



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Iraq

Reference Date: 25-March-2026

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Early-season dry weather conditions hampered cereal planting operations**
- **Below-average wheat harvest estimated in 2025**
- **Above-average import requirements forecast in 2025/26**
- **Retail wheat flour and rice prices decreased year-on-year in February 2026**

Early-season dry weather conditions hampered cereal planting operations

Planting of 2026 cereal crops, mainly wheat and barley, was completed last December. Early-season dry weather conditions between October and November hampered planting operations and delayed crop establishment. The government restricted the area irrigated with surface water due to water shortages. However, the late onset of rains in December partially replenished soil moisture and supported crop development. In January 2026, rainfall amounts remained above average in the main northern producing governorates, including Dahuk, Erbil, Ninewa and Sulaymaniya, while below-average rainfall amounts were recorded in the rest of the country. As of end-February 2026, geospatial indicators point to generally favourable crop conditions, ranging from near to above average. These conditions are supported by abundant rainfall in the north, the availability of irrigation systems and the provision of government-subsidized inputs. Conducive weather conditions for the remainder of the season remain critical to maintain positive yield prospects. Despite subsidies, input prices, particularly for fertilizers and fuel, remain a concern for farmers, amid rising risks of supply chain disruptions and higher international energy, and fertilizer costs following the escalation of regional conflicts in late February 2026.

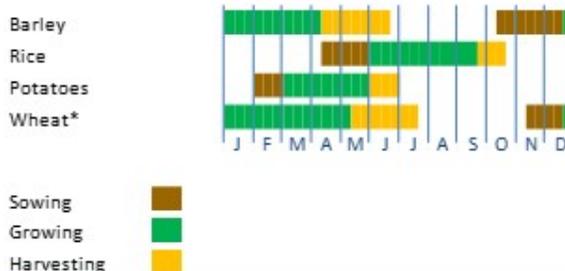
Below-average wheat harvest estimated in 2025

The wheat harvest in 2025 is officially estimated at 4.4 million tonnes, about 4 percent below the average. The official production estimate excludes Kurdistan Region (KRI) and some villages in the governorates of Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar and Salah al-Din. Dry weather conditions between October 2024 and February 2025 constrained crop establishment and early development. Despite improved rainfall in the spring, it was insufficient to offset early moisture deficits.

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Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



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Cereal Production

	2020-2024 average	2024	2025 estimate	change 2025/2024
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	4 544	5 234	4 379	-16.3
Barley	488	164	79	-52.0
Maize	449	416	288	-30.8
Others	289	290	73	-74.8
Total	5 769	6 104	4 819	-21.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Above-average import requirements forecast in 2025/26

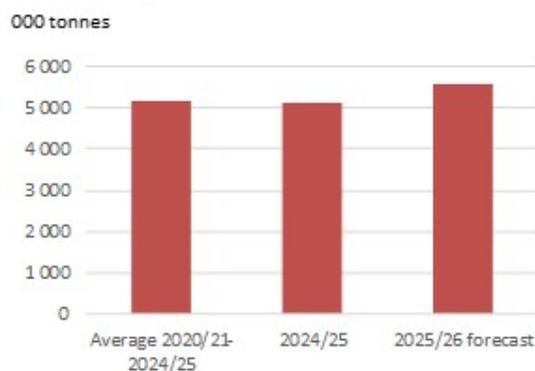
Wheat import requirements for the 2025/26 marketing year (July/June) are estimated at about 2.4 million tonnes, nearly 8 percent above the five-year average, mirroring the domestic production shortfalls in 2025.

Retail wheat flour and rice prices decreased year-on-year in February 2026

National average prices of wheat flour and rice decreased by about 6 and 8 percent, respectively, in February 2026 compared to 12 months before, reflecting adequate domestic supply and the implementation of the government's subsidy programme that helped stabilize food prices and supported household access to staple food commodities.

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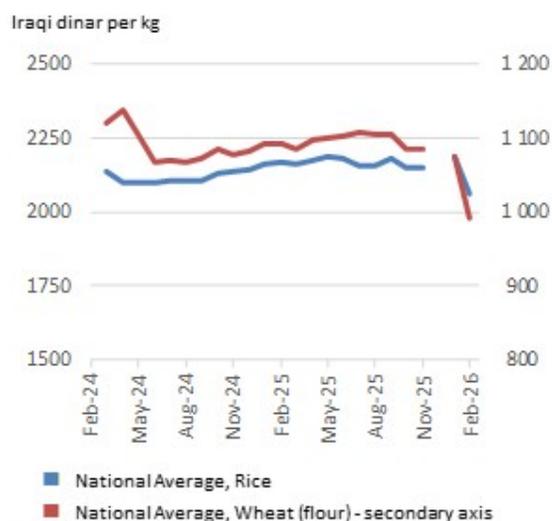
Cereals Imports



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

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Retail prices of rice and wheat flour



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This brief was prepared using the following data/tools:

FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet (CCBS) <https://www.fao.org/giews/data-tools/en/>.

FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool <https://fpma.fao.org/>.

FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation for Crop Monitoring <https://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/>.

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) <https://www.ipcinfo.org/>.