No. 1 ■ February 2009

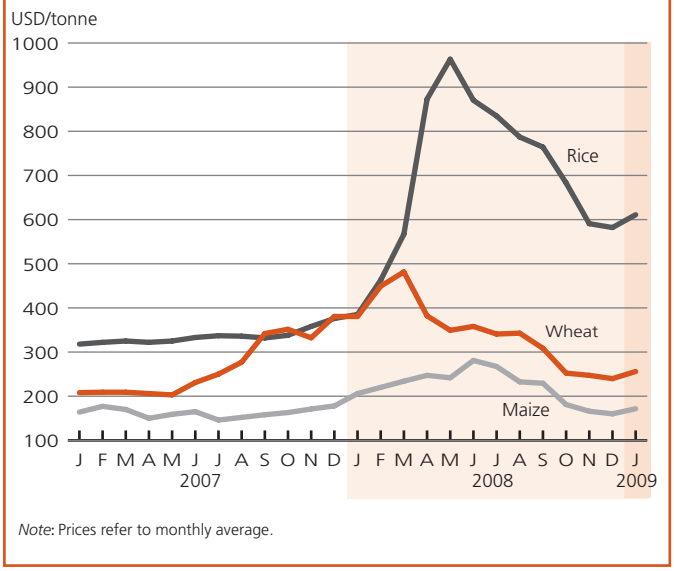
Crop Prospects and Food Situation

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Early indications point to a reduction in global cereal output in 2009 from the previous year's record**. Smaller plantings and/or adverse weather look likely to bring grain production down in most of the world's major producers.
- **In Low-Income Food-Deficit countries, prospects for the early 2009 cereal crops point to a lower output.** Good crops are expected in North Africa. Although the early outlook has improved in southern Africa a lower maize crop is still expected; prolonged dry weather is adversely affecting wheat prospects in most of Asia, where much depends on the rice crop yet to be planted.
- **Latest information confirms an easing of the cereal supply/demand situation in the Low-Income Food-Deficit countries as a group in 2008/09**, following above-average harvests in 2008.
- **Prices of food staples remain at high levels in several developing countries.** In some countries where they have decreased following improved 2008 cereal outputs and lower international cereal prices, they are, however, well above their levels a year earlier.
- **Food crises persist in 32 countries around the world.** The situation is of particular concern in the **Gaza Strip** as a result of the recent conflict. In **Kenya**, **Somalia** and **Zimbabwe**, the food security situation is precarious following drought-reduced crops, civil disturbance and/or economic crisis.
- **In South America, the 2008 wheat production was halved by drought in Argentina**, and persistent dry weather is adversely affecting prospects for the 2009 coarse grains in the sub-region.

CONTENTS

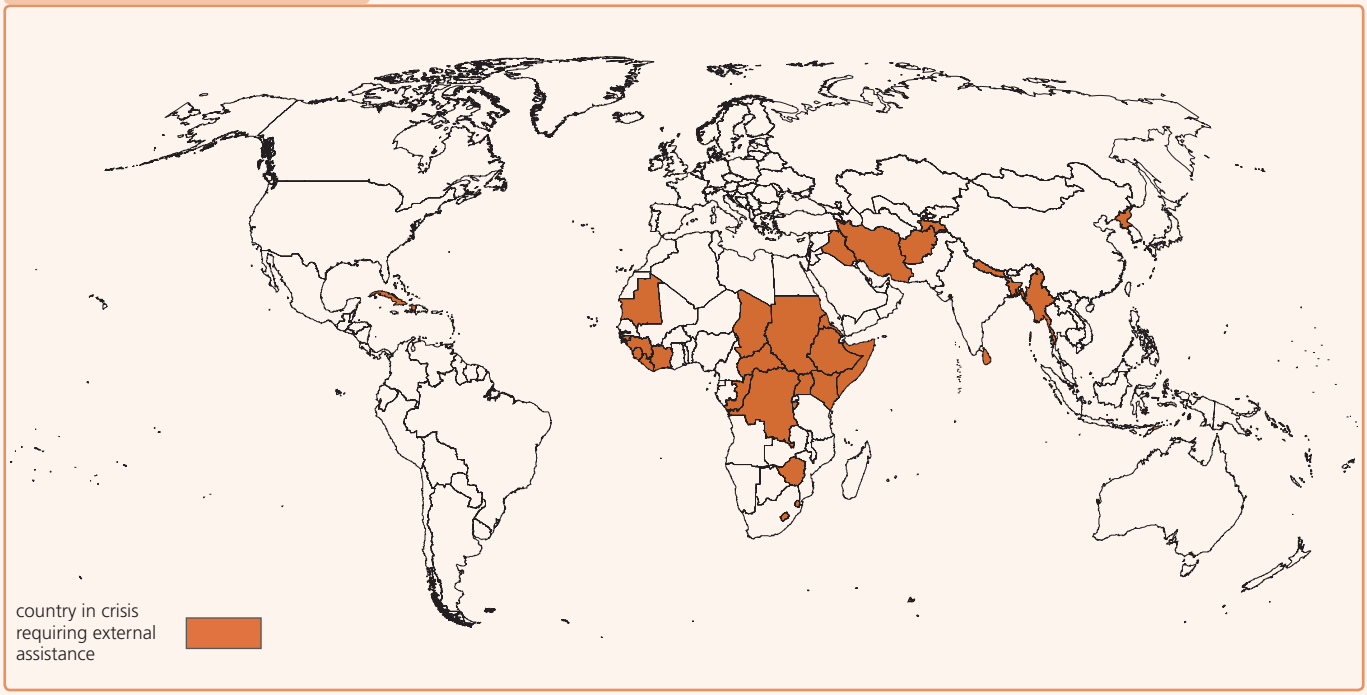
Selected international cereal prices



Note: Prices refer to monthly average.

Countries in crisis requiring external assistance[1]

World: 32 countries



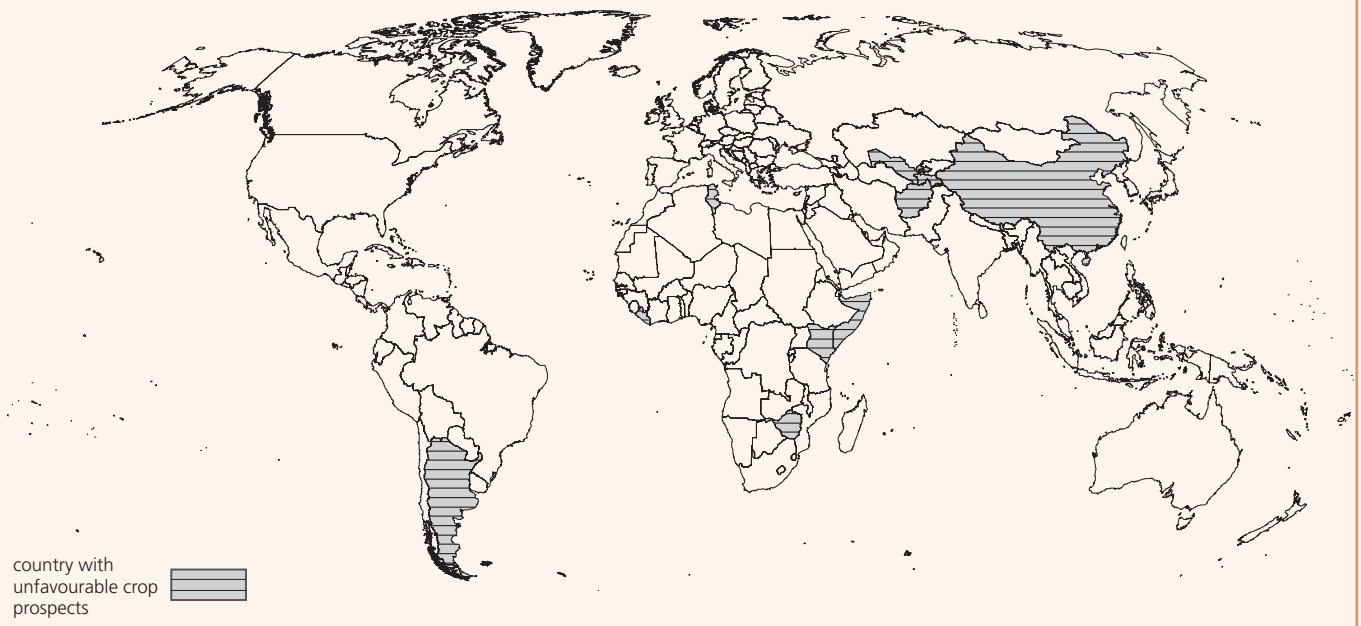
Country/Nature of food insecurity	Main reason for food insecurity	Change since last report (Dec. 2008)
AFRICA (20 countries)		
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies		
Kenya	Civil strife, adverse weather, pests	▼
Lesotho	Low productivity, HIV/AIDS pandemic	▼
Somalia	Conflict, economic crisis, adverse weather	▼
Swaziland	Low productivity, HIV/AIDS pandemic	▼
Zimbabwe	Deepening economic crisis	▼
Widespread lack of access		
Eritrea	IDPs, economic constraints	■
Liberia	War related damage, pests	▼
Mauritania	Several years of drought	■
Sierra Leone	War related damage	■
Severe localized food insecurity		
Burundi	Civil strife, IDPs and returnees	■
Central African Republic	Refugees, insecurity in parts	■
Chad	Refugees, conflict	■
Congo	IDPs	■
Côte d'Ivoire	Conflict related damage	■
Dem. Rep. of Congo	Civil strife, returnees	■
Ethiopia	Insecurity in parts, localized crop failure	▼
Guinea	Refugees, conflict	■
Guinea-Bissau	Localized insecurity	■
Sudan	Civil strife (Darfur), insecurity (southern Sudan), localized crop failure	▼
Uganda	Localized crop failure, insecurity	▼
ASIA (10 countries)		
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production/supplies		
Iraq	Insecurity and insufficient rainfall	▼
Widespread lack of access		
Afghanistan	Conflict and insecurity, inadequate rainfall	■
DPR Korea	Economic constraints	■
Severe localized food insecurity		
Bangladesh	Past floods and cyclone	▲
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Past drought	■
Myanmar	Past cyclone	▲
Nepal	Poor market access and past drought/ floods	▲
Sri Lanka	Conflict	■
Tajikistan	Winter crop damage, poor market access, locusts	▼
Timor-Leste	IDPs	■
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (2 countries)		
Severe localized food insecurity		
Cuba	Past floods and other hurricane damage	▲
Haiti	Past floods and other hurricane damage	▲

Key to tables

No change ■ Improving ▲ Deteriorating ▼ New Entry ✚

Countries with unfavourable prospects for current crops[2]

World: 10 countries



Country	Main reason for unfavourable prospects	Change since last report (Dec. 2008)
AFRICA (5 countries)		
Kenya	Insufficient rainfall in parts	✚
Liberia	pests	✚
Somalia	Insufficient rainfall in parts	✚
Tunisia	Insufficient rainfall	▼
Zimbabwe	Economic constraints	✚
ASIA (4 countries)		
Afghanistan	Adverse weather, limited input supplies and high food prices	▼
China	Localized drought (northern and western parts)	✚
Tajikistan	Adverse weather	▼
Uzbekistan	Adverse weather	▼
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (1 country)		
Argentina	Insufficient rainfall	■

Terminology

[1] Countries in crisis requiring external assistance 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 the area planted and/or adverse weather conditions, plant pests, diseases and other calamities, which indicate a need for close monitoring of the crop for the remainder of the growing season.

Food emergencies update

In **Western Africa**, a recent outbreak of caterpillar in northern **Liberia** is threatening the important cassava output and poses a serious threat to the country's food security. The situation needs to be closely monitored as, should the infestation spread to neighbouring Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cote d'Ivoire, it could translate into a regional crisis. Otherwise in the subregion, although a good 2008 cereal crop was gathered in most countries, the food security outlook remains a concern due to the very low cereal carryovers at the beginning of the 2008/09 marketing year and persisting high food prices.

In **Eastern Africa**, more than 18 million people face serious food insecurity due either to conflict, unrest, or adverse weather or a combined effect. In **Somalia**, the large displacement of civilians due to conflict, mainly in Mogadishu, and several of consecutive seasons of well-below average crop production have rendered hundreds of thousands of people dependent on food assistance. Poor production from the current 'deyr' (secondary) season has exacerbated the problem. An estimated 3.5 million people require food assistance. In **Kenya**, millions of people are faced with serious food insecurity due to displacement, civil insecurity, poor rainfall, rising food prices, reduced cereal production and livestock diseases. Pastoralists in arid and semi-arid lands of northern Kenya, vulnerable population in Eastern Kenya and coastal lowland areas, as well as the urban poor are amongst the worst affected. The Government has declared a state of National Disaster and indicated that about 10 million people are highly food insecure including 3.2 million drought-affected people; about 150 000 IDPs; 850 000 school children; 3.5 million urban dwellers, and about 2.2 million persons affected by HIV and AIDS, including orphans. Rapid assessments are planned for February to gauge the full extent of food insecurity. In **Eritrea**, cereal prices remain high affecting the food security of large sections of the population. In **Ethiopia**, despite some easing of food prices following the recent good "meher" (main) season harvest, the food security of millions of people continues to be adversely affected by above-average food prices, the effects of the poor secondary season crop earlier in the year and civil insecurity in parts. In **Sudan**, recent escalation of conflict in Darfur is a cause for serious concern and is expected to exacerbate the dire food security situation faced already by millions. In southern Sudan, despite an overall improvement in the supply of cereals, inadequate transport and marketing systems will prevent any significant movements from surplus to deficit areas. In **Djibouti**, large-scale food aid distributions across the country have alleviated food insecurity for the time being although the primary reasons for the food insecurity (e.g. poor pasture and water availability, and high food prices) remain. Some 340 000 people, nearly half of the population, are reported to be currently in need of assistance. In **Uganda**, the population at risk of food insecurity, estimated at some 1.5 million, will remain largely dependant on humanitarian support.

In **Southern Africa**, the slow pace of imports combined with high seasonal food demand for purchased grains in the market during these peak hunger months have kept food prices high in food-deficit countries. This and the fact that there was no significant improvement in the winter crops recently harvested, have caused the number of food insecure people during the 2008/09 marketing year to increase almost by one-third compared to the previous year. Various national Vulnerability Assessment Committees (VACs) and FAO/WFP Missions have placed the total number of food insecure at some 8.7 million, including those in **Zimbabwe** (about 5.1 million), **Lesotho** (353 000) and **Swaziland** (239 000), where external assistance is required. In **Zimbabwe**, the ongoing outbreak of cholera with nearly 58 000 recorded cases, of which 3 000 fatalities, since August (OCHA data) has posed a serious threat to health and nutrition of the vulnerable population there.

In the **Great Lakes region**, recent fighting in the north-eastern parts of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** has displaced as many as 250 000 people who need food and non-food assistance. High food prices continue to adversely affect a large number of vulnerable households in **Burundi**, necessitating food and agricultural aid, especially for resettlement of returnees and IDPs.

In **Far East Asia**, severe drought conditions in the major wheat producing areas of **China** give rise to serious concern. If significant rainfall doesn't arrive soon for development of crops this spring, output will be sharply reduced, with negative impact on local food supplies and farmers' incomes. In **Myanmar**, thousands of people in areas where 2008 food production was affected by cyclone Nargis still depend on food and agricultural assistance. The food security situation of a large number of people in **Sri Lanka** continues to be affected by the resurgence of civil conflict. Severe food shortages persist in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** after two years of sharply reduced harvests.

In the **Near East**, the food situation in the **Gaza Strip** is very serious due the recent conflict. Much of the population in Gaza has been severely affected by the war during the 20-day period starting on 27 December 2008. This has made the already fragile food insecurity situation critically worse, particularly for those with no access to food and other essentials. In view of this, an Emergency Operation was jointly approved by FAO and WFP in January 2009 to provide food

assistance to 365 000 most affected people, including social hardship cases, vulnerable groups, internally-displaced people and affected farmers over a period of 12 months (20 January 2009 to 19 January 2010). In addition, an Emergency Response to High Food Prices in the **West Bank** was jointly approved by FAO and WFP to assist 31 000 most affected people with cash-based vouchers worth about USD 4.17 million (equivalent to about 5 000 tonnes of food) over a period of 12 months (February 2009 to January 2010). Elsewhere, in the **Syrian Arab Republic**, poor and irregular rains during the 2007/08 growing season have threatened the food security of farmers and herders in the affected areas and seriously jeopardized their livelihoods and nutritional status. In response, an Emergency Operation was jointly approved by FAO and WFP in November 2008 for food assistance to 40 000 households (200 000 people), worth USD 5.2 million for a period of six months (15 November 2008 to 15 May 2009). In **Yemen**, the high food prices prevailing during much of 2008 have worsened the food security situation of poor households which were already suffering from moderate to severe food insecurity. In view of this, a joint FAO and WFP Emergency Operation was approved in January 2009 to assist about 511 000 most affected people (about 29 000 tonnes of food) over a period of 12 months (January to December 2009). In **Afghanistan**, insecurity and widespread lack of adequate access to food has being exacerbated by a drought-reduced harvest in 2008. The wheat import requirement for 2008/09 is estimated at 2.2 million tonnes, more than double the previous year's level, with a requirement of 700 000 tonnes to be covered as food assistance.

In the **Asian CIS**, in **Tajikistan**, widespread poor access to food has been exacerbated by a drought-reduced cereal crop in 2008 for the second year in succession. Reflecting the poor harvest, the cereal import requirement is estimated to be a high 560 000 tonnes. The country is having difficulties mobilizing cereal supplies commercially and food aid will be necessary to bring relief to the poor.

In **Central America and the Caribbean**, **Haiti** and **Cuba** are still recovering from the hurricane damages of the second half of the 2008 hurricane season. Food vulnerability has increased dramatically in both countries and FAO and WFP have approved two Emergency Operations for a period of six months to provide food assistance to the affected population and to avoid further disruption of local livelihoods.

Global cereal supply and demand brief

The 2008/09 marketing season brings a significant easing of the world cereal supply and demand balance

The sharp increase in world cereal production in 2008 has paved the way for a recovery in global cereal supply and demand balance in the 2008/09 marketing season. At 2 272 million tonnes, the latest forecast for world cereal production in 2008 is up 6.6 percent from 2007 and a new record. While output of all the main cereals has increased in 2008, the most significant growth has been registered for wheat (Figure 1). World cereal utilization in 2008/09 is forecast to reach 2 200 million tonnes, 3.5 percent more than in 2007/08. Thus, with production outstripping utilization by a comfortable margin (Figure 2), a substantial recovery in world cereal inventories from their critically low levels at the start of the season is foreseen. Confirming the improvement in global cereal supply and demand situation, the ratio of world cereal stocks at the close of the current 2008/09 seasons to total utilization expected in the next year is forecast to increase to 23 percent, up notably from the low of 19.4 percent in 2007/08 and closer to its longer-term average of around 24 percent. With wheat accounting for the bulk of the increase in global cereal stocks, the ratio for wheat will recover particularly strongly, while the situation for coarse grains remains relatively much tighter (Figure 3).

In a sharp contrast to the situation in 2007/08, with much of the increase in cereal production occurring in major exporting countries while growth in feed and industrial utilization is slowing because of the prevailing economic crisis, export supplies are expected to rebound sharply (Figure 4). This development has put significant downward pressure on international cereal prices, particularly during the first half of the 2008/09 season.

PRODUCTION – 2009 prospects

Mixed conditions for 2009 wheat crops

Conditions are generally favourable for the winter wheat throughout Europe and the United States but the planted area in these countries has declined, reflecting the prospect of sharply reduced returns compared to last year, combined with persisting high input costs. The most significant reductions are reported in the United States and European CIS. By contrast, larger winter wheat plantings are estimated in some Asian countries, especially where government support measures have been introduced to maintain/boost production such as in China, India and Pakistan. However, the benefits from these increases look likely to be minimal, if any, as the main wheat growing areas of China are suffering from severe drought and precipitation has also been somewhat scarce in India. Although the final global wheat area for the 2009 harvest will still depend on some major crops still to be planted later this year, such as in Canada, Argentina and Australia, based on the size of the reductions already reported, and assuming a return to

Figure 1. World cereal production by type

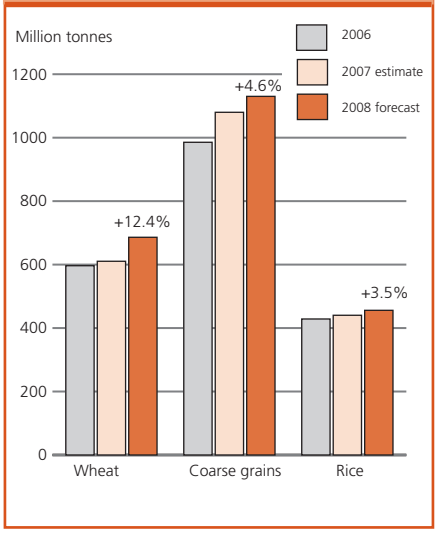


Figure 2. World cereal production and utilization

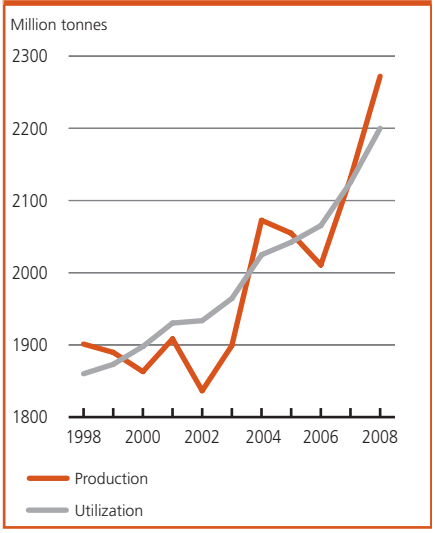
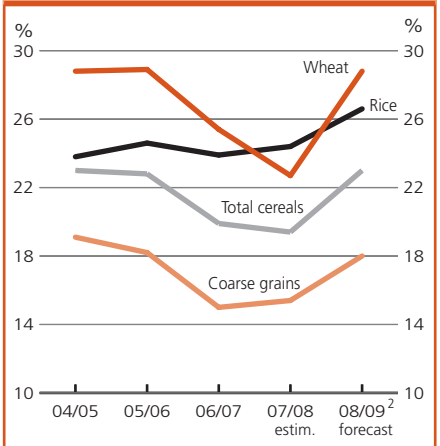


Figure 3. Ratio of world cereal stocks to utilization[1]



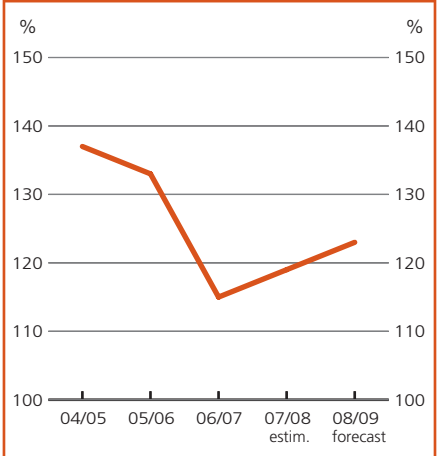
1 Compares closing stocks with utilization in following season
2 Utilization in 2008/09 is a trend value based on extrapolation from the 1998/99-2007/08 period.

average yields after exceptional high levels in some countries in 2008, a reduction in the global wheat harvest is likely in 2009, from the record level last year.

Drought threatens South America's main 2009 maize crops but conditions improve in Southern Africa

The outlook for the main maize crop in South America has turned unfavourable due to widespread drought in the major producing areas on top of high production costs that had already led farmers to scale down their planting intentions compared to last year. Many plantings were delayed or went uncompleted, while some developing crops have been irreversibly damaged and turned over to forage. In southern Africa, although growing conditions have generally improved with the arrival of good rains, a 2009 harvest below last year's record is still anticipated. Plantings are reported to be significantly reduced in South Africa, the subregion's major producer reflecting this year's less attractive price prospects, while there are concerns that the relatively high cost of inputs will limit their use throughout the subregion causing average yields to drop.

Figure 4. Ratio of major grain exporters supplies to normal market requirements[1]



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

The 2009 rice harvest is approaching in the southern hemisphere

The 2009 paddy season is well advanced in the southern hemisphere rice producing areas, with the harvest due to commence from March-April. Indonesia, by far the largest producer of these countries, is on the brink of achieving self-sufficiency in rice in 2009 if the targeted 63 million tonnes crop materializes. In South America, the outlook of 2009 paddy crop is mixed. In Brazil, harvesting is about to start output is set to rise further from the already above average crop in 2008. Despite the drought affecting other crops, Argentina has expanded plantings by about 10 percent from last year. By contrast, insufficient

Table 1. Basic facts of the world cereal situation (*million tonnes*)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change: 2008/09 over 2007/08 (%)
PRODUCTION[1]				
Wheat	596.5	610.5	686.1	12.4
Coarse grains	985.5	1 080.0	1 130.2	4.6
Rice (milled)	428.6	440.3	455.9	3.5
All cereals	**2 010.7**	**2 130.8**	**2 272.1**	**6.6**
Developing countries	1 155.2	1 205.8	1 233.1	2.3
Developed countries	855.5	925.0	1 039.0	12.3
TRADE[2]				
Wheat	113.5	112.2	118.9	6.0
Coarse grains	111.7	129.7	113.0	-12.8
Rice	32.4	30.8	30.9	0.2
All cereals	**257.6**	**272.6**	**262.8**	**-3.6**
Developing countries	79.0	84.0	73.7	-12.3
Developed countries	178.6	188.6	189.1	0.3
UTILIZATION				
Wheat	621.7	617.1	649.3	5.2
Coarse grains	1 016.5	1 070.6	1 102.8	3.0
Rice	427.1	437.4	448.0	2.4
All cereals	**2 065.3**	**2 125.1**	**2 200.1**	**3.5**
Developing countries	1 264.8	1 298.4	1 334.7	2.8
Developed countries	800.5	826.7	865.4	4.7
Per caput cereal food use *(kg per year)*	*152.0*	*152.6*	*153.3*	*0.4*
STOCKS[3]				
Wheat	156.7	147.4	182.9	24.1
- main exporters[4]	36.5	27.1	47.0	73.2
Coarse grains	160.6	169.8	195.8	15.3
- main exporters[4]	62.3	73.4	84.5	15.0
Rice	104.6	109.3	117.4	7.4
- main exporters[4]	23.1	25.9	28.4	9.6
All cereals	**421.9**	**426.6**	**496.2**	**16.3**
Developing countries	288.6	302.5	328.1	8.5
Developed countries	133.3	124.0	168.1	35.5

[1] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.
[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.
[4] The major wheat and coarse grain exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States.
The major rice exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.

water for irrigation is likely to constraints plantings and production in Uruguay.

PRODUCTION – 2008 roundup

Record cereal production in 2008

Global cereal production in 2008 is estimated at a record 2 272 million tonnes (including rice in milled terms), 6.6 up from the previous year. By cereal, the bulk of the increase by far is from wheat, although the global coarse grains and rice crops increased significantly (Figure 2). Turning to the regional distribution of the increase, output has risen throughout most parts of the globe, with the exception of the Near East and the neighbouring CIS countries in Asia, where the season was negatively affected by drought, and in North America, where production of maize in the United States retreated from an exceptionally high level in 2007. However, although increasing in most parts, the bulk of the increase is confined to the developed countries, which accounted in particular for the strong recovery in wheat production. While in developed countries the 2008 cereal output is estimated 12.3 percent higher than in the previous year, in developing countries the expansion was just 2.3 percent. This mainly reflects a weak supply response in Asia, accounting for three-quarters of the developing countries' production, where the aggregate cereal output remained virtually unchanged. Although some moderate growth was recorded in the main producing countries in the Far East, taking production there to new record levels, this was offset by reductions in the Near East.

Total cereal utilization expands and food use rises on per caput terms

World **cereal** utilization is forecast to reach 2 200 million tonnes in 2008/09, up 3.5 percent from 2007/08. Improved world supplies and projected lower prices are expected to result in a general increase in per caput food consumption of cereals. At the global level, the per caput food use is forecast to reach 153.3 kg, up from 152.6 kg in 2007/08.

Total **wheat** utilization is forecast to increase by 5 percent in 2008/09, after a contraction in the previous season when supplies were particularly tight. Total feed utilization of wheat is seen to increase sharply in 2008/09, rising by 23 percent from the previous season's reduced level, largely in the EU where wheat production recovered greatly in 2008. Food utilization of wheat is expected to expand by 1.3 percent overall to reach 452 million tonnes, but the increase in the developing countries group is forecast to be stronger at 1.8 percent.

World utilization of **coarse grains** is forecast at 1 103 million tonnes, up 3 percent from the previous season. Feed usage of coarse grains is forecast virtually unchanged in 2008/09 at some 639 million tonnes, reflecting weaker demand because of the global economic downturn and substitution with feed wheat, supplies of which are much more abundant this year, especially in the EU. However, food use of coarse grains is forecast to increase by 2 percent from the previous season to reach 191 million tonnes, with most of the growth expected in Africa where production rose in several countries. Other uses of coarse grains are also expected to increase this year, by 9 percent to 273 million tonnes, largely on account of a further expansion in the use of maize for production of ethanol in the United States.

World **rice** utilization (mainly food consumption) is expected to increase again in the current year, rising by 2.4 percent. On a per caput basis, average rice consumption as food is forecast to rise to 57.3 kg in 2008/09, after an estimated 56.9 kg in the past two years. With the global financial crisis negatively affecting household incomes, consumers are expected to shift away from more expensive animal products back to staples such as rice.

World cereal stocks to recover

Based on the latest estimates of **cereal** production in 2008 and the anticipated utilization in 2008/09, FAO forecasts world cereal stocks by the close of seasons ending in 2009 to increase to 496 million tonnes, the highest level since 2002. This represents a rise of almost 70 million tonnes, or 16 percent, from their critically low level at the start of the season. Most of the recovery is expected in the major exporters.

Wheat inventories are forecast to expand by 24 percent up from their low opening levels. Most of this growth is expected in the **EU**, **Canada** and the **United States**, where stocks during the previous season were significantly depleted in order to meet the rise in demand and exports. Much larger stocks are also forecast

Biofuels

The latest forecast for 2008/09 points to further increases in the use of cereals for production of biofuels. Total cereal utilization for production of biofuels is forecast at 104 million tonnes, up 22 percent from the 2007/08 estimated level, representing 4.6 percent of world cereal production. In the United States, total use is forecast to increase to roughly 93 million tonnes (91 million tonnes maize), up 19 percent from the 2007/08 level. Earlier forecasts expected an even faster growth in maize utilization in the United States for production of biofuels but the steep decline in oil prices and the economic slowdown have lowered those expectations in recent months.

for a number of the **CIS** countries because of the increase in their production.

Total **coarse grains** stocks are forecast to grow further in 2008/09, increasing 15 percent from their opening levels. As for wheat, most of the increase in coarse grains' stocks is expected in major exporting countries, in particular the **EU** following the recovery in maize and barely production.

Regarding **rice**, given the good outcome of the 2008 harvests, world rice stocks at the close of countries' marketing years ending in 2009 are also forecast to rise significantly. While both developing and developed countries are expected to build up rice inventories, the bulk of the accumulation is forecast in leading rice exporting countries, including **China**, **India**, **Thailand** and **Viet Nam**.

Contraction in world cereal trade in 2008/09

World **cereal** trade is forecast to fall to 263 million tonnes in 2008/09, down by 3.6 percent from the previous season's estimated record volume. On current indications, a sharp drop in coarse grains trade would more than offset an increase expected for wheat, while trade in rice is seen to remain largely unchanged.

World trade in **coarse grains** in 2008/09 (July/June) is currently forecast to fall by almost 13 percent from the previous season, largely reflecting reduced imports by the EU where domestic cereal production increased substantially in 2008. Given the anticipated decline in world imports, export supplies are expected to exceed demand this season. By contrast, world trade in **wheat** is forecast to increase by 6 percent in 2008/09 (July/June), mostly reflecting stronger import demand in Asia. World **rice** trade in calendar year 2009, which is heavily influenced by the outcome of the 2008 paddy season, is now forecast to increase marginally to 30.9 million tonnes. While some traditional importing countries in Far East Asia will be cutting purchases following good domestic harvests, imports by the European Union and by some major buyers in the Near East are expected to increase.

PRICES

International cereal prices increased in January

International **wheat** prices have generally increased in the month of January although they remained quite volatile. Prices rose reflecting a smaller than expected wheat harvest in Argentina, where the Government has suspended new export permits, as well as reports of declines in the area planted to the 2009 wheat in some large producing and exporting countries, including the EU and the United States. However, abundant supplies following the record world wheat harvest in 2008 continue to put downward pressure on prices. However, although the international benchmark price - US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b. Gulf) - averaged 7 percent higher in January than in the preceding month, it remained 33 percent down from the January average last year and 50 percent below its peak in February 2008.

As for wheat, international **maize** prices have also been on the increase in the past month but remained volatile. Prices were supported by prolonged dry conditions for this year's maize crop in Argentina and Brazil. However, slower than normal sales from the United States, the world's largest maize exporter, together with the USDA report in mid-January showing lower demand estimates for the United States maize and much higher forecasts for end-season stocks (+ 8 million tonnes) put downward pressure on prices. The US maize (No. 2 Yellow, Gulf) January average was 8 percent up from December but 17 percent below the January average last year and almost 40 percent below its peak in June 2008.

International **rice** prices increased in January, with the price of the benchmark Thai white rice 100% B averaging 5 percent up from the December, and well above (59 percent) the price at the same time last year. The rebound in international rice prices since late December is largely attributed to the pledging programme in the largest world's exporter Thailand, which has moved some 4 million tonnes of paddy away from the market into public inventories at a price reported to be 20 percent higher than market levels.

Despite the decline in international prices in the second half of 2008, domestic food prices remain very high in several developing countries affecting access to food of low-income population groups.

Table 2. Cereal export prices* *(USD/tonne)*

	2008					2009
	Jan.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
United States						
Wheat [1]	381	308	252	247	240	256
Maize [2]	206	229	181	166	160	172
Sorghum [2]	225	208	158	146	151	148
Argentina [3]						
Wheat	330	280	235	189	177	213
Maize	199	203	169	156	152	160
Thailand [4]						
Rice white [5]	385	764	683	591	582	611
Rice, broken [6]	364	487	385	320	310	332

*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.

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

Prospects for the early 2009 cereal crops point to lower output in LIFDCs

In Eastern Africa, harvesting of the 2008/09 secondary seasons cereal crops is underway in Somalia and Kenya and the outputs are anticipated reduced due to poor short-rains, despite a promising starting of the season in October. The 2008 main cereal harvests were also reduced in both countries. In Southern Africa, the outlook for the 2009 main maize crop, to be harvested from April, has improved reflecting abundant rains in the past two months; but a crop smaller than last year's record is still expected. In Zimbabwe production will be again affected by shortages of agricultural inputs. In North Africa, in Morocco, the 2009 wheat crop to be gathered from June is expected to recover from the below-average levels of the past two years, while prospects are also favourable in Egypt. By contrast, in Asia, the outlook for the 2009 wheat crop, to be harvested from March-April, remains uncertain. Despite increases in the areas planted, insufficient precipitation during the season in important growing areas of China, in India and Sri Lanka may result in significant decreases in production if rains are not received soon. By contrast, in Pakistan, a good harvest is expected. Planting of the main season paddy crops will not begin before June throughout Asia.

Elsewhere, the 2009 main cropping seasons have not yet started in countries of Eastern, Western and Central Africa, as well as in Central America and the Caribbean.

LIFDCs 2008 cereal production revised upwards

With the 2008 cereal harvests completed in Eastern and Western Africa, and in Asia, latest estimates indicate an increase of 3.4 percent in the aggregate production of the 82 LIFDCs as a group. The largest producers China and India, accounting for some one-third of the aggregate output, increased their cereal outputs by 4.4 percent and 1 percent from the good levels of 2007 respectively. Excluding these two countries, the output of the rest of the LIFDCs still rose by a significant 4 percent. This is a positive development and marks a recovery in output after the previous year's decline. An increase in per caput cereal consumption (food and feed uses), and replenishment of stocks is forecast in LIFDCs in marketing years 2008/09 or 2009.

A substantial increase in the 2008 cereal production is recorded in LIFDCs in Africa. Bumper cereal harvests were obtained in Western Africa, particularly in the Sahel countries, following governments' production support programmes and favourable weather. In Eastern Africa, a record cereal harvest was gathered in Ethiopia, the largest producer of the subregion, and good crops were obtained in Sudan and Tanzania, but outputs were reduced in Kenya and Somalia. In Northern Africa, in Morocco, the wheat production markedly recovered from the 2007 level. In Southern Africa, latest estimates indicate a LIFDCs aggregate cereal output higher than earlier anticipated, following a sharp increase in rice production in Madagascar. However, at regional level, this increase is more than offset by a one-third reduction in Zimbabwe's cereal production.

In the LIFDCs in Asia, excluding China and India, production declined slightly

Table 3. Basic facts of the Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries (LIFDCs)[1] cereal situation (*million tonnes*)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	Change: 2008/09 over 2007/08 (%)
Cereal production[2]	**887.3**	**917.2**	**948.5**	**3.4**
excluding China Mainland and India	306.5	304.2	316.4	4.0
Utilization	**937.2**	**961.4**	**989.3**	**2.9**
Food use	651.5	664.7	678.3	2.0
excluding China Mainland and India	277.6	284.8	293.3	3.0
Per caput cereal food use *(kg per year)*	155.7	156.5	157.3	0.5
excluding China Mainland and India	157.6	158.4	159.9	0.9
Feed	167.0	171.9	178.5	3.8
excluding China Mainland and India	49.1	49.1	49.6	0.9
End of season stocks[3]	**236.3**	**253.7**	**278.8**	**9.9**
excluding China Mainland and India	56.1	50.2	51.4	2.2

[1] Includes food deficit countries with per caput annual income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e.USD 1 675 in 2005), which is in accordance with the guidelines and criteria agreed to by the CFA should be given priority in the allocation of food aid.
[2] Data refer to calendar year of the first year shown.
[3] May not equal the difference between supply and utilization because of differences in individual country marketing years.

[1] **The Low-Income Food-Deficit (LIFDC) group of countries** includes food deficit countries with per caput annual income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 675 in 2005), which is in accordance with the guidelines and criteria agreed to by the CFA should be given priority in the allocation of food aid.

reflecting drought-reduced harvests in countries in the Near East and the CIS that more than compensated good cereal crops in countries of Far East Asia. In Central America and the Caribbean, recent reports show a slight reduction in cereal production in Nicaragua, where the secondary season was adversely affected by an intense hurricane season. Production declined also in Haiti but it increased in Honduras. In Europe, bumper cereals crops were obtained in the Republic of Moldova, Belarus and Albania.

Cereal imports to increase in 2008/09 despite improved production but lower cereal import bill

Despite an improved 2008 cereal production, the aggregate cereal imports of the LIFDCs a group in marketing years 2008/09 or 2009 is forecast at 87 million tonnes, a significant increase of some 6 percent from the level of the previous year. This reflects higher imports in large importing countries in the Near East (Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan) and Africa (Zimbabwe, Kenya) where outputs were sharply reduced by drought, coupled with replenishment of stocks in several countries, notably in China. In addition, other LIFDCs in Asia and Africa are increasing their cereal inventories which were at low levels following releases in the previous season to mitigate the impact of high international prices and in view of the current price volatility in international markets. Notwithstanding the increase in import volumes in 2008/09, the cereal import bill of the LIFDCs is anticipated to decline on account of the sharp decline in international prices in the second half of 2008. Latest FAO's forecast puts the aggregate cereal import bills of LIFDCs in 2008/09 at USD 29.9 billion dollars, 22 percent below the previous year's record level of USD 38.2 billion.

Slow import progress

Available information in GIEWS by mid-January 2009 indicates that against the LIFDCs' estimated aggregate cereal import requirement of 87 million tonnes in the 2008/09 marketing years, only 31 percent has already been covered by commercial imports and food aid deliveries/pledges. The pace of imports this marketing year is slower than in the two past ones, particularly in Southern Africa where the season is well advanced.

Table 4. Cereal production[1] of LIFDCs (*million tonnes*)

	2006	2007	2008	Change: 2008 over 2007 (%)
Africa *(44 countries)*	**127.2**	**117.0**	**129.4**	**10.6**
North Africa	30.1	22.5	25.9	14.9
Eastern Africa	32.9	32.6	34.4	5.4
Southern Africa	12.0	12.3	12.1	-1.6
Western Africa	49.2	46.4	53.8	15.9
Central Africa	3.0	3.2	3.3	1.5
Asia *(25 countries)*	**748.7**	**789.2**	**804.7**	**2.0**
CIS in Asia	13.2	13.6	13.2	-3.0
Far East	721.0	760.4	782.1	2.9
- China (Mainland)	385.6	400.3	417.8	4.4
- India	195.2	212.8	214.1	0.7
Near East	14.4	15.2	9.3	-38.4
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1.7**	**1.8**	**1.8**	0.8
Oceania *(6 countries)*	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Europe *(4 countries)*	**9.8**	**9.2**	**12.7**	**37.1**
Total *(82 countries)*	**887.3**	**917.2**	**948.5**	**3.4**

[1] Includes rice in milled terms.
Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

Food prices remain high despite 2008 improved harvests and declines in international export prices

Despite bumper cereal harvests and lower international cereal prices in the second half of 2008, food prices remain at high levels in several LIFDCs. In countries of Southern Africa and Central America, prices of main food commodities have continued to rise or have not decreased in recent months. In Western and Eastern Africa countries, prices have fallen significantly since the beginning of the harvests in September-October, but by January this year they were well above their levels of a year ago. The situation is worse for imported rice and wheat, important staples in these subregions, as prices are still on the increase. Prices of rice and wheat also remain high in several LIFDCs in Asia, including Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Table 5. Cereal import position of LIFDCs (*thousand tonnes*)

	2007/08 or 2008	2008/09 or 2009			
		Requirements[1]		Import position[2]	
	Actual imports	Total imports:	*of which food aid*	Total imports:	*of which food aid pledges*
Africa *(44 countries)*	**38 978**	**41 011**	***2 686***	**12 265**	***1 308***
North Africa	18 193	18 242	*0*	8 630	*0*
Eastern Africa	5 532	5 910	*1 555*	1 697	*930*
Southern Africa	3 153	4 013	*593*	1 851	*335*
Western Africa	10 482	11 068	*453*	81	*44*
Central Africa	1 619	1 778	*85*	7	*0*
Asia *(25 countries)*	**39 565**	**42 767**	***2 662***	**13 929**	***816***
CIS in Asia	3 758	4 141	*44*	1 387	*31*
Far East	24 743	23 261	*1 824*	8 074	*568*
Near East	11 064	15 365	*794*	4 468	*217*
Central America *(3 countries)*	**1 661**	**1 725**	***198***	**705**	***116***
Oceania *(6 countries)*	**438**	**438**	***0***	**0**	***0***
Europe *(4 countries)*	**1 652**	**1 230**	***0***	**354**	***0***
Total *(82 countries)*	**82 294**	**87 170**	**5 546**	**27 253**	**2 240**

[1] The import requirement is the difference between utilization (food, feed, other uses, exports plus closing stocks) and domestic availability (production plus opening stocks).
[2] Estimates based on information available as of mid-January 2009
Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

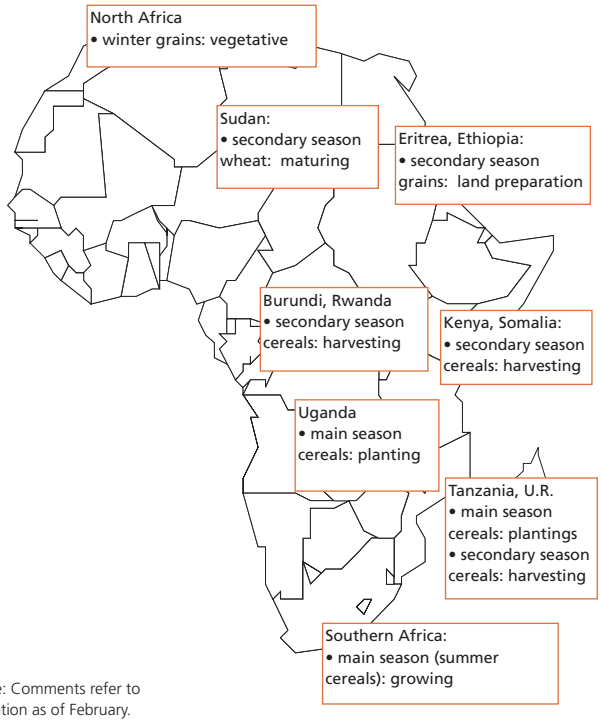
Regional reviews

Africa

North Africa

In **North Africa**, early prospects for the 2009 winter wheat and coarse grain crops, to be harvested from around June, remain favourable, except in **Tunisia** where dry conditions have delayed plantings in most producing areas pointing to another below-average crop in spite of measures taken by the Government to improve production. In **Morocco**, cereal production is expected to recover further in 2009 due to abundant and widespread rains since the beginning of the cropping season as well as an estimated 9.5 percent increase in area planted. In **Egypt**, the largest producer in the subregion, where most crops are irrigated, weather conditions were also reported to be generally satisfactory and average to above-average cereal output is expected in 2009.

The subregion's 2008 wheat crop was estimated at 15.8 million tonnes, 18 percent up from the previous year's drought-reduced level, while production of coarse grains (winter and spring) increased by 3 percent to about 11.2 million tonnes. The increase in cereal production in 2008 combined with a significant decline in international commodity prices has been favourable in helping to reduce inflation slightly and improve somewhat access to food. In **Egypt,** the most affected country, where the year-on-year rate



Note: Comments refer to situation as of February.

Table 6. Africa cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
Africa	**25.0**	**19.2**	**22.7**	**103.3**	**99.8**	**111.5**	**22.0**	**22.0**	**26.2**	**150.4**	**141.0**	**160.3**
North Africa	**18.7**	**13.4**	**15.8**	**12.6**	**10.9**	**11.2**	**6.8**	**6.9**	**7.3**	**38.1**	**31.2**	**34.2**
Egypt	8.3	7.4	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.7	6.8	6.9	7.2	23.0	22.2	22.9
Morocco	6.3	1.6	3.7	2.9	0.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.2	2.5	5.2
Western Africa	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**43.2**	**40.7**	**46.5**	**9.4**	**8.9**	**11.4**	**52.7**	**49.7**	**58.0**
Nigeria	0.1	0.0	0.1	24.8	23.9	26.0	4.0	3.2	4.2	28.9	27.2	30.2
Central Africa	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2.8**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.4**
Eastern Africa	**3.8**	**3.5**	**4.5**	**28.1**	**27.9**	**28.7**	**1.6**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**33.4**	**33.2**	**35.0**
Ethiopia	2.5	2.5	3.2	11.1	12.5	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.7	15.0	16.1
Sudan	0.7	0.6	0.9	5.9	4.7	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.6	5.3	6.3
Southern Africa	**2.5**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**16.6**	**17.3**	**22.2**	**3.8**	**3.9**	**5.3**	**22.9**	**23.4**	**29.7**
Madagascar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.4	0.4	3.5	3.6	4.9	4.0	4.0	5.3
South Africa	2.1	1.9	2.0	7.3	7.8	13.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.4	9.7	15.7
Zimbabwe	0.2	0.1	0.0	1.7	1.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.3	0.8

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

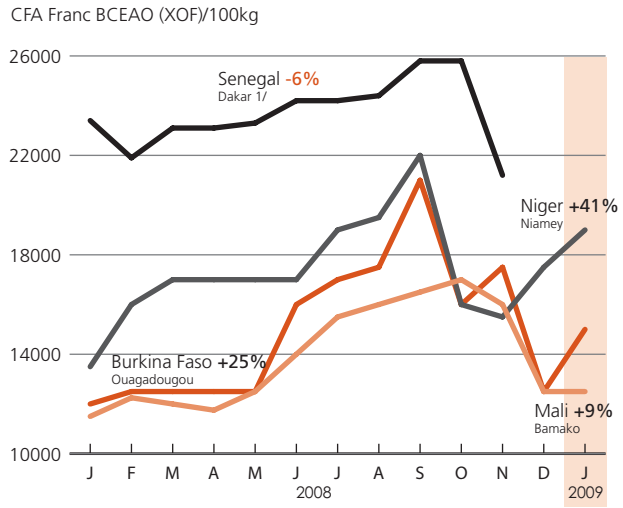
of inflation in urban areas reached 23.6 percent in August 2008 (up from 6.9 percent in December 2007), a downward movement was observed from September with inflation dropping to 20.3 in November. Inflation is driven mainly by price changes in the food sector where the year-on-year rate of inflation dropped from 30.9 percent in August 2008 to 26.4 in November.

Western Africa

In **Western Africa**, there is little agricultural activity in this period of the year, except for limited cultivation of recession or off-season crops, for which prospects are generally favourable.

Above-average to record cereal harvests were gathered in most countries of the subregion in 2008. Nevertheless, the food outlook for 2009 remains uncertain, due to several factors including the very low cereal carry-over stocks at the beginning of the marketing year due to previous year's reduced crop and the high dependence of several countries on imported cereals. Although coarse grains prices have declined significantly across the subregion since the beginning of harvests in September, by December 2008 they remained well above the levels of a year ago and an upward movement was even observed in some countries in early January. For example, despite significant decreases in recent months, millet prices in markets of **Mali** (Bamako), **Burkina Faso** (Ouagadougou) and **Niger** (Niamey) were 9, 25 and 41 percent respectively higher than in January 2008. The situation is worse for rice prices, which are determined by world prices and have exhibited high pass-through from the international market. In **Senegal**, **Niger** and **Burkina Faso** rice prices continued to increase, being 81 percent higher in Senegal in November and 50 and 60 percent respectively higher in Niger and Burkina Faso in January 2009 than a year earlier. These increases occurred despite a series of measures implemented by governments aimed at offsetting the impact of higher world prices, including waiving of import tariffs and food distributions. In most francophone countries of Western Africa no impact was observed on prices due to the relatively low initial tariff level and the recent depreciation of the CFA (which is pegged to the Euro) against the US dollar. By contrast, the Nigerian Government reduced import duty on imported rice from 100 to 2.7 percent for 6 months, up to 31 October 2008, targeting the importation of not less than 500 000

Figure 6. Millet prices in selected Western African markets



1/ Based on retail prices (XOF/kg)

Figure 5. Sorghum prices in selected Western African markets

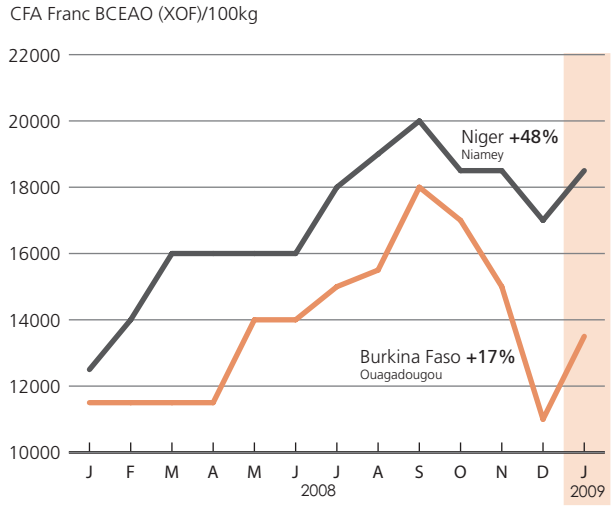
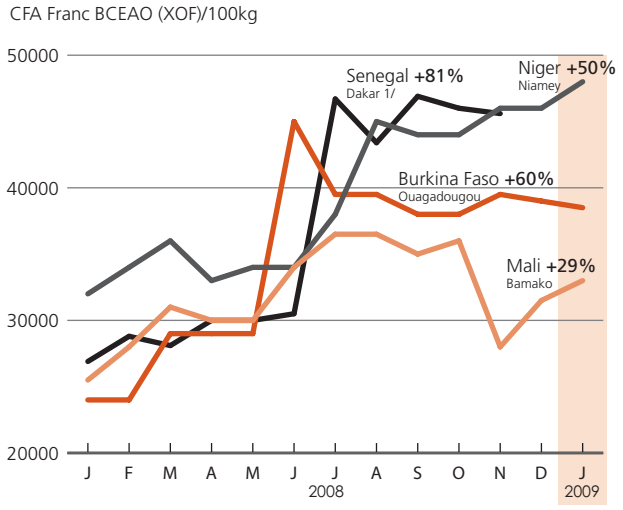


Figure 7. Imported rice prices in selected Western African markets



1/ Based on retail prices (XOF/kg)

tonnes of milled rice. A significant price decline was observed in markets in **Nigeria** between May and September 2008 (for example 16 percent in Bodija market, Ibadan) due to the initial level of the tariff and the appreciation of the Naira. However, the Naira has depreciated steeply in recent weeks losing 20 percent of its value between late November and late December reflecting the impact of falling oil prices on the economy. This is likely to translate into a rise in the price of imported goods including cereals.

In **Liberia**, harvesting of rice is nearly complete. Harvesting of cassava, another major staple crop, has just started. Yields and production are seriously threatened by the recent outbreak of a caterpillar pest in northern parts, which may spread into neighbouring countries, adversely affecting the subregion's food security. The situation needs to be closely monitored in the coming weeks.

Central Africa

In **Cameroon** and the **Central African Republic**, harvesting of the second 2008 maize crop (planted from August-September) is nearly complete in the south and overall prospects are favourable reflecting adequate rains throughout the cropping season. In the north, characterized by only one rainy season, harvesting of millet and sorghum is complete and output is forecast to be above average. However, cereal prices remained relatively high in **Cameroon** driven by several factors including a strong recovery of the poultry industry, which was hard hit by Avian Influenza in 2006 as well as the dependence of the country on imported rice. Moreover, in the **Central African Republic** agricultural recovery continues to be hampered by persistent civil unrest and inadequate availability of agricultural inputs, notably in northern parts where nearly 300 000 people have reportedly been uprooted from their homes over the past two years. Continuing insecurity in both **Chad** and the **Darfur region of Sudan** threaten to further destabilize the situation in northern parts of the country.

Eastern Africa

Increased cereal harvest in 2008 for the subregion but significant reductions in Kenya and Somalia

Harvesting of the 2008 main season cereal crops is complete in northern parts of the subregion while harvesting of secondary season crops has started in southern parts except in Ethiopia where planting is about to commence. The outlook is poor for the secondary season crops in Kenya and Somalia. By contrast, an above-average main season grain output is estimated in Ethiopia and Sudan.

The subregion's aggregate 2008/09 cereal output (main and secondary crop seasons) is forecast at nearly 34.4 million tonnes, 5 percent higher than in the previous year and 17 percent above the average of the past five years (Figure 8).

In **Ethiopia**, the largest producer in the subregion, an FAO/WFP Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission which visited the country late last year estimated a more than 7 percent increase in the 2008/09 cereal harvest compared to the previous year. By contrast, in **Kenya** a drop in maize and cereal production of about 20 percent is registered for the same period.

Higher import requirement in 2008/09 despite increased aggregate cereal harvest

The 2008/09 cereal import requirement for the subregion is expected to reach 5.9 million tonnes compared with 5.5 million

Figure 8. Eastern Africa cereal production

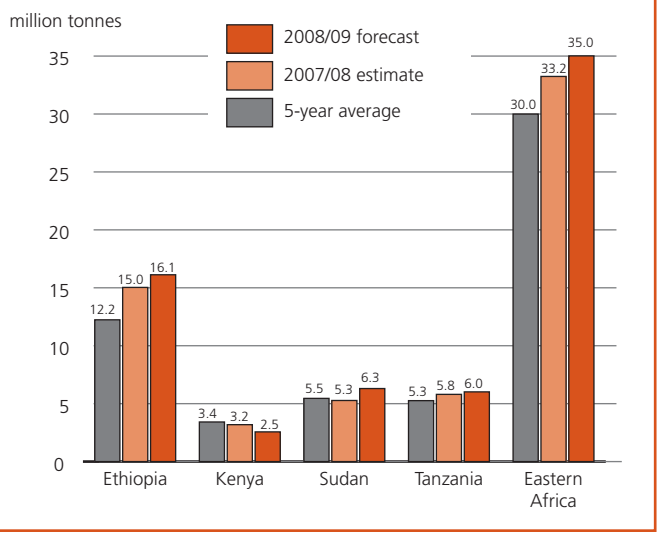


Figure 9. Eastern Africa maize production

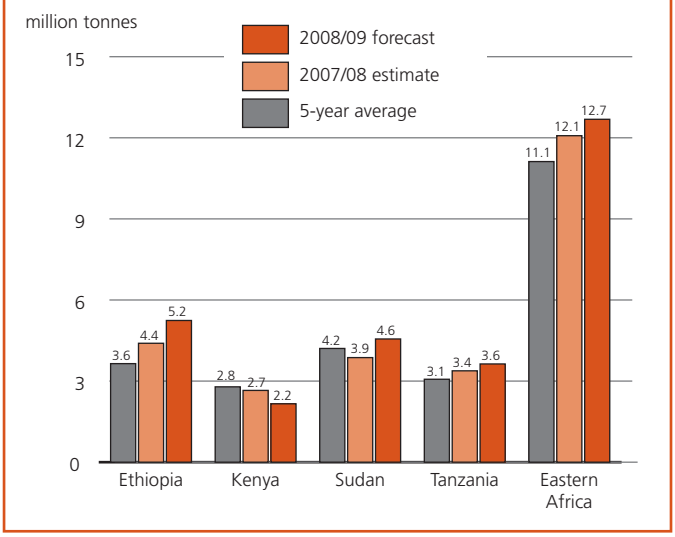


Figure 10. Eastern Africa cereal imports

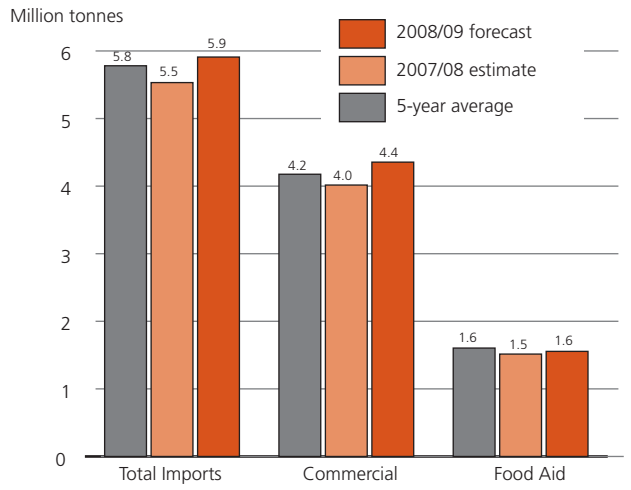
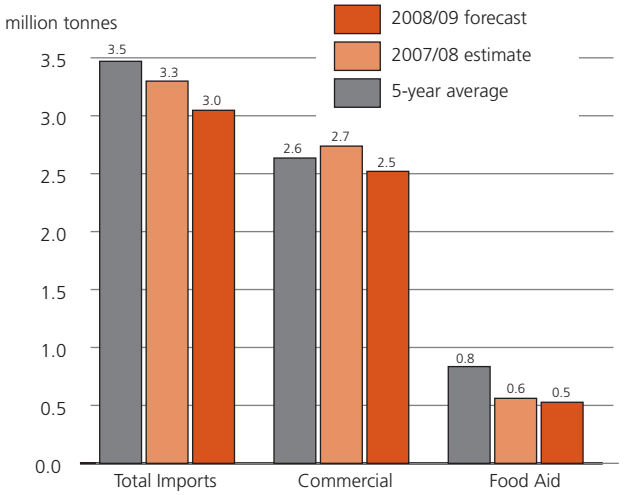


Figure 11. Eastern Africa wheat imports



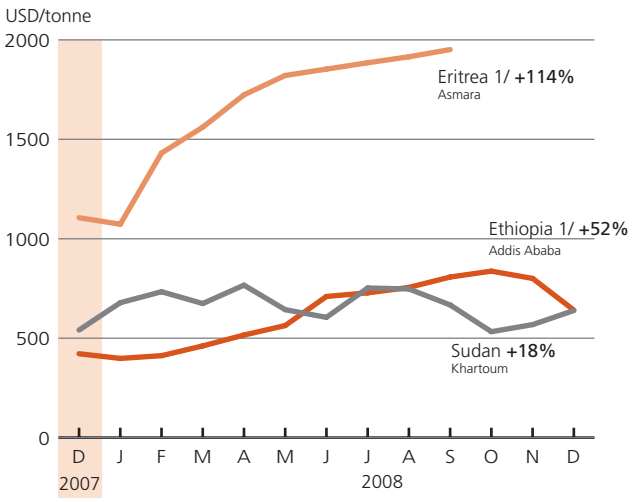
in 2007/08 and just slightly above the average of the past five years (see Figures 10 and 11). This indicates a general move by countries to boost their stock levels in the face of global economic uncertainties. The bulk of these imports are projected to be on a commercial basis while the level of food aid remains unchanged.

Despite recent overall decline, continued concern over high cereal prices in the subregion

Throughout the region, cereal prices have weakened somewhat in the past weeks reflecting the normal seasonal response following the main crop harvests, but they remain above average levels for the time of year (Figures 12 and 13). In **Kenya**, the price of maize in January 2009 in the Nairobi market, quoted at USD 331 per tonne is 49 percent above the previous year. A sharp decline is registered in **Ethiopia** since October 2008 but the average price of maize in January 2009 was still 13 percent higher than in January 2008.

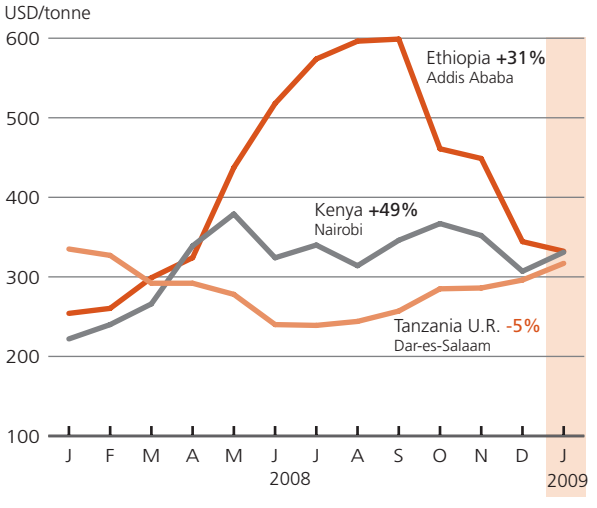
Wheat prices have also eased in the subregion but levels are still above average. In **Ethiopia**, the price of wheat in December 2008 decreased to USD 641 per tonne from the peak of USD 837 per tonne in October 2008. However, year on year, last December's prices are still 52 percent higher. In **Eritrea**, prices for food in Asmara remain generally high. The last information from September 2008 indicates the retain price of wheat flour was

Figure 12. Wheat prices in selected Eastern Africa markets



1/ Based on retail prices.

Figure 13. Maize prices in selected Eastern African markets



USD 1 951 per tonne. This level is more than double the price prevailing a year earlier. In **Sudan**, wheat prices decreased from their peak levels at USD 752 in July 2008 to a low of USD 532 in October, about 30 percent decline. However, prices began rising again and in December 2008 prices registered USD 639, up 18 percent year on year.

Southern Africa

Favourable prospects for 2009 cereal crops, but output likely to be lower than last year's record

As the 2008/09 agricultural season in **Southern Africa** nears the mid-point, growing conditions have generally improved throughout the subregion. The season had earlier got off to a slow start when plantings were delayed beyond the optimal planting window (late-October to early-November) by the late arrival of rains. However, good consistent rains since the second dekad of November 2008 in some parts and from mid-December in others allowed sowing to be completed. (See Figures 14 to 17 for the estimated rainfall pattern in selected provinces of selected countries.) The above-average precipitation in the past two months has also improved pastures and livestock conditions especially along the central belt of the subregion stretching from

Figure 14. Estimated rainfall by dekad
Malawi - Central Region

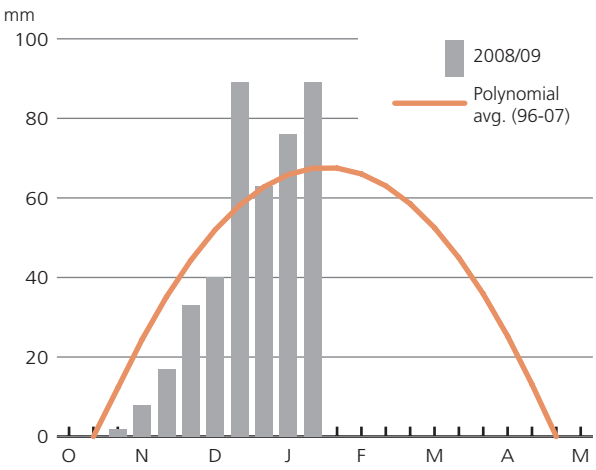


Figure 15. Estimated rainfall by dekad
Mozambique - Zambezia

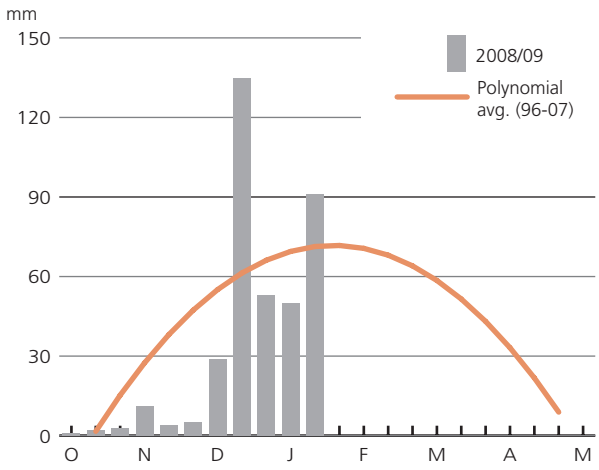


Figure 16. Estimated rainfall by dekad
South Africa - Free State

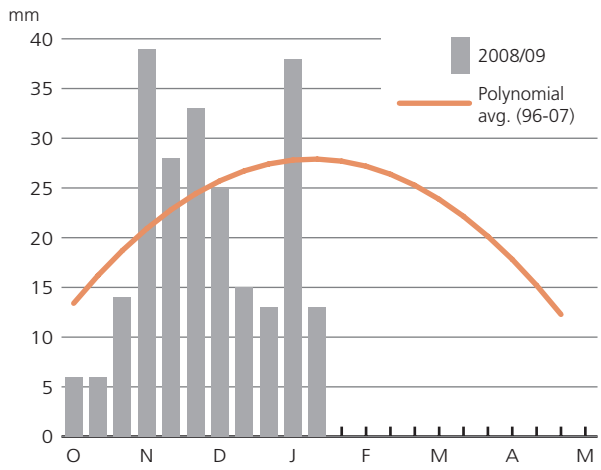
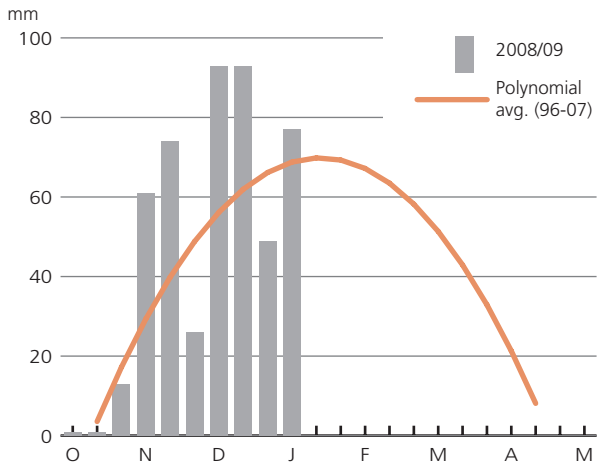


Figure 17. Estimated rainfall by dekad
Zambia - Central



the western border of Angola-Namibia to the central part of Mozambique. As of late January, the main concerns with regard to climatic conditions are centred on the maize triangle of South Africa, mainly in Free State, where precipitation has recently been rather erratic and below average (see Figure 16). Regarding the flood situation, a recurring seasonal phenomenon, flood damage so far this year has been minimal with exception of some localized flood incidents in central Mozambique, southern Malawi, north-eastern Zimbabwe and western parts of Madagascar.

The area planted to maize this season in **South Africa**, the largest producer in the region is preliminarily estimated at about 2.6 million hectares, 7.3 percent lower than in the previous year, as farmers were discouraged by the declining trend of the SAFEX and international prices at planting time.

Elsewhere in the subregion, the Governments of Angola, Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia implemented timely distribution of agricultural inputs to needy beneficiaries at planting in order to support the 2008/09 season production. However, persisting high international fertilizer prices are expected to limit the use of this key input during the season, which could be a limiting factor on yields in what has otherwise been a mostly favourable season so far.

Zimbabwe remains a major exception in the subregion, where despite satisfactory weather conditions, shortages of quality seed, fertilizer, agricultural chemicals and tillage power and/or unaffordable prices for most agricultural inputs and the prospect of unprofitable maize prices come harvest time, have put severe constraint on maize cultivation.

Cereal imports continue to trickle in

The pace of cereal imports into the deficit countries of the subregion in the current marketing year (2008/09) continues to be relatively slower than that of the past two years (see Table 7), possibly due to the generally higher import prices this year, particularly for wheat and rice. Available figures by mid-January 2009, more than two-thirds into the marketing year, show that only 50 percent of import requirements of all cereals (as opposed some 56 percent the year before) have been received and/or contracted/pledged since the beginning of the marketing year in April 2008. Large quantities of required cereals are yet to be imported in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola and other countries (see Figure 18). Given that the lean period has started as of January 2009, additional imports are urgently needed in order to avoid food shortages and further price hikes in local markets.

Cereal prices continue to rise in Southern African food deficit countries in spite of declining regional and international export prices

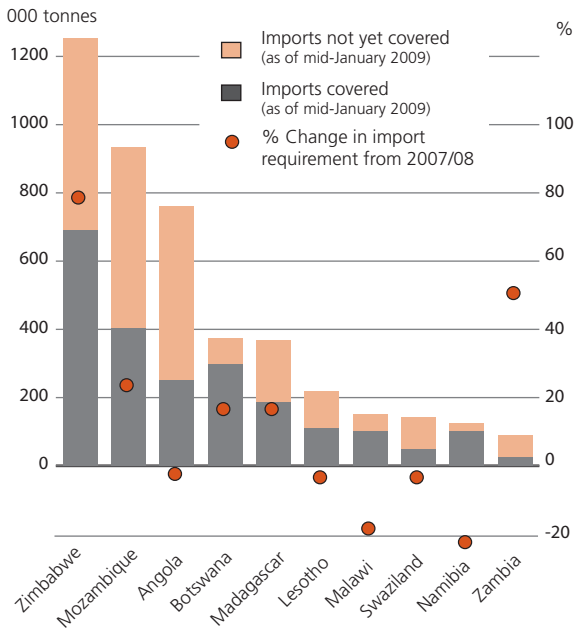
Although the price of maize in **South Africa** has declined since July 2008, maize prices in most food deficit countries, namely **Zimbabwe**, **Malawi**, **Mozambique** and **Zambia**, are either still rising or are stable at high levels (see Figures 19 and 20 for prices from the capital city markets). The slower pace of imports, compared to last year, especially during the current peak hunger period is a likely contributing factor to the high domestic prices in these countries.

Table 7. 2008/09 import requirements and current import position for Southern Africa, (excluding South Africa and Mauritius) and comparison with import cover in the previous two years[1]

	2008/09 import requirements	2008/09 import requirements covered[2] by mid-January 2009	Imports covered[2] by mid-January 2009	2007/08 import requirements covered by mid-January 2008	2006/07 import requirements covered by by mid-January 2007
	(000 tonnes)	(000 tonnes)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Cereals					
Total	**4 510**	**2 248**	**50**	**56**	**54**
Commercial	3 918	1 913	49	55	51
Food aid	592	335	57	64	76
Maize					
Total	**2 008**	**1 214**	**60**	**63**	**50**
Commercial	1 728	1 132	66	66	54
Food aid	280	82	29	53	33

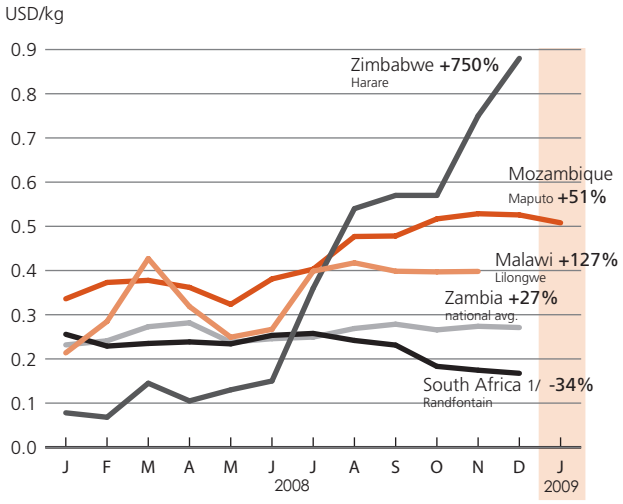
Source: FAO/GIEWS estimation.
[1] Available import data varies from November to mid-January 2009.
[2] Contracted and/or received.
Note: Marketing year mostly April/March. Totals computed from unrounded data.

Figure 18. Southern Africa - Cereal import requirements for 2008/09, the percentage change from 2007/08 and current import position



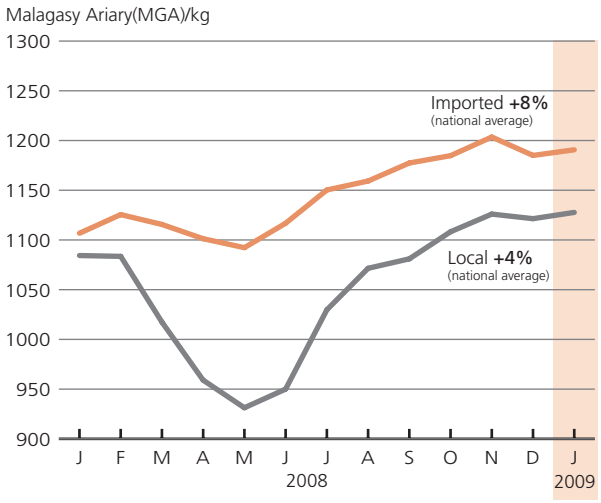
In **Madagascar** prices of rice, the main staple food have been rising since the post-harvest low in May despite a bumper 2008 rice production. The January 2009 price was about 22 percent higher the level in May 2008. The situation needs to be monitored carefully in the coming weeks as the country is heading into the lean period until the next harvest in May. Any further increase of rice prices could result in a critical food situation similar to last year's.

Figure 19. White maize prices in selected Southern African markets



1/ Wholesale prices.

Figure 20. Rice prices in Madagascar



Zimbabwe crop and food situation gives rise to concern

Prospects for 2009 main crops

As shown in the estimated rainfall charts for selected provinces, the first good rains of the season were received in mid-November. Following this, rains were erratic and below average for next 2 to 3 dekads. Abundant rains have been reported from mid to late December. The latest rains may have allowed second plantings in some areas during the second half of December. Widespread shortages of quality seed for maize were experienced due to their unavailability or unaffordability. According to some local reports retained grain and even distributed food aid in some cases was used for planting this year. This practice may increase the total area planted but it is likely to result in low yields. Although South Africa is providing assistance in the form of seed, fertilizer and fuel worth Rand 300 million (about USD 30 million) towards the end of December, this is not expected to have a significant impact on this season's harvest. There also has been some input distribution by humanitarian donors to help selected farming households. The Ministry of Agriculture is currently undertaking the 1st Round National Crop Assessment. Results are expected in February. However, based on the weather pattern and seed and fertilizer shortages, the early prospects for this year's harvest are considered unfavourable, pointing to another year of serious problems of food insecurity in the country.

Food security situation

Food imports have been much slower in arriving compared to the previous two years and compared to the quantities required to meet the normal consumption requirements. This has created food shortages in most parts of the country. Moreover, the economic situation in the country is causing severe problems of access. The consumer price inflation had reached an unfathomable year-on-year rate of 231 million percent in July 2008, and although no official figures are available for recent months, the exponential escalation of prices has continued unabated. This hyperinflation has drastically reduced the purchasing power of households, greatly limiting access to available supplies for low- and middle-income and other vulnerable people. In parallel, the ever-plummeting exchange rate of the local currency in parallel markets has caused shortages of foreign currency and reduced the country's ability to import fuel, electricity and other capital goods.

In addition to the food availability problems, a recent outbreak of cholera with recorded cases of 57 702 including 3 028 fatalities as of 27 January 2009 since August has posed a serious threat to health and nutrition of the vulnerable population.

Throughout the country, more than 5 million people, or 43 percent of the total population, are considered to be especially vulnerable and facing food insecurity. According to the Community Household Surveillance conducted recently by WFP, in the majority of the households, some 60 percent eat only one meal daily.

Zimbabwe. 2008/09 maize import requirements and current import position and comparison with import cover in the previous two years[1]

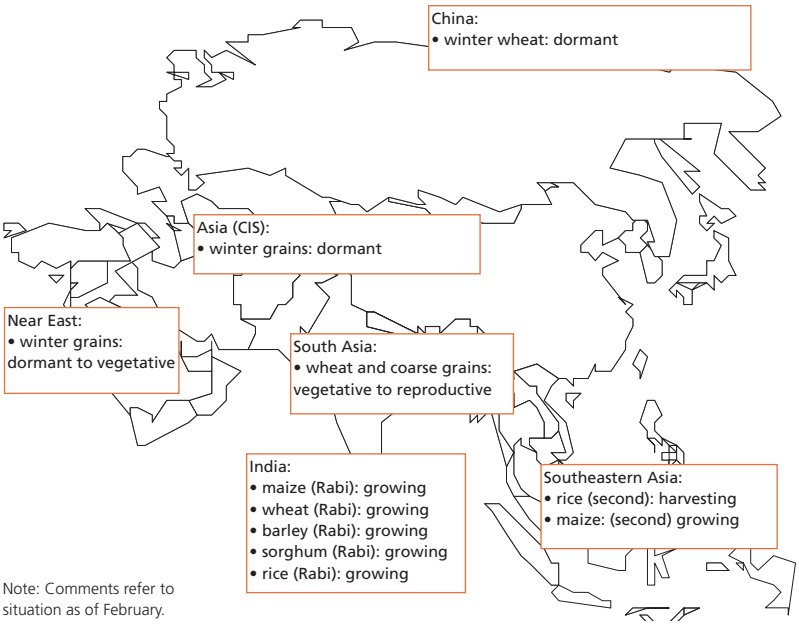
	2008/09 import requirements	2008/09 import requirements covered[2] by mid-January 2009	Imports covered[2] by mid-January 2009	2007/08 import requirements covered by mid-January 2008	2006/07 import requirements covered by by mid-January 2007
	(000 tonnes)	(000 tonnes)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Maize					
Total	**1 003**	**481**	**48**	**71**	**53**
Commercial	764	416	54	83	64
Food aid	239 [3]	64	27	50	33

Source: FAO/GIEWS estimation.
[1] Available import data varies from November to mid-January 2009.
[2] Contracted and/or received.
[3] Maize food aid revised downwards from the previous estimate to account for increased wheat food aid received/pledged.
Note: Marketing year April/March. Totals computed from unrounded data.

Asia

Far East

Uncertain outlook for the 2009 winter grain crops



Note: Comments refer to situation as of February.

In **China (Mainland)**, the winter wheat crop, which accounts for about 95 percent of China's annual wheat production, is still dormant. The area planted is estimated at 23.9 million hectares, well above the previous year's already large area, mostly reflecting the continued government incentives for grain production. In order to help offset the increasing costs of production and encourage farmers to keep planting grains, the minimum purchase prices of white wheat has been raised from CNY 1 540 to CNY 1 740, red and mixed wheat from CNY 1 440 to CNY 1 660 per tonne. However, the weather conditions to date have been unfavourable in the major wheat producing regions. Severe drought is reported in Northern and Western China, where precipitation levels have been registered at 70-90 percent below normal. Some 9.5 million hectares of winter wheat (44 percent of total area planted) are reported to be seriously affected in Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Shanxi, Anhai, Shaanxi and Gansu Provinces.

In **India**, the winter wheat crop is well developed, with harvesting due to start in March-April. Plantings are estimated to have increased marginally from the previous year's already large area to reach 28.2 million hectares. However, the post-monsoon rainfall has been generally scarce in most parts of the country, with 30 of the 36 meteorological subdivisions reporting significantly below-normal rainfall. The amount of rainfall in February will be critical for the outcome of the season.

The Government plans to review its ban on wheat exports in March after assessing the stock situation. India banned exports of the grain in 2007 to increase local supplies and prevent domestic prices from skyrocketing. However, in November, as domestic prices eased, the Government earmarked 2 million tonnes of wheat for exports to selected countries.

Table 8. Asia cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
Asia	**270.8**	**286.0**	**277.2**	**253.5**	**267.2**	**269.7**	**581.4**	**600.3**	**617.8**	**1 105.7**	**1 153.5**	**1 164.7**
Far East	**198.5**	**212.5**	**216.3**	**226.1**	**240.9**	**247.9**	**576.6**	**595.3**	**613.1**	**1 001.2**	**1 048.7**	**1 077.3**
Bangladesh	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	41.0	43.4	45.0	42.3	44.6	46.4
China	104.5	109.9	112.5	156.7	163.1	173.1	183.3	187.4	194.6	444.4	460.4	480.3
India	69.4	75.8	78.4	32.5	40.5	37.7	140.0	144.6	147.0	241.9	261.0	263.1
Indonesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.6	12.4	12.0	54.5	57.2	60.3	66.1	69.6	72.3
Pakistan	21.3	23.3	21.8	3.8	3.7	3.7	8.2	8.3	9.8	33.3	35.3	35.3
Thailand	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.0	3.9	4.2	29.6	32.1	31.2	33.7	36.0	35.4
Viet Nam	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	35.8	35.9	38.6	39.7	39.5	42.3
Near East	**47.5**	**45.8**	**36.2**	**22.8**	**20.6**	**16.8**	**4.1**	**4.3**	**4.0**	**74.5**	**70.7**	**56.9**
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	14.5	15.0	9.5	4.7	5.1	3.0	2.6	2.8	2.6	21.8	22.9	15.1
Turkey	20.0	17.2	17.8	13.9	11.4	10.8	0.7	0.6	0.8	34.6	29.2	29.4
CIS in Asia	**24.6**	**27.5**	**24.6**	**4.6**	**5.7**	**5.1**	**0.7**	**0.7**	**0.7**	**29.9**	**33.8**	**30.4**
Kazakhstan	13.7	16.5	14.0	2.5	3.3	2.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	16.5	20.1	17.0

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

Myanmar – Major findings of FAO/WFP Food Security Assessment Mission

Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar on 2 and 3 May 2008, affecting the food security of approximately 2.4 million people in Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions, through damage to agricultural land, destruction of the livestock and fishery sectors and depletion of food markets. At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar (MOAI), a joint FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) team visited the country from 5 October to 4 November 2008.

Agricultural production suffered a significant decline in areas severely affected by Cyclone Nargis during the 2008 monsoon season, as a result of poor quality seeds, salinity and iron toxicity, lack of agricultural labour and drought animals. Compared to the previous year, average paddy production is estimated to have decreased by 32 percent in 7 affected townships in the Ayeyarwady Division and by 35 percent in 3 affected townships of Yangon Division.

Overall, aggregate food production in Myanmar is satisfactory, with positive outputs expected in most states/divisions, reflecting favourable weather and increasing use of F1 and HYV rice seeds. The Mission forecasts a 2008/09 (2008 monsoon and 2009 summer) cereal output of 21 million tonnes (rice at 19.8 million tonnes, maize at 1.11 million tonnes, and wheat at 0.147 million tonnes), 3.2 percent below the previous year, but approximately 10 percent above the five-year average. Cereal exports are expected to be high, with estimated rice exports of 477 000 tonnes and maize exports of 159 000 tonnes conversely, up to 64 000 tonnes of wheat are expected to be imported.

The cyclone-related damage to the livestock and fishing sectors in the Ayeyarwady Delta will continue to affect food supply and income generation in 2008/09.

Despite the increase in international rice prices, paddy prices in Myanmar remained low in 2008 due to domestic market and trade barriers. These low prices, combined with the rising cost of fertilizer and other major inputs, have significantly reduced farmers' incentives profits, and may have negatively impacted agricultural productivity and the country's agricultural exports.

Rats have damaged 685 hectares of rice and 400 hectares of maize in 121 villages of Chin State; localized food insecurity in these villages is expected.

There are more than 5 million people below the food poverty line in Myanmar. States/divisions which the Mission found to be a priority for emergency food assistance are: cyclone-affected areas of Ayeyarwady Division (85 000 tonnes); Chin State (23 000 tonnes), particularly those areas affected by the rat infestation; Rakhine State (15 000 tonnes), particularly the north of the State; Kachin State (8 300 tonnes); north Shan State (20 200 tonnes); east Shan State (7 000 tonnes); and Magwe Division (27 500 tonnes). Most of the food commodities can be procured locally, with only a limited requirement for imported food aid.

The Mission recommends the following agricultural assistance in cyclone-affected Ayeyarwady and Yangon Divisions: distribution of seeds for the coming summer and next monsoon planting seasons; distribution of draught animals adapted to local climatic conditions; distribution of other livestock for increased meat availability; distribution of hand tractors with training on their usage and maintenance; distribution of fishing equipment; re-establishment of ice production plants; and training in boat building, net making and on drafting of fishery laws.

The Mission also recommends the following actions in regard to national food policies: set up a market information and food security warning system; develop balanced food production and trade policies for both producers and consumers; remove domestic market/trade barriers; and improve market integration.

In contrast to the situation in China and India, crops in **Pakistan** have benefited from widespread winter rainfall in January. Although the 2009 wheat area, estimated at about 8.4 million hectares, is 1.3 percent down on last year's level, it remains above the recent average and another above-average crop is in prospect.

In the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, crops in the western parts of the country are dormant under a protective layer of snow. In eastern parts of the country drier than-normal conditions reduced soil moisture for winter crop establishment and the condition of crops is reported to be worse than normal. The country had became self-sufficient in wheat in 2004 but the total wheat import requirement in 2008/09 (April/March) is forecast at 5 million tonnes following a drought that hit domestic production last year. Up to December 2008, about 3.4 million tonnes had reportedly been imported. In **Sri Lanka**, almost all districts have

Figure 21. Wholesale rice price in China

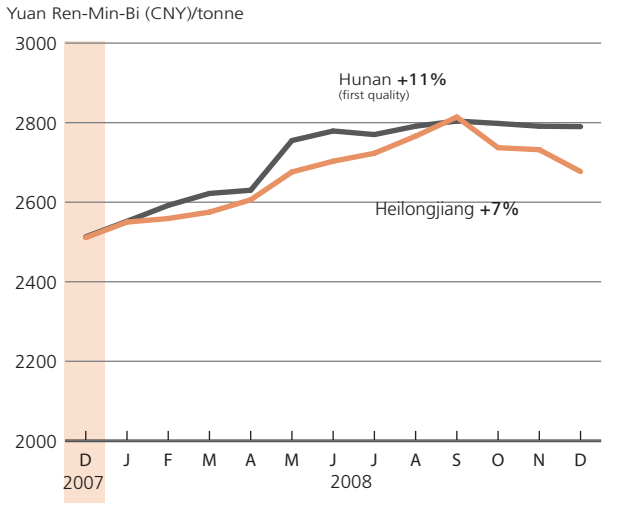


Figure 22. Retail wheat flour price in Pakistan

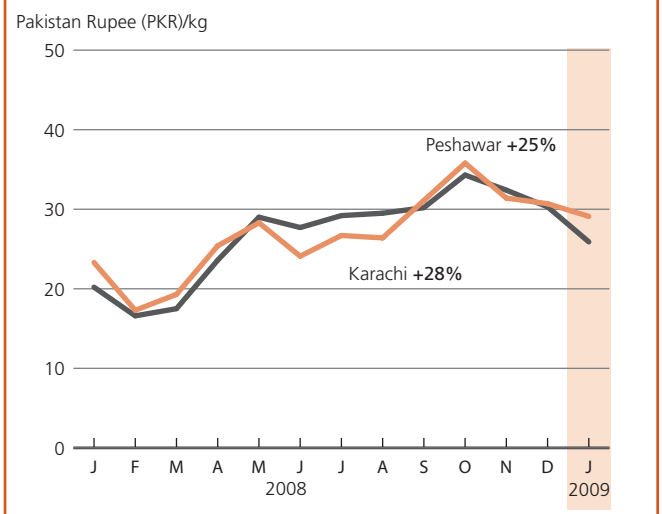


Figure 23. Retail rice price in Sri Lanka

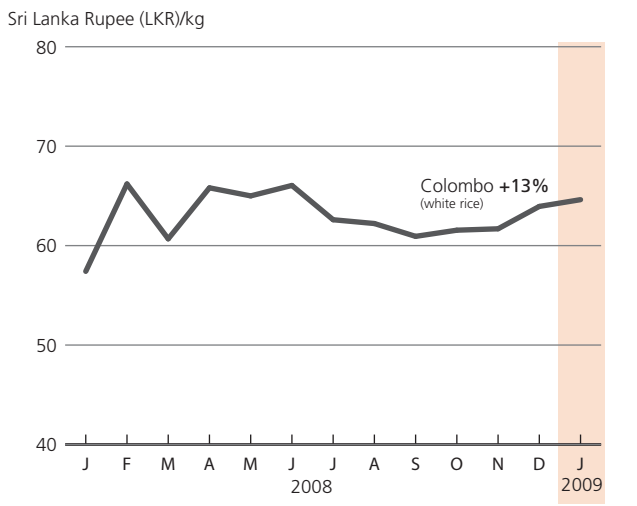
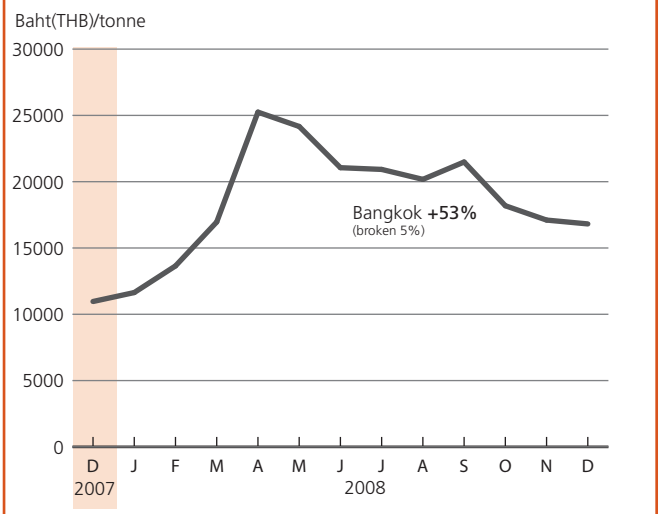


Figure 24. Wholesale rice price in Thailand



received well-below average rainfall in the early weeks of the current Maha season. The situation warrants close monitoring as should dry conditions continue, prospects for the 2009 cereal production could deteriorate rapidly.

Record rice output in 2008

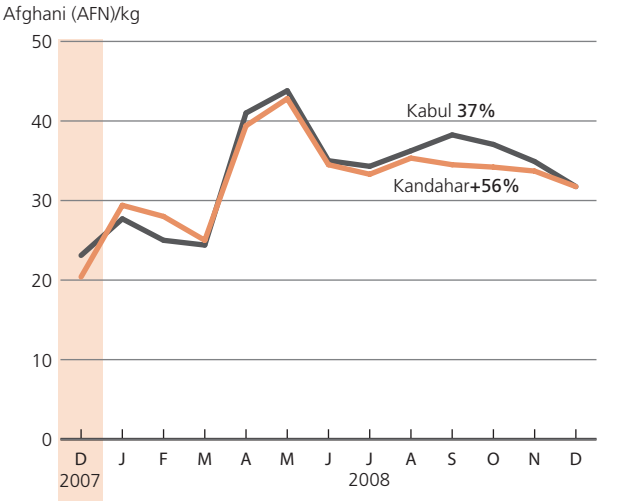
In most rice growing countries in the subregion, the main 2008 paddy crop has already been harvested. Latest estimates put the subregion's aggregate output in 2008 at a record 613 million tonnes, some 18 million tonnes above the previous year. The 2008 aggregate cereal output is at 1 077 million tonnes, some 2.7 percent above the previous year's record, mainly reflecting bumper crops in China (+19.9 million tonnes), Viet Nam (+2.8 million tonnes), Indonesia (+2.7 million tonnes), and India (+2.1 million tonnes).

Food supply and market access difficulties persist in several countries

Despite an overall satisfactory food supply situation in the subregion, vulnerable populations in a number of countries are still affected by serious food supply difficulties. The **Democratic People's Republic of Korea** continues to suffer chronic food

insecurity and remains reliant on external food assistance. In **Myanmar**, the 2008 monsoon season rice production in the areas affected by cyclone Nargis was significantly reduced. Agricultural assistance is required for the coming summer season and the next monsoon season to help small farmers recover their production and livelihoods. In **Nepal**, the overall food security situation has improved following the summer crop harvests, availability of more employment opportunities and improved supply of food in markets. However, the situation is expected to deteriorate from January onwards in some hill and mountain districts where maize production in 2008 was reduced due to bad weather. Localized food insecurity is also expected in some Tarai districts where paddy crop production decreased by about 30-50 percent due to excessive rainfall and pests. In **Sri Lanka**, the country's food security situation continues to be affected by the resurgence of civil conflict. Over 100 civilians have reportedly been killed and 230 000 people affected in crossfire between Tamil Tiger rebels and the military in January 2009. In the **Philippines**, some 71 000 families were reportedly affected by the recent flooding and high seas.

Figure 25. Retail wheat flour price in Afghanistan



Near East

Moisture conditions for 2009 winter grains improve with late rains but high temperatures affect snow cover

Soil moisture conditions have improved for the winter grains in many parts of the subregion with the arrival of precipitation during December and January. However, some parts, especially from the eastern Mediterranean coast into northern Iraq, remain predominantly dry, although conditions are reported to be somewhat improved from last year's drought. In **Turkey**, beneficial rains returned to southern and western parts of the country in mid-January, increasing irrigation reserves and providing additional soil moisture for dormant to semi-dormant winter grains. In **Iraq,** agro-meteorological conditions during land preparation/sowing were reported to be unfavourable for winter crop sowing due to high temperatures. In **Afghanistan**, prospects for the 2009 main wheat crop, to be harvested from May-June, have improved in the past month following good precipitation. By late January, significant snowfall was accumulated in most parts of the country to protect crops from the risk of winterkill and ensure good moisture supplies later in the season. Early indications point to a recovery in this year's cereal production from the sharply reduced crop of 2008.

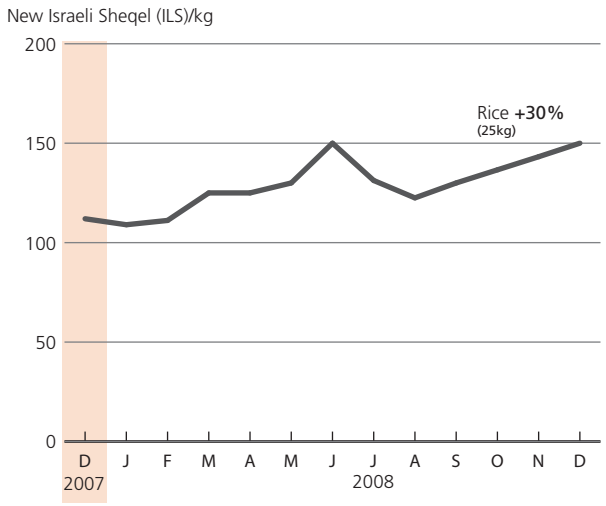
Poor 2008 crops led to seriously depleted cereal supplies in the current 2008/09 marketing year

In **Iraq**, generally unfavourable weather during the 2007/08 growing season led to drastically reduced 2008 winter grain production. The aggregate output of wheat and barley crops is estimated at 1.9 million tonnes, some 40 percent lower than the average level in 2007 and the smallest crop in recent history. In the **Syrian Arab Republic,** following poor and irregular rains during the growing season, the total wheat production in 2008 was estimated at 2.0 million tonnes, half the poor crop harvested the previous year and below average for the third consecutive year. As a result of inadequate pastures, herders sold their animals for 60-70 percent below the normal prices and in many areas they even exhausted their herds.

In **Afghanistan**, latest official estimates indicate an aggregate cereal output of 3.7 million tonnes, one-third lower than in 2007 and 25 percent below the five-year average due to severe drought. Output of wheat, the country's main staple declined by 40 percent from the previous year's level. As a result, the cereal import requirement in 2008/09 (July/June) is estimated at 2.3 million tonnes (mostly wheat), more than double the almost 1 million tonnes imported in 2007/08. Commercial import capacity is estimated at 1.6 million tonnes and 0.7 million tonnes need to be mobilized with outside assistance. WFP is currently providing food assistance under a protracted Post-Conflict Relief and Rehabilitation. Prices of wheat have declined in past months following substantial imports but they remain at high levels. By December 2008 the average price of wheat flour in Kandahra and Kabul was still 56 percent and 37 higher than a year earlier respectively.

In the **Gaza Strip**, following the recent conflict, the already precarious food security, characterized by soaring prices of basic food staples in 2008, has deteriorated. An Emergency Operation was jointly approved by FAO and WFP in January 2009 to provide food assistance to 365 000 most affected people, including social

Figure 26. Retail rice price in Gaza strip



hardship cases, vulnerable groups, internally-displaced people and affected farmers over a period of 12 months.

Asian CIS

Outcome of 2008 cereal crop season mixed

A bitterly cold winter, below-normal precipitation and shortages of irrigation water adversely affected crop yields in southern parts of central Asia in 2008. The 2008 harvests were below average in **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan** and **Turkmenistan**. In **Kazakhstan** the 2008 cereal harvest is estimated at about 17 million tonnes, 3 million tonnes less than 2007s good level. Although Kazakhstan reopened its wheat exports as of 1 September, which was beneficial for neighbouring drought-affected countries needing to mobilize their wheat import needs, purchasing power, rather than supply of grains, is the limiting factor in the food security situation in this region. **Uzbekistan** was also affected by the drought but to a lesser extent. By contrast growing conditions in the Caucasus were mostly satisfactory in 2008 and **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** had good harvests.

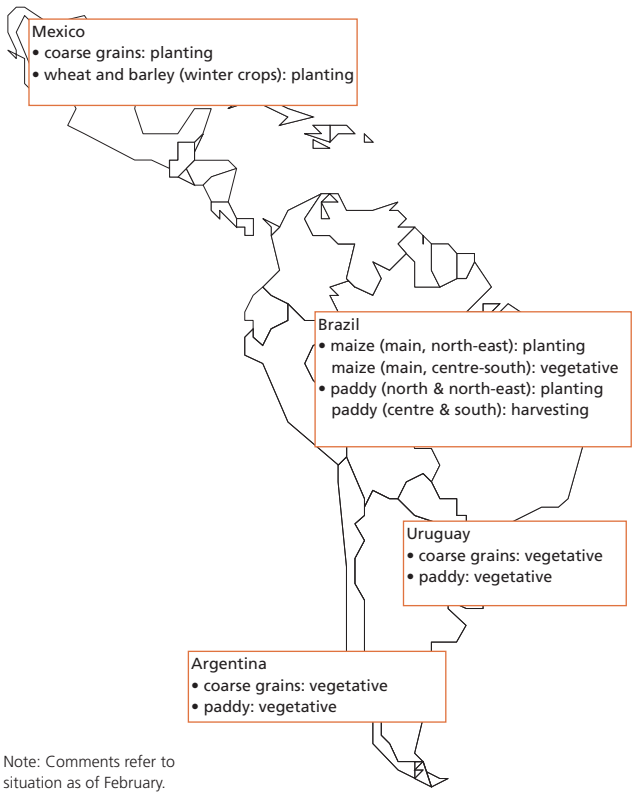
Latin America and the Caribbean

Central America and the Caribbean

Record maize crop in Mexico

The 2008 aggregate cereal output of the subregion is estimated at a record 43 million tonnes, about 2.2 million tonnes above the previous year's already good level and some 5 million tonnes above the average of the last five years. This exceptional harvest mainly reflects a record production of the recently harvested coarse grain crops in **Mexico** where average yields have risen following widespread use of improved seed varieties and higher sowing density as well as abundant rains during the season. Planting of the mostly irrigated **2009** winter wheat and barley crops is underway in north-western states of Sonora and Baja California and in central states of Guanajuato and Michoacan. Official planting intentions point to above average levels of 650 000 hectares of wheat and 55 000 hectares of barley. At the same time, planting of minor 2009 winter coarse grain crops is well advanced in the states of Sinaloa, Veracruz, Tamaulipas and Chiapas and the area is expected at the same good level of 2008.

Elsewhere in Central America, harvesting of 2008 second season maize and bean crops is almost completed, and harvesting of 2008 third season maize and bean crops is about to start in **Nicaragua**, **El Salvador** and **Honduras**. Despite localized flooding and crop losses, the 2008 aggregate maize production of the subregion (excluding Mexico) is tentatively estimated at about 3.9 million tonnes, slightly above the good output of 2007. The good harvest largely reflects various governmental programmes to support local production against the rise of international food prices.



Note: Comments refer to situation as of February.

In the Caribbean, **Haiti** and **Cuba** are still recovering from the devastating sequence of hurricanes and tropical storms that affected both islands in the second half of 2008. Food assistance for a period of six months is being provided to 800 000 beneficiaries in Haiti and to about one million beneficiaries in Cuba. In Haiti, despite the good 2008 winter season maize and bean crops (harvesting of which is about to

Figure 27. Wholesale maize price in Guatemala

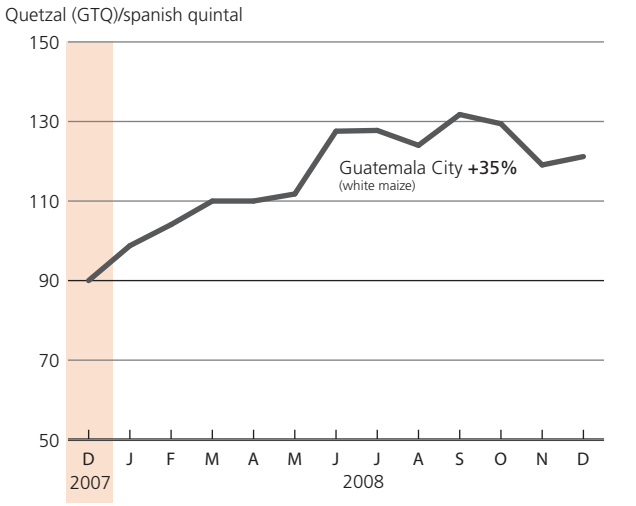


Figure 28. Retail maize price in Honduras

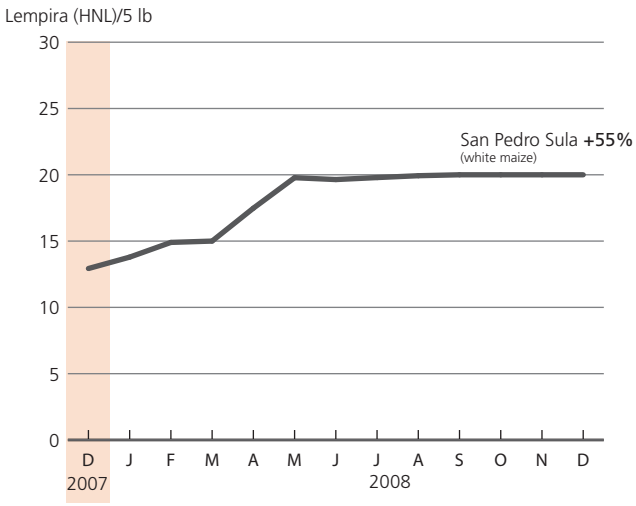


Figure 29. Retail rice price in Nicaragua

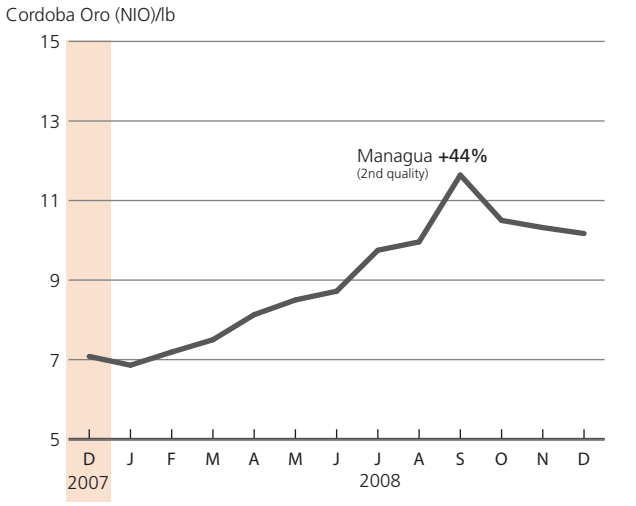
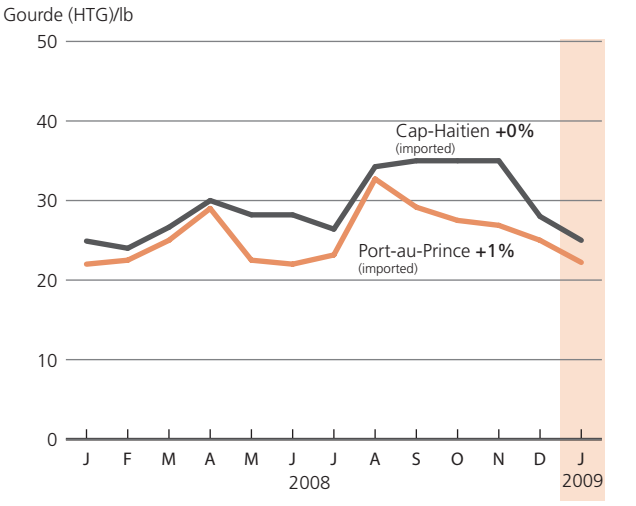


Figure 30. Retail rice price in Haiti



be completed) and the gradual decline in prices of main staple foods, the Coordination Nationale de la Sécurité Alimentaire (CNSA) estimates that some 3.3 million people, about one-third of total population, remain in a condition of food insecurity, especially in poor neighbourhoods of main towns and in the North-West department, the Artibonite valley and the South peninsula.

Food prices are showing a downward trend in the subregion, but their levels are often still above the average. In Guatemala, the wholesale price of maize in December 2008 has declined from the peak level reached in September 2008, but it is still about 35 percent higher than one year before. In Nicaragua, the average retail price of rice in December 2008 was 10.2 cordoba/pound, some 13 percent lower than the peak of September, but still 44 percent more on a year to year basis. A different situation is reported in Haiti where in January 2009 retail price of rice, the main staple food in local diet, was essentially the same of one year before reflecting import subsidies and the arrival of the new harvest on the market of Port-au-Prince.

South America

2008 wheat output halved by drought in Argentina

Harvesting of the 2008 winter wheat crop has been recently completed in all southern countries, and aggregate wheat production for the subregion is tentatively forecast slightly below 18 million tonnes, about 4.7 million tonnes below the average of the last five years and 23 percent less than the 2007 bumper harvest. This poor performance is essentially due to a severe drought, and reduced use of fertilizers in the largest producer of the subregion, **Argentina,** where the output is estimated at about 8.3 million tonnes, the lowest in the last twenty years, and virtually half the record output achieved in 2007. In some of Argentina's key growing departments, such as Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Santa Fe and La Pampa, average yields reached only 20 quintals per hectare compared to five-year average of 26 quintals. This sharp drop in wheat production in 2008 will dramatically reduce Argentina's exportable surplus to only 4 million tonnes, with a reduction of some 60 percent if compared to the average exports of the last five years.

By contrast, record wheat production is reported in **Brazil** and **Uruguay**, where dry weather conditions from the end of November, accelerated harvesting operations, but did not cause any significant damage to the wheat crops. The good harvest reflects favourable weather throughout the growing season and also a sharp increase in planted area (+30 percent in Brazil and +88 percent in Uruguay, compared to 2007) in response to high international prices at planting time. In marketing year 2009 (January/December), Uruguay is expected to export the unprecedented volume of 800 000 tonnes of wheat.

Early prospects unfavourable for 2009 maize crop

Planting of the important **2009 maize crop** is almost complete in southern countries of the subregion. Scarce and erratic precipitation, hot temperatures and relatively high prices of inputs have delayed planting operations and in some cases prevented planting completely. In other cases, drought-damage to flowering or pollinating maize has been irreversible and farmers have already destined these crops to forage use rather than trying to harvest

Figure 31. Retail rice price in Brazil

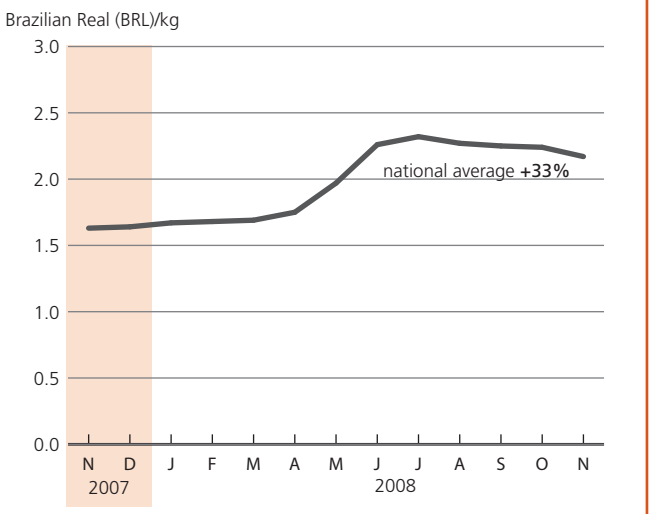
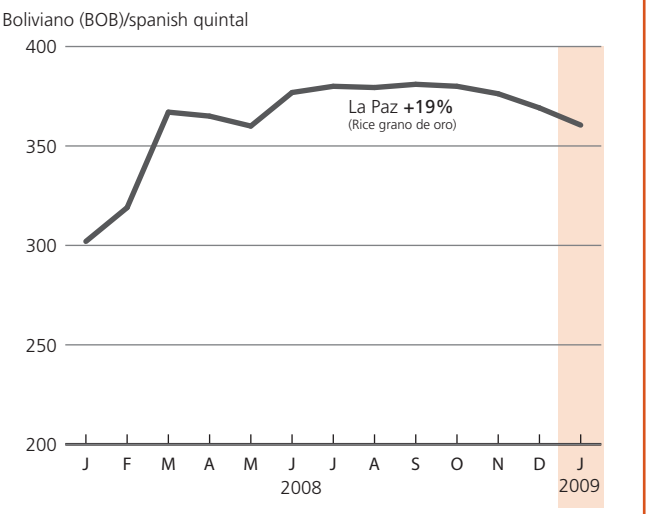


Figure 32. Wholesale rice price in Bolivia



the grain. In **Argentina**, the area planted to maize is officially estimated at about 3.5 million hectares, some 16 percent less than 2008 season. Losses due to drought are reported to range between 40 and 60 percent in many producing areas and an agricultural emergency has been declared in the departments of Chaco, Entre Ríos and Santa Fe, giving farmers a six-month moratorium on tax and debt payments. In southern **Brazil**, monthly precipitation in December was 50 percent below normal and yields of the 2009 main maize crop are tentatively forecast at 3.8 tonnes per hectare, very far from the record average yield of 4.2 tonnes per hectare of 2008. In **Paraguay** and **Uruguay**, planting of 2009 second season *zafrinha* maize crop is expected to start soon if adequate precipitation arrives in time to improve soil moisture. The current drought is also negatively affecting pastures and fodder availability in southern parts of the subregion, with deaths of hundreds of thousands of animals and a drastic reduction in milk and meat productivity reported.

In **Bolivia**, the 2009 summer maize crop is expected to be harvested by mid March and satellite imagery shows good vegetation in the main growing areas of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba departments reflecting normal well-distributed precipitation. In **Guyana**, heavy and continuous rainfall since early December has resulted in flooding in several low-lying communities located on the Coastal Plain and along the Abary,

Table 9. Latin America and Caribbean cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
Latin America & Caribbean	**23.5**	**26.6**	**21.8**	**107.8**	**128.1**	**137.8**	**24.9**	**24.4**	**26.0**	**156.2**	**179.1**	**185.7**
Central America & Caribbean	**3.3**	**3.4**	**3.9**	**32.3**	**34.8**	**36.4**	**2.5**	**2.5**	**2.5**	**38.0**	**40.6**	**42.8**
Mexico	3.2	3.4	3.9	28.3	30.6	32.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	31.9	34.3	36.3
South America	**20.3**	**23.2**	**17.9**	**75.5**	**93.3**	**101.4**	**22.4**	**21.9**	**23.6**	**118.2**	**138.5**	**142.9**
Argentina	14.5	16.3	8.3	18.3	26.6	27.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	34.1	44.0	36.7
Brazil	2.5	4.1	6.0	45.0	53.9	61.3	11.7	11.3	12.1	59.2	69.3	79.4
Colombia	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.3	2.4	2.6	4.1	4.2	4.4

Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

Figure 33. Wholesale rice price in Colombia

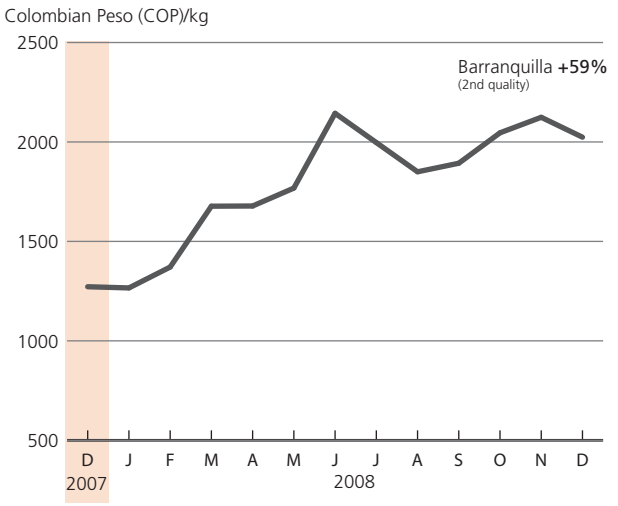
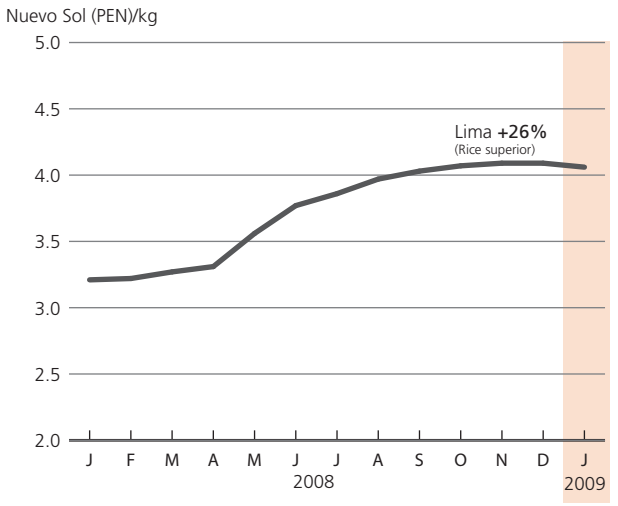


Figure 34. Retail rice price in Peru



Mahaica and Mahaicony rivers. Some localized losses of paddy rice are reported. In **Peru**, the planting of the 2009 wheat crop is well underway in the highlands of Cajamarca, Ancash and La Libertad departments (that represent about 65 percent of national production) and planting intentions point to an above-average area; in **Ecuador**, despite some localized floods, the abundant seasonal rains are benefiting planting of main 2009 rain-fed paddy crop in coastal provinces of Guayas, Los Rios and Manabi.

The outlook of 2009 paddy crop is mixed. Despite the drought affecting other crops, Argentina has planted some 204 000 hectares, with an expansion of about 10 percent if compared to previous year; while in Brazil harvesting is about to start in South and Centre states and early forecasts point to an output of 12.4 million tonnes, more than 2 percent up on the 2008 above average crop, essentially due to area expansion in the important state of Rio Grande do Sul that represents about 60 percent of national production. On the other hand, insufficient water for irrigation is likely to constraints plantings and production in Uruguay.

Wholesale and retail prices of rice are stabilizing in several countries, showing no changes or a minor decline since mid-2008.

North America, Europe and Oceania

North America

Winter wheat area down in the United States

The area sown to winter wheat in the **United States**, which normally accounts for about 70 percent of the total wheat area, is officially estimated at some 17 million hectares for the 2009 harvest, 9 percent down from the previous year. A decline in area had been expected due to lower price prospects in 2009 and the increased cost of inputs, but the official estimate was some 800 000 hectares lower than earlier tentative forecasts and lower than the average seeded area in the past five years. The condition of the crop going into the winter was rated well above the previous year's, with 66 percent of the crop rated good to excellent, and the weather since then has been generally satisfactory, so, as of end-January there is a good possibility that winter survival rates may remain somewhat above the average as was the case last year. Based on these indications, and assuming average yields, the output of winter wheat is tentatively forecast at about 42 million tonnes, some 7 million tonnes less than last year's well-above average level. Spring wheat plantings are also expected to decline, reflecting the expectation that other crops will be more profitable because of the drop in wheat prices since last year. However, the final area planted this spring may still depend somewhat on cereal price movements in the coming weeks, as wheat prices started rising again in January. In **Canada**, the bulk of the wheat is spring planted and the 2009 crop will not be sown until March-April. The wheat area is officially forecast to fall by 5 percent as, similar to the situation among the other major wheat producing countries, farmers are expected to choose crops that are likely to be more remunerative in 2009.

Europe

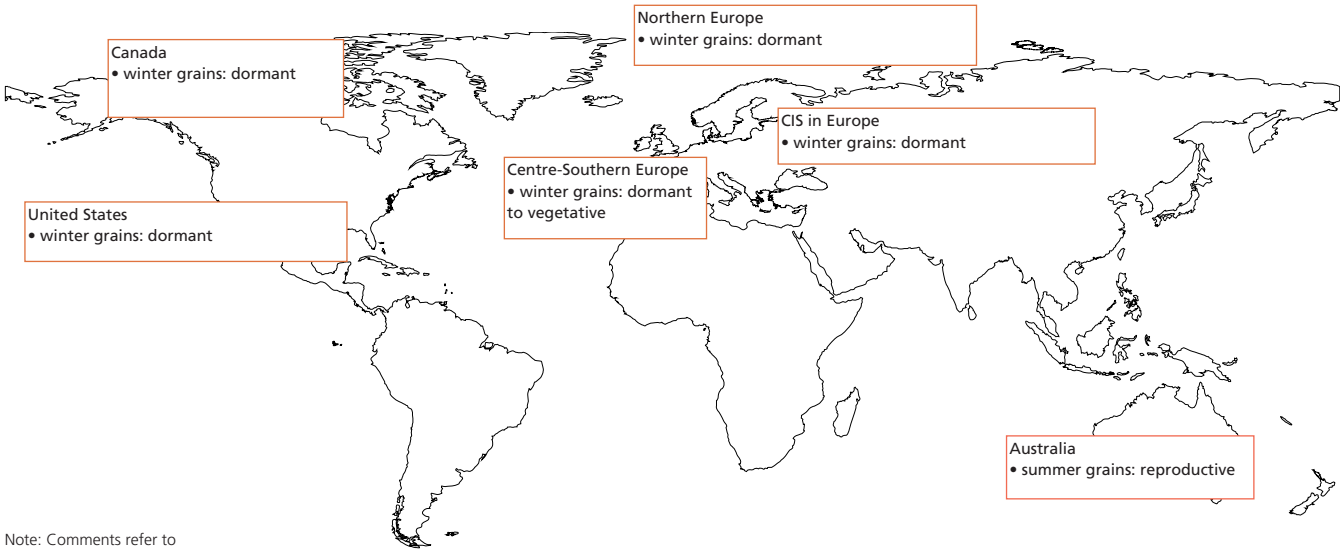
Winter grain plantings down in the region

The aggregate winter grain (mostly wheat) area for the 2009 harvest is estimated down from last year's relatively high level, with most of the decrease accounted for by the CIS countries in the east of the region. In the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, despite favourable autumn planting conditions, producers have responded to reduced price prospects and high production costs by reducing their plantings. In the **EU**, the winter wheat area is estimated just slightly down from last year's high level. Winter weather conditions have generally been favourable throughout the region so far, with abundant soil moisture levels reported in most countries, which will be beneficial for crops as they come out of dormancy. However, the risk of winterkill remains a threat in some northern and eastern parts of the region where temperatures have been mostly mild so far and the crops are devoid of any protective snowcover should a cold spell arrive.

Oceania

Australia's wheat crop recovered in 2008 but quality was poor in parts

The recently completed 2008 wheat harvest in **Australia**, which account for the bulk of the annual grain production, is officially estimated at about 20 million tonnes, a welcome rebound from the drought-reduced levels in the previous two years. However, harvesting was hampered in some parts by untimely rains, which



Note: Comments refer to situation as of February.

left some nearly mature crops too long in damp conditions and led to a quality downgrading in some cases. Regarding the summer grain crop for harvest in 2009, the total area planted to grain sorghum (the major crop) is reported to be down by about 4 percent compared to the previous year as less fallow land was available for summer cropping in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales as a result of the increased area that had been put in winter crops. Assuming a return to average yields from the records achieved in the 2007/08 season, grain sorghum production in 2008-09 is forecast to decline to slightly less than 2 million tonnes.

Table 10. North America, Europe and Oceania cereal production (*million tonnes*)

	Wheat			Coarse grains			Rice (paddy)			Total cereals		
	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast	2006	2007 estim.	2008 f'cast
North America	**74.6**	**75.9**	**96.6**	**303.7**	**378.9**	**353.8**	**8.8**	**9.0**	**9.2**	**387.1**	**463.8**	**459.7**
Canada	25.3	20.1	28.6	23.3	28.0	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	48.6	48.0	55.9
United States	49.3	55.8	68.0	280.4	350.9	326.5	8.8	9.0	9.2	338.6	415.7	403.7
Europe	**191.9**	**189.7**	**247.9**	**210.0**	**197.7**	**246.2**	**3.5**	**3.6**	**3.4**	**405.3**	**391.0**	**497.4**
EU [1]	117.8	120.0	151.4	127.1	137.8	161.4	2.6	2.8	2.6	247.5	260.6	315.4
Romania [2]	5.5	0.0	0.0	10.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.8	0.0	0.0
Serbia	1.9	2.0	2.1	6.9	4.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.8	6.4	8.5
CIS in Europe	**60.5**	**64.9**	**91.2**	**57.5**	**50.0**	**72.1**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**118.7**	**115.7**	**164.1**
Russian Federation	44.9	49.4	62.5	31.2	30.4	38.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	76.8	80.5	101.8
Ukraine	13.8	13.7	25.9	20.1	13.8	25.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	34.0	27.6	51.3
Oceania	**11.1**	**13.4**	**20.3**	**8.1**	**9.3**	**12.1**	**1.1**	**0.2**	**0.0**	**20.3**	**22.9**	**32.5**
Australia	10.8	13.1	20.0	7.5	8.8	11.6	1.0	0.2	0.0	19.4	22.0	31.6

[1] Eu-25 in 2006; EU-27 in 2007 and 2008.
[2] In 2007 and 2008 included in EU-27.
Note: Totals computed from unrounded data.

Statistical appendix

Table A1. Global cereal supply and demand indicators

	Average 2001/02 - 2005/06	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
	(. . . . . percentage . . . . .)					
1. Ratio of world stocks to utilization						
Wheat	31.4	28.8	28.9	25.4	22.7	28.8
Coarse grains	18.2	19.1	18.2	15.0	15.4	18.0
Rice	27.6	23.8	24.6	23.9	24.4	26.6
Total cereals	24.2	23.0	22.8	19.9	19.4	23.0
2. Ratio of major grain exporters' supplies to normal market requirements	123	137	133	115	119	123
3. Ratio of major exporters' stocks to their total disappearance						
Wheat	20.3	21.8	22.2	14.8	11.0	17.7
Coarse grains	15.3	18.7	17.9	12.5	12.8	15.3
Rice	17.3	13.5	16.0	15.4	17.1	18.2
Total cereals	17.6	18.0	18.7	14.3	13.6	17.1

	Annual trend growth rate 1998-2007	Change from previous year 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	(. . . . . percentage . . . . .)					
4. Changes in world cereal production	1.3	9.4	-1.1	-2.1	6.0	6.6
5. Changes in cereal production in the LIFDCs	1.3	3.6	5.0	3.1	3.4	3.4
6. Changes in cereal production in LIFDCs less China and India	2.7	0.5	6.2	3.8	-0.8	4.2

	Average 2001/02 - 2005/06	Change from previous year 2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09*
	(. . . . . percentage . . . . .)					
7. Selected cereal price indices:						
Wheat (July/June)	116.3	-1.0	5.2	25.4	87.3	-19.5
Maize (July/June)	103.7	-15.2	6.4	44.6	33.3	19.9
Rice (Jan./Dec.)	95.9	5.4	8.9	17.0	85.5	40.2

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 Grain Exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU, and the United States; Major Rice Exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States, 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 July/June 1997/98-1999/00 = 100; For **maize**, the U.S. maize No. 2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base July/June, 1997/98-1999/00 = 100; For **rice**, the FAO Rice Price Index, 1998-2000=100, is based on 16 rice export quotations. Rice index refers to the second year shown.
* For **wheat** and **coarse grains**, July/January, for **rice** January average.

Table A2. World cereal stocks[1] (*million tonnes*)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008 estimate	2009 forecast
TOTAL CEREALS	**418.4**	**470.5**	**469.9**	**421.9**	**426.6**	**496.2**
Wheat	**162.7**	**178.9**	**179.5**	**156.7**	**147.4**	**183.1**
held by:						
- main exporters [2]	38.6	55.1	56.2	36.5	27.1	47.0
- others	165.3	123.7	123.3	120.2	120.3	136.1
Coarse grains	**150.4**	**191.7**	**185.3**	**160.6**	**169.8**	**195.8**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	48.5	92.7	90.7	62.3	73.4	84.5
- others	107.6	99.0	94.6	98.3	96.4	111.3
Rice (milled basis)	**105.3**	**99.9**	**105.2**	**104.6**	**109.3**	**117.4**
held by:						
- main exporters[2]	22.5	19.3	23.4	23.1	25.9	28.4
- others	97.3	80.7	81.7	81.5	83.4	89.0
Developed countries	**123.3**	**188.6**	**189.8**	**133.3**	**124.0**	**168.1**
Australia	8.8	10.0	13.5	6.2	4.7	5.4
Canada	10.3	14.5	16.2	10.5	9.0	11.7
European Union [3]	21.5	47.6	45.1	32.7	31.2	44.1
Hungary [4]	0.8	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	4.9	4.7	4.8	4.4	4.2	3.9
Poland [4]	2.4	-	-	-	-	-
Romania [5]	1.2	5.0	5.6	3.8	-	-
Russian Federation	7.3	9.1	9.3	7.0	5.5	12.0
South Africa	3.5	4.1	4.1	2.7	1.8	3.7
Ukraine	2.8	4.2	4.8	4.2	3.3	7.9
United States	44.4	74.7	71.7	49.9	54.3	68.3
Developing countries	**295.1**	**281.9**	**280.1**	**288.6**	**302.5**	**328.1**
Asia	**253.8**	**237.3**	**237.7**	**242.9**	**263.0**	**284.6**
China	163.3	152.8	149.0	152.8	168.6	189.6
India	32.9	26.7	25.8	28.5	35.9	38.9
Indonesia	6.0	5.7	5.1	5.8	6.7	7.1
Iran, Islamic Republic of	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	3.0	1.9
Korea, Republic of	2.9	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.0
Pakistan	2.2	2.1	3.2	2.5	2.9	3.1
Philippines	1.9	2.3	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.5
Syrian Arab Republic	4.2	4.5	4.6	3.3	2.5	2.1
Turkey	7.2	6.5	5.6	6.2	4.7	2.8
Africa	**21.1**	**23.6**	**25.4**	**29.8**	**24.2**	**23.5**
Algeria	2.6	3.6	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.2
Egypt	2.7	3.1	4.5	4.5	3.9	3.7
Ethiopia	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.7
Morocco	3.0	4.8	2.6	4.0	2.1	2.0
Nigeria	1.6	1.3	1.4	2.1	0.9	1.1
Tunisia	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.3
Central America	**5.9**	**6.3**	**4.8**	**5.0**	**4.8**	**4.6**
Mexico	3.9	4.6	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
South America	**14.0**	**14.4**	**11.9**	**10.6**	**10.3**	**15.3**
Argentina	3.8	3.2	2.6	1.6	3.0	3.4
Brazil	6.0	6.6	4.5	3.6	2.2	6.7

[1] Stock 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] The major **wheat** and **coarse grains** exporters are Argentina, Australia, Canada, the EU and the United States. The major **rice** exporters are India, Pakistan, Thailand, the United States and Viet Nam.
[3] Up to 2004 15 member countries, from 2005 to 2007 25 member countries, from 2008 27 member countries.
[4] From 2005 included in the EU.
[5] From 2008 included in the EU.
Note: Based on official and unofficial estimates. Totals computed from unrounded data.

Table A3. Selected international prices of wheat and coarse grains (*USD/tonne)*

Period	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
Monthly						
2008 – January	381	343	330	206	199	225
2008 – February	449	403	365	220	206	222
2008 – March	481	397	395	234	216	233
2008 – April	382	301	-	247	224	243
2008 – May	349	258	-	242	207	240
2008 – June	358	249	363	281	258	268
2008 – July	341	245	329	267	252	232
2008 – August	343	253	307	232	217	209
2008 – September	308	222	280	229	203	208
2008 – October	252	183	235	181	169	158
2008 – November	247	182	189	166	156	146
2008 – December	240	182	177	160	152	151
2009 – January	256	193	213	172	160	148

[1] Delivered United States f.o.b Gulf.
[2] Delivered United States Gulf.
[3] Up River f.o.b.
Sources: International Grain Council and USDA.

Table A4a. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1] , 2008/09 or 2009 estimates (*thousand tonnes*)

		2007/08 or 2008 Actual imports			2008/09 or 2009			
						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		**36 539.8**	**2 438.4**	**38 978.2**	**41 010.5**	**12 265.1**	**1 308.1**	**10 957.0**
North Africa		**18 193.0**	**0.0**	**18 193.0**	**18 242.0**	**8 629.6**	**0.0**	**8 629.6**
Egypt	July/June	11 872.0	0.0	11 872.0	12 121.0	6 654.0	0.0	6 654.0
Morocco	July/June	6 321.0	0.0	6 321.0	6 121.0	1 975.6	0.0	1 975.6
Eastern Africa		**4 015.2**	**1 516.8**	**5 532.0**	**5 910.0**	**1 696.5**	**929.6**	**766.9**
Burundi	Jan./Dec.	117.5	21.5	139.0	139.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Comoros	Jan./Dec.	42.0	0.0	42.0	47.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Djibouti	Jan./Dec.	98.6	11.4	110.0	87.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eritrea	Jan./Dec.	171.0	5.9	176.9	291.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ethiopia	Jan./Dec.	315.5	626.5	942.0	616.0	610.0	390.0	220.0
Kenya	Oct./Sept.	996.3	197.2	1 193.5	1 990.0	298.2	100.2	198.0
Rwanda	Jan./Dec.	133.9	19.1	153.0	157.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Somalia	Aug./July	381.2	90.8	472.0	600.0	241.5	225.3	16.2
Sudan	Nov./Oct.	1 128.0	416.0	1 544.0	1 401.0	282.3	187.8	94.5
Uganda	Jan./Dec.	105.1	83.9	189.0	175.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
United Rep. of Tanzania	June/May	526.1	44.5	570.6	407.0	264.5	26.3	238.2
Southern Africa		**2 670.0**	**482.5**	**3 152.5**	**4 013.0**	**1 850.6**	**335.0**	**1 515.6**
Angola	April/March	768.6	5.8	774.4	762.0	250.1	0.0	250.1
Lesotho	April/March	201.9	24.2	226.1	220.0	111.4	0.1	111.3
Madagascar	April/March	251.0	61.0	312.0	366.0	187.0	6.6	180.4
Malawi	April/March	125.2	56.8	182.0	150.0	100.4	27.7	72.7
Mozambique	April/March	688.8	62.1	750.9	933.0	404.4	76.1	328.3
Swaziland	May/April	128.1	17.2	145.3	142.0	46.5	0.5	46.0
Zambia	May/April	55.6	4.4	60.0	186.0	60.2	4.3	55.9
Zimbabwe	April/March	450.8	251.0	701.8	1 254.0	690.6	219.7	470.9
Western Africa		**10 153.2**	**328.9**	**10 482.1**	**11 067.5**	**81.2**	**43.5**	**37.7**
Coastal Countries		***7 580.4***	***101.0***	***7 681.4***	***8 408.0***	***15.3***	***0.0***	***15.3***
Benin	Jan./Dec.	67.0	3.0	70.0	72.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Côte d'Ivoire	Jan./Dec.	1 134.0	11.5	1 145.5	1 160.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ghana	Jan./Dec.	819.3	13.1	832.4	985.0	15.0	0.0	15.0
Guinea	Jan./Dec.	456.9	18.5	475.4	509.0	0.3	0.0	0.3
Liberia	Jan./Dec.	206.7	38.3	245.0	270.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Nigeria	Jan./Dec.	4 680.0	0.0	4 680.0	5 180.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sierra Leone	Jan./Dec.	126.9	12.1	139.0	139.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Togo	Jan./Dec.	89.6	4.5	94.1	93.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sahelian Countries		***2 572.8***	***227.9***	***2 800.7***	***2 659.5***	***65.9***	***43.5***	***22.4***
Burkina faso	Nov./Oct.	282.2	20.8	303.0	288.0	5.3	5.3	0.0
Cape Verde	Nov./Oct.	68.5	7.7	76.2	72.0	0.1	0.1	0.0
Chad	Nov./Oct.	53.0	67.4	120.4	118.5	9.8	9.8	0.0
Gambia	Nov./Oct.	101.0	2.8	103.8	109.5	0.6	0.6	0.0
Guinea-Bissau	Nov./Oct.	99.4	7.0	106.4	95.0	0.6	0.6	0.0
Mali	Nov./Oct.	215.9	8.0	223.9	268.0	1.2	1.2	0.0
Mauritania	Nov./Oct.	366.5	45.3	411.8	367.8	23.1	15.7	7.4
Niger	Nov./Oct.	335.2	53.4	388.6	310.0	4.6	4.6	0.0
Senegal	Nov./Oct.	1 051.1	15.5	1 066.6	1 030.7	20.6	5.6	15.0
Central Africa		**1 508.4**	**110.2**	**1 618.6**	**1 778.0**	**7.2**	**0.0**	**7.2**
Cameroon	Jan./Dec.	537.0	9.1	546.1	620.0	7.2	0.0	7.2
Cent.Afr.Rep.	Jan./Dec.	38.0	13.8	51.8	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Congo	Jan./Dec.	312.5	2.5	315.0	323.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dem.Rep.of the Congo	Jan./Dec.	584.9	83.8	668.7	741.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Equatorial Guinea	Jan./Dec.	24.0	0.0	24.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sao Tome and Principe	Jan./Dec.	12.0	1.0	13.0	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table A4b. Cereal import requirements of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries[1] , 2008/09 or 2009 estimates (*thousand tonnes*)

		2007/08 or 2008 Actual imports			2008/09 or 2009			
						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		**38 140.0**	**1 425.0**	**39 565.0**	**42 767.0**	**13 928.9**	**816.1**	**13 112.8**
CIS in Asia		**3 723.4**	**34.6**	**3 758.0**	**4 141.0**	**1 387.4**	**31.1**	**1 356.3**
Armenia	July/June	378.4	4.6	383.0	355.0	224.1	1.6	222.5
Azerbaijan	July/June	1 347.2	2.8	1 350.0	1 156.0	764.7	0.8	763.9
Georgia	July/June	817.9	8.1	826.0	886.0	225.7	7.2	218.5
Kyrgyzstan	July/June	330.0	0.0	330.0	316.0	8.9	0.0	8.9
Tajikistan	July/June	439.9	19.1	459.0	558.0	60.4	21.5	38.9
Turkmenistan	July/June	272.0	0.0	272.0	610.0	9.6	0.0	9.6
Uzbekistan	July/June	138.0	0.0	138.0	260.0	94.0	0.0	94.0
Far East		**23 533.4**	**1 209.8**	**24 743.2**	**23 261.0**	**8 074.0**	**567.6**	**7 506.4**
Bangladesh	July/June	2 986.6	344.3	3 330.9	3 294.2	1 241.6	75.3	1 166.3
Bhutan	July/June	71.0	0.0	71.0	71.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cambodia	Jan./Dec.	33.8	6.4	40.2	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
China (Mainland)	July/June	1 810.0	0.0	1 810.0	1 567.0	336.1	0.0	336.1
D.P.R. of Korea	Nov./Oct.	770.0	728.3	1 498.3	1 786.0	450.0	450.0	0.0
India	April/March	2 078.4	21.6	2 100.0	600.0	62.3	6.7	55.6
Indonesia	April/March	7 528.6	16.0	7 544.6	6 544.4	2 489.7	0.0	2 489.7
Lao, P.D.R.	Jan./Dec.	21.4	6.9	28.3	17.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mongolia	Oct./Sept.	290.8	5.0	295.8	274.0	45.7	0.0	45.7
Nepal	July/June	173.8	16.2	190.0	240.0	26.9	1.9	25.0
Pakistan	May/April	1 519.5	2.1	1 521.6	2 521.0	1 956.8	30.9	1 925.9
Philippines	July/June	5 016.5	16.9	5 033.4	5 026.0	1 464.9	2.8	1 462.1
Sri Lanka	Jan./Dec.	1 172.0	46.1	1 218.1	1 220.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Timor-Leste	July/June	61.0	0.0	61.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Near East		**10 883.2**	**180.6**	**11 063.8**	**15 365.0**	**4 467.5**	**217.4**	**4 250.1**
Afghanistan	July/June	856.2	151.5	1 007.7	2 340.0	284.5	193.1	91.4
Iraq	July/June	4 623.0	9.0	4 632.0	5 040.0	1 914.7	14.7	1 900.0
Syrian Arab Republic	July/June	2 564.0	8.2	2 572.2	4 915.0	2 268.3	9.6	2 258.7
Yemen	Jan./Dec.	2 840.0	11.9	2 851.9	3 070.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CENTRAL AMERICA		**1 513.7**	**147.3**	**1 661.0**	**1 725.0**	**705.1**	**115.9**	**589.2**
Haiti	July/June	515.4	77.8	593.2	635.0	272.6	91.6	181.0
Honduras	July/June	655.2	25.6	680.8	695.0	285.6	6.5	279.1
Nicaragua	July/June	343.1	43.9	387.0	395.0	146.9	17.8	129.1
OCEANIA		**437.7**	**0.0**	**437.7**	**437.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Kiribati	Jan./Dec.	8.7	0.0	8.7	8.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Papua New Guinea	Jan./Dec.	380.0	0.0	380.0	380.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Solomon Islands	Jan./Dec.	29.5	0.0	29.5	29.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tonga	Jan./Dec.	6.4	0.0	6.4	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tuvalu	Jan./Dec.	1.1	0.0	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vanuatu	Jan./Dec.	12.0	0.0	12.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EUROPE		**1 606.1**	**45.9**	**1 652.0**	**1 230.0**	**353.5**	**0.0**	**353.5**
Albania	July/June	480.0	0.0	480.0	440.0	99.7	0.0	99.7
Belarus	July/June	361.0	0.0	361.0	150.0	121.5	0.0	121.5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	July/June	475.0	0.0	475.0	590.0	94.0	0.0	94.0
Republic of Moldova	July/June	290.1	45.9	336.0	50.0	38.3	0.0	38.3
TOTAL		**78 237.3**	**4 056.6**	**82 293.9**	**87 170.2**	**27 252.6**	**2 240.1**	**25 012.5**

[1] Includes food deficit countries with per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. USD 1 675 in 2005).
[2] Estimates based on information available as of mid-January 2009.

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Enquiries may be directed to:
Henri Josserand, Chief, Global Information and Early Warning Service,
Trade and Markets Division, (EST), FAO, Rome
Direct Facsimile: 0039-06-5705-4495, E-mail: GIEWS1@FAO.ORG.
Or find us on the FAO World Wide Web site (www.fao.org) at:
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