



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 12-September-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2025 forecast at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2025/26 marketing year forecast slightly above-average

Paddy production forecast at below-average level in 2025

Harvesting of the 2025 paddy crop, the country's main cereal, started in mid-September, about one to two weeks later than usual, due to delayed transplanting caused by reduced sunlight and low temperatures last May, and will finalize in November. The total area planted, which has gradually declined since 2002, is estimated below the five-year average, as the government promotes the cultivation of alternative crops, including soybean, in response to decreasing demand of rice for food use. According to remote sensing data, as of early August 2025, just before the harvest period, crop vegetation conditions were favourable, with no evidence of drought (see ASI map). The 2025 paddy production is preliminary forecast at 4.6 million tonnes, about 6 percent below the average.

Harvesting of the 2025 maize crop is underway and it is expected to conclude in early October, with production forecast close to the five-year average. Harvesting of the 2025 mostly irrigated wheat and barley crops finalized last June and production of both crops is estimated well below the average. The low outputs mainly reflect a contraction in plantings due to excessive soil moisture at sowing time caused by heavy rains last October and November, especially in southern areas where about 40 percent of wheat and 85 percent of barley are grown. In addition, frost episodes in February and March 2025 caused some localized crops losses and reduced wheat grain quality in some areas.

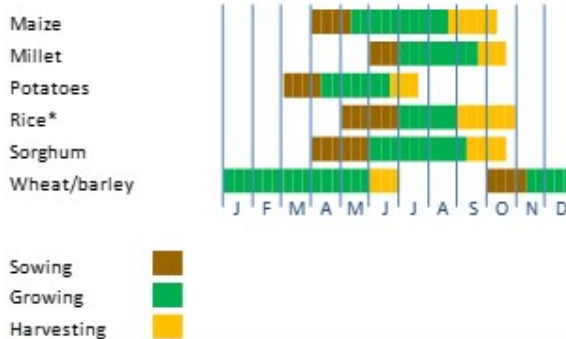
Cereal import requirements in 2025/26 marketing year forecast slightly above-average

Total cereal import requirements in the 2025/26 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at slightly above average 16.9 million tonnes. Imports of maize, that account for the largest share of the total cereal imports, are projected at average 11.5 million tonnes. Wheat imports are forecast at 4.5 million tonnes, about 6 percent

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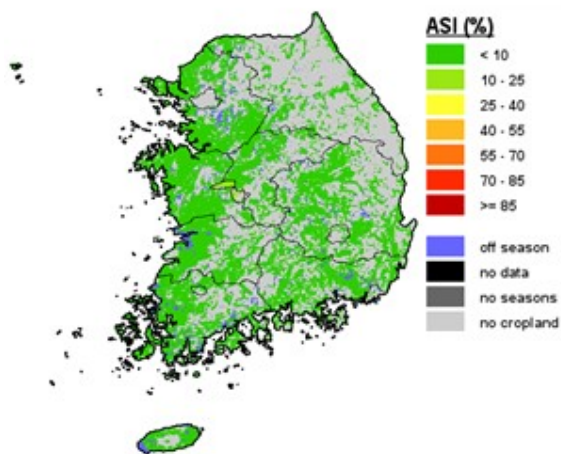
Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Republic of Korea - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

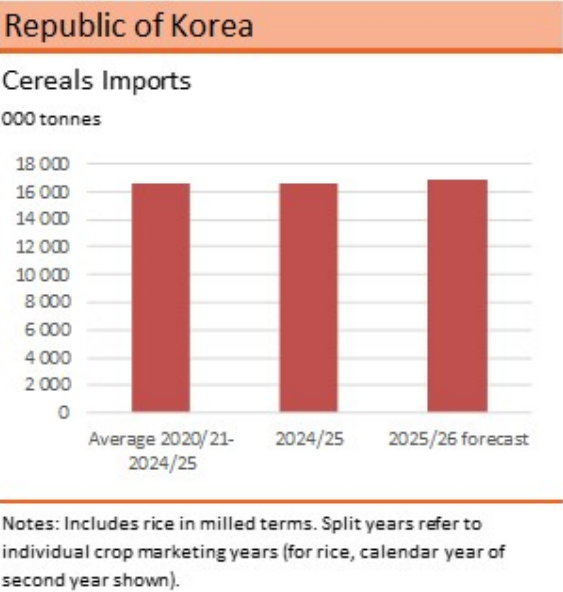
from start of season 1 to dekad 1, August 2025



above the average, reflecting the strong demand for high-quality wheat for milling. In calendar year 2025, imports of rice are forecast at 590 000 tonnes.

Republic of Korea				
Cereal Production				
	2020-2024 average	2024	2025 forecast	change 2025/2024
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	4 921	4 783	4 620	-3.4
Barley	117	71	85	19.9
Maize	91	89	90	1.1
Others	48	50	68	35.0
Total	5 176	4 993	4 863	-2.6

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.



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GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 20-June-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average 2025 wheat and barley output forecast**
- **Slightly below-average cereal production obtained in 2024**
- **Slightly above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2024/25 marketing year**

Below-average 2025 wheat and barley output forecast

Harvesting of the 2025 mostly irrigated wheat and barley crops is underway and is expected to finalize at the end of June. Production of both crops is forecast to be well below the five-year average, reflecting a contraction in the area planted due to excessive soil moisture at planting time, caused by heavy rains last October and November, especially in southern areas where about 40 percent of wheat and 85 percent of barley are grown. Favourable weather conditions between December 2024 and May 2025 boosted yields, which are forecast at an above-average level for both crops. Planting of the 2025 maize crop was completed in mid-May and the area planted is estimated to be close to average. Planting of the 2025 paddy crop, which accounts for the bulk of the country's cereal output, is underway and is expected to finalize in June. The area planted, which has gradually declined since 2002, is estimated below the five-year average amid government efforts to promote the cultivation of other crops, including soybean, in response to decreasing demand of rice for food use. According to remote sensing data, as of end of May 2025, crop vegetation conditions were good, with no evidence of drought (ASI map).

Slightly below-average cereal production obtained in 2024

The 2024 cropping season concluded last October, and the aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5 million tonnes, slightly below the average level. Production of paddy is estimated at below-average 4.8 million tonnes, mainly reflecting a contraction in the area planted. Production of maize crop is estimated at average 89 000 tonnes. Production of barley crop is officially estimated at about 71 000 tonnes, almost 30 percent below average, mainly due to reduced plantings and yields on

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)

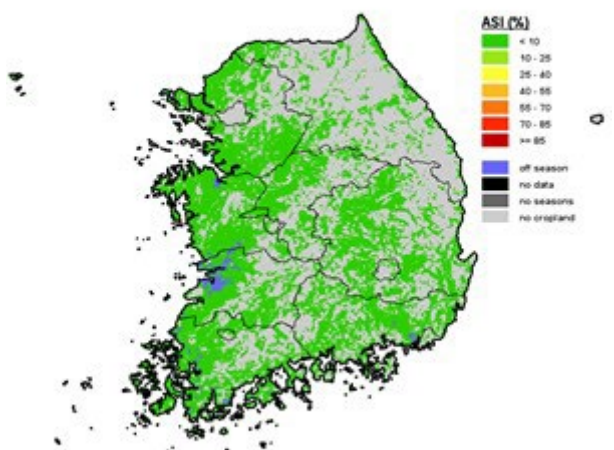


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 3, May 2025



account of excessive rainfall amounts at planting time and early stages of crop growth, coupled with frost damages in March 2024.

Slightly above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2024/25 marketing year (July/June)

Total cereal import requirements in the 2024/25 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at slightly above-average 16.9 million tonnes. Imports of maize, that account for the largest share of the total cereal imports, are projected at average 11.5 million tonnes. Wheat imports are forecast at 4.5 million tonnes, about 6 percent above the average, reflecting the strong demand of high-quality wheat for milling. In calendar year 2025, rice imports are forecast at 590 000 tonnes.

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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/>.

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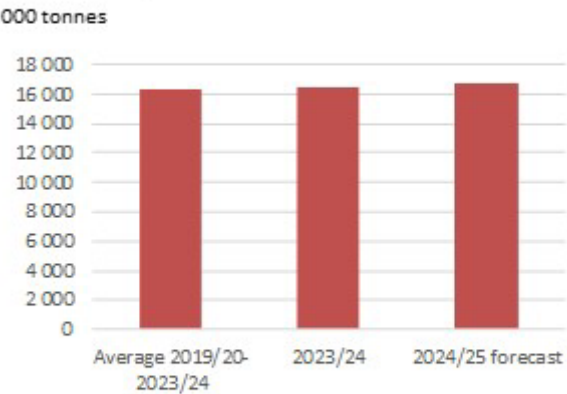
Cereal Production

	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 estimate	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	4 967	4 898	4 783	-2.3
Barley	130	98	71	-27.7
Maize	88	91	89	-2.2
Others	43	73	50	-31.0
Total	5 228	5 160	4 993	-3.2

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 12-February-2025

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Area planted with 2025 wheat and barley crops estimated at below-average level
- Slightly below-average cereal production obtained in 2024
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2024/25 marketing year

Area planted with 2025 wheat and barley crops estimated at below-average level

Planting of 2025, mostly irrigated, wheat and barley crops, for harvest next June, concluded last November. The area planted with both crops is estimated to be below the five-year average due to excessive soil moisture at planting time, following heavy rains in October and November 2024, especially in southern areas where about 40 percent of wheat and 85 percent of barley are grown. Improved weather conditions since in December 2024 favoured crop germination and establishment of crops that, as of early February 2025, were in winter dormancy phase.

Weather forecasts point to below-average precipitation amounts in the main cereal producing southern areas between February and April 2025, associated with the ongoing La Niña event. If this forecast materializes, yields of wheat and barley crops grown in rainfed areas may be negatively affected. In addition, if snowfall is reduced in February and early March 2025 would limit snow cover, making crops susceptible to frost kill and reducing soil moisture in the spring that normally comes from snow melting.

Slightly below-average cereal production obtained in 2024

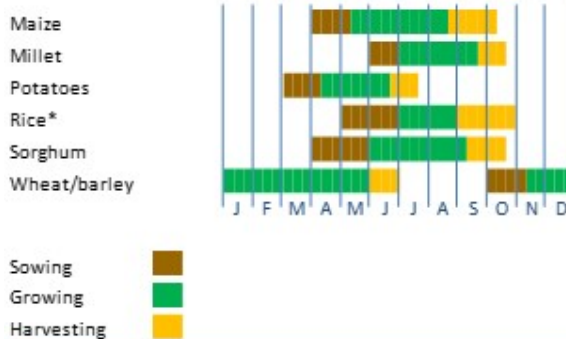
The 2024 cropping season concluded last October, and aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5 million tonnes, slightly below the average level.

Production of paddy, which accounts for the bulk of the country's cereal output, is officially estimated at a below-average level of 4.8 million tonnes. Area planted with rice has gradually declined since 2002, amid government's efforts to encourage the production of other crops, including soybeans, in response to the decline in domestic rice consumption. Production of maize is estimated at an average level of 89 000 tonnes. Production of

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 estimate	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	4 967	4 898	4 783	-2.3
Barley	130	98	71	-27.7
Maize	88	91	89	-2.2
Others	43	73	70	-4.1
Total	5 228	5 160	5 013	-2.8

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

barley is officially estimated at about 71 000 tonnes, almost 30 percent below average, mainly due to reduced plantings and yields on account of excessive rainfall amounts at planting time and early stages of crop growth, coupled with frost damages in March 2024.

Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2024/25 marketing year

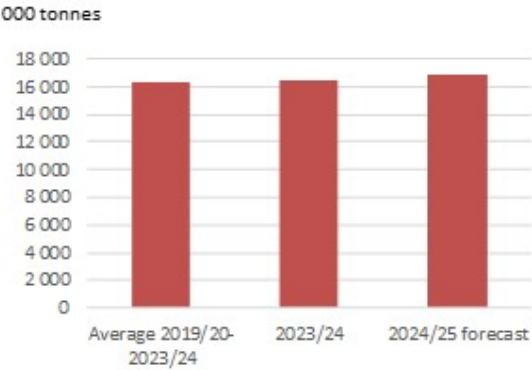
Total cereal import requirements in the 2024/25 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an above-average level of 16.9 million tonnes. Imports of maize, that account for the largest share of total cereal imports, are projected at an above-average level of 11.8 million tonnes, driven by the steady demand of the feed industry, amid rising livestock numbers. Wheat imports are forecast at 4.5 million tonnes, slightly above the average, reflecting strong demand of high-quality wheat for milling. In calendar year 2025, rice imports are forecast at 460 000 tonnes.

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

Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 15-July-2024

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average plantings for 2024 paddy crop
- Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24 marketing year

Below-average plantings for 2024 paddy crop

Planting of the 2024 paddy crop, which accounts for the bulk of the country's cereal output, was finalized in June. The area planted is estimated below the five-year average, amid government efforts to promote the cultivation of other crops in response to decreasing rice consumption. Remote sensing data, as of mid-June 2024, indicate favourable vegetation conditions across most cropping areas (ASI map).

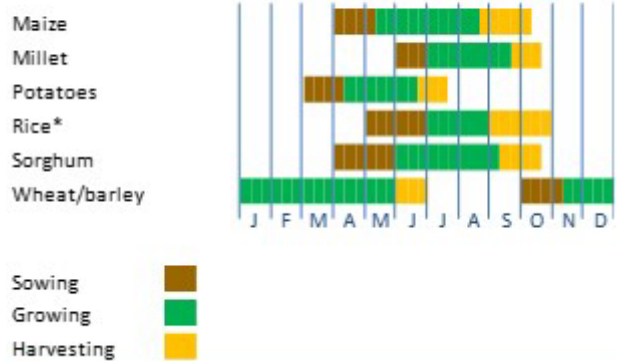
Above-average cereal import requirements forecast in 2023/24 marketing year

Total cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at above-average level of 17.2 million tonnes. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of total cereal imports, are forecast at above-average level of 11.6 million tonnes, driven by the strong demand of the local feed industry. Wheat imports are forecast at above-average level of 5 million tonnes, reflecting the steady demand of high-quality wheat for milling and of low-quality wheat for feed.

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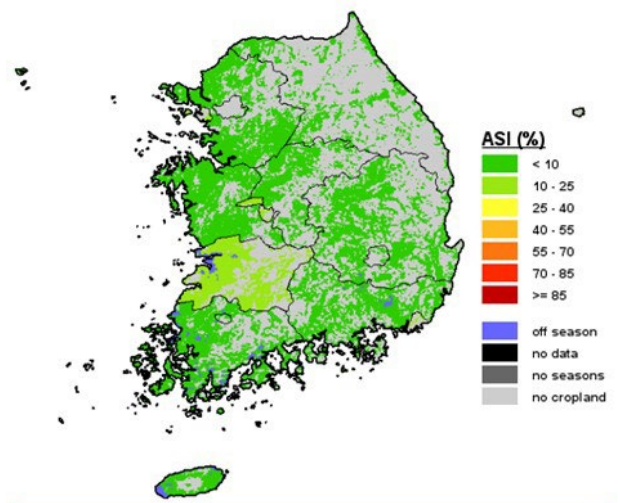
Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Republic of Korea - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to dekad 2, June 2024



Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

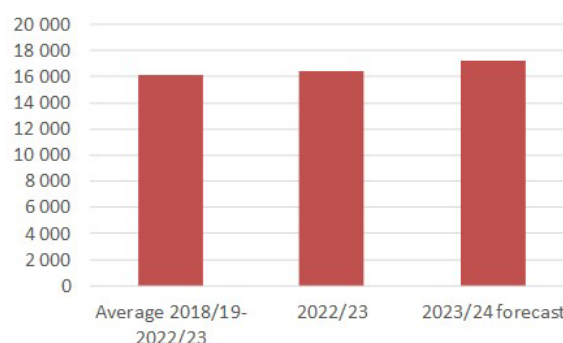
	2019-2023 average	2023	2024 forecast	change 2024/2023
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	4 967	4 898	4 800	-2.0
Barley	130	98	114	16.3
Maize	86	91	87	-4.4
Others	44	73	73	0.0
Total	5 227	5 160	5 074	-1.7

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 20-September-2023

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Below-average paddy output forecast in 2023
- Cereal import requirements in 2023/24 marketing year forecast at above-average level

Slightly below-average paddy output forecast in 2023

Harvesting of the 2023 paddy crop, accounting for the bulk of the country's cereal output, is expected to finalize in October and production is forecast at a below-average level of 4.9 million tonnes. Planted area with rice has gradually declined since 2002, mainly driven by the government's efforts to encourage the production of other crops, in response to the decline in rice consumption. The Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) map at end-August, just before the start of harvesting operations does not indicate drought-related stress to crops.

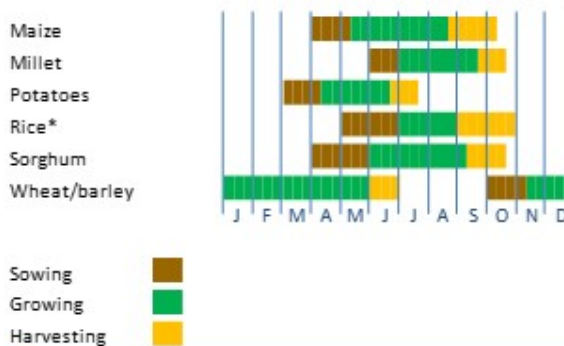
Cereal import requirements in 2023/24 marketing year forecast at above-average level

Total cereal import requirements in the 2023/24 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at an above-average level of 17.1 million tonnes. Imports of maize, that account for the largest share of total cereal imports, are projected at an above-average level of 11.5 million tonnes, driven by the steady demand of the feed industry. Wheat imports are forecast at an above-average level of 5 million tonnes, reflecting the steady demand of high-quality wheat for milling and of low-quality wheat for feed. In calendar year 2023, rice imports are forecast at 350 000 tonnes.

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Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Republic of Korea

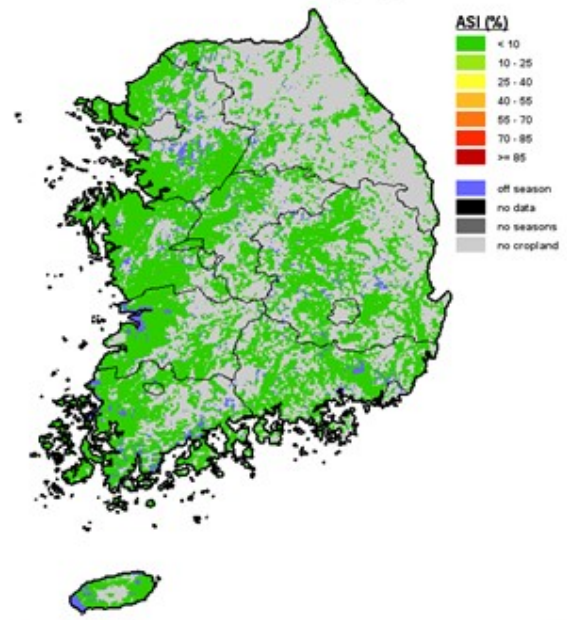
Cereal Production

	2018-2022 average	2022	2023 forecast	change 2023/2022
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 027	4 998	4 860	-2.8
Barley	131	99	98	-1.0
Maize	83	92	91	-1.1
Others	37	45	73	62.2
Total	5 278	5 234	5 122	-2.1

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Republic of Korea - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

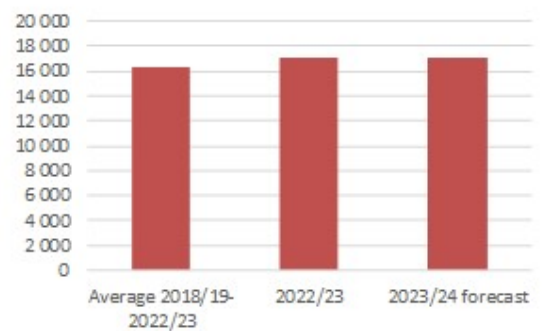
from start of season 1 to dekad 3, August 2023



Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

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



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 13-April-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Production prospects favourable for 2022 wheat crops
- Average cereal production obtained in 2021
- Cereal import requirements in 2021/22 marketing year forecast at above-average level

Production prospects favourable for 2022 minor winter crops

The 2022 minor wheat and barley crops, for harvest in June, are growing under conducive weather conditions. Production prospects are favourable reflecting a near-average area planted and expectations of above-average yields due to an adequate availability of agricultural inputs, including irrigation water, fertilizers, pesticides and high quality seeds. As of late March, remote sensing data shows above-average vegetation conditions throughout the country (VCI map), inferring to favourable yield prospects for the winter crops.

Average cereal production obtained in 2021

The 2021 harvest concluded in October 2021 and the aggregate cereal production is estimated at average level of 5.4 million tonnes.

Paddy production, which accounts for the bulk of the country's cereal output, is officially estimated at an average level of 5.2 million tonnes. This is due to above-average yields supported by favourable weather conditions and a small increase in the area planted year on year. The production of minor winter cereal crops, mainly barley and wheat, is also estimated at a near-average level.

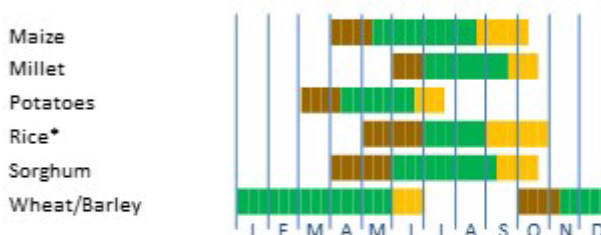
Cereal import requirements in 2021/22 marketing year forecast at above-average level

The country relies on imports, mostly wheat and maize, to satisfy its domestic demand of cereals as local production covers only one-fifth of requirements. Total cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at an above-average level of 16.6 million tonnes. Imports of maize, that account for most of the total cereal purchases, are projected at a high level of 11.8 million tonnes, driven by the strong demand of

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea

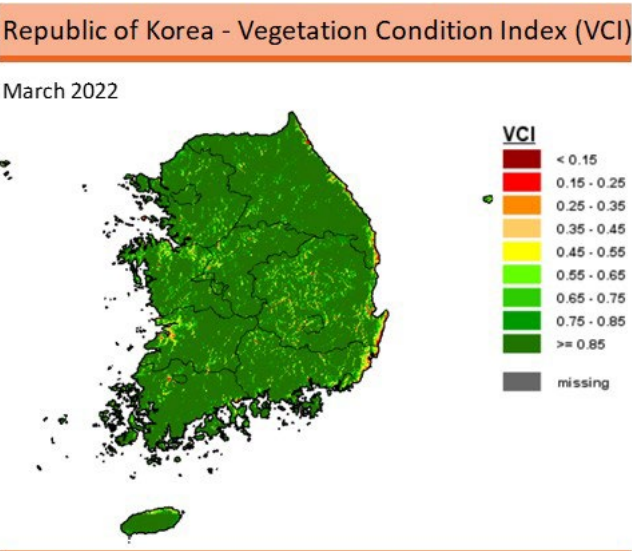
Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 167	4 713	5 211	10.6
Barley	102	123	100	-18.7
Maize	78	92	92	0.3
Others	40	30	30	0.1
Total	5 387	4 958	5 433	9.6

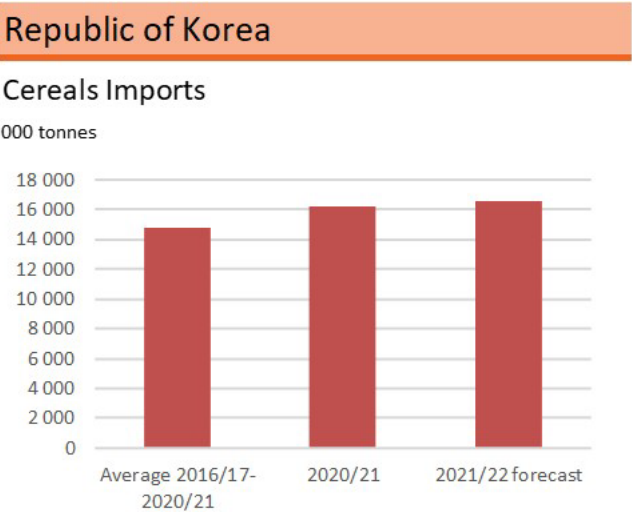
Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

the feed industry amid rising livestock numbers and the limited availability of more affordable international feed grade wheat. Wheat imports are forecast at an above-average level of 4.3 million tonnes, reflecting the strong demand of high quality wheat for milling and of low quality wheat for feed. Rice imports in calendar year 2022 are forecast at 410 000 tonnes.



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.



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Notes: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 23-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Area planted with 2021 minor wheat and barley crop estimated close to average level
- Below-average paddy production estimated in 2020
- Cereal import requirements in 2020/21 marketing year forecast above five-year average

Area planted with 2021 minor winter crops estimated close to average level

Planting of the 2021 wheat and barley crops, for harvest next June, concluded in November. The above-average June-September monsoon rains supported soil moisture content and benefitted planting operations and crop germination.

The production of the current season will depend on the performance of precipitations until next May, which is likely to be influenced by the La Niña meteorological phenomenon. In general, the La Niña weather pattern is characterized by below-average precipitation amounts, which may negatively affect wheat crops in rainfed areas. In addition, a reduced snowfall during the winter months may limit snow cover, making crops susceptible to frost kill and reducing soil moisture in the spring that normally comes from snow melting.

Below-average paddy production gathered in 2020

The 2020 harvest was completed at the end of October 2020 and the aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5 million tonnes, 12 percent below the five-year average.

Paddy production, which account for the bulk of the country's cereal output, is estimated at a below-average level of 4.7 million tonnes, largely on account of reduced yields.

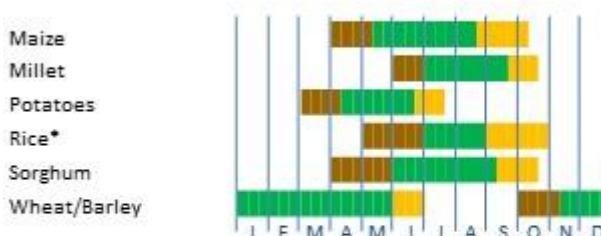
The 2020 production of maize and minor winter cereal crops, mainly barley and wheat, is estimated at near-average level.

Cereal imports in 2020/21 marketing year forecast above five-year average

The country relies on imports to satisfy its domestic demand of cereals as local production covers only one-fifth of the requirements.

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

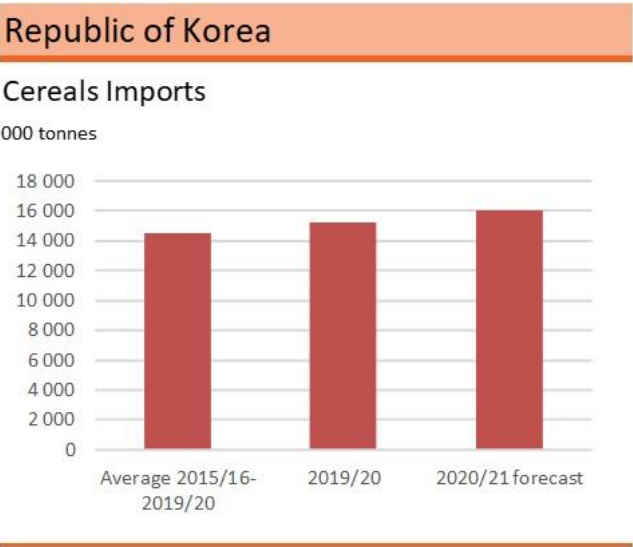
	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 379	5 016	4 713	-6.0
Barley	123	127	123	-3.1
Maize	76	75	75	0.0
Others	43	38	38	0.0
Total	5 620	5 256	4 949	-5.8

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Overall, cereal imports in the 2020/21 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at an above-average level of 16 million tonnes. Imports of maize, which account for most of the total cereal purchases, are projected at a record 11.8 million tonnes, driven by strong demand by the feed industry amid rising livestock numbers and limited availability of cheap feed grade wheat. Wheat and rice imports are set to remain at levels of 3.9 million and 410 000 tonnes, respectively.

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Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 23-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Plantings of 2020 paddy crop to continue declining
- Below-average cereal production estimated for 2019
- Cereal import requirements in 2019/20 marketing year forecast above five-year average

Plantings of 2020 paddy crop to continue declining

Planting of the 2020 paddy crop, for harvest in September and October, is progressing at a normal pace supported by favourable weather conditions and ample supplies of irrigation water. Overall, the 2020 paddy output is preliminarily forecast at a below-average level, reflecting reduced plantings, as paddy land will continue to be shifted to more profitable crops or to other purposes, such as housing and constructions.

The 2020 maize crop, to be harvested by the end of August, is growing under generally favourable weather conditions. As of mid-May, remote sensing data indicated above-average vegetation conditions (see ASI map) in the main producing areas. The area planted is estimated at an above-average level, driven by strong demand by the feed industry.

Harvesting of the 2020 winter crops, mainly barley and wheat, will conclude at the end of June and the outputs are forecast at near-average levels of 125 000 and 30 000 tonnes, respectively.

Below-average cereal production estimated in 2019

The 2019 season was completed at the end of October 2019. The aggregate cereal output is estimated at 5.3 million tonnes, about 8 percent below the five-year average.

Paddy production is officially estimated at 5 million tonnes, about 10 percent below the five-year average. The planted area with paddy crops has been steadily declining since 2002, as farmers have progressively switched to alternative crops, in part reflecting a decrease in rice consumption. The production of the minor cereal crops, including maize, barley and wheat, is estimated at near-average levels.

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)

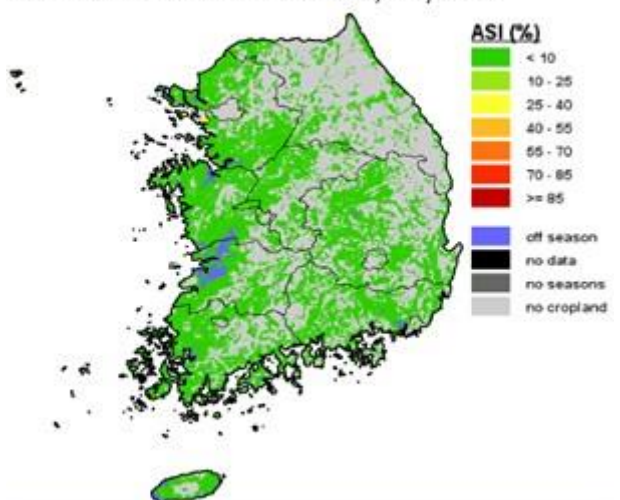


Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea - Agricultural Stress Index (ASI)

from start of season 1 to Dekad 2, May 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

Cereal import requirements in 2019/20 marketing year forecast above five-year average

The country relies on imports to satisfy its domestic demand as local production covers only one-fifth of the cereal requirements.

Cereal import requirements in the 2019/20 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at an above-average level of 14.9 million tonnes. Imports of maize, which account for the largest share of annual cereal imports, are set to reach a near-record level of 10.3 million tonnes, driven by the sustained demand of the feed industry. Wheat and rice imports are forecast at a near-average level of 4.1 million tonnes and about 400 000 tonnes, respectively.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

Starting from February 2020, the Government adopted several measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, including restrictions on international travel and tightened controls of movement of people. In addition, educational institutions and public facilities were closed in March and April, but started to gradually re-open under “everyday life quarantine” guidelines since May.

The Government announced the implementation of several packages to support the national economy, including credit support for local businesses, wage subsidies and assistance for the unemployed as well as cash transfers to the affected households. On 14 May 2020, the Government announced plans, still pending approval by the National Assembly, to create 1.56 million jobs in the public sector, in order to boost employment.

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Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 503	5 195	5 016	-3.5
Barley	124	126	127	0.8
Maize	77	75	78	4.6
Total	5 746	5 438	5 259	-3.3

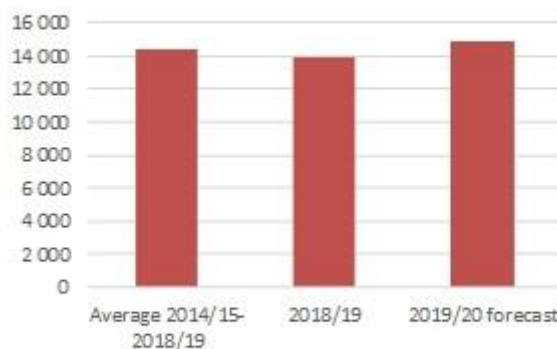
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Republic of Korea

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).

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 08-August-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2019 expected to remain at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 marketing year estimated slightly above the five-year average

Paddy production in 2019 expected to remain at below-average level

Planting of the 2019 paddy crop, to be harvested in September and October, concluded in June, and the area sown is expected to be similar to last year's below-average level. The planted area with paddy crops has been steadily declining since 2002, as farmers have progressively switched to alternative crops, in part reflecting a decrease in rice consumption.

Weather conditions this season have been generally conducive for crop growth, with well distributed and adequate rainfall amounts recorded between April and July 2019. Reflecting these weather patterns, as of mid-July remote sensing data indicated average to above-average vegetation conditions (see ASI map) in the main paddy producing areas.

Mostly reflecting the reduced plantings, the 2019 paddy production is preliminary forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, about 6 percent below the five-year average, which would be the second lowest output in the last 10 years.

Harvesting of the 2019 winter crops, mainly barley and wheat, concluded in June and harvests are estimated at near-average levels of 127 000 and 31 000 tonnes, respectively.

Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 marketing year estimated slightly above the five-year average

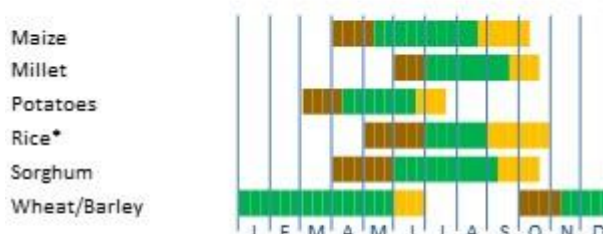
The country relies on imports to satisfy its domestic demand as local production covers only a fifth of domestic cereal requirements.

Total cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (October/September) are estimated at 14.2 million tonnes, virtually unchanged from the previous year's average level.

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea

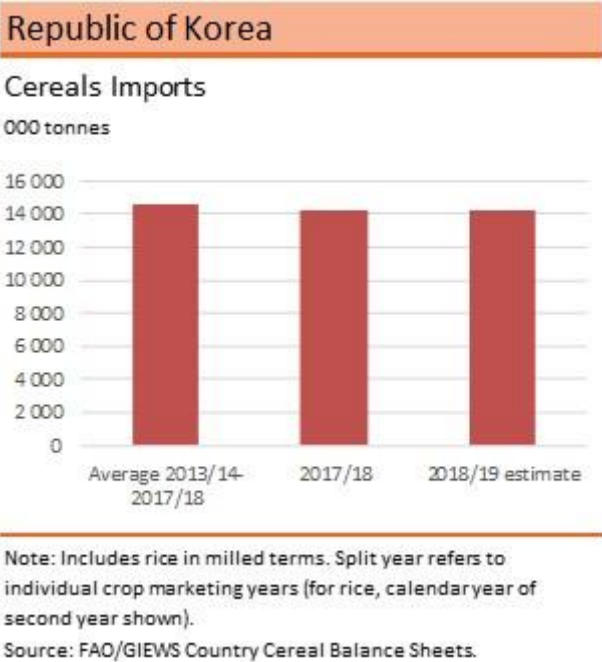
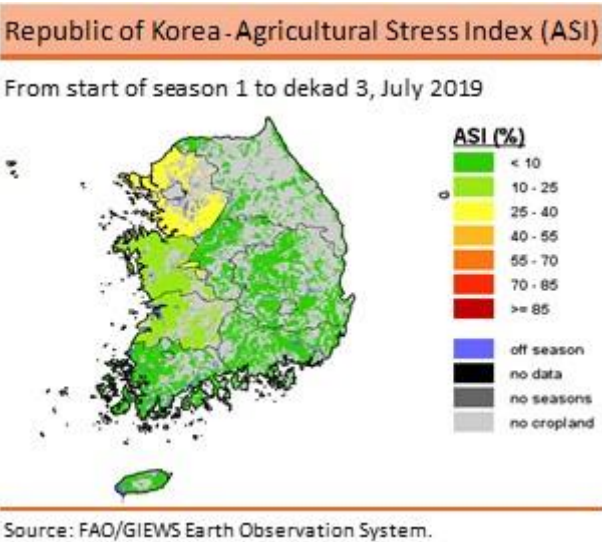
Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 503	5 195	5 200	0.1
Barley	124	126	127	0.8
Maize	77	75	76	1.9
Others	42	42	44	5.3
Total	5 746	5 438	5 447	0.2

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Maize import, which account for the largest share of annual cereal imports, are forecast at 10 million tonnes in 2018/19, close to the five-year average, reflecting sustained demand from the feed industry. Wheat import requirements are estimated to reach 3.7 million tonnes, close to the previous year's below-average level. This reduction reflects a slowdown in demand for feed use, as maize is expected to partially substitute the use of wheat in the feed compounds. Imports of rice in the 2019 calendar year are forecast at 410 000 tonnes, about 6 percent above the five-year average.



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GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 07-February-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable prospects for 2019 minor winter crops
- Aggregate cereal production in 2018 estimated below average
- Paddy production in 2018 forecast at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 forecast slightly above the five-year average

Favourable prospects for 2019 minor winter crops

Prospects for the 2019 minor winter crops, mainly barley and wheat, to be harvested by June, are favourable. Spatially and temporally well-distributed rains since the start of the cropping season in October 2018 supported planting operations and benefited moisture conditions for crop development up to present.

Aggregate cereal production in 2018 estimated below average

The 2018 cropping season which concluded in October 2018 and aggregate cereal production is estimated at 5.4 million tonnes, about 7 percent below the five-year average.

The 2018 paddy crop is estimated at 5.2 million tonnes, with a slight decrease from the already below-average level in 2017, due to steady contractions in plantings since 2002. The reductions of planted areas reflect the Government's efforts to discourage paddy cultivation in response to a gradual decline in rice consumption.

The 2018 production of maize and of minor winter cereal crops, mainly barley and wheat, remained at near average levels.

Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 forecast slightly above the five-year average

The country relies strongly on imports to satisfy its domestic demand as local production covers about one-fifth of the total national cereal consumption. Total cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (October/September) are forecast to slightly increase to 15.2 million tonnes, about 4 percent above the five-year average, due to higher demand of wheat and rice.

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 estimate	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 590	5 286	5 195	-1.7
Barley	116	125	126	0.8
Maize	78	76	75	-2.4
Wheat	29	30	29	-3.3
Others	11	13	13	0.0
Total	5 825	5 530	5 438	-1.7

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

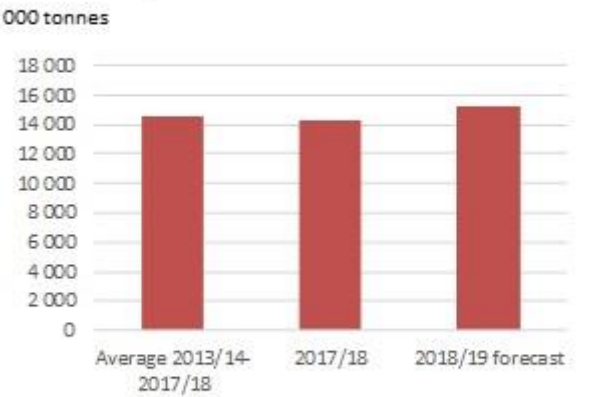
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Wheat imports are forecast at 4.5 million tonnes, 8 percent above the five-year average, owing to increased demand for wheat for consumption and feed use. Imports of rice are forecast above the five-year average at 480 000 tonnes. Maize import requirements, which account for the largest share of the total imports, are forecast at 10.2 million tonnes, close to the five-year average, reflecting sustained demand from the feed industry.

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Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports



Note: Includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years (for rice, calendar year of second year shown).
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 24-October-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2018 forecast at below-average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 forecast slightly above five-year average

Paddy production in 2018 forecast at below-average level

Harvesting of the 2018 paddy crop is expected to be finalized by end-October and is forecast at 5.2 million tonnes, a slight decrease from last year's below-average level. The area planted to paddy has been steadily decreasing since 2002, reflecting the Government's efforts to discourage paddy cultivation, in response to a gradual decline in rice consumption.

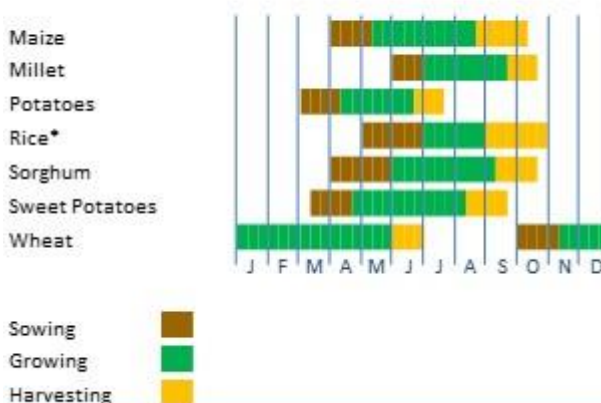
Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 forecast slightly above five-year average

Total cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 15.2 million tonnes, slightly above the previous five-year average. Overall, cereal imports have been steadily increasing at a moderate pace since 2009.

Import requirements for maize, which account for the largest share of the total imports, are forecast at 10.2 million tonnes, 4 percent above the five-year average, reflecting strong demand from the feed industry. Wheat imports are anticipated to remain close to the average levels of 4.5 million tonnes due to sustained demand for wheat for consumption and feed use.

Republic of Korea

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Republic of Korea

Cereal Production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 590	5 286	5 200	-1.6
Barley	116	125	126	0.8
Others	40	43	42	-2.1
Total	5 825	5 530	5 442	-1.6

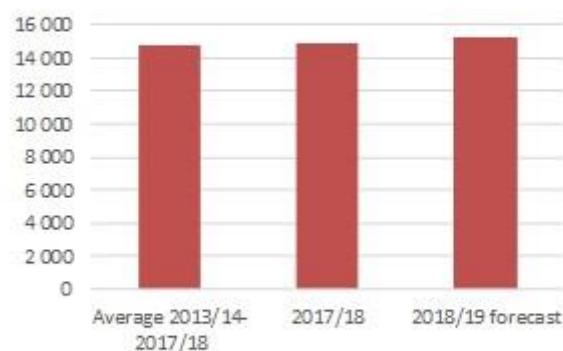
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Republic of Korea

Cereals Imports

000 tonnes



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.



GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 15-January-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2017 estimated at below-average level
- Cereal imports in 2017/18 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

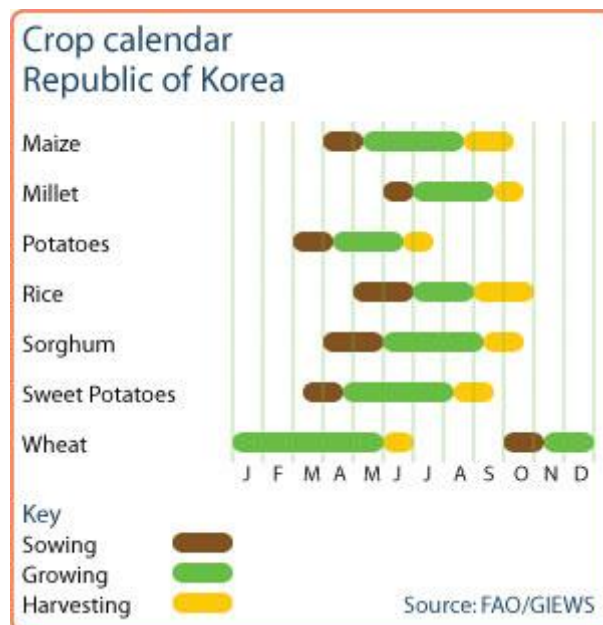
Paddy production in 2017 estimated at below-average level

The 2017 paddy crop, which was harvested by October last year, is officially estimated at 5.3 million tonnes, 6 percent below the average level. The decrease is attributed to a decline in yields due to unfavourable weather conditions and a contraction in plantings. The year-on-year decrease in plantings reflects the continuing Government's efforts to encourage a shift away from paddy cultivation to other crops, including wheat, following a gradual decline in rice consumption.

Small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals were also produced in 2017.

Cereal imports in 2017/18 forecast close to last year's high level

Total cereal imports in the 2017/18 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 15.5 million tonnes, close to last year's high level. Wheat and maize imports are expected to account for 4.5 and 10.5 million tonnes, respectively. Imports of rice are projected at 480 000 tonnes in calendar year 2018, in part reflecting the quantities committed to purchase under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) purchasing plan under the World Trade Organization agreement.

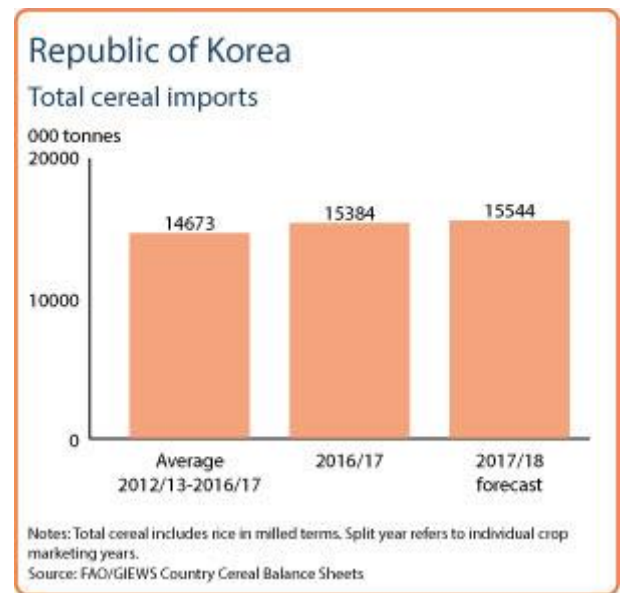


Republic of Korea
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5,614	5,625	5,286	-6
Barley	110	120	120	0
Maize	80	75	75	0
Others	43	49	48	-2
Total	5,847	5,869	5,529	-6

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

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GIEWS Country Brief

The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 20-April-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Paddy production in 2017 foreseen to decrease slightly, mainly on anticipation of area cuts
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase slightly from last year's high level

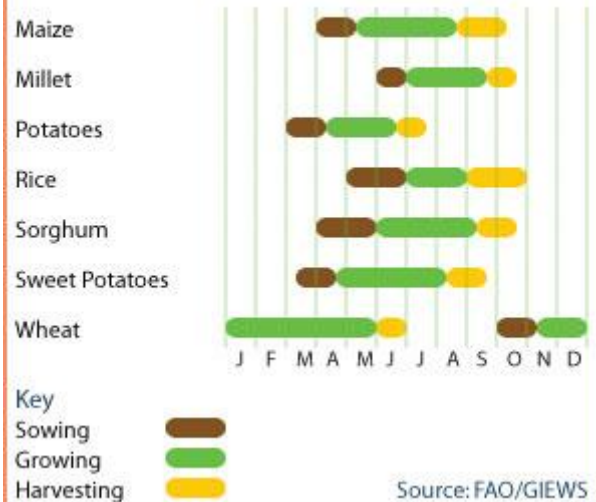
Paddy production in 2017 foreseen to decrease slightly, on anticipation of area cuts

Planting of the 2017 paddy crop is expected to start in June. The area under paddy has declined steadily since 2002 and current expectations are that this trend will continue into 2017 as the Government plans to convert 35 000 hectares of paddy to other uses to avoid over-supply problems due to successive bumper harvests and declines in domestic rice consumption. Steps to promote the utilization of local rice for food, feed and industrial uses as well as for exports were also announced. Considering the anticipated slight decrease in plantings and assuming yields return to average levels, FAO preliminarily forecasts the 2017 paddy production at 5.5 million tonnes, 3 percent below last year's average level. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase slightly from last year's high level

Total cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 15 million tonnes, marginally above last year's high level. Wheat and maize are expected to account for 4.4 and 10 million tonnes, respectively. Imports of rice are forecast at 490 000 tonnes in calendar year 2017.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



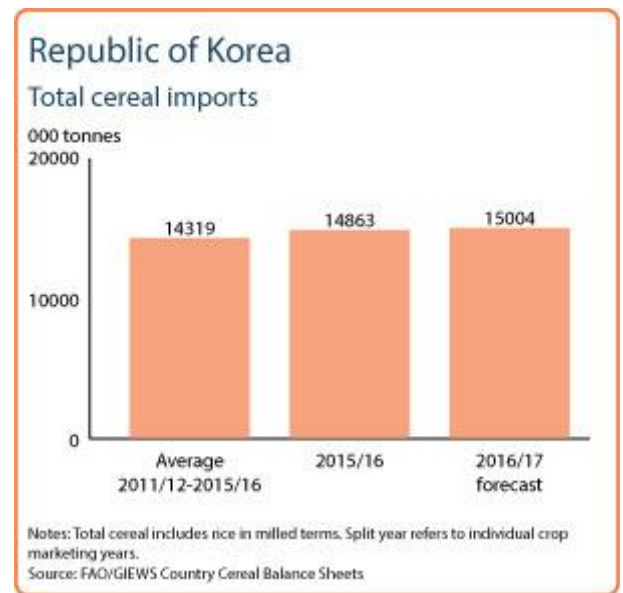
Republic of Korea

Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 614	5 625	5 450	-3
Barley	110	120	120	0
Maize	80	75	75	0
Others	43	49	49	0
Total	5 847	5 869	5 694	-3

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

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GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 30-November-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production decreased slightly in 2016
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase slightly from last year's high level

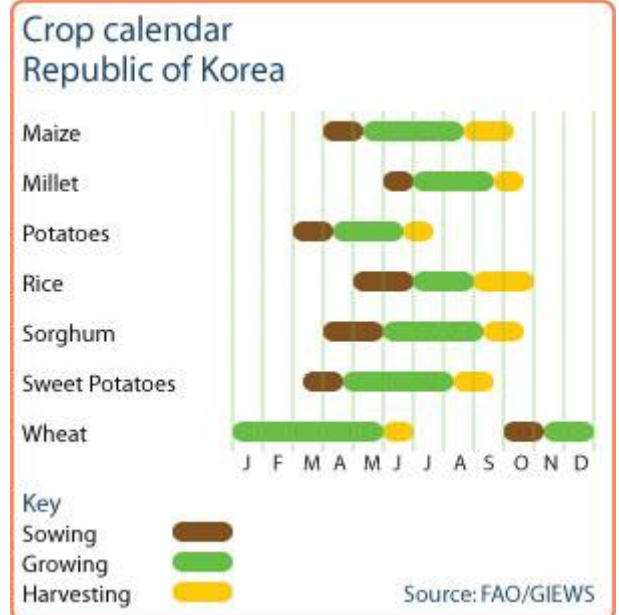
Rice production decreased slightly in 2016

The latest official estimate puts the 2016 rice harvest, concluded in October, at 5.6 million tonnes (in paddy terms), 3 percent below last year's good level. The small decrease is mainly due to the reduction in planted area as favourable weather conditions kept yields close to last year's record. The area under paddy has declined steadily in the Republic of Korea since 2002 as a result of land conversions to non-agricultural uses and State efforts to encourage a shift towards other crops, including wheat. According to official data, the area under paddy stood at 779 000 in 2016, down 3 percent year-on-year and 26 percent below the plantings in 2002.

In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals were also produced in 2016.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to increase slightly from last year's high level

Total cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 15.4 million tonnes, slightly above last year's high level. Of the total, wheat and maize are expected to account for 4.8 and 10 million tonnes, respectively. Imports of rice are forecast at 450 000 tonnes in calendar year 2017.



Republic of Korea

Cereal production

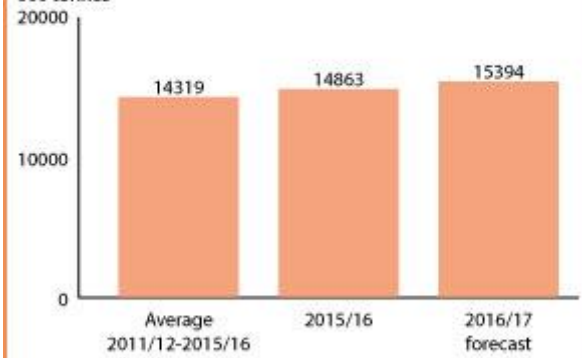
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 612	5 771	5 603	-3
Barley	108	111	120	8
Maize	79	78	75	-4
Others	44	39	49	26
Total	5 844	5 999	5 847	-3

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

Republic of Korea

Total cereal imports

000 tonnes



Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets



GIEWS Country Brief The Republic of Korea

Reference Date: 25-July-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production forecast to decrease in 2016
- Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

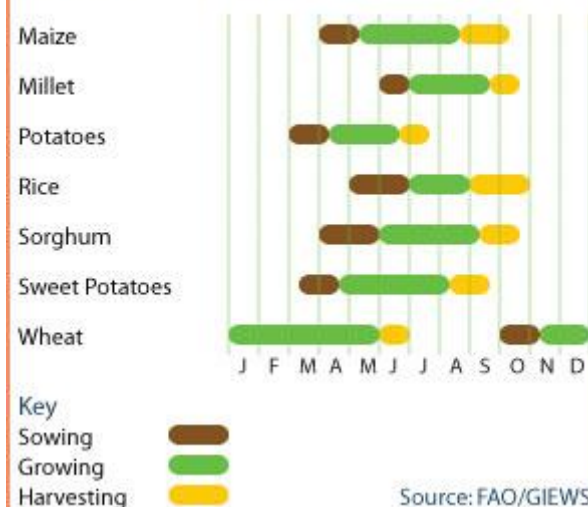
Rice production forecast to decrease in 2016

Planting of the 2016 rice crop is nearing completion. The area under paddy has declined steadily since 2002 due to state-sponsored diversion programmes and land conversions to non-agricultural uses. Current expectations are that this trend will continue into 2016, given renewed Government efforts to divert area away from paddy cultivation so as to avoid over-supply problems associated with successive bumper harvests. As a result and assuming normal weather conditions, FAO forecasts rice production in 2016 at 5.6 million tonnes, 3 percent below last year's good level.

Cereal imports in 2016/17 forecast to remain close to last year's high level

Total cereal imports in the 2016/17 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 14.8 million tonnes, close to last year's high level. Of the total, wheat and maize are expected to account for 4.2 and 10 million tonnes, respectively. Imports of rice are forecast to reach 410 000 tonnes in calendar year 2016.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



Republic of Korea Cereal production

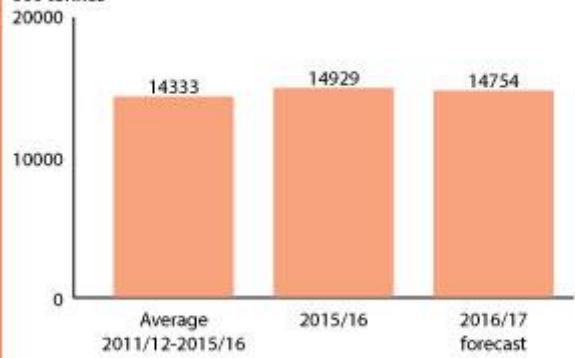
	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5,612	5,771	5,600	-3
Barley	108	111	120	8
Maize	80	80	80	0
Others	45	49	58	18
Total	5,845	6,011	5,858	-3

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

Republic of Korea

Total cereal imports

000 tonnes



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: 17-February-2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Record high yields boost 2015 rice production
- Cereal imports in 2015/16 forecast to increase slightly from last year's record level

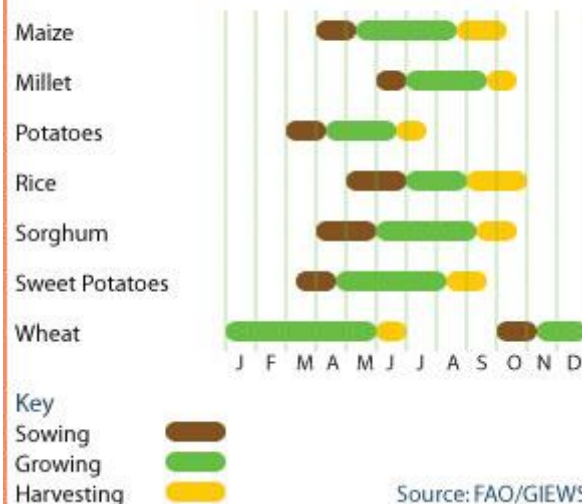
Record high yields boost 2015 rice production

Harvesting of the 2015 rice crop was completed last October and official estimates put output at 5.8 million tonnes, 2 percent above the 2014 level. Paddy crops benefitted from favourable weather conditions, which boosted yields to an all-time record of 7.2 tonnes per hectare. The productivity gain more than offset a contraction in plantings, as farmers continued to substitute rice with more profitable crops. In addition to rice, average small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals were also produced in 2015.

Cereal imports in 2015/16 forecast to increase slightly from last year's record level

Total cereal imports in the 2015/16 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 15 million tonnes, slightly above last year's high level. This reflects higher wheat imports, which are projected to increase by 9 percent from the 2014/15 reduced level, to 4.3 million tonnes. Maize imports during 2015/16 are set to remain close to last year's level of 10.2 million tonnes. Rice imports are forecast to reach 440 000 tonnes in calendar year 2016.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



Republic of Korea

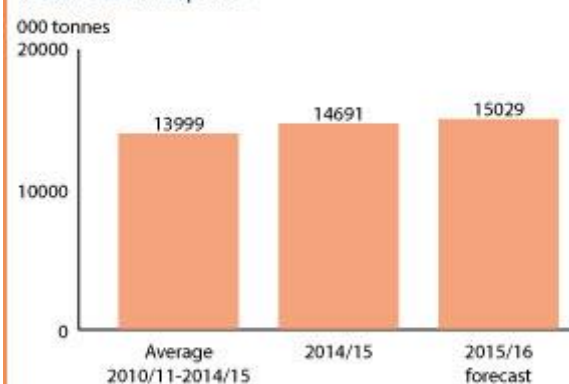
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 620	5 638	5 771	2
Barley	110	131	111	-15
Maize	80	85	80	-6
Others	48	43	49	14
Total	5 858	5 897	6 011	2

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

Republic of Korea

Total cereal imports



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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 20-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2015 is forecast slightly below last year's level
- Cereal imports in 2014/15 are forecast to decline from last year's record level

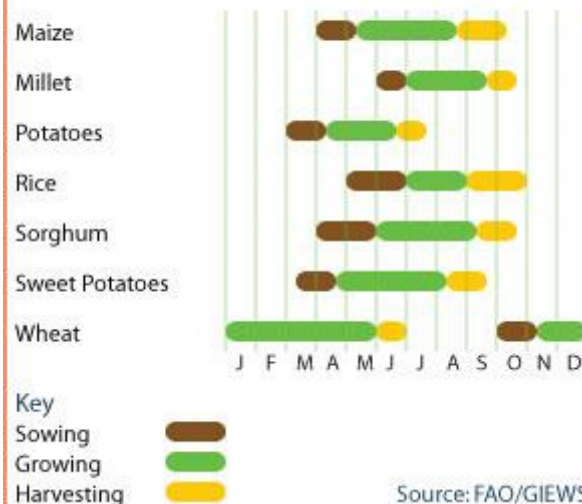
Planting of 2015 rice crop underway

Planting of the 2015 rice crop has just started and is expected to continue until June. According to satellite imagery, rains have been generally below-average over most of the country since May, which may delay planting operations. Early expectations are that area planted to rice will decrease further, as farmers continue to convert paddies to more profitable crops and other uses. Paddy plantings have declined steadily since the early 2000s. Considering the anticipated slight decrease in plantings and assuming yields return to more normal levels, compared to the high levels attained in 2014, FAO preliminarily forecasts the 2015 rice production at 5.5 million tonnes, 3 percent below last year's average level. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast to decline from last year's record level

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 14.1 million tonnes, 5 percent below last year's high level. This reflects lower maize imports, which are forecast to return to the normal level of 9.5 million tonnes, a drop of almost 1 million tonnes from last year's record. Imports of wheat during 2014/15 are set to remain close to last year's level of 4 million tonnes. Limited rice imports of about 460 000 tonnes are forecast in 2015.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

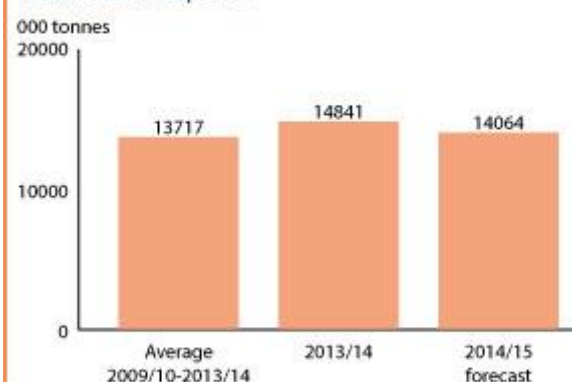


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	5 620	5 638	5 450	-3
Barley	110	131	131	0
Maize	80	85	85	0
Others	48	43	43	0
Total	5 858	5 897	5 709	-3

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

Republic of Korea Total cereal imports



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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 13-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rice production in 2014 is estimated slightly above last year's level
- Cereal imports in 2014/15 are forecast to decline from last year's record level

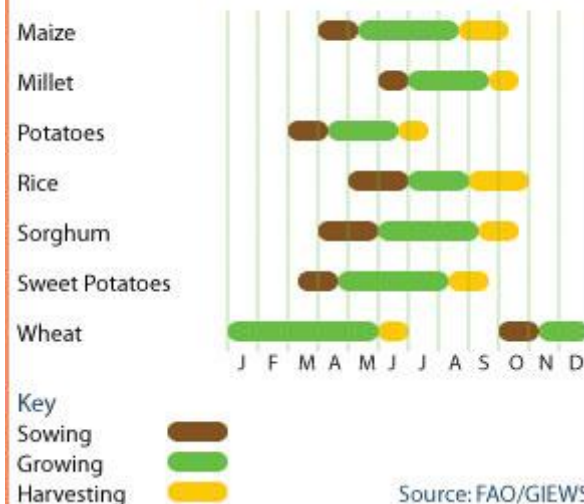
Rice production in 2014 is estimated slightly above last year's level

The main staple crop, paddy rice, is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The 2014 rice production (in paddy terms) was officially estimated at 5.6 million tonnes, slightly above last year's near-average level. Favourable weather conditions during the cropping season and increased use of high yielding variety seeds resulted in higher yields which compensated for a 2 percent contraction in the area sown. The area planted to paddy has been declining since early 2000 and particularly in recent years, as farmers shifted to more profitable crops and more land was converted to other uses. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast to decline from last year's record level

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 14.1 million tonnes, 5 percent below last year's high level. This reflects lower maize imports, which are forecast at 9.5 million tonnes, a drop of almost 1 million from last year's record. Imports of wheat during 2014/15 are set to remain close to last year's level of 4 million tonnes. Limited rice imports of about 480 000 tonnes are forecast in 2015.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

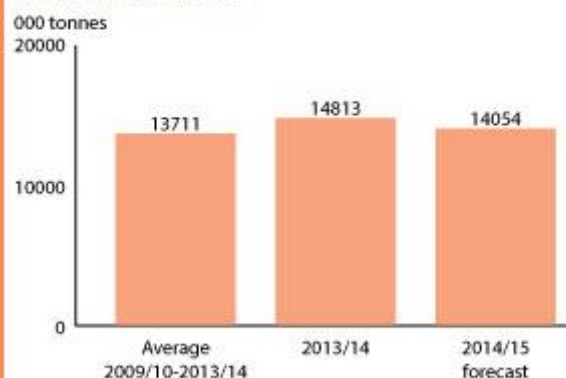


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	5 793	5 632	5 646	0
Barley	117	90	131	46
Maize	78	83	85	2
Others	47	40	43	8
Total	6 036	5 845	5 905	1

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

Republic of Korea Total cereal 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: 16-October-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2014 rice production forecast at similar level to last year's near-average output
- Cereal imports in 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) expected to remain firm

Rice production in 2014 is forecast at a similar level to last year's near-average output

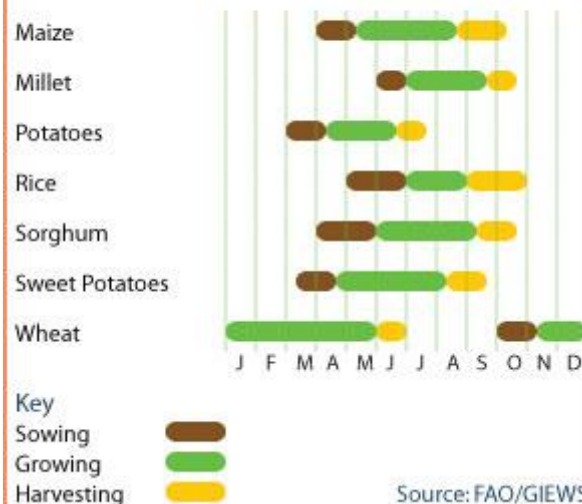
Harvesting of the 2014 rice crop is almost complete. FAO forecasts the 2014 rice production (in paddy terms) at 5.5 million tonnes, 2 percent below last year's good outcome. Assuming average yields, the anticipated decrease is attributed to a 2 percent contraction in plantings. The area planted to paddy has been declining since 2002, particularly in recent years, as farmers shift to more profitable crops and more land is converted to other uses. According to official data, the area planted to rice decreased by 23 percent in 2014 compared to the 1.1 million hectares planted in 2002. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast to remain firm

Total cereal imports in the 2014/15 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 14.6 million tonnes, similar to last year's high level. Given the low domestic outputs of wheat and maize (for feed), large volumes are normally imported. In 2014/15, imports of wheat and maize are forecast at 4.5 million tonnes and about 9.5 million tonnes, respectively. Limited rice imports of about 450 000 tonnes are forecast in 2014.

The country enjoys relatively low inflation and high economic growth. The year-on-year inflation rate in September stood at 1.9 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

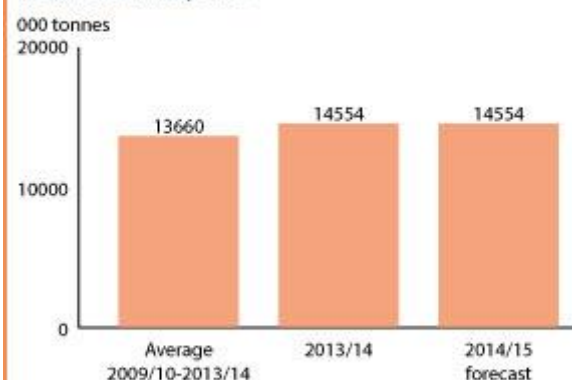


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Rice (paddy)	5 793	5 632	5 500	-2
Barley	117	90	131	46
Maize	78	83	85	2
Others	47	40	43	8
Total	6 036	5 845	5 759	-1

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

Republic of Korea Total cereal imports



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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 30-May-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- The 2014 rice production forecast similar to last year's average level
- Cereal imports forecast to increase slightly in the 2013/14 marketing year

The 2014 rice production forecast similar to last year's average level

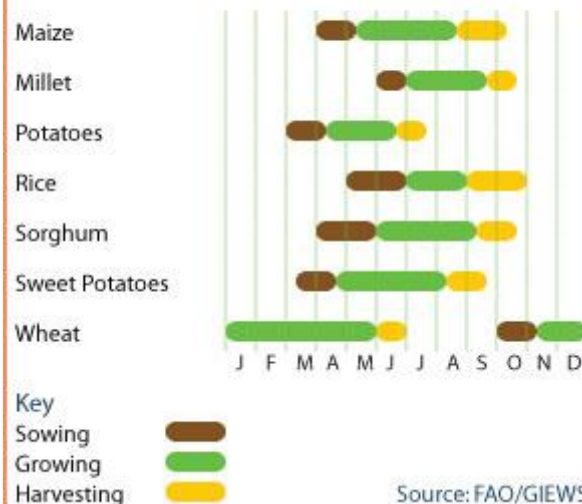
Planting of the 2014 rice crop has just started and is expected to continue until June. Early indications show that the area planted is to remain similar to last year's level. Assuming normal weather and about average yields, FAO tentatively forecasts this year's production at 5.7 million tonnes. The area planted to paddy has been declining since early 2000 and particularly in recent years, as farmers shifted to more profitable crops and more land was converted to other uses. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports forecast to increase slightly in the 2013/14 marketing year (October/September)

Total cereal imports in the 2013/14 marketing year (October/September) are forecast at 14.1 million tonnes, slightly above last year's high level. Reduced quantities of wheat and maize (for feed) are produced domestically, hence large volumes of wheat 4.5 million tonnes and about 9 million tonnes of maize are imported annually. Limited rice imports of about 450 000 tonnes are forecast in 2014.

The country enjoys relatively low inflation and high economic growth. The latest available official data indicate that the year-on-year Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.5 percent in April 2014.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



Republic of Korea

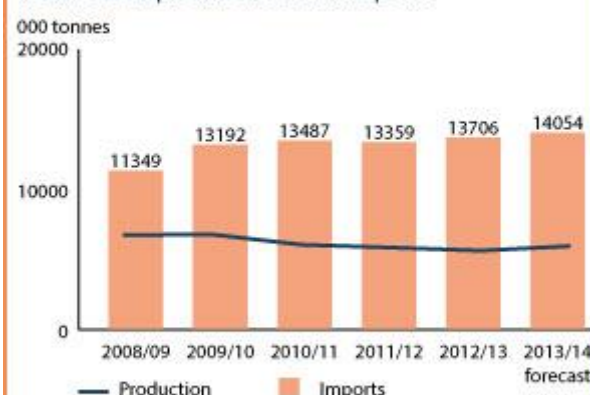
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5 811	5 720	5 740	0
Barley	123	120	130	8
Maize	78	83	85	2
Others	47	36	46	28
Total	6 059	5 959	6 001	1

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

Republic of Korea

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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 28-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production increased in 2013 but still remained below average
- Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2013/14 marketing year

Cereal production increased in 2013 but still remained below average

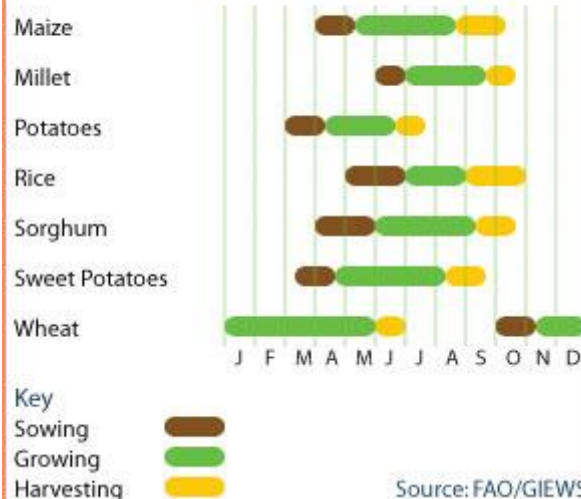
In the Republic of Korea, the main staple crop, paddy rice, is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The 2013 rice production (in paddy terms) was officially estimated at 5.7 million tonnes, some 6 percent above the previous year's below-average output and about 4 percent lower than the previous five-year average level. The average paddy production for last five years (2008-2012) has been about 6 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.4 million tonnes of milled rice). Despite an estimated reduction of 2 percent in plantings, the increase in 2013 production is mainly attributed to higher yields, as a result of favourable weather conditions and increased use of high yielding variety seeds. The area planted to paddy has been declining since early 2000 and particularly in recent years, as farmers shifted to more profitable crops and more land was converted to other uses. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports forecast to increase in 2013/14 marketing year

Generally, domestic production covers only about 30 percent of the total utilization of cereals in the country. Very little wheat and maize (for feed) are produced domestically, hence large quantities, of about 5 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Maize imports in the marketing year 2013/14 (October/September) are forecast to increase to about 8.9 million tonnes. Small amount of rice, about 450 000 tonnes, is forecast to be imported.

The country enjoys relatively low inflation and high economic growth. The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price index (CPI) in December 2013 (year-on-year), increased by 1.1 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



Republic of Korea

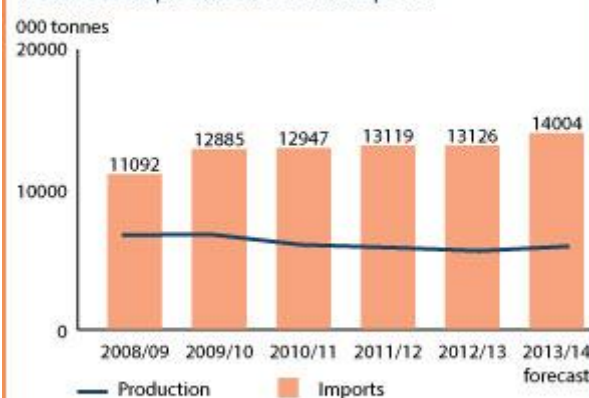
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 estimate	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5,960	5,405	5,720	6
Barley	130	84	90	7
Maize	80	83	83	0
Others	44	50	51	2
Total	6,215	5,622	5,944	6

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

Republic of Korea

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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 09-September-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production to increase in 2013 but still remains below average
- Cereal imports forecast to remain generally stable in 2013/14 marketing year

Cereal production to increase in 2013 but still remains below average

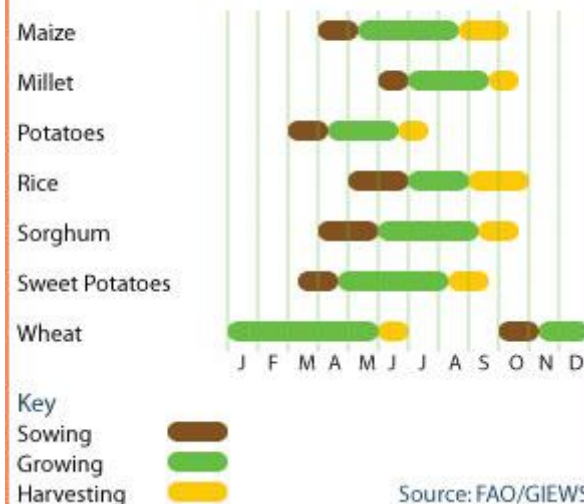
In the Republic of Korea, the main staple crop, paddy rice, is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The 2013 rice production (in paddy terms) is forecast by FAO at 5.7 million tonnes, some 5 percent above the previous year's below-average output and about 4.4 percent lower than the previous five-year average. The increase in 2013 production is mainly attributed to anticipated higher yields, as a result of an increased use of higher yielding variety of seeds. The average paddy production for last five years (2008-2012) has been about 6 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.4 million tonnes of milled rice). The area planted to paddy has been declining since early 2000 (see chart below) and particularly in recent years following the official decision to reduce paddy plantings to match the declining domestic rice consumption. In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Cereal imports forecast to remain generally stable in 2013/14 marketing year

Generally, domestic production covers only about 30 percent of the total utilization of cereals in the country. Very little wheat and maize (for feed) are produced domestically, hence large quantities, of about 5 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Small amount of rice, about 400 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

The country enjoys relatively low inflation. The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price index (CPI) in August 2013 (year-on-year), increased by 1.3 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



Republic of Korea

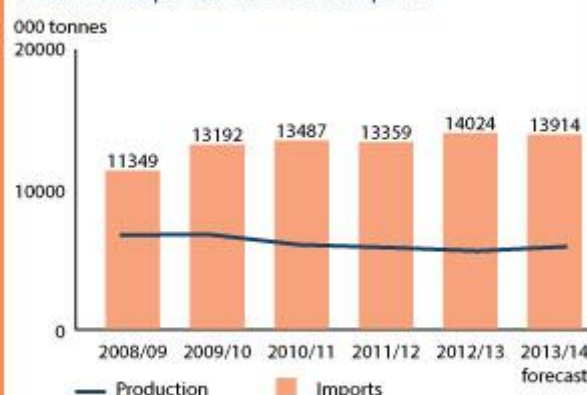
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	5,960	5,405	5,700	5
Barley	130	84	90	7
Maize	80	84	83	-1
Others	43	45	51	13
Total	6,214	5,618	5,924	5

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

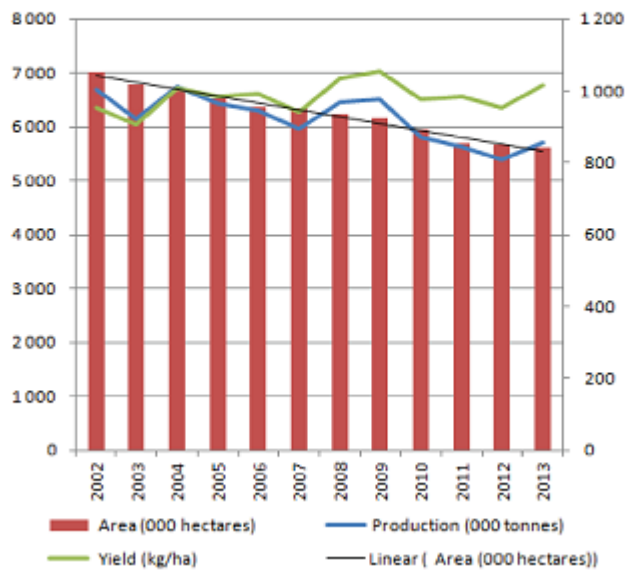
Republic of Korea

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

Area harvested (right axis) and production and yield (left axis)
declining trend in area and production in the Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 15-February-2013

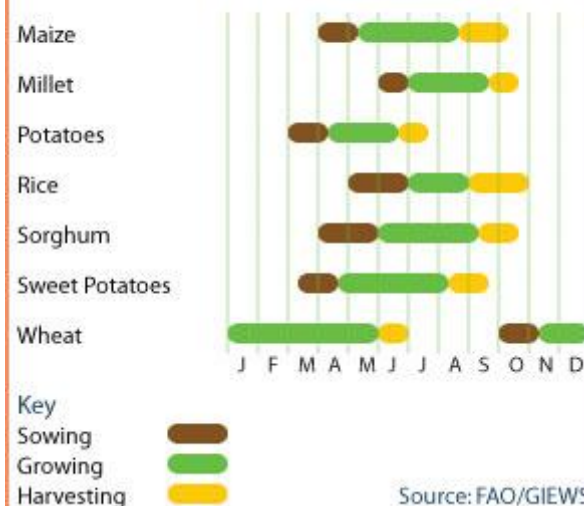
Cereal harvest well below average in 2012

In the Republic of Korea, the main staple crop, paddy rice, is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The 2012 rice production is officially estimated at 5.4 million tonnes, some 4 percent lower than the previous year's below-average output and about 11 percent lower than the previous five-year average. The contraction in 2012 production was partly due the protracted dry spell at the start of the season, and localised floods following the passing of several storms/typhoons in August and September. However, the area planted to paddy has been declining since early 2000 (see chart below) and particularly in recent years following the official decision to reduce paddy plantings to match the declining domestic rice consumption. The average paddy production for last five years (2007-2011) has been about 6 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.5 million tonnes of milled rice). In addition to rice, small quantities of barley, maize and other cereals are produced.

Generally, domestic production covers only about 30 percent of the total utilization of cereals in the country. Very little wheat and maize (for feed) are produced domestically, hence large quantities, of over 5 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Small amount of rice, about 400 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

The country enjoys relatively low inflation. The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price index (CPI) in December 2012 (year-on-year), increased by 1.4 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea



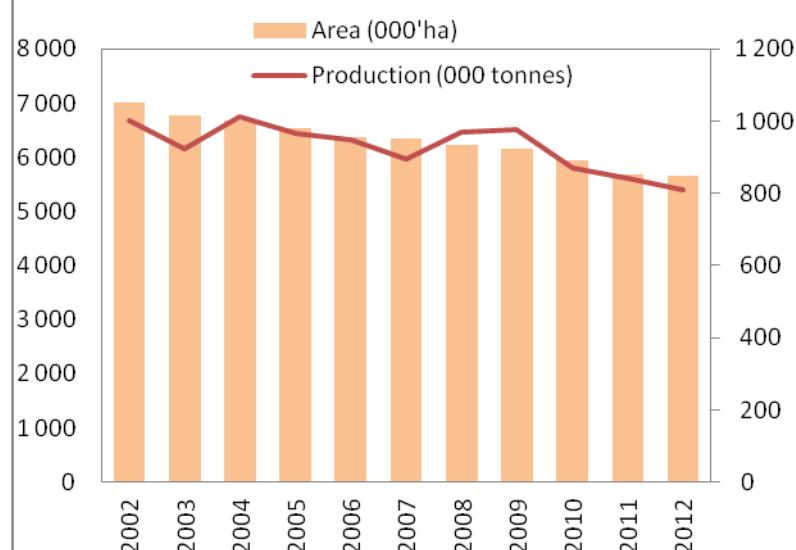
Republic of Korea

Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 estimate	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6 072	5 616	5 405	-4
Barley	147	109	84	-23
Maize	80	74	84	14
Others	38	56	45	-20
Total	6 337	5 855	5 618	-4

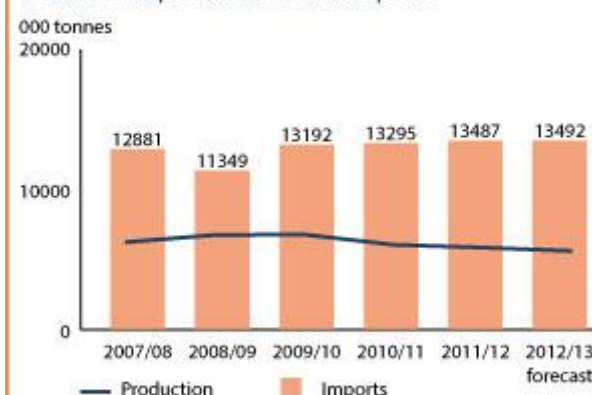
Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Trends in rice (paddy) area and production



Republic of Korea

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: 25-July-2012

Rains in July provided relief to crops affected by prolonged dry spell

The country's main crop, paddy rice, sown during May to June, is currently in the growing stage. Following a normal start of the rains in April, at the beginning of the 2012 agricultural season, a protracted dry spell set in stretching for four dekads, which has negatively impacted on planting operations. Rains resumed normal to above-normal patterns since mid-June throughout the country, but may have arrived too late to avoid reductions in the area planted and yields of early planted crops.

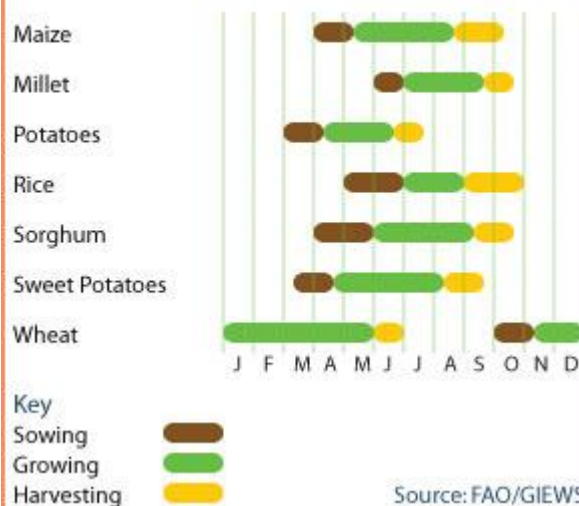
Although official production forecasts are not yet available, rice production is projected to decrease to 5.4 million tonnes, down by about 4 percent compared to 2011, reflecting the negative impact of the dry spell as well a slight decrease in plantings, following, the government initiative to reduce paddy plantings by 40 000 hectares by 2013, due to successive large harvests. In line with this reduction in plantings, paddy production in 2011 was estimated at 5.6 million tonnes, down by about 3 percent from the previous year's output. The average paddy production for last five years (2007-2011) has been about 6 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.5 million tonnes of milled rice).

In aggregate, the cereal output for 2012 is forecast at some 5.6 million tonnes, some 3 percent lower than the previous year's below-average output.

Very little wheat and maize (for feed) is produced domestically, hence large quantities, of over 4 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Very small amount of rice, about 350 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price inflation in June 2012 (the year-on-year increase), increased by 2.2 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

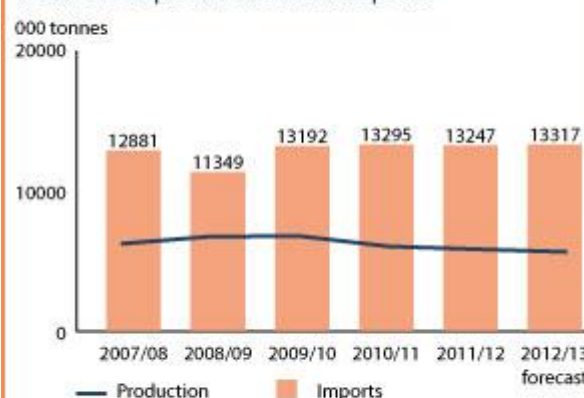


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6 072	5 616	5 400	-4
Barley	149	119	143	20
Maize	83	81	79	-2
Others	31	32	35	9
Total	6 334	5 848	5 657	-3

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

Republic of Korea 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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 11-July-2012

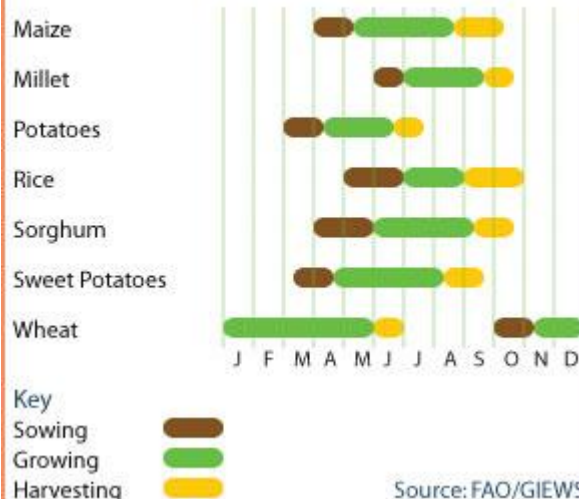
Currently, the 2012 country's main crop, paddy rice sown during May to June is currently in growing stage under scanty rains. The average paddy production for last five years (2007-2011) has been about 6 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.5 million tonnes of milled rice). A decrease in plantings for rice is anticipated to result in a marginally smaller harvest in 2012, down by about 4 percent compared to 2011. Overall, the cereal output for 2012 is forecast at some 5.6 million tonnes, some 3 percent lower than the previous year's below-average output.

In 2011 both due to adverse weather pattern and decline in planting area, paddy production was estimated at 5.6 million tonnes, a decrease of about 3.4 percent from the previous year's below-average output, which was also affected by adverse weather pattern, long dry spells and excessive rains during the growing season.

Very little wheat and maize (for feed) is produced domestically, hence large quantities, of over 4 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Very small amount of rice, about 350 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price inflation in June 2012 (the year-on-year increase), increased by 2.2 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

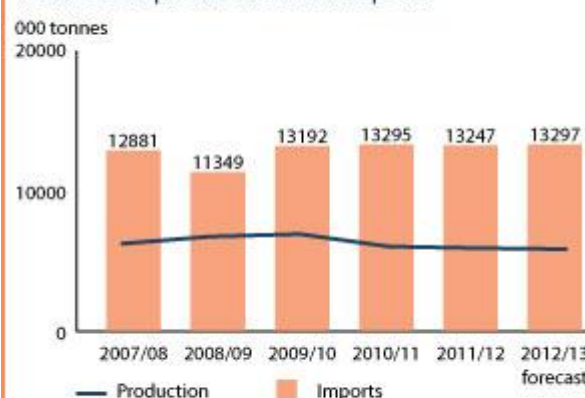


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6 072	5 616	5 400	-4
Barley	149	119	143	20
Maize	83	81	79	-2
Others	31	32	35	9
Total	6 334	5 848	5 657	-3

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

Republic of Korea 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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 13-February-2012

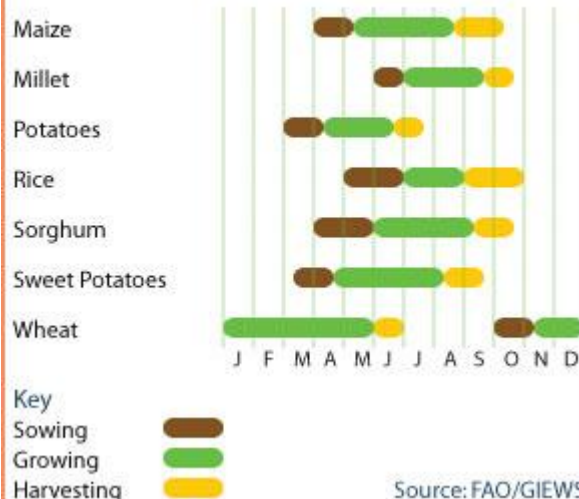
In the Republic of Korea, the main staple crop, paddy rice, is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The average paddy production for last three years (2006-2010) has been about 6.24 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.6 million tonnes of milled rice).

In 2011 both due to adverse weather pattern and decline in planting area, paddy production was estimated at 5.7 million tonnes, a decrease of about 2 percent from the previous year's below-average output, which was also affected by adverse weather pattern, long dry spells and excessive rains during the growing season.

Very little wheat and maize (for feed) is produced domestically, hence large quantities, of over 4 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Very small amount of rice, about 350 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

The latest available official data indicate that nationally the overall consumer price inflation in January 2012 (the year-on-year increase), is 3.4 percent.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

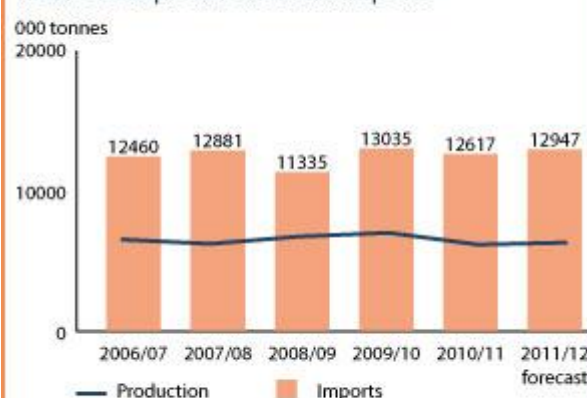


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 estimate	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6 238	5 804	5 697	-2
Barley	201	260	211	-19
Maize	79	78	81	4
Others	28	40	32	-20
Total	6 547	6 182	6 021	-3

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

Republic of Korea 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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea

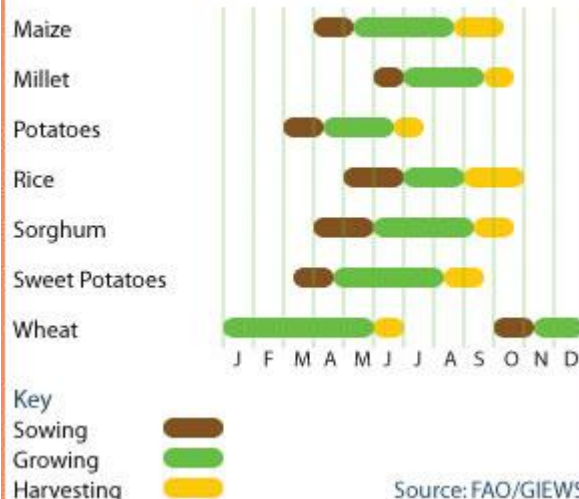


Reference Date: 30-May-2011

In the Republic of Korea, the main staple crop, paddy rice is planted in May-June and harvested in September-October. The average paddy production for last three years (2006-2010) has been about 6.33 million tonnes (equivalent to 4.6 million tonnes of milled rice). In 2010 due to the adverse weather pattern, long dry spells and excessive rains during the growing season, paddy production was greatly affected resulting in a decline of about 13 percent from the previous year's record harvest since 2003.

Very little wheat and maize (for feed) are produced domestically, hence large quantities, of over 4 million tonnes and over 8 million tonnes, respectively, are imported annually. Very small amount of rice, about 350 000 tonnes, is imported annually.

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

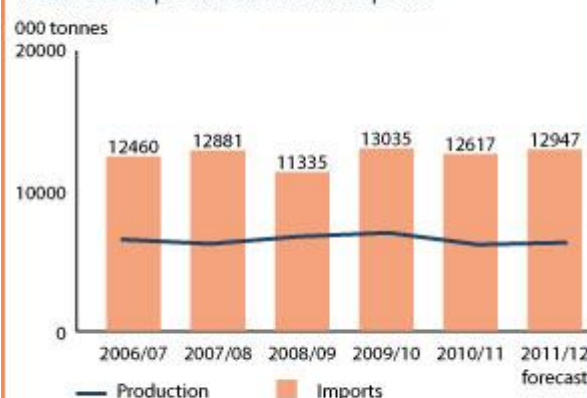


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6 238	5 804	6 000	3
Barley	201	260	211	-19
Maize	79	78	81	4
Others	13	13	13	0
Total	6 547	6 182	6 324	2

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

Republic of Korea 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

GIEWS Country Brief

Republic of Korea



Reference Date: 03-September-2010

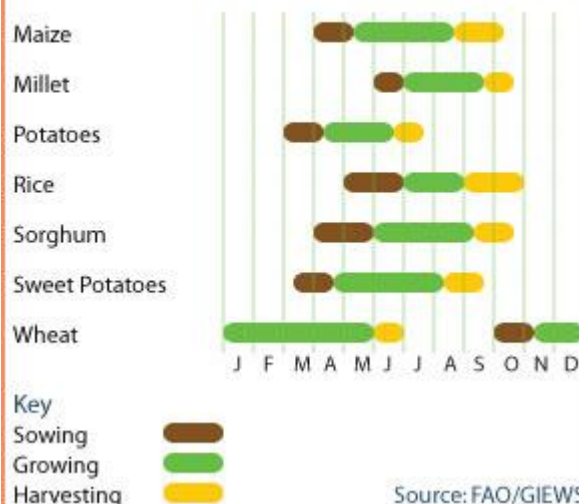
Rice is the main crop cultivated during summer in the Republic of Korea. Generally it is harvested in September-October while small amounts of barley and wheat are produced as winter crops, harvested by the middle of the year.

The 2010 output of rice (in paddy terms) is forecast at 6.5 million tonnes, slightly down from the previous year due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Generally, domestic production covers only about 30 percent of the total domestic utilization of cereals in the country.

With the expected reduction in the rice harvest, the total cereal imports in 2010/11 (Oct/Sep) are expected to rise to 12.7 million tonnes (including some 350 000 tonnes of milled rice).

Crop calendar Republic of Korea

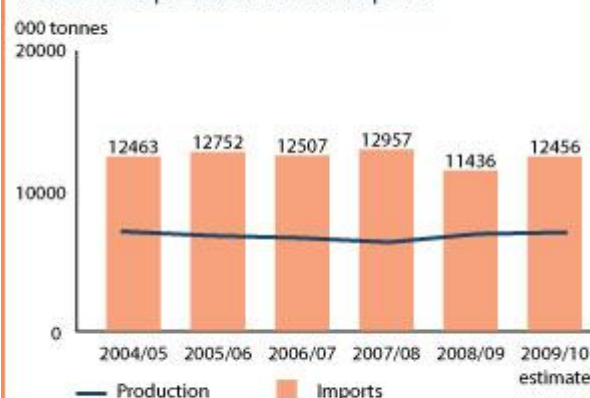


Republic of Korea Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Rice (paddy)	6379	6643	6500	-2
Barley	279	290	286	-1
Maize	78	77	78	1
Others	24	39	40	3
Total	6761	7049	6904	-2

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

Republic of Korea 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