

FAO's first forecast for the 2024/25 season points to an overall comfortable global supply-and-demand situation. Current prospects for world cereal production indicate an output of 2 846 million tonnes (including rice in milled equivalent), virtually on par with the record outturn in 2023/24. Among the major cereals, global maize and wheat outputs are forecast to decline. The recent adverse weather conditions in the Black Sea region will likely result in a downgrade in world wheat production.<sup>1</sup> By contrast, outputs of barley, rice and sorghum are all predicted to increase.

World cereal total utilization in 2024/25 is expected to increase by 0.5 percent to a new record high of 2 851 million tonnes. Global use of cereals for food consumption is predicted to expand the most, up 1.1 percent from 2023/24. This increase is foreseen to be led by rice (up 1.4 percent), followed by coarse grains (up 1.2 percent) and wheat (up 0.8 percent). Global feed utilization of cereals is also forecast to increase, up 0.4 percent, driven by strong demand for coarse grains (especially maize and sorghum) for animal feed, while feed uses of wheat and rice are both forecast to contract.

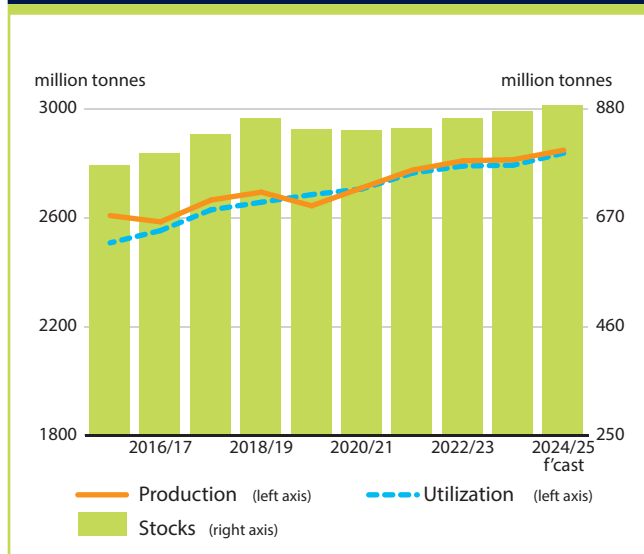
World cereal stocks will likely increase by 1.5 percent (13.2 million tonnes) above their opening levels to a record 897 million tonnes, reflecting expectations of higher inventories of coarse grains (with increases for maize, barley and sorghum) and rice. By contrast, wheat stocks could decline to their lowest level since 2021/22. With utilization also forecast to rise in 2024/25, the global cereal stock-to-use ratio will likely remain close to its 2023/24 level, around 30.9 percent.

Forecast at 481 million tonnes, world trade in cereals is predicted to decline by 1.3 percent from the 2023/24 level to 481 million tonnes in 2024/25. Lower trade prospects for maize underlie most of this anticipated decline, with smaller decreases in wheat and barley trade also contributing to the contraction. By contrast, international rice trade is forecast to recover.

In May 2024, the FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 118.7 points, down 8.2 percent from its value one year earlier and 5.7 percent below its five-year average level for the same month. This decrease reflects sharp declines (both year on year and compared to average levels) in the world prices of wheat and coarse grains, which outweighed increases in rice prices compared to their values last year and the five-year averages.

<sup>1</sup> This statement reflects changes that occurred after the closure of the database that this report is based on.

## CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION, UTILIZATION AND STOCKS



## WORLD CEREAL MARKET AT A GLANCE<sup>1</sup>

	2022/23	2023/24 <i>estim.</i>	2024/25 <i>f'cast</i>	Change: 2024/25 over 2023/24
	<i>million tonnes</i>			<i>%</i>
<b>WORLD BALANCE</b>				
<b>Production</b>	2 812.4	2 847.4	2 846.3	0.0
<b>Trade<sup>2</sup></b>	479.3	487.4	481.3	-1.3
<b>Total utilization</b>	2 792.4	2 835.9	2 851.0	0.5
Food	1 184.9	1 200.1	1 213.3	1.1
Feed	1 043.5	1 063.8	1 068.2	0.4
Other uses	564.0	572.1	569.5	-0.5
<b>Ending stocks<sup>3</sup></b>	872.0	884.0	897.2	1.5
<b>SUPPLY AND DEMAND INDICATORS</b>				
<b>Per caput food consumption:</b>				
World (kg/yr)	148.6	149.2	149.4	0.1
LIFDC <sup>4</sup> (kg/yr)	142.1	142.5	141.8	-0.5
World stocks-to-use ratio (%)	30.7	31.0	30.9	
Major exporters stocks-to-disappearance ratio (%)	21.0	21.4	21.4	
<b>FAO CEREAL PRICE INDEX (2014-2016=100)</b>				
	2022	2023	2024 <i>Jan-May</i>	Change: Jan/May 2024 over Jan/May 2023 %
	155	131	115	-22

<sup>1</sup> Rice in milled equivalent.

<sup>2</sup> Trade refers to exports based on a July/June marketing season for wheat and coarse grains and on a January/December basis for rice.

<sup>3</sup> May not equal the difference between supply (defined as production plus opening stocks) and utilization due to differences in individual countries' marketing years.

<sup>4</sup> Low-Income Food-Deficit countries marketing years.