Coarse grains

Global coarse grain production in 2025 is forecast at 1 614 million tonnes, marking a 6.6 percent increase from last year and a new record high. Most of this growth reflects anticipated large maize harvests in Brazil and the United States of America, primarily driven by price-induced area expansions. Notable increases in maize production were also registered across most countries in Southern Africa, where ample and well-distributed rains led to strong yield recoveries. These increases are expected to more than offset maize production declines in Argentina and several Asian countries where dry-weather conditions curbed yields.

Total utilization of coarse grains in 2025/26 is forecast to rise by 32.4 million tonnes, or 2.1 percent, to a record level of 1 574 million tonnes. The increase is driven predominantly by anticipated growth in the use of maize for both feed and industrial purposes, as buyers continue to capitalize on ample supplies and low prices. Global utilization of barley in 2025/26 is set to rise by just under 1.0 million tonnes, or 0.7 percent, while that of sorghum could grow by 2.4 million tonnes, or 3.8 percent, mostly for animal feed in Brazil and China.

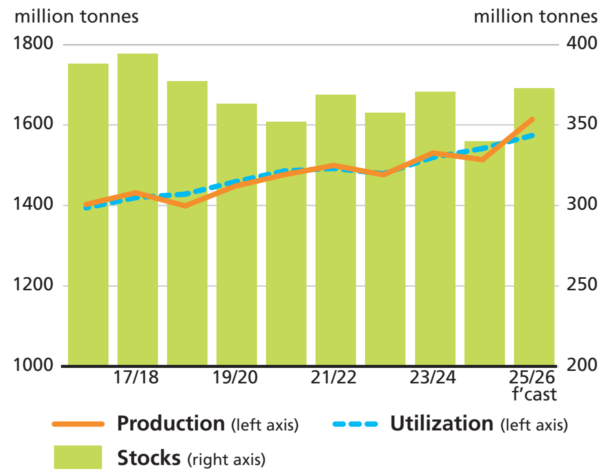
In the 2025/26 marketing year (July/June), international trade in coarse grains is forecast to grow by 6.1 million tonnes, or 2.6 percent, mainly reflecting an anticipated rebound in sorghum trade. China is expected to remain the world's leading importer of sorghum, while both Argentina and Brazil are set to expand their role in the sorghum export market. Trade in both maize and barley is also expected to recover from the previous season and reach the average levels of the past five seasons, with ample exportable supplies offering importers a wider choice of origins in 2025/26.

After falling to an eleven-year low in 2024/25, global coarse grain inventories are predicted to rebound strongly in 2025/26, due primarily to an anticipated recovery in maize stocks. Most of the expansion in maize inventories is anticipated in the United States of America, along with smaller increases in other exporting countries, including Brazil and Ukraine. Barley stocks are also expected to rebound in 2025/26, particularly in the European Union after a recovery in production, while sorghum stocks will likely contract slightly. Overall, both the world stocks-to-use ratio and the major exporters' stocks-to-disappearance ratio (in which "disappearance" is defined as domestic consumption plus exports) for coarse grains are expected to rise, with the latter climbing to 12.9 percent, exceeding the average level of the last five seasons.

Contact:

Jonathan Pound (Production)
Monika Tothova

Figure 1.3. Coarse grain production, utilization and stocks



Source: See references

Table 1.3. World coarse grain market at a glance

	2023/24	2024/25 estim.	2025/26 f'cast	Change 2025/26 over 2024/25
		million tonnes		%
WORLD BALANCE				
Production	**1 530.7**	**1 514.0**	**1 614.0**	**6.6**
Trade[a]	**244.5**	**229.8**	**235.8**	**2.6**
Total utilization	**1 519.8**	**1 541.7**	**1 574.1**	**2.1**
Food	226.9	229.5	233.6	1.8
Feed	891.4	908.7	926.7	2.0
Other uses	401.5	403.5	413.8	2.6
Ending stocks[b]	**369.9**	**339.1**	**372.1**	**9.7**
SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATORS				
Per caput food consumption:				
World (kg/yr)	28.0	28.1	28.4	1.1
LIFDC (kg/yr)	72.0	71.7	71.7	0.0
World stocks-to-use ratio (%)	**24.0**	**21.5**	**23.6**	
Major exporters stocks-to-disappearance ratio[c] (%)	**11.6**	**9.4**	**12.9**	
FAO COARSE GRAIN PRICE INDEX (2014–2016=100)	**2023**	**2024**	**2025** *Jan–Oct*	**%Change Jan/Oct 2025 over Jan/Oct 2024**
	134	109	117	7.8

Notes:
[a] Trade refers to exports based on a common July/June marketing season.
[b] May no t equa l the difference between supply (defined as production plus carryover stocks) and total utilization due to differences in individual country marketing years.
[c] Major exporters include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America.