. Over 97 percent of UAE rice re-exports are semi-milled or wholly milled, whether polished or glazed (HS 100630)

Table 6: UAE Total Rice Exports by Major Destinations in MT

Country	MY 2023/24	MY 2024/25
Mozambique	6,965	6,185
Zimbabwe	8,728	5,788
Mauritius	540	5,306
Ghana	943	2,000
United States	817	1,097
Senegal	518	1,018
Ethiopia	145	565
Kenya	84	259
Canada	182	248
Saudi Arabia	193	195
Others	959	855
Total	20,074	23,516

Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

U.S. Rice Exports to Remain Lower

In MY 2024/25, the United States maintained its position as the fourth largest rice supplier to the UAE with an increase of 27 percent or 608 MT at 2,827 MT compared to 2,219 MT in previous marketing year. Post forecasts U.S. exports to remain modest at 2,000 MT. For the last 15 years, U.S. exports of rice to the UAE have ranged between 2,000 MT and 11,000 MT. U.S. rice prices in UAE hypermarkets are often 13-15 percent higher when compared to the same varieties from other origins. These higher prices are due primarily to shipping costs.

Stocks

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 rice ending stocks to remain stable at 390,000 MT. The UAE maintains three months' supply in its strategic food reserves to combat global food price inflation. However, the majority represents stock traders' and millers' carryover into the next marketing year from the previous year.

Commodity: Corn

Table 7: Production, Supply, and Distribution of Corn

Corn Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
United Arab Emirates						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	24	24	24	24	0	14
Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	575	575	600	600	0	610
TY Imports (1000 MT)	575	575	600	600	0	610
Total Supply (1000 MT)	599	599	624	624	0	624
MY Exports (1000 MT)	3	3	10	10	0	10
TY Exports (1000 MT)	3	3	10	10	0	10
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	572	572	600	600	0	610
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	572	572	600	600	0	610
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	24	24	14	14	0	4
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	599	599	624	624	0	624
Yield (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA)						
MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column						
TY = Trade Year, which for Corn begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027						
OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Corn Production

The United Arab Emirates is an arid country with limited water resources and little natural water recharge. Demand for water is mainly met through costly desalination programs and water recycling. Negligible rainfall precludes the production of row crops like corn where the demand is primarily met through import and storage programs. With these severe conditions, UAE has minimal area planted with corn. In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the total area planted with corn in 2022/2023 was at 181 hectares produced around 3,566 MT. Despite these facts, the government is attempting to increase rainfall, grow crops in desert areas that can withstand heat, and invest in agricultural production abroad.

Consumption

MY 2026/27 corn consumption (October 2024–September 2025) is forecast to increase slightly by 1.6 percent or 10,000 MT at 610,000 MT. Post has revised MY 2025/26 corn consumption upward to 600,000 MT. Post attributes the increase in corn consumption to the growing demand from the livestock sector led by the poultry industry, as most corn imports go into feed for poultry production. The UAE consumes around 3 MMT of grain and forage products annually. In addition to corn and barley, the UAE imports hay, soybean meal, and alfalfa to feed around 4.8 million head of cows, camels, sheep, and goats in addition to 44 UAE poultry farms producing meat and eggs for the country and other markets in the GCC.

The UAE's poultry industry continues to expand production to meet the growing local demand. The local demand for meat is driven by population growth, improvement in the tourism sector, and high demand from the HRI sector. A leading UAE's agricultural company, Al Ghuarir Foods, has launched a new integrated poultry facility, hatchery and processing plant, and the largest rendering plant in the UAE. The project, that will be established in the Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi, is expected to be operational by the end of 2026 with initial production target of 10-million-day-old chicks (from hatchery and processing of 10,000 MT of poultry meat per annum). The government decision in 2023 to raise poultry meat and table eggs prices by 13 percent was a relief for the local poultry industry after years of challenges due to higher input prices. In addition, Al-Rawabi, one of the UAE's major dairy and juice producers, is establishing a production dairy farm facility in KIZAD. The dairy farm will be the home of 10,000 Al-Rawabi cows which will produce 23 million liters of fresh milk in the first operational year. The facility will include milk parlors, a dairy plant, and a feed factory.

In 2024, ADAFSA adjusted its feed subsidy program by distributing 50 percent grain pellets and 50 percent forage, a shift in longstanding policy of distributing majority of the feed subsidy in the form of forage. Given that most livestock production in the UAE occurs in Abu Dhabi, ADAFSA operates a fixed-price feed subsidy program through the Agthia Group and National Fodder. Emirati farmers located in Abu Dhabi and government-owned agribusinesses can purchase both fodder and feed grain for a discount based on the difference between a government set fixed price and the current prevailing market price. More than 1.2 MMT of subsidized feed is distributed every year under this feed subsidy program.

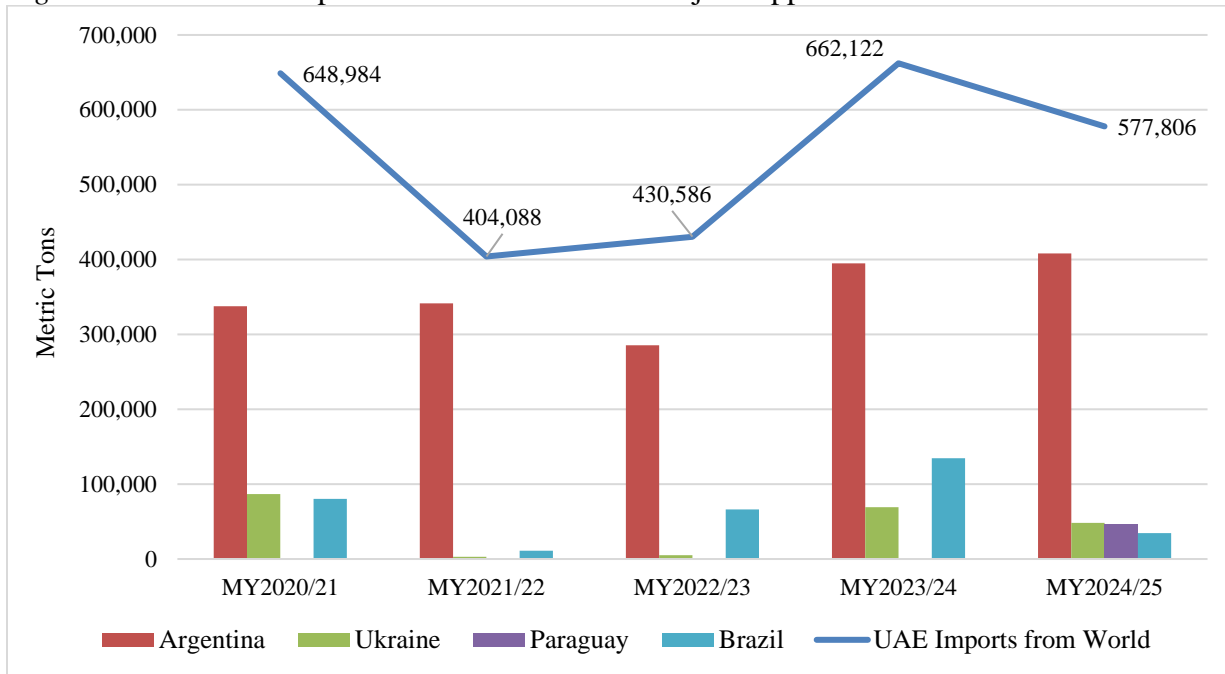
There are five local manufacturers of chicken feed in UAE, one in Dubai, another in Abu Dhabi, and others in Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, and Fujairah. Most manufacturing companies import raw materials and adjust the ratio of the feed ingredients based on the age of the bird, breed, and market demand. The three main types of poultry feed that are available in the UAE and Dubai are concentrates, roughages, and blended feeds, with most ingredients of animal feed in the local market imported from abroad.

Trade

Imports

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 corn imports (October 2023–September 2024) to increase by 1.6 percent or 10,000 MT at 610,000 MT. Post has revised UAE's corn imports for MY 2025/26 upward at 600,000 MT. Post attributes this increase to meet the increased local demand from the livestock sector.

Figure 6: UAE Corn Imports from the World and Major Suppliers



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

In MY 2024/25, Argentina retained its position as the UAE’s major corn supplier with total exports of 408,267 MT, an increase of 3.3 percent or 13,346 MT compared to previous marketing year exports at 394,921 MT. From October 2025 through February 2026, Argentina corn exports to the UAE dropped by 10 percent or 13,747 MT at 121,649 MT compared to 135,396 MT during same period of previous year. Argentina exports represent 70 percent of UAE’s total corn imports due to competitive prices compared to other origins. South American origins for corn are preferred in the UAE due to the ease of booking multiple cargos and more logistical flexibility. Other major suppliers include Brazil, Ukraine, and Paraguay. Favorable prices offered by those competitor suppliers, played the main role in limiting U.S. competitiveness in the UAE market. In MY 2024/25, the U.S. exports of corn to UAE increased by 6,245 MT at 8,343 MT compared to 2,098 MT in previous marketing year.

The UAE is member of the WTO and has no import restrictions on corn. However, corn imports are subject to certain regulations to confirm the safety of the product. The UAE has negotiated model of health certificates for grains with a number of suppliers including the United States. APHIS’s Phytosanitary Certificate (PPQ Form 577) is accepted by the UAE. However, U.S. grain suppliers should be aware that all shipments are subject to a 14 days’ maximum allowance from the date of inspection to the date of export. Post departure issuance of phytosanitary certificates is generally not allowed.

Exports

Post forecasts for UAE corn exports in MY 2026/27 to remain unchanged at 10,000 MT. According to Trade Data Monitoring, in MY 2024/25, the UAE’s corn exports declined by 12 percent, or 776 metric tons, to 5,691 metric tons, compared to 6,467 metric tons in the previous marketing year. Bahrain was the largest importer of UAE corn, with total imports of 2,654 metric tons, accounting for 47 percent of

the UAE's total corn exports. Saudi Arabia was the second largest importer, with imports totaling 1,231 metric tons, down from 1,484 metric tons in the previous year. Other export destinations for UAE corn included Tanzania, Qatar, India, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and others.

Stocks

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 corn ending stocks at 4,000 MT versus 14,000 MT estimates for previous marketing year. These stocks are carryover maintained by feed mills and traders.

Commodity: Barley

Table 8: Production, Supply and Distribution of Barley

Barley Market Year Begins	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Oct 2024		Oct 2025		Oct 2026	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
United Arab Emirates						
Area Harvested (1000 HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Production (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY Imports (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
TY Imports (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
Total Supply (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
MY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TY Exports (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Feed and Residual (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
FSI Consumption (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Consumption (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
Ending Stocks (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Distribution (1000 MT)	300	380	300	365	0	375
Yield (MT/HA)	0	0	0	0	0	0
(1000 HA) ,(1000 MT) ,(MT/HA) MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column TY = Trade Year, which for Barley begins in October for all countries. TY 2026/2027 = October 2026 - September 2027 OFFICIAL DATA CAN BE ACCESSED AT: PSD Online Advanced Query						

Production

The United Arab Emirates is an arid country with limited water resources and little natural water recharge. Demand for water is mainly met through costly desalination programs and water recycling. Negligible rainfall precludes the production of row crops like barley where the demand is primarily met through import and storage programs. With these severe conditions, UAE has minimal area planted with barley. In the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the total area planted with barley in 2022/2023 was 3.5 HA and produced around 66 MT. Despite these facts, the government is endeavoring to increase rainfall, grow crops in desert areas that can withstand heat, and invest in agricultural production abroad.

Consumption

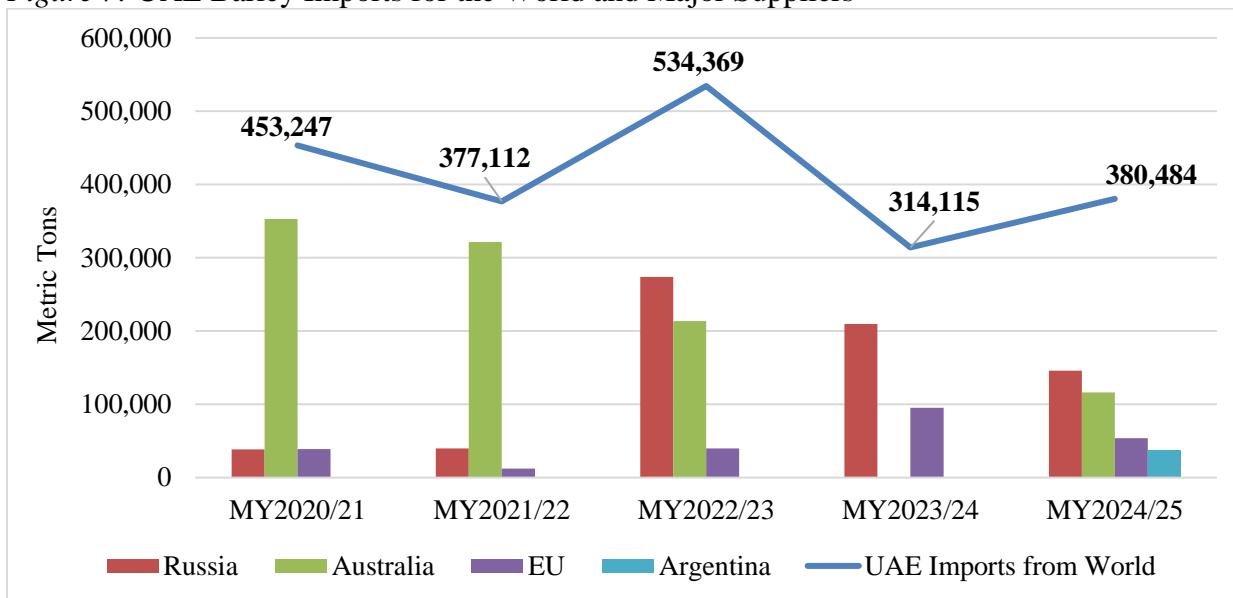
The UAE's MY 2026/26 barley consumption is forecast to slightly increase by 2.7 percent or 10,000 MT at 375,000 MT compared to 365,000 MT estimates for previous marketing year. The increase in barley consumption is closely linked to the country's rising demand for animal feed, particularly for camels, sheep, and poultry, which form an integral part of the UAE's livestock sector. The UAE consumes around 3 MMT of grain and forage products annually. In addition to corn and barley, the UAE imports hay, soybean meal, and alfalfa to feed around 4.8 million head of cows, camels, sheep, and goats in addition to 44 UAE poultry farms producing meat and eggs for the country and other markets in the GCC.

Trade

Imports

Post forecasts MY 2026/27 barley imports (October 2023–September 2024) to increase by 2.7 percent or 10,000 MT at 375,000 MT compared to 365,000 MT in previous marketing year. In MY 2024/25, UAE barley imports from world increased by 21 percent or 66,369 MT at 380,484 MT versus 314,115 MT in previous marketing year (Figure 7).

Figure 7: UAE Barley Imports for the World and Major Suppliers



Source: Trade Data Monitor, LLC

In MY 2024/25, Russia maintained its position as the largest barley supplier to UAE with total exports of 146,000 MT compared to 209,856 MT in previous marketing year, a drop of 30 percent or 63,856 MT. Australia was the second largest barley supplier to the UAE with total exports of 116,127 MT versus zero exports in previous marketing year. From October through February 2026, Australia exports to UAE increased by 66 percent or 53,632 MT at 134,680 MT compared to 81,048 MT during same period of previous year. The EU was the third largest barley supplier to the UAE with total exports of 53,909 MT versus 95,369 MT in previous marketing year, a drop of 43 percent or 41,460 MT. Argentina was the fourth largest barley supplier to the UAE with total exports of 37,135 MT. Other suppliers included Ukraine, Republic of Moldova, India and Kazakhstan.

The UAE maintains a zero-import tariff and places no restrictions on barley imports. However, barley imports are subject to certain regulations to confirm the safety of the product. The UAE has negotiated health certificates for grains with several suppliers including the United States and accepts APHIS's phytosanitary certificate. However, U.S. grain suppliers should be aware that all shipments are subject to a 14 day-maximum allowance from the date of inspection to the date of export. Post departure issuance of phytosanitary certificates is generally not allowed.

Exports

Post forecasts UAE exports of barley in MY 2025/26 to remain at zero. According to Trade Data Monitor, in MY 2024/25, the UAE's exports of barley dropped by 28 percent or 459 MT at 1,158 MT compared to 1,617 MT in the previous marketing year. Bahrain remained the UAE's major barley importer in MY 2024/25 with total imports of 1,061 MT, a drop of 32 percent or 520 MT from the previous marketing year at 1,581 MT. UAE barley exports are largely imported by local traders and distributors who sell these imported goods to foreign buyers once the product has officially entered the UAE and is recorded as "imports." Other big local importers brought the products into the UAE and then decided to re-export them in search of higher profits or to off-load surplus products.

Stocks

Post forecasts no ending stocks for barley in MY 2024/25. Barley's total supply is anticipated to be consumed domestically.

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Attachments:

No Attachments