

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Greece

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Grain and Feed

Approved By:

Jim Dever

Prepared By:

Ornella Bettini

Report Highlights:

Greece's economic crisis is affecting grain production, consumption, and trade. MY 2010/11 wheat production is forecast at 1,250,000 metric tons (MT), significantly down from the previous year (1,610,000 MT). MY 2010/11 barley consumption is expected to decrease by 21 percent to 417,000 MT, as a consequence of Greece's recession and the comparatively cheap price of corn.

General Information:

Greece Grain Update

Wheat

Table 1: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Wheat	2008	2009	2010
	Est. 2008/2009	Est. 2009/2010	Forecast 2010/2011
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	600,000	755,000	750,000
Beginning Stocks	160,000	140,000	130,000
Production	1,700,000	1,610,000	1,250,000
Intra EU27 Imports	690,000	750,000	600,000
Extra EU27 Imports	201,000	170,000	150,000
Total Imports	891,000	920,000	750,000
Total Supply	2,751,000	2,670,000	2,130,000
Intra EU27 Exports	297,000	350,000	350,000
Extra EU27 Exports	439,000	170,000	200,000
Total Exports	736,000	520,000	550,000
Food	1,795,000	1,470,000	1,400,000
Feed	80,000	550,000	80,000
Total Consumption	1,875,000	2,020,000	1,480,000
Ending Stocks	140,000	130,000	100,000
Total Distribution	2,751,000	2,670,000	2,130,000

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry contacts

MY 2010/11 Greek wheat production is forecast at 1,250,000 metric tons (MT), significantly down from the previous year (1,610,000 MT) due to Greece's current financial crisis and a related decrease in demand for milling. Wheat production tends to be concentrated in Thessaly, Macedonia, and Thrace, located in northern Greece. Greek wheat is mainly destined for food production (about 73 percent), although a growing percentage is used in feed. The Greek economic crisis is affecting consumers' purchase ability and demand for wheat is likely to suffer. Therefore, MY 2010/11 Greek wheat consumption is forecast at 1,480,000 MT – a major decrease of 27 percent compared to MY 2009/2010 (2,020,000 MT). MY 2009/10 wheat exports reached 520,000 MT to reflect current estimate. The Italian market continues to be the main destination for Greek wheat (almost exclusively durum wheat) exports, accounting for almost 45

percent of the total. The Tunisian and Turkish markets are also important for Greek wheat exports. MY 2010/11 wheat imports are expected to decrease by 19 percent to 750,000 MT, due to a lower domestic consumption. Greek corn imports are mainly from Hungary, France, and Bulgaria, accounting for 56 percent of the total.

Corn

Table 2: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Corn	2008	2009	2010
	Est. 2008/2009	Est. 2009/2010	Forecast 2010/2011
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	183,000	135,000	150,000
Beginning Stocks	50,000	90,000	50,000
Production	1,500,000	1,150,000	1,050,000
Intra EU27 Imports	100,000	200,000	200,000
Extra EU27 Imports		138,000	150,000
Total Imports	100,000	338,000	350,000
Total Supply	1,650,000	1,578,000	1,450,000
Intra EU27 Exports	84,000	34,000	30,000
Extra EU27 Exports			
Total Exports	84,000	34,000	30,000
Food	110,000	100,000	100,000
Feed	1,366,000	1,394,000	1,320,000
Total Consumption	1,476,000	1,494,000	1,420,000
Ending Stocks	90,000	50,000	
Total Distribution	1,650,000	1,578,000	1,450,000

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry contacts

Greece's economic crisis is affecting both corn production and consumption. Therefore, corn production is forecast at 1,050,000 metric tons (MT) – a decrease of 9 percent from the previous year (1,150,000 MT). MY 2010/11 Greek corn consumption is forecast at 1,420,000 MT, slightly down from MY 2009/2010 current estimate (1,494,000 MT). Greek corn is mainly used in feed (about 93%), with a small percentage destined for food production. MY 2010/2011 Greek corn imports are forecast to grow by 4% to 350,000 MT, as a consequence of a lower domestic production. Greek imports mainly come from Serbia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and France. MY 2010/11 Greek corn exports are forecast to decrease by about 12 percent to 30,000 MT, due to the decrease in domestic production. Bulgaria, Italy, and Cyprus continue to be the main destination for Greek corn.

Barley

Table 3: Production, Supply, and Demand (MT)

Barley	2008	2009	2010
	Est. 2008/2009	Est. 2009/2010	Forecast 2010/2011
	Post Data	Post Data	Post Data
Area Production	150,000	180,000	150,000
Beginning Stocks	40,000	40,000	35,000
Production	360,000	342,000	225,000
Intra EU27 Imports	117,000	140,000	140,000
Extra EU27 Imports	39,000	40,000	40,000
Total Imports	156,000	180,000	180,000
Total Supply	556,000	562,000	440,000
Intra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Extra EU27 Exports	0	0	0
Total Exports	0	0	0
Food	75,000	50,000	50,000
Industrial		20,000	20,000
Feed	441,000	457,000	347,000
Total Consumption	516,000	527,000	417,000
Ending Stocks	40,000	35,000	23,000
Total Distribution	556,000	562,000	440,000

Source: Unofficial estimates based on Greek industry contacts

MY 2010/11 barley production is forecast at 225,000 metric tons (MT), significantly down from the previous year (342,000 MT) as more land was converted to wheat. Barley is cultivated in the dry and mountainous areas of Thessaly, Macedonia, and Thrace, located in northern Greece. MY 2010/11 barley consumption is expected to decrease by 21 percent to 417,000 MT, as a consequence of Greece's recession and the comparatively cheap price of corn. Greek barley is mainly used for feed (about 87 percent), with a small percentage destined for food and industrial production. Since the decrease in barley production was proportional to decrease in demand, MY 2010/11 barley imports are expected to remain steady. Greece imports the majority of its barley from Germany, Bulgaria, and Romania.