

Reference Date: 17-February-2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Prospects for 2016 wheat crop are favourable
- Rice production in 2015 estimated down from 2014's average level
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year forecast close to average levels

Prospects for 2016 wheat crop are favourable

Planting of the 2016 **wheat** crop was completed last November. Favourable weather, overall, since the start of the season benefitted planting operations and early crop development. Assuming yields return closer to average, after the record highs in 2015, FAO tentatively forecasts a drop in the 2016 wheat production to about 860 000 tonnes from the previous year's high level.

Rice production in 2015 estimated down from 2014's average level

FAO's latest estimate puts 2015 **paddy** output at 10.2 million tonnes, down 5 percent from the 2014 average level. The decline mostly reflects a reduction in the paddy area, in response to reduced prices.

The 2015, mostly irrigated, **wheat** crop is officially estimated at 996 000 tonnes, 17 percent above 2014's good output, reflecting record yields resulting from particularly favourable weather during the growing season.

Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) forecast close to average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) are forecast close to average levels of 24 million tonnes, covering approximately 60 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Of the total, the bulk is accounted for by maize (15.2 million tonnes), which is not produced domestically and wheat (5.4 million tonnes), while an average amount of rice imports (700 000 tonnes) are also expected.

Japan

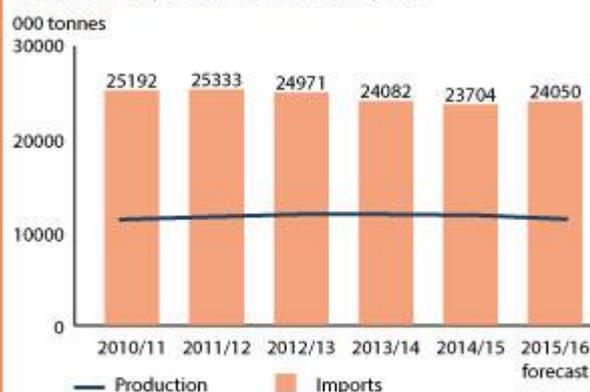
Cereal production

| | 2010-2014 average | 2014 | 2015 estimate | change 2015/2014 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 770 | 10 774 | 10 203 | -5 |
| Wheat | 768 | 852 | 996 | 17 |
| Barley | 172 | 170 | 177 | 4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 737 | 11 824 | 11 404 | -4 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 28-October-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Aggregate cereal production in 2015 forecast at an average level
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year expected to increase slightly

Aggregate cereal production in 2015 forecast at an average level

Harvesting of the 2015 **rice** crop is nearing completion. FAO's latest forecast puts this year's paddy output at 10.7 million tonnes, down slightly from 2014 average level. The decline is mainly the result of a marginal decrease in plantings reflecting lower crop prices. The passage of tropical storm "Eta" in September caused localized floods and landslides across eastern parts of the country, causing minor damage to paddy crop.

The 2015, mostly irrigated, **wheat** crop, harvested in July, is estimated by FAO at 860 000 tonnes, slightly above last year's good output. The small increase reflects a small expansion in area planted, as well as estimated higher yields following overall favourable weather during the growing season. However, below-average rains and lower availability of water supplies in parts of Hokkaido Island and prefectures of Tochigi, Saitama and Akita, resulted in slightly lower yields in these areas.

Cereal imports in 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) forecast close to average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at a near-average level of 24.5 million tonnes, covering approximately 60 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically), around 15.2 million tonnes and, on average, about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively smaller volumes of rice, about 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

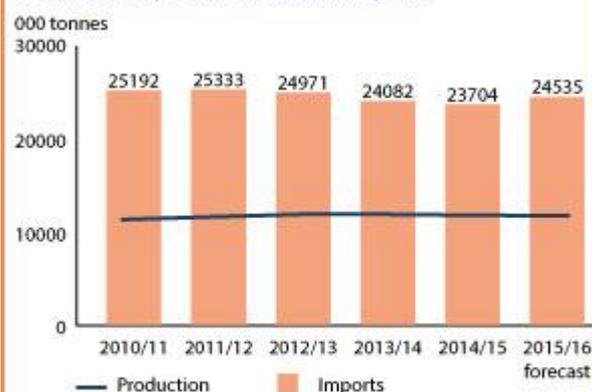
Cereal production

| | 2010-2014 average | 2014 | 2015 forecast | change 2015/2014 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 770 | 10 774 | 10 720 | -1 |
| Wheat | 768 | 852 | 860 | 1 |
| Barley | 172 | 170 | 175 | 3 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 737 | 11 824 | 11 783 | 0 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 04-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Prospects for 2015 wheat crop are favourable
- Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

Prospects for 2015 wheat crop are favourable

Planting of the 2015 winter season wheat crop was completed in November. Remote sensing data points to rainfall at average or near-average levels over much of the country since the start of the season, benefitting early crop development. Assuming that favourable weather will continue for the rest of the season, FAO preliminarily forecasts the 2015 wheat production at 850 000 tonnes, close to last year's high level.

Harvesting of the 2014 paddy crop was also completed in November. FAO's latest estimate points to a paddy harvest slightly below last year's bumper output, at 10.6 million tonnes, as a result of a small decrease in plantings.

Aggregate cereal production for 2014 is set at 11.6 million tonnes, close to last year's level and above the average recorded for the period 2009-2013.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) forecast close to average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at around 25.4 million tonnes, covering some 65 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of around 15.6 million tonnes and, on average, about 6.2 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively smaller volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

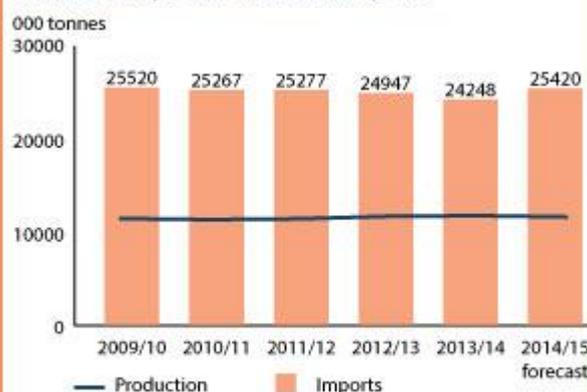
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 estimate | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,622 | 10,759 | 10,600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 849 | 5 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 170 | -7 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,555 | 11,782 | 11,647 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 22-December-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2014 aggregate cereal production estimated to remain high
- Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

2014 cereal production estimated to remain high

Harvesting of the 2014 paddy crop was completed by the end of November. FAO's latest estimate points to a paddy harvest slightly below last year's bumper output, at 10.6 million tonnes, as a result of a small decrease in plantings due to low prices at sowing time.

The 2014 winter wheat harvest, concluded in July, is estimated by FAO at 840 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the level of 2013 and over 100 000 tonnes higher than the average for 2009-2013.

Aggregate cereal production for 2014 is set at 11.6 million tonnes, close to last year's level and above the average recorded for the period 2009-2013.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (April/May) forecast at average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at around 26 million tonnes, covering 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of around 16 million tonnes and, on average, about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively smaller volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

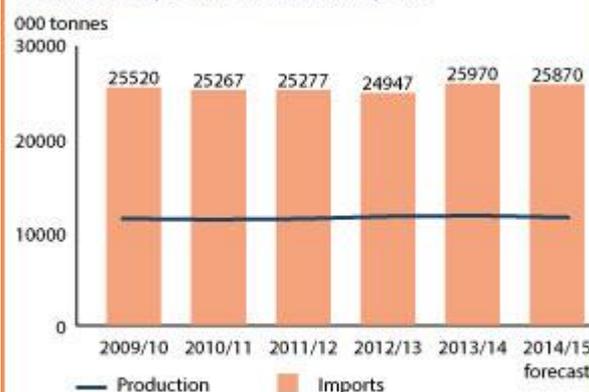
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 forecast | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,622 | 10,759 | 10,600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 840 | 3 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 175 | -4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,555 | 11,782 | 11,643 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 21-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2014 aggregate cereal production forecast to remain high
- Cereal imports of 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

2014 cereal production forecast to remain high

Harvesting of the 2014 paddy crop is currently underway and will continue until the end of November. FAO's latest forecast points to a paddy harvest slightly below last year's bumper output, at 10.6 million tonnes, as a result of a small decrease in plantings due to low prices at sowing time.

The 2014 winter wheat harvest, concluded in July, is estimated by FAO at 840 000 tonnes, slightly higher than the level of 2013 but over 100 000 tonnes higher than the average for 2009-2013.

Aggregate cereal production for 2014 is forecast at 11.6 million tonnes, close to last year's level and above the average recorded for the period 2009-2013.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (April/May) forecast at average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at around 26 million tonnes, covering 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of around 16 million tonnes and, on average, about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively smaller volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

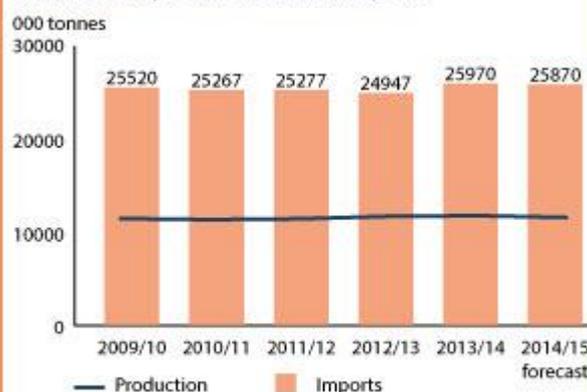
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 forecast | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | percent | |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,622 | 10,759 | 10,600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 840 | 3 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 175 | -4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,555 | 11,782 | 11,643 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 10-September-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2014 aggregate cereal production forecast to remain high
- Cereal imports of the 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

The 2014 aggregate cereal production forecast to remain high

Harvesting of the 2014 paddy crop is currently underway and will continue into November. FAO's latest forecast points to a paddy harvest similar to last year's bumper output, at 10.6 million tonnes as a result of a slight decrease in plantings, due to low prices at sowing time. Winter wheat, harvest of which concluded in July, was affected by below-average rains and lower availability of water supplies in parts of the country during the season, which resulted in lower than expected yields. FAO estimates this year's production at 790 000 tonnes, 3 percent below the 2013 good harvest. Cereal production for 2014 is anticipated to remain close to last year's level and above average.

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/May) forecast at average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at average levels of around 26 million tonnes, covering 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of around 16 million tonnes and, on average, about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

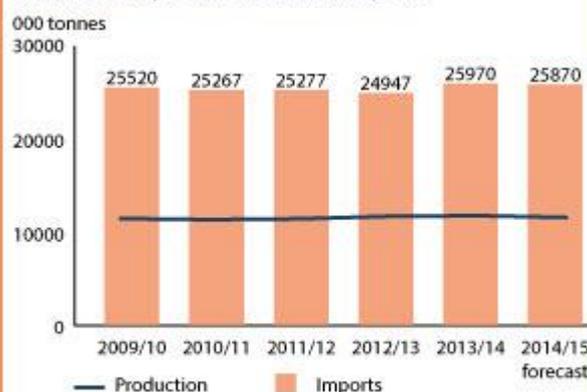
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 forecast | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 622 | 10 759 | 10 600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 790 | -3 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 175 | -4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 555 | 11 782 | 11 593 | -2 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 03-June-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2014 aggregate cereal harvest forecast to decline slightly but still above average
- Cereal imports of the 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

The 2014 aggregate cereal harvest forecast to decline slightly but still above average

Harvesting of the 2014 mostly irrigated **wheat** crop has just started and is expected to continue until July. FAO forecasts this year's production at 790 000 tonnes, 3 percent below the 2013 good harvest. Despite a slight increase in plantings, the projected reduction in the output is the result of lower yields, following below-average rains and lower availability of water supplies during the season in parts of the country.

Planting of the 2014 **rice** crop was completed by the end of May. Early indications point to a slight decrease in the area planted, mainly due to relative low prices. Assuming favourable weather conditions, FAO preliminary forecasts the 2014 rice production at 10.6 million tonnes, around last year's bumper output.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (April/May) forecast at average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are tentatively forecast at average levels of around 26 million tonnes, amounting to about 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of over 15 million tonnes and on average about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

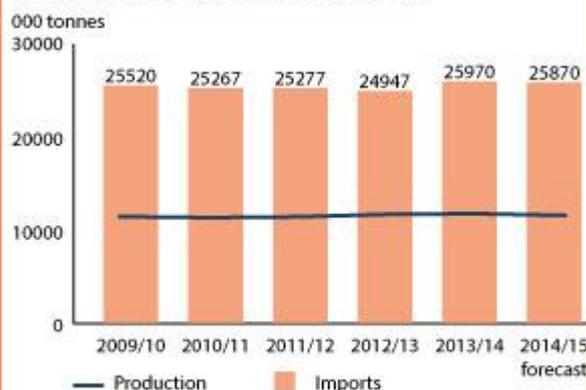
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 forecast | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 622 | 10 759 | 10 600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 790 | -3 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 175 | -4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 555 | 11 782 | 11 593 | -2 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 13-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2014 aggregate cereal harvest forecast to decline slightly but still above average
- Cereal imports of the 2014/15 marketing year forecast at average levels

The 2014 aggregate cereal harvest forecast to decline slightly but still above average

Harvesting of the 2014 mostly irrigated **wheat** crop has just started and is expected to continue until July. FAO forecasts this year's production at 790 000 tonnes, 3 percent below the 2013 good harvest. Despite a slight increase in plantings, the projected reduction in the output is the result of lower yields, following below-average rains and lower availability of water supplies during the season in parts of the country.

Planting of the 2014 **rice** crop, started in early April and will continue until the end of May. Early indications point to a slight decrease in the area planted, mainly due to relative low prices. Assuming favourable weather conditions, FAO preliminary forecasts the 2014 rice production at 10.6 million tonnes, around last year's bumper output.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (April/May) forecast at average levels

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (April/March) are tentatively forecast at average levels of around 26 million tonnes, amounting to about 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization. Annually, the country imports large quantities of maize (which is not produced domestically) of over 15 million tonnes and on average about 6 million tonnes of wheat. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

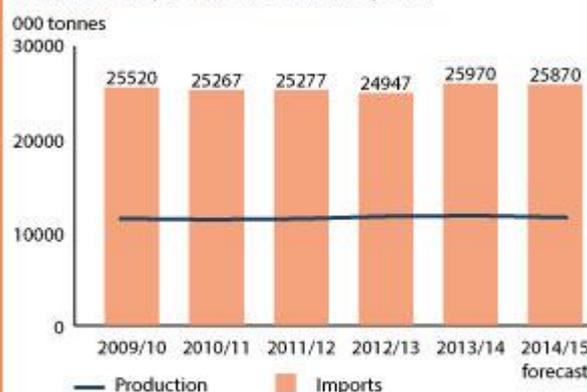
Cereal production

| | 2009-2013 average | 2013 | 2014 forecast | change 2014/2013 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 622 | 10 759 | 10 600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 732 | 812 | 790 | -3 |
| Barley | 173 | 183 | 175 | -4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 555 | 11 782 | 11 593 | -2 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 19-September-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2013 cereal production to remain relatively stable
- Cereal imports of the 2013/14 marketing year forecast at an average level

2013 cereal production to remain relatively stable

Harvesting of the **2013 paddy crop** is currently underway and will continue into November. Based on expectations of average yields, FAO latest estimates point to a paddy harvest of 10.6 million tonnes (7.7 million tonnes in milled terms), similar to last year's average output. In Japan, **winter wheat**, one of the minor crops, is generally planted from September to November and harvested in May-July. With an estimated contraction in wheat plantings and normal rainfall conditions during growing period, total wheat production in 2013 is tentatively forecast by FAO at 825 000 tonnes, some 11 percent above the average of last five years but 4 percent below the 2012 good harvest. The **2013 barley** output is estimated by FAO at 185 000 tonnes, 8 percent higher than the reduced crop of 2012. Following the Fukushima disaster, the area planted to **paddy crop in 2012** remained similar to the level of 2011. FAO latest estimates point to a paddy harvest of 10.65 million tonnes in 2012, similar to the output obtained in 2011.

Cereal imports of the 2013/14 marketing year forecast at an average level

Production of wheat covers only a small portion of the domestic consumption requirements. Therefore, the country **imports** large amounts of wheat, averaging over 5.8 million tonnes per year. Japan does not produce maize, hence large quantities of over 15 million tonnes are imported annually. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, around 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually. Total cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at a normal level of slightly above 25 million tonnes, amounting to about 76 percent of total domestic cereal utilization.

Japan

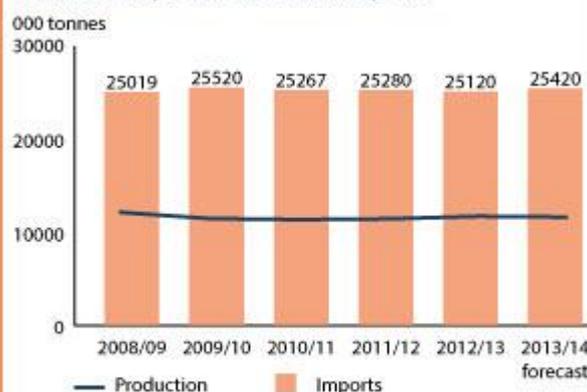
Cereal production

| | 2008-2012 average | 2012 | 2013 forecast | change 2013/2012 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 676 | 10 654 | 10 600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 746 | 858 | 825 | -4 |
| Barley | 180 | 172 | 185 | 8 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 630 | 11 712 | 11 638 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 19-June-2013

In Japan, **winter wheat**, one of the minor crops, is generally planted from September to November and harvested in May-July. Rainfall amounts have been generally good from September to April in most of the country. However, based on satellite imagery, below average rains were received between the first dekad of May and the first dekad of June, at a critical stage in the maize crop's development for late planted crop. Given a estimated contraction in wheat plantings, on account of an expansion of rice plantings and erratic rainfall conditions, total wheat production in 2013 is tentatively forecast by FAO at 820 000 tonnes, some 4 percent below the 2012 above-average harvest. Planting of the 2013 paddy crop was completed in May. Early prospects point to a harvest of 10.6 million tonnes, similar to last year's average output.

Harvesting of the **2012 paddy crop** was completed last November. Following the Fukushima disaster, the area planted to paddy in 2012 remained similar to the level of 2011. FAO latest estimates point to a paddy harvest of 10.65 million tonnes in 2012, similar to the output obtained in 2011. For **2012 winter wheat**, despite a decrease in plantings compared to 2011, higher yields led to an increase in production, officially estimated at about 858 000 tonnes, some 15 percent above the 2011 below-average harvest. The 2012 barley output is officially estimated at 172 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's harvest.

Production of wheat covers only a small portion of the domestic consumption requirements. Therefore, the country **imports** large amounts of wheat, averaging over 5.8 million tonnes per year.

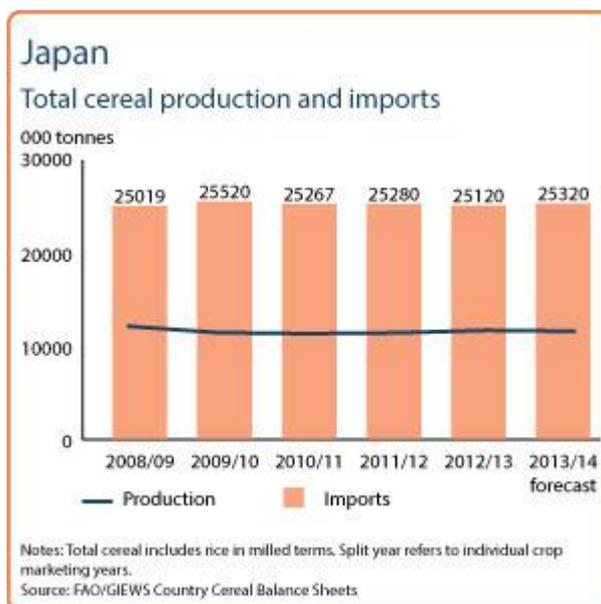
Japan does not produce maize, hence large quantities of over 15 million tonnes are imported annually. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, in the order of 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Total cereal imports for the 2013/14 marketing year (April/March) are forecast at a normal level of slightly above 25 million tonnes.

Japan
Cereal production

| | 2008-2012 average | 2012 | 2013 forecast | change 2013/2012 |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,676 | 10,654 | 10,600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 746 | 858 | 820 | -4 |
| Barley | 180 | 172 | 172 | 0 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,630 | 11,712 | 11,620 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 30-April-2013

In Japan **winter wheat**, one of the minor crops, is generally planted from September to November and harvested in May-July. Planted area to 2013 wheat is estimated to have decreased slightly, on account of an expected expansion of rice plantings. Given favourable weather conditions from September to April, total wheat production in 2013 is tentatively forecast at 850 000 tonnes, slightly below the 2012 above-average harvest. Planting of the 2013 paddy crop has started in April under normal weather conditions. Early indications point to a slight increase in plantings, mainly as a result of high prices during 2012. Harvesting of the **2012 paddy crop**, was completed last November. Following the Fukushima disaster, the area planted to paddy in 2012 remained similar to the level of 2011. FAO latest estimates point to a paddy harvest of 10.65 million tonnes in 2012, similar to the output obtained in 2011. For **2012 winter wheat**, despite a decrease in plantings compared to 2011, higher yields led to an increase in production, officially estimated at about 855 000 tonnes, some 15 percent above the 2011 below-average harvest. The 2012 barley output is officially estimated at 172 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's harvest.

Production of wheat covers only a small portion of the domestic consumption requirements, therefore, the country **imports** large amounts of wheat, averaging over 5.6 million tonnes per year.

Total cereal imports for the 2012/13 marketing year (April/March) are estimated at a normal level of slightly above 25 million tonnes. Japan does not produce maize, hence large quantities of over 15 million tonnes are imported annually. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, in the order of 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually. Total cereal imports for 2013/14 are preliminarily are estimated to remain at about the same level as the year before.

Japan

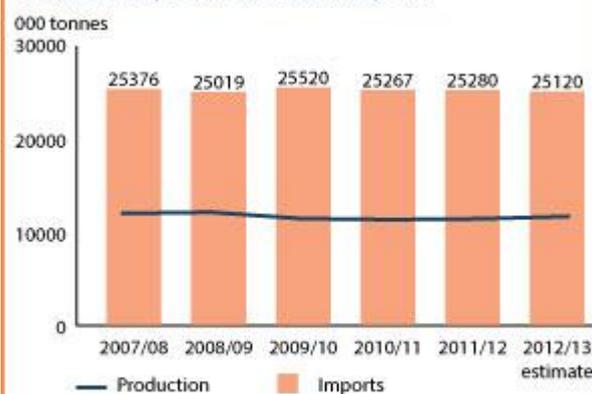
Cereal production

| | 2008-2012 | 2012 | 2013 | change |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| | average | | | |
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,676 | 10,654 | 10,600 | -1 |
| Wheat | 745 | 855 | 850 | -1 |
| Barley | 180 | 172 | 172 | 0 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,629 | 11,709 | 11,650 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 23-January-2013

In Japan winter wheat is generally planted from September to November and harvested in May-July. This time the generally above-average rains since the start of the season in September, benefited plantings and early crop development.

Harvesting of the 2012 paddy crop was completed in November. Following the Fukushima disaster, the area planted to paddy remained similar to the level of 2011. FAO latest estimates point to a paddy harvest of 10.54 million tonnes, similar to the output obtained in 2011 and about 2 percent less than the average of previous five years. For 2012 winter wheat, despite a decrease in plantings compared to 2011, higher yields led to an increase in production, officially estimated at about 855 000 tonnes, some 15 percent above the 2011 below-average harvest. The 2012 barley output is officially estimated at 172 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year's harvest.

Production of wheat covers only a small portion of the domestic consumption requirements, therefore the country imports large amounts of wheat, averaging over 5.6 million tonnes per year. The cereal import requirement in the current 2012/13 marketing year (April/March) is forecast at a normal level of slightly above 25 million tonnes. Japan does not produce maize, hence large quantities of over 15 million tonnes are imported annually. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, in the order of 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan

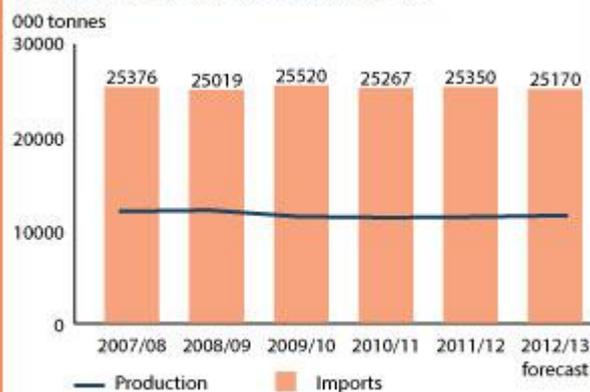
Cereal production

| | 2007-2011 average | 2011 | 2012 estimate | change 2012/2011 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10,724 | 10,500 | 10,540 | 0 |
| Wheat | 756 | 746 | 855 | 15 |
| Barley | 185 | 172 | 172 | 0 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11,693 | 11,446 | 11,595 | 1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 11-July-2012

Harvesting of the 2012 winter wheat crop is just underway and will continue into August. Rains were generally above average throughout the country during the 2012 cropping season benefiting crop development. Barley and wheat production is expected to rise slightly, on account of improved yields.

Planting of the 2012 paddy crop was completed in May. Despite a marginal decrease in plantings, due to high levels of soil contamination caused by radioactive caesium following the Fukushima disaster, output is expected to increase somewhat as a result of favourable weather conditions so far.

Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011 on its east coast causing a heavy death toll and an enormous devastation. The subsequent nuclear disaster with significant radioactivity has affected the food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors in the five prefectures (Aomori, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Iwate and Miyagi) located on the eastern part of central Japan.

However, the impact of the tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis on the 2011 cereal crops was smaller than previously conceived. The rice crop was officially estimated at 10.5 million tonnes, showing only a slight decrease from the previous year's level. Wheat and barley production increased marginally compared to 2010.

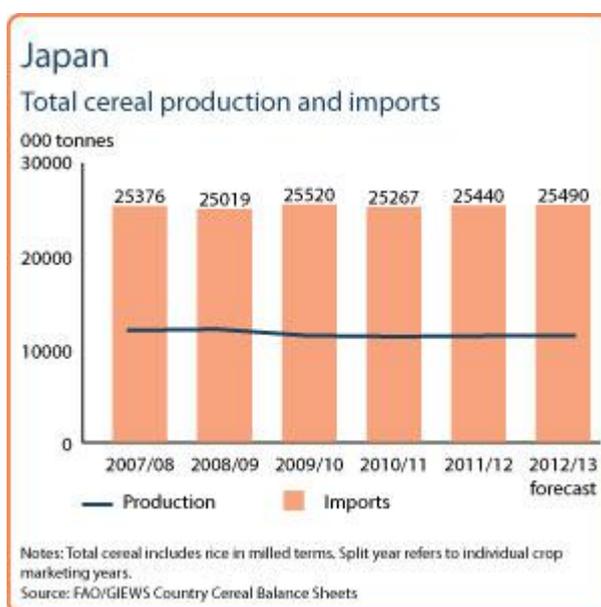
Production of wheat covers only a small portion of the domestic consumption requirements and the country imports large amounts of wheat, averaging over 5 million tonnes per year.

Japan does not produce maize, hence large quantities of over 16 million tonnes are imported annually. By contrast, relatively small volumes of rice, in the order of 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes, are imported annually.

Japan
Cereal production

| | 2007-2011 average | 2011 | 2012 forecast | change 2012/2011 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 724 | 10 500 | 10 540 | 0 |
| Wheat | 756 | 742 | 746 | 1 |
| Barley | 184 | 170 | 172 | 1 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 692 | 11 440 | 11 486 | 0 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



Reference Date: 14-February-2012

Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011 on its east coast causing a heavy death toll and an enormous devastation. The subsequent nuclear disaster with significant radioactivity has affected food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors in the five prefectures (Fukushima, Miyagi, Ibaraki and Iwate) located on the eastern part of central Japan. According to the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries agricultural damage estimates, reported in November 2011, amount roughly to USD 30 million.

The impact of the tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis on 2011 crops was smaller than previously conceived. Rice crop planted in April-May and harvested from September to November was officially estimated at 10.3 million tonnes, showing a slight decrease from the output a year before. Despite an improvement in wheat and barley production compared to 2010, the 2011 harvests are still below average.

The winter season wheat crop is sown in September-November and harvested during June-August. Production averages around 775 000 tonnes with large amounts of imports of over 5 million tonnes.

Very small amount, about 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes of rice is imported annually. The country does not produce but is a major importer of maize (16.2 million tonnes).

Japan

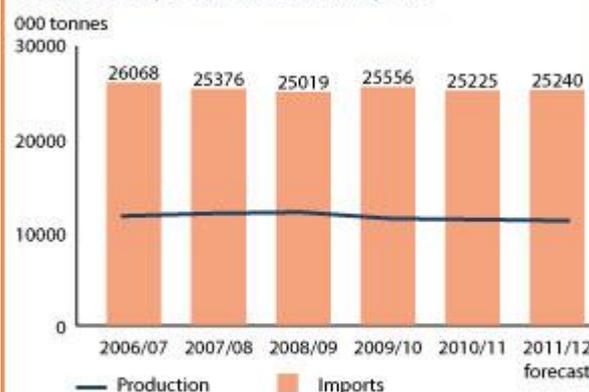
Cereal production

| | 2006-2010 average | 2010 | 2011 estimate | change 2011/2010 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 763 | 10 604 | 10 300 | -3 |
| Wheat | 775 | 571 | 742 | 30 |
| Barley | 185 | 161 | 170 | 6 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 750 | 11 364 | 11 240 | -1 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 30-May-2011

Japan was hit by a powerful earthquake and tsunami on 11 March 2011 on its east coast causing a heavy death toll and an enormous devastation. The subsequent nuclear crisis with significant radioactivity has affected food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors in the five prefectures (Fukushima, Miyagi, Ibaraki and Iwate) located on the eastern part of central Japan. The Government is carrying out damage assessments but no concrete estimates of the impact of this natural disaster for the agricultural production and food trade. However, it could be considerable as the region that suffered the most is well known for paddy cultivation and for dairy and other livestock production. The loss of fishermen and fishing equipment could also result in a significant decline in fish production. According to the World Bank the preliminary economic damage estimates, reported early April 2011, will range from USD 122 and 235 billion or roughly 2.5 to 4 percent of its GDP.

The main staple crop in Japan, paddy rice is planted in April-May and harvested in September to November. The average paddy production for last five years (2006-2010) has been about 10.76 million tonnes (equivalent to 7.8 million tonnes of milled rice). Very small amount, about 600 000 to 700 000 tonnes of rice is imported annually. The winter season wheat crop is sown in September-November and harvested during June-August. Production averages around 830 000 tonnes with large amounts of imports of over 5 million tonnes in last five years. The country does not produce but is a major importer of maize (16.5 million tonnes).

Japan

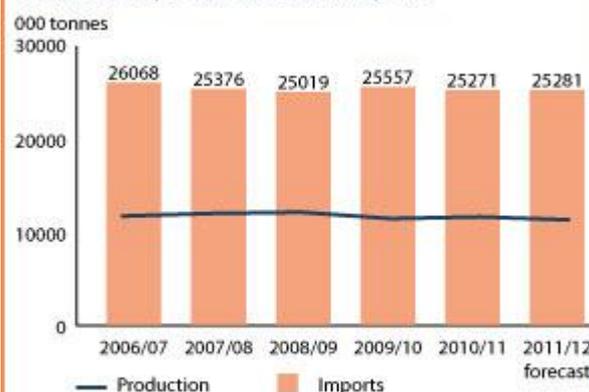
Cereal production

| | 2006-2010 average | 2010 | 2011 forecast | change 2011/2010 |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | 000 tonnes | | | percent |
| Rice (paddy) | 10 763 | 10 604 | 10 300 | -3 |
| Wheat | 829 | 843 | 817 | -3 |
| Barley | 189 | 180 | 188 | 4 |
| Others | 28 | 28 | 28 | 0 |
| Total | 11 809 | 11 655 | 11 333 | -3 |

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Japan

Total cereal production and imports



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets