Below-average cereal production obtained in 2018

Conditions of 2019 winter cereals are overall favourable and crops are expected to be harvested from May. In the northern main wheat-growing province of Shirak, precipitation levels have been slightly below average since January 2019. However, as of early April, remote sensing data showed close-to-average vegetation conditions in the most cropping areas.

Aggregate production of cereals (mainly wheat and barley) in 2018 is estimated at 332 000 tonnes, above the previous year's level, due to a rebound in yields, but 35 percent below the five-year average, on account of a gradual decrease in area planted. The aggregate area planted with cereals has contracted by about 30 percent since 2015. Wheat and barley outputs in 2018 are officially estimated at well below-average levels of 187 500 and 124 200 tonnes, respectively.

Planting of 2019 spring cereals recently started under generally favourable weather conditions and crops are expected to be harvested from August.

Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 expected at above-average level

Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 342 000 tonnes, about 10 percent above the five-year average as a result of the last two years’ sharp decrease in production. Wheat imports, which account for most of total cereal purchases, are forecast at 300 000 tonnes, well above the five-year average level.

Prices of wheat flour increased slightly in March

Domestic prices of wheat flour and bread remained virtually unchanged over the last months. However, in March 2019, prices rose slightly mainly on account of high wheat flour export
quotations from the Russian Federation, the primary cereal supplier to the country.

Prices of potatoes, another staple food, seasonally decreased in March 2019, but they were about 30 percent above their levels in the corresponding month in 2018, due to a year-on-year decrease in output.

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Armenia
Cereals imports
000 tonnes

Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).

Armenia
Selected retail food prices
Armenian Dram per kg

Source: FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis Tool.