No. 3 ■ October 2014

Crop Prospects and Food Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The forecast for global cereal production in 2014 has been raised closer to last year's record, which is expected to boost inventories to a multi-year high.**
- **Export prices of wheat and maize decreased further in September to multi-year lows, driven by expectations of large global supplies in 2014/15. Even rice prices, which had been rising in previous months, fell in September.**
- **In Western Africa, the Ebola virus disease outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone has disrupted markets, farming activities and livelihoods, seriously affecting the food security situation of large numbers of people.** Moreover, irregular rains in several areas of the Sahelian belt result in mixed production prospects.
- **In Central Africa, food crop production in the Central African Republic is estimated to have increased from the sharply reduced 2013 output**, but still remains well below average due to the impact of widespread civil insecurity.
- **In Eastern Africa, the overall food security situation is improving as harvesting has started in several countries.** While food prices are generally stable or declining, they are at record high levels in Somalia and the Sudan.
- **In Southern Africa, food security conditions improved significantly** in response to bumper maize harvests and generally lower prices.
- **In North Africa, a slightly below-average cereal crop was gathered in 2014.** Wheat production in Tunisia recovered from last year's weather-stricken harvest, while reduced plantings following poor rains caused a sharp reduction in Morocco.
- **In Central America, drought conditions have significantly reduced the 2014 main first season harvest in key producing countries.** In Mexico, cereal production is expected to remain above average due to better-than-expected yields.
- **In South America, higher yields offset reduced plantings, with coarse grains production estimated at an above-average level.** Wheat production is forecast to recover strongly following two consecutive low crops, due to increased plantings.
- **In the Near East, drought conditions resulted in a below-average cereal harvest.** Food security in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq continues to deteriorate as a result of the persisting conflict.
- **In the Far East, aggregate cereal output is estimated to be close to last year's record level.** A considerable drop in the exportable surplus from India is expected to reduce aggregate cereal exports in the 2014/15 marketing year.
- **In CIS Europe, cereal production is estimated at a record level.** Accordingly, exports are forecast at an all-time high.
- **FAO estimates that globally 35 countries, including 26 countries in Africa, are in need of external assistance for food due to conflict, crop failures and the impact of localized high food prices on vulnerable groups.**

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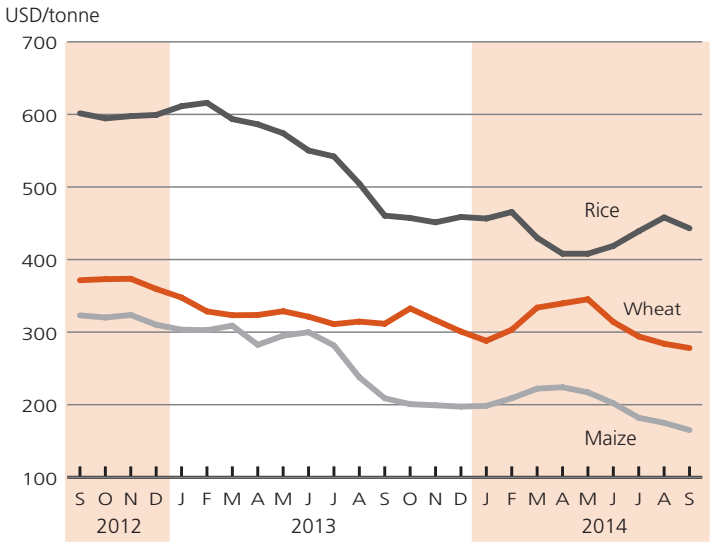
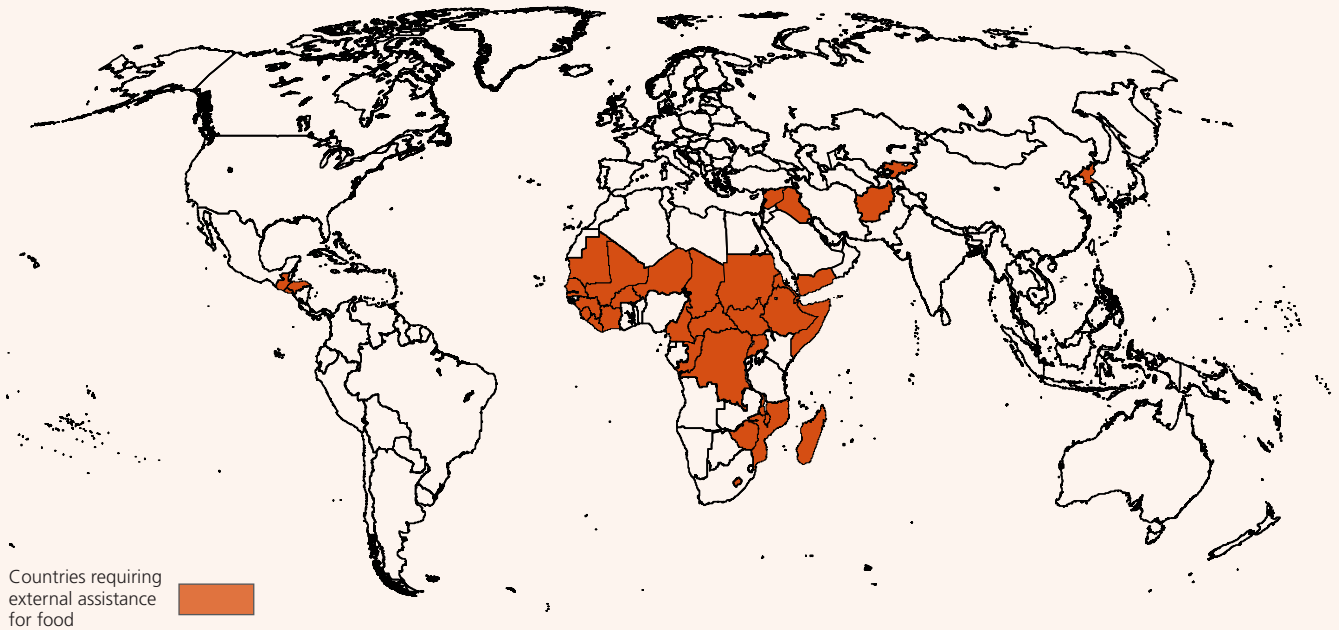
Selected international cereal prices



Note: Prices refer to monthly average. See Table 3 for details

Countries requiring external assistance for food[1]

World: 35 countries



AFRICA (26 countries)

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies

Central African Republic ▼

Despite some improvements, mainly due to humanitarian assistance, the food situation in 2014 remains serious due to continued conflict and displacements. The number of people in need of food assistance was estimated in April 2014 at about 1.7 million, out of a total population of 4.6 million. The IDP caseload, as of late September, was estimated at 488 000 persons. Furthermore, food crop production in 2014 is estimated to be 58 percent below average, despite an 11 percent increase from the sharply reduced 2013 output.

Widespread lack of access

Bukina Faso ■

A massive influx of refugees from Mali has put additional pressure on local food supplies. Over 33 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country as of September 2014.

Chad ■

Influx of refugees, estimated at over 461 000 people from the Sudan's Darfur region, the Central African Republic and northern Nigeria, and the return of an estimated 340 000 Chadians, have put additional pressure on the local food supply negatively affecting food security.

Djibouti ■

About 90 000 people are severely food insecure, mainly in pastoral southeastern areas and in the Obock region, due to a succession of three poor rainy seasons and reduced access to humanitarian assistance.

Eritrea ■

Vulnerability to food insecurity due to economic constraints.

Guinea ▼

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak has disrupted markets, farming activities and livelihoods, seriously affecting the food security situation of large numbers of people.

Liberia ▼

The EVD outbreak has disrupted markets, farming activities and livelihoods, seriously affecting the food security situation of large numbers of people.

Mali ■

Insecurity in northern areas has resulted in large population displacement, worsening the already precarious food security situation created by previous droughts and floods. Over 1.9 million people, located mostly in the northern part of the country, were estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

Mauritania ■
Lingering More than 54 700 Malian refugees were still living in southeastern Mauritania as of September 2014. Moreover, Mauritania continues to be affected by relatively high domestic food prices. Over 367 000 people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis.

Niger ■
The country has been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that resulted in the depletion of household assets and high level of indebtedness. Over 51 000 Malian refugees are estimated to be living in the country as of September 2014. About 2.2 million people are estimated to be in Phase 3: "Crisis" and above according to the last "Cadre Harmonisé" analysis conducted in March 2014.

Sierra Leone ▼
The EVD outbreak has disrupted markets, farming activities and livelihoods, negatively affecting the food security situation of large numbers of people.

Zimbabwe ▲
Food security conditions improved in 2014, with a 78 percent decrease in the number of food insecure persons compared to 2013. The improvement is attributed to the larger 2014 cereal output and lower food prices. An estimated 331 000 people still require assistance due to reduced localized harvests.

Severe localized food insecurity

Cameroon ▼
In North and Far North regions, recurrent climatic shocks in recent years have negatively impacted agricultural activities causing a deterioration in the food security situation. In addition, the number of refugees from the CAR which entered mainly East, Adamaoua and North regions was estimated at 237 000 in late September 2014, while 39 000 refugees from Nigeria entered mainly the Far North region since May 2013.

Congo ▼
Significant food security problems are faced by a large number of households. In addition, as of early September 2014, about 19 000 refugees from the CAR are sheltering in the country.

Côte d'Ivoire ■
Conflict related damage to agriculture in recent years and the lack of support services, mainly in the northern regions.

Democratic Republic of the Congo ▼
The number of people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected eastern provinces was estimated in June 2014 at about 4.1 million, 8 percent up from the 3.8 million estimated in December 2013. As of June 2013, the total number of IDPs was estimated at more than 2.5 million, while the refugees from CAR and the returnees from the Republic of the Congo were estimated in July and September at 67 000 and 185 000, respectively.

Ethiopia ■
The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is stable at 2.4 million.

Lesotho ▼
Food security conditions remain strained, with an estimated 447 760 people requiring assistance, due to low cereal production.

Madagascar ▲
Food insecurity remains severe in southern regions, following a successive poor cereal harvest in 2014. However, improved conditions were estimated in central and northern parts, reflecting production gains in these regions, while lower prices compared to 2013 have improved access.

Malawi ▲
Significantly improved food security conditions at the national level, reflecting the larger 2014 maize output. However, an estimated 640 000 people require assistance (a sharp decline compared to the 1.5 million estimated in 2013), due to localized production shortfalls following a dry period in early 2014.

Mozambique ▲
An estimated 150 000 people require assistance, mainly due to a weather-depressed cereal production. This figure is approximately 60 000 below the level estimated last year.

Senegal ■
Cereal production in 2013 was estimated to be 15 percent below the average. Another below-average crop is expected this year. About 2.9 million people are estimated to be at risk of food insecurity this year.

Somalia ▼
Over 1 million people are estimated to be in need of emergency assistance, mainly IDPs and poor households in southern and central areas.

South Sudan ▲
The number of severely food insecure people has decreased from 3.9 to 2.2 million, including 1.3 million IDPs, due to the availability of newly-harvested crops and the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Sudan ▼
The number of people estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, mainly IDPs in conflict-affected areas, has increased to 5.3 million.

Uganda ■
About 100 000 people in Karamoja region are estimated to be severely food insecure following two years of below-average crop production.

ASIA (6 countries)

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies

Iraq ▼
Severe Conflict escalation, together with large internal displacements, coincided with winter crop harvesting and seriously compromised the final output. Nearly 2.8 million people were displaced within Iraq, nearly 1.8 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014.

Syrian Arab Republic ▼
Due to worsening civil conflict, approximately 10.8 million people continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the country, including more than 6.4 million people who are internally displaced. Although some international food assistance is provided, the Syrian refugees are also putting strain on other countries in the region.

Widespread lack of access

Democratic People's Republic of Korea ■
Despite generally good aggregate cereal harvests for the fourth consecutive year in 2014/15, some 16 million people remain at risk of food insecurity. The food system in the DPRK remains highly vulnerable to shocks and serious shortages exist particularly in the production of protein-rich crops. Economic constraints and lack of agricultural inputs are leading to inadequate food production and aggravated food insecurity.

Yemen ■
The severely food-insecure population in need of emergency food assistance is estimated at 4.5 million people (18 percent of the population), as a result of high levels of prolonged conflict, poverty, high food and fuel prices.

Severe localized food insecurity

Afghanistan ■
Some groups, particularly IDPs displaced by the conflict, returnees from Pakistan and natural disaster-affected households continue to face high levels of food insecurity.

Kyrgyzstan ▲
The situation is stable and has significantly improved. Some concerns still exist with high food prices combined with poverty and uncertainty with this year's cereal harvest.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (3 countries)

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies

El Salvador ✚
Drought conditions during the 2014 main first season, accounting for more than half of annual production, have significantly reduced supplies of maize and beans, causing severe shortages. Around 96 000 families have been severely affected and are in need of assistance.

Honduras ✚
Drought conditions during the 2014 main first season, accounting for more than half of annual production, have significantly reduced supplies of maize and beans causing severe shortages. The affected population is estimated at 76 712 families of small farmers.

Severe localized food insecurity

Guatemala ✚
Drought conditions during the 2014 main first season, accounting for more than half of annual production, have significantly reduced supplies of maize and beans, causing severe shortages. Official estimates point to 268 000 families being affected and the Government has appealed for international assistance.

Countries with unfavourable prospects for current crops[2] (total: 2 countries)

AFRICA (2 countries)

Kenya ✚
Below-average cereal production expected in western key cropping areas due to a series of dry spells and high incidence of pests and diseases, including some outbreaks of the Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND).

Uganda ✚
Cereal crop production in agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja region is forecast at below-average levels following reduced plantings due to unfavourable rains in April and significant water deficits in eastern parts of the region.

Key - Changes since last report (July 2014)

No change ■ Improving ▲ Deteriorating ▼ New Entry ✚

Terminology

[1] **Countries requiring external assistance for food** are expected to lack the resources to deal with reported critical problems of food insecurity. Food crises are nearly always due to a combination of factors but for the purpose of response planning, it is important to establish whether the nature of food crises is **predominantly** related to lack of food availability, limited access to food, or severe but localized problems. Accordingly, the list of countries requiring external assistance is organized into three broad, not mutually exclusive, categories:

- Countries facing an **exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies** as a result of crop failure, natural disasters, interruption of imports, disruption of distribution, excessive post-harvest losses, or other supply bottlenecks.
- Countries with **widespread lack of access**, where a majority of the population is considered to be unable to procure food from local markets, due to very low incomes, exceptionally high food prices, or the inability to circulate within the country.
- Countries with **severe localized food insecurity** due to the influx of refugees, a concentration of internally displaced persons, or areas with combinations of crop failure and deep poverty.

[2] **Countries facing unfavourable prospects for current crops** are countries where prospects point to a shortfall in production of current crops as a result of a reduction of the area planted and/or yields due to adverse weather conditions, plant pests, diseases and other calamities.

Global overview

GLOBAL CEREAL SUPPLY AND DEMAND ROUNDUP

Large cereal crops and rising inventories keep prices under downward pressure

World cereal production in 2014 is anticipated to reach 2 523 million tonnes, some 65 million tonnes higher than FAO's initial forecast earlier this year. A continued upgrading of this year's coarse grain harvests, maize in particular, has been the main underlying factor. Under current expectations, world cereal production would fractionally decline from the 2013 peak; with wheat production achieving a new record, at 718.5 million tonnes, and coarse grains virtually matching last year's high of 1 308 million tonnes. By contrast, unfavourable weather conditions have lowered prospects for rice production, which is now forecast to reach 496.4 million tonnes, down 0.4 percent from 2013.

Global wheat production in 2014 is forecast at 718.5 million tonnes, a marginal increase compared to the 2013 record output and the earlier forecast from the July publication of this report. The increase reflects upward revisions in *Europe*, which are expected to more than compensate for smaller crops in *Oceania* (**Australia**) and *North America*.

Production in *Europe* is put at 236.3 million tonnes for 2014, about 5 percent (11 million tonnes) up from the 2013 estimate and the highest level since the record in 2008. The bulk of the increase is accounted for by **the Russian Federation**'s 13 percent rise, to 59 million tonnes on account of higher yields. In *North America*, despite increased plantings in **the United States of America**, production fell by 5 percent to 55.2 million tonnes, reflecting reduced yields caused by dry weather. Production in **Canada** is sharply down, decreasing by 26 percent to 27.7 million tonnes. In *Asia*, with harvesting complete, the aggregate wheat output in 2014 is estimated at 321 million tonnes, slightly above last year, reflecting increases in **India** (+2.6 percent), **China** (+2.8 percent) and **Pakistan** (+4.5 percent). These gains were partly offset by a 10 percent decline in **Turkey**, which accounts for about half of the *Near East* production. Aggregate wheat production in *North Africa* decreased due to dry weather and smaller plantings compared to last year's record level. In the Southern Hemisphere, the wheat harvest is underway and will only be completed early next year. In *South America*, production prospects are positive, with the aggregate output forecast to grow for a second successive

Figure 1. World cereal production and utilization

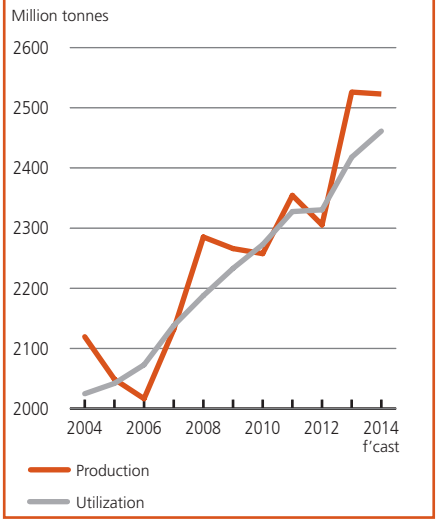


Table 1. World cereal production[1]
(million tonnes)

	2012	2013 estimate	2014 forecast	Change: 2014 over 2013 (%)
Asia	**1 091.5**	**1 125.1**	**1 119.7**	**-0.5**
Far East	995.2	1 017.8	1 019.1	0.1
Near East	69.3	74.3	68.0	-8.4
CIS in Asia	27.0	33.1	32.6	-1.6
Africa	**162.3**	**163.2**	**164.1**	**0.5**
North Africa	33.9	36.0	34.2	-5.0
Western Africa	50.6	49.7	48.2	-3.0
Central Africa	4.7	4.7	4.7	-1.5
Eastern Africa	43.3	43.9	43.0	-2.0
Southern Africa	29.7	28.9	34.0	17.7
Central America and Caribbean	**39.9**	**40.8**	**40.4**	**-1.2**
South America	**153.5**	**173.3**	**174.0**	**0.4**
North America	**406.1**	**500.2**	**494.1**	**-1.2**
Europe	**416.2**	**480.8**	**494.5**	**2.8**
EU	279.3	304.2	307.6	1.1
CIS in Europe	124.1	162.6	173.3	6.6
Oceania	**35.9**	**42.6**	**36.1**	**-15.2**
World	**2 305.4**	**2 526.1**	**2 522.9**	**-0.1**
Developing countries	1 396.1	1 445.6	1 439.4	-0.4
Developed countries	909.3	1 080.5	1 083.5	0.3
- wheat	660.6	717.1	718.5	0.2
- coarse grains	1 153.9	1 310.7	1 308.0	-0.2
- rice (milled)	490.9	498.4	496.4	-0.4

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Includes rice in milled terms.

year, forecast at 23.8 million tonnes, 25 percent above 2013's output. The wheat 2014 output is forecast to decline by 10 percent in **Australia**, where dry weather has reduced yield prospects, particularly in Western Australia, the largest producing state. In *Southern Africa*, aggregate production is estimated to fall by 8 percent to just over 2 million tonnes, driven by lower plantings.

World production of coarse grains in 2014 is forecast at 1 308 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the 2013 record. The maize output is expected to reach 1 018 million tonnes, about 1 percent above the record output in 2013, reflecting higher expected outputs in **the United States of America**, the **European Union** (**EU**) and **the Russian Federation**.

In the Northern Hemisphere, harvesting of the 2014 maize crop is underway or about to commence. Maize production in **the United States of America** is forecast at 366 million tonnes, 3.4 percent up on the record crop of 2013, while a 20 percent production decline is foreseen in **Canada**. In **China**, maize production is forecast to continue its increasing trend, but at a more moderate rate in 2014. The latest forecast for China stands at 220 million tonnes, about 1 percent higher than the previous year. In *Europe*, a near 8 percent production gain is forecast in the **EU**, largely on the back of higher yields. **The Russian Federation** is expected to register a significant production increase of 12 percent, to a new high of 13 million tonnes, more than compensating for a 14 percent decrease in **Ukraine**. Maize production in *Western Africa* is forecast to contract by 7 percent from 2013's record, mainly due to dry weather. Similarly, dry weather contributed to lower forecasts in *Eastern Africa*, where maize production is expected to decline by 7 percent from the record level of 2013. The output is still anticipated to remain well above the five-year average. In **India**, a 14 percent production decline compared to the 2013 peak is forecast.

In Southern Hemisphere countries, the main 2014 maize crop was harvested earlier in the year. The output in *South America* declined by 3 percent from the 2013 record, largely reflecting **Brazil**'s 4 percent contraction to 77.4 million tonnes. Decreased outputs were also estimated in the other *South American* countries, with the exception of **Argentina** and **Bolivia**. Aggregate maize production in *Southern Africa* increased sharply (by 21 percent) to 27.4 million tonnes. Significant gains were registered in *South Africa*, the subregion's main producer, where white maize production recovered from the drought-affected 2013 harvest.

World barley production in 2014 is forecast at 140 million tonnes, 4 percent below the record in 2013, mainly reflecting smaller outputs in the **EU**, **Canada** and **Australia**. The forecast for global sorghum production stands at 60.1 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from 2013.

Global rice production in 2014 is forecast at 496.4 million tonnes in milled rice equivalent. Under the current prospects, global rice production would be marginally (0.4 percent) lower than the 2013 estimate, marking a third year of below trend growth.

Prospects for a reduced 2014 output is mostly linked to the poor performance of crops in *Asia*, where production is now forecast to fall by about 3 million tonnes or 0.7 percent. If confirmed, this would be the first contraction (albeit rather contained, in percentage terms) registered by the region since 2009, when an El Niño weather anomaly last manifested. In **India**, the world's second largest rice producer, irregular monsoon rains are anticipated to bring 2014 production down by 2.4 percent to 104 million

Table 2. Basic facts of world cereal situation
(million tonnes)

	2012/13	2013/14 estimate	2014/15 forecast	Change: 2014/15 over 2013/14 (%)
PRODUCTION [1]				
World	**2 305.4**	**2 526.1**	**2 522.9**	**-0.1**
Developing countries	1 396.1	1 445.6	1 439.4	-0.4
Developed countries	909.3	1 080.5	1 083.5	0.3
TRADE [2]				
World	**308.8**	**354.8**	**337.0**	**-5.0**
Developing countries	125.4	106.9	105.6	-1.2
Developed countries	183.4	248.0	231.4	-6.7
UTILIZATION				
World	**2 330.4**	**2 417.8**	**2 461.3**	**1.8**
Developing countries	1 496.4	1 546.3	1 577.0	2.0
Developed countries	834.0	871.5	884.3	1.5
Per caput cereal food use (kg per year)	152.5	153.1	153.0	-0.1
STOCKS [3]				
World	**504.9**	**579.5**	**627.5**	**8.3**
Developing countries	387.1	437.5	451.9	3.3
Developed countries	117.8	142.0	175.5	23.6
WORLD STOCK-TO-USE RATIO (%)	20.9	23.5	25.2	6.9

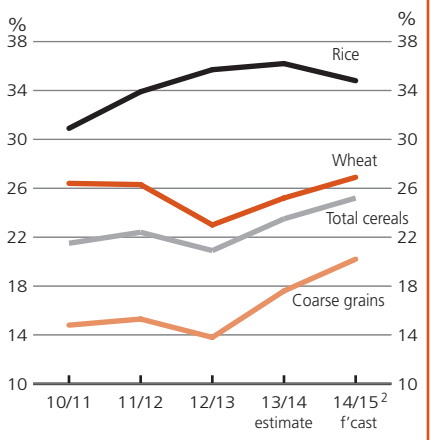
Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown and include rice in milled terms.

[2] For wheat and coarse grains, trade refers to exports based on July/June marketing season. For rice, trade refers to exports based on the calendar year of the second year shown.

[3] Data are based on an aggregate of carryovers level at the end of national crop years and, therefore, do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

Figure 2. Ratio of world cereal stocks to utilization[1]



1 Compares closing stocks with utilization in following season.
2 Utilization in 2014/15 is a trend value based on extrapolation from the 2003/04-2013/14 period.

tonnes. Unfavourable weather conditions resulted in expected reduced outputs in **Indonesia**, **Cambodia**, **the Republic of Korea**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, **the Philippines**, **Sri Lanka** and **Thailand**. In the case of **Thailand**, the anticipated 1.6 percent decline is associated with a late arrival of the rains and the February 2014 abolition of the rice pledging scheme, which had guaranteed high prices to farmers since 2011, contributing to reduced plantings. Weaker price incentives are also expected to foster a contraction of the rice area and production in **Japan**. Although adverse climatic conditions also affected crops in **Bangladesh** (floods) and **China** (drought in the northeastern region; cold and excess rains in the south), production prospects still indicate an increase from last year. On the other hand, favourable growing conditions are anticipated to underpin production gains in **Viet Nam**, despite a small, price-driven reduction in plantings.

In *Latin America and the Caribbean*, the outlook remains generally positive, in spite of rainfall deficits, which impaired crops in the central part of the continent. Under current prospects, about 18.9 million tonnes are expected to be collected in the region, up 0.6 percent from 2013, largely reflecting the good performance in the southern cone.

The outlook for crops in *Africa* has also been scaled back since earlier expectations, but is still forecast to increase by 0.8 percent from 2013. Part of the downward revisions concerned **Egypt**, and *Western African* countries, where several important producers suffered from erratic rains. As a result, production is anticipated to fall, especially in **Benin, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria** and **Senegal**. On the other hand, larger rice outputs are expected in **Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger** and **Sierra Leone**. Although crop-related activities in countries affected by Ebola may be disrupted, it is difficult at this stage to assess the impact on production. In *Southern Africa*, forecasts were also lowered substantially mostly on account of **Madagascar**, where uneven rains, locust problems and rundown infrastructure prevented a full recovery of production from last year's sharp drop. In *Eastern Africa*, good results in **the United Republic of Tanzania** will sustain an increase in the subregion, in spite of anticipated declines in **Burundi, Ethiopia** and **Rwanda.** In *Oceania*, latest official forecasts in **Australia** indicate a 28 percent reduction in the rice output, reflecting lower plantings. In *North America*, production in **the United States of America,** with harvesting underway, is officially anticipated to rebound by 14 percent from the poor 2013 outcome.

In *Europe*, production in the **EU** is anticipated to remain near the 2013 relatively poor result, reflecting less than favourable conditions in most producing countries. The outlook for **the Russian Federation** is more positive, with production forecast to rebound by 10 percent.

Utilization, Stocks and Trade

Global cereal utilization in 2014/15 is set to increase by 1.8 percent from 2013/14. Total food use is expected to rise by just over 1 percent, implying a stable per capita basis of 153 kg per annum. Feed use, on the other hand, is likely to expand by 2.5 percent, a much slower pace than in 2013/14.

Based on the latest forecasts for production and utilization, world cereal stocks at the close of the crop seasons ending in 2015 would surge to 627.5 million tonnes, up 8.3 percent from an already large volume at the start of the season and its highest level in 15 years. Maize would account for the biggest increase, followed by wheat, while rice stocks are forecast to decline, albeit from a record level. The overall positive outlook, if realized, will result in the cereal stocks-to-use ratio increasing to 25.2 percent in 2014/15 from 23.5 percent in 2013/14, and the highest since 2001/02.

This year's abundant supplies have already resulted in sharp declines in international prices of all cereals, with the exception of rice. However, the lower prices are not expected to stimulate trade, as the major cereal importing countries are holding large supplies, which may depress import demand and result in total cereal trade contracting by 5.0 percent to 337 million tonnes in 2014/15.

For more detailed analysis please see the October 2014 issue of Food Outlook released on 9 October.

INTERNATIONAL PRICE ROUNDUP

International wheat prices decreased further in September, although at a slower pace than in the previous three months. The benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter) averaged USD 279 per tonne, 11 percent lower than at the same time last year. The decline mainly reflects an anticipated record global crop in 2014 for the second consecutive year. Strong export competition coupled with an appreciation of the US dollar also weighed on prices. However, concerns about crop quality in some growing areas of **the United States of America** and **Canada** provided support.

Table 3. Cereal export prices*

(USD/tonne)

	2013	2014					
	Sept.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
United States							
Wheat[1]	311	340	345	314	294	284	279
Maize[2]	209	224	217	202	182	175	164
Sorghum[2]	217	226	223	220	203	183	174
Argentina[3]							
Wheat	300	361	372	365	287	270	248
Maize	219	229	224	204	192	181	166
Thailand[4]							
Rice, white[5]	460	408	408	419	439	458	444
Rice, broken[6]	406	307	298	313	325	343	336

*Prices refer to the monthly average.

[1] No.2 Hard Red Winter (Ordinary Protein) f.o.b. Gulf.

[2] No.2 Yellow, Gulf.

[3] Up river, f.o.b.

[4] Indicative traded prices.

[5] 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok.

[6] A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok.

Export prices of maize declined markedly in September for the fifth consecutive month, with the benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow) averaging USD 164 per tonne, more than 20 percent below the corresponding period in 2013 and the lowest level in the past four years. The upward revision of the 2014 production forecast in **the United States of America** and the abundant global supply outlook in 2014/15, pushed prices down.

International rice prices gave signs of weakness in September, reversing three months of steady increases. The price softening affected all origins, including **Thailand**, but also **India**, **Pakistan** and **Viet Nam**. The benchmark Thai White 100%B rice quotation was quoted USD 444 per tonne, 3.1 percent less than in August, reflecting a slowing of import demand but also strong competition for markets, as the arrival of newly-harvested crops mounted the urgency to release storage space. Part of the price decline was also induced by a strengthening the US dollar, the denominator of international prices.

Please see the Global Food Price Monitor for the latest monthly analysis on domestic food prices.

Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries food situation overview[1]

Lower 2014 cereal production in Asia and Africa result in a slight decline in LIFDCs aggregate output from last year's record

FAO's latest 2014 cereal production forecast for LIFDCs stands at 439 million tonnes, about 1 percent below the record 2013 output, reflecting reduced forecasts in *Africa* and *Asia*.

In **India**, the largest producing LIFDC, reduced cereal plantings and lower expected yields following poor monsoon rains are anticipated to result in a 4.7 million production decline (-2 percent) from the record 2013 harvest. Elsewhere in *Asia*, cereal outputs are expected to be close to their levels of the previous year, except in **Sri Lanka** where a 21 percent decline is forecast, putting the 2014 output at below-average levels. In *CIS Asia*, with harvesting almost complete, cereal outputs in **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** are anticipated to fall to below average levels in response to lower yields. While in the *Near East*, 2014 production is expected to decline marginally.

In *Africa*, cereal production in 2014 is forecast at 107 million tonnes, close to the previous year, as reductions in *Eastern*, *Western* and *Central Africa* offset a strong production gain in *Southern Africa*. In *Western Africa*, with crop harvesting underway, the aggregate cereal output is forecast to contract by 3 percent from 2013's bumper level following dry weather in June and July in several parts of the Sahel belt, notably in **Senegal**, the **Gambia**, **Mauritania** and **Guinea-Bissau**. In **Nigeria**, the largest producer of the subregion, production is expected to fall by 5 percent to near-average levels, while a recovery is forecast in **Mali** bringing the harvest to above average levels. The overall output in *Eastern Africa* is forecast to decrease by 2 percent to 43 million tonnes, largely on account of dry weather, but is still anticipated to remain well above the five-year average. The expected declines in **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** and **the United Republic of Tanzania** are forecast to more than outweigh an anticipated recovery in **the Sudan** from the drought-affected 2013 output. In *Southern Africa*, with the main harvest completed earlier in the year, aggregate production is estimated at 11.4 million tonnes, a significant 16 percent increase compared to 2013. Production gains were estimated in all countries reflecting favourable climatic conditions, except in **Lesotho** which registered a minor decline. In *Central Africa*, aggregate production in 2014 is estimated at an average level.

In *Central America*, with the first main 2014 harvest completed in September, which accounts for more than half the annual output, a sharp decline in total cereal production is forecast reflecting severe drought conditions during the cropping season. As a result, the 2014 outputs in **Honduras** and **Nicaragua** are expected at below-average levels. By contrast, favourable weather in **Haiti** resulted in a second consecutive annual production increase.

Cereal imports for 2014/15 estimated to be close to last year's above-average level

The 2014/15 cereal import forecast for LIFDCs now stands at 53.1 million tonnes, about 3 million tonnes higher

Table 4. Basic facts of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) cereal situation *(million tonnes, rice in milled basis)*

	2012/13	2013/14 estimate	2014/15 forecast	Change: 2014/15 over 2013/14 *(%)*
Cereal production[1]	**441.1**	**444.7**	**439.2**	**-1.2**
excluding India	199.3	201.4	200.5	-0.4
Utilization	**456.4**	**469.1**	**473.4**	**0.9**
Food use	375.0	382.8	389.2	1.7
excluding India	183.1	186.8	189.5	1.4
Per caput cereal food use *(kg per year)*	0.2	0.2	0.2	-0.1
excluding India	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.8
Feed	29.4	31.2	31.3	0.1
excluding India	21.6	23.2	23.1	-0.1
End of season stocks[2]	**88.5**	**90.7**	**90.3**	**-0.5**
excluding India	39.0	38.6	37.5	-2.7

[1] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.

[2] May not equal the difference between supply and utilization because of differences in individual country marketing years.

[1] **The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)** group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011). The current 2014 FAO list has been recently revised, with seven countries graduating, these are: **Cambodia**, **Egypt**, **Indonesia**, **Iraq**, **Kiribati**, **Lao People's Democratic Republic** and **Zambia**. Of these, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Zambia graduated from the list on the basis of net food-exporter criterion, while the other four (Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq and Kiribati) graduated based on income criterion. For full details see: http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc/en/

Table 5. Cereal production[1] of LIFDCs
(million tonnes)

	2012	2013 estimate	2014 forecast	Change: 2014 over 2013 (%)
Africa *(37 countries)*	**109.1**	**108.1**	**107.2**	**-0.8**
Eastern Africa	43.3	43.9	43.0	-2.0
Southern Africa	10.6	9.8	11.4	15.7
Western Africa	50.6	49.7	48.2	-3.0
Central Africa	4.6	4.7	4.6	-1.5
Asia *(13 countries)*	**330.1**	**334.5**	**330.1**	**-1.3**
CIS in Asia	9.6	10.1	10.4	2.4
Far East	313.2	317.2	312.6	-1.5
- India	241.8	243.3	238.6	-1.9
Near East	7.3	7.3	7.2	-1.0
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1.8**	**2.0**	**1.8**	**-9.9**
Oceania *(2 countries)*	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**8.8**
LIFDC *(55 countries)*	**441.1**	**444.7**	**439.2**	**-1.2**

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

[1] Includes rice in milled terms.

than the initial forecast in July and virtually unchanged compared to last year's above-average level. The revision reflects expectations of increased imports in *Eastern Africa*, mainly due to higher forecasts for **Kenya**, following an expected 8 percent production decrease in 2014. In *Central* and *Western Africa*, anticipated smaller harvests in some countries are forecast to result in a minor increase in import requirements. By contrast, in *Southern Africa*, significant production gains in 2014 resulted in lower import needs compared to the above-average level of 2013/14. In the *Far East*, a decrease in cereal imports is forecast reflecting higher domestic outputs in the large importing countries, namely **Bangladesh** and **the Philippines**, as well as in *CIS Asia*, largely on account of substantial carryover stocks. In *Central America*, projected lower outputs in **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, led to an upward revision of the subregional import forecast to 2.2 million tonnes, 12 percent above last year's high level. In the *Near East* and *Oceania*, import requirements are anticipated to remain virtually unchanged from the previous year.

Table 6. Cereal import position of LIFDCs
(thousand tonnes)

	2012/13 or 2013	2013/14 or 2014				2014/15 or 2015	
		Requirements[1]		Import position[2]		Requirements[1]	
	Actual imports	Total imports:	*of which food aid*	Total imports:	*of which food aid pledges*	Total imports:	*of which food aid*
Africa *(37 countries)*	**26 059**	**29 024**	**1 593**	**13 386**	**761**	**29 363**	**1 573**
Eastern Africa	7 308	8 754	1 066	4 510	604	9 063	1 091
Southern Africa	2 015	2 950	154	2 004	46	2 469	141
Western Africa	14 657	15 198	224	6 112	83	15 652	191
Central Africa	2 079	2 121	149	761	28	2 179	151
Asia *(13 countries)*	**17 689**	**21 657**	**493**	**13 143**	**209**	**21 165**	**561**
CIS in Asia	3 661	3 978	1	3 842	1	3 856	1
Far East	8 376	11 517	341	6 530	148	11 142	409
Near East	5 652	6 162	151	2 772	61	6 167	151
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1 794**	**1 929**	**92**	**1 423**	**24**	**2 157**	**92**
Oceania *(2 countries)*	**471**	**450**	**0**	**129**	**0**	**458**	**0**
Total *(55 countries)*	**46 013**	**53 060**	**2 178**	**28 081**	**994**	**53 144**	**2 227**

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

[1] The import requirement is the difference between utilization (food, feed, other uses, export plus closing stocks) and domestic availability (production plus opening stocks).

[2] Estimates based on information available as of early September 2014.

Regional reviews

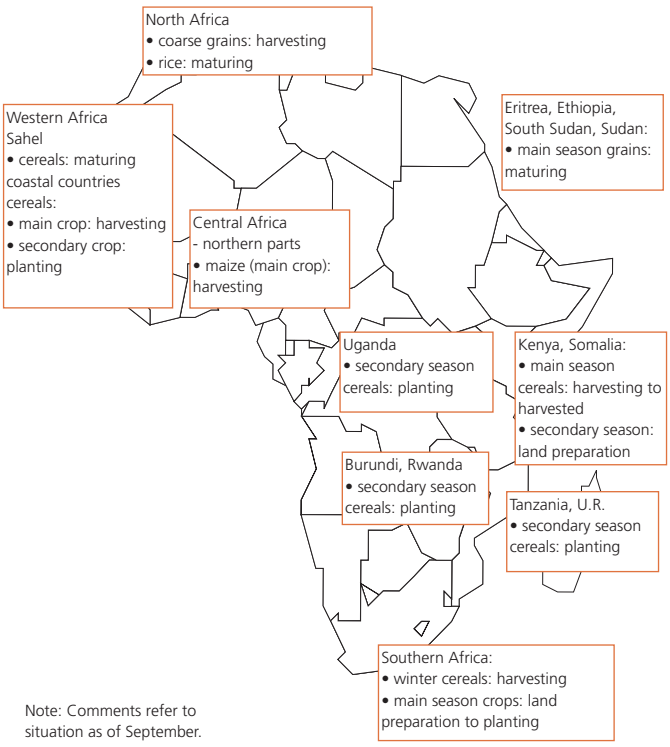
Africa

North Africa

Slightly below-average 2014 cereal output

Harvesting of the 2013 wheat and barley crops was completed in July, while in **Egypt**, harvesting of maize and sorghum is ongoing and that of paddy is about to start. Provisional estimates indicate an aggregate subregional cereal output (including paddy rice) of 36.1 million tonnes, a decrease of about 5 percent on last year's output and the five-year average. Total wheat production, which accounts for just over half of the aggregate cereal output, increased by 6 percent over 2013 to 19 million tonnes. The coarse grains harvest is provisionally estimated at 11 million tonnes, about 15 percent below the five-year average and about 4 percent lower than last year.

In **Tunisia**, where timely rains provided wheat and barley with sufficient moisture for development, total cereal production, at 2.5 million tonnes, is about 90 percent higher compared to last year's drought-stricken crop of 1.3 million tonnes and 25 percent higher compared to the five-year average. By contrast, in **Morocco**, dry conditions in the autumn of 2013 slowed down wheat planting. Compared to the previous year, about 15 percent less land was planted to cereals. Despite generally favourable weather conditions later in the season, yields were not sufficient to offset the area reduction, resulting in a cereal crop about 30 percent below the exceptionally high harvest of almost 10 million tonnes in 2013. Although weather conditions last autumn in **Algeria** were beneficial for crop establishment, rainfall deficits in eastern Algeria, which produces most of the domestic supply, negatively impacted crop development and lowered yields. At 4.6 million tonnes, the cereal crop is about 6 percent lower than last year's average crop. **Egypt**'s cereal harvest, estimated at 21.8 million tonnes, is on par with last year's near-average crop.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of September.

The governments of the region actively support cereal production. The supportive policies included higher Government procurement prices in **Egypt**, subsidies for farm machinery and irrigation equipment in **Morocco**, and interest-free loans and support for farm inputs in **Algeria**.

Cereal import requirements remain high

Even in good harvest years, *North African* countries rely heavily on cereal imports from the international market to cover their consumption needs, with **Egypt** being the world's largest wheat importer. On average, in the last five years, 45 percent of the total domestic cereal requirements (including food and feed) in **Egypt** and **Morocco** were met through imports. The share of imports is even higher in **Tunisia** (an average of 65 percent), **Algeria** (68 percent) and **Libya** (90 percent).

With a slightly below-average harvest in 2014, the subregion's aggregate cereal import requirement for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) is estimated at 40.5 million tonnes, 8 percent

Table 7. North Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
North Africa	**18.0**	**20.3**	**19.0**	**11.7**	**11.5**	**11.0**	**6.0**	**6.2**	**6.1**	**35.8**	**37.9**	**36.1**	**-4.8**
Algeria	3.4	3.3	3.0	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	4.9	4.6	-5.9
Egypt	8.8	8.8	9.0	7.8	6.5	6.6	5.9	6.1	6.0	22.5	21.4	21.6	0.9
Morocco	3.9	7.0	5.1	1.4	2.9	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3	10.0	7.1	-29.0
Tunisia	1.8	1.0	1.7	0.8	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.6	1.3	2.5	89.1

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

below the record imports of last year but some 7 percent above the average of the previous five years. Wheat accounts for almost 60 percent of cereal imports. In **Egypt** and **Algeria**, cereal import requirements in 2014/15 are estimated at about 17.4 and 10.7 million tonnes, respectively, some 8 percent lower than in 2013/14. Despite the below-average 2014 harvest in **Morocco,** lower cereal imports are forecast at 6.2 million tonnes (10 percent below 2013/14 imports), supported by higher carryover stocks. Even higher decreases in imports are expected in **Tunisia** as a result of an above-average harvest.

Food price inflation varies across the subregion

In **Algeria**, in June 2014, the food component of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 4.3 percent compared to the previous year mainly due to a 30 percent increase in the price of potatoes, and a 12–15 percent increase in the price of fruit, vegetables and poultry; bread, dairy, milk, sugar and cooking oils benefit from ongoing Government subsidies. In **Egypt**, the annual food and beverage inflation rate in August 2014 reached about 11.6 percent compared to 12.4 percent in July 2014. The decline was attributed to decreasing prices of poultry and fish. In **Morocco**, food inflation stood at 0.2 percent in the 12 months to the end of December 2013. In April 2014 (the latest data available), there was no change reported in food indices compared to a year ago. In spite of the country's high import dependency rate, the impact of the changes in international prices on domestic prices is mitigated by government subsidies of more than 1 million tonnes of "national flour", a common wheat of standard quality used to make flour for the low income consumers. In **Tunisia**, the CPI reached over 6 percent in July 2014 on a yearly basis, while food price inflation reached 8.2 percent.

In many countries of the subregion, budgetary constraints have forced governments to examine the costs of subsidies, especially related to fuel and under-priced staples. In **Libya**, where it is estimated that around one-third of subsidized food and fuel are smuggled into neighbouring countries, the Government is considering launching a food and fuel subsidy reform and replacing it with a direct monthly cash transfer. In **Morocco**, the Government removed fuel subsidies in February 2014, contributing to the narrowing of the fiscal deficit from MAD 36.9 billion (USD 4.4 billion) in June 2013 to MAD 23.6 billion in June 2014.

Western Africa

Agriculture and food sector hard-hit by the Ebola virus disease outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

The most significant shock to the agriculture and food sectors in 2014 has been the Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak, which has severely affected **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**. In these countries, labour shortages, due to movement restrictions and migrations to other areas, have disrupted the agriculture sector, seriously affecting harvesting activities. The impact of the EVD has been exacerbated by the fact that the areas with high incidences of the disease are among the most productive regions of the affected countries. These include Lofa county in Liberia, and Kailahun and Kenema districts in Sierra Leone. Both cash and food crop production were affected. In Guinea for instance, cocoa production is estimated to have fallen by one-third (from 3 511 tonnes to 2 296 tonnes) between the first six months of 2013 and the first six months of 2014, while palm oil production has dropped by 75 percent, according to a recent World Bank report. Similarly, rubber exports are estimated to drop by 20 percent in Liberia. A rapid assessment conducted by FAO in August in Kailahun, the most affected district in Sierra Leone, found that farms have been abandoned by at least 40 percent of the farmers. A series of additional rapid assessments on the impact of the EVD on farm households and agricultural markets, are underway by FAO, WFP, several NGOs and the governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Mixed prospects for 2014 cereal crops elsewhere in the region

Elsewhere in the coastal countries of the Gulf of Guinea, harvesting of the first maize crop has started in the south, while harvesting of cereals will begin in October in the north which only has one rainy season. Rainfall has been generally adequate in these countries, although irregular precipitation was reported in the northern parts of **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire**,

Table 8. Western Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals [1]			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Western Africa	**42.5**	**40.9**	**39.4**	**12.7**	**13.7**	**13.7**	**55.3**	**54.7**	**53.2**	**-2.8**
Burkina Faso	4.6	4.6	4.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	4.9	4.9	4.6	-6.2
Chad	3.0	2.2	2.0	0.2	0.4	0.3	3.2	2.6	2.2	-14.6
Ghana	2.4	2.2	2.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.9	2.6	2.5	-4.4
Mali	4.7	3.5	4.4	1.9	2.2	2.3	6.7	5.7	6.7	17.3
Niger	5.3	4.3	4.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	5.3	4.3	4.1	-5.3
Nigeria	16.5	18.5	17.4	4.4	4.7	4.6	20.9	23.3	22.1	-5.2

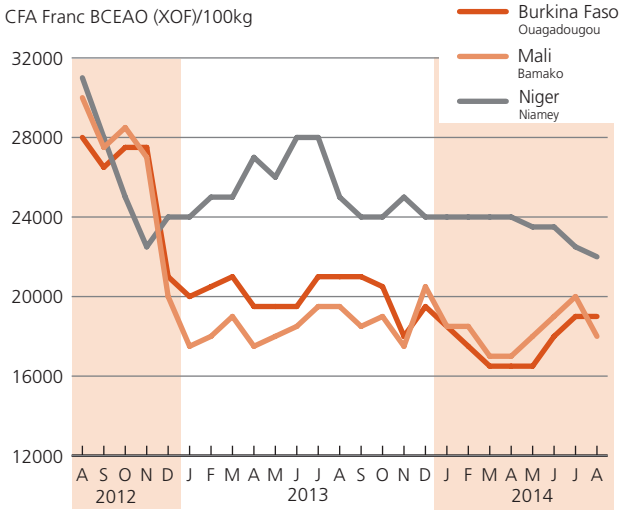
Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Ghana and **Nigeria.** By contrast, in the Sahel region, most countries witnessed a late start of the rainy season as well as prolonged dry spells through late July that resulted in replanting in some areas. Precipitation improved significantly since the beginning of August over the main producing areas, thus replenishing water reserves, providing relief to stressed crops and improving crop prospects in several countries. Nevertheless, in the areas affected by earlier dry conditions, potential yields will be reduced. Extended rains (until October) will be required for late-planted crops. The most affected areas are in western parts of the Sahel belt with low yields expected in **Senegal**, **Mauritania, the Gambia** and **Guinea-Bissau.** In **Burkina Faso**, **Chad**, **Mali** and **Niger**, although more favourable rainfall has been recorded, overall prospects for the 2014 harvest, to start from October, remain uncertain.

Cereal prices generally stable and at low levels, except in areas affected by the EVD

Prices of locally-produced sorghum, millet and maize have remained mostly stable in recent months and were significantly below the corresponding period last year, reflecting adequate supplies from good production in 2013, as well as generally favourable prospects for the 2014 cropping season in the major producing countries. In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, the beginning of the 2014 first harvesting season has put downward pressure on prices in some markets. However, in countries affected by the EVD outbreak, restricted trade flows and market disruptions led to significant food price spikes in some areas.

Figure 3. Millet prices in selected Western African markets



Source: Afrique Verte.

In the Sahel, millet and sorghum prices in **Burkina Faso, Mali** and **Niger** remained stable or declined in some markets in August and September. In particular, millet prices dropped significantly in August and remained unchanged in September in Bamako, the capital city of Mali, and in the Maradi market in Niger. Overall, coarse grain prices in these countries were considerably below their year-earlier levels. In **Chad**, by contrast, millet prices increased seasonally in most markets in July. Prices have been less stable than in other Sahelian countries during the current 2013/14 marketing year (November/October) due to the sharp decline in the 2013 cereal production.

In **Nigeria**, maize prices remained mostly unchanged from May to July in the main northern Kano market after several months of instability. Increased supplies from the new 2014 harvest in the southern part of the country and generally favourable prospects in the main producing regions contributed to the price stability observed in recent months. In **Benin** and **Togo**, maize prices declined in most markets in July and August, as harvesting of the 2014 first season maize crop is already underway.

In **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**, the outbreak of the EVD has caused serious market disruptions and restricted trade flows both internally and across borders. Despite favourable prospects for the 2014 main crop harvesting season, due to widespread good rains throughout the cropping season in the Mano River subregion, trade disruptions, combined with a significant depreciation of the local currencies, with all three countries net cereal importers, have caused food price spikes in some areas, particularly in Liberia.

Food security affected by the EVD outbreak and civil insecurity

Beyond its impact on the agricultural and food sector, the EVD is seriously affecting all other sectors of the economies of **Guinea**, **Liberia** and **Sierra Leone**. Mining, manufacturing and services sectors have been the hardest hit. As a result, the World Bank estimates the short-term impact of the epidemic on national outputs to be a decrease of 2.1 percentage points of GDP in Guinea, 3.4 percentage points in Liberia and 3.3 percentage points in Sierra Leone. Over 24 000 jobs have already been lost in Sierra Leone, according to estimates of the Ministry of Finance. In particular, the ban on bush meat is depriving many households of an important source of nutrition and income. Access to food for many households is being constrained by disruption of livelihoods and loss of income combined with increasing food prices.

The continuing civil conflict in the **Central African Republic (CAR)**, **Mali** and northern **Nigeria** has resulted in large population displacement in the subregion. For example, in **Nigeria**, there are an estimated 1.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the six states of the Northeast, while at least 75 000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries

(**Cameroon**, **Chad** and **Niger**), as of early September. According to UNHCR forecasts, the number of Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries will reach 95 000 by the end of the year. Similarly, in **Chad**, civil conflict in **the Sudan**, the **CAR**, **Nigeria** and **Libya**, has increased the number of refugees and returnees. More than 461 000 refugees are estimated to be living in Chad, while about 340 000 Chadians have returned to their country. Moreover, most Sahelian countries have been struck by successive severe food crises in recent years that have had very adverse, longer-term impact on household assets and savings. As a result, the United Nations and humanitarian partners launched a three-year Regional Strategic Response Plan (RSRP) in 2014 to provide aid to millions of people in nine countries of the Sahel belt. The RSRP is seeking to mobilize USD 2 billion to provide food and non-food assistance to nearly 30 million people across the subregion.

Central Africa

In the CAR agricultural production recovered slightly in 2014, but still well below average largely due to continuing conflict

In **Cameroon** and in the **CAR**, harvesting of the 2014 main maize crop in southern parts is well underway, while in the northern uni-modal areas, harvesting of millet and sorghum crops has just started. In **Cameroon**, a prolonged dry spell which occurred in July in southern parts had a negative impact on maize yields, while in the uni-modal north abundant rainfall benefited millet and sorghum crops.

In the **CAR**, according to the preliminary estimates of a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM), which visited the country in August, the 2014 aggregate production of food crops increased by 11 percent from the sharply reduced 2013 output, but still remains 58 percent below the pre-crisis five-year average (2008-2012). This year's aggregate outcome is mainly driven by a significant increase in cassava production (+45 percent), while cereal output declined by about 46 percent from 2013. The ongoing socio-political crisis and widespread insecurity severely disrupted agricultural and marketing activities and caused the depletion of already inadequate households' productive assets. This, coupled with erratic rainfall in western parts as well as pest attacks, led to a reduction in the planted area by 23 percent. FAO and NGO partners helped to avert a major food crisis, by providing crop production support to a total of 111 750 vulnerable families across the country. For the main planting season, 83 950 families each received 25 kg of crop seeds (groundnut, maize and rice) and two hoes. In addition, FAO assisted 27 800 families with seeds (beans, maize, millet, niébé, sesame and sorghum) and tools as part of the short-cycle (secondary) season support.

In **the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, the main season maize crop is currently reaching maturity in the northern Equateur and Oriental provinces, which will be harvested from October. According to remote sensing analysis, rainfall levels have been near-average. In central regions, harvesting of the main maize crop, sown in July/August, will begin in November. Abundant precipitation was received at the start of the cropping season in most areas, the performance of rainfall in the coming weeks will be crucial for crop development. Earlier in the year, the second season maize crop was negatively affected in parts by reduced precipitation in March/April.

In **the Republic of the Congo** and **Gabon**, the second season maize crop, harvested in June-July, benefited from adequate precipitation, while the planting of the main crop, normally completed by September, may have been delayed in some parts by early season dryness. However, in both of these countries, the bulk of the national cereal requirement is imported. FAO's provisional forecast for the subregion indicates a 2014 cereal production slightly below the levels of 2013.

Food prices surge in the CAR

In the **CAR**, prices of agricultural commodities, which remained at comparatively low levels in the capital Bangui throughout most of the crisis period, surged in recent months. Prices of maize, millet and groundnuts increased by 30-70 percent between March-April and August 2014, when they were about 30 percent higher than 12 months earlier. The sharp rise is mainly due to an increase in demand, as payments to civil servants resumed in March, injecting more cash in the economic system, and large numbers of IDPs returned to their homes in the capital. By contrast, prices of locally-produced cassava,

Table 9. Central Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals [1]			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Central Africa	**4.3**	**4.4**	**4.3**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**0.6**	**4.9**	**4.9**	**4.9**	**-1.4**
Cameroon	2.8	2.9	2.9	0.2	0.2	0.2	3.0	3.1	3.1	-0.9
Central African Rep.	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	-54.4
Dem.Rep.of the Congo	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.6	1.6	1.5	-2.3

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

the main staple, declined by 13 percent between February and August, and were 14 percent lower than 12 months earlier. The low prices are mainly due to the increase in production and limited trade, due to the continuing conflict, which maintained ample availabilities around the surplus producing zone of the capital Bangui.

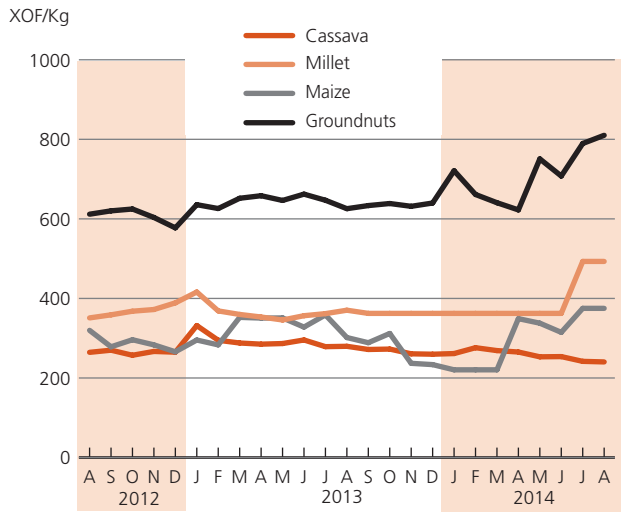
In **Gabon**, after the removal of price control measures in January 2014, due to budget constraints, prices increased by 56 percent in the first semester of 2014, reaching record levels in June. A series of strikes of customs workers at Owendo port, which serves the capital and is the main throughway for imports, exerted additional pressure on wheat prices.

Serious civil and food insecurity situation in the CAR and eastern DRC

Continued civil insecurity in the **CAR** and in parts of the **DRC** has resulted in massive population displacements and hindered access to food for the affected population. In addition, large numbers of refugees from the CAR sought refuge in neighbouring Cameroon and the DRC, straining on the already limited resources of the hosting communities.

In the **CAR**, the socio-political crisis, which is affecting the entire population, territory and economy, has resulted in widespread disruption of agricultural and marketing activities and caused massive displacements. Despite a sharp decrease of the number of IDPs in Bangui (estimated at 62 580 in early September, 69 percent lower than in March), in the rest of the country the number of IDPs still remains high, estimated at 488 000 in late September. Population displacements continue to take place: for instance, following recent armed clashes in Bantangafo town (Ouham province) and Bambari (Ouaka Province), 16 000 and 27 000 people, respectively, have been forced to abandon their homes. As a result of the severe constraints on food availability and access, the food security situation, which has been sharply deteriorating since the start of the crisis, is serious. According to an assessment conducted by the FAO-supported Integrated Food Security Phase Classification in April 2014, about 1.7 million people (out of a total population of 4.6 million), are currently in need of urgent assistance, with 26 percent assessed to be in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 3: "Crisis" and 19 percent in IPC Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency". The regions most affected by food insecurity (Phase 4: "Humanitarian Emergency") are Ouham and Ouham Pende provinces in the northwest. According to the preliminary findings of the CFSAM, most of the interviewed communities reported a reduction in food intake, with fewer meals per day and reduced quantities. The situation of displaced and isolated households is also critical, with more than half of the recently surveyed households facing emergency levels of food insecurity. However, some improvements in the nutrition situation, essentially due to the humanitarian assistance delivery, have been recently reported in Bangui: preliminary results from the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) inter-agency nutrition survey show that in the capital the current global acute malnutrition rate is at about 5 percent, lower than the 8 percent in 2012.

Figure 4. Retail prices in Bangui, Central African Republic



Source: Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques, des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES).

In the **DRC**, according to the latest available IPC food security analysis, conducted in June 2014 in the conflict-affected eastern provinces (Orientale, Maniema, North And South Kivu, Katanga), the number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis (IPC Phases 3 and 4) was estimated at about 4.1 million, 8 percent up from the December 2013 figure. As of June 2014, the total number of IDPs was estimated at more than 2.5 million. In addition, as of September, the DRC has received about 67 000 refugees from the CAR since early 2013 and, as of July, about 185 000 returnees from the Republic of the Congo.

In **Cameroon**, the arrival of large numbers of refugees fleeing from neighbouring Nigeria and the CAR has put local food supplies under increased strain. As of late September 2014, the number of refugees from the CAR which sought refuge in Cameroon's East, Adamaoua and North regions and in the cities of Douala and Yaoundé, was estimated at about 237 000, including 180 000 individuals that entered the country in 2014, after a surge in sectarian violence in late 2013. In addition, the country hosts, as of late September, 39 000 refugees from Nigeria, which sought refuge mainly in Far North Region following the serious deterioration of the security situation in Borno State in June 2013.

Eastern Africa

Mixed prospects for 2014 main season cereal harvests

Harvesting of the 2014 first season cereal crops has recently been completed in southern parts of the subregion with mixed outcomes. In **Somalia**, the main "gu" season coarse grains, crops were affected by a prolonged dry spell in April and an early cessation of rains in southern regions of Shabelle, Hiran, Bakool and Gedo and production is estimated at well below-average levels. Similarly, erratic rains affected maize production in southeastern and coastal lowlands of **Kenya**, with very low yields estimated in Taita Taveta, Kitui, Makueni, east Kajiado and west Kwale counties. In **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, the 2014B season crops, harvested in July, were affected by significant moisture deficits and early cessation of rains by mid-April. By contrast, rainfall was generally favourable in bi-modal rainfall areas of **Uganda,** and in the "msimu" and "masika" cropping areas of **the United Republic of Tanzania**, where production is estimated at average to above-average levels. In **South Sudan**, harvesting of first season crops is almost complete in bi-modal rainfall areas and production prospects are favourable in Western and Central Equatoria states, while moderate water deficits in April affected yields in some southeastern areas.

In the rest of the subregion, main season cereal crops are at the development and harvesting stage, with varying production prospects. In **Kenya**, cereal production in western key-cropping areas is forecast at below-average levels due to a series of dry spells that affected crop germination and development, leading to high incidences of pests and diseases. Outbreaks of the viral Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease (MLND) caused crop losses in Nandi, Uasin Gishu, Elgeyo Marakwet and Trans Nzoia counties of the Rift Valley province. In **Ethiopia**, production prospects are generally favourable, despite some water deficits in Arsi and West Arsi zones in the central Oromia region. In **the Sudan**, cereal production is expected to recover from last year's very low drought-affected harvest. However, a combination of erratic rains in some important producing areas, (such as Gadaref and Sennar states), reduced plantings in conflict-affected areas of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, North Darfur and South Darfur, and flooding since late July in many parts of the country, are expected to limit larger production gains. In **Uganda**, cereal crop production in the agro-pastoral areas of the Karamoja region is forecast at below-average levels following reduced plantings due to unfavourable rains in April and significant water deficits in eastern parts of the region, along the border with Kenya.

Planting of the second season crops is about to start in southeastern and coastal areas of **Kenya** ("short rains" crops), southern and central **Somalia** ("deyr" crops) as well as in bi-modal rainfall areas of **Uganda** and **the United Republic of Tanzania** ("vuli" crops), while it has already been completed in southern Greenbelt states of **South Sudan**. The September-December rains are forecast to be average to above-average, with likely positive impacts on crop production, but also with some risks of flooding especially in lowlands.

In *Eastern Africa*, the overall 2014 cereal production, including an expected average production for the secondary season crops to be harvested at the beginning of next year, is tentatively forecast at 44 million tonnes, about 2 percent below the output of 2013, but nearly 7 percent above the previous five-year average.

Cereal prices decline seasonally in most countries, but remain high in Somalia and the Sudan

After a steady rise since the beginning of 2014, prices of coarse grains have seasonally declined in July/August in most markets of **the United Republic of Tanzania**, **Uganda, Kenya, Somalia** and **Rwanda**. At the same time, high cereal prices, often at record levels, are reported in **Somalia** and **the Sudan**, due to inadequate supplies and market disruptions as a result of conflicts, past poor harvests, depleted stocks and floods.

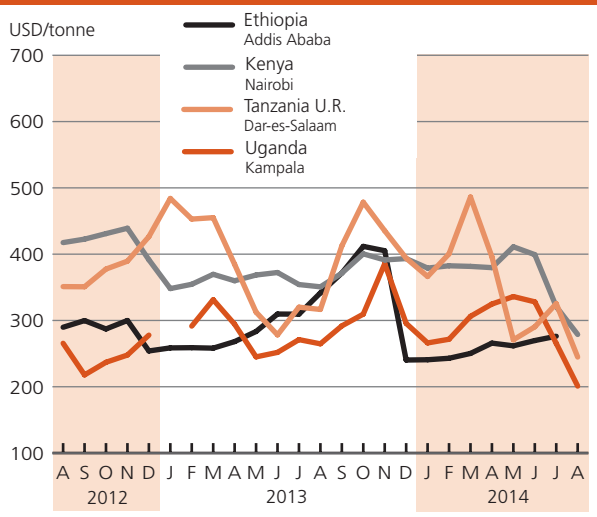
In **the United Republic of Tanzania** and **Uganda**, maize prices have declined in recent months by about 20-40 percent in most wholesale markets and in August they were about 10-25 percent below last year's levels despite sustained export demand from neighbouring countries. In **Kenya**, maize prices decreased between June and August by 20–30 percent, following the harvest in coastal and southeastern areas, while further downward pressure was applied by a substantial flow of imports, mostly duty-free, from **the United**

Table 10. Eastern Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals [1]			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Eastern Africa	**4.5**	**5.0**	**4.9**	**37.2**	**37.1**	**36.3**	**44.1**	**44.8**	**44.0**	**-1.9**
Ethiopia	3.5	4.0	3.9	17.4	19.5	18.5	21.1	23.7	22.6	-4.4
Kenya	0.4	0.5	0.5	3.9	3.7	3.3	4.5	4.3	3.9	-10.0
Sudan	0.3	0.2	0.3	4.9	2.6	3.9	5.2	2.9	4.2	45.2
Tanzania U.R.	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.2	6.5	6.2	8.1	8.7	8.4	-3.0
Uganda	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.4	-3.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Figure 5. Maize prices in selected Eastern African markets



Sources: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network; Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise.

Republic of Tanzania and **Uganda**. In the capital Nairobi, prices of maize in August were about 20 percent below the level of the same month of the previous year. In **Somalia**, prices of locally-produced maize and sorghum declined in most key markets in August 2014 as newly-harvested main "gu" season crops increased supplies, but remain up to two times higher than 12 months earlier, also due to the scaling back of humanitarian assistance and access constraints resulting from insecurity.

In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize were stable in recent months in most monitored markets, with moderate increases in some agro-pastoral zones, such as Dire Dawa and Jijiga. In general, August prices were between 10 and 25 percent below their levels of 12 months earlier, due to the ample stocks from the bumper 2013 main "meher" harvest that is still available for local consumption as well as increased availability from the recently-completed secondary "belg" season harvest.

By contrast, in **the Sudan**, prices of sorghum and millet continued to follow the increasing trend which started in late 2013. In August they reached new record highs in most markets as stocks from last year's poor harvest have been depleted. Trade disruptions due to conflict and heavy rains provided further support to prices. In August, sorghum prices were double their levels of a year earlier in the main markets of Khartoum, Port Sudan and El Obeid. Similar trends were observed for millet prices, which were traded in August at almost three times the level of a year earlier in Khartoum. Prices of mostly imported wheat, an important staple in urban areas, increased by 20 percent in August in the capital Khartoum and were well above their year-earlier levels.

In **South Sudan**, prices of white sorghum declined in the capital, Juba, by about 40 percent from January to July on account of increased availability of imports from neighbouring countries, carryover stocks from last year's long-cycle crops, food aid distributions as well as the recent commercialization of 2014 first season crops. By contrast, prices seasonally increased in Wau and Aweil by 10 and 15 percent, respectively. In conflict-affected Unity, Upper Nile and Jonglei States, despite the start of the green harvest, civil insecurity and seasonal deterioration of road conditions continued to disrupt both domestic and cross-border trade, underpinning exceptionally high prices.

Food security conditions improve in South Sudan, but concerns remain for early 2015

The lean season is peaking in **Ethiopia**, **Eritrea**, **the Sudan** and in pastoral areas of **Kenya**, **Somalia** and the Karamoja region in **Uganda**, while food security conditions are generally improving in the rest of the subregion as recently-harvested crops improved food availability. In particular, substantial improvements are reported in **South Sudan** where, according to preliminary results of the latest IPC analysis, the estimated number of people in acute food insecurity and livelihood crisis declined from 3.9 million in July to nearly 2.2 million. The decrease is mainly due to the availability of first season crops in Greater Equatoria states, the start of consumption of green maize in uni-modal rainfall areas, as well as the positive effect of the humanitarian response. This figure is likely to decline further until the end of the year when main season crops will be harvested. However, serious concerns remain for the beginning of 2015 as household food stocks are expected to be only partially replenished in some areas due to a below-average production, while most vulnerable households may have exhausted their coping mechanisms. Since the start of the conflict at the end of last year, over 1.3 million people are internally displaced and are in need of humanitarian assistance, while about 450 000 people left the country and are hosted in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda as refugees.

In **the Sudan**, during the last three months, the number of severely food insecure people has increased from 5 to 5.3 million. They are mainly located in conflict-affected North, Central and South Darfur states as well as in drought-prone areas of Red Sea, Kassala, White Nile and South Kordofan states where the current lean season has been particularly long and harsh following last year's very poor harvest. The ongoing conflict in South Sudan is also having a significant impact on local food security.

In **Somalia**, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is currently estimated at over 1 million, including about 220 000 children under the age of five. This figure shows an increase of about 20 percent since last January, mainly due to high food prices and the renewed conflict in southern and central regions which caused disruption of trade flows and hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In **Kenya**, food security conditions deteriorated in pastoral districts of Turkana, Marsabit, Samburu and Wajir as well as in southeastern and coastal areas where the lean season started in July instead of August for some households that harvested a below-average "short rains" season production in January/February and were not able to plant short-cycle "long rains" season crops due to erratic precipitations. Consequently, during the last three months, the estimated number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased from 1.3 to 1.5 million.

Overall, in *Eastern Africa*, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance is currently estimated at about 12.6 million (including 5.3 million in the Sudan, 2.2 million in South Sudan, 2.4 million in Ethiopia, 1.5 million in Kenya, 1 million in Somalia, 100 000 in the Karamoja region of Uganda and 90 000 in Djibouti), down 5 percent compared to July's estimate of 13.3 million people.

Southern Africa

Planting of 2015 crops expected to commence soon under overall favourable rainfall forecasts

Land preparation is underway for the 2015 crops, to be harvested from March 2015. Seasonal rainfall forecasts indicate an increased chance of normal to above-normal rains in the October 2014 to March 2015 cropping period throughout most of the region, but with higher deficit probability forecast for northern **Angola** during the first quarter of 2015. Although, the overall preliminary forecasts point to positive cropping conditions, monthly variations will largely determine the impact on crop development and 2015 production outcomes. These forecasts also take into account the 60-65 percent chance of an El Niño manifesting during this period, which is normally associated with below-average rains in some parts of the region.

Farmers are also expected to continue to benefit from government production support, largely through subsidized input programmes that are expected to bolster access to fertilizers and seeds. However, the current lower year-on-year maize prices in the subregion, may act as a disincentive to expand plantings this season, particularly for the commercial sector. Preliminary planting intentions and estimates will only be available towards the end of the year.

Bumper and record cereal crops estimated in 2014

Harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops was completed in July and aggregate production is estimated at 35.5 million tonnes, up 17 percent from the drought-affected 2013 output. The increase largely reflects a strong rebound in **South Africa**'s maize output, while large maize crops were also estimated in **Zambia** and **Malawi**. Harvesting of the winter wheat crop, mainly produced in South Africa and Zambia, is underway and current forecasts point to an 8 percent reduction to 2.1 million tonnes, reflecting lower plantings.

Maize output in **South Africa** increased by an estimated 20 percent to just below 15 million tonnes. Despite lower plantings, favourable weather boosted yields, resulting in a significant 37 percent increase for the commercial white maize crop compared with the drought-affected 2013 output. In **Zambia** and **Malawi**, generally stable weather conditions and increased plantings resulted in larger crops of 3.35 and 3.9 million tonnes, respectively. Government support also fostered greater access to inputs, while the re-engagement of commercial farmers in maize production contributed to Zambia's record 2014 maize output. Following a severely drought-reduced harvest in 2013, **Zimbabwe**'s cereal output is estimated to have increased significantly by 77 percent in 2014, following beneficial rains throughout the growing season. Similarly, in **Namibia**, although production is relatively small, the cereal output is estimated to have increased by about 50 percent to 122 000 tonnes, compared to the sharply drought-reduced harvest in 2013. However, the increase is mainly from the commercial sector and the overall cereal harvest still remains 5 percent below the short-term average. Near average 2014 cereal outputs are estimated for **Botswana** and **Lesotho**,

Table 11. Southern Africa cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Southern Africa	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.1**	**24.1**	**23.8**	**28.9**	**5.1**	**4.2**	**4.5**	**31.4**	**30.3**	**35.5**	**17.2**
- excl. South Africa	**0.3**	**0.4**	**0.3**	**10.8**	**10.9**	**13.3**	**5.1**	**4.2**	**4.5**	**16.3**	**15.4**	**18.0**	**17.2**
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	4.6	3.6	3.9	5.0	4.0	4.3	7.2
Malawi	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.7	3.8	4.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	3.8	3.9	4.2	7.8
Mozambique	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	2.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	2.2	2.2	2.5	13.3
South Africa	1.9	1.9	1.8	13.3	13.0	15.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.2	14.9	17.4	17.2
Zambia	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.9	2.6	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	2.9	3.6	24.5
Zimbabwe	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.0	1.7	77.0

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

which were affected by uneven rains, as well as frost damage in the latter country, while production in **Swaziland**, another import-dependant country, is estimated to have increased by about 22 percent to above-average levels. A second consecutive annual production increase is estimated in **Mozambique**, reflecting improved yields as a result of favourable rains. In **Madagascar**, rice production is estimated to have somewhat recovered from the sharply reduced output of 2013. However, uneven rains in southern regions, locust damage and poorly maintained irrigation infrastructure limited the gains. The rice output is estimated to be close to 4 million tonnes, about 8 percent higher than the previous year.

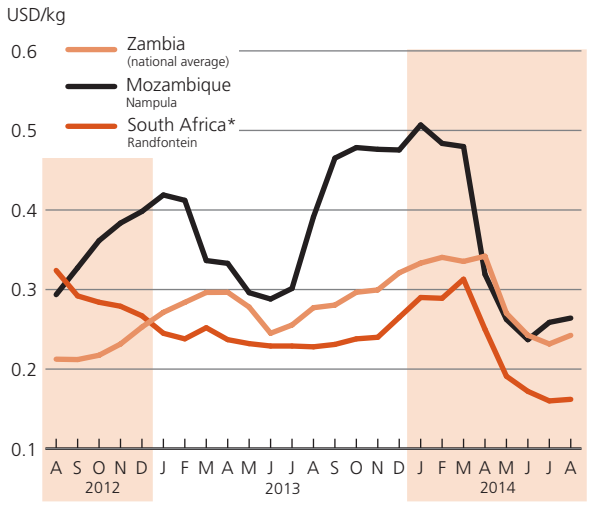
Reduced import requirements forecast in 2014/15

The maize import requirement for *Southern Africa* for the 2014/15 marketing year (generally May/April) is expected to decline to 1 million tonnes, compared to the 1.45 million tonnes imported in 2013/14. The steep decline reflects improved 2014 domestic harvests, particularly in **Zimbabwe**, the subregion's largest importer.

South Africa is expected to remain as the dominant exporter, given their abundant supplies in 2014/15 and lower year-on-year prices; substantial volumes of yellow maize have already been exported this year, mostly to *Asia*. **Zambia** is likely to retain its position as the second largest exporter, following the lifting of the export ban, with an exportable surplus of about 1 million tonnes, while informal trade within the subregion will help bridge deficits in border areas. Overall, current trade prospects for maize remain favourable for the import dependent countries of the subregion.

Imports of wheat and rice, of which the subregion is a deficit producer, are estimated to remain comparatively stable in 2014/15. Rice imports in **Madagascar**, which increased sharply in the previous marketing year, as the country sought to compensate for the 2013 production shortfall, are estimated to decline, on account of the larger domestic 2014 output. Aggregate wheat and rice import requirements are forecast at 3.65 and 2.67 million tonnes, respectively.

Figure 6. White maize prices in selected Southern African markets



*Wholesale prices, all others retail prices.

Sources: Central Statistical Office, Zambia; Sistema De Informação De Mercados Agrícolas De Moçambique, Mozambique; SAFEX Agricultural Products Division, South Africa.

Abundant supplies contribute to lower year-on-year maize prices

Overall, prices of maize are at lower levels than a year earlier, driven down by the larger 2014 harvests. Prices in **South Africa**, the subregion's main producer and exporter, declined sharply since their record levels of February 2014, but remained relatively stable between July and September, as export demand offset the downward pressure exerted by the ample supplies and lower international prices. The lower year-on-year prices in South Africa are expected to exert downward pressure on import prices in **Lesotho**, **Swaziland**, **Botswana** and **Namibia**, which satisfy a large proportion of their cereal needs with South African grain.

Prices of maize in **Malawi**, **Mozambique** and **Zimbabwe**, which are beginning to increase seasonally, are generally below their year-earlier levels, reflecting the increased 2014 outputs. Prices in **Zambia** are also rising seasonally and remain slightly above their levels of last year, despite the record 2014 harvest. The removal of maize subsidies and the depreciation of the national currency added inflationary pressure and contributed to maintaining the higher year-on-year prices. In **Madagascar**, the large volume of imports in 2013/14 and the moderate rebound in the domestic rice production, contributed to the lower year-on-year prices.

Significant improvement in food security conditions in 2014/15

Reflecting larger maize outputs and lower prices, a significant recovery in food security conditions was recorded in 2014. Based on the national vulnerability assessments conducted in June-July, there was a 56 percent decrease in the number of people requiring food assistance compared to the elevated level of 2013/14 (excluding Angola, Madagascar and South Africa). Substantial improvements were seen in **Zimbabwe** and **Malawi**, where the number of people in need of food assistance decreased to 565 000 (-74 percent) and 640 009 (-56 percent), respectively. Similarly, the larger 2014 cereal harvests in **Mozambique** and **Namibia** improved food supplies and contributed to reducing the number of food insecure, estimated at 150 000 (down from 212 000 estimated in 2013/14) and about 118 000 people

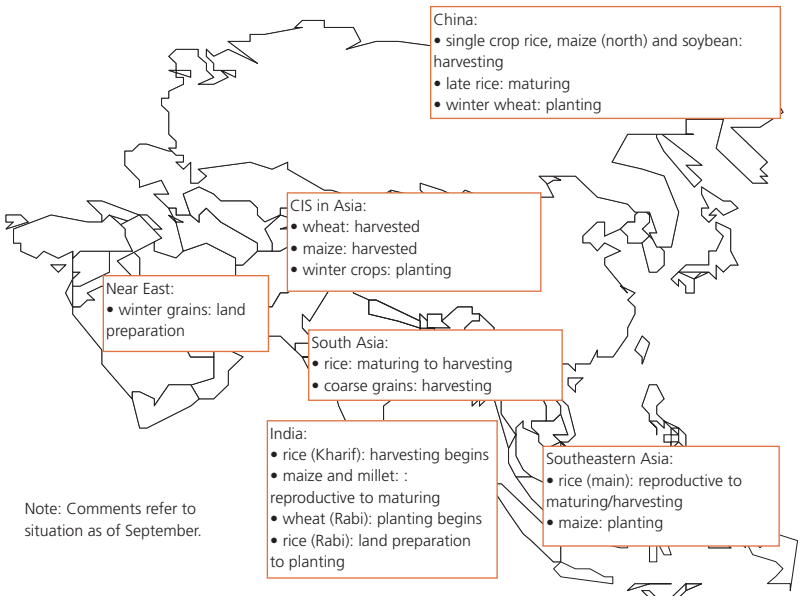
(down from 778 504), respectively. By contrast, an increase in the number of food insecure was recorded in **Zambia**, where localized production losses resulted in reduced food availability, while a rise was also estimated in **Lesotho**. In **Madagascar**, despite improved conditions in central and northern regions reflecting a partial recovery in cereal production, food insecurity in southern regions still remains acute, following a second successive year of poor harvests in these areas. However, lower prices of rice have helped to improve food access. In **Angola**, some improvements were observed, but food security in localized parts of the south and coastal areas remains stressed, due to higher prices and dry weather that affected crop production and livestock conditions.

Asia

Far East

Cereal production in 2014 expected to be close to last year's record level

Harvesting of the 2014 main season cereal crops, mainly rice and maize, is underway in most countries. FAO forecasts the 2014 aggregate cereal output (including rice in paddy terms) at 1 241 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the previous year's record harvest. However, at the country level, crop prospects are mixed. Delayed monsoon rains and unfavourable weather conditions have resulted in deteriorated crop prospects in **India**, **Nepal**, **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, **the Republic of Korea**, and **Sri Lanka**. In **the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, below-average rains at a critical growing stage between July and August over most of the country, including the main producing areas in the south and southwestern parts, is expected to reduce yields of the 2014 main season crops, particularly maize and potatoes. By contrast, good weather boosted cereal harvests in **Bangladesh**, **Bhutan**, **China**, **Myanmar** and **Viet Nam**. In the rest of the countries of the subregion, cereal harvests are forecast at similar levels to last year.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of September.

Table 12. Far East cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Far East	**243.9**	**244.4**	**251.3**	**309.4**	**324.8**	**322.2**	**662.2**	**672.4**	**667.8**	**1 215.5**	**1 241.5**	**1 241.4**	**0.0**
Bangladesh	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	50.8	51.7	52.5	54.3	55.4	56.2	1.6
Cambodia	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	9.3	9.4	9.3	10.2	10.3	10.2	-1.1
China	120.8	121.9	125.3	214.7	228.0	229.1	205.9	205.3	206.8	541.5	555.2	561.1	1.1
India	94.9	93.5	95.9	41.6	43.2	38.7	157.9	159.8	156.0	294.4	296.5	290.6	-2.0
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.4	18.5	18.6	69.1	71.3	69.9	88.4	89.8	88.5	-1.5
Japan	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2	10.7	10.8	10.6	11.7	11.8	11.6	-1.6
Korea Rep. of	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	5.9	5.8	-1.9
Myanmar	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.7	1.9	1.9	27.7	28.8	29.5	29.6	30.8	31.6	2.5
Nepal	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.8	4.5	5.0	4.6	8.7	9.6	9.3	-2.8
Pakistan	23.5	24.2	25.3	4.8	5.1	5.1	8.3	10.2	10.0	36.6	39.5	40.4	2.2
Philippines	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.4	7.3	7.6	18.1	18.8	18.6	25.5	26.2	26.2	0.2
Thailand	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.1	5.2	5.3	38.0	38.1	37.5	43.1	43.3	42.8	-1.3
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	5.2	5.4	43.7	43.9	44.5	48.5	49.1	49.9	1.7

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

Table 13. Far East cereal production and anticipated trade in 2014/15 [1]
(thousand tonnes)

	Avg 5-yrs (2009/10 to 2013/14)	2013/14	2014/15	2014/15 over 2013/14 (%)	2014/15 over 5-yr avg (%)
Cereals - Exports	38 856	46 285	41 025	-11.4	5.6
Cereals - Imports	91 164	103 879	101 845	-2.0	11.7
Cereals - Production	957 455	1 017 770	1 019 132	0.1	6.4
Rice-millled - Exports	28 679	31 784	31 579	-0.6	10.1
Rice-millled - Imports	10 057	10 834	10 452	-3.5	3.9
Rice-millled - Production	431 656	448 164	452 422	1.0	4.8
Wheat - Exports	4 688	7 791	4 800	-38.4	2.4
Wheat - Imports	35 269	40 076	38 470	-4.0	9.1
Wheat - Production	233 694	244 370	251 316	2.8	7.5

[1] Marketing year July/June for most countries. Rice trade figures are for the second year shown.

Cereal imports and exports to decrease in 2014/15 marketing year

Due to the overall anticipated good cereal harvest in 2014, aggregate cereal imports for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decrease slightly compared to 2013/14, but to remain 12 percent above the preceding five-year average level. The decrease is anticipated to come from lower maize and wheat import requirements from **China,** which are forecast to fall by 25 percent to 3 million tonnes and by 40 percent to 4 million tonnes, respectively, given the anticipated record harvest and large carryover stocks. Similarly, the aggregate rice imports are set at 10.5 million tonnes, some 4 percent below last year's above-average level. However, an increase in rice imports is projected in **Indonesia**, **Nepal** and **Sri Lanka**, due to lower productions this year, as well as **Malaysia** and **China**, reflecting strong domestic demand.

Aggregate cereal exports in 2014/15 are forecast to decrease considerably by 11 percent from the previous year's record level, mainly due to a projected 32 percent drop in the exportable surplus from **India**, with exports of wheat to decrease by 3 million tonnes, rice by 2 million tonnes and maize by 1.3 million tonnes, compared to last year's high level. Exports of rice (milled basis), the subregion's largest exported cereal, are forecast at 31.6 million tonnes, slightly below last year's record level and 10 percent above the preceding five-year average. An increase in exports from **Thailand** and **Viet Nam**, forecast at 10.6 and 6.9 million tonnes, 10 and 6 percent, respectively higher than their levels of the previous years, are expected to partially compensate for the drop in exports from India.

Production of paddy rice, the major staple crop in the subregion, is tentatively forecast at 667.8 million tonnes, slightly below the record level of 2013. Most of the projected contraction, in absolute terms, is expected to come from **India**, where poor monsoon rains, particularly in the northwestern, eastern and northeastern parts of the country delayed planting operations and depressed yields. As a result, the First Advance Estimate from India's Ministry of Agriculture forecasts the 2014 "kharif" rice production at 88 million tonnes, some 5 percent below last year's good level. Dry weather during the cropping period in **Sri Lanka** and **Nepal** resulted in reduced outputs, while severe localized floods may dampen the current monsoon season rice outputs in **Indonesia** and **Pakistan**. Slightly lower rice production is expected in **Thailand**, given a small contraction in the area planted due to low domestic prices and late arrival of monsoon rains. By contrast, generally favourable rainfall and a small increase in the planted area in Bangladesh, **China** and **Viet Nam** are expected to result in record 2014 rice harvests.

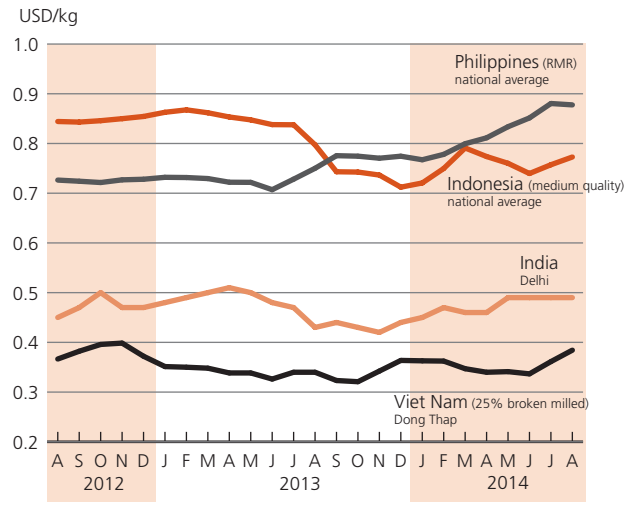
The 2014 winter crops, including mostly irrigated wheat and barley, were gathered earlier in the year. The subregional wheat harvest of 2014 has been recently revised upwards to a record level of 251.3 million tonnes, an improvement of 3 percent over the bumper 2013 production. The 2014 aggregate maize production is anticipated to remain close to last year's record level.

Planting of the 2014 winter crops, mainly wheat is underway in **China, India** and **Pakistan**. The relatively high prices in the subregion are expected to boost the area planted to wheat. However, in **India** slightly reduced irrigation supplies in the main reservoirs compared to last year, particularly in northwestern parts, could have a negative impact on planting activities.

Prices of rice remained generally unchanged in August but increased in exporting countries

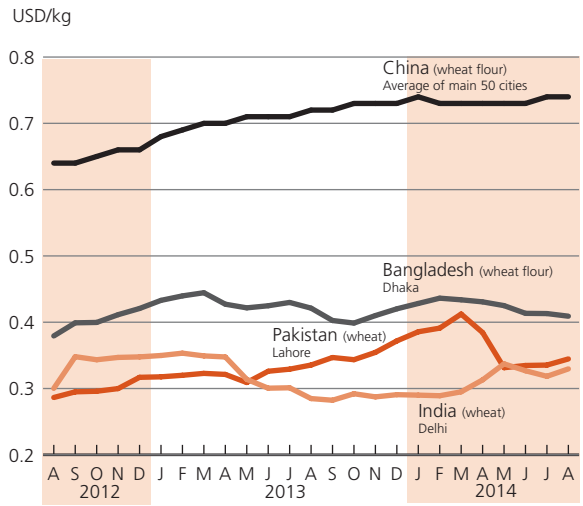
Overall, domestic rice prices in local currencies increased in August in main exporting countries of the subregion, particularly in **Viet Nam**, underpinned by strong export demand. In **Sri Lanka**, rice prices increased sharply in August to record levels and were almost one-quarter higher than their year-earlier levels, reflecting this year's reduced production. Similarly, rice prices strengthened in the past months in **Indonesia** and **the Philippines** reaching record highs in August. Elsewhere in the subregion, rice prices remained relatively unchanged. Wheat and wheat flour quotations in local currencies stayed generally stable following the good 2014 outputs, despite moderate increases in some markets of **Pakistan** and **India**.

Figure 7. Rice retail prices in selected Far East countries



Sources: Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Bureau of Agriculture Statistics, Philippines; Agroinfo, Viet Nam.

Figure 8. Wheat and wheat flour retail prices in selected Far East countries



Sources: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Consumer Affairs, India; Management Information System and Monitoring, Bangladesh; National Bureau of Statistics of China.

Near East

Below-average winter crop production due to drought and conflict

Harvesting of the 2014 winter wheat and barley crops is complete. With drought conditions affecting the main regional producers coupled with conflict escalation in some parts, the aggregate subregional cereal output (including paddy rice) is put at 70 million tonnes, a decrease of about 8 percent on last year's record output and 4 percent on the five-year average.

In **Turkey**, official forecasts indicate a 10 percent decrease in cereal production in 2014 compared to last year, to about 33.8 million tonnes. The forecast includes 19.8 million tonnes of wheat (11 percent decrease on last year) and 13.1 million tonnes of coarse grains (also a 10 percent decline). Similarly, as drought conditions affected yields in **the Islamic Republic of Iran**, a preliminary forecast puts the 2014 wheat production at 13 million tonnes, 7 percent lower than the 2013 wheat harvest. In **Iraq**, the ongoing and spreading conflict has serious implications especially in Ninevah and Salah-Aldeen governorates which normally produce approximately one-third of total annual national wheat and barley production, respectively. The final estimates of the 2014 harvest are not yet available but according to Government reports, the Iraqi Grain Board managed to buy some 3.4 million tonnes from farmers. Likewise, in **the Syrian Arab Republic**, lower plantings as a result of high costs of production reduced input availability (including labour), prevailing violence, as well as drought conditions later in the season in some parts of the country, negatively impacted yields and overall production. FAO estimates put the cereal harvest at about 2.4 million tonnes consisting of about 2 million tonnes of wheat and 400 000 tonnes of barley and other cereals. In **Saudi Arabia**, wheat production is estimated at 500 000 tonnes,

Table 14. Near East cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Near East	**45.6**	**48.0**	**43.9**	**20.8**	**23.1**	**21.0**	**4.7**	**4.9**	**5.0**	**71.1**	**76.1**	**69.8**	**-8.2**
Afghanistan	5.1	5.2	5.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	6.6	6.7	6.6	-1.0
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	13.8	14.0	13.0	4.7	4.5	4.5	2.8	2.9	3.0	21.3	21.4	20.4	-4.4
Iraq	2.4	3.3	3.0	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.4	3.5	4.9	4.5	-7.1
Syrian Arab Republic	2.8	2.4	2.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.5	2.4	-31.0
Turkey	20.1	22.1	19.8	12.4	14.5	13.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	33.4	37.5	33.8	-9.9

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

some 17 percent lower than in 2013, following the 2008 decree that aims at phasing out domestic wheat production by 2016 because of strong concerns over the depletion of local water reserves in irrigated wheat production. A similar decree is being considered to phase-out forage production as some farmers shifted from wheat to even more water demanding forage crops. By contrast, in **Afghanistan**, reports indicate an above-average wheat harvest of 5.1 million tonnes, slightly lower than last year's exceptional harvest of almost 5.2 million tonnes. Elsewhere in the region, average harvests were gathered.

Consequently, reflecting smaller subregional production, at 69.8 million tonnes, the total subregional cereal imports are estimated to be 18 percent above the five-year average and 6 percent more than last year's imports. Wheat constitutes about half of these imports, and at almost 30 million tonnes are expected to be about 10 percent more than last year and about 25 percent higher than the five-year average. Coarse grains, mostly barley and maize, are imported mainly for animal feed.

Civil unrest affects food security of large number of people, mixed developments observed in food inflation

In **the Syrian Arab Republic**, approximately 10.8 million people continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the country, including more than 6.4 million people who are internally displaced. Around 4.7 million people reside in areas categorized as hard-to-reach, including at least 241 000 people whose movements are severely restricted by the conflict. As of mid-September 2014, 3 million refugees are registered in the region covering Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Although WFP continues to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in the region, resources in host communities remain under strain. In **Yemen**, persistent conflict continues to displace households in central areas of the country. Internal conflict, coupled with the recent removal of fuel subsidies (as of 30 July 2014), is likely to exacerbate the food security crisis in Yemen. In **Iraq**, as of early September 2014, there were nearly 2.8 million people displaced within Iraq, nearly 1.8 million of whom have been displaced since January 2014. Many of these people have been repeatedly displaced. At the moment there are reports of deteriorating access to drinking water as well as basic food items and other essential non-food items, particularly with the breakdown of the Public Distribution System in the militant-held areas. Food security conditions are likely to deteriorate with large number of IDPs putting strain on hosting communities, in particular as a large share of IDPs have fled towards cities in the Kurdish region of Iraq. In the Gaza Strip, despite an open-ended cease fire reached in August 2014, 72 percent of the households are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity following a period of escalated hostilities, compared to 66 percent before the crisis.

In **Afghanistan**, the overall food security situation has generally been stable owing to the above-average harvest. However, food security concerns remain in some areas, particularly for households displaced by conflict or natural disasters.

Trends in price inflation were varied across the subregion. Increases in food price inflation were reported in **Turkey** (14.4 percent in August 2014 compared to an average of around 10 percent earlier in 2014), **Iraq** (3.3 percent on a yearly basis in August 2014 as opposed to 1.4 percent in May 2014) and **Afghanistan** (the food component of the CPI increased by 5.3 percent in August 2014 compared to 2 percent in July 2014). By contrast, in **the Islamic Republic of Iran,** the latest official information indicates that in July 2014 the food and beverages price inflation index stood at 0.8 percent on a monthly and 6.8 percent on a yearly basis. For comparison, in June 2013 the food price inflation was above 50 percent on a year-on-year basis. Across the subregion, stable prices prevail for subsidized food commodities, such as bread and cereal in **Iraq**, **Jordan** and **Saudi Arabia.**

CIS in Asia[2]

Aggregate 2014 cereal output forecast to decline slightly

Harvesting of 2014 cereal crops is almost complete. The aggregate cereal output is estimated at almost 33 million tonnes, slightly below last year's good level. Overall, unfavourable weather conditions during the cropping season and shortages of irrigation water dampened cereal production in most countries, except in **Armenia** and **Uzbekistan**, where generally favourable rains and improved agricultural inputs availability boosted the cereal harvest to record levels. Wheat production, the main crop produced in *CIS in Asia*, is estimated at 25.8 million tonnes. In **Kazakhstan**, the main producer and exporter of the subregion, FAO estimates the 2014 wheat output at 13.6 million tonnes, 3 percent down from last year's good level. This is the result of a small contraction in planted area, as well as anticipated lower yields, due to excessive rains in early September over the northwestern part of the country, particularly in the Kostanay region, one of the main wheat producing area.

[2] Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained for the time being.

Table 15. CIS in Asia cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Total cereals [1]			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
CIS in Asia	**21.4**	**26.2**	**25.8**	**5.1**	**6.3**	**6.2**	**27.3**	**33.4**	**32.9**	**-1.6**
Armenia	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	2.0
Azerbaijan	2.0	2.1	2.0	0.8	0.9	0.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	-3.7
Georgia	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	-5.6
Kazakhstan	9.8	14.0	13.6	2.2	3.3	3.3	12.4	17.6	17.3	-2.0
Kyrgyzstan	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	-7.1
Tajikistan	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.1	1.1	-4.9
Turkmenistan	1.2	1.4	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.4	1.6	1.3	-18.2
Uzbekistan	6.7	6.9	7.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	7.3	7.5	7.9	5.5

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.
[1] Total cereals includes wheat, coarse grains and rice (paddy).

Domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour were generally stable

In most importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat and wheat flour products remained largely unchanged in August and around their year-earlier levels despite new supplies from the recently-completed wheat harvests. In **Kyrgyzstan** and **Azerbaijan** prices were supported by production shortfalls this year and higher fuel costs.

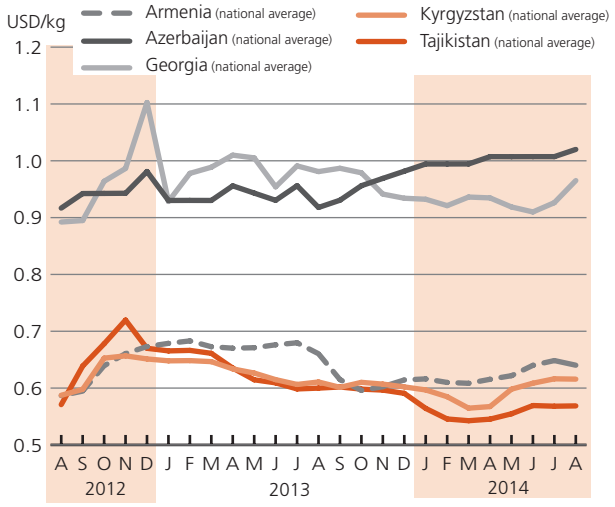
Planting of the winter wheat crops to be harvested in 2015 is underway or about to start in the *Asian CIS* countries, except in the main producer, **Kazakhstan**, where the bulk of the crop is planted in the spring. Early indications point to an area planted with winter crops similar to the good level of the previous year.

Cereal exports to decrease in 2014/15 marketing year

Cereal exports, mostly wheat, in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 8 million tonnes or 13 percent below the high level of 2013/14. The decrease is mainly attributed to an anticipated 15 percent contraction in wheat exports from **Kazakhstan**, compared to last year's high level. The other *Asian CIS* countries are heavily dependent on cereal imports, mostly wheat, to cover their annual consumption requirements.

The total cereal import requirement of the subregion in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) is forecast to decrease by 4 percent to 6.6 million tonnes as higher carryover stocks compensated for the reduced outputs. This includes about 6.1 million tonnes of wheat.

Figure 9. Retail wheat flour prices in selected CIS in Asia countries



Sources: National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia; National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic; State Committee on Statistics, Republic of Tajikistan; State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan; National Statistics Office of Georgia.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Central America and the Caribbean

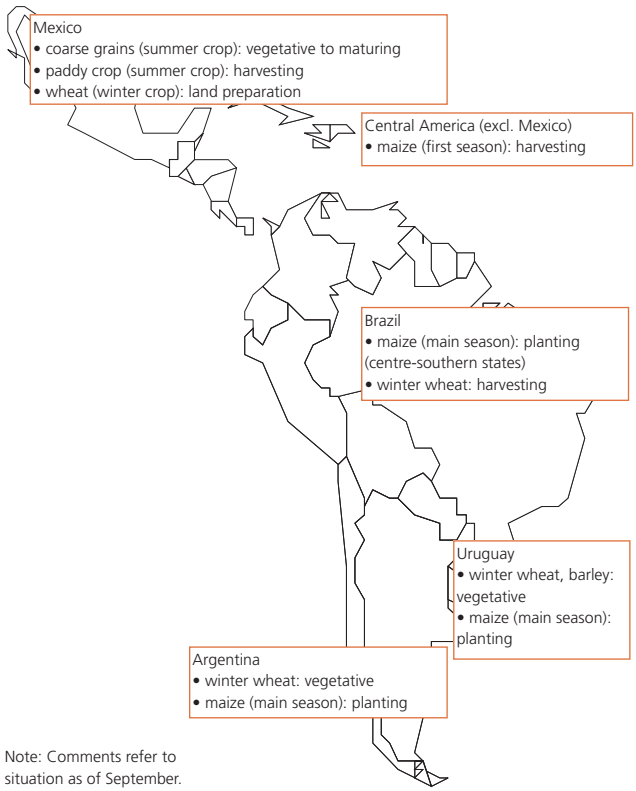
Wheat production in 2014 higher than last year

In **Mexico**, virtually the only wheat producer in the subregion, harvesting of the main irrigated winter wheat was completed in July. The 2014 aggregate (spring and winter seasons) production is estimated up 4 percent from last year's level and average, mainly reflecting an increase in the area planted.

Maize production in 2014 forecast to remain close to last year

Harvesting of the 2014 main season maize crop was concluded in most countries of the subregion, except in the main producer Mexico, where it is scheduled for the end of October. The subregion's aggregate maize output is forecast to remain at almost the same level as in 2013, mainly reflecting another bumper crop in **Mexico**, where a reduction in area planted to white maize, driven by low prices, during the secondary crop season was offset by higher than expected yields. In aggregate, maize production is forecast close to 22.4 million tonnes, well above the country's five-year average.

Elsewhere in the subregion, early estimates for the aggregate 2014 maize crop (excluding Mexico) point to a sharp decline in production. Harvesting of the 2014 main "de primera" maize season, accounting on average for some 60 percent of the subregion's annual maize crop, but also rice and beans, concluded in September. Despite generally favourable rains at the beginning of the season, an unusually early and extended "canicula", a recurrent dry period of about ten days that occurs around July/August, had a negative impact on crops in the final stages of development. Most distressed is the area known as the "Dry Corridor", which covers most of **El Salvador** and parts of **Costa Rica**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**. Recent assessments, at country level, have confirmed that crop losses during the main season were severe. Planting of the second "de postrera" season has just concluded under generally favourable conditions. Assuming normal weather during the remainder of the season, the 2014 aggregate maize production for *Central America*



Note: Comments refer to situation as of September.

Table 16. Latin America and Caribbean cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
Central America & Caribbean	**3.3**	**3.5**	**3.7**	**34.8**	**35.4**	**34.8**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**40.9**	**41.8**	**41.4**	**-1.2**
El Salvador	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	-16.9
Guatemala	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.8	1.8	1.7	-5.0
Honduras	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	-16.6
Mexico	3.3	3.5	3.7	30.2	30.5	30.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	33.6	34.2	34.1	0.0
Nicaragua	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.9	-12.0
South America	**16.3**	**19.1**	**23.8**	**120.7**	**137.3**	**133.2**	**24.7**	**25.2**	**25.4**	**161.6**	**181.6**	**182.4**	**0.4**
Argentina	8.0	9.2	11.5	31.2	37.8	38.8	1.6	1.6	1.6	40.8	48.6	51.9	6.8
Brazil	4.4	5.7	7.9	74.1	83.5	80.3	11.6	11.8	12.2	90.1	101.1	100.3	-0.8

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

(excluding Mexico) is forecast at 10 percent below last year's bumper crop and well below the past five-year average.

In **Haiti**, the main 2014 coarse grains season is virtually concluded and prospects are favourable. Despite a delayed onset of the rainy season in June, subsequent precipitation during the season was good. Coarse grains production is forecast to increase 4 percent from last year's reduced level, putting the 2014 output close to the country's five-year average.

Cereal imports forecast at high levels in 2014/15

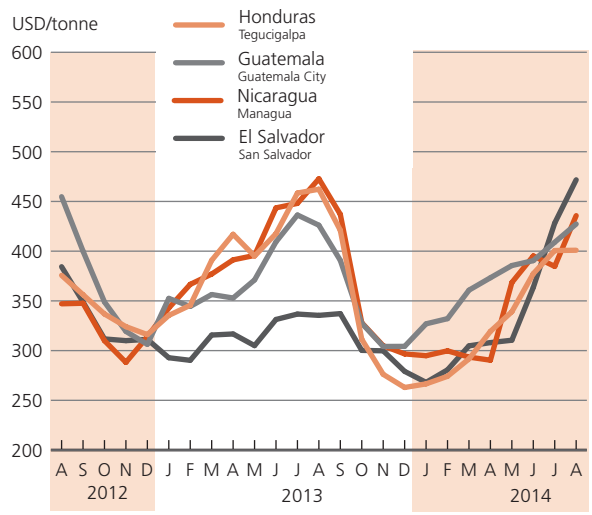
Cereal imports for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain close to last year's high level of 27 million tonnes and well above the subregion's five-year average. However, in the drought-affected countries, **El Salvador**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, the aggregate cereal imports are expected to increase by 11 percent to almost 4 million tonnes.

Maize prices rose markedly in August, red bean prices persist at high levels

In most countries, maize prices increased seasonally in August but at a quicker pace than in previous years due to the drought-reduced 2014 main first season harvest. However, increased imports in the past few months and distribution of governments' food reserves have kept prices below their levels of a year earlier in **Guatemala**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**. The exception is **El Salvador**, where prices in August were more than 40 percent higher and the highest in the subregion. Prices were underpinned by lower imports in the immediate preceding three-month period from August. Tariff-free imports and food aid are expected to continue to put downward pressure on prices in the subregion.

Prices of red beans persisted at record or near-record levels in August, despite significant imports from **Ethiopia** by most countries in the subregion. Low stock levels due to last year's reduced regional production, particularly in **Nicaragua**, the main producer and regional exporter, and an anticipated drought-reduced first season red bean crop underpinned prices.

Figure 10. Wholesale white maize prices in selected countries in Central America



Sources: Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia, Honduras; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Guatemala; Ministerio agropecuario y forestal, Nicaragua, Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, El Salvador.

South America

Coarse grain production in 2014 anticipated to remain at high levels

In the main producing countries of *South America*, harvesting of the 2014 main season coarse grains and rice crops is concluded. Latest estimates for the 2014 subregion's maize output have been revised upward to 119 million tonnes, reflecting better than expected yields particularly in **Brazil** and **Argentina**. At the forecast level, production is 3 percent below last year's record crop but still well above the average. In **Ecuador**, initial estimates point to a maize output similar to last year's record level. By contrast, in **Peru**, this year's maize production is anticipated to fall by 5 percent from last year's high level, as a result of yield reductions due to dry weather.

The main season rice harvest is virtually concluded in the subregion. The aggregate subregional production is estimated at around last year's high level and above the five-year average, mainly due to favourable weather conditions. In **Brazil**, the subregion's main producer, production is estimated at 3 percent higher than last year and close to the average. The increase mainly reflects larger sowings in response to higher prices and better than expected yields. However, less than ideal weather during the season depressed production in **Bolivia**, **Ecuador**, **Peru** and **Uruguay**.

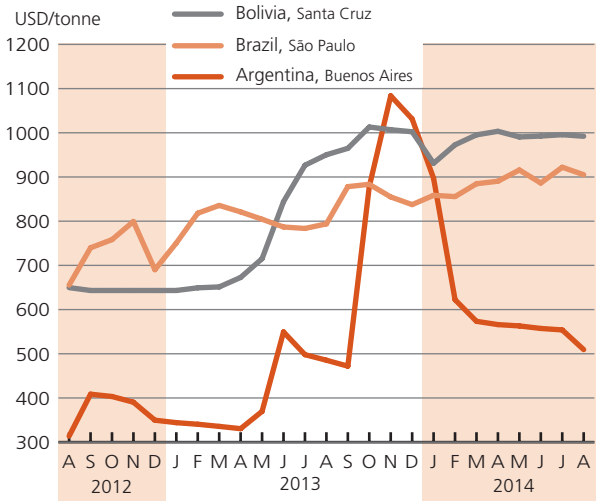
The 2014 wheat output to recover from low levels of the past two years

Following an increase in the area planted and satisfactory weather conditions during the season, the outlook for the 2014 wheat crop, to be harvested from November, is positive. Strong regional demand and high prices, particularly in **Argentina** and **Brazil**, underpinned the increase in sowings. The subregion's aggregate production is expected to reach almost 24 million tonnes, a significant increase from the low levels of the previous two years.

Cereal prices declining or stable in August, but those of wheat flour still at high levels

Wheat flour prices in the subregion generally declined in August with favourable prospects for the forthcoming harvests and increased import volumes in recent months. In **Brazil**, flour prices

Figure 11. Wholesale wheat flour prices in selected countries in South America

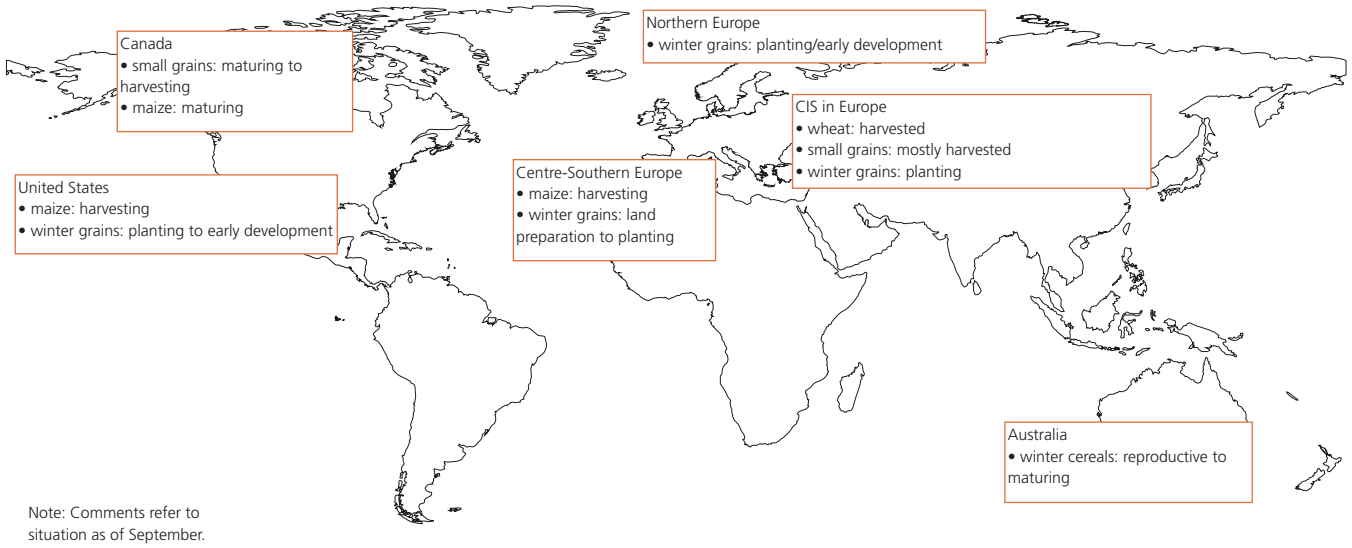


Sources: Servicio Informativo de Mercados Agropecuarios, Bolivia; Instituto de Economía Agrícola, Brazil; Bolsa de Cereales, Argentina.

remained unchanged (in local currency) in August, but those of grain fell by 8 percent with the good prospects for the 2014 harvest and adequate import levels. In **Argentina**, wheat flour prices declined moderately in August and were substantially below their peaks at the beginning of the year on expectations of a good 2014 wheat harvest and significant export restrictions. However, in local currency, wheat flour prices remained 57 percent above their August 2013 levels reflecting two consecutive years of below-average production. In **Bolivia**, wheat flour prices fell markedly in August and were one-third lower than a year earlier, with high volumes of imports in the past few months, nine times higher than at the same period in 2013.

Yellow maize prices remained unchanged or declined in August reflecting the large availability of maize in the subregion due to the good 2014 recently-completed harvests. Overall, prices were around their levels of a year earlier, with the exception of **Argentina**, where despite a significant decrease in August, prices (in local currency) were some 20 percent higher than a year earlier.

North America, Europe and Oceania



Note: Comments refer to situation as of September.

North America

The United States of America wheat production down but record maize crop forecast in 2014

In **the United States of America**, with the bulk of the wheat harvest completed by mid-September, the aggregate output in 2014 was estimated at 55.2 million tonnes, down nearly 5 percent from 2013 and below the five-year average, despite increased plantings. Dry weather in major producing areas led to significant yield reductions. As of late September, winter wheat planting for the 2015 harvest was well underway with some 43 percent of planting reported complete, slightly ahead of the average by that date. Regarding coarse grains, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) September report forecasts the 2014 maize output at 366 million tonnes, 3.4 percent up from last year, and a new record. The rise reflects record yields, which are expected to more than offset a smaller harvested area.

In **Canada**, prospects for the 2014 wheat harvest have deteriorated with dry conditions and frost in the Prairies in early September causing crop damage. Although this year's output was already expected to fall significantly from the 2013 record

Table 17. North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production
(million tonnes)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals			
	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	2012	2013 estim.	2014 f'cast.	Change: 2014/2013 (%)
North America	**88.9**	**95.5**	**82.9**	**310.9**	**398.6**	**404.2**	**9.1**	**8.6**	**9.9**	**408.8**	**502.7**	**497.0**	**-1.1**
Canada	27.2	37.5	27.7	24.5	28.8	21.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.7	66.4	49.4	-25.5
United States	61.7	58.0	55.2	286.3	369.8	382.4	9.1	8.6	9.9	357.0	436.3	447.6	2.6
Europe	**193.1**	**225.4**	**236.3**	**220.4**	**252.9**	**255.6**	**4.4**	**4.0**	**4.1**	**417.9**	**482.3**	**496.0**	**2.8**
Belarus	2.1	2.0	2.2	6.7	6.2	6.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	8.2	8.8	8.4
EU	132.6	143.7	147.1	144.8	158.8	158.8	3.1	2.9	2.9	280.6	305.4	308.8	1.1
Russian Federation	37.7	52.1	59.0	29.5	36.6	42.5	1.1	0.9	1.0	68.2	89.6	102.5	14.4
Serbia	1.9	2.7	2.2	3.9	6.6	7.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	9.3	9.2	-1.5
Ukraine	15.8	22.0	23.0	29.9	40.3	36.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	45.9	62.4	59.7	-4.4
Oceania	**23.2**	**27.3**	**24.5**	**12.1**	**14.5**	**11.0**	**0.9**	**1.2**	**0.9**	**36.2**	**43.0**	**36.4**	**-15.3**
Australia	22.9	27.0	24.2	11.5	13.9	10.5	0.9	1.2	0.8	35.3	42.1	35.5	-15.6

Note: Totals and percentage change computed from unrounded data.

high, official estimates in mid-September put the total wheat output in 2014 down further at 27.7 million tonnes, some 26 percent below last year and below the average of the past five years. The maize crop, mostly grown in Eastern Canada, is also forecast to fall significantly by 19 percent from the record high last year to about 11.4 million tonnes.

Europe

European Union

Production of wheat and maize increases in 2014

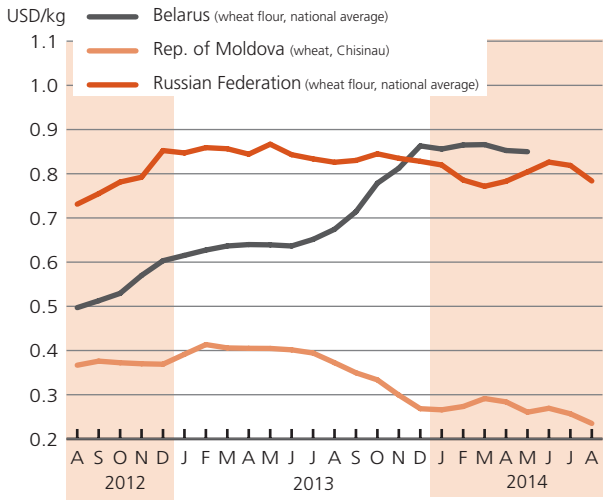
Harvesting of wheat in the **European Union (EU)** is complete and the 2014 aggregate output is estimated at about 147 million tonnes, 2.4 percent up from last year. Wheat plantings rose from the previous year and yields were above the five-year average. Winter wheat planting for the 2015 is well underway under satisfactory conditions. Maize production in the EU is forecast to rise also this year, with latest reports putting the aggregate output at 69.6 million tonnes, 7.8 percent up from 2013 and the largest crop on record. By contrast, the barley output is estimated to decrease by 5.3 percent to 56.5 million tonnes.

CIS in Europe

Aggregate 2014 cereal production forecast at a record level

In the *European CIS* countries (**Belarus**, **Republic of Moldova**, **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**), harvesting of the 2014 cereal crops is virtually complete, except for maize. The subregion's aggregate cereal output is forecast at 174 million tonnes, up 7 percent from last year's bumper level. The major improvement is expected from **the Russian Federation**, with an estimated 14 percent increase in production, compared to last year, to about 103 million tonnes. Most of the growth is anticipated on account of strong production gains for wheat and barley, set at 59 million tonnes (+13 percent on last year) and 20 million tonnes (+30 percent), respectively. This is the result of higher yields, following favourable weather conditions throughout the cropping season and continued Government support to the sector. In **Belarus**, a record cereal harvest was gathered, mainly due to higher barley and wheat production. In **Ukraine**, the 2014 aggregate cereal production is estimated at about 59.7 million tonnes, a 4 percent decrease from the previous year's record level, as a result of a return to more normal yields, but still well above the average. In the **Republic of Moldova,** this year's cereal production is expected to remain close to last year's bumper level.

Figure 12. Retail wheat and wheat flour prices in Belarus, Russian Federation and Republic of Moldova



Sources: National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus; ACSA, Rep. of Moldova; Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

Planting of the 2015 winter cereal crops, mainly wheat and barley, is currently underway under favourable weather conditions. Early indications point to a small expansion in the planted area under winter crops in **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**.

Exports in 2014/15 marketing year forecast at record levels

Aggregate cereal exports in the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to reach a record level of 59.9 million tonnes, up 3 percent compared to 2013/14. The increase is mainly attributed to higher wheat and barley exports from **the Russian Federation**, forecast at 22.5 and 3.5 million tonnes, respectively, about 22 and 32 percent higher than their levels of the previous year. By contrast, a projected contraction in the exportable surplus of maize from **Ukraine** is expected to result in an aggregate 13 percent decrease for the subregion.

Wheat and wheat flour prices declining in most countries

Domestic prices of wheat and wheat flour in **the Russian Federation**, **Ukraine** and the **Republic of Moldova** declined in recent months as a result of the bumper 2014 wheat harvests, recently completed. Wheat export prices in the Russian Federation and Ukraine continued their declining trend in August, but at a slower pace compared to the previous months, and were slightly below their year-earlier levels. The downward pressure on prices from the bumper 2014 winter harvests was partly offset by strong export demand, which contributed to limiting price decreases.

Oceania

Wheat production forecast to decline in 2014 due to adverse dryness in parts

The prospects for the 2014 winter cereal crops in **Australia** have improved in some parts, particularly Western Australia, where rainfall in September benefitted late-planted crops. However, reflecting prolonged dry conditions earlier in the season in Western Australia, and persisting moisture deficits in southern growing regions, the overall outlook is for a reduction in the country's wheat production this year, despite an increase in plantings. The latest official estimate in September puts the country's total wheat output in 2014 at 24.2 million tonnes, 10 percent down from last year.

The early outlook for the minor summer grain crop for harvest in 2015, mainly sorghum and maize to be planted in the coming weeks, points to a significant 26 percent increase in sorghum area. Conditions for planting are reported to be favourable as widespread rainfall received in mid-August increased the level of upper layer soil moisture. However, further rainfall will be required during the spring and summer to realize the forecast planted area. At this early stage, assuming average yields, production of sorghum in 2014 is forecast to rise by 67 percent to 1.8 million tonnes.

Statistical appendix

Table A1. Global cereal supply and demand indicators

(percent)

	Average 2007/08 - 2011/12	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
1. Ratio of world stocks to utilization						
Wheat	25.2	26.4	26.3	23.0	25.2	26.9
Coarse grains	15.9	14.8	15.3	13.8	17.6	20.2
Rice	29.9	30.9	33.9	35.7	36.2	34.8
Total cereals	21.5	21.5	22.4	20.9	23.5	25.2
2. Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to normal market requirements	121.1	124.5	115.8	118.3	108.2	121.8
3. Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance						
Wheat	18.3	20.7	17.9	14.1	14.1	15.6
Coarse grains	12.9	10.7	10.8	8.4	11.1	15.0
Rice	22.0	20.7	25.2	28.2	27.7	25.1
Total cereals	17.7	17.4	18.0	16.9	17.7	18.6
	Annual trend growth rate 2004-2013	**Change from previous year**				
		2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**
4. Changes in world cereal production	2.2	-0.4	4.3	-2.1	9.6	-0.1
5. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs	1.2	8.9	1.8	4.5	0.8	-1.2
6. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs less India	-0.5	9.9	-3.7	6.3	1.1	-0.4
	Average 2007-2011	**Change from previous year**				
		2010	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014***
7. Selected cereal price indices:						
Wheat	184.9	10.6	31.8	-4.8	-4.9	-6.7
Maize	194.8	12.0	57.6	2.2	-12.9	-28.8
Rice	232.2	-10.0	6.6	-4.6	0.8	0.2

Notes:

Utilization is defined as the sum of food use, feed and other uses.

Cereals refer to wheat, coarse grains and rice; grains refer to wheat and coarse grains.

Major wheat exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the EU, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

Normal market requirements for major grain exporters are defined as the average of domestic utilization plus exports in the three preceding seasons.

Disappearance is defined as domestic utilization plus exports for any given season.

Price indices: The Wheat Price Index has been constructed based on the IGC Wheat Price Index, rebased to 2002-2004=100; for maize, the U.S. maize No.2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base 2002-2004=100; for rice, the FAO Rice Price Index, 2002-2004=100, is based on 16 rice export quotations.

*January-September average.

Table A2. World cereal stocks[1]

(million tonnes)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014 estimate	2015 forecast
TOTAL CEREALS	**523.1**	**501.2**	**521.4**	**504.9**	**579.5**	**627.5**
Wheat	**190.1**	**184.8**	**180.8**	**158.2**	**176.5**	**192.4**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	55.2	51.2	42.7	36.0	40.1	41.4
- others	134.9	133.6	138.1	122.2	136.4	151.0
Coarse grains	**195.4**	**171.0**	**178.5**	**171.0**	**221.8**	**257.4**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	87.7	62.8	59.5	47.8	68.7	90.8
- others	107.7	108.2	119.0	123.2	153.1	166.6
Rice (milled basis)	**137.6**	**145.4**	**162.1**	**175.7**	**181.3**	**177.7**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	33.4	33.3	41.5	47.3	48.4	44.6
- others	104.2	112.1	120.6	128.4	132.9	133.1
Developed countries	**191.7**	**153.3**	**150.4**	**117.8**	**142.0**	**175.5**
Australia	7.5	9.7	7.8	5.1	6.7	5.3
Canada	13.6	11.2	9.4	8.2	15.4	8.9
European Union	45.7	32.5	32.7	25.8	33.4	37.8
Japan	4.8	4.8	4.9	5.2	4.7	5.3
Russian Federation	21.2	18.0	15.2	7.6	9.2	16.8
South Africa	3.1	4.0	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.7
Ukraine	6.8	5.3	10.9	6.6	8.1	9.9
United States	75.9	57.3	49.3	44.2	49.7	74.1
Developing countries	**331.4**	**347.8**	**371.0**	**387.1**	**437.5**	**451.9**
Asia	**275.9**	**285.3**	**306.2**	**331.7**	**368.4**	**381.8**
China	164.2	167.6	172.6	188.9	217.6	231.1
India	35.5	38.3	45.6	49.4	52.2	52.8
Indonesia	8.3	10.4	12.4	13.6	14.0	12.8
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	5.0	3.6	2.1	6.6	7.7	9.5
Korea, Republic of	3.8	4.3	4.2	4.0	4.6	5.1
Pakistan	4.8	3.4	5.4	3.7	3.8	4.2
Philippines	4.3	3.3	2.6	3.1	3.0	3.2
Syrian Arab Republic	4.7	3.8	3.4	2.6	2.2	1.4
Turkey	4.2	4.1	4.9	4.2	5.1	4.7
Africa	**30.2**	**34.9**	**37.3**	**35.2**	**38.0**	**35.3**
Algeria	3.5	4.0	4.7	5.4	6.9	6.7
Egypt	6.6	5.9	7.8	6.1	6.7	5.7
Ethiopia	1.5	1.9	2.0	1.9	2.6	2.0
Morocco	3.1	4.0	4.6	3.4	5.9	5.1
Nigeria	1.2	1.4	1.3	0.8	1.3	1.0
Tunisia	1.5	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.1	1.3
Central America	**4.4**	**6.1**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**6.2**	**6.3**
Mexico	2.4	3.7	2.3	2.5	3.5	3.5
South America	**20.6**	**21.1**	**22.2**	**14.9**	**24.5**	**28.2**
Argentina	2.1	5.5	4.9	2.2	5.2	7.8
Brazil	11.9	8.4	9.1	5.6	11.3	13.0

Note: Based on official and unofficial estimates. Totals computed from unrounded data.

[1] Stocks data are based on an aggregate of carryovers at the end of national crop years and do not represent world stock levels at any point in time.

[2] Major wheat exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the EU, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America; major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

Table A3. Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains

(USD/tonne)

	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum
	US No.2 Hard Red Winter Ord. Prot.[1]	US Soft Red Winter No.2 [2]	Argentina Trigo Pan[3]	US No.2 Yellow[2]	Argentina[3]	US No.2 Yellow[2]
Annual (July/June)						
2003/04	161	149	154	115	109	118
2004/05	154	138	123	97	90	99
2005/06	175	138	138	104	101	108
2006/07	212	176	188	150	145	155
2007/08	361	311	318	200	192	206
2008/09	270	201	234	188	180	170
2009/10	209	185	224	160	168	165
2010/11	316	289	311	254	260	248
2011/12	300	256	264	281	269	264
2012/13	348	310	336	311	278	281
2013/14	318	265	335	217	219	218
Monthly						
2012 - September	372	341	336	323	278	286
2012 - October	373	339	332	320	274	290
2012 - November	374	346	345	324	294	289
2012 - December	359	325	360	310	288	288
2013 - January	348	311	362	303	294	287
2013 - February	329	297	358	303	283	288
2013 - March	323	286	346	309	276	297
2013 - April	324	279	324	282	242	261
2013 - May	329	277	315	295	257	254
2013 - June	321	270	310	300	264	246
2013 - July	311	257	302	282	241	232
2013 - August	315	251	281	238	221	219
2013 - September	312	258	300	209	219	217
2013 - October	333	289	344	201	207	204
2013 - November	317	274	353	199	207	196
2013 - December	301	267	340	197	212	207
2014 - January	288	248	330	198	215	216
2014 - February	303	261	328	209	218	224
2014 - March	334	285	340	222	226	228
2014 - April	340	281	361	224	229	226
2014 - May	345	271	372	217	224	223
2014 - June	314	235	365	202	204	220
2014 - July	294	218	287	182	192	203
2014 - August	284	219	270	175	181	183
2014 - September	279	204	248	164	166	174

Sources: International Grains Council and USDA.

[1] Delivered United States f.o.b. Gulf.

[2] Delivered United States Gulf.

[3] Up River f.o.b.

Table A4a. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2013/14 or 2014 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2012/13 or 2013 Actual imports			2013/14 or 2014 Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements *(excl. re-exports)*	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
AFRICA		**24 923.3**	**1 135.9**	**26 059.2**	**29 023.9**	**13 386.2**	**760.6**	**12 625.6**
Eastern Africa		**6 795.9**	**512.0**	**7 307.9**	**8 754.1**	**4 510.0**	**604.1**	**3 905.9**
Burundi	Jan/Dec	138.4	13.3	151.7	125.0	28.2	5.1	23.1
Comoros	Jan/Dec	59.5	0.0	59.5	61.0	16.2	0.0	16.2
Djibouti	Jan/Dec	97.1	10.4	107.5	98.0	83.4	1.8	81.6
Eritrea	Jan/Dec	399.0	7.0	406.0	419.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
Ethiopia	Jan/Dec	329.1	129.7	458.8	763.7	224.4	136.7	87.7
Kenya	Oct/Sep	1 951.0	76.6	2 027.6	2 421.9	1 134.2	108.5	1 025.7
Rwanda	Jan/Dec	146.0	0.7	146.7	116.2	52.8	0.8	52.0
Somalia	Aug/Jul	392.8	63.3	456.1	530.8	133.2	79.3	53.9
Sudan	Nov/Oct	2 139.9	172.6	2 312.5	2 855.0	1 878.2	216.4	1 661.8
Tanzania U.R.	Jun/May	768.6	9.3	777.9	858.5	790.8	48.6	742.2
Uganda	Jan/Dec	374.5	29.1	403.6	505.0	168.1	6.9	161.2
Southern Africa		**1 795.3**	**220.0**	**2 015.3**	**2 950.4**	**2 003.6**	**45.6**	**1 958.0**
Lesotho	Apr/Mar	242.0	5.0	247.0	173.0	110.0	1.2	108.8
Madagascar	Apr/Mar	241.5	16.6	258.1	570.4	249.7	16.5	233.2
Malawi	Apr/Mar	79.0	18.2	97.2	212.0	204.0	18.9	185.1
Mozambique	Apr/Mar	760.2	120.8	881.0	1 254.0	1 010.2	4.3	1 005.9
Zimbabwe	Apr/Mar	472.6	59.4	532.0	741.0	429.7	4.7	425.0
Western Africa		**14 428.5**	**228.7**	**14 657.2**	**15 198.4**	**6 111.6**	**82.6**	**6 029.0**
Coastal Countries		***10 920.9***	***79.0***	***10 999.9***	***11 605.5***	***4 580.6***	***9.3***	***4 571.3***
Benin	Jan/Dec	433.0	14.0	447.0	462.0	462.0	0.0	462.0
Côte d'Ivoire	Jan/Dec	1 767.2	3.4	1 770.6	1 820.5	714.8	3.9	710.9
Ghana	Jan/Dec	1 038.9	6.1	1 045.0	1 050.0	318.9	2.3	316.6
Guinea	Jan/Dec	456.8	5.6	462.4	432.5	201.5	1.5	200.0
Liberia	Jan/Dec	340.0	44.0	384.0	414.0	102.0	0.7	101.3
Nigeria	Jan/Dec	6 320.0	0.0	6 320.0	6 870.0	2 468.5	0.0	2 468.5
Sierra Leone	Jan/Dec	320.0	5.4	325.4	291.0	164.9	0.9	164.0
Togo	Jan/Dec	245.0	0.5	245.5	265.5	148.0	0.0	148.0
Sahelian Countries		***3 507.6***	***149.7***	***3 657.3***	***3 592.9***	***1 531.0***	***73.3***	***1 457.7***
Burkina Faso	Nov/Oct	436.9	7.2	444.1	415.0	74.8	5.1	69.7
Chad	Nov/Oct	118.2	59.6	177.8	142.2	67.1	35.4	31.7
Gambia	Nov/Oct	192.0	20.5	212.5	205.5	114.8	0.1	114.7
Guinea-Bissau	Nov/Oct	148.1	6.2	154.3	154.3	26.7	1.7	25.0
Mali	Nov/Oct	199.6	11.6	211.2	258.2	157.6	6.3	151.3
Mauritania	Nov/Oct	457.0	13.5	470.5	487.0	259.3	2.6	256.7
Niger	Nov/Oct	431.7	30.2	461.9	457.4	65.1	18.2	46.9
Senegal	Nov/Oct	1 524.1	0.9	1 525.0	1 473.3	765.6	3.9	761.7
Central Africa		**1 903.6**	**175.2**	**2 078.8**	**2 121.0**	**761.0**	**28.3**	**732.7**
Cameroon	Jan/Dec	948.3	1.8	950.1	947.0	413.9	5.5	408.4
Cent.Afr.Rep.	Jan/Dec	39.7	11.3	51.0	75.0	12.5	7.8	4.7
Congo	Jan/Dec	303.2	7.8	311.0	312.0	164.7	1.3	163.4
Dem.Rep.of the Congo	Jan/Dec	599.7	150.3	750.0	770.0	163.9	13.4	150.5
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan/Dec	12.7	4.0	16.7	17.0	6.0	0.3	5.7

Source: FAO

[1] The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc

[2] Estimates based on information as of early September 2014.

Table A4b. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2013/14 or 2014 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2012/13 or 2013 Actual imports			2013/14 or 2014 Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements *(excl. re-exports)*	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
ASIA		**17 034.9**	**654.1**	**17 689.0**	**21 656.6**	**13 142.9**	**209.0**	**12 933.9**
Cis in Asia		**3 657.5**	**3.7**	**3 661.2**	**3 978.1**	**3 841.5**	**0.7**	**3 840.8**
Kyrgyzstan	Jul/Jun	525.5	3.7	529.2	566.1	541.0	0.7	540.3
Tajikistan	Jul/Jun	1 112.0	0.0	1 112.0	1 022.0	1 022.0	0.0	1 022.0
Uzbekistan	Jul/Jun	2 020.0	0.0	2 020.0	2 390.0	2 278.5	0.0	2 278.5
Far East		**7 876.4**	**499.4**	**8 375.8**	**11 516.5**	**6 529.8**	**147.5**	**6 382.3**
Bangladesh	Jul/Jun	1 973.3	131.2	2 104.5	3 430.0	1 953.2	74.6	1 878.6
Bhutan	Jul/Jun	78.0	0.0	78.0	77.1	8.2	0.0	8.2
D.P.R. of Korea	Nov/Oct	108.3	290.3	398.6	340.1	39.4	22.4	17.0
India	Apr/Mar	116.6	0.5	117.1	130.0	78.1	0.0	78.1
Mongolia	Oct/Sep	115.8	0.0	115.8	155.8	43.7	0.0	43.7
Nepal	Jul/Jun	530.1	1.7	531.8	521.8	7.3	4.4	2.9
Philippines	Jul/Jun	3 851.0	40.0	3 891.0	5 787.0	4 025.5	45.9	3 979.6
Sri Lanka	Jan/Dec	1 103.3	35.7	1 139.0	1 074.7	374.4	0.2	374.2
Near East		**5 501.0**	**151.0**	**5 652.0**	**6 162.0**	**2 771.6**	**60.8**	**2 710.8**
Afghanistan	Jul/Jun	1 551.0	101.0	1 652.0	1 942.0	941.3	14.8	926.5
Yemen	Jan/Dec	3 950.0	50.0	4 000.0	4 220.0	1 830.3	46.0	1 784.3
CENTRAL AMERICA		**1 703.1**	**91.2**	**1 794.3**	**1 929.4**	**1 422.6**	**24.2**	**1 398.4**
Haiti	Jul/Jun	542.3	82.4	624.7	656.1	432.4	17.6	414.8
Honduras	Jul/Jun	749.2	6.0	755.2	877.0	694.6	3.5	691.1
Nicaragua	Jul/Jun	411.6	2.8	414.4	396.3	295.6	3.1	292.5
OCEANIA		**470.9**	**0.0**	**470.9**	**450.2**	**129.1**	**0.0**	**129.1**
Papua New Guinea	Jan/Dec	390.2	0.0	390.2	415.2	120.4	0.0	120.4
Solomon Islands	Jan/Dec	80.7	0.0	80.7	35.0	8.7	0.0	8.7
TOTAL		**44 132.2**	**1 881.2**	**46 013.4**	**53 060.1**	**28 080.8**	**993.8**	**27 087.0**

Source: FAO

[1] The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc

[2] Estimates based on information as of early September 2014.

Table A5. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1], 2014/15 estimates

(thousand tonnes)

		2013/14 Actual imports			2014/15 Import position[2]			
	Marketing year	Commercial purchases	Food aid	Total commercial and aid	Total import requirements *(excl. re-exports)*	Total commercial and aid	Food aid allocated, committed or shipped	Commercial purchases
AFRICA		**2 754.1**	**173.5**	**2 927.6**	**3 839.0**	**371.2**	**15.6**	**355.6**
Eastern Africa		**796.1**	**127.9**	**924.0**	**1 370.0**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**0.0**
Somalia	Aug/Jul	53.9	79.3	133.2	620.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
United Rep. of Tanzania	Jun/May	742.2	48.6	790.8	750.0	1.6	1.6	0.0
Southern Africa		**1 958.0**	**45.6**	**2 003.6**	**2 469.0**	**369.6**	**14.0**	**355.6**
Lesotho	Apr/Mar	108.8	1.2	110.0	228.0	87.5	1.1	86.4
Madagascar	Apr/Mar	233.2	16.5	249.7	710.0	5.2	2.9	2.3
Malawi	Apr/Mar	185.1	18.9	204.0	111.0	19.6	9.0	10.6
Mozambique	Apr/Mar	1 005.9	4.3	1 010.2	975.0	132.6	0.7	131.9
Zimbabwe	Apr/Mar	425.0	4.7	429.7	445.0	124.7	0.3	124.4
ASIA		**10 714.7**	**140.4**	**10 855.1**	**15 278.5**	**222.0**	**17.9**	**204.1**
CIS in Asia		**3 840.8**	**0.7**	**3 841.5**	**3 856.2**	**202.9**	**0.0**	**202.9**
Kyrgyzstan	Jul/Jun	540.3	0.7	541.0	626.2	68.3	0.0	68.3
Tajikistan	Jul/Jun	1 022.0	0.0	1 022.0	1 063.0	5.2	0.0	5.2
Uzbekistan	Jul/Jun	2 278.5	0.0	2 278.5	2 167.0	129.4	0.0	129.4
Far East		**5 947.4**	**124.9**	**6 072.3**	**9 375.3**	**3.9**	**2.7**	**1.2**
Bangladesh	Jul/Jun	1 878.6	74.6	1 953.2	3 130.0	2.7	2.7	0.0
Bhutan	Jul/Jun	8.2	0.0	8.2	77.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	Apr/Mar	78.1	0.0	78.1	113.9	1.2	0.0	1.2
Nepal	Jul/Jun	2.9	4.4	7.3	566.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Philippines	Jul/Jun	3 979.6	45.9	4 025.5	5 487.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Near East		**926.5**	**14.8**	**941.3**	**2 047.0**	**15.2**	**15.2**	**0.0**
Afghanistan	Jul/Jun	926.5	14.8	941.3	2 047.0	15.2	15.2	0.0
CENTRAL AMERICA		**1 398.4**	**24.2**	**1 422.6**	**2 157.1**	**1.3**	**1.3**	**0.0**
Haiti	Jul/Jun	414.8	17.6	432.4	684.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Honduras	Jul/Jun	691.1	3.5	694.6	965.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nicaragua	Jul/Jun	292.5	3.1	295.6	508.0	1.3	1.3	0.0
TOTAL		**14 867.2**	**338.1**	**15 205.3**	**21 274.6**	**594.5**	**34.8**	**559.7**

Source: FAO

[1] The Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) group includes net food deficit countries with annual per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 945 in 2011); for full details see http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/lifdc

[2] Estimates based on information as of early September 2014.

Monitoring and analysis of **Domestic Food Prices** in support of Early Warning for Food Security

FPMA website

The new Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) website, developed by GIEWS to strengthen market and food security assessments, contains latest information and dynamic analysis on domestic prices of basic foods mainly in developing countries, complementing FAO's work on international markets.

What's in the website?

- ►map visualizing countries with abnormally high food prices
- ►domestic food price roundups by region
- ►overview of international benchmark prices
- ►latest food policy and market developments
- ►relevant market indicators

FPMA data tool

The online GIEWS data and analysis tool provides easy access to over 1 100 monthly retail and/or wholesale domestic staple food price series in 85 countries, as well as 43 international export price series (as of September 2014). The tool also contains a series of analysis features, including basic statistics and multi-series charts.

FPMA bulletin

The FPMA activities include a monthly electronic bulletin, the Global Food Price Monitor, reporting on recent food price developments at world, regional and country level, with focus on developing countries.

www.fao.org/giews/food-prices

FPMA
Food Price Monitoring and Analysis

GIEWS The Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture

continuously monitors crop prospects and food security situation at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and warns of impending food difficulties and emergencies. Established in the wake of the world food crisis of the early 1970s, GIEWS maintains a unique database on all aspects of food supply and demand for every country of the world. The System regularly provides policy makers and the international community with up-to-date information so that timely interventions can be planned and suffering avoided.

Crop Prospects and Food Situation is published by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO under the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). It is published four times a year and focuses on developments affecting the food situation of developing countries and the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs) in particular. The report provides a review of the food situation by geographic region, a section dedicated to the LIFDCs and a list of countries requiring external assistance for food. It also includes a global cereal supply and demand overview to complement the biannual analysis in the ***Food Outlook*** publication. ***Crop Prospects and Food Situation*** is available in English, French and Spanish in electronic format.

Crop Prospects and Food Situation and other GIEWS reports are available on the internet as part of the FAO world wide web (**http:/www.fao.org/**) at the following URL address: **http:/www.fao.org/giews/**. In addition, GIEWS ***Special Reports*** and ***Special Alerts***, when published, can be received by e-mail through automatic mailing lists: subscription information is available at **http:/www.fao.org/giews/english/listserv.htm**.

This report is based on information available as of early September 2014.

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