GIEWS Country Brief
Armenia

Reference Date: 05-November-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT
- Cereal production in 2018 estimated well below five-year average
- Cereal imports expected to increase in 2018/19 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of wheat flour stable in October

Cereal production in 2018 estimated well below five-year average
Harvesting of the 2018 cereal crops (mainly wheat and barley) finalized by the end of September under favourable weather conditions.

Aggregate production of cereals in 2018 is estimated at 271 000 tonnes, a ten-year low due to the progressive reduction of planted area of wheat and barley crops. Total cereals planted area was reduced by about 35 percent during the last two years and is estimated in 2018 at about 124 000 hectares.

As a result, production of wheat and barley in 2018 is estimated at well below average levels of 160 000 and 7 000 tonnes, respectively.

Sowing of the 2019 wheat crop just finalized under generally favourable weather conditions.

Cereal imports expected to increase in 2018/19 marketing year (July/June)
Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 326 000 tonnes, close to the five-year average but well above the previous year’s level. As a result of the last two years’ sharp decrease in production, wheat imports, which account for the majority of total cereal purchases, are forecast above the five-year average level, at 300 000 tonnes.

Prices of wheat flour stable in October
Domestic prices of wheat flour and bread were virtually unchanged in October compared to the previous month and they were generally close to their values of a year earlier.

Prices of potatoes, another staple food in the country, decreased in October and were about 6 percent below their year earlier levels.

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<td>Crop Calendar</td>
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Source: FAO/GIEWS.

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<td>Cereal Production</td>
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<td>Others</td>
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Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data. Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.
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).

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Selected retail food prices

Armenian Dram per kg

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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

Reference Date: 18-January-2018

**FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT**
- Cereal production in 2017 estimated close to average level
- Cereal imports in 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) expected close to previous year’s level
- Prices of wheat flour were stable in last months

Cereal production in 2017 estimated close to five-year average
Cereal production in 2017 is estimated at 567 000 tonnes, just 3 percent below the high level in 2016, but still close to average. Wheat production is set at 340 000 tonnes, just 10 000 tonnes below 2016’s level.

Planting of winter cereals (wheat and minor barley crops), for harvest in 2018, is complete. The total area planted is forecast to be close to the previous year. Although rainfall amounts have been below average at planting time, precipitations during the October-November 2017 period have been sufficient to provide adequate soil moisture in most areas.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 expected close to previous year’s level
Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 290 000 tonnes, close to the previous year’s level. Wheat imports, which account for the majority of total cereal purchases, are forecast at 260 000 tonnes. The Russian Federation continues to be the main wheat and flour supplier.

Prices of wheat flour stable over last three months
Prices of wheat flour were stable in the October-December 2017 period and were close to their values of a year ago, mainly reflecting relatively low export prices and a stable national currency.

By contrast, prices of potatoes, another key staple, surged in November 2017 and were around 50 percent above their values of a year ago, reflecting a decline in domestic production and high export prices in the subregion.
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Cereal production in 2017 forecast close to good 2016 level

The 2017 winter cereals (wheat and minor barley crop) are currently entering maturity, while spring cereals (barley, maize and minor wheat crops) are now being sown. The total area planted is officially forecast close to the previous year.

Throughout the season, the level of precipitation has been sufficient to provide adequate soil moisture in most of the areas. Only Shirak Region in the northwest and Gegharkunik Region in the centre show crop areas moderately affected by drought conditions (see Agricultural Stress Index map). Shirak and Gegharkunik regions both account for about 40 percent of the total wheat production and 50 percent of barley crop production.

At this stage, FAO’s early forecast for cereal production in 2017 is set at 567 000 tonnes, about 3 percent less than 2016.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 expected close to previous year’s level

Cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at 290 000 tonnes, close to the previous year’s level. Wheat imports, which account for the majority of total cereal purchases, are forecast at 260 000 tonnes. The Russian Federation continues to be the main wheat and flour supplier.

Prices of wheat flour decreased in April

Prices of wheat flour declined in April and were around 4 percent below their values of a year ago, mainly reflecting relatively low export prices and a stable national currency. Prices of bread were almost 10 percent below their year-earlier values.

By contrast, prices of potatoes, another key staple, rose in April by 12 percent and were 4 percent above their April 2016 levels, reflecting worries over conditions of the recently-planted potatoes, which have been negatively affected by cold weather.
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Cereal production in 2016 increased from last year's record

FAO's latest estimates for cereal production in 2016 point to 4 percent increase compared to the already high level in 2015. Wheat production is set to increase by 7 percent to 410 million tonnes following better yields and increased area planted.

Planting of winter cereals for harvest in 2017 is complete. Recent remote sensing data shows that rainfall in Shirak Province, the main wheat producer, has been above average and similar to the levels of last year from October to mid-December.

Cereal imports expected to rebound in 2016/17 after low level of last year

Cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June), essentially wheat and wheat flour, are forecast to increase to 350,000 tonnes. Wheat imports have been reduced in 2015/16 after the country replenished its stocks in 2014/15, profiting from the weak Rouble in the Russian Federation, the main wheat supplier.

Prices of wheat flour decreased in November

Prices of wheat flour declined in November, mainly reflecting ample supplies of the 2016 wheat and were 8 percent below their exceptionally high levels a year ago. Prices of bread remained unchanged over the past three months, but were around 5 percent down compared to their values in December 2015. Prices of potatoes, another key staple, rose in November, but remained 23 percent below their year-earlier levels, reflecting a big production in 2016.
Food Security Snapshot

- Wheat production in 2016 forecast unchanged from last year’s record
- Cereal imports expected to decline slightly in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June)
- Prices of wheat flour and bread decreased in February

Wheat production in 2016 is forecast unchanged from last year’s record

Winter cereals for harvest in 2016 are currently developing under favourable conditions. The area planted is reportedly virtually unchanged from the previous year’s good level at about 726,000 hectares. Recent remote sensing data shows that rainfall has been close to the levels of last year (above average) during January to mid-March, which is expected to benefit crop development. Assuming favourable weather conditions until the end of the cropping season, this year’s wheat production is forecast at 370,000 tonnes, virtually unchanged from the record of last year.

Cereal imports expected to decline slightly in 2015/16 following record crop

Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decline slightly to 337,000 tonnes, of which 90 percent are expected to be wheat. Wheat imports have been declining over the past years as a result of growing domestic production. However, the country still is heavily dependent on cereal imports to meet its consumption needs, mainly from the Russian Federation.

Prices of wheat flour and bread decreased in February

Prices of wheat flour and bread declined in February, mainly reflecting trends of export quotations in the Russian Federation, the country’s main supplier, and were 9 percent below their levels a year ago. Prices of bread were around 5 percent down compared to their values in February 2015. Prices of potatoes, another key staple, rose slightly in February but remained 14 percent below their year-earlier levels, reflecting ample supplies after high the production in 2015.
Wheat production in 2015 expected to increase over last year’s high level

The 2015 cereal crops --mainly wheat and barley-- are currently developing under favourable weather conditions. The vegetation response captured by the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), as of the second dekad of March, shows good establishment of winter wheat over most of the country, with the exception of western parts of Armavir province, where soil moisture was generally below normal levels, due to weak rains from mid-January to mid-March. FAO’s early forecasts put this year’s wheat production at 350 000 tonnes, up 3 percent from last year’s bumper level, reflecting an estimated increase in sowings due to high local demand and favourable prices at planting time.

Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2014/15 marketing year (July/June)

The country is dependent on cereal imports, mainly from the Russian Federation, as national production only covers about 59 percent of total cereal needs. Cereal imports, for the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June), consisting of almost 90 percent of wheat, are forecast at 278 000 tonnes, some 9 percent above last year’s reduced level and some 14 percent below the five-year average. The increase mainly reflects strong local demand.

Prices of wheat flour and potatoes decreased in February

Prices of wheat flour decreased in February, mainly reflecting trends of export quotations in the Russian Federation, the country’s main supplier. Similarly, prices of potatoes, another key staple, decreased considerably in February and were well below their year-earlier levels.
Armenia
Selected retail food prices
Armenian Dram per Kg

Source: National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia