

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Required Report - public distribution

Date: 6/21/2017

GAIN Report Number: KZ-05

Kazakhstan - Republic of

Grain and Feed Update

Kazakhstan Grain and Feed July Report

Approved By:

Robin Gray **Prepared By:**

Staff

Report Highlights:

FAS/Astana forecasts Kazakhstani wheat production in MY 2017/2018 at 13.0 Million Metric Tons (MMT), 2 MMT less than in MY 2016/2017, as wheat sown area is expected to fall, reducing harvested area. Kazakhstani wheat exports are forecast to remain flat in MY 2017/2018 at 7.0 MMT. FAS/Astana forecasts Kazakhstani barley production in MY 2017/2018 at 2.6 MMT, significantly less from the barley production estimate for MY 2016/2017 (3.2 MMT) on the background of active Government support of the oilseeds crops production this year.

Post:

Astana

Author Defined:

PRODUCTION

FAS/Astana forecasts Kazakhstani wheat production in MY 2017/2018 at 13.0 Million Metric Tons (MMT), about two MMT less than in MY 2016/2017, as wheat sown area is expected to fall, reducing harvested area. FAS/Astana forecasts Kazakhstani barley production in MY 2017/2018 at 2.6 MMT, significantly less than the barley production estimate for MY 2016/2017 (3.2 MMT) due to active government support of oilseeds crops production this year.

Weather conditions during planting season were most favorable for the northern regions of Kazakhstan. There were a few, short rain showers, which had little impact on the planting works.

The Kazakhstani Weather Service noted that water deposits at the depth of one meter are expected to reach optimal levels. In the northern areas of Kazakhstan, soil was freezing from 52 to 150 centimeters deep, in the Aktobe region – 33-135 cm, in East Kazakhstan – 20-79 cm, in Akmola and Karaganda regions – 89-1278 cm. According to the Weather Service, the soil defrosted during the second half of April, which is 6-8 days later than last year. The optimal planting period for the planting of spring wheat crops in the West-Kazakhstan and the Aktobe regions is expected to be the third week of April through the first week of May. However, this year in some parts of the Aktobe region, planting was recommended only during the second week of May because of the late defrosting of the soil. In northern regions, such as Kostanay, North-Kazakhstan, Akmola and Pavlodar, farmers were encouraged to complete planting by the end of May, the same as in the Karaganda region. In the East-Kazakhstan region, the Weather Service recommended that farmers finish grain planting no later than the second week of May.

During May, the average monthly air temperature was considered normal in the Atyrau, Mangistau, West-Kazakhstan, Aktobe and East-Kazakhstan regions. Temperatures in the rest of the country temperature were higher than normal.

Precipitation in May was higher than normal in the North-Kazakhstan, Kostanay, Akmola, Aktobe, Karaganda and Kyzylorda regions, as well as in the mountain areas of Eastern Kazakhstan. May precipitation levels in the South-Kazakhstan, Zhambyl and Almaty regions were lower than normal.

North Kazakhstan regional authorities announced that total planning area in 2017 will reach 4.4 million hectares. Grain and pulses crops will be planted on 3.1 million hectares, including wheat on 2.4 million hectares. Oilseeds crops will be planted on 712,200 hectares, which is 200,100 hectares more than last year; feeding crops will be at 513,700 hectares.

The Ministry of Agriculture reported on May 31, 2017 spring sowing works totaled 12.5 million hectares for spring grain crops and 2 million hectares for oilseeds crops. Please, see Table 1 and 2 below.

Table 1: Kazakhstan Sowing Area for Spring Grain Crops, 2017, Thousand Hectares

Region	Pla	n	Actu	ıal	% to plan	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
AKMOLA	4328.7	4338.3	4038.8	3960.1	93.3	91.3
AKTOBE	336.2	335.6	238.2	272.9	70.9	81.3
ALMATY	247.5	242.5	247.0	239.4	99.8	98.7
EAST KAZ	560.3	566.7	496.7	528.2	88.6	93.2
ZHAMBYL	141.4	139.1	147.4	141.8	104.2	101.9
WEST KAZ	210.0	180.8	125.3	159.4	59.7	88.2
KARAGANDA	700.2	748.2	689.8	655.2	98.5	87.6
KOSTANAY	4215.0	4070.0	3727.2	3450.3	88.4	84.8
KYZYLORDA	3.6	2.6	3.2	2.5	88.9	96.2
PAVLODAR	665.3	704.0	534.1	552.3	80.3	78.5
NORTH KAZ	3210.0	2963.1	2835.0	2526.6	88.3	85.3
SOUTH KAZ	41.5	36.7	49.0	41.4	118.1	112.8
TOTAL	14659.7	14327.6	13131.7	12530.1	89.6	87.5

Source: Kazakhstani Ministry of Agriculture sowing report as of May 31,2017

Table 2: Kazakhstan Sowing Area for Oilseeds, 2017, Thousand Hectares

Region		Plan Actual			% to]	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
AKMOLA	219.8	241.5	190.8	246.1	86.8	101.9
AKTOBE	38.6	41.0	14.2	18.7	36.8	45.6
ALMATY	156.8	164.6	151.7	156.8	96.7	95.3
EAST KAZ	353.9	382.7	343.5	382.9	97.1	100.1
ZHAMBYL	91.8	84.4	76.5	89.4	83.3	105.9
WEST KAZ	50.0	52.0	32.9	61.1	65.8	117.5
KARAGANDA	11.9	14.3	12.7	7.2	106.7	50.3
KOSTANAY	273.3	323.7	228.1	246.5	83.5	76.2
KYZYLORDA	5.4	7.4	5.7	6.7	105.6	90.5
PAVLODAR	152.6	204.7	156.4	206.4	102.5	100.8
NORTH KAZ	469.7	712.2	421.4	545.5	89.7	76.6
SOUTH KAZ	78.0	82.1	80.5	82.1	103.2	100.0
TOTAL	1901.8	2310.6	1714.4	2049.4	90.1	88.7

Source: Kazakhstani Ministry of Agriculture sowing report as of May 31,2017

CONSUMPTION

Wheat:

Food, seed, and industrial (FSI) consumption for wheat is expected to remain unchanged in marketing year (MY) 2017/2018 at 4.8 MMT. Although flour consumption is expected to grow along with population growth, seed use is forecast to continue to fall as planted area shifts away from wheat.

Feed use of wheat in MY 2017/2018, is forecast flat. Wheat remains the most fed grain in Kazakhstan for livestock. However, most of the increase in feeding in future years is expected to be in barley and other feed grains and grasses because of the government's strategy to increase area to these crops.

As of June 1, 2017, nearly 84 percent of wheat is used for food consumption, 11 percent for seeds and 5 percent for feed. Please, see Chart 1 below. A year ago wheat consumption was nearly identical to the 2016 data, showing 80 percent for food, 15 percent for seeds and 5 percent for feed.

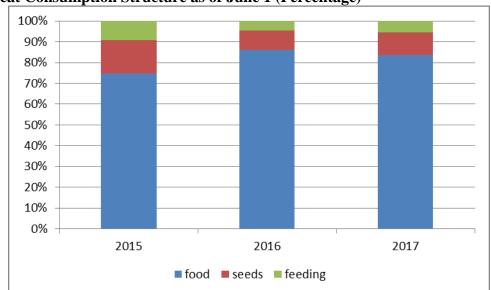


Chart 1: Wheat Consumption Structure as of June 1 (Percentage)

Source: Kazakhstan Statistical Service

Barley:

In MY 2017/2018, feed use of barley is forecast at 1.7 MMT, based on the stable demand from the domestic livestock industry in Kazakhstan.

The structure of Kazakhstani barley consumption remains largely unchanged at 33 percent for food, 19 percent for seed and 47 percent for feed. However, in 2017 stocks are up 139,000 tons, or 36 percent, compared to 2016 stocks. Please, see Chart 2 below.

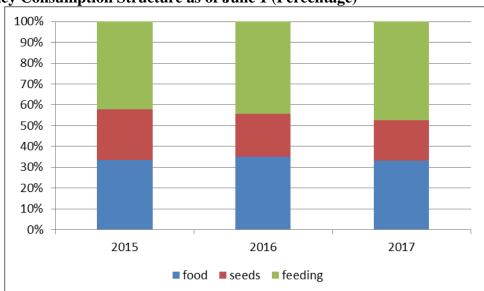


Chart 2: Barley Consumption Structure as of June 1 (Percentage)

Source: Kazakhstan Statistical Service

Flour Mill Industry Update

Flour millers of the Kostanay region are concerned, that the Kostanay region has excessive, unused milling capacity. According to industry contacts, all Kazakhstani demand for flour could easily be met by one mill in the Kostanay region. In 2011, three out of every four wagons of wheat flour were exported to Uzbekistan - the largest consumer of Kazakhstani wheat flour. However, Uzbekistan is actively developing its milling capacity and has significantly decreased purchases of Kazakhstani wheat flour. At the same time, Uzbekistan established an excise tax on wheat flour imports. Similarly, Tajikistan has gradually decreased imports of flour and increased imports of wheat. And, Tajikistan set an 18 percent VAT rate for flour imports and 10 percent for wheat imports. Kyrgyzstan cancelled its VAT on imported wheat.

When the Russian Ruble to Kazakhstani Tenge exchange rate is 5.5, Russian millers actively purchase forage wheat, barley, oats and even wheat flour from the Kostanay region.

Millers are optimistically that opportunities in the Chinese market will continue to grow.

STOCKS

Wheat:

The Kazakhstan Statistical Agency reported on June 1, 2017 that Kazakhstani grain stocks reached 6.5 MMT, 30 percent more than in 2016. The increase was mostly attributable to higher wheat stocks, which are 5.6 MMT (or 30 percent) higher than wheat stocks on June 1, 2016 (4.3 MMT).

Barley:

Barley stocks have remained nearly flat during the last three years. Please, see Chart 3 below.

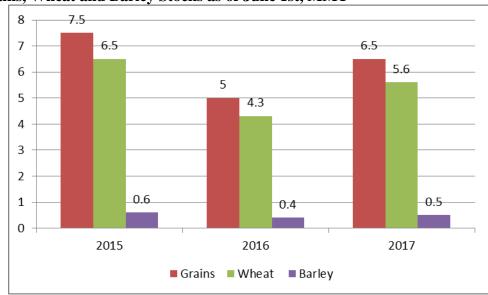


Chart 3: Grains, Wheat and Barley Stocks as of June 1st, MMT

Source: Kazakhstan Statistics Service

TRADE

Kazakhstani wheat exports are forecast to remain flat in MY 2017/2018 at 7.0 MMT. Kazakhstani grain exports analysis show a number of regional market developments (covered in the previous <u>Annual Kazakhstan Grain and Feed report</u>) that have affected exports at the end of the previous marketing year and the current marketing year:

- <u>Iran continues its agricultural outsourcing strategy</u> with the target of 10,000 hectares of land in Kazakhstan.
- Stable exports to China during the last four months could be an indication of further development of the Chinese market.
- Wheat flour exports to Central Asian countries continue to grow, however import duties affect millers' margins.
- Kazakhstan's wheat exports to Afghanistan slightly decreased during January-April 2017, mainly because of Afghanistan's shift to wheat flour imports instead of wheat imports.
- During five months of 2017, the Akbiday Grain Terminal on the Caspian Sea has transshipped 143,600 tons of grain, continuing to transship relatively small amounts comparing to a pick season in December 2016.

From January to April 2017, Kazakhstan exported 1.1 million tons of wheat. These exports were mainly to Central Asian countries (76%) and China (12%). Please, see Table 4 below.

Table 4: Kazakhstan Wheat Exports, January-April 2017, MT

Kazakhstan Export Statistics Commodity: 1001, Wheat And Meslin

Year To Date: January - April								
Partner	Unit		Quantity	Quantity % Share				% Change
Country	Oilit	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016
World	Т	879,472	1,314,782	1,119,624	100.00	100.00	100.00	- 14.84
Uzbekistan	Т	310,334	480,591	479,696	35.29	36.55	42.84	- 0.19
Tajikistan	Т	233,315	292,563	276,689	26.53	22.25	24.71	- 5.43
China	Т	18,560	149,474	139,299	2.11	11.37	12.44	- 6.81
Afghanistan	Т	14,974	95,237	85,308	1.70	7.24	7.62	- 10.43
Italy	Т	38,147	40,506	73,072	4.34	3.08	6.53	80.40
Sweden	Т	5,500	7,996	17,900	0.63	0.61	1.60	123.88
Turkey	Т	12,076	18,010	16,113	1.37	1.37	1.44	- 10.53
Tunisia	Т	-	-	9,999	0.00	0.00	0.89	0.00
Azerbaijan	Т	18,864	17,402	8,476	2.14	1.32	0.76	- 51.29
Iran	Т	91,730	191,904	8,361	10.43	14.60	0.75	- 95.64
Finland	Т	1,270	-	3,185	0.14	0.00	0.28	0.00
Vietnam	Т	-	-	720	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00
Germany	Т	2,010	-	479	0.23	0.00	0.04	0.00
Netherlands	Т	-	9,999	306	0.00	0.76	0.03	- 96.94
Georgia	Т	-	-	22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Kyrgyzstan	Т	124,639	-	-	14.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
Latvia	Т	1,431	-	-	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norway	Т	-	2,800	-	0.00	0.21	0.00	- 100.00
Poland	Т	6,622	7,301	-	0.75	0.56	0.00	- 100.00
United Arab Emirates	Т	-	1,000	-	0.00	0.08	0.00	- 100.00

From January to May 2016, Kazakhstan exported 248,531 tons of barley with 88 percent of Kazakhstan's exports destined for Iran. Please, see Table 5 below.

Table 5: Kazakhstan Barley Exports, January-April 2017, MT

14510 01 134241	Kazakhstan Bariey Exports, January-April 2017, W11 Kazakhstan Export Statistics									
	Commodity: 1003, Barley									
			Year To Da	ate: January -	April					
Partner	Unit		Quantity			% Share		% Change		
Country	Oiiit	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016		
World	Т	127,838	317,942	248,531	100.00	100.00	100.00	- 21.83		
Iran	Т	104,366	295,695	219,431	81.64	93.00	88.29	- 25.79		
Uzbekistan	Т	15,306	8,437	14,845	11.97	2.65	5.97	75.96		
United States	Т	-	9,500	9,300	0.00	2.99	3.74	- 2.11		
Afghanistan	Т	952	1,379	4,291	0.74	0.43	1.73	211.16		
Tajikistan	Т	2,086	-	664	1.63	0.00	0.27	0.00		
Turkey	Т	2,001	2,802	-	1.57	0.88	0.00	- 100.00		
Turkmenistan	Т	-	130	-	0.00	0.04	0.00	- 100.00		
Kyrgyzstan	Т	3,127	-	-	2.45	0.00	0.00	0.00		

Source of Data: Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance

From January to April 2017, Kazakhstan exported 655,871 tons of wheat flour. Sixty-six percent of Kazakhstan's exports were destined for Afghanistan and 30 percent to Uzbekistan. Please, see Table 6 below.

Table 6: Kazakhstan Wheat Flour Exports, January-April 2017, MT

	Kazakhstan Export Statistics Commodity: 1101, Wheat Or Meslin Flour								
			Year To Da	ite: January - A	April				
Partner	Unit		Quantity			% Share		% Change	
Country	Onit	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2017/2016	
World	Т	491,204	751,198	655,871	100.00	100.00	100.00	- 12.69	
Afghanistan	Т	208,638	440,202	433,444	42.47	58.60	66.09	- 1.54	
Uzbekistan	Т	219,218	256,644	190,507	44.63	34.16	29.05	- 25.77	

Tajikistan	Т	45,503	34,409	18,249	9.26	4.58	2.78	- 46.96
Turkmenistan	Т	8,166	12,554	10,077	1.66	1.67	1.54	- 19.73
China	Т	114	2,402	3,010	0.02	0.32	0.46	25.30
Moldova	Т	340	524	584	0.07	0.07	0.09	11.45
Mongolia	Т	394	3,868	-	0.08	0.51	0.00	- 100.00
Azerbaijan	Т	68	-	-	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Georgia	Т	41	204	-	0.01	0.03	0.00	- 100.00
Iran	Т	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 100.00
Iraq	Ţ	-	256	-	0.00	0.03	0.00	- 100.00
Kyrgyzstan	Т	8,724	-	-	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00
United Arab Emirates	Т	_	136	-	0.00	0.02	0.00	- 100.00

Source of Data: Customs Control Committee of the Ministry of Finance

Eurasian Economic Union Trade:

From January to March 2017, Kazakhstan exported 105,546 tons of wheat, 7,559 tons of barley and 15,767 tons of wheat flour within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) countries, showing growth between 25 to 540 percent. Please see Table 7 below.

Table 7: Kazakhstani Exports within the EAEU, MT

	Jan-Mar 2017	% to Jan-Mar 2016
Wheat	105,546	460
KYRGYS	64,832	99
TAN		
RUSSIA	40,714	25
Barley	7,559	-
KYRGYS	-	-
TAN		
RUSSIA	7,559	-
Wheat flour	15,767	95
ARMENIA	-	-
KYRGYS	9,834	63
TAN		

	RUSSIA	5,934	540
--	--------	-------	-----

Source: EAEU statistics

At the same time, Kazakhstan imported 893 tons of wheat, 232 tons of barley and 304 tons of wheat flour. This is nearly five times the import rate during the same period last year. Please see table 7A below.

Table 7A: Kazakhstani Imports within the EAEU, MT

	Jan-Mar 2017	% to Jan-Mar 2016
Wheat	893	460
BELAR	10	-
US		
RUSSI	883	460
A		
Barley	232	420
RUSSI	232	420
A		
Wheat flour	304	587
RUSSI	304	587
A		

Source: EAEU statistics

POLICY

Thanks to the New Agricultural Development Program, the Kazakhstani Government revised the subsidy support programs for fertilizers, seed and agricultural machinery. The final interest rate for sowing works dropped to six percent, compared to nine percent last year. Moreover, the GOK significantly decreased the paperwork requirements for loan applications. The new subsidy mechanism for fertilizer has a total budget of \$41 million and will allow farmers to choose better quality fertilizers regardless of the country of origin. Last year, 85 fertilizer brand names were used while this year the number of brands reached 156. The Ministry of Agriculture recently reported that mineral fertilizer applications this year are expected to reach 150 percent more than last year, reaching 407,000 tons. However, this still represents only 14 percent of the country's demand for mineral fertilizers.

In 2017, subsidized support for the use of original and elite crop seeds was renewed. In order to improve wheat quality, the Kazakhstani Government increased the subsidy volume three fold, allocating \$24 million to the program. It has been projected that this will increase the use of quality seeds 150 percent over last year.

The Kazakhstani Ministry of Agriculture, at their traditional planting briefing stated that chemical treatment on dangerous pests and quarantine objects were done on 1.8 million hectares area.

NOTE: The National Bank of Kazakhstan exchange rate as of June 21, 2017: U.S. Dollar/321.72 Tenge.

PSD

Wheat	2015/2016 2016/2017			2017/2	2017/2018		
Market Begin Year	Sep 20	15	Sep 20	Sep 2016		Sep 2017	
Kazakhstan	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Harvested	11571	11571	12373	12437	11500	11500	
Beginning Stocks	3245	3245	2559	2559	3934	3934	
Production	13748	13748	14985	14985	13000	13000	
MY Imports	66	66	90	90	50	60	
TY Imports	66	66	90	90	50	60	
TY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Supply	17059	17059	17634	17634	16984	16994	
MY Exports	7600	7600	6800	6800	7000	7000	
TY Exports	7600	7600	6800	6800	7000	7000	
Feed and Residual	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	2100	
FSI Consumption	4800	4800	4800	4800	4800	4800	
Total Consumption	6900	6900	6900	6900	6900	6900	
Ending Stocks	2559	2559	3934	3934	3084	3094	
Total Distribution	17059	17059	17634	17634	16984	16994	
Yield	1.1881	1.1881	1.2111	1.2049	1.1304	1.1304	
(1000 HA),(1000 MT),	(MT/HA)	·					

_	 . ,	/ (/
_			
$\overline{}$			

Barley	2015/20)16	2016/20	017	2017/20	18	
Market Begin Year	Jul 201	5	Jul 201	Jul 2016		Jul 2017	
Kazakhstan	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	
Area Harvested	2038	2038	1893	1894	1800	1800	
Beginning Stocks	238	238	109	109	150	160	
Production	2675	2675	3231	3241	2500	2600	
MY Imports	0	0	10	10	10	10	
TY Imports	0	0	10	10	10	10	
TY Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Supply	2913	2913	3350	3360	2660	2770	
MY Exports	804	804	1000	1000	600	600	
TY Exports	776	776	1000	1000	600	600	
Feed and Residual	1700	1700	1900	1900	1700	1700	
FSI Consumption	300	300	300	300	300	300	
Total Consumption	2000	2000	2200	2200	2000	2000	
Ending Stocks	109	109	150	160	60	170	
Total Distribution	2913	2913	3350	3360	2660	2770	
Yield	1.3126	1.3126	1.7068	1.7112	1.3889	1.4444	
(1000 HA), (1000 MT),	(MT/HA)						