

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Uzbekistan - Republic of

Post: Tashkent

Wheat Production Update

Report Categories:

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

Uzbekistan wheat production in MY 2011/12 is forecast at 6.3 million metric tons (MMT), slightly lower than in the previous year. About 60 percent of the crop is considered to be of milling quality. Both wheat and wheat flour from Kazakhstan entered Uzbekistan through official and some unofficial channels. Wheat, wheat flour, and bread prices have all risen sharply in the past few months, presumably in keeping with rising world prices and because of the increasing pace of inflation.

Production

Uzbekistan's MY11/12 wheat harvest was completed in the last week of July. The estimated planted area of 1.4 million ha equaled that of the previous year. Of this, irrigated land was approximately 1.14 million ha. According to preliminary official figures, MY11/12 wheat production reached 6.52 million tons (MMT). However, various independent sources indicate that official wheat production figures are slightly overestimated. Reportedly a few regions in southern and northern parts of the country have failed to achieve state targets for grain production because of unusually dry weather and limited availability of irrigation water. Based on these facts, Post preliminarily forecasts MY2011/12 wheat production at 6.3 MMT. This year's official state procurement price was set up at the level of 287,000 Sums/ton which is for 50,000 Sums more than in MY 2010/11. However, due to water related problems and lower than expected yields in some regions, the local market prices for wheat went up as high as 1000 Sums per kg.

According to independent experts, only an estimated 55 to 60 percent of locally produced wheat is suitable for food use. The remainder is used for feed and other purposes. Many private bakers prefer using Kazakh wheat flour, which is a better quality.

Consumption

In MY2011/12 food wheat consumption is forecast at 6.3 MMT. There are no official data on feed grain consumption in Uzbekistan, and expert estimates vary from 1.25 to 1.3 MMT. Because of inflation and in keeping with rising world prices, local wheat flour prices increased continuously from the beginning of the year. In the 1st quarter of 2011 the price of the highest grade of wheat flour was Uzbek Sums (UZS) 2500/kg; by July it reached UZS 3200/kg, a 28 percent increase. This has increased the demand for local wheat flour. Consequently, bread prices have risen as well by almost 10 percent, mainly for local flat bread ("non") sold by private bakeries.

(Official exchange rate Uzbek Sums 1729 = USD1.00)

Trade

There are no official statistics available on wheat trade. According to trade sources, Uzbekistan's MY 2010/11 wheat exports are estimated at 450,000 tons of lower grade wheat. MY 2011/12 exports are forecast at 400,000 tons. The export destinations are reportedly Iran, Afghanistan and Azerbaijan. Uzbekistan's MY 2010/11 wheat imports are estimated at 1.35 MMT and MY 2011/12 wheat imports are forecast at 1.4 MMT. Kazakhstan remains the main supplier of high quality wheat and wheat flour to Uzbekistan.

Statistical Tables:

Table 1. Wheat PSD

Wheat Uzbekistan	2009/2010		2010/2011		2011/2012	
	Market Year Begin: Jul 2009		Market Year Begin: Jul 2010		Market Year Begin: Jul 2011	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
Area Harvested	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
Beginning Stocks	1,440	1,440	1,517	1,322	1,417	1,272
Production	6,200	6,432	6,500	6,550	6,500	6,300
MY Imports	1,677	1,300	1,500	1,350	1,500	1,400
TY Imports	1,677	1,300	1,500	1,350	1,500	1,400
TY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Supply	9,317	9,172	9,517	9,222	9,417	8,972
MY Exports	400	500	400	450	200	400
TY Exports	400	500	400	450	200	400
Feed and Residual	1,300	1,250	1,400	1,250	1,400	1,300
FSI Consumption	6,100	6,100	6,300	6,250	6,500	6,300
Total Consumption	7,400	7,350	7,700	7,500	7,900	7,600
Ending Stocks	1,517	1,322	1,417	1,272	1,317	972
Total Distribution	9,317	9,172	9,517	9,222	9,417	8,972
1000 HA, 1000 MT, MT/HA						

Table 2. MY11/12 Wheat (plus barley 4-5%out of total prod) area and production by regions as of 07/21/2011

Regions	Plant area 1,000 Ha	Harvest area 1,000 Ha	Target 1,000 tons	Actual Prod 1,000 tons
Karakalpakstan	53.6	53.6	190.4	166.8
Andijan	80.3	80.3	493.3	498.9
Bukhara	65.6	65.6	382.9	377.2
Djizakh	180.0	122.4	522.0	472.4
Kashkadarya	209.0	146.0	756.0	714.0
Navoi	43.5	40.7	185.8	181.2
Namangan	79.8	79.8	380.0	384.1
Samarkand	156.1	107.1	582.0	580.2
Surkhandarya	102.2	98.0	513.7	443.7
Syrdarya	90.0	90.0	356.0	356.3
Tashkent	136.0	131.4	576.9	635.1
Fergana	111.7	111.7	586.4	627.1
Khorezm	34.0	34.0	143.0	142.8
Private household farms	58.2	45.0	1164.0	900
Total in Republic	1400.0	1210.0	6832.4	6479.8