



GIEWS Country Brief Jordan

Reference Date: 08-February-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Snowfall in January 2022 replenished water reserves, but caused damages to agricultural sector**
- **Stable cereal import requirements forecast in 2021/22**
- **Inflation remains low despite increases in international commodity prices**
- **Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources**

Snowfall in January 2022 replenished water reserves, but caused damages to agriculture

While agriculture is an important source of livelihood in rural areas, domestic production of cereals is negligible due to climate and geographic conditions. Only very small quantities of sorghum, for harvest in June, are planted as winter cereals in October and November. Wheat is mostly sown in February for harvest from June.

Rainfall amounts in October and November 2021 were below average, but ample precipitation in December and January replenished soil moisture. In the last decade of January, the northern and central regions experienced a rare snowfall, with accumulation up to 30 cm of snow. Although beneficial for improving water reserves in dams and reservoirs, the heavy snow, coupled with frost, caused damages to the agricultural sector, in particular in key producing areas of the Jordan Valley. Livestock and open field crops, such as potatoes, winter vegetables and fruit trees, suffered significant damages, in some areas reaching up to 90 percent of the production. Affected farmers are eligible to be compensated from the Agricultural Risk Fund, which covers weather-related damages.

In January 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture launched the National Plan for Sustainable Agriculture (2022-2025) to improve farmers' living conditions through increases in productivity. In 2022, the plan foresees JOD 35 million (equivalent to USD 50 million) in interest free loans for agricultural projects.

Stable cereal import requirements in 2021/22

Cereal production in 2021 is estimated at a slightly above-average level of 100 000 tonnes, 5 percent below the harvest gathered in 2020, mostly on account of less favourable weather conditions than in 2020.

Jordan

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Jordan

Cereal Production

	2016-2020 average	2020	2021 estimate	change 2021/2020
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	32	35	35	0.0
Wheat	29	35	30	-14.3
Maize	23	25	25	0.0
Others	10	10	10	0.0
Total	94	105	100	-4.8

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

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an average level of 3 million tonnes. Wheat and barley imports are usually sourced from the Black Sea Region given lower freight costs compared to other origins. The Government maintains strategic stocks (both in the country and in transit) aiming at covering up to 12 months of domestic consumption of wheat and about a one-month of consumption of rice and maize. In the future, to avoid market turbulences, the Government plans to stock up to two years for wheat for food consumption.

Price inflation remains low

The COVID-19 pandemic and the measures introduced to contain it disrupted in particular the tourism sector, which contributed to almost 20 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019. Consequently, the economy contracted by 1.6 percent in 2020, but rebounded to a 2.2 percent growth in 2021. Unemployment rate increased to almost 25 percent in the second quarter of 2021, the highest level at least since 2005, up from the 19 percent before the start of the pandemic. About half of young people (between 16 and 25 years old) is unemployed.

In November 2021 (last information available), the annual food price inflation decreased by 0.6 percent, down from 5.2 percent recorded in March 2020, when households' stockpiled food due to the lockdown at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall inflation recorded an increase of 2.4 percent in December 2021, up from negative levels a year before. Despite moderate upticks in price inflation reflecting strengthening global commodity prices, the national currency pegged to US dollar has buffered larger domestic price increases.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

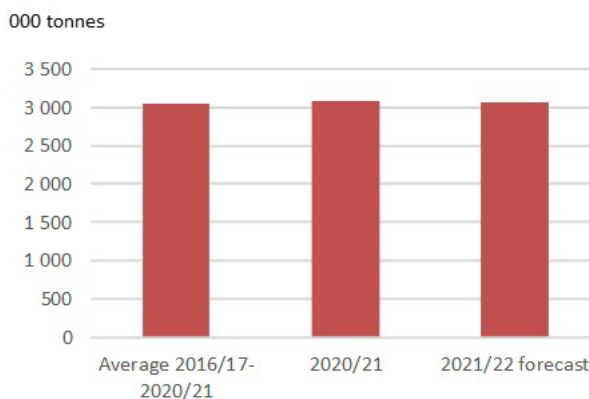
According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as of December 2021, almost 673 000 registered Syrian refugees were hosted in the country, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. This figure has not significantly changed since late 2016. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic escalated. The World Food Programme (WFP) targets its programmes to assist the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers across the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari Refugee Camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

Since 2016, Syrian refugees have been permitted to work in agriculture, construction and manufacturing sectors. Since 2020, they are also allowed to work in the healthcare sector and, since last year, in all sectors open to non-Jordanians, assuming they secure a work permit. In 2021, a record number of 62 000 work permits was issued to Syrian refugees.

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Jordan

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 Jordan

Reference Date: 23-November-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2020
- Stable cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21
- Food inflation increased slightly in September 2020 but remains low
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

Slightly above-average cereal harvest gathered in 2020

While agriculture is an important source of livelihood in rural areas, domestic production of cereals is negligible due to climate and geographic conditions. Production of vegetables and fruits is economically more significant.

Rainfall amounts in September and October 2020 were unusually low. More substantial precipitation in the first decade of November eased soil moisture deficits. Only very small quantities of sorghum, for harvest in June, are planted as winter cereals in October and November. Wheat is mostly sown in February, for harvest from June.

Cereal production in 2020 is estimated at an above-average level of 105 000 tonnes, 5 percent above the harvest gathered in 2019, mostly on account of a slight expansion in the area planted with wheat.

Responding to the restrictions introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Agriculture is accelerating the deployment of digital solutions. Farmers had to apply for special electronic travel permits to access their fields when movement restrictions have been in place to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. A new lockdown was introduced in November 2020. In line with earlier practise, farmers could obtain permissions, such as to transport their olive harvest to mills during the lockdown, although vegetable farmers have complained about losses due to closed wholesale markets.

Stable cereal import requirements in 2020/21

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an average

Jordan

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Sowing
Growing
Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Jordan

Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 estimate	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	33	35	35	0.0
Wheat	27	30	35	16.7
Maize	23	25	25	0.0
Others	9	10	10	0.0
Total	92	100	105	5.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

level of 3 million tonnes. However, actual imports might be smaller than the forecast import requirement as demand for maize and barley for feed declined due to some poultry and livestock producers downsizing their operations as demand for their products from the hospitality sector, including hotels and restaurants, decreased.

Wheat and barley imports are usually sourced from the Black Sea region given lower freight costs compared to other origins. The Government maintains strategic stocks of wheat (both in the country and in transit) aiming at covering up to eight months of domestic consumption and about a one-month worth of consumption of rice and maize.

Food inflation increases slightly in September 2020 but remains low

The pandemic and the measures introduced to contain it disrupted in particular the tourism and industry sectors. Consequently, the economy is forecast to contract by 5.8 percent in 2020, down from the 2 percent growth in 2019. Unemployment rate increased to 23 percent in the second quarter of 2020, the highest level at least since 2005, up from the 19.2 percent one year earlier. Returning workers from Gulf countries contributed to the increase. The contracting economy, coupled with a decline in remittances, is affecting households' purchasing power and pushing vulnerable groups further into poverty.

The Government monitors the food prices and intervenes as needed. For example, before the four-day lockdown in November, price ceilings were set for some varieties of vegetables to avoid "abnormal" prices increases.

In September 2020 (last information available), the annual food price inflation increased to 2.4 percent, up from the levels close to zero recorded in July and August 2020, but below the levels of 5.2 percent recorded in March 2020, when households' stockpiled food due to the lockdown at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall inflation remained close to zero since April 2020 as the economic slowdown put a downward pressure on energy and transport costs.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

According to UNHCR, as of early November 2020, almost 660 000 registered Syrian refugees were hosted in the country, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. This figure has not significantly changed since late 2016. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic escalated. The World Food Programme targets its programmes to assist the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers across the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari Refugee Camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

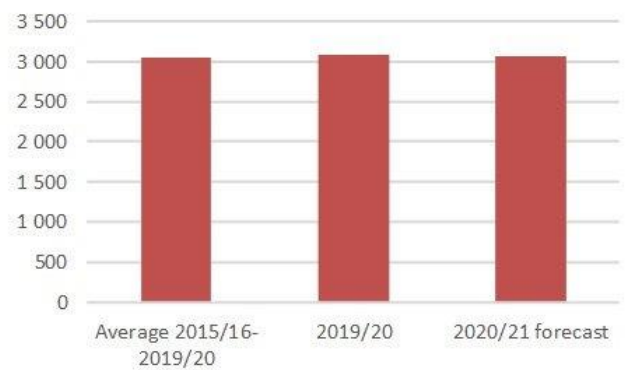
The Jordan Response Plan identified relevant interventions in the Economic Empowerment sector (including Food Security and Livelihood) benefiting both Jordanians (host community) and Syrian refugees.

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Jordan

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 Jordan

Reference Date: 02-June-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for crop development
- Stable cereal import requirements forecast in 2020/21
- Food inflation increased as households stockpile
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

Favourable weather conditions for crop development

Harvesting of spring wheat, planted in February, will start in June. With the exception of Mafraq Governorate, where precipitation amounts in 2020 have been close to average, other agriculturally productive areas received well above-average rainfall amounts. Rains at times complicated planting, but provided ample soil moisture. Favourable rains contributed to expanding the area planted with wheat to 30 000 hectares (up from the 20 000 hectares in the previous year) but domestic cereal production remains negligible owing to geographic conditions. Cereal production in 2020 is forecast at an above-average level of 105 000 tonnes, 5 percent above the harvest gathered in 2019.

Production of vegetables and fruits is economically more significant than cereal production. In March 2020, many greenhouses and fruit trees in the Jordan Valley suffered damages caused by the gusty winds with a speed of up to 120 km per hour.

Abundant precipitation levels improved pasture conditions and prolonged the grazing season, allowing herders to decrease their barley purchases. Sheep and goat farmers receive subsidized barley according to the number of tagged animals, which is restricted to ten. Farmers attempt to by-pass the limit by splitting their herds among family members. Cattle and poultry farms are not eligible for subsidized barley.

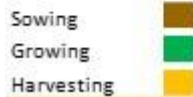
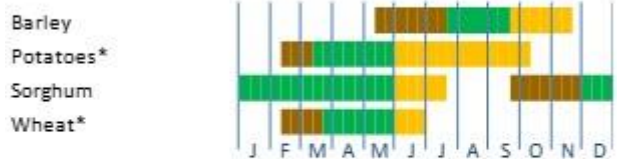
Stable cereal import requirements

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an average level of 2.7 million tonnes. Wheat and barley imports are usually sourced from the Black Sea region given lower freight costs compared to other origins. The Government maintains strategic

Jordan

Crop Calendar

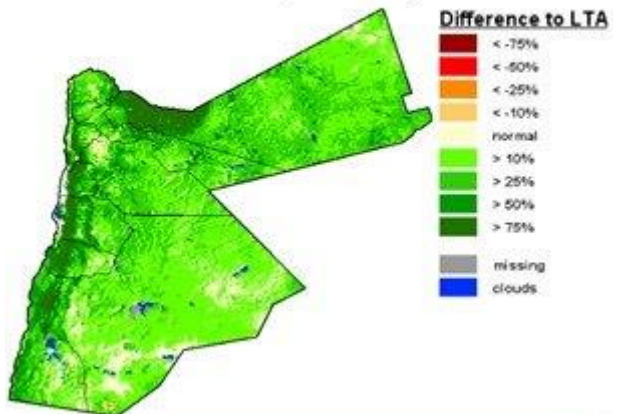
(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Jordan - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to LTA, Dekad 2 April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

stocks of cereals aiming at covering up to five months of domestic consumption.

The expansion of the bulk carrier vessel off-loading and silo storage capabilities of the Port of Aqaba is about to be completed. Silo storage capacity has been expanded from 100 000 to 200 000 tonnes and it is expected to reach 300 000 tonnes in the future. The country strives to become a re-exporting hub for cereals.

Food inflation increases

Responding to increased demand as households' stockpiled food due to the lockdown, the food price inflation in March 2020 increased to 5.2 percent year on year, up from 2.6 percent in February 2020. It eased to 4.9 percent in April 2020. Although price increases occurred, no shortages were reported on the markets. The increased cost of transportation contributed to the price increases since, as a result of limits on cross-loading, trucks return empty.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to UNHCR, as of early May 2020, almost 660 000 registered Syrian refugees were hosted in the country, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. The figure has not significantly changed since late 2016. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic escalated. The World Food Programme (WFP) targets its programmes to assist the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers across the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari Refugee Camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

To contain the spread of the disease, as of mid-March 2020, the Government suspended all border crossings, except for cargo traffic and introduced a quarantine for returnees and social distancing measures for all. Travel between cities was banned and curfews were put in place. The Syrian refugee camps were under lockdown and no external visitors have been permitted to enter. People caught breaking the rules could face up to one year of jail time. In early May 2020, the country lifted the restrictions on all economic activity, but schools remain closed and the curfew maintained.

The Government adopted policies to enable public and private sector employees to receive a certain share of their monthly wages with a contribution from the Government while working from home or reporting for work. In companies enrolled in the Social Security Corporation (SSC), employees whose salaries range from JOD 155 to JOD 500 per month (JOD 1 is equivalent to USD 1.4) can receive 50 percent of their salaries, with the employer paying 20 percent, with a maximum of JOD 250. In companies not enrolled in the SSC, each employee can receive JOD 150. Daily workers, whose jobs were affected by containment measures, received a one-off payment ranging from JOD 70 to JOD 136, depending on the size of the household. In total, JOD 27 million were distributed.

Jordan

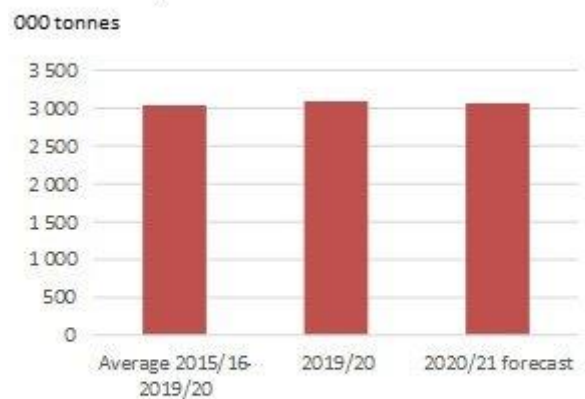
Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	33	35	35	0.0
Wheat	27	30	35	16.7
Maize	23	25	25	0.0
Others	9	10	10	0.0
Total	92	100	105	5.0

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

Jordan

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.

It is foreseen that the payment would be repeated in the future, if deemed necessary.

The Government suspended all wage increases for public sector employees until 2021, while deducting 10 percent from salaries exceeding JOD 2 000 per month as a contribution to the Treasury.

The National Aid Fund distributed food parcels with a monetary value of between JOD 40 to JOD 50 to about 100 000 vulnerable families that include a person over the age of 70 and casual workers. Electronic payment cards were distributed to 30 000 vulnerable families facing difficult living conditions to purchase food and non-food supplies totalling up to JOD 100 per month for to the next six months. Cards need to be used in the markets of the military and civil service consumer corporation.

To access their fields during the lockdown, farmers had to apply for special electronic travel permits. Small farms not formally registered have experienced difficulties in obtaining the permits. Input suppliers have re-opened in late April 2020. The Government announced a new programme to support farmers affected by COVID-19 and by storms in March 2020 providing JOD 10 million loans with zero interest and a five-year grace period through the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

Since the second half of April, domestically produced agricultural products considered to be in surplus, such as canned food, vegetable oil, tahini, meat, nuts and coffee, are allowed to be exported, assuming that sufficient stocks remain on the local market. The re-export of rice, sugar, pulses, fodder and wheat remain banned. India and Egypt, respectively, the main rice and pulses exporters to the country, restricted exports in an effort to bolster their domestic availability. Pulses are currently being sourced from Turkey, but at a higher price.

The International Monetary Fund approved USD 396 million in emergency assistance to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

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GIEWS Country Brief Jordan

Reference Date: 10-May-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable rains supported yield increases
- Stable cereal import requirements in 2018/19
- Food inflation returns to negative levels as international prices ease
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

Favourable rains supported yield increases

Harvesting of sorghum and spring wheat will start in June. Across most of the country, a well above-average autumn rainfall, which resulted in localized flash floods, provided ample soil moisture for sorghum planted in October 2018. Spring wheat planted in March benefited from above-average rains following the completion of planting operations. As of the second decade of April 2019, the main cereal growing areas received over 80 percent more precipitation than the long-term average. The area planted with wheat remained unchanged, at 20 000 hectares, but timely rainfall is likely to support yield increases.

The country's cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. Cereal production in 2019 is forecast at about 100 000 tonnes, over 25 percent above last year's weather-stricken harvest and about 10 percent above the five-year average. Economically, a more significant production of vegetables and fruit trees is irrigated.

Stable cereal import requirements

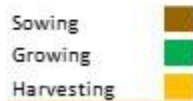
Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an average level of 2.7 million tonnes.

Wheat imports in 2018/19 are forecast at a close to average level of 1 million tonnes. Most of the wheat imports originate from Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The Government continues to maintain the strategic stocks aiming at covering about ten months of domestic consumption.

In the same period, imports of barley (mostly used for feed) are forecast at 780 000 tonnes, unchanged from last year but about 7 percent less the average. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to the actual number of tagged sheep and goats. Cattle and poultry farms are not eligible for subsidized

Jordan

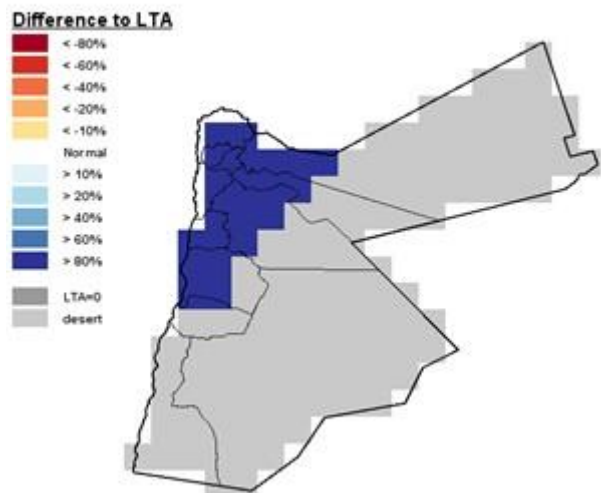
Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Jordan - Precipitation anomaly

Relative difference to Long Term Average - Dekad 2, April 2019



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

barley. An average level of about half 1 million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast to be used as feed for mostly poultry and cattle.

Food inflation returns to negative levels

Responding to higher international food and fuel prices as well as changes in the bread subsidy programme, the general inflation in July 2018 reached almost 6 percent, but retreated back to zero in January 2019 and to a negative 1 percent in February 2019 (latest information available) as international prices eased. To reduce public spending and food waste, the Government replaced its broad bread subsidy programme with a targeted assistance system in February 2018 setting new price caps for bread without directly subsidizing the bakeries.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to UNHCR, as of early April 2019, over 660 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. The figure has not changed since late 2016. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic started. The WFP is improving the targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

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Jordan

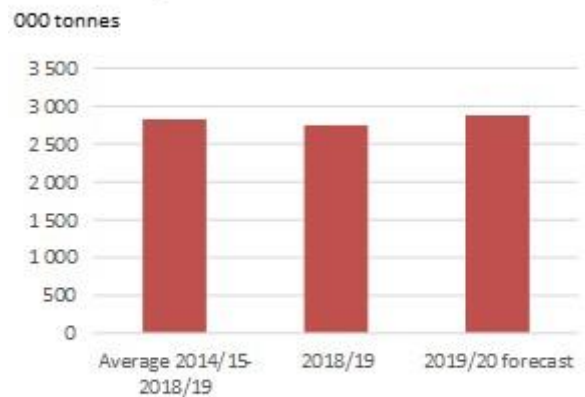
Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 forecast	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	33	25	35	40.0
Wheat	26	25	30	20.0
Maize	20	19	25	31.6
Others	10	10	10	0.0
Total	90	79	100	26.6

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

Jordan

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 Jordan

Reference Date: 23-July-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Early season dryness limits domestic cereal production
- Stable cereal import requirements in 2018/19
- Bread subsidy programme modified
- Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources

Early season dryness limits domestic cereal production

Harvesting of sorghum and spring wheat started in June. Across most of the country, rainfall deficits from September to December 2017 marked the first part of the 2017/18 agricultural season. Although rains resumed in January 2018 and the cumulative precipitation in 2018 exceeded the average as well as last year's levels, the impact of the early season dryness constrained yields and limited cereal production.

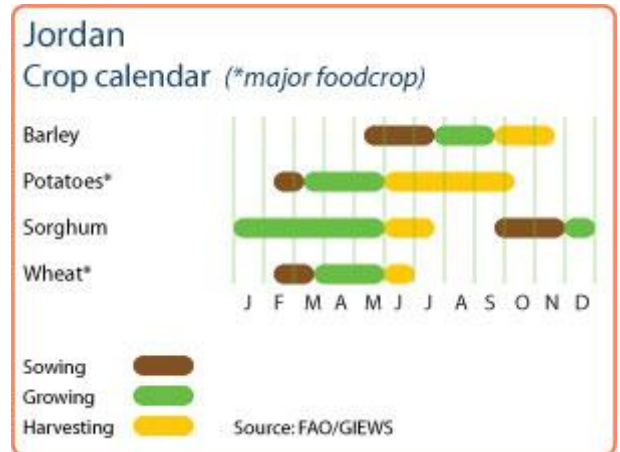
The country's cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. Cereal production in 2018 is forecast at 79 000 tonnes, on par with last year's weather-stricken harvest and about 15 percent below the five-year average.

Economically more significant production of vegetables and fruit trees is irrigated.

Stable cereal import requirements

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June) are forecast at an average of 2.7 million tonnes.

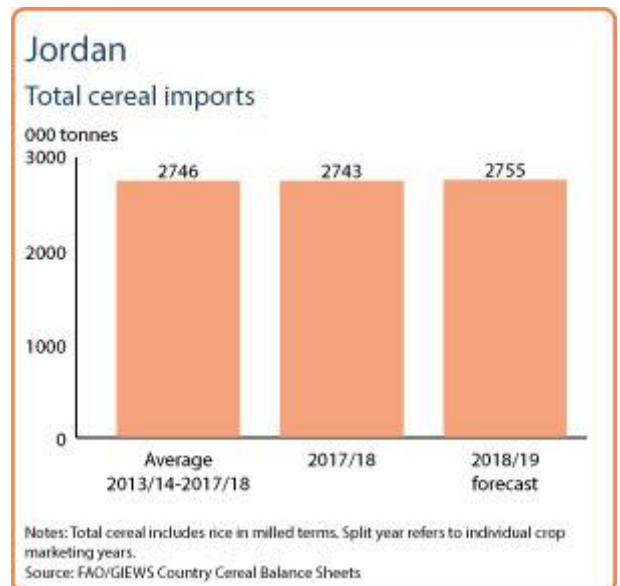
Wheat imports in 2017/18 are forecast at an average of 900 000 tonnes. Most of the wheat imports originate from Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. While increasing the population and continuing presence of refugees increase the requirements, ample available stocks put breaks on the pace of imports. The Government continues to maintain the strategic stocks aiming at covering about ten months of domestic consumption. As of mid-June 2018, the country's wheat stocks stood at almost 900 000 tonnes, sufficient to cover almost one year of domestic consumption.



Jordan
Cereal production

	2013-2017 average	2017	2018 forecast	change 2018/2017
	000 tonnes		percent	
Barley	37	25	25	0
Wheat	27	25	25	0
Maize	19	20	19	-5
Others	12	10	10	0
Total	94	80	79	-1

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



In the same period, imports of barley (mostly used for feed) are forecast at 780 000 tonnes, unchanged from last year but about 7 percent less the average, as sheep breeders are gradually reducing their herd sizes responding to slowing demand for “awasi” sheep in the Gulf countries triggered by lower oil prices. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to the actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle.

Bread subsidy programme modified

In a move that significantly increased subsidized bread prices for the first time since 1996, the Government replaced its broad bread subsidy programme with a targeted assistance system, setting new price caps for bread, effective from 1 February 2018. The new mechanism will deliver in 2018 cash support of USD 241 million to approximately 6.2 million people in the country, which will be paid out through an electronic benefit transfer card. The Government will continue to set upper limits on the price of bread, but will no longer directly subsidize the product to bakeries. The new upper limits for bread prices are 67 percent higher for small pita loaves at JOD 0.4 (USD 0.56) per kg, 100 percent higher for large pita loaves at JOD 0.32 (USD 0.45) per kg and 94 percent higher for Arabic bread (mashrouh and tabou) at JOD 0.35 (USD 0.49) per kg. The other types of bread and flour-based sweets are not subsidized. The measure aims to reduce public spending and food waste.

Responding to higher food and fuel prices, the general inflation in May 2018 reached 5 percent, up from about 3 percent recorded one year earlier. The food price inflation increased by 4.4 percent in May 2018, up from mostly negative rates recorded in 2016 and 2017.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to UNHCR, as of early July 2018, over 660 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. The figure has not changed since late 2016. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic started. The WFP is improving the targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

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GIEWS Country Brief Jordan

Reference Date: 26-June-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- **Below-average precipitation limits production potential**
- **Stable cereal import requirements in 2017/18**
- **Rate of inflation increases supported by domestic demand**
- **Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on local resources**

Below-average precipitation limits production potential

Harvesting of sorghum and spring wheat started in June. An early season drought from September to the end of November 2016 marked the beginning of the season. Although heavy precipitation in early December brought cumulative rainfall levels closer to last year's in most areas, the 2017 cumulative precipitation up to the second decade of June 2017 remained below average and below last year.

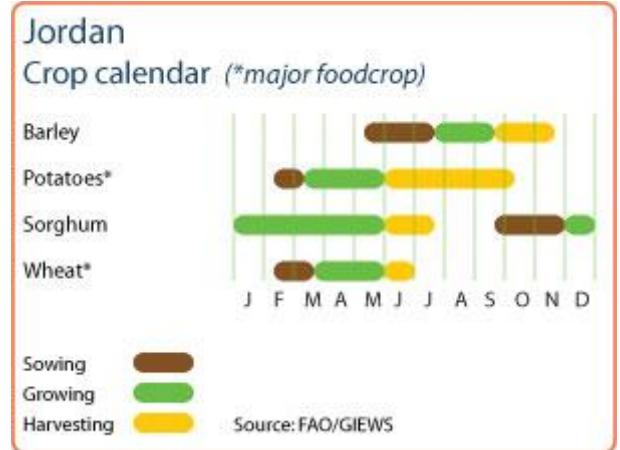
Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. At 68 000 tonnes, the 2017 cereal production is forecasted to be 15 percent below the previous year and the five-year average. To increase local cereal production, the Government purchases domestic crop at preferential rates, currently at JOD 500 (equivalent to USD 354) per tonne of wheat or barley.

Economically more significant production of vegetables and fruit trees is irrigated.

Stable cereal import requirements

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to remain stable at 2.5 million tonnes, about the same level as in 2016/17 and the five-year average.

Wheat imports in 2017/18 are forecast at about 900 000 tonnes, about the same as last year and close to the last five-year average. Most of the wheat imports to Jordan originate from Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. While increasing population and continuing presence of refugees increase the requirements, ample available stocks put breaks on the pace of imports. The Government continues to maintain the strategic



Jordan
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	31	25	20	-20
Wheat	24	25	20	-20
Sorghum	15	15	15	0
Others	14	15	13	-13
Total	83	80	68	-15

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

stocks aiming at covering about ten months of domestic consumption.

In the same period, imports of barley (mostly used for feed) are forecast at 780 000 tonnes, about 7 percent less the average, as farmers are gradually reducing their herd sizes responding to slowing demand for “awasi” sheep in Gulf countries. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to the actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle.

Inflation increasing

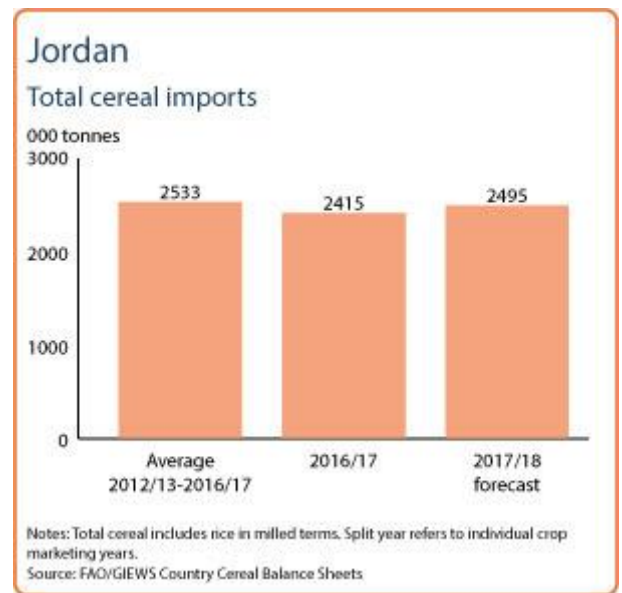
The general inflation rate in May 2017 increased by 3.7 percent yearly, following a period of negative inflation rates between 2015 and the first half of 2016, driven by strengthening domestic demand. Food price inflation recorded negative 0.3 percent compared to negative 5.9 percent in October 2016.

Despite the ongoing budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized (at USD 0.22/kg) and all consumers are entitled to it. About 90 percent of all bread sold in the country is subsidized. The Government sells wheat flour at about USD 50/tonne to the bakeries, significantly below the international levels. It compensates for increases in the costs of other inputs by lowering the flour price.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to UNHCR, as of mid-June 2017, over 660 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan’s borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Most of the refugees arrived between January and April 2013, when the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic started. The WFP is improving targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

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GIEWS Country Brief Jordan

Reference Date: 16-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Relatively favourable conditions for crop production prevail
- Slight decrease in cereal import requirements in 2016/17 owing to higher stocks
- Rate of inflation stabilized
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on resources

Relatively favourable weather conditions prevail

Planting of sorghum and spring wheat for harvesting from June 2017 concluded in November 2015.

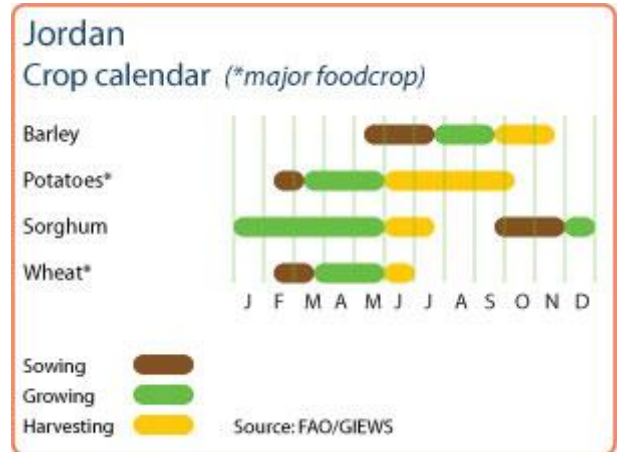
Rainfall amounts from September to the end of November were unusually low. However, heavy precipitation in early December have brought cumulative rainfall levels closer to last year's in most areas, including the main agricultural provinces of Irbid, Ajloun and Jarash in the northern part of the country. Additional abundant precipitation later in the season can reverse the impact of early season drought.

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. At 80 000 tonnes, the 2016 cereal production is the same as in the previous year and 5 percent below the five-year average.

Slight decrease in cereal import requirements owing to higher stocks

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June) are forecast to decrease slightly to 2.6 million tonnes, about the same level as in 2014/15 and some 7 percent down on average.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 900 000 tonnes, some 20 percent lower than last year and close to the last five-year average. In the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June), almost 65 percent of the wheat imports originated from Romania and about one-third from the Russian Federation. While increasing population and continuing presence of refugees increase the requirements, ample stocks put breaks on the pace of imports. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks planned



Jordan
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 forecast	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Barley	31	25	25	0
Wheat	23	25	25	0
Sorghum	16	15	15	0
Others	14	15	15	0
Total	84	80	80	0

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

at ten months of consumption. As of September 2016, the country's wheat stocks exceeded 1 million tonnes, sufficient to meet the country's demands for about 14 months. In June 2016, Jordan raised the maximum level of sunn pest allowed in wheat shipments from 0.6 to 0.8 percent.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go down by about 7 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to the actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle.

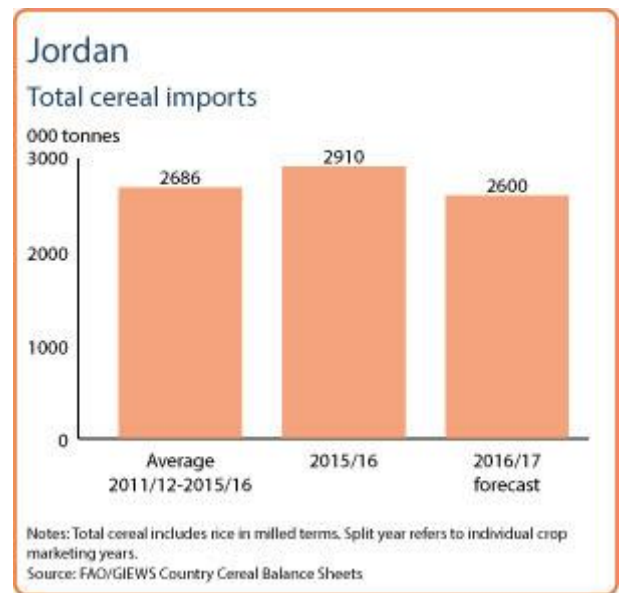
Inflation declined and stabilized

In January 2015, the Department of Statistics changed the base year for inflation calculations from 2006 to 2010. Using the new baseline, the general inflation rate in October 2016 decreased by 0.5 percent yearly, continuing the trend established in 2014. Food price inflation recorded negative 5.9 percent compared to negative 5.2 percent in September 2016.

Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized (at USD 0.22/kg) and all consumers are entitled to it. About 90 percent of all bread sold in Jordan is subsidized. The Government sells wheat flour at about USD 50/tonne to the bakeries, significantly below international levels. It compensates for increases in the costs of other inputs by lowering the flour price. It is believed that the bread subsidy system is wasteful partly due to subsidized flour being used in non-subsidized products.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to UNHCR, as of early December 2016, over 655 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Most of the refugees arrived early in the conflict between January and April 2013. The WFP is improving targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 06-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable conditions for crop production prevail so far
- Cereal import requirements remain high
- Rate of inflation stabilized
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on resources

Favourable weather conditions prevail so far

Planting of sorghum and spring wheat for harvesting from June 2016 concluded in November 2015 and March 2016, respectively. Spring barley is usually planted between mid-May and mid-July.

Cumulative precipitation by the third decade of March 2016 was uneven across the provinces although the main agricultural provinces of Irbid, Ajloun and Jarash in the northern part of the country received average to above-average precipitation, creating favourable conditions for crop development. Warmer-than-usual temperatures across the region accelerated crop development.

Heavy rains and snowfall brought by a cold front in February increased the country's dams' capacity by 10 million cubic meters of water (mcm). The Ministry of Water and Irrigation plans to maintain strategic storage levels to accommodate growing needs for human and agricultural purposes. The plans call for building of six new dams, including the Kufranjah dam which is nearing completion.

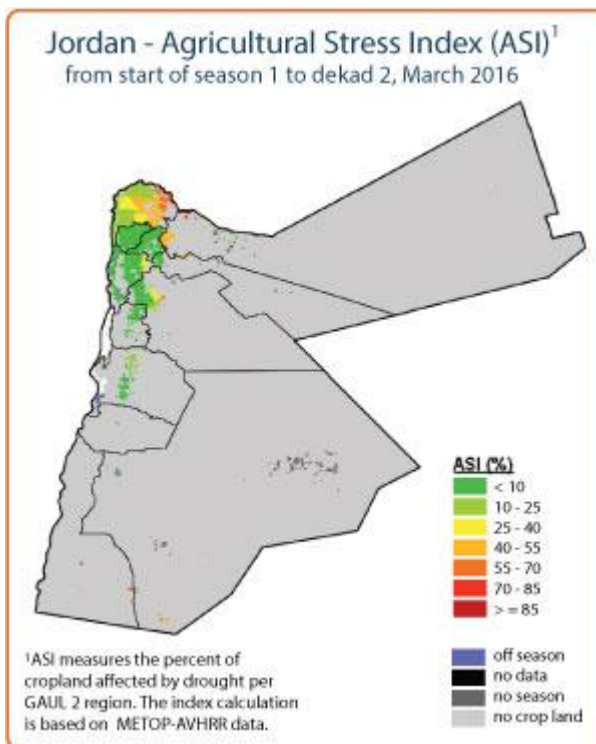
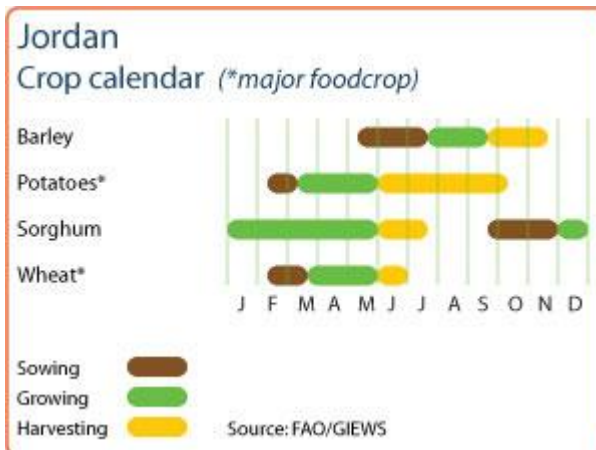
Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. At 80 000 tonnes, the 2015 cereal production is up on the 2014 harvest affected by poor weather. Government purchasing prices in 2015 were JOD 450 (approximately USD 630) per tonne of seed wheat and JOD 370 (approximately USD 520) per tonne of bread wheat.

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of the domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 (July/June) are forecast to increase slightly to 2.65 million tonnes, about the same as in 2014/15 and some 7 percent up on average.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 950 000 tonnes, about 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continuing presence of refugees. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks planned at ten months of consumption. As of February 2016, the country's wheat stocks stood at 895 000 tonnes with 640 000 tonnes in the country and 250 000 tonnes contracted or on the sea.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also



Jordan Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Barley	29	30	25	-17
Wheat	22	20	25	25
Sorghum	18	10	15	50
Others	17	10	15	50
Total	85	70	80	14

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

forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 380 000 tonnes.

Losses from suspended trade between Jordan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic are estimated at over USD 700 million since the borders between Jordan and Iraq and Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic were shut. The Government is preparing a 2016-2025 agricultural policy with emphasis on the Gulf countries as export destination, mostly for fruits and vegetables.

Inflation declined and stabilized

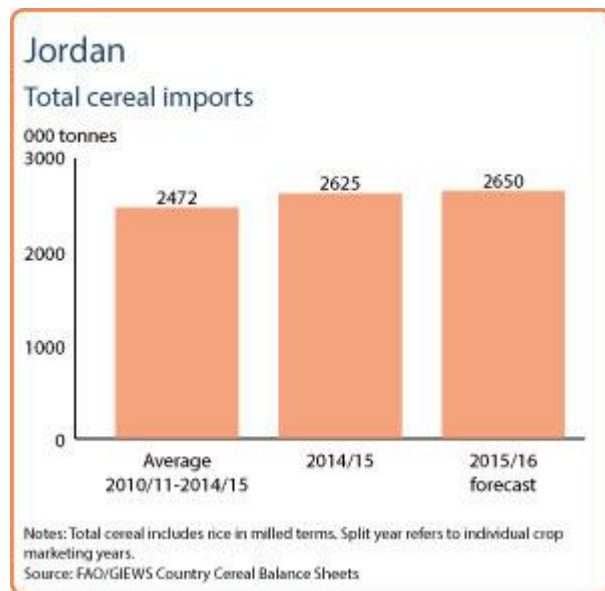
In January 2015, the Department of Statistics changed the base year for inflation calculations from 2006 to 2010. Using the new baseline, the general inflation rate in January decreased by 1.1 percent yearly, continuing the trend established in 2014.

Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized (at USD 0.22/kg) and all consumers are entitled to it. About 90 percent of all bread sold in Jordan is subsidized. The Ministry of Industry and Trade estimates that the actual market price of bread is about USD 0.50-0.58/kg. The Government sells wheat flour at about USD 97/tonne to the bakeries. It is believed that the bread subsidy system is wasteful partly due to subsidized flour being used in non-subsidized products.

Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely.

Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of mid-March 2016, over 636 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Most of the refugees arrived early in the conflict. The WFP is improving targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 13-November-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production recovered in 2015 compared to previous year
- Cereal import requirements remain high
- Rate of inflation stabilized
- Refugees from Syrian Arab Republic continue to put strain on resources

Good weather supports cereal production in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 wheat and sorghum crops concluded in June, while the barley harvest continues up to mid-November. Land preparation and sowing of sorghum are currently underway. Satisfactory weather conditions with timely and sufficient precipitation prevailed during the agricultural season.

Cumulative precipitation by the third decade of October 2015 in all provinces, with the exception of Al Mafrq Governorate, exceeded the long-term average (1989-2012). While slightly below the long-term average, cumulative precipitation in Al Mafrq Governorate was more than double that of 2014. The area produces some 10 percent of the country's cereal production and supplies a large share of fruits and vegetables. Wheat is mainly cultivated in Irbid and the Houran plains in the north; Madaba and Husban in the central region and Arrabeh in the southern Governorate of Karak. Wetter-than-usual conditions also benefited sheep and goat herders by providing adequate pasture conditions and limiting the dependence on other sources of feed, such as subsidized imported barley.

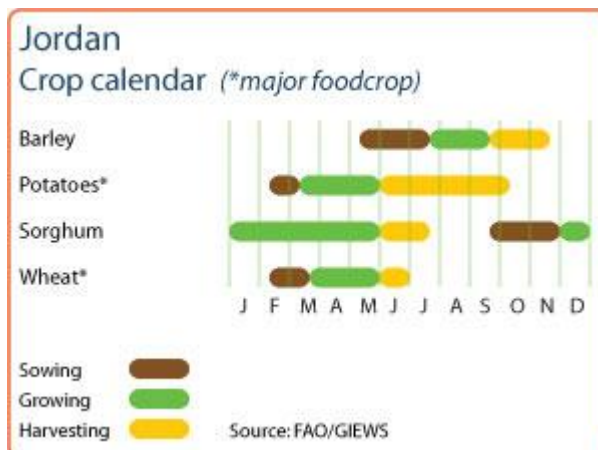
Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. At 80 000 tonnes, the 2015 cereal production is up on the 2014 harvest affected by poor weather. Government purchasing prices in 2015 were JOD 450 (approximately USD 630) per tonne of seed wheat, and JOD 370 (approximately USD 520) per tonne of bread wheat.

Elsewhere, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation is implementing a campaign against water theft, including in agriculture.

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 (July/June) are forecast to increase slightly to 2.65 million tonnes, about the same as in 2014/15, and some 7 percent up on average.

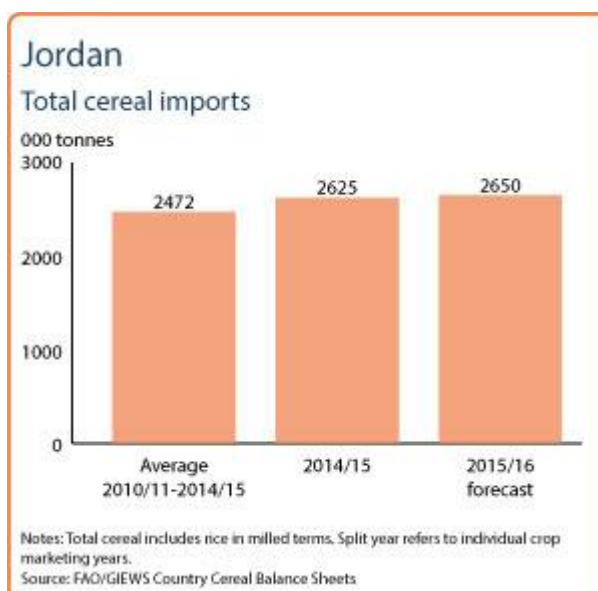
Wheat imports are estimated at about 950 000 tonnes, about 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continuing presence of registered refugees which now, according to UNHCR, represent about 10 percent of the population. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks planned at ten months of consumption, 400 000 in storage silos and 200 000 on sea and at port. Local reports indicate that tenders are being prepared to expand silo capacity to increase stockpiles from



Jordan Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Barley	29	30	25	-17
Wheat	22	20	25	25
Sorghum	18	10	15	50
Others	17	10	15	50
Total	85	70	80	14

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



800 000 tonnes to 1 million tonnes to buffer the increased needs resulting from a large number of refugees.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 380 000 tonnes.

Losses from suspended trade between Jordan, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic are estimated at over USD 700 million since the borders between Jordan and Iraq and Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic were shut. The Government is currently preparing a 2016-2025 agricultural policy with emphasis on the Gulf countries as export destination, mostly for fruits and vegetables. Jordan's fruit and vegetable sector benefited from the Russian Federation's import ban on EU agricultural products.

Inflation declined and stabilized

In January 2015, the Department of Statistics changed the base year for inflation calculations from 2006 to 2010. Using the new baseline, the general inflation rate for the first nine months of 2015 decreased by 0.7 percent yearly, continuing the trend established in 2014.

Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized (at USD 0.22/kg) and all consumers are entitled to it. The Government sells wheat flour at about USD 50/tonne to the bakeries, with market prices nearing USD 450/tonne. Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely.

Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of early November 2015, over 630 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Only 4 percent of those refugees arrived in 2014. The WFP is improving targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

Reference Date: 26-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cropping season progressing well
- Cereal import requirements to remain high
- Rate of inflation stabilized
- Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

2015/16 cropping season progressing well

Harvesting of the 2015 sorghum, spring wheat and potatoes is about to start. Planting of spring barley started in mid-May, and usually continues until mid-July. Cumulative precipitation by the second dekad of May 2015 in all provinces, with the exception of Al Mafraq governorate, exceeds the long-term average (1989-2012). While slightly below the long-term average, cumulative precipitation in Al Mafraq province was more than double that of 2014. The area produces some 10 percent of the country's cereal production and supplies a large share of fruits and vegetables. Wetter-than-usual winter also benefits sheep and goat herders by providing adequate pasture conditions and limiting the dependence on other sources of feed, such as subsidised imported barley.

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. At 80 000 tonnes, the 2015 cereal production is expected to recover compared to the 2014 harvest. In 2014, Jordan received almost average cumulative moisture quantities but their poor distribution resulted in a below-average cereal harvest.

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 (July/June) are forecast to increase slightly to 2.4 million tonnes, about 5 percent up on 2013/14.

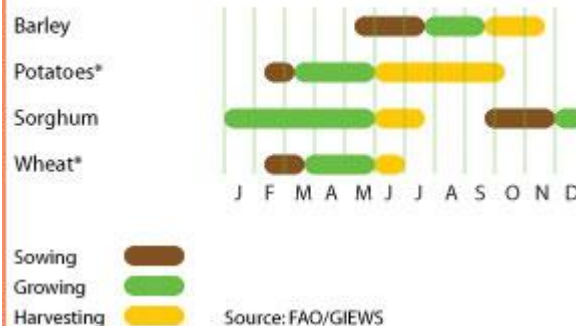
Wheat imports are estimated at about 925 000 tonnes, about 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continuing presence of registered refugees which now, according to UNHCR, represent about 10 percent of the population. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks planned at ten months of consumption, 400 000 in storage silos and 200 000 on sea and at port.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

Elsewhere, Jordan's fruit and vegetable sector exports in the first ten months of 2014 increased by 12 percent compared to last year. The

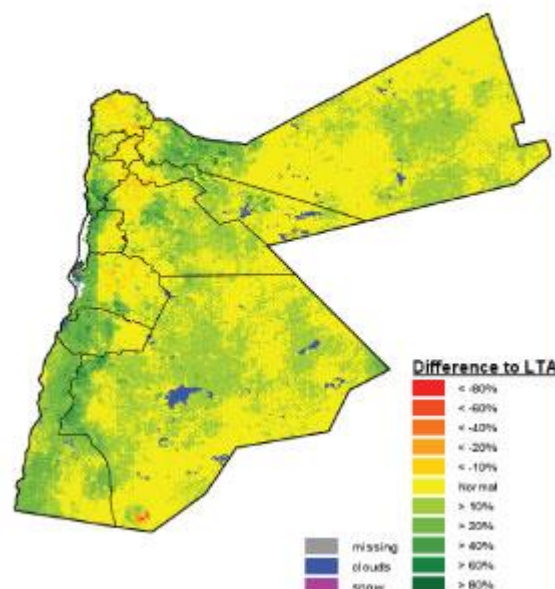
Jordan

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Jordan - NDVI anomaly

Relative to Long Term Average - 2nd Dekad May 2015



Jordan

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Barley	29	30	25	-17
Wheat	22	20	25	25
Sorghum	18	10	15	50
Others	17	10	15	50
Total	85	70	80	14

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

sector benefited from the Russian import ban on EU agricultural products. Negotiations between the Russian Federation and Jordan concluded in November 2014 reduced import duties on fresh produce by 25 percent in summer and completely eliminated duties during the winter months.

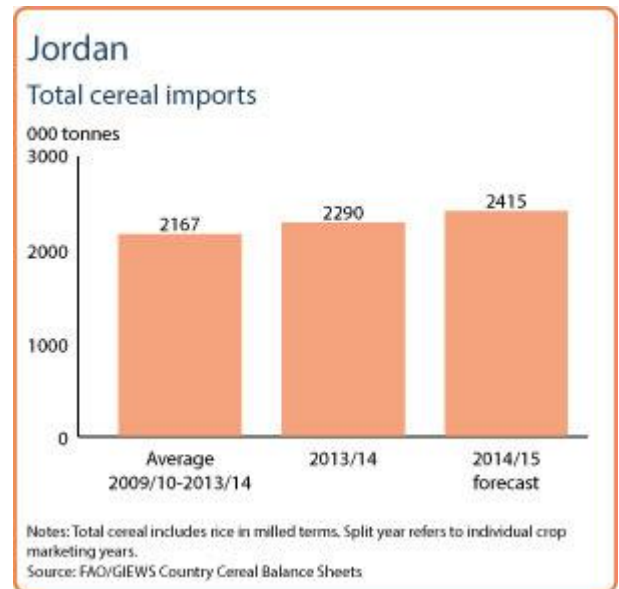
Inflation declined and stabilized

In January 2015, The Department of Statistics changed the base year for inflation calculations from 2006 to 2010. Using the new baseline, general inflation rate for the first four months of 2015 decreased by 1 percent yearly, continuing the trend established in 2014.

Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized (at 0.22 USD/kg) and all consumers are entitled to it. The Government sells wheat flour at about 50 USD/tonne to the bakeries, with market prices nearing 450 USD/tonne. Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely.

Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of late May 2015, about 627 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Only 4 percent of those refugees arrived in 2014. The WFP is improving targeting of its programmes and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 09-April-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cropping season progressing well
- Cereal import requirements to remain high
- Rate of inflation stabilized
- Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

2015/16 cropping season progressing well

Sowing of the 2015 spring wheat and potatoes, for harvest from June onwards, concluded in early March while planting of spring barley is scheduled to start in May. Cumulative precipitation by the second dekad of March 2015 in all provinces, with the exception of Al Mafraq governorate, exceeds the long-term average (1989-2012). Vegetation conditions, as captured by the satellite based Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), suggest good establishment of winter crops. While slightly below the long-term average, cumulative precipitation in Al Mafraq province was more than double that of 2014. The area produces some 10 percent of the country's cereal production and supplies a large share of fruits and vegetables. Wetter-than-usual winter also benefits sheep and goat herders by providing adequate pasture conditions and limiting the dependence on other sources of feed, such as subsidised imported barley.

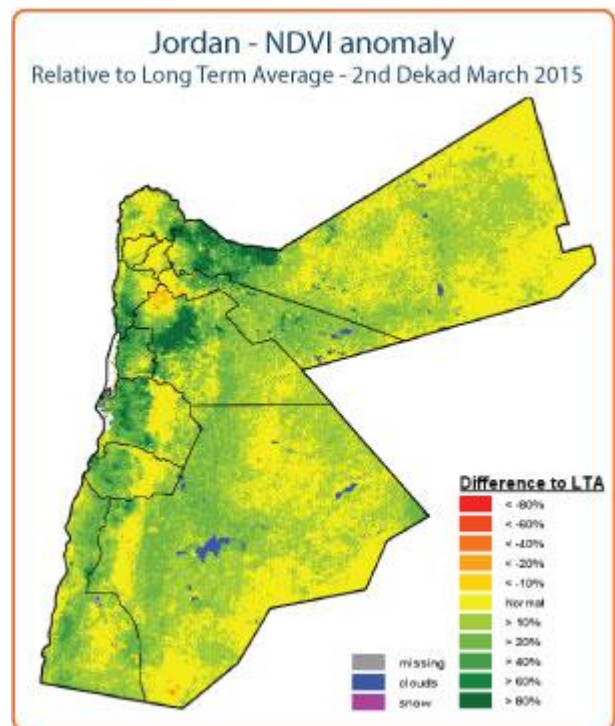
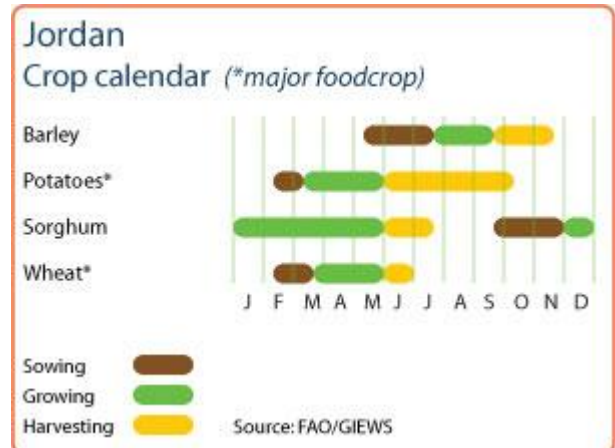
Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing primarily to climatic and geographic conditions. About average 2015 cereal production is expected at this point. In 2014, Jordan received almost average cumulative moisture quantities but their poor distribution resulted in a below-average cereal harvest. Thus, aggregate output of spring wheat and barley, estimated at 50 000 tonnes, is 30 percent lower than in 2013, and about 4 percent above the five-year average.

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Even in years with above-average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 (July/June) are forecast to increase slightly to 2.4 million tonnes, about 5 percent up on 2013/14.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 925 000 tonnes, about 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continuing presence of registered refugees which now, according to UNHCR, represent about 10 percent of the population. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks planned at ten months of consumption, 500 000 in storage silos and 200 000 on sea and at port.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.



Elsewhere, Jordan's fruit and vegetable sector exports in the first ten months of 2014 increased by 12 percent compared to last year. The sector benefited from the Russian import ban on EU agricultural products. Negotiations between Russia and Jordan concluded in November 2014 reduced import duties on produce by 25 percent in summer and complete elimination of duties during the winter months.

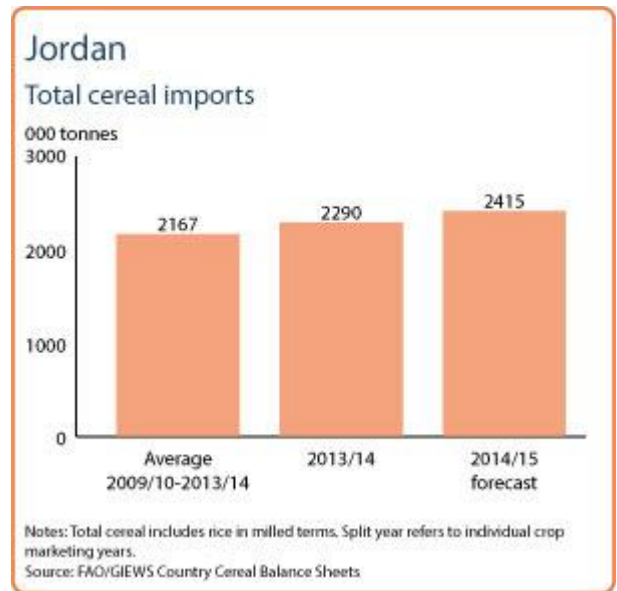
Inflation declined and stabilized

In January 2015 The Department of Statistics changed the base year from 2006 to 2010. Using the new baseline, general inflation rate for the first two months of 2015 decreased by 0.8 percent yearly continuing the trend established in 2014. The year-on-year inflation in 2014 ranged from 3.73 percent in May to 1.14 percent in December. This compares with the average total inflation in 2013 that reached 5.6 percent following the gradual removal of fuel subsidies that put upward pressure on prices.

Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized. The Government sells wheat flour at 225 USD/tonne to the bakeries, with market prices nearing 500 USD/tonne. Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely.

Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of late March 2015, about 627 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid governorates. Only 4 percent of those refugees arrived in 2014. The WFP is improving targeting of its programs and assisting the most vulnerable refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 04-February-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal import requirements to remain high
- Rate of inflation stabilized in 2014
- Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

2014/15 cropping season progressing well

Sowing of the 2015 spring wheat and potatoes, for harvest from June onwards, is currently ongoing. Sowing of sorghum, to be harvested in June/July, concluded in November. Above-average precipitation in the first part of January 2014 replenished irrigation reserves and soil moisture for crop development. Vegetation response captured by the Normalized Difference Vegetation Index using satellite images suggests good establishment of winter crops.

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. In 2014, Jordan received almost average cumulative moisture quantities in the past season but their poor distribution resulted in a below-average cereal harvest. Thus, aggregate output of spring wheat and barley, estimated at 50 000 tonnes, is 30 percent lower than in 2013, and about 4 percent above the five-year average. Nevertheless, rains were beneficial for natural pastures limiting the dependence on other sources of feed.

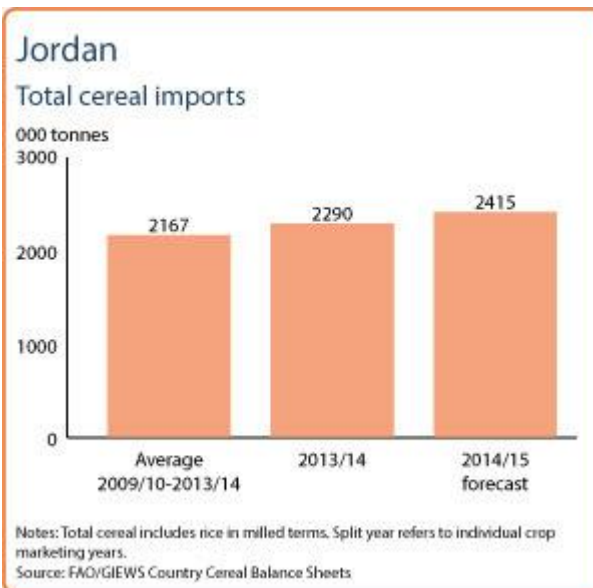
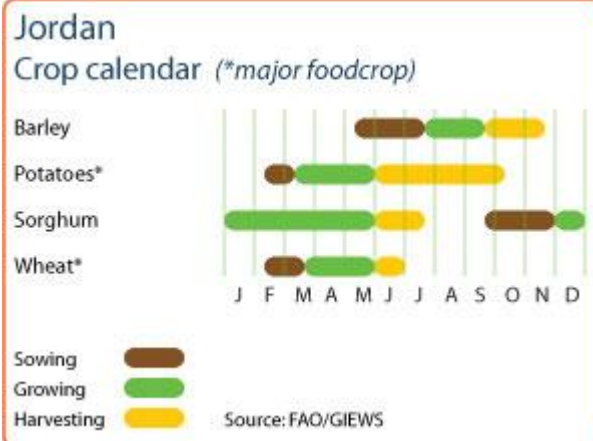
Cereal import requirements to remain high

Even in years with above average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 (July/June) are forecast to increase slightly to 2.4 million tonnes, about 5 percent up on 2013/14.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 925 000 tonnes, about 20 percent higher than the last five-year average. The increase is due to increasing population and continuing presence of refugees which now, according to UNHCR, represent about 10 percent of the population, although the Government's estimates are higher. The Government continues to maintain strategic stocks at ten months of consumption, 500 000 in storage silos and 200 000 on sea and at port.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

Elsewhere, Jordan's fruit and vegetable sector is recovering. Fruit and vegetable sector exports in the first ten months of 2014 increased by 12 percent compared to last year. The sector was hit by the Syrian crises and ISIL control of the main transportation route to Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation.

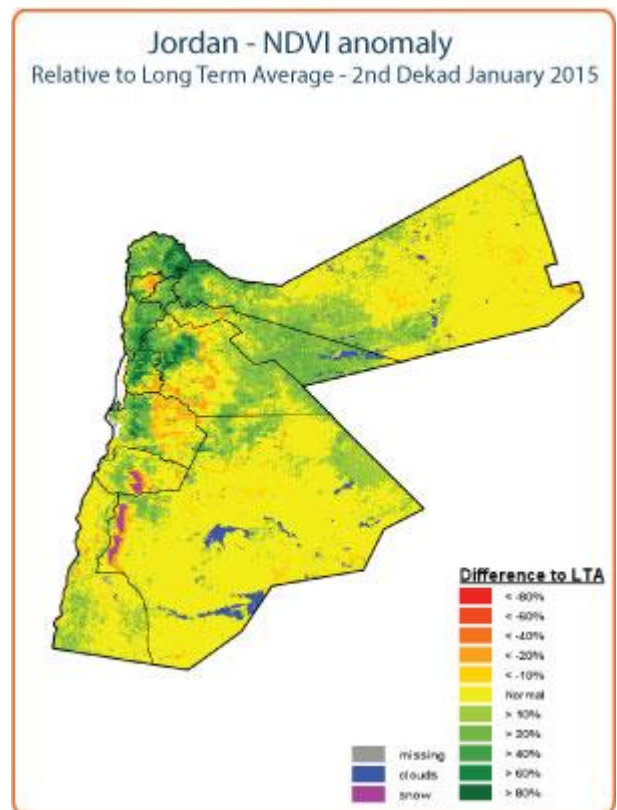
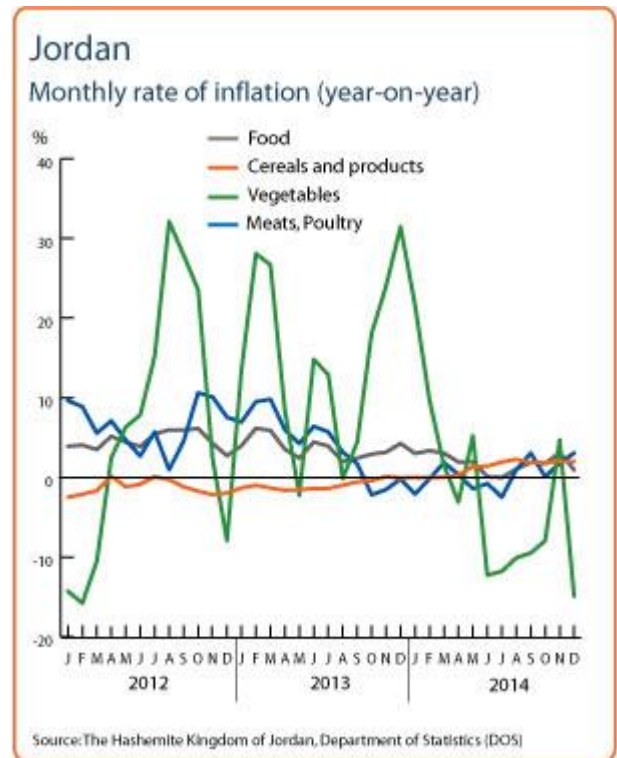


Inflation declined and stabilized in 2014

The year-on-year inflation in 2014 ranged from 3.73 percent in May to 1.14 percent in December. This compares with the average total inflation in 2013 that reached 5.6 percent following the gradual removal of fuel subsidies that put upward pressure on prices. Cereal inflation remains low. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized with bread prices fixed at USD 0.22 per kg where bakeries are provided with subsidized flour. Food inflation is driven by prices of seasonal products, such as vegetables, which are set freely.

Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic put strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of early October 2014, about 622 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid Governorates. Only 4 percent of those refugees arrived in 2014. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 10-October-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rate of inflation increased in 2013 as Government streamlined the fuel subsidy system but the increase is levelling off
- Influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Sowing of the 2015 sorghum, for harvest in June/July next year, is about to start. Harvesting of spring wheat finished in June while that of potatoes and spring barley is ongoing. Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. Jordan received almost average cumulative moisture quantities in the past season but their poor distribution resulted in a below-average cereal harvest. Thus, aggregate output of spring wheat and barley, estimated at 50 000 tonnes, is 30 percent lower than in 2013, and about 4 percent above the five-year average. Nevertheless, rains were beneficial for natural pastures limiting the dependence on other sources of feed.

Even in years with above average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) were forecast to increase slightly to 2.29 million tonnes, about 5 percent up on 2012/13.

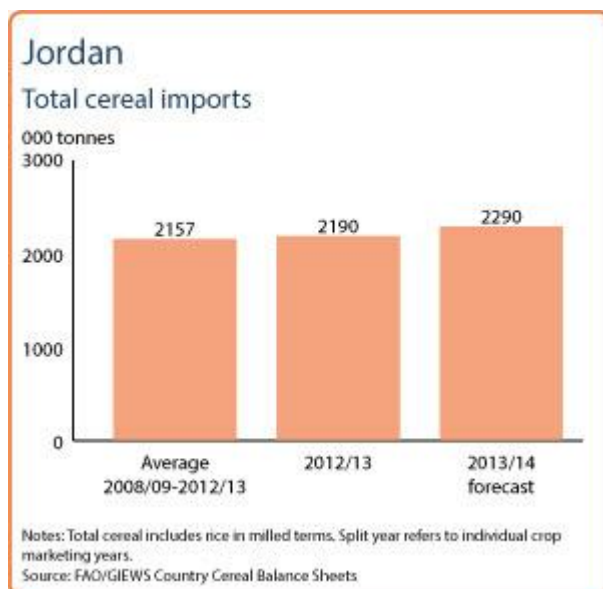
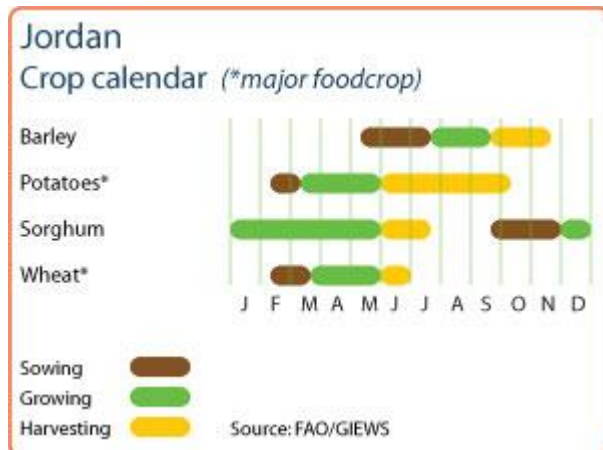
Wheat imports are estimated at about 800 000 tonnes, about the same level as the last five-year average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented. Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from three to ten months in Jordan and on sea, equal to 450 000 tonnes in silos and 200 000 on sea and at the Aqaba port as a precaution against future increases in food prices.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

Inflation declined and stabilized in 2014

The year-on-year inflation during the first seven months of 2014 averaged at 3.1 percent. This compares with the average total inflation in 2013 that reached 5.6 percent following the gradual removal of fuel subsidies that put upward pressure on prices. As part of an IMF stand-by arrangement, the Government has agreed to introduce a number of structural reforms.

Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized with bread prices fixed at USD 0.22 per kg where bakeries are provided with subsidized flour.



Influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic puts strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of early October 2014, about 620 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid Governorates. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

Reference Date: 05-August-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rate of Inflation increased in 2013 as Government streamlined the fuel subsidy system but the increase is levelling off
- Influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. Jordan received almost average cumulative moisture quantities in the past season but their poor distribution resulted in a below average cereal harvest. Nevertheless, rains were beneficial for natural pastures limiting the dependence on other sources of feed.

Even in years with above average domestic production, over 97 percent of domestic cereal food and feed requirements are satisfied through imports. Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) were forecast to increase slightly to 2.29 million tonnes, about 5 percent up on 2012/13.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 800 000 tonnes, about the same level as the last five-year average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented. Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from 3 to 10 months in Jordan and on sea, equal to 450 000 tonnes in silos and 200 000 on sea and at the Aqaba port as a precaution against future increases in food prices.

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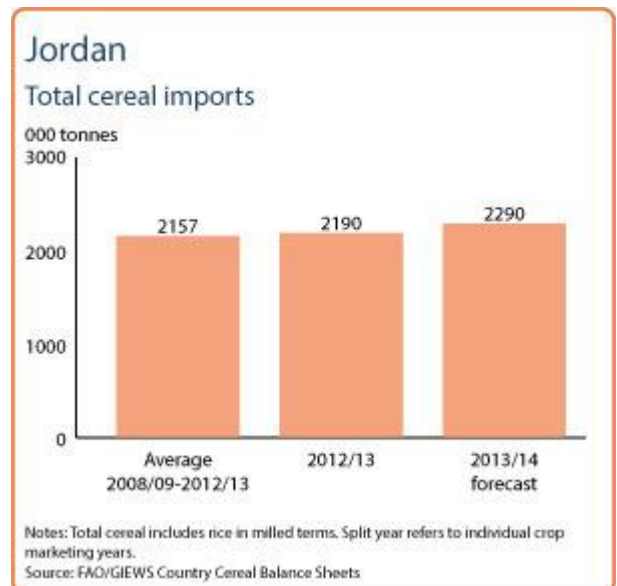
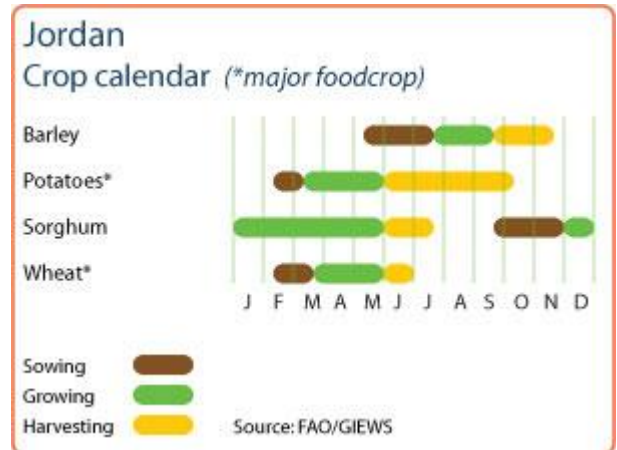
Inflation declined and stabilized in 2014

The year-on-year inflation during the first five months of 2014 averaged at 3.3 percent. This compares with the average total inflation in 2013 that reached 5.6 percent following the gradual removal of fuel subsidies that put upward pressure on prices. As part of an IMF stand-by arrangement, the Government has agreed to introduce a number of structural reforms.

Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidized with bread prices fixed at USD 0.22 per kg where bakeries are provided with subsidized flour.

Influx of refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic puts strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of August 2014, about 609 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders,



mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid Governorates. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in the Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

Reference Date: 27-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rate of Inflation increased in 2013 as Government streamlined the fuel subsidy system
- Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. Over 97 percent of domestic food and feed requirements are satisfied by imports. Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) are forecast to exhibit a slight increase of about 5 percent on the 2012/13 level of 2.19 million tonnes.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 800 000 tonnes, about the same level as the last five years average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented. Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from 3 to 10 months in Jordan and on sea, equal to 450 000 tonnes in silos and 200 000 on sea and at the Aqaba port as a precaution against future increases in food prices.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

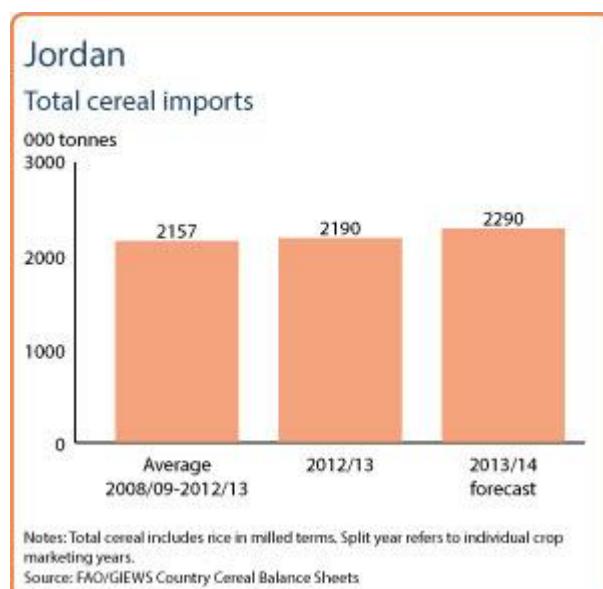
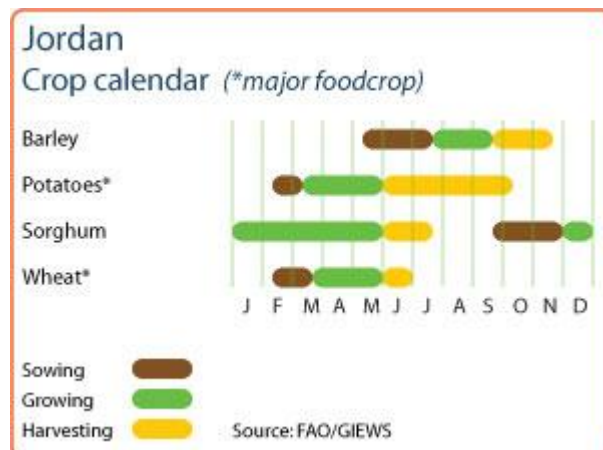
Heavy snowfall affected Jordan in December 2013, causing damage to olive growth and vegetable plantings. Assessment of damages is not yet available.

Inflation increasing in 2013 as Government streamlines the fuel subsidy system

The gradual removal of fuel subsidies put upward pressure on prices in 2013, with average total inflation in 2013 reaching 5.6 percent. "Fuel and lighting" category increased by 19.7 percent year-on-year. As part of an IMF stand-by arrangement, the government has agreed to introduce a number of structural reforms. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidised with bread price fixed at USD 0.22 per kg where bakeries are provided with subsidised flour.

Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of January 2014, about 593 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid Governorates. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.



Reference Date: 01-October-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Rate of Inflation increases in 2013 as Government streamlines the fuel subsidy system
- Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. Over 97 percent of domestic food and feed requirements are satisfied by imports. Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) are forecast to exhibit a slight increase of about 5 percent on the 2012/13 level of 2.19 million tonnes.

Wheat imports are estimated at about 800 000 tonnes, about the same level as the last five years average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented. Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from 3 to 10 months in Jordan and on sea, equal to 450 000 tonnes in silos and 200 000 on sea and at the Aqaba port as a precaution against future increases in food prices.

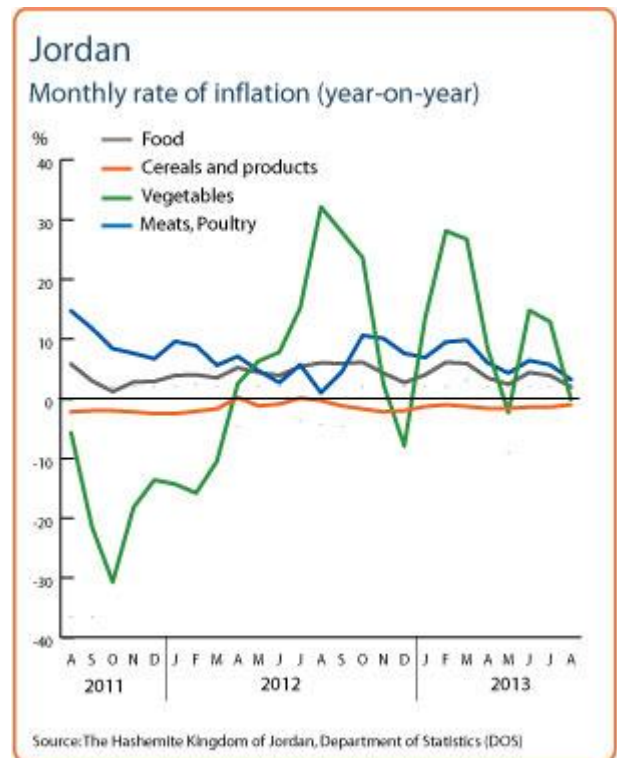
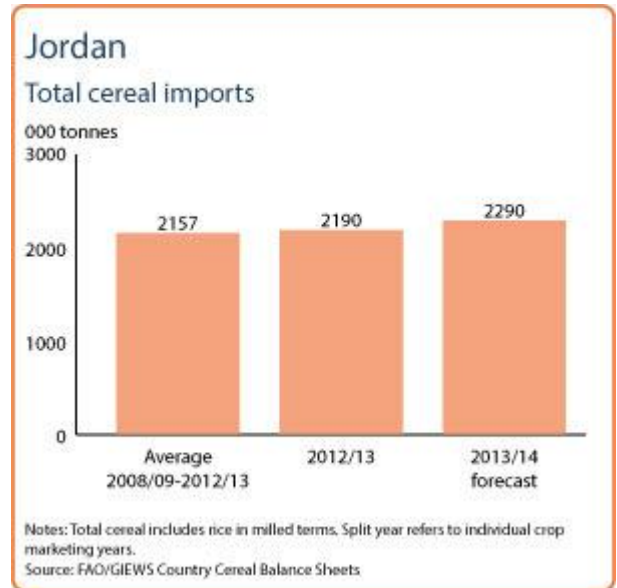
In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidized barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

Inflation increasing in 2013 as Government streamlines the fuel subsidy system

The gradual removal of fuel subsidies has put upward pressure on prices in 2013, with average total inflation in 2013 so far reaching 6 percent. "Fuel and lighting" category increased by 24 percent year-on-year. While fuel prices were raised in November 2012 (saving about USD 705 million), electricity price increases for domestic and small users were postponed until 2014. As part of an IMF stand-by arrangement, the government has agreed to introduce a number of structural reforms. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidised with bread price fixed at USD 0.22 per kg where bakeries are provided with subsidised flour.

Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of end-September 2013, about 525 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders, mostly concentrated in Mafraq, Amman and Irbid Governorates. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees. The WFP assisted more than 300 000 Syrian refugees in Jordan by mid-September 2013.



Reference Date: 16-July-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Consumer price index increasing in 2013 as Government streamlines the fuel subsidy system
- Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Jordan's domestic cereal production is negligible owing to climatic and geographic conditions. Over 97 percent of domestic food and feed requirements are satisfied by imports. Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 (July/June) are forecast to exhibit a slight increase of about 5 percent on the 2012/13 level of 2.19 million tonnes.

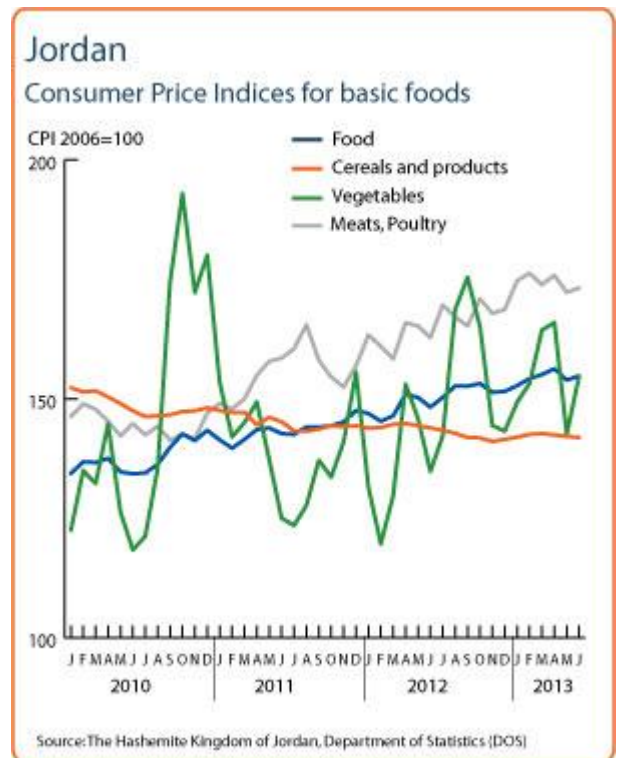
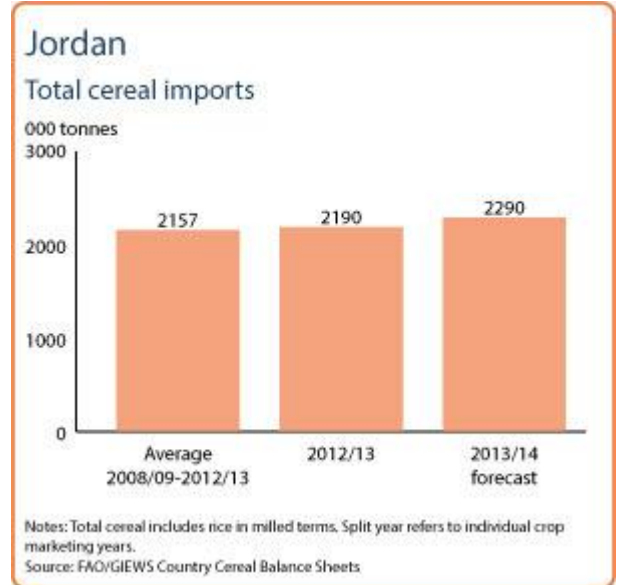
Wheat imports are estimated at about 800 000 tonnes, about the same level as the last five years average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented. Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from 3 to 10 months in Jordan and on sea, equal to 450 000 tonnes in silos and 200 000 on sea and at the Aqaba port as a precaution against future increases in food prices.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 10 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. Subsidised barley is distributed to herders according to actual number of tagged sheep and goats. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed, mostly poultry and cattle. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

Consumer price index increasing in 2013 as Government streamlines the fuel subsidy system

According to the national Department of Statistics, the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached 4.4 percent in June 2013, fueled by high increases in vegetable prices which increased by over 14 percent. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 1.4 percent due to Government support schemes that prevented the transmission of high international wheat prices to local markets. Meat and poultry prices, usually a significant contributor to the overall food price inflation, increased by 6.4 percent.

The gradual removal of fuel subsidies has put upward pressure on prices in 2013, with average total inflation in 2013 so far reaching almost 7 percent. "Fuel and lighting" category increased by 25 percent year-on-year. While fuel prices were raised in November 2012 (saving about USD 705 million), electricity price increases for domestic and small users were postponed until 2014. As part of a USD 2 billion IMF stand-by arrangement approved in autumn 2012 and reviewed by the IMF in early March, leading to the release of a second tranche (of USD 385 million) of funding, the government has agreed to introduce a number of structural reforms. Despite the budget deficit, wheat bread remains fully subsidised with bread price fixed at USD 0.22 per kg. Bakeries are provided with subsidised flour.



Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

According to the UN Refugee Agency, as of mid-July 2013 about 420 000 registered Syrian refugees were within Jordan's borders. The Government estimates that about 600 000 Syrians are in Jordan. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees. The WFP assisted 260 000 refugees in Jordan by June 2013.

Reference Date: 16-October-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Bread subsidies result in lower consumer price index in 2012
- Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

Cereal import requirements to remain high

Following the price hikes of 2007/08, Jordan increased its strategic reserve of wheat from 3 to 10 months as a precaution against future increases in food prices. According to the Ministry of Industry, as of mid-October 2012, wheat stocks were over 716 000 tonnes, of which 367 000 tonnes was in the Ministry's warehouses and 350 000 being shipped to Jordan. Around 297 000 tonnes of barley were also stocked (143 000 tonnes in warehouses and 153 000 in transit).

Cereal import requirements in 2012/13 (July/June) are forecast at 2.2 million tonnes, a slight decline of about 4 percent from 2011/12. Wheat imports are estimated at about 700 000 tonnes, about 9 percent lower than the last five years average during which the policy change of higher strategic stocks was implemented.

In the same period, imports of barley (for feed) are expected to go up by about 11 percent, compared to the average, to 780 000 tonnes to match the increasing demand. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed. Rice imports are forecast to remain stable, at about 170 000 tonnes.

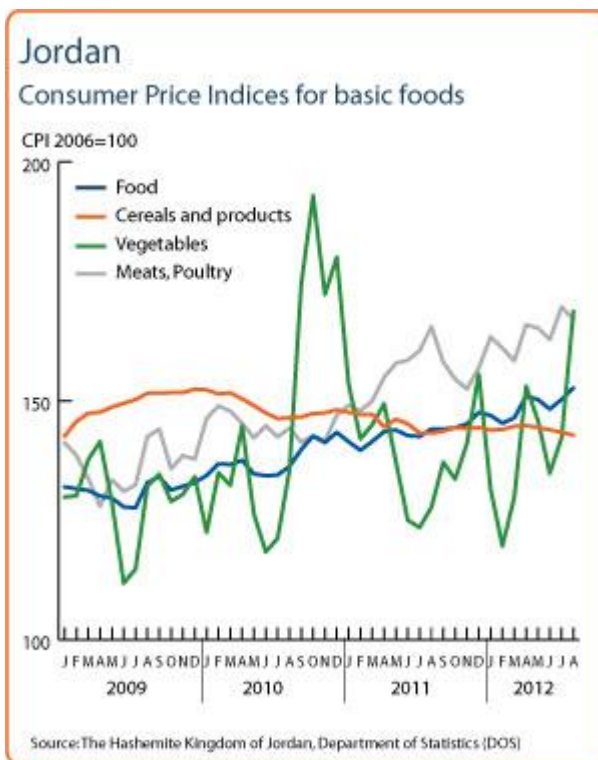
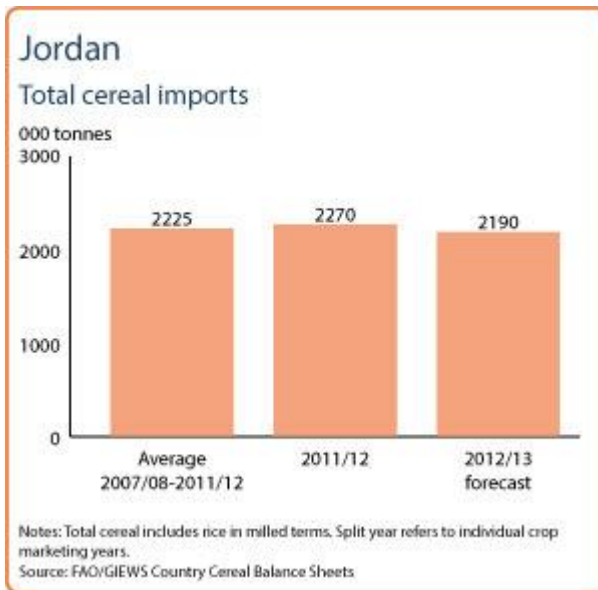
During the 2011/12 fiscal year, Jordan's purchases were dominated by Black Sea origin wheat. However, the position of the exportable surplus in the region may alter geographic composition of suppliers.

In support to the economic reforms and as part of the US Food for Progress programme, the United States granted Jordan 50 000 tonnes of wheat valued at USD 17 million in September 2012. Proceeds from wheat sales will be used to construct the Karak Dam, completion of which will increase yields on adjacent farmlands.

In order to increase production, in September 2012 the government announced its decision to subsidise every tonne of wheat and barley for seeding purposes by JD50. One tonne of wheat seeds will be sold to farmers at JD400 (approximately 560 USD/tonne at September 2012 exchange rates), while one tonne of barley seeds will be sold at JD340 (about 480 USD/tonne).

Bread subsidies result in lower consumer price index in 2012 - Government considering streamlining of subsidy system

According to the national Department of Statistics, in August 2012 the monthly rate of food price inflation (year-on-year) reached almost 6 percent, fueled by high increases in vegetable prices which increased by over 32 percent. By contrast, bread and cereal prices declined by 0.29 percent due to Government support schemes that prevented the transmission of high international wheat prices to local markets. Meat and poultry prices, usually a significant contributor to the overall food price inflation, have stabilized.



The Government faces a particularly high budget deficit of USD 2.8 billion due to energy import costs and subsidies. Disruptions in pipeline shipments of natural gas from Egypt, which normally provide 80 percent of the country's electricity, resulted in the government switching to more expensive diesel suppliers to supply electricity.

The IMF Executive Board has approved a loan of USD 2 billion for Jordan to give the country time to correct the imbalances in the budget and the Balance of Payments while maintaining social stability. Pressed by budgetary issues and fiscal deficit, the government is currently considering streamlining the current subsidy system. Direct cash payments to deliver subsidies to targeted segments are considered. Around 1 percent of GDP is spent on food subsidies, and about 2.4 percent on fuel subsidies (2011 figures).

Influx of refugees from Syria puts strain on resources

According to the Foreign Ministry, about 180 000 Syrian refugees are within Jordan's borders. In August 2012 the Government issued an urgent plea to international organizations for USD 700 million to help fund a second refugee camp and provide healthcare to the displaced people. The WFP is assisting refugees through food vouchers in most of the country and through the provision of in-kind food distributions in Zaatari refugee camp and some of the transit centres hosting refugees.

Reference Date: 04-April-2012

Increased cereal import requirement forecast in 2011/12 (July/June)

Domestic production of cereals is negligible, covering less than 3 percent of total utilization for food and feed. Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 (July/June) are forecast at a high of 2.3 million tonnes. Wheat imports are estimated at about 840 000 tonnes, about 15 percent higher than the last five years average following a government decision to maintain a 10 months strategic reserve as a precaution against future increases in food prices. In the same period, imports of feed barley and rice are expected to go up by about 12 percent on average levels to 770 000 tonnes and 170 000 tonnes, respectively to match the increasing demand. An average level of about half a million tonnes of imported maize is also forecast for animal feed.

Lower vegetable prices and bread subsidies result in lower consumer price index in 2011

According to the national Department of Statistics, the 2011 overall consumer price index for food registered a rate of about 4.3 percent, compared to 6.7 percent in 2010. The main reason for the reduction is the significant decrease in the vegetable price index from the record high levels during the last quarter of 2010. The price index of cereals and cereal products has also declined by about 2 to 2.5 percent in 2011 following government bread subsidies that prevented the transmission of high wheat import prices to local markets.

