



GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 31-October-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2023 winter cereal crops to start shortly
- Crisis hampers economy, including agricultural sector
- Slightly below-average import requirement forecast in 2022/23
- Food security outcomes not improving as economic challenges persist

Planting of 2023 winter cereal crops to start shortly

Planting of the 2023 winter cereal crops, the largest share of which is wheat in Beqaa Valley, will take place between late October and early December after seasonal rainfall replenishes soil moisture.

Harvesting of the 2022 winter cereal crops was completed in July. Although the season was marked by an uneven temporal distribution of rainfall, weather conditions were generally favourable for crop development. However, low application of inputs due to their high prices constrained yields.

Domestic cereal production is confined by landscape and climatic conditions. Total 2022 cereal production is estimated at about 134 000 tonnes, about 10 percent below the five-year average and similar to the 2020 and 2021 harvests that were already affected by the economic crisis.

Crisis continues to impede economy, including agricultural sector

Farmers, like the rest of the economy, continue to cope with the impacts of protracted financial and economic crisis. Seeds, fuel, fertilizers, plant protection materials, feed and other agricultural inputs are available on markets in relatively adequate quantities similar to the previous three seasons that were already hampered by the ongoing crisis. However, access to agricultural inputs, most of which are imported, continue to be constrained by their high prices. Small and medium sized farmers relying only on farming income, without any supplementary off-farm income, have been particularly affected by the high prices of inputs, particularly more expensive imported ones resulting in reduced input application, or substituting with locally produced inputs of lower quality, leading to lower marketable production and incomes.

Lebanon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon

Cereal Production

	2017-2021	2021	2022	change
	average			2022/2021
000 tonnes				
				percent
Wheat	112	100	100	0.0
Barley	30	30	30	0.0
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	146	134	134	0.0

Note: Percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Most farmers lack liquidity. Seasonal credit provided to farmers by input importers and sellers, has not been available since October 2019. Up to 2021, an arrangement between the government and the Banque du Liban (BdL) allowed traders of raw materials, including feed and agricultural inputs, to finance imports using a subsidized exchange rate of LBP 3 900/USD, although the allocation often experienced delays. Since October 2019, input traders require payments in cash on hard currency, or converted into Lebanese pounds using a parallel exchange rate, at which they purchase United States dollars to cover the cost of fresh imports. Since the second half of 2021, sharp increases of international prices of fertilizers denominated in United States dollars have been magnified by currency devaluation.

Although fuel is available, it often remains out of reach, particularly following the withdrawal of subsidized foreign exchange. Agricultural operations do not appear to have suffered significantly as mechanization is often substituted by labour due to lack of employment opportunities elsewhere. However, marketing of agricultural production, particularly of perishable fruits and vegetables, appears to have moved closer to farms, yielding lower prices than more lucrative, but more distant, urban markets. While most of the imported agricultural inputs are paid in United States dollars, sales of agricultural products remain denominated in Lebanese pounds, with ongoing currency depreciation erasing any gains. Limited purchasing power of the population has capped the increases of retail prices.

The FAO/Data in Emergency Monitoring (DIEM) survey of agricultural households carried out in July and August 2022, indicated that over 80 percent of the crop producers faced some production difficulties, with the most frequent being access to fertilizers (72 percent), pesticides (59 percent) and labour (43 percent). High food and fuel prices were the most common shocks cited (90 percent and 87 percent, respectively) by surveyed households, a significantly higher share than reported in previous rounds conducted in late 2021 and April 2022.

Slightly below-average cereal import requirement forecast

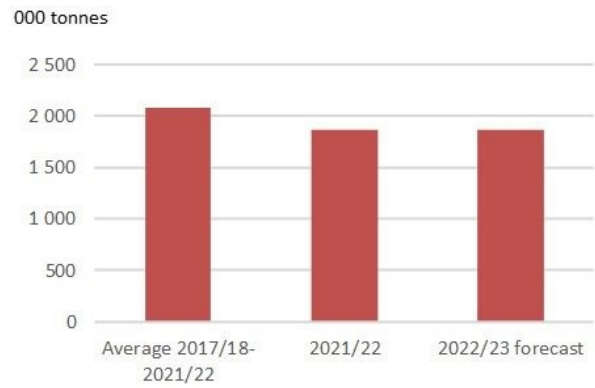
Domestic cereal production covers, on average, less than 20 percent of the consumption needs and the country relies heavily on imports. In the 2022/23 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly common wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are forecast at 1.9 million tonnes, about 10 percent below average.

Wheat has traditionally been sourced mostly from the Black Sea Region to take advantage of geographical proximity. During the past four years, average wheat imports from Ukraine and the Russian Federation were about 55 and 30 percent, respectively, of the total imports. Combined with macroeconomic challenges and lack of sufficient storage capacity following the explosion in August 2020 in Beirut that destroyed the main silo, disruptions to global export flows related to the war in Ukraine and related global price increases led to a rapid decline of the already meagre in-country stocks. At the end of March 2022, the in-country stocks of wheat were sufficient to cover not more than one month of consumption needs. Lack of storage capacity requires smaller shipments, which are comparatively more expensive to ship.

At the end of July 2022, the Parliament approved a loan

Lebanon

Cereals Imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets.

agreement with the World Bank worth USD 150 million to finance immediate wheat imports to avoid the disruption in supply over the short-term and to provide affordable bread for poor and vulnerable households, including displaced population and refugees in the country.

Food insecurity not improving as economic challenges persist

In August 2022, the year-on-year general inflation rate exceeded 160 percent, a decline from the peak of 240 percent recorded in January 2022, the highest level ever recorded in the country. Similarly, the food price inflation recorded an annual increase of almost 200 percent, below the 483 percent from January 2022, but still unsustainably high and eroding purchasing power across all segments of population, with particularly detrimental impacts on the most vulnerable. During the summer months (June-August), shortages of bread and other basic goods fuelled additional discontent.

The Central Bank aims to gradually close the gap between the official exchange rate of LBP 1 507/USD (in place since 1997) and the parallel exchange rate of about LBP 40 000/USD, a new record reached as of mid-October 2022. The unification of the exchange rates is one of the preconditions to unlock the USD 3 billion worth of financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), preliminarily agreed in April 2022. Beginning 1 November 2022, the official exchange rate will shift to LBP 15 000, with initial exceptions of commercial banks' balance sheets and mortgage loan repayments. The new rate will initially be applied to custom duties on imports and on Value added tax (VAT) on goods priced in United States dollars.

Although financing of the essential imports, wheat, fuel and medicines, at the official exchange rate of LBP 1 507/USD has not been active since 2021, up to early September 2022 importers were able to purchase hard currency at a rate below the market prices at the Central Bank's *Sayfara* exchange platform used by commercial banks and foreign exchange dealers.

Removal of the below market exchange rate for fuel imports resulted in dramatic price increases: the price of 20 litres of gasoline (95-octane) raised from LBP 61 000 in June 2021 to LBP 302 700 in October 2021 and LBP 717 000 in October 2022. The liberalized fuel prices increased transportation costs as well as other costs considering the reliance on generators in the absence of a reliable electricity supply, which is leading to high levels of spoilage in the agrifood chain.

The food security situation did not improve during the first half of 2022, and multiple crises are increasing the numbers of Lebanese in need of support. Based on the World Food Programme's (WFPs) Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) methodology, over 1.7 million people were estimated to face acute food insecurity at the end of 2021. Between June and December 2021, food insecurity averaged 46 percent, a 14-percentage point increase compared to January and June. Social safety net programme support, the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP), provides cash modalities assistance, reaching almost 910 000 beneficiaries by June 2022.

Of the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 57 percent of Syrian households were found to have poor or borderline food consumption in 2022, up from 46 percent in 2021. In addition,

67 percent of Syrian households were marginally and severely food insecure, compared to 49 percent in 2021. In addition, 88 percent of the Syrian refugees in the country were dependent on humanitarian assistance as they were not able to afford the absolute minimum amount required to cover life-saving needs.

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GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 07-January-2022

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2022 winter cereal crops ongoing under favourable weather conditions
- Crisis hampers economy, including agricultural sector
- Below-average import requirement forecast in 2021/22
- Food insecurity rising as economic environment worsens

Planting of 2022 winter cereal crops ongoing under favourable weather conditions

Sowing of the 2022 winter cereal crops was completed in early January. Precipitation amounts in November 2021 were below average, but abundant rainfall, almost three times the average, in the first decade of December followed by average rainfall amounts since then sufficiently replenished soil moisture. Farmers continue to cope with the impacts of the economic crisis.

The country's landscape limits the domestic cereal production. Although weather conditions were relatively favourable, the total 2021 cereal production is estimated at about 134 000 tonnes, about 15 percent below the five-year average and similar to the 2020 harvest that was already constrained by the economic crisis.

Crisis hampers economy, including agricultural sector

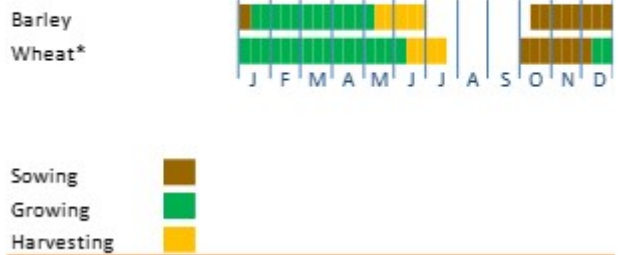
While weather conditions have been favourable for farming activities in the past two years, the impact of the economic crisis hinders farmers' ability to produce. Many farmers, particularly the smaller ones, used to carry out farming as a secondary activity, especially in regions with more economic opportunities. As incomes from other economic sectors, including the public one, dwindle, reliance on agriculture has grown. Quality inputs remain out of the reach of many farmers who have often adopted low input intensive production. Despite the environmental benefits due to decreasing use of chemicals, production and returns are often not sufficient.

Seeds, fertilizers and plant protection material are available on the market, albeit at high prices. As most agricultural inputs are imported, the continuing currency depreciation on the parallel market increases their cost in the national currency. Sharp increases of international prices of fertilizers, denominated in

Lebanon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon

Cereal Production

	2016-2020	2020	2021	change
	average			2021
000 tonnes				
				percent
Wheat	122	100	100	0.0
Barley	31	30	30	0.0
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	157	134	134	0.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

US dollars in the second half of 2021, were magnified by currency devaluation. Reports indicate that, compared to the previous years, more agricultural inputs are now sourced from cheaper origins, such as India or Turkey. However, most farmers lack the adequate liquidity to purchase inputs as the seasonal credit offered by input traders, which was used until the onset of the financial crisis in October 2019, is now non-existent.

In 2020 and part of 2021, the agreement between the government and the Banque du Liban (BdL) allowed traders of raw materials, including feed and agricultural inputs, to finance imports using a subsidized exchange rate of LBP 3 900/USD (compared to LBP 8 000/USD in the parallel market in mid-July 2020). However, farmers did not benefit from this agreement as the length of the administrative process, requiring approvals by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Trade before the BdL could release the transfers of US dollars at a subsidized rate, was causing substantial delays in placing orders.

The shortage of fuel, following the withdrawal of the subsidized foreign exchange, had also a negative impact on mechanized agricultural operations as well as access to markets. Farmers appear to have marketed their production, particularly perishable fruits and vegetables, close to their farms instead of more lucrative urban markets. While most of agricultural inputs are paid in US dollars, sales of agricultural products remain denominated in Lebanese pounds, with ongoing currency depreciation erasing any gains. Limited purchasing power of the population has capped the increases of retail prices.

Below-average cereal import requirement forecast

Domestic cereal production covers, on average, less than 20 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2021/22 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly common wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are forecast at 2 million tonnes, about 10 percent below average. Wheat is sourced mostly from the Black Sea region.

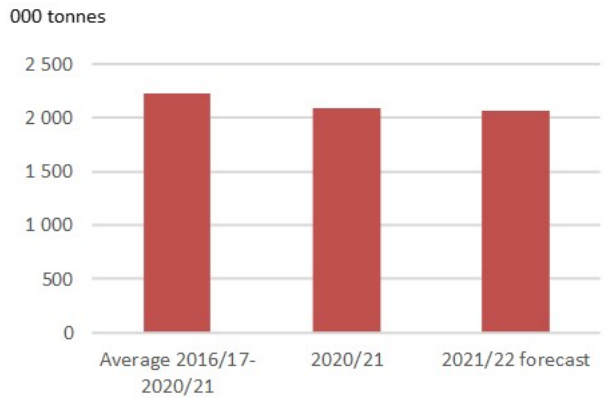
Discussions are still underway on rebuilding the port facilities in Beirut that were destroyed by an explosion in August 2020, including the bulk terminal and the main grain silo. In December 2021, grains that remained in the silo after the explosion were deemed unfit for food or feed use and are being composted or turned into fire pellets.

Food insecurity rising as economic environment worsens

The already worrisome economic conditions, with increasing unemployment, poverty and skyrocketing inflation rates, have further worsened. According to the World Bank, the country's Gross domestic product (GDP) plummeted from about USD 55 billion in 2018 to a projected USD 20.5 billion in 2021, while real GDP per capita fell by 37.1 percent. The unemployment rate, officially estimated at 11.4 percent in 2019, has risen and is now reckoned to be at over 40 percent of the workforce. More than 60 percent of the country's young people are unemployed. The exchange rate reached new records: as of early January 2022, USD 1 was selling for LBP 29 000, while the official exchange rate remains LBP 1 507/USD. The reserves of foreign currency held by the BdL decreased from USD 32 billion in 2019 to USD 12.5 billion in December 2021.

Lebanon

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.

In November 2021, the year-on-year general inflation rate exceeded 200 percent, the highest level ever recorded in the country. The food price inflation recorded an annual increase of over 350 percent, below the peak of 440 percent from October 2020, but still unsustainably high. The cost of living is increasing as a result of the currency depreciation on the parallel market, the removal of subsidized foreign exchange to finance crucial imports and the decrease of foreign exchange reserves. As of December 2021, the BdL was phasing out the imports of essentials goods at subsidized rates. Fuel imports at subsidized rates were phased out in October 2021, while imports of medicines were dramatically curbed. Only imports of wheat and some medicines still benefit from subsidized exchange rates, while all other transactions are carried out at market exchange rates.

Removal of the subsidized exchange rate for fuel imports resulted in dramatic price increases: the price of 20 litres of gasoline (95-octane) raised from LBP 61 000 in June 2021 to LBP 302 700 in October 2021. The liberalized fuel prices increased transportation costs as well as other costs considering the reliance on generators in the absence of a reliable electricity supply, which is leading to high levels of spoilage in the agrifood chain.

Registration for cash transfer programmes to provide temporary relief after the removal of imports at subsidized rates opened in December 2021, although details about implementation and funding sources are sparse.

The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that, as a result of the ongoing economic crisis, over 1.3 million Lebanese citizens, about 36 percent of the total population, were food insecure by the end of September 2021. The number of Lebanese households with serious food access constraints reached 57 percent in September 2021, up from 40 percent in September 2020. Of the 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, about 735 000 were food insecure in September 2021. In addition, 88 percent of the Syrian refugees in the country were dependent on humanitarian assistance as they were not able to afford the absolute minimum amount required to cover life-saving needs.

In November 2021, the government started discussions with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to secure funds necessary to start the economic recovery.

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GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 02-December-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for cereal establishment, but expensive inputs hamper agricultural activities
- Average import requirement estimated in 2020
- COVID-19 outbreak aggravated country's challenging situation caused by economic and financial crisis

Favourable weather conditions, but expensive inputs hamper agricultural activities

Sowing of the 2021 winter cereal crops is nearing completion. The first substantial rainfall of the season was recorded in November and eased concerns over early season drought. Seeds, fertilizers and plant protection material remain available, albeit at high prices. As most agricultural inputs are imported, the continuing currency depreciation on the parallel market increases their cost in the local currency. Most farmers lack the adequate liquidity to purchase inputs and the financial crisis has severely constrained access to seasonal credit, which was used extensively until the 2018/19 agricultural season. In July 2020, in agreement with the Banque du Liban (BdL), the Government allowed traders of raw materials (including feed and agricultural inputs) to finance imports using a subsidized exchange rate of LPB 3 900/US dollar (vs. LPB 8 000/US dollar in the parallel market in mid-July). However, the administrative process is reportedly causing delays in placing orders as traders need to get approval from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy and Trade before the BdL can release the US dollar transfers at a subsidized rate. The official exchange rate remains pegged at LBP 1 508/US dollar since 1997.

Overall, despite ample and well distributed rainfall, expensive inputs constrained agricultural production in the 2019/20 season as farmers turned into low input production. In 2020, the total cereal production is estimated at about 134 000 tonnes, similar to the 2019 weather-stricken harvest and almost 20 percent below the five-year average.

Average cereal import requirement estimated

Domestic cereal production covers, on average, less than 20 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly common wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are

Lebanon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

Barley

Wheat*



Sowing

Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon

Cereal Production

	2015-2019	2019	2020	change
	average			estimate
000 tonnes				
				percent
Wheat	130	100	100	0.0
Barley	31	32	30	-6.3
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	165	136	134	-1.5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

forecast at an about average level of 2 million tonnes, similar to the previous year. Wheat is sourced mostly from the Black Sea region.

Discussions are underway on rebuilding the port facilities in Beirut after an explosion in August 2020 destroyed parts of the port including the bulk terminal and the main grain silo, neighbourhoods in the vicinity and caused human and material damage in the greater Beirut area. The total capacity of the port silos in Beirut was 120 000 tonnes. It was estimated that, at the time of the blast, there were between 10 000 and 15 000 tonnes of wheat stored in the silos, sufficient to cover the milling needs for five to ten days. In addition, between 40 000 and 56 000 tonnes of maize, imported by private traders, were also estimated to be in the silos. As the bulk receiving terminal remains out of commission, incoming vessels are unloaded in the Port of Tripoli and trucked in land for storage and, finally, for milling, mostly to the Beirut area. Container unloading, including for bagged cereals, remains unaffected.

COVID-19 outbreak aggravated country's challenging situation caused by economic and financial crisis

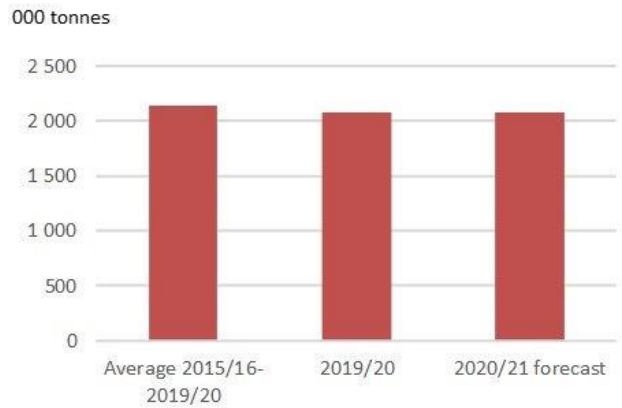
The already worrisome economic conditions, with increasing unemployment, poverty and skyrocketing inflation rates, have further worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures introduced to contain the spread of the disease. According to the World Bank, the real Gross Domestic Product growth is projected to sharply decelerate to -19.2 percent in 2020, on the back of a -6.7 percent contraction in 2019, constraining employment opportunities and livelihood options. The unemployment rate, officially estimated at 11.4 percent in 2019, has risen and is now reckoned to be at over 40 percent of the workforce. More than 60 percent of the country's young people are unemployed. In October 2020 (latest information available), the year on year general inflation reached 137 percent, while the food price inflation recorded an annual increase of over 440 percent. The cost of living is increasing as a result of the currency depreciation on the parallel market and the limited availability of hard currency at the official rate which makes imports more expensive. In August 2020, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia estimated that more than 55 percent of the population live in poverty and struggle for necessities, up from 28 percent in 2019.

As of September 2020 (latest information available), about 880 000 Syrian refugees remain officially registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the country. As many refugees rely on casual labour opportunities, their livelihoods and food security situation has deteriorated amidst the crisis. According to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan, food insecurity has significantly increased among Syrian refugees, with 46 percent of the population now food insecure compared to the 29 percent in 2019. Similarly, extreme poverty increased from 51 percent in 2018 to 88 percent in 2020. Among the Lebanese population, extreme poverty increased from 8 percent in 2019 to 23 percent in 2020.

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Lebanon

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 Lebanon

Reference Date: 13-May-2020

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average cereal crop production and import requirement forecast in 2020
- COVID-19 outbreak aggravated country's challenging situation caused by economic and financial crises
- Country continues to host large number of Syrian refugees whose livelihoods and food security situation likely to deteriorate amidst crisis

Average 2020 cereal crop and cereal import requirement forecast

Harvesting of the 2020 winter barley crop is about to start, while harvesting of the wheat crop will start in June. Both cereal crops benefited from abundant and well-distributed rains. In 2020, total cereal production is forecast at about 164 000 tonnes, 20 percent above the 2019 weather-stricken harvest and similar to the five-year average. Most of the wheat produced in the country is durum.

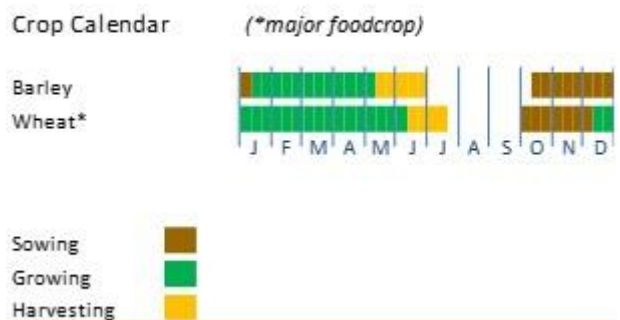
Domestic cereal production covers, on average, less than 20 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2020/21 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly common wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are forecast at an about-average level of 2 million tonnes, similar to the previous year. Wheat is sourced mostly from the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

Impact of ongoing financial and economic crises aggravated by COVID-19

The economic growth in the country has been staggering since 2015, while both fiscal and current account deficits have been increasing. The austerity measures proposed by the Government to contain the crisis triggered a countrywide unrest on 17 October 2019. The COVID-19 outbreak in spring 2020 aggravated the already challenging situation the country has been facing amidst many economic and financial issues.

Most farmers farm on a part-time basis and face high input costs and low output prices. Private agri-business companies import most inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, plant protection materials and feed ingredients. Responding to the restrictions on foreign currency transactions in place since October 2019, importers and retailers of agricultural inputs are now accepting only payments in

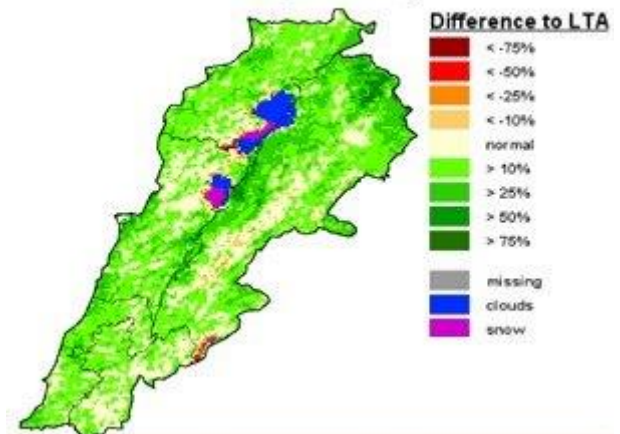
Lebanon



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon - NDVI anomaly

Relative difference to LTA, Dekad 2 April 2020



Source: FAO/GIEWS Earth Observation System.

cash instead of selling on credit as in the past. Cash payments are made either in US dollars or in Lebanese pounds (LBP) equivalent converted using the exchange rates of the parallel market. While the official exchange rate remains pegged at LBP 1 508 per USD 1 (pegged since 1997), the exchange rate on the parallel market has been rapidly devaluating reaching LBP 4 150 per USD 1 by mid-May 2020.

Many farmers lack liquidity to purchase inputs in adequate amounts and have started to substitute, where possible, various inputs: manure or compost for compound fertilizer, saved their own seeds for certified ones. Overall, the agricultural sector has moved to a low input system, which is likely to result in a decline in yields and marketable production. However, the global economic slowdown resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has compressed diesel prices, buffering some of the increased costs faced by farmers.

In January 2020 (latest information available), the year on year inflation reached 11 percent. For the year 2020, the Government has projected the inflation to reach 25 percent, significantly up from the 2.9 percent in 2019. Reports indicate that prices of some consumer goods increased by 60 percent on monthly basis in March 2020, resulting in rapid erosion of incomes. Food prices increased as a result of the informal currency depreciation which makes imports more expensive, as well as stockpiling by consumers facing the pandemic.

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 estimated that there are about 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians (including not registered refugees) and 300 000 Palestinian refugees. In April 2020, the Ministry of Finance assessed that about 45 percent of Lebanese citizens (equivalent to 2.43 million) now live in poverty, with 22 percent in extreme poverty, an increase from the LCRP figure resulting from constrained employment opportunities for casual workers during the lockdown. Unofficial estimates indicate that the already high unemployment rate has risen as a result of the pandemic and is now reckoned to be at over 40 percent of the workforce. More than 60 percent of the country's young people are unemployed.

Country continues to host large number of Syrian refugees

As of January 2020 (latest information available), about 910 000 Syrian refugees were officially registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the country. The number of registered refugees increased gradually since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic until January 2015, when it reached 1.18 million, and the Government of Lebanon tightened the entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals. The number of registered refugees has been decreasing also due to very slow-paced voluntary returns to the Syrian Arab Republic. As many refugees rely on casual labour opportunities, their livelihoods and food security situation is likely to deteriorate amidst the crisis.

Lebanon

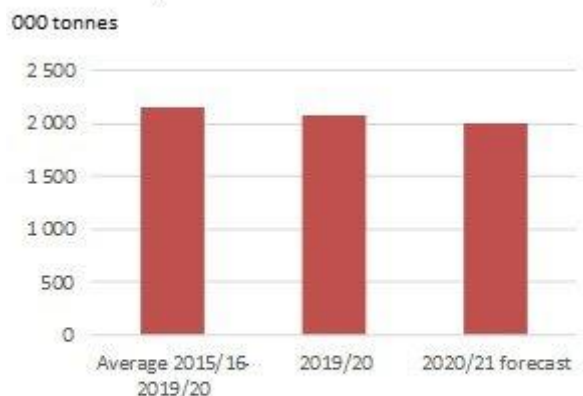
Cereal Production

	2015-2019 average	2019	2020 forecast	change 2020/2019
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	130	100	130	30.0
Barley	31	32	30	-6.3
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	165	136	164	20.6

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

Lebanon

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.

COVID-19 and measures adopted by the Government

On 16 March 2020, the Government declared a State of General Mobilization in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, halting all non-essential commercial activities and transportation links, introducing curfews as well as social distancing measures. Although some lockdown measures eased in the first week of May, a consequent spike in cases resulted in the re-instating of the 19:00-05:00 curfew and the re-introduction of a full lockdown for four days between 14 and 17 May 2020.

Banks in Lebanon have also been temporarily closed. While the trading activity continues in the parallel market, its volume is slower. The closure of the banks is likely to restrict importers' business with consequent potential shortages of imported goods, which will be amplified by the general downturn in the world economy and potential disruptions to shipping. If travel restrictions continue, the tourism industry will experience a significant loss of revenues and jobs, affecting the livelihoods of a considerable number of households, in particular in the informal sector.

The Government allocated about LBP 75 billion to the Higher Relief Council from the reserves of the 2020 budget for social and food security relief efforts to help offset the social implications of the general mobilization in response to COVID-19. The Ministry of Social Affairs, in cooperation with other line Ministries, started implementing a plan to distribute one-time cash payments of LBP 400 000 to 187 500 families that have been economically affected by the pandemic. Most of the aid will be distributed to families registered to the National Poverty Targeting Programme.

The Government has also expressed interest in receiving emergency financing of USD 500 million from the International Monetary Fund to reduce the economic impact of the outbreak in the country.

All deadlines related to payments of taxes have been extended, although farmers not registered as commercial with the Ministry of Finance do not pay income taxes.

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GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 03-October-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Average cereal harvest gathered in 2019
- Cereal import requirements in 2019/20 expected to remain close to average
- Large number of Syrian refugees remains

Average 2019 cereal crop harvested

Harvesting of the 2019 winter barley and wheat crops was completed by July. Most of the 2020 winter cereals will be planted in November after seasonal autumn showers replenish soil moisture.

In 2019, total cereal production was estimated at about 176 000 tonnes, 7 percent above the 2018 harvest and similar to the five-year average due to favourable weather conditions. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, production of fruits and vegetables is important in terms of GDP contribution and employment. Although the agriculture sector employs only 11 percent of the total labour force at national level, it is a primary source of income and employment in rural areas where it reaches up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of the local GDP.

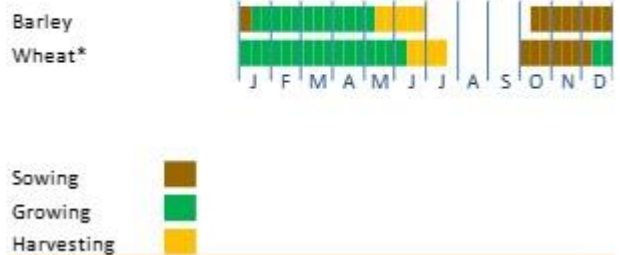
Average cereal import requirements in 2019/20

Domestic cereal production covers, on average, less than 20 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2019/20 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are forecast at an average level of 2 million tonnes, similar to the previous year. The current import requirement is almost double of the quantities imported before the onset of the Syrian crisis in 2011 that led to increased numbers of refugees in the region. Wheat is sourced mostly from the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

In August 2019, the yearly general inflation was estimated at 1.2 percent, the lowest rate since October 2016. The decrease was supported mostly by a slowed price increase for food and non-alcoholic beverages, which in August 2019 increased only by 0.6 percent compared to one year earlier. The Consumer Protection Department of the Ministry of Economy and Trade subsidizes the price of local flat bread, while prices of other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are set freely.

Lebanon

Crop Calendar (*major foodcrop)



Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon

Cereal Production

	2014-2018 average	2018	2019 estimate	change 2019/2018
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	138	130	140	7.7
Barley	32	30	32	6.7
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	173	164	176	7.3

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

Large number of Syrian refugees remains

As of September 2019, about 930 000 Syrian refugees were registered in the country. Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the number of refugees registered in the country reached 1.18 million in May 2015. This number has been decreasing since then following the tightening of entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals since January 2015 and the start of slow-paced voluntary returns to the Syrian Arab Republic.

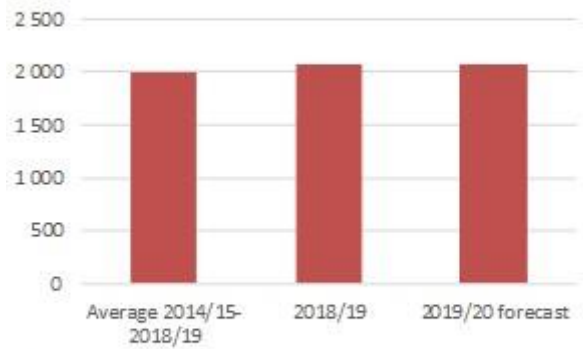
The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 estimated that there are about 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians (including not registered refugees) and 300 000 Palestinian refugees.

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Lebanon

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 Lebanon

Reference Date: 23-January-2019

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions for 2019 winter grains
- Slightly below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2018
- Cereal import requirements in 2018/19 expected to remain above average
- Number of registered Syrian refugees in country stabilized

Weather conditions favourable for 2019 winter grains development

Planting of the 2019 winter barley and wheat crops, which started in mid-October 2018, is about to be completed. Remote sensing earth observation information suggests the above average precipitation and weather conditions have been favourable for crop establishment and development.

In 2018, total cereal production was estimated at about 164 000 tonnes, similar to 2017 but about 7 percent below the five-year average. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, production of fruits and vegetables is important in terms of GDP contribution and employment. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 hectares are cultivated and about half of this area is irrigated. The agricultural sector employs only 8 percent of the total labour force, but it is a primary source of income and employment in rural areas where it reaches up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of the local GDP.

Above-average cereal import requirements in 2018/19

Domestic cereal production covers, on average, about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2018/19 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize to feed livestock and poultry, are forecast at 2 million tonnes, about 200 000 tonnes below the previous year, but 15 percent above the average of the last five years. Above-average import requirements are in part supported by higher food consumption, particularly of wheat, due to population growth.

In November 2018, the yearly general inflation was 5.8 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was 6.7 percent, up from over 4 percent in spring 2018 supported by

Lebanon

Crop Calendar

(*major foodcrop)

Barley

Wheat*



Sowing

Growing

Harvesting

Source: FAO/GIEWS.

Lebanon

Cereal Production

	2013-2017	2017	2018	change
	average			2018/2017
000 tonnes				
				percent
Wheat	140	130	130	0.0
Barley	33	30	30	0.0
Maize	3	3	3	0.0
Others	1	1	1	0.0
Total	176	164	164	0.0

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheet.

higher commodity prices. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread, while other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

Lebanese response plan to Syrian refugee crisis

As of December 2018, almost 1 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country, the same figure as in January 2016. Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into the country steadily increased until January 2015 when the Government revised the entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals.

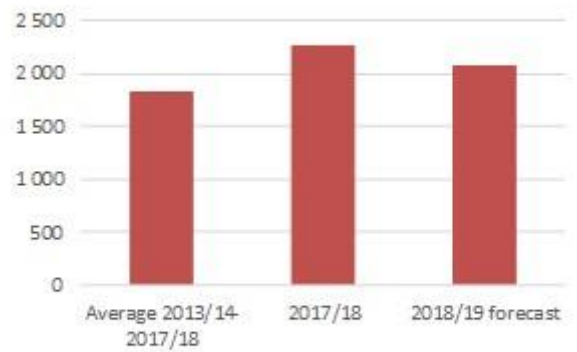
The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 estimated that there are about 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians (many not registered) and 300 000 Palestinian refugees.

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Lebanon

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.

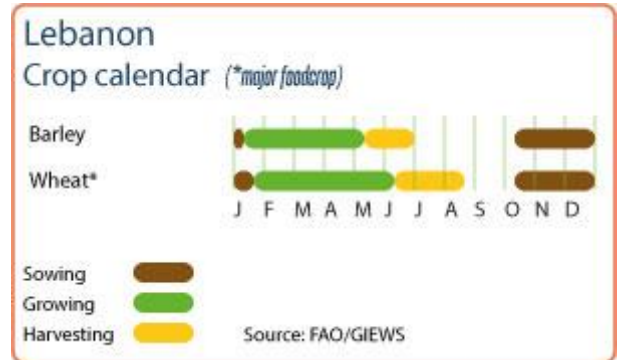


GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 23-January-2018

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Current conditions unfavourable for 2018 winter grains
- Slightly below-average cereal harvest gathered in 2017
- Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 set to remain stable
- Number of registered Syrian refugees in country stabilized



Current conditions unfavourable for 2018 winter grains development

Planting of the 2018 winter barley and wheat, which started in mid-October 2017, is about to be completed. Early autumn dryness was not eased by relatively low precipitation in December. At the moment, conditions for crop establishment and development remain unfavourable and the lack of precipitation in the near future is likely to constrain yields.

In 2017, total cereal production was estimated at about 164 000 tonnes, 6 percent below the harvest of the previous year and the five-year average. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, production of fruits and vegetables is important in terms of GDP contribution and employment. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 are cultivated. Some 113 000 hectares are irrigated. The agricultural sector employs only 6 percent of the total labour force, but it is a primary source of income and employment especially in rural areas where it reaches up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of the local GDP.

Cereal import requirement remains stable in 2017/18

Domestic cereal production covers, on average, about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, are forecast at 1.8 million tonnes, marginally above the previous year, but 25 percent above the average of the last five years. Increased import requirements are in part supported by higher food consumption caused by population increases.

Lebanon
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 estimate	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	140	140	130	-7
Barley	33	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	174	164	-6

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

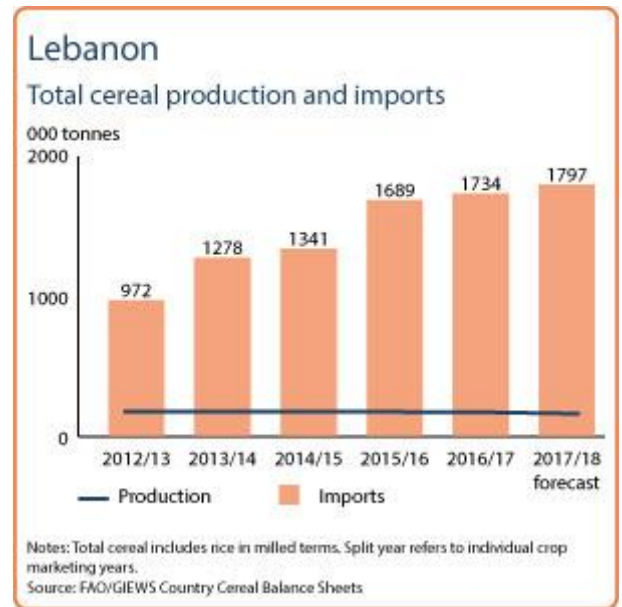
In November 2017, the yearly general inflation was 4.8 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was 4.2 percent, down from over 5 percent in spring 2017, but up from the negative levels recorded in 2015 and 2016 supported by higher commodity prices. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

Lebanese response plan to Syrian refugee crisis

As of November 2017, almost 1 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country, the same figure as in January 2016. Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon steadily increased until January 2015 when the Government introduced the new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals. These rules were in addition to the rules on work permits in the sectors where the Syrian nationals have long been working, such as agriculture and construction.

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 estimated that there are 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians (many not registered) and 300 000 Palestinian refugees.

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GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 04-July-2017

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Slightly below average cereal harvest forecast in 2017
- Cereal import requirements in 2017/18 set to remain stable
- Number of registered Syrian refugees in country stabilized

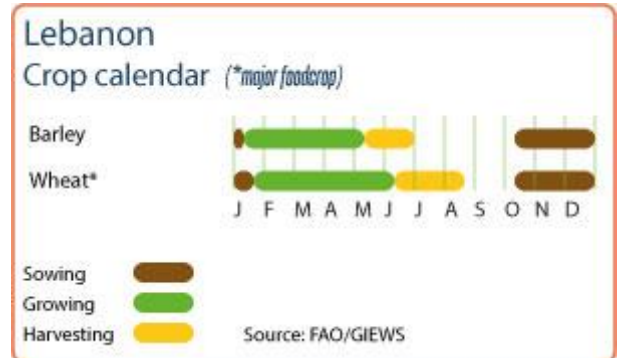
Slightly below average cereal harvest forecast

Harvesting of the 2017 winter barley, which started in mid-May, is about to be completed. Harvesting of the 2017 winter wheat crop started in early June and will continue until mid-August.

Remote sensing data shows that accumulated estimated precipitation so far in 2017 fell short of that of 2016 in all agricultural areas except Liban Sud. In the most agriculturally productive Beqaa Valley growing mostly fruits, vegetables and potatoes, the accumulated precipitation remained below the long-term average (1989-2012).

In 2017, total cereal production is forecast at about 164 000 tonnes, 6 percent below the harvest of the previous year and the five-year average. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, agricultural production, particularly fruits and vegetables, it is important in terms of GDP contribution and employment. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 are cultivated. Some 113 000 hectares are irrigated. The agricultural sector employs only 6 percent of the total labour force, but it is a primary source of income and employment especially in rural areas where it reaches up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of the local GDP.

The Syrian crisis disrupted trade routes to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Iraq, drastically impacting Lebanese exports of agricultural products to these lucrative markets. Exports of fresh produce (mainly fruits and potatoes), are particularly affected. The closure of the last border crossing between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan in March 2015 forced Lebanese exporters to rely on the more expensive sea shipment, resulting in a dramatic increase in transport costs and a significant loss of market shares, particularly in the Gulf and Iraqi markets.



Lebanon
Cereal production

	2012-2016 average	2016	2017 forecast	change 2017/2016
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	140	140	130	-7
Barley	33	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	174	164	-6

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

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2017/18

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2017/18 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirements, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, are forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, slightly below the previous year, but 20 percent above the average of the last five years. Increased import requirements are in part supported by higher food consumption caused by population increases.

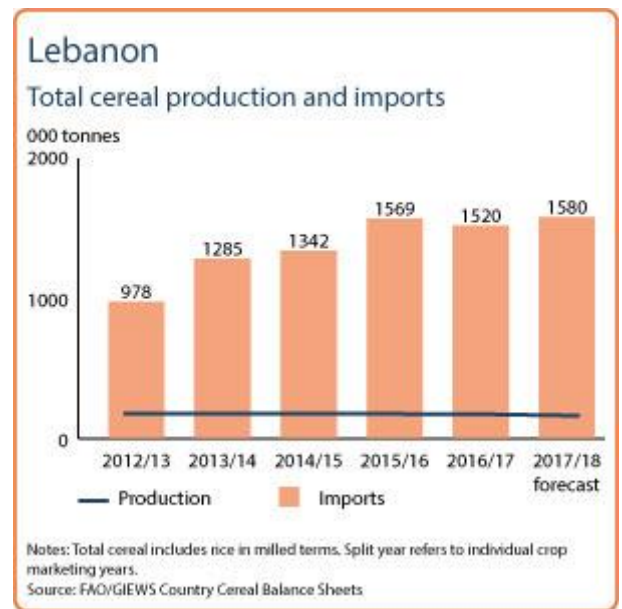
In May 2017, the yearly general inflation was 4.3 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was 5.3 percent, up from the negative levels recorded since 2015 supported by higher commodity prices. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

Lebanese response plan to Syrian refugee crisis

As of June 2017, over 1 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country, the same figure as in January 2016. Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon steadily increased until January 2015 when the Government introduced the new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals, in addition to the new rules on work permits in the sectors where Syrian nationals have long been working, such as agriculture and construction.

In November 2016, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 estimated that there are 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians (many not registered) and 300 000 Palestinian refugees.

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GIEWS Country Brief Lebanon

Reference Date: 07-December-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

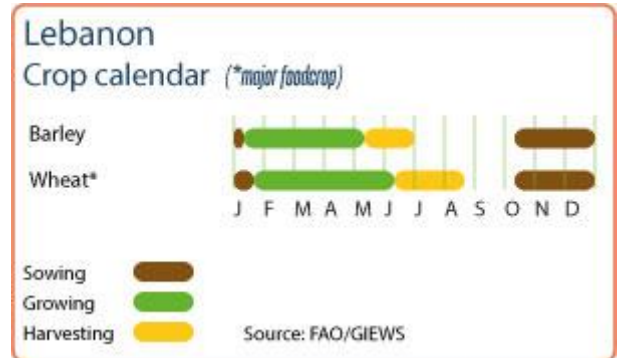
- Relatively favourable weather conditions prevail
- Cereal import requirements in 2016/17 set to decrease slightly
- Number of registered Syrian refugees in the country stabilized

Relatively favourable production prospects prevail

Planting of the 2017 winter grains (for harvest from approximately mid-June next year) started in mid-October and is expected to continue until early January. Remote sensing data shows that cumulative precipitation so far in 2016 exceeded or was close to the long-term average (1989-2012). Rainfall amounts from September to the end of November were exceptionally low. However, heavy precipitation in early December have brought rainfall levels closer to last year's in most areas. Before the latest rains, the current deficits were very visible in some of the most agriculturally productive parts of Beqaa Valley although additional abundant precipitation later in the season can reverse the impact.

In 2016, total cereal production was estimated at about 174 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, agricultural production, particularly fruits and vegetables, is important in terms of GDP contribution and employment. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 are cultivated. Some 113 000 hectares are irrigated. The agricultural sector employs 6 percent of the total labour force but is a primary source of income and employment in rural areas reaching up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of local GDP in rural districts.

The Syrian crisis disrupted trade routes to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Iraq, drastically impacting Lebanese exports of agricultural products to these lucrative markets. Exports of fresh produce (mainly fruits and potatoes) are particularly affected. The closure of the last border crossing between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan in March 2015 forced Lebanese exporters to rely on the more expensive sea shipment, resulting in a dramatic increase in transport costs and a significant loss of market shares, particularly in the Gulf and Iraqi markets.



Lebanon
Cereal production

	2011-2015 average	2015	2016 estimate	change 2016/2015
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	137	140	140	0
Barley	33	33	30	-9
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	174	177	174	-2

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

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2016/17

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2016/17 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 1.6 million tonnes, slightly below the previous year but 20 percent above the average of the last five years. Increased import requirements are in part supported by higher food consumption caused by population increases.

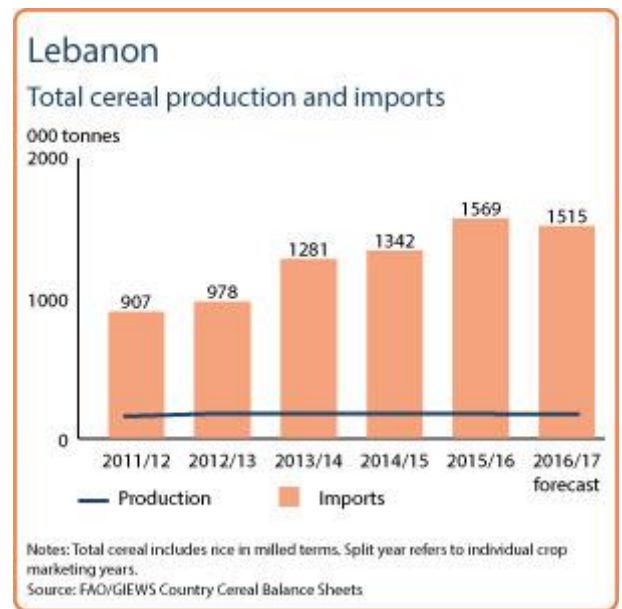
In October 2016, the yearly general inflation was 1.13 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was negative 1.6 percent. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

Lebanese response plan to Syrian refugee crisis

As of September 2016, 1.07 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country, the same figure as in January 2016. Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon steadily increased until January 2015 when the Government introduced the new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals, in addition to the new rules on work permits in the sectors where Syrian nationals have long been working, such as agriculture and construction. Currently, the signing of the “pledge not to work” has been lifted.

In 2016, the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) estimated that there are 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians and 300 000 Palestinian refugees. The Food Security Sector (FSS) was able to reach more than 870 000 individuals with direct food assistance (cash based, vouchers and in-kind), agricultural livelihoods activities (including capacity building and provision of agricultural inputs and materials) and nutrition-related activities mainly through micro-gardening. The sector supported national institutions, mainly the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Social Affairs with capacity building and systems improvement.

In November 2016, the LCRP 2017-2020, the Lebanon chapter for the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan strategy, was finalized. The FSS identified a total of 2 million people in need, of which 70 percent refugees. The sector will target around 1 million individuals, of which 85 percent refugees (Syrians and Palestinians) with direct food assistance and employment activities, and host communities with direct food assistance, agricultural livelihoods and employment support. With the objective of shifting the response from humanitarian to more stabilization efforts, the sector overall budget needs have been set to USD 507.2 million for 2017 (68 percent humanitarian and 32 percent stabilization), an increase from USD 473.5 million in 2016 (74 percent humanitarian and 26 percent stabilization).



Reference Date: 06-April-2016

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions prevail; average crop forecasted
- Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 set to increase slightly
- Entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Relatively favourable production prospects prevail

Planting of the 2016 winter grains for harvest from approximately mid-June concluded in early January. Planting of sorghum normally starts in mid-April.

Remote sensing data shows that cumulative precipitation so far in 2016 exceeded or was close to the long-term average (1989-2012) in all districts except Hermel and Zahle in Beqaa Province where the difference was 10 and 26 percent, respectively. However, compared to the same period in 2015, some districts across the country experienced deficits up to 25 percent, while others received up to 50 percent more precipitation than in 2015. The deficits are most prominent in some of the most agriculturally productive parts of Beqaa Valley. Up to early March 2016, the NDVI developments in 2016 appeared to be closely mirroring that of 2015 and the historical average. Abnormally warm temperatures prevailed across the region possibly speeding up crop development.

In 2015, total cereal production was estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average. While domestic cereal production is limited by landscape, agricultural production, particularly fruits and vegetables, is important. Out of a total agricultural area of 332 000 hectares, 230 000 are cultivated. Some 113 000 hectares are irrigated. The agricultural sector employs 6 percent of the total labour force but is a primary source of income and employment in rural areas reaching up to 25 percent of the labour force and 80 percent of local GDP in rural districts.

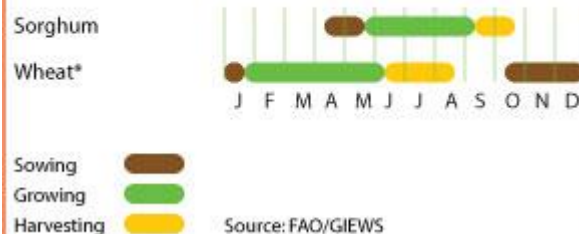
Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with the closure of the last border crossing between the Syrian Arab Republic and Jordan in March 2015. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products. Some farmers near the border with the Syrian Arab Republic report that security concerns have prevented them from accessing their fields and orchards.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2015/16

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, slightly above the previous year.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

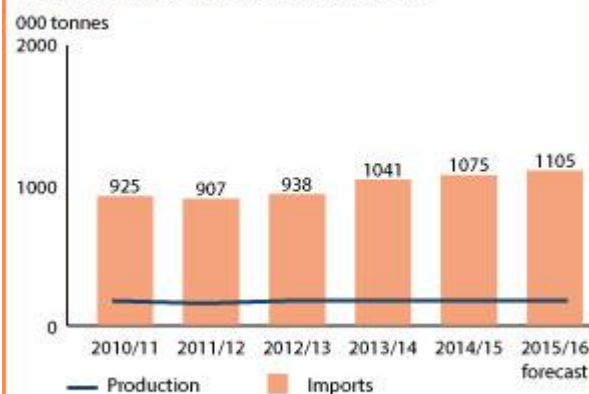
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 estimate	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	137	140	140	0
Barley	34	33	33	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	174	177	177	0

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

Lebanon

Total cereal production and imports



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

In February 2016, the yearly general inflation was negative 2 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was less than 1 percent. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

New entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon steadily increased. As of January 2016, 1.07 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country. As of early May 2015, UNHCR-Lebanon suspended registration based on the Government of Lebanon (GoL)'s instructions. In January 2015, the GoL introduced new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals, in addition to the new rules on work permits in sectors where Syrian nationals have long been working, such as agriculture and construction.

The Lebanon Crisis Response plan estimates that there are 3.3 million people in need of assistance in the country, including 1.5 million vulnerable Lebanese, 1.5 million displaced Syrians and 300 000 Palestine refugees.

The Food Security Sector, a coordination body of food security activities in Lebanon covering the Syrian crisis, led by WFP, FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs and an NGO (currently Action Contre La Faim - ACF), has provided food assistance through various modalities, including in-kind food distribution as well as vouchers (paper vouchers, e-cards and ATM cards) to around 990 000 recipients (maximum number reached in March 2015), including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic.

In addition, the Sector vaccinated more than 700 000 animals (including cattle and small ruminants), benefiting more than 5 000 farmers. More than 1 700 individuals received various technical trainings on agriculture and were provided with materials and inputs.

Reference Date: 03-November-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions prevail; average crop estimated
- Cereal import requirements in 2015/16 set to increase slightly
- New entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Average cereal crop harvested in 2015

Harvesting of the 2015 winter grains concluded in August while sowing of the 2016 wheat crop is about to start. Cumulative precipitation in all provinces exceeded that of last year as well as the long-term average (1989-2012), creating satisfactory conditions for crop development.

In 2015, total cereal production is estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with the closure of the last border crossing between Syria and Jordan in March 2015. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products. Some farmers near the border with the Syrian Arab Republic report that security concerns have prevented them from accessing their fields and orchards.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2015/16

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2015/16 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 1.1 million tonnes, slightly above the previous year.

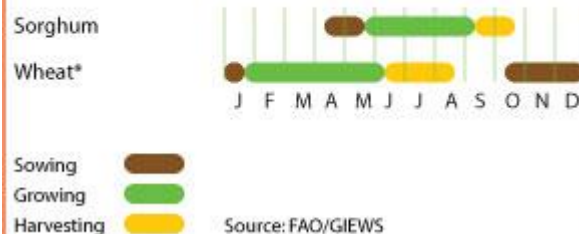
In August 2015, the general inflation was negative 4.6 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was negative 1 percent (beginning from January 2014, the base year for CPI was changed to December 2013). The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

New entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased. As of September 2015, 1.08 million Syrian refugees were registered with UNHCR in the country. As of early May 2015, UNHCR Lebanon suspended registration based on the Government of Lebanon (GoL)'s instructions. In January 2015, the GoL introduced new entry and

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

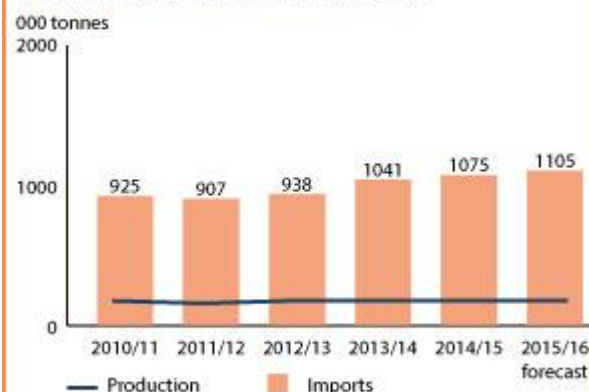
Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	137	140	140	0
Barley	34	33	33	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	174	177	177	0

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

Lebanon

Total cereal production and imports



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

residency rules for Syrian nationals, in addition to the new rules on work permits in sectors where Syrian nationals have long been working in such as agriculture and construction.

The Food Security Sector, a coordination body of food security activities in Lebanon covering the Syria crisis, led by WFP, FAO, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Social Affairs and an NGO (currently Action Contre La Faim - ACF), has provided food assistance through various modalities, including in-kind food distribution as well as vouchers (paper vouchers, e-cards and ATM cards) to around 990 000 recipients (maximum number reached in March 2015) including Lebanese, Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees in Lebanon and Palestine refugees from Syria.

In addition, the Sector vaccinated more than 700 000 animals (including cattle and small ruminants) benefiting more than 5 000 farmers. More than 1 700 individuals received various technical trainings on agriculture and were provided with materials and inputs.

Reference Date: 20-May-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Favourable weather conditions prevail; average crop expected
- Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 set to increase
- New entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Generally favourable conditions for 2015 cereal crops

Harvesting of the 2015 winter grains is scheduled to start in mid-June. Timely and satisfactory rains provided sufficient moisture for crops. Cumulative precipitation by the first decade of May 2015 in all provinces exceeded that of last year as well as the long-term average (1989-2012). Vegetation conditions as captured by the satellite-based Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) suggest a good development of winter crops. Overall, an average cereal harvest is tentatively forecast in 2015.

In 2014, total cereal production is estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average.

Concerns about sustainability and efficiency of water use in agriculture are prevalent and arise regularly.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with occasional border closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2014/15

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of the consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 995 000 tonnes, slightly above the previous year.

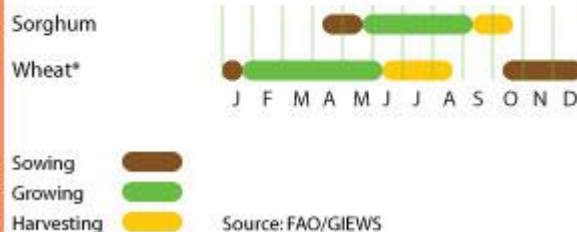
In March 2015, general inflation was 1 percent, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was negative 1 percent (beginning from January 2014, the base year for CPI was changed to December 2013). The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

New entry and residency rules put break on number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, as of early May 2015, almost 1.2 million Syrian refugees are registered in the country. In January 2015, the Lebanese Government decided to introduce new entry and residency rules for Syrian nationals.

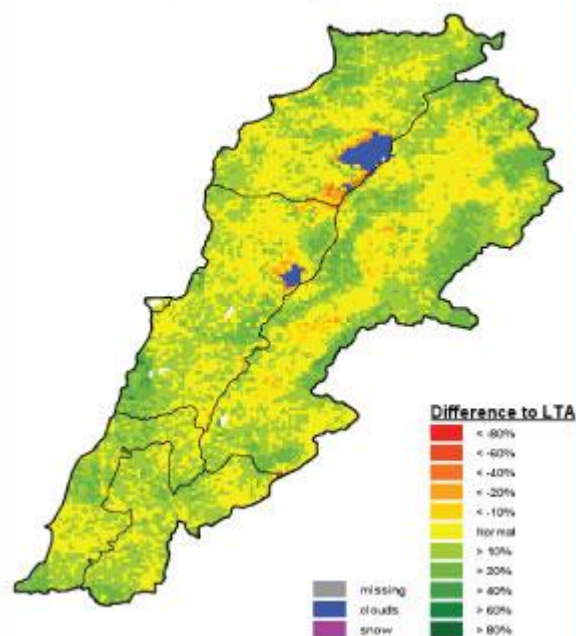
Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon - NDVI anomaly

Relative to Long Term Average - 1st Dekad May 2015



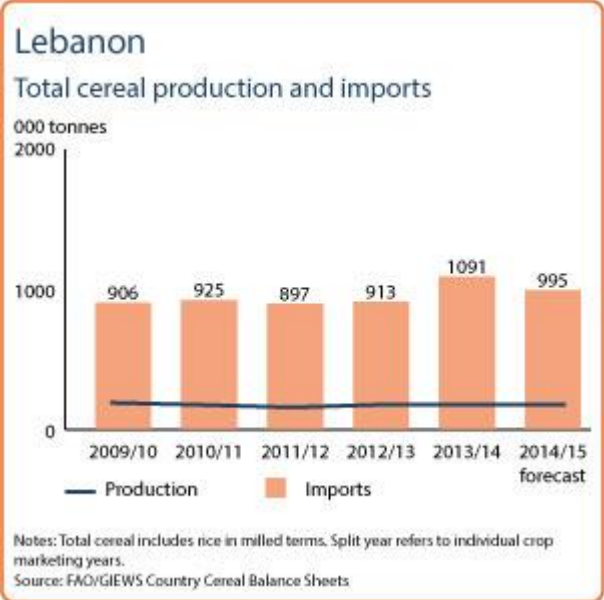
Lebanon

Cereal production

	2010-2014 average	2014	2015 forecast	change 2015/2014
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	137	140	140	0
Barley	34	33	33	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	174	177	177	0

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

The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The Operation in Lebanon should reach about 970 000 beneficiaries (including Lebanese returnees) with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2015.



Reference Date: 31-March-2015

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Planting of 2015 winter cereal crop concluded in January; average crop expected
- Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 set to increase
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Generally favourable conditions for 2015 cereal crops

Planting of the 2014/15 winter season cereals, for harvest from June, concluded in January and that of sorghum is about to start. Cumulative precipitation by the second decade of March 2015 in all provinces exceeds that of last year as well as the long-term average (1989-2012). Vegetation conditions as captured by the satellite-based Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) suggest a good establishment of winter crops. The far eastern part of the Nabatieh and most southern part of Beqaa provinces, an area mostly used for grazing is currently showing slightly below-average NDVI. Overall, an average cereal harvest is tentatively forecast in 2015.

In 2014, total cereal production is estimated at about 177 000 tonnes, similar to the previous year and the five-year average.

Concerns about sustainability and efficiency of water use in agriculture are prevalent and arise regularly.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with occasional closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2014/15

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 995 000 tonnes, slightly above the previous year.

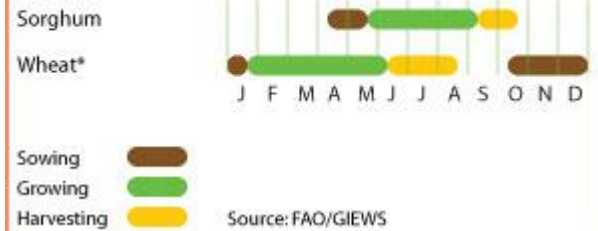
In February 2015, general inflation as well as food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation was almost flat at about 0.1 percent month-on-month (beginning from January 2014, the base year for CPI was changed to December 2013). The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc.) are not subsidized.

Humanitarian needs increase with the growing number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, as of late March 2015, almost 1.2 million Syrian refugees are

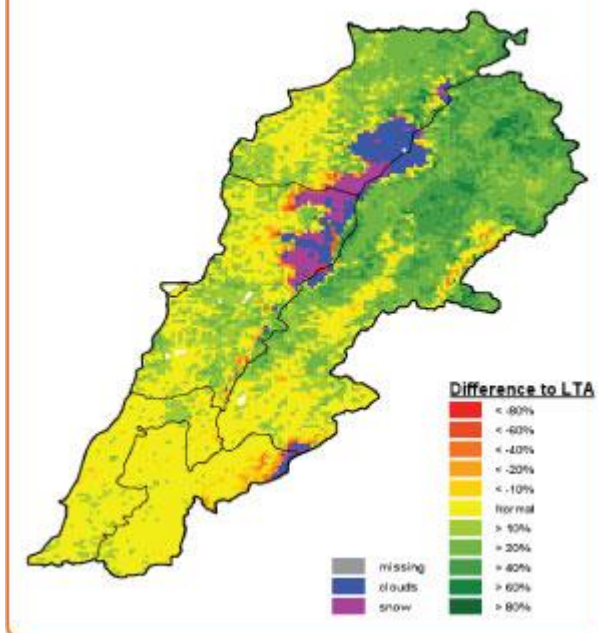
Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon - NDVI anomaly

Relative to Long Term Average - 2nd Dekad March 2015



Lebanon

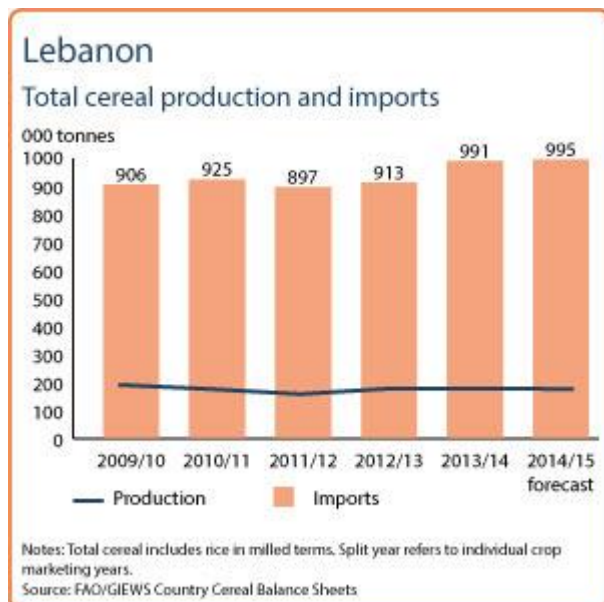
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 estimate	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	139	140	140	0
Barley	34	35	33	-6
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	179	177	-1

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

registered in the country.

The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The operation in Lebanon should reach about 970 000 beneficiaries (including Lebanese returnees) with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2015.



Reference Date: 11-November-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output in 2014 put at average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2014/15 set to increase
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Planting of the 2014/15 winter season cereals, for harvest from June, is ongoing. Normally, the wheat harvest is concluded in August, while that of sorghum in October. Weather conditions in the region have so far been generally favourable.

Concerns about sustainability and efficiency of water use in agriculture are prevalent and arise regularly.

Average cereal crop harvested in 2014

Total cereal production in 2014 is tentatively put at about 177 000 tonnes, similar to last year and the five-year average.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with occasional closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2014/15

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In the 2014/15 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 995 000 tonnes, slightly above last year.

In September 2014, general inflation was about negative 0.2 percent month-on-month (in January 2014, the base year for CPI was changed to December 2013). Food inflation in the same period reached 0.8 percent. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc) are not subsidized.

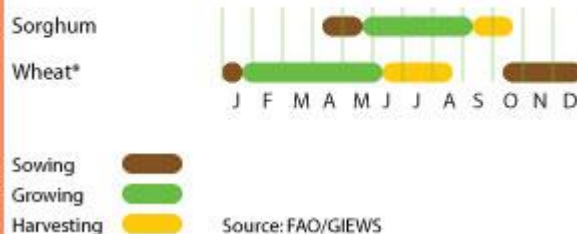
Humanitarian needs increase with the growing number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, as of early November 2014, over 1.12 million Syrian refugees are registered in the country, with additional 8 000 awaiting registration.

The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey. The operation in Lebanon should reach about 1.2 million beneficiaries (including Lebanese returnees) with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2014.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

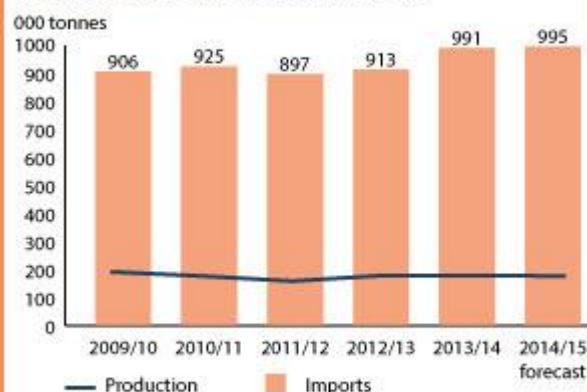
Cereal production

	2009-2013 average	2013	2014 forecast	change 2014/2013
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	139	140	140	0
Barley	34	35	33	-6
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	179	177	-1

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

Lebanon

Total cereal production and imports



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

Reference Date: 28-January-2014

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output in 2013 at average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 set at a high level
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Planting of the 2014 winter cereals is almost concluded. Weather conditions in the region have been generally favourable, although some persisting dryness in parts raised concern about moisture conditions.

Average cereal crop harvested in 2013

Total cereal production in 2013 is tentatively put at about 179 000 tonnes, similar to last year.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with occasional closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2013/14

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 896 000 tonnes, the same as last year.

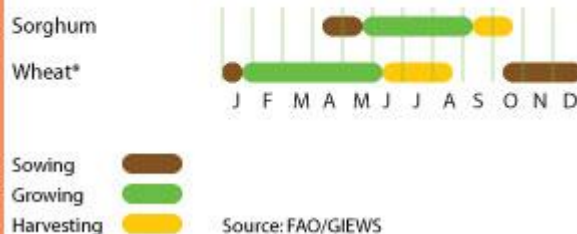
In December 2013, general inflation reached about 1 percent year-on-year. Food inflation in the same period reached 3 percent. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc) are not subsidized.

Humanitarian needs increase with the growing number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, as of early January 2014, over 830 000 Syrian refugees are registered in the country, with additional 190 000 awaiting registration. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. The operation in Lebanon should reach about 1.2 million beneficiaries (including Lebanese returnees) with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2014.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

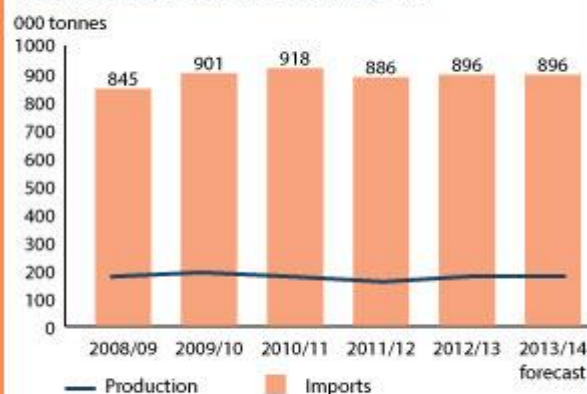
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	140	140	140	0
Barley	33	35	35	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	179	179	0

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

Lebanon

Total cereal production and imports



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

Reference Date: 07-August-2013

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output in 2013 forecast at average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2013/14 set at a high level
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Average cereal harvest forecast in 2013

Harvesting of the 2013 winter cereals (mainly wheat) is almost concluded. Weather conditions in the region have been generally favourable, although harsh winter storms and consequent floods in January 2013 destroyed some crops and fruit trees. Total cereal production in 2013 is forecast at about 179 000 tonnes, the same as last year.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties due to the continuing conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic that disrupted land routes with occasional closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2013/14

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In 2013/14 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 896 000 tonnes, the same as last year.

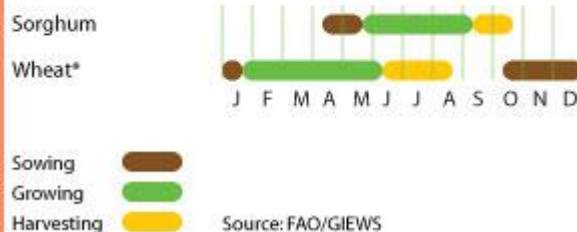
The CPI data for Lebanon were not published between January 2013 and May 2013. In June 2013, general inflation reached almost 9 percent year-on-year (compared to 2 percent in June 2012). Food inflation, in the meantime, eased from 5.7 percent in June 2012 to 3 percent in June 2013. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc) are not subsidized.

Humanitarian needs increase with the growing number of Syrian refugees

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, as of early August 2013, over 560 000 Syrian refugees are registered in the country, with additional 100 000 awaiting registration. The Lebanese government estimates that around 1 million Syrians are in the country. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. The operation in Lebanon should reach about 420 000 beneficiaries (including Lebanese returnees) with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2013.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

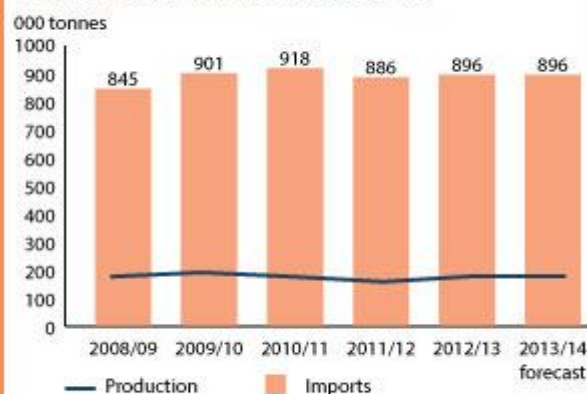
Cereal production

	2008-2012 average	2012	2013 forecast	change 2013/2012
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	140	140	140	0
Barley	33	35	35	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	177	179	179	0

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

Lebanon

Total cereal production and imports



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

Reference Date: 24-October-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output in 2012 forecast at an above average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2012/13 set at a high level
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Planting of the 2013 winter cereals (mainly wheat) is about to start under generally normal weather conditions. In September 2012 new agricultural funding program was approved by the government, announcing sugar beet subsidies in Bekaa Valley, in order to divert farmers from producing illegal crops, as well as fodder subsidies for dairy farmers. An Agricultural Disaster Fund is also being developed.

Above average 2012 cereal production

Generally favourable weather conditions, with above average rains between January and March 2012 in main crop producing areas of the central Bekaa Valley and North Lebanon, contributed to an above average harvest. Total cereal production in 2012 is forecast at about 190 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the previous year that was affected by dry weather conditions.

Lebanese exporters of horticultural products, fruits in particular, are experiencing difficulties as continuing conflict in Syria disrupted land routes resulting in occasional closings. An alternative marine transportation is costlier but also unsuitable for a variety of highly perishable products.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2012/13

Domestic cereal production covers on average about 17 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In 2012/13 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 896 000 tonnes, roughly the same as last year.

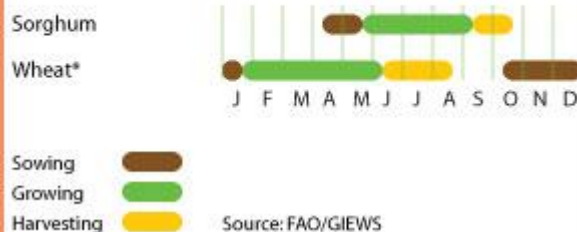
Like many countries in the region, during the 2011/12 fiscal year, Lebanon's purchases were dominated by Black Sea origin wheat. However, the position of the exportable surplus in the region may alter geographic composition of suppliers.

Although, in the past, food inflation was consistently higher than general inflation, the pattern reversed in July 2012. General inflation increased from 2 percent in June 2012 (year-on-year) to over 10 percent in September. Food inflation, in the meantime, stabilised at around 6 percent. The Consumer Protection Department at the Ministry of Economy and Trade sets the price of local Lebanese flat bread. Other bakery products (baguettes, sandwich bread, etc) are not subsidised. In April 2012, bakers demanded compensation from the Government for the increased cost of raw materials used in bread production. Consequently, the Government decreased the weight of subsidised bread from 1 000 to 900 grams, keeping the price per package constant.

Growing population of Syrian refugees in need of

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

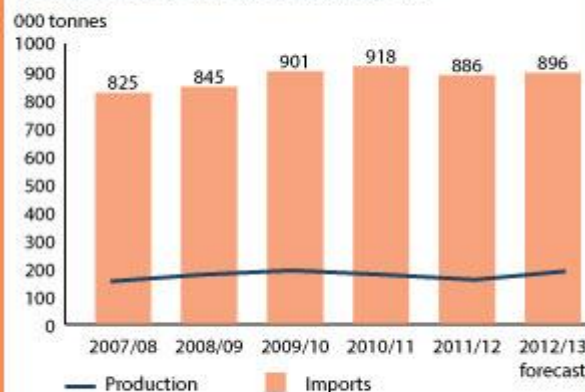
Cereal production

	2007-2011 average	2011	2012 forecast	change 2012/2011
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	135	125	150	20
Barley	32	30	35	17
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	172	159	189	19

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

Lebanon

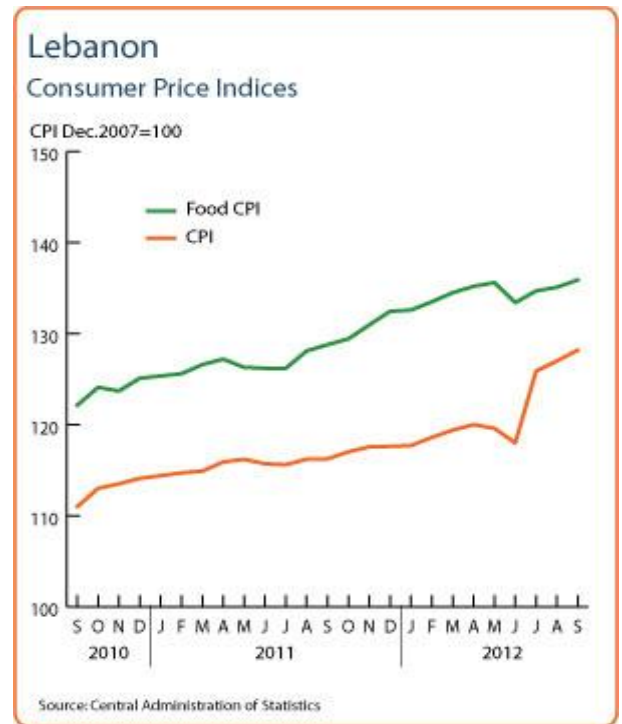
Total cereal production and imports



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

humanitarian assistance

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, currently, an estimated 100 000 Syrian refugees are found in the country. The WFP continues providing food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Turkey. The operation in Lebanon should reach about 40 000 beneficiaries with in-kind food distributions and voucher assistance by December 2012.



Reference Date: 18-April-2012

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output in 2012 forecast at an above average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 set at a high level
- Estimated number of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance continues to increase

Good outlook for 2012 cereal production

Harvesting of the 2012 winter wheat and barley crops is expected to start from June. Weather conditions have been generally favourable, with above average rains between January and March in main crop producing areas of the central Bekaa Valley and North Lebanon. Total cereal production in 2012 is forecast at an above average level of about 190 000 tonnes, about 20 percent above the previous year that was affected by dry weather conditions.

Cereal import requirement remains high in 2011/12

Domestic cereal production covers only an average of about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. In 2011/12 marketing year (July/June), the cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption and maize for livestock and poultry, is forecast at 886 000 tonnes, about 6 percent above the average of the last five years.

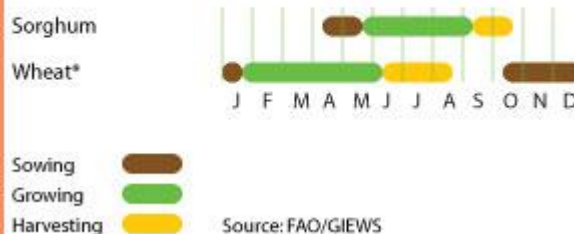
Food inflation, which increased in the second semester of 2011, stabilised in early 2012. In 2011, the average food inflation rate was 5.7 percent, slightly lower than in 2010 when it was estimated at 7.0 percent. In 2011, inflation in the food sector was consistently higher than general inflation by an average of 3 percent.

Growing population of Syrian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance

Since the beginning of the civil unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic in March 2011, the influx of refugees into Lebanon has steadily increased and, currently, an estimated 20 000 Syrian refugees are found in the country. Most of the refugees are in north Lebanon, with over 9 000 people in the Akkar region and in the border area of Wadi Khaled, plus about 3 000 people in Tripoli and 7 500 people in the Bekaa Valley. Two-thirds of the registered Syrians are women and children, with just over 50 percent under the age of 18, the refugees largely rely on the hospitality of economically distressed local communities and the humanitarian assistance (including food, shelter, health and education) provided by international organizations, NGOs and local municipalities.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

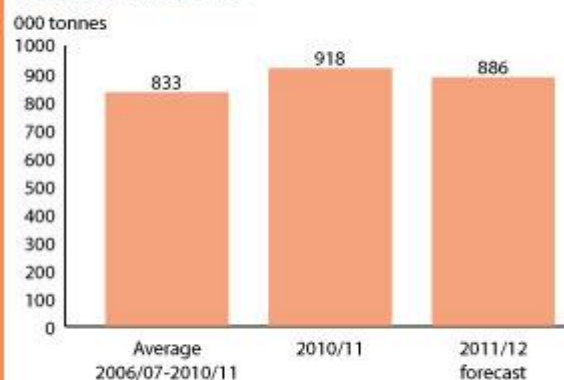
Cereal production

	2007-2011	2011	2012	change
	average		forecast	2012/2011
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	135	125	150	20
Barley	32	30	35	17
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	172	159	189	19

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports

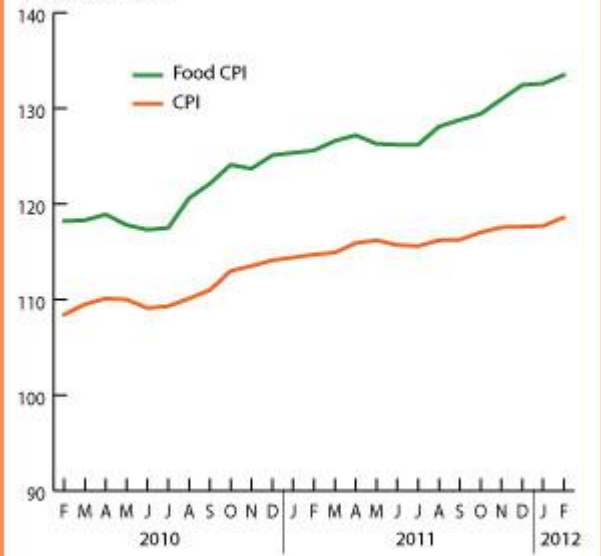


Notes: Total cereal includes rice in milled terms. Split year refers to individual crop marketing years.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Lebanon

Consumer Price Indices

CPI Dec.2007=100



Source: Central Administration of Statistics

Reference Date: 14-September-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Wheat output estimated at below average level
- Cereal import requirements in 2011/12 set at high level

Below average 2011 wheat crop expected

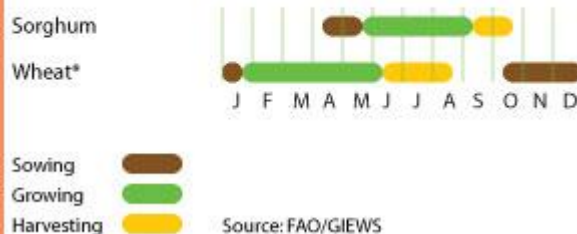
Harvesting of the 2011 winter crops is almost completed and the early estimates of production indicate a below average crop, mainly due to reduced yields following an outbreak of yellow rust affecting wheat crops.

Cereal import requirement is forecast to increase in 2011/12

Domestic cereal production covers only an average of about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirement, mainly wheat for human consumption, in 2011/12 (July/June) is forecast at 866 000 tonnes, about 6 percent above last five years average, following the reduction in domestic production.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

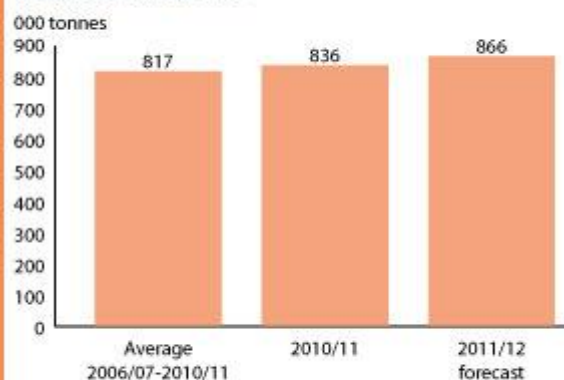
Cereal production

	2006-2010 average	2010	2011 forecast	change 2011/2010
	000 tonnes		percent	
Wheat	143	150	125	-17
Barley	32	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	179	184	159	-14

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 17-May-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains improve prospects for 2011 crops
- Winter wheat production in 2010 affected by yellow rust.
- Cereal import requirements in 2010/11 set at high level.

Prospects for the 2011 winter crops improved following beneficial rainfall in March and April that boosted soil moisture for the wheat and barley crops to be harvested from June 2011.

Reduced 2010 wheat production due to rust attack

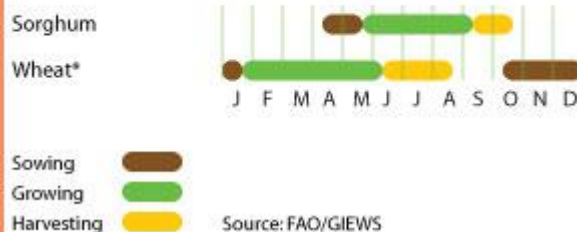
Aggregate production of the 2010 cereal crops is estimated at 134 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the last five years average. The poor performance was mainly due to reduced yields following the outbreak of a new and virulent strain of yellow rust.

Cereal import requirements expected to reach record high levels in 2010/11

Domestic production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirement, mainly wheat, in 2010/11 (July/June) is forecast at high level of 846 000 tonnes, about 5 percent above last five years average, following the reduction in domestic production.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

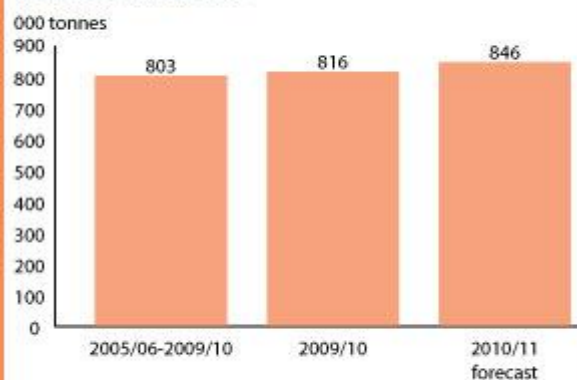
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	132	130	100	-23
Barley	28	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	164	164	134	-18

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 18-April-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Good rains improve prospects for 2011 crops
- Winter wheat production in 2010 affected by yellow rust.
- Cereal import requirements in 2010/11 set at high level.

Prospects for the 2011 winter crops improved following beneficial rainfall in March and April that boosted soil moisture for the wheat and barley crops to be harvested from June 2011.

Reduced 2010 wheat production due to rust attack

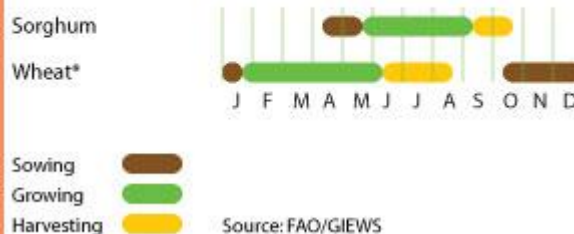
Aggregate production of the 2010 cereal crops is estimated at 134 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the last five years average. The poor performance was mainly due to reduced yields following the outbreak of a new and virulent strain of yellow rust.

Cereal import requirements expected to reach record high levels in 2010/11

Domestic production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirement, mainly wheat, in 2010/11 (July/June) is forecast at high level of 846 000 tonnes, about 5 percent above last five years average, following the reduction in domestic production.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

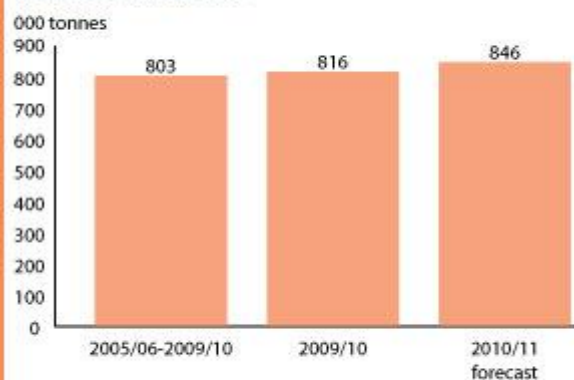
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 estimate	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	132	130	100	-23
Barley	28	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	164	164	134	-18

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 2-February-2011

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Winter wheat production in 2010 affected by yellow rust.
- Cereal import requirements in 2010/11 set at record high level.

Reduced 2010 wheat production due to rust attack

Planting of 2011 winter wheat and barley crops has just been completed and their harvest is expected to start from June.

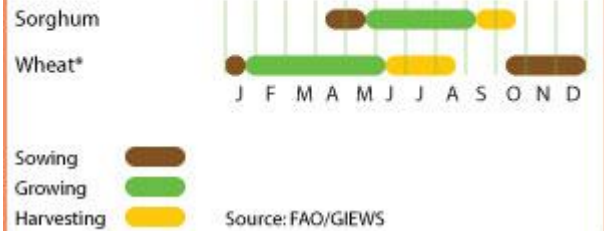
Aggregate production of the 2010 cereal crops is estimated at 134 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the last five years average. The poor performance was due to reduced yields following the outbreak of a new and virulent strain of yellow rust.

Cereal import requirements expected to reach record high levels in 2010/11

National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirement, mainly wheat, in 2010/11 (July/June) is forecast at a record high level of 850 000 tonnes, following the reduction in domestic production. The recent political unease in Lebanon is a cause for concern and requires close monitoring of the food situation.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

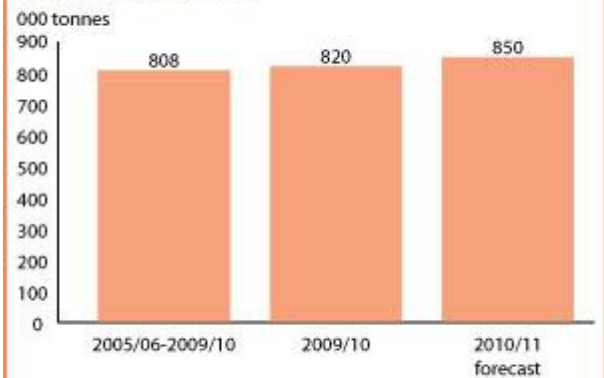
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	132	130	100	-23
Barley	28	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	164	164	134	-18

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 13-October-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Winter wheat production in 2010 affected by yellow rust.
- Cereal import requirements in 2010/11 set at record high level.

Downward revision of the 2010 wheat production forecast due to rust attack

Planting of 2011 winter cereal crops is about to start with the arrival of first seasonal rains.

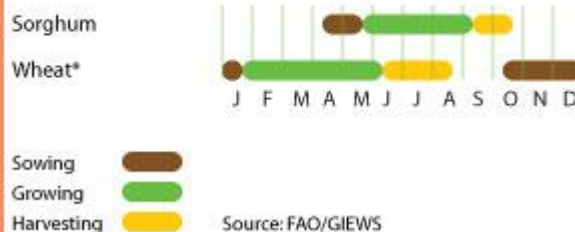
Aggregate production of the 2010 winter wheat and barley crops, harvested from last June, is estimated at 134 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the last five years average. The poor performance was due to reduced yields following the outbreak of a new and virulent strain of yellow rust.

Cereal import requirements expected to reach record high levels in 2010/11

National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirements, mainly wheat, in 2010/11 (July/June) are forecast at a record high level of 850 000 tonnes, following the reduction in domestic production.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

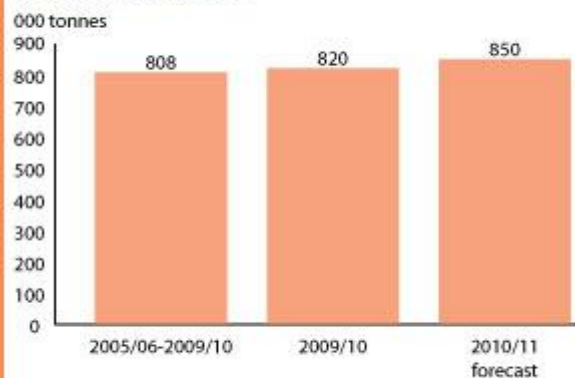
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	132	130	100	-23
Barley	28	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	164	164	134	-18

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 06-September-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- 2010 winter wheat production affected by yellow rust.
- Cereal import requirements in 2010/11 set at record level.

Downward revision of 2010 wheat production forecast due to rust attack

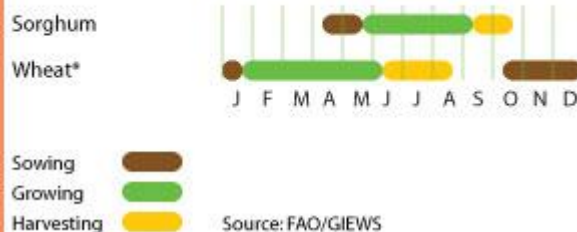
Harvesting of the 2010 winter wheat and barley crops has just been completed. Early good forecast of wheat production has been revised down by about 30 percent, due to reduced yields following an infestation of yellow rust. In fact, although weather conditions were very favourable, with above normal rainfall and temperatures, they also provided an excellent environment for the outbreak of a new and virulent strain of yellow rust. Aggregate cereal production in 2010 is therefore put at 134 000 tonnes, about 18 percent below the last five years' average.

Cereal import requirements expected at record levels in 2010/11

National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal import requirements, mainly wheat, in 2010/11 (July/June) are early forecast at a high of 850 000 tonnes, following the reduction in local production.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



Lebanon

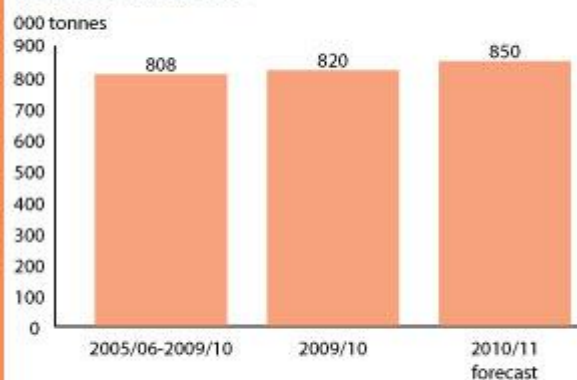
Cereal production

	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	132	130	100	-23
Barley	28	30	30	0
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	164	164	134	-18

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

Lebanon

Total cereal imports



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

Reference Date: 02-June-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather conditions favour 2010 winter cereal production.
- A steady cereal import position is forecast for 2009/10.

Good prospects for 2010 cereal production

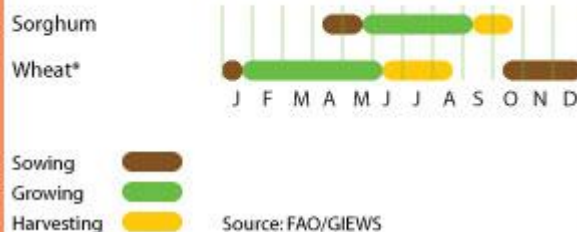
Harvesting of the 2010 winter wheat and barley crops has just started and production is expected to be average. Weather conditions have been generally favourable, with beneficial rains between January and the beginning of March. Precipitations ended in April, about four weeks earlier than usual, increasing irrigation requirements for late-filling grain crops and accelerating crop maturation and dry down. Early estimate of total cereal production in 2010 is put at an average level of 163 000 tonnes.

Cereal imports in 2009/10 forecast at same levels as the previous year.

National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal imports (mainly wheat) for 2009/10 (July/June) are estimated at some 820 000 tonnes, similar to last year but slightly higher than the previous five years average.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



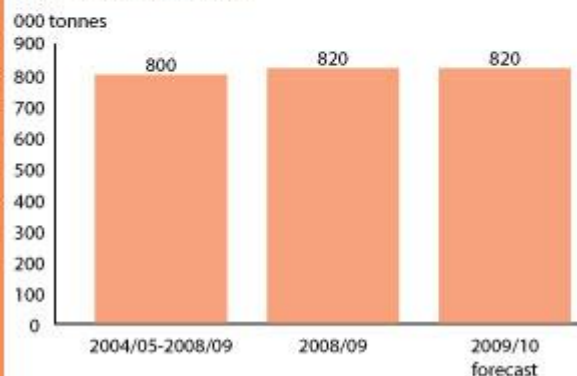
Lebanon

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	135	120	134	12
Barley	27	25	27	8
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	167	149	165	11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 31-March-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Weather conditions favour 2010 cereal production.
- A steady cereal import position is forecast for 2009/10.

Good outlook of 2010 cereal production

Harvesting of the 2010 winter wheat and barley crops is expected to start from June. Weather conditions have been generally favourable, with above average temperatures and beneficial rains between January and the beginning of March.

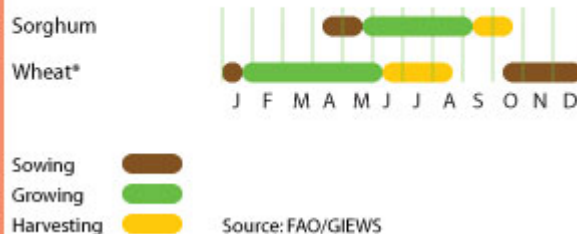
Total cereal production in 2009 is estimated at average level of 165 000 tonnes.

Cereal imports in 2009/10 forecast at same levels as the previous year.

National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal imports (mainly wheat) for 2009/10 (July/June) are estimated at some 820 000 tonnes, similar to last year but slightly higher than the previous five years average.

Lebanon

Crop calendar (*major foodcrop)



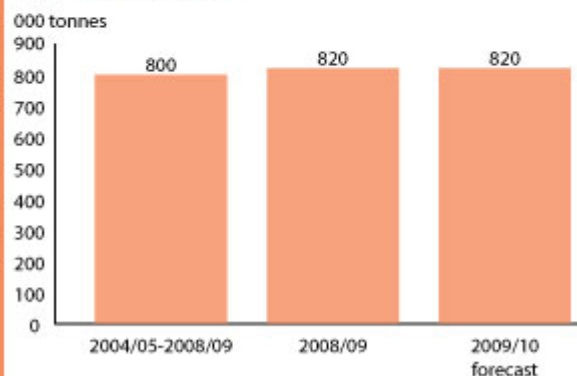
Lebanon

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 estimate	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	135	120	134	12
Barley	27	25	27	8
Maize	3	3	3	0
Others	1	1	1	0
Total	167	149	165	11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Reference Date: 01-February-2010

FOOD SECURITY SNAPSHOT

- Cereal production and imports remain at average levels

Average cereal production in 2009

Total cereal production in 2009 is estimated at an average level of 165 000 tonnes. National cereal production covers only about 20 percent of consumption needs and the country depends heavily on imports. The cereal imports (mainly wheat) for 2009/10 (July/June) are estimated at some 820 000 tonnes.

Crop calendar Lebanon



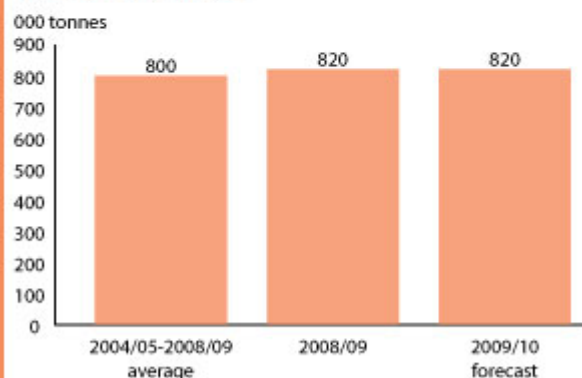
Lebanon

Cereal production

	2004-2008 average	2008	2009 forecast	change 2009/2008
	000 tonnes			percent
Wheat	135	120	134	12
Barley	27	25	27	8
Maize	3	3	3	0
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Total	167	149	165	11

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.

Total cereal imports



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

Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets