AMIS Market Monitor

No. **118** May 2024

Contents

Markets at a glance

▲ Easing
▬ Neutral
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	FROM PREVIOUS **FORECASTS**	FROM PREVIOUS **SEASON**
WHEAT	▬	▼
MAIZE	▼	▲
RICE	▲	▼
SOYBEANS	▲	▲

Harvesting of maize and soybeans in the southern hemisphere is progressing, but lack of rain earlier in the season and high temperatures have constrained yields. In the northern hemisphere, winter crops also suffered from insufficient precipitations, while spring sowing is ongoing. Globally, record-high temperatures since the latter half of 2023 reflect the influences of the strong 2023-2024 El Niño and climate change. Heat extremes will very likely continue during 2024, impacting crop development and possibly constraining the yield potential. With global temperatures at unseen levels, the impact of a potential return of La Niña on agricultural production is uncertain. La Niña events have historically led to slightly lower than average global yields for soybeans and slightly higher than average global yields for rice.

The **Market Monitor** is a product of the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). It covers international markets for wheat, maize, rice and soybeans, giving a synopsis of major market developments and the policy and other market drivers behind them. The analysis is a collective assessment of the market situation and outlook by the ten international organizations and entities that form the AMIS Secretariat.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations · IFAD Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty · IFPRI · IGC · OECD · UNCTAD · WORLD BANK GROUP · World Food Programme · WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION · GEOGLAM Global Agricultural Monitoring

Feature article

La Niña likely to return with high global temperatures

Current Situation/La Niña Forecast

After a record-setting year for global temperatures, we are approaching the end of a strong El Niño and are likely heading back into La Niña with continuing extremely high global temperatures. El Niño provided much-needed relief for some by improved precipitation after enduring three years of La Niña while it brought heartache to others, particularly in parts of northern South America, Central America, Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, and the northern Maritime Continent due to reduced precipitation.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains in the weakening El Niño phase. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Prediction Center (NOAA CPC) is forecasting a return to ENSO-neutral (neither El Niño nor La Niña) during the April-June period. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has already stated a return to ENSO-neutral conditions. However, NOAA has already issued a La Niña Watch. According to NOAA CPC forecasts, La Niña could develop as soon as June to August, with a 60 percent chance. After that, the chances of developing continue to rise with an 80 percent chance or greater beginning during the August to October period. While forecasts made during this time of the year tend to be less accurate than those later in the season, several signs suggest that La Niña is coming.

Precipitation Changes Coupled with High Temperatures

Should La Niña materialize, drier-than-average precipitation is likely in East Africa, Central and South Asia, southern South America, the southern United States, northern Mexico, and eastern East Asia. Conversely, parts of Southeast Asia, Australia, Southern Africa, Central America, and northern South America might experience above-average precipitation.

Extreme high temperatures will also likely be a factor, particularly for those regions at risk of experiencing drier-than-average conditions given heat extremes can worsen drought stress. Last year was the warmest on record since global records began due to the influences of the strong El Niño and climate change. While La Niña events typically bring cooler global temperatures, it is unlikely to significantly change in 2024. This year is already breaking records, with January, February, and March all becoming the warmest respective months on record. The outlook for the rest of the year looks much the same, with a very high chance that 2024 will rank in the top five of warmest years on record.

Potential Crop Impacts

La Niña events have historically led to slightly lower than average global-level yields for soybeans (up to 2 percent) and slightly higher than average global-level yields for rice (up to 2 percent), while not significantly impacting global-level yields of wheat or maize.

How the current potential La Niña event will impact agricultural production is uncertain as no two events are the same. With global temperatures at unseen levels, the negative effects could potentially be exasperated. However, based on historical La Niña events, some crops in some regions will likely experience yield impacts. For wheat, yields tend to be positively impacted in Argentina, southern Brazil, Morocco, Portugal, Australia, China, and India, while negatively impacted in parts of the United States, East Africa, and Central Asia. For maize, yields tend to be positively impacted in parts of Southeastern Africa, China, India, and Thailand, while negatively impacted in Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, and the US. For rice, yields tend to be slightly positively impacted in China, India, Pakistan, Central Asia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, southern Brazil, and Central America, while negatively impacted in the Middle East, Bolivia, and the US. For soybeans, yields tend to be positively impacted in Brazil, Southern Africa, India, and China, while negatively impacted in Argentina, Uruguay, and the US. The negative impacts tend to be lessened for irrigated crops compared to rainfed crops. However, only when the likely La Niña event arrives in combination with likely extremely high global temperatures will its actual impacts on agriculture begin to be known.

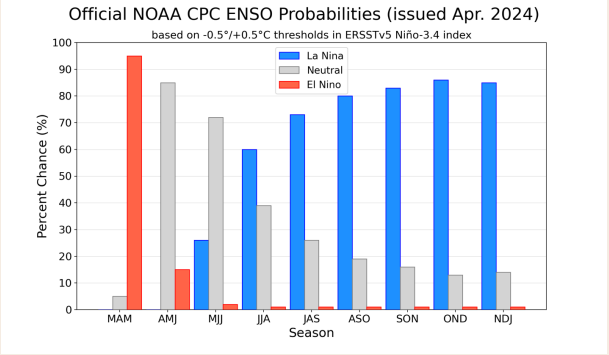


Figure 1. Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued Apr. 2024).

Feature article

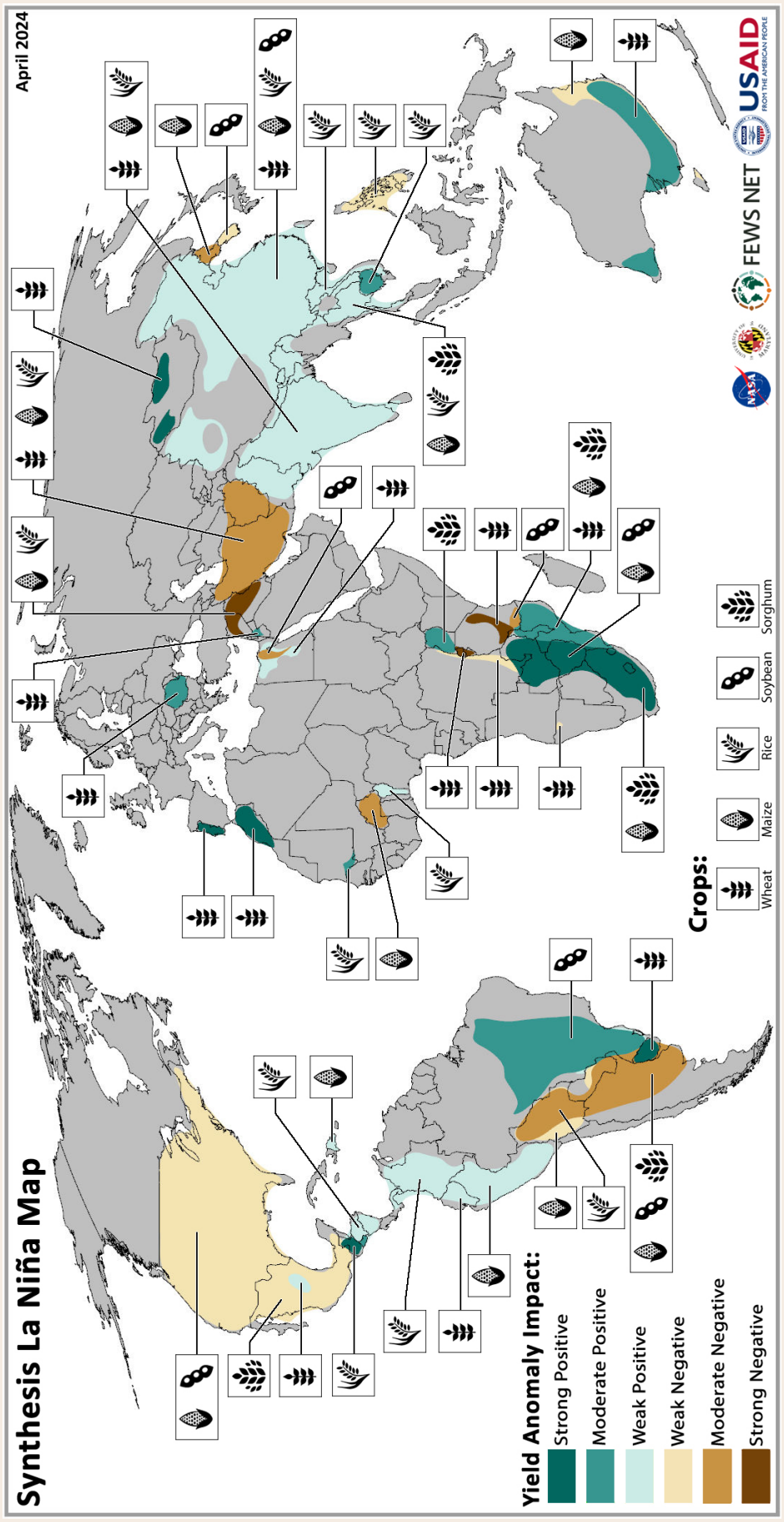


Figure 2. Historical crop yield conditions during La Niña events for wheat, maize, rice, soybeans, and sorghum using FAO country-level yield data and ERSSTv5 from 1961-2020. In countries with more than one crop affected, the color reflects the strongest effect.
Note: FAO data is national and annual resolution, which masks expected relationships in areas with multiple crops (e.g. the Horn of Africa).

World supply-demand outlook

WHEAT in 2023 lifted fractionally m/m on final official estimates in some countries, but still 2.3 percent below the 2022 output underpinned by declines in Australia, Kazakhstan, and the Russian Federation.

Utilization in 2023/24 trimmed since last month but still resting 1.9 percent above the 2022/23 level driven predominantly by robust feed use growth.

Trade in 2023/24 (July/June) raised on larger export volumes expected from non-traditional exporters, along with strong import demand from Afghanistan, Egypt, and the EU.

Stocks (ending in 2024) set to fall below opening levels and nearly unchanged as upward revisions in the EU and the US offset downgrades in Egypt and Uzbekistan.

Wheat	FAO-AMIS			USDA		IGC	
	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast		2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast
		4 Apr	2 May		11 Apr		18 Apr
Prod.	806.2	787.8	788.4	789.3	787.4	803.4	789.4
	668.5	651.2	651.9	651.6	650.8	665.7	652.8
Supply	1104.7	1111.9	1111.1	1062.0	1058.4	1074.9	1070.0
	833.0	833.8	833.0	787.5	783.0	805.4	794.2
Utiliz.	779.6	795.4	794.1	783.5	799.4	794.4	806.0
	636.9	647.4	646.1	635.5	645.9	651.6	656.6
Trade	201.6	198.7	199.9	216.1	216.7	207.4	202.5
	188.1	188.0	189.2	202.8	205.7	193.8	190.3
Stocks	322.7	317.9	318.3	271.0	258.3	280.5	263.9
	181.2	177.6	177.8	132.2	126.3	140.2	125.4

IN MILLION TONNES

MAIZE 2023 production revised upward marginally, with higher estimates in Ukraine and several countries in Africa, and now resting 5.5 percent above the 2022 level.

Utilization in 2023/24 raised further on higher feed use in North America, bringing the forecast to 1.9 percent above the 2022/23 level.

Trade in 2023/24 (July/June) unchanged m/m and set to increase by 3.2 percent above the 2022/23 level, underpinned by larger purchases by China and, to a lesser extent, Mexico and Saudi Arabia, along with larger sales by Argentina, Brazil, and the US.

Stocks (ending in 2024) forecast to rise above opening levels by 9.1 percent despite a downward revision this month, mostly in Brazil and the US.

Maize	FAO-AMIS			USDA		IGC	
	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast		2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast
		4 Apr	2 May		11 Apr		18 Apr
Prod.	1171.0	1234.4	1235.6	1157.7	1227.9	1163.0	1223.3
	893.8	945.5	946.8	880.5	939.0	885.8	934.5
Supply	1476.9	1519.6	1521.6	1468.5	1530.0	1458.7	1501.3
	1043.0	1076.5	1078.5	982.2	1035.2	993.5	1032.6
Utiliz.	1187.4	1208.3	1209.7	1159.2	1196.5	1180.8	1212.2
	889.0	902.9	904.3	860.2	890.5	872.3	900.3
Trade	183.4	189.2	189.2	180.7	195.9	178.3	182.0
	164.3	161.7	161.7	162.0	172.9	155.2	159.0
Stocks	286.0	316.2	312.0	302.2	318.3	278.0	289.1
	131.7	151.0	146.8	96.2	106.4	98.1	109.3

IN MILLION TONNES

RICE production in 2023/24 raised largely due to a more buoyant estimate for Pakistan and a historical output revision for Myanmar.

Utilization in 2023/24 upgraded, as upward revisions for a host of, mostly Asian, countries, offset a cut namely for China. Nevertheless, global uses are still seen falling somewhat y/y.

Trade in 2024 little changed m/m, as slightly lower import expectations for China, Nigeria and Sri Lanka were largely compensated by import upgrades namely for Bangladesh and Viet Nam.

Stocks (2023/24 carry-out) up marginally m/m, as upgrades for Pakistan and Myanmar offset downgrades namely for Cambodia, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

Rice	FAO-AMIS			USDA		IGC	
	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast		2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast
		4 Apr	2 May		11 Apr		18 Apr
Prod.	525.8	526.4	529.2	514.4	515.5	514.5	511.8
	383.0	384.9	387.7	368.5	370.9	368.5	367.2
Supply	721.9	722.8	725.3	697.6	693.5	690.8	683.2
	478.5	481.7	484.2	438.7	442.3	438.5	436.3
Utiliz.	526.1	523.7	525.0	526.6	518.0	519.4	515.8
	379.2	380.9	382.7	371.6	369.8	368.6	367.8
Trade	52.9	51.3	51.1	52.7	53.4	51.7	50.4
	50.1	47.9	48.1	50.1	51.5	49.0	48.0
Stocks	196.0	199.1	199.2	178.0	172.2	171.4	167.5
	96.4	100.0	100.2	71.4	69.2	67.1	66.1

IN MILLION TONNES

SOYBEAN 2023/24 production lifted slightly m/m, underpinned by upward revisions for Argentina, Paraguay and the Russian Federation.

Utilization in 2023/24 revised up, with higher crushing forecasts for Argentina and China more than offsetting smaller consumption in the US and a number of countries in Africa and Asia.

Trade in 2023/24 (Oct/Sep) raised marginally, mostly reflecting a higher import forecast for China, while exports were lifted mainly for Argentina thanks to higher domestic supplies.

Stocks (2023/24 carry-out) upgraded for Argentina, China, the Russian Federation and the US, confirming a 10.0 percent y/y increase from the revised opening levels.

Soybean	FAO-AMIS			USDA		IGC	
	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast		2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast	2022/23 est	2023/24 f'cast
		4 Apr	2 May		11 Apr		18 Apr
Prod.	377.8	392.7	395.0	378.2	396.7	374.7	390.1
	357.5	371.8	374.1	357.9	375.9	354.4	369.3
Supply	422.9	437.5	442.7	471.3	498.0	427.4	448.6
	383.6	393.6	398.3	425.9	444.9	379.1	389.1
Utiliz.	368.3	389.2	391.0	365.8	381.1	369.0	381.8
	251.8	268.5	269.3	248.3	260.6	252.5	260.9
Trade	171.5	169.0	169.8	172.1	173.1	171.6	166.9
	70.6	68.0	67.8	67.6	68.1	64.7	65.4
Stocks	47.7	49.5	52.5	101.3	114.2	58.5	66.6
	24.2	25.5	28.0	69.0	76.6	19.7	26.5

IN MILLION TONNES

+i World Balances

Data shown in the second rows refer to world aggregates without China; world trade data refer to exports; and world trade without China excludes exports to China. To review and compare data, by country and commodity, across three main sources, go to https://app.amis-outlook.org/#/market-database/compare-sources Estimates and forecasts may differ across sources for many reasons, including different methodologies. For more information see Explanatory notes on the last page of this report.

World supply-demand outlook

Revisions (FAO-AMIS) to 2023/24 forecasts since the previous report

	WHEAT					MAIZE					RICE					SOYBEANS				
	Production	Imports	Utilization	Exports	Stocks	Production	Imports	Utilization	Exports	Stocks	Production	Imports	Utilization	Exports	Stocks	Production	Imports	Utilization	Exports	Stocks
WORLD	**657**	**1204**	**-1281**	**1232**	**416**	**1279**	**2**	**1385**	**-**	**-4195**	**2850**	**-119**	**1226**	**-137**	**123**	**2292**	**740**	**1830**	**778**	**3002**
Total AMIS	**100**	**600**	**-1601**	**500**	**1643**	**719**	**-100**	**1302**	**-**	**-4070**	**169**	**50**	**-224**	**-105**	**-646**	**1936**	**1038**	**2024**	**450**	**3040**
Argentina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1700	-	1000	600	1500
Australia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Bangladesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	-142	-5	-100	-	-200	-200	-	-
Brazil	-	-400	-494	300	-206	-	-300	-787	-	-3400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	10	-	-10	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China Mainland	-	-	-	-200	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-300	-505	-	-100	-	1000	1000	-	500
Egypt	100	500	-	900	-1205	219	100	319	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EU	-	700	-300	-	1475	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-165	-	60	-	-	-	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	184	-200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-82	-	118	-	-300	-	-	-	-	-
Kazakhstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-150	-70	-	-	-	130	-83	223	-10
Philippines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	251	-	321	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Rep. of Korea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	173	-	-300	-	-	-	-	-
Russian Fed.*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	229	-200	349	-290	370
Saudi Arabia	-	-300	-	-	-300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-40	200	-160
Thailand	-	100	-	-	100	-	100	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	7	100	-43	-	150
Türkiye	-	-	-	-500	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ukraine**	-	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	347	331	16	-
US	-	-	-817	-	1089	-	-	1270	-	-1270	-	-	-159	100	64	-	-140	-290	-300	690
Viet Nam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

In thousand tonnes

Note

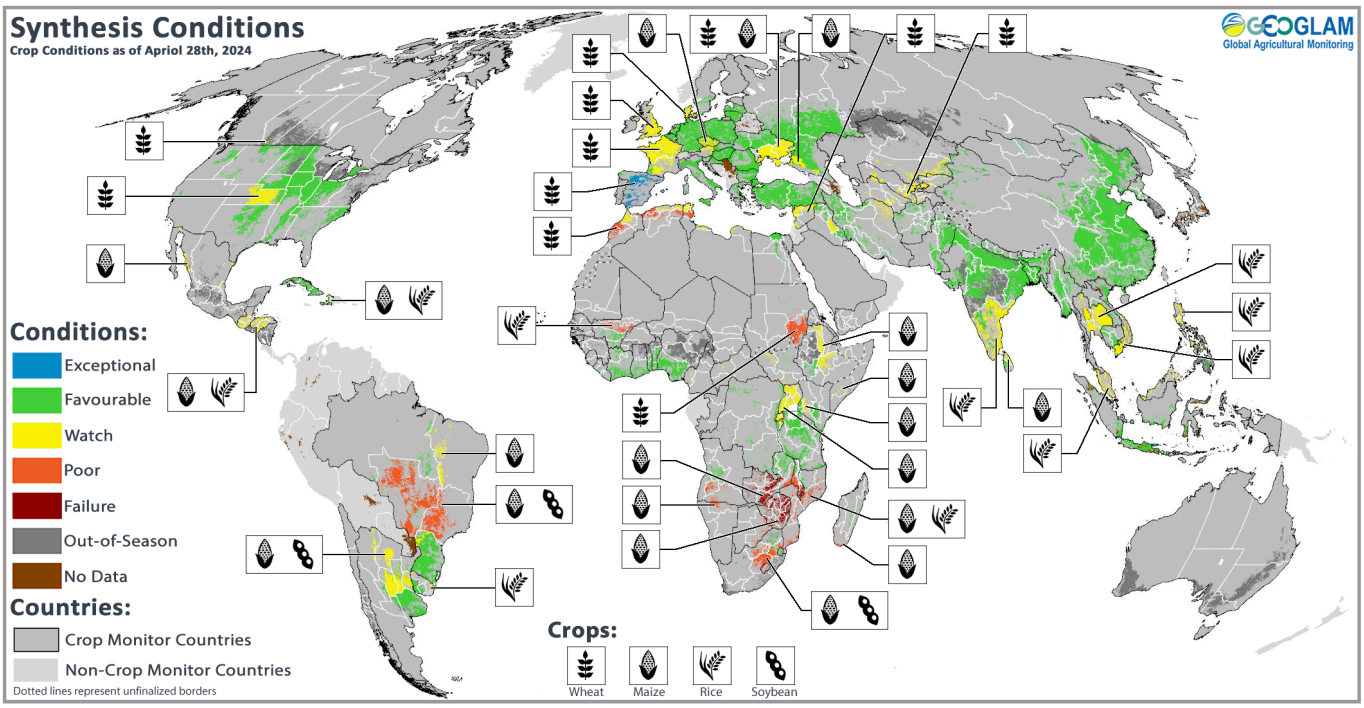
Only significant changes (of more than 1 000 tonnes) are displayed in the table.

*Information for the Russian Federation includes statistical data for the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

**Information for Ukraine excludes statistical data concerning the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. The information is presented without prejudice to relevant UN General Assembly and UN Security Council resolutions, which reaffirm the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Crop monitor

Crop conditions around the world



Crop condition map synthesizing information for all four AMIS crops as of . Crop conditions over the main growing areas for wheat, maize, rice, and soybean are based on a combination of national and regional crop analyst inputs and earth observation data. ***Only crops that are in other-than-favourable conditions are displayed on the map with their crop symbol.***

Conditions at a glance

Wheat

In the northern hemisphere, winter wheat conditions are generally favourable with improvement in parts of Europe. Spring wheat sowing is ongoing.

Maize

In the southern hemisphere, harvesting is ongoing under mixed conditions in Brazil, Argentina, and South Africa. In the northern hemisphere, sowing is progressing under generally favourable conditions.

Rice

Harvesting of the Rabi crop in India is continuing as the sowing of single-season rice begins in China. In Southeast Asia, drier-than-usual conditions continue to impact dry-season rice in the northern countries.

Soybeans

In the southern hemisphere, harvesting is progressing in Brazil and Argentina under mixed conditions. In the northern hemisphere, sowing is beginning under favourable conditions.

Weakening El Niño

The El Niño event has continued to weaken, and neutral ENSO conditions are likely by April to June (85 percent chance). A quick shift to persistent La Niña conditions is anticipated. The CPC/IRI predicts a 73 percent chance of La Niña by July to September 2024, and chances remain high throughout the forecast period.

Globally, record-high temperatures in the latter half of 2023 and 2024 reflect the influences of the strong 2023-2024 El Niño and climate change. Heat extremes will very likely continue during 2024. Associated with forecast La Niña conditions and abnormally warm ocean temperatures, the multi-year pattern of climate extremes may continue. The strong and impactful 2023-2024 El Niño was preceded by three years of La Niña and associated multi-year droughts, especially in eastern East Africa, central-southern Asia, and southern South America.

Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

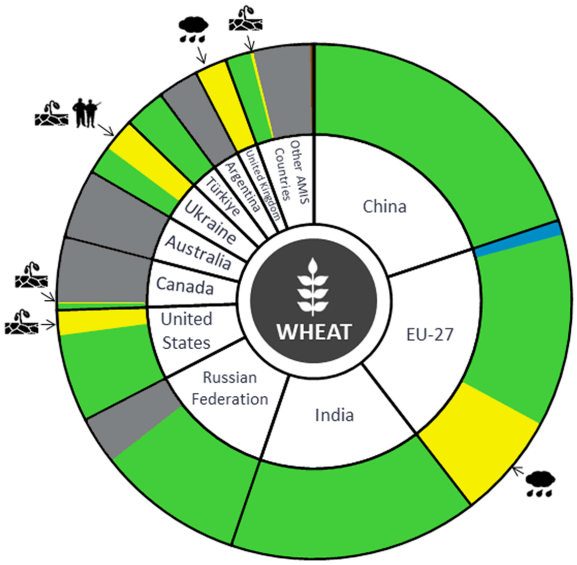
Crop monitor

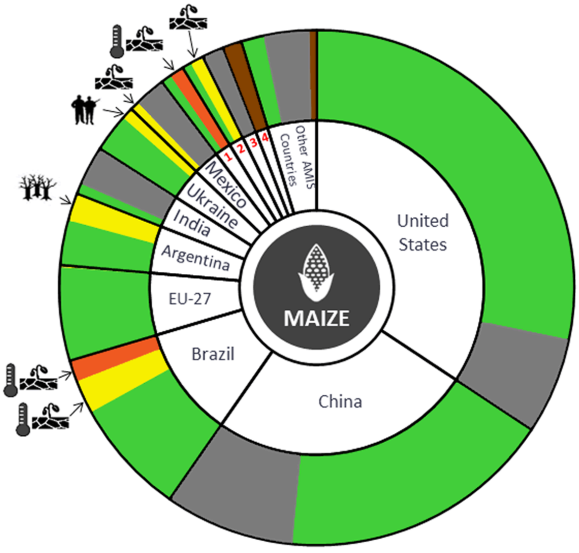
Conditions

Exceptional | Favourable | Watch | Poor | Out-of-Season | No Data

Drivers

Wet | Hot | Dry | Cool | Extreme Event | Delayed-Onset | Conflict | Socio-Economic





South Africa[1], Russian Federation[2], Canada[3], Indonesia[4]

Summaries by crop

Wheat

In the **EU**, exceptionally warm spring temperatures, coupled with adequate water supply in most parts, have been beneficial for winter wheat conditions. In the **UK**, overly wet and water-logged fields continue to impact crops. In **Türkiye**, conditions are favourable with ample rainfall supporting crops, particularly in the eastern regions. In **Ukraine**, enough rainfall and warmer-than-average April temperatures continue to support favourable winter wheat conditions, however, the active war-zone in the south and east remains a concern for agriculture. In the **Russian Federation**, conditions remain favourable for winter wheat, albeit with reduced precipitation in the southern Caucasus. Spring wheat sowing is beginning in the Volga region under favourable conditions. In **China**, winter and spring wheat conditions are favourable. In **India**, harvesting is wrapping up under favourable conditions. In the **US**, conditions are mostly favourable for winter wheat, except in Kansas where dry conditions are developing in some parts of the state. Spring wheat sowing is beginning under favourable conditions. In **Canada**, winter wheat conditions are favourable in the east, however, dry conditions remain across the western Prairies due to an autumn drought and low winter precipitation.

Maize

In **Brazil**, harvesting is progressing for the spring-planted crop (smaller season) with significantly reduced yields in the South-east region due to an earlier lack of rainfall and high temperatures. The summer-planted crop (larger season) is developing under worsening conditions in some areas due to irregular rainfall and high temperatures. In **Argentina**, harvesting of the early-planted crop (larger season) is progressing under mostly favourable conditions, albeit with delays due to recent rains. For the late-planted crop (smaller season), there is growing concern about widespread yield decreases due to corn stunt disease being spread by the corn leafhopper insect. In **South Africa**, harvesting continues under mixed conditions due to prolonged hot and dry weather during the season. In **Mexico**, the ongoing drought continues to be a concern for the Autumn-winter season (smaller season). In **India**, harvesting is wrapping up under favourable conditions for the Rabi crop. In **China**, the sowing of spring maize continues under favourable conditions. In the **US**, conditions are favourable as sowing continues to expand into the Corn Belt region. In the **EU**, sowing is beginning under favourable and earlier than usual due to warm spring weather. In the **Russian Federation**, sowing is ongoing into dry soils in the south.

+i Pie chart description

Each slice represents a country's share of total AMIS production (5-year average), with the main producing countries (95 percent of production) shown individually and the remaining 5 percent grouped into the "Other AMIS Countries" category. Sections within each country are weighted by the sub-national production statistics (5-year average) of the respective country and account for multiple cropping seasons (i.e. spring and winter wheat). The late vegetative to reproductive crop growth stages are generally the most sensitive periods for crop development.

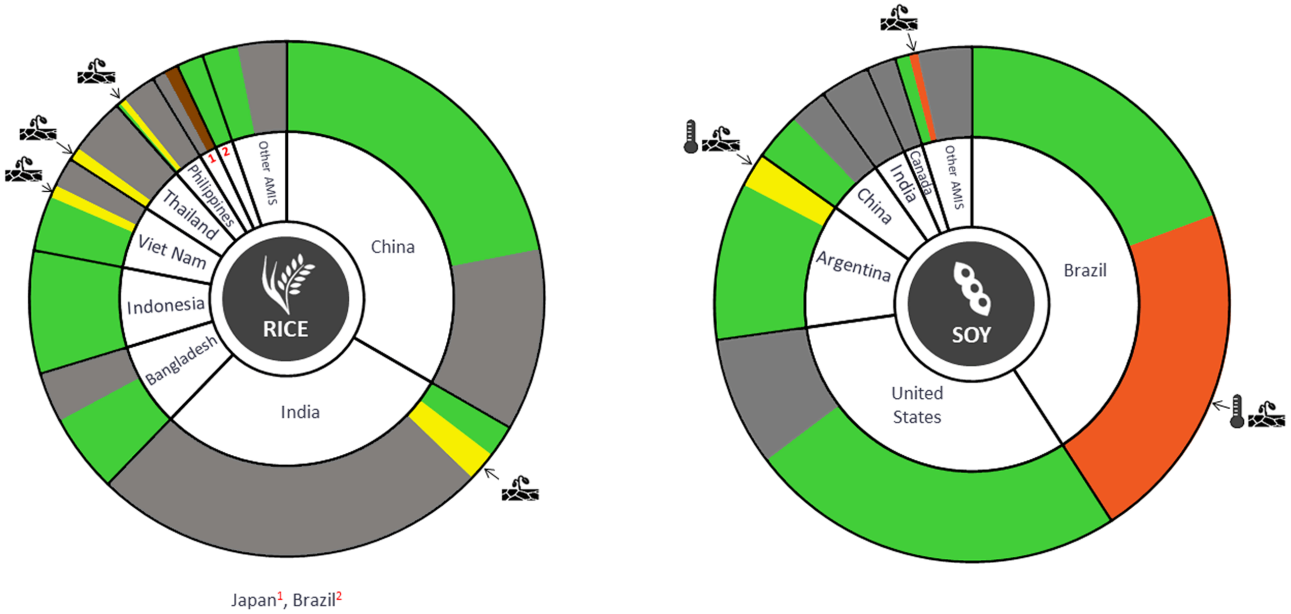
Crop monitor

Conditions

Exceptional | Favourable | Watch | Poor | Out-of-Season | No Data

Drivers

Wet | Hot | Dry | Cool | Extreme Event | Delayed-Onset | Conflict | Socio-Economic



Japan[1], Brazil[2]

Rice

In **China**, the early-planted crop is in the vegetative stage as the sowing of single-season rice is continuing. In **India**, harvesting for the Rabi crop continues under generally favourable conditions, except in the southern states due to reduced water availability. In **Bangladesh**, conditions are favourable as harvesting begins for the Boro crop (largest season) and as sowing continues for the Aus crop (smallest season). In **Indonesia**, harvesting wet-season rice continues with a significant reduction in the total sown area compared to last season. Dry-season rice sowing is beginning at a higher rate than last season, owing to ample rainfall. In **Viet Nam**, dry-season rice (winter-spring rice) is under favourable conditions in the north, while in the south, harvesting of dry-season rice (winter-spring rice) is ongoing under mixed conditions due to saltwater intrusion. The sowing of wet-season rice (summer-autumn rice) is beginning in the Mekong Delta. In **Thailand**, dry-season rice harvesting is progressing under mixed conditions due to earlier hot and dry weather. In the **Philippines**, dry-season rice is being harvested with reduced yields expected across most of the country due to below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures. In **Brazil**, harvesting is progressing under favourable conditions.

Soybeans

In **Brazil**, harvesting is nearing the end under mixed conditions due to a lack of rain and high temperatures during crop development. The Central-West and Southeast regions are the most impacted with yields much below-average, while in the Northeast and North regions, the impact is smaller, and final yields are close to average. In the South region, yields are close to average despite periods experiencing weather extremes during the season. In **Argentina**, continuous rainfall is delaying the ongoing harvesting of the early-planting crop (typically larger season) and the beginning of the harvest for the late-planted crop (typically smaller season), however, good yields are expected for both crops. In the **US**, sowing is beginning under favourable conditions and at a quicker pace than average. In **China**, sowing is beginning under favourable conditions, aided by above-average temperatures.

Information on crop conditions in non-AMIS countries can be found in the GEOGLAM Early Warning Crop Monitor, published 2 May.

+i Sources and disclaimers

The Crop Monitor assessment is conducted by GEOGLAM with inputs from the following partners (in alphabetical order): Argentina (Buenos Aires Grains Exchange, INTA), Asia Rice Countries (AFSIS, ASEAN+3 & Asia RiCE), Australia (ABARES & CSIRO), Brazil (CONAB & INPE), Canada (AAFC), China (CAS), EU (EC JRC MARS), Indonesia (LAPAN & MOA), International (CIMMYT, FAO, IFPRI & IRRI), Japan (JAXA), Mexico (SIAP), Russian Federation (IKI), South Africa (ARC & GeoTerraImage & SANSA), Thailand (GISTDA & OAE), Ukraine (NASU-NSAU & UHMC), USA (NASA, UMD, USGS - FEWS NET, USDA (FAS, NASS)), Viet Nam (VAST & VIMHEMARD). The findings and conclusions in this joint multiagency report are consensual statements from the GEOGLAM experts, and do not necessarily reflect those of the individual agencies represented by these experts. More detailed information on the GEOGLAM crop assessments is available at https://cropmonitor.org.

Policy developments

Highlights

Egypt and India took steps to procure wheat for public stocks, while Poland announced new state aid for grain farmers. India allowed some exports to Maldives, notwithstanding its rice export ban, and in the EU, Parliament and Council agreed on an import framework and safeguards for Ukrainian agricultural exports. While China asked traders to restrict maize imports into bonded areas (domestic area with certain boundaries and which has special terms of trade or policies), Bangladesh revised the procurement prices of rice and wheat.

Wheat

- On 29 March, **India** ordered traders, wholesalers, retailers, and processors across all states and Union Territories to disclose their wheat stock positions on a designated portal every Friday, from 1 April onwards. Stock ceilings (see AMIS Market Monitor, February 2024) were initially enforced on 12 June 2023 , and were applicable until 31 March 2024, in a move which the government intended to prevent hoarding, regulate prices, and improve food security.
- On 2 April, **India** requested both global and domestic trade entities to avoid buying new-season wheat from local farmers, media sources reported, so as to enable the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to procure large quantities to replenish its dwindling reserves. The government has advised private traders to abstain from participating in wholesale markets where farmers typically sell their produce to either FCI or private traders.
- On 11 April, the Ministry of Agriculture in **Kazakhstan** through Order No. 125 announced an extension of its wheat import ban for an additional six months starting from 12 April 2024. It was put into force on 11 April 2023 (see AMIS Market Monitor, May 2023) and was already extended for 6 months (see AMIS Market Monitor, October 2023). The ban applies to all countries, including the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states and includes imports by road, water, and rail, with specific exceptions for rail deliveries intended for poultry farming and flour milling enterprises for their own use.
- On 13 April, the Ministry of Supply and Internal Trade in **Egypt** announced that its silos and collection points will begin buying locally grown wheat from farmers from 15 April onwards. The Ministry aims to procure 3.5 million tonnes of local wheat in the 2024 procurement season, and will require market actors to be in possession of a permit from the supply directorates in the respective governorates in order to transport wheat between different locations. Privately owned mills also will be required to have an authorization from the ministry to use local wheat during the supply season. Similarly, fodder factories and fish farms are prohibited from incorporating local wheat into their products. Additionally, on 14 April, **Egypt** increased by 25 percent the wheat procurement price from local farmers from EGP 1 600 per ardeb (USD 223 per tonne), to EGP 2 000 per ardeb (USD 278 per tonne) for the 2024 procurement season, set to start on 15 April.

Maize

- On 2 April, the General Administration of Customs in **China** asked grain traders to restrict the importation of foreign maize into bonded areas, media reports indicated. The government expects this action to alleviate domestic oversupply and bolster prices for farmers ahead of the planting season. China has established a tariff rate quota of 7.2 million tonnes with a 1 percent import tariff for the 2023/24 season. Imports exceeding this quota face a duty of 65 percent. Importers utilize bonded zones to reduce duties; maize imported through these zones can be blended with other ingredients and processed into feed, which is then imported at a reduced duty rate. Authorities have increased cargo inspections and tightened regulations for importers and processors involved in such activities.

Rice

- On 2 April, **India**, through Notification No. 22/2024, authorised the previously banned export of the high-quality, non-basmati variety "Kala Namak" rice, which is cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, up to 1 000 tonnes through six specified customs stations.
- On 17 April, the Court of Appeals in the **Philippines** revoked biosafety permits for the commercial propagation of Golden Rice, a genetically engineered rice which includes the provitamin beta carotene (used by the body to produce vitamin A), in a decision involving farmers' unions and the government. The Court ruled that government agencies will not be able to approve any application for contained use, field testing, direct use as food or feed or processing, commercial propagation, and importation of genetically modified golden rice until they have demonstrated to the Court how their risk assessment procedures have been strengthened.
- On 22 April, the National Food Authority (NFA) in the **Philippines** increased the paddy purchase price from PHP 16 000 to 19 000 (USD 280 to 333), to PHP 17 000 to 23 000 (USD 298 to 403) per tonne for fresh paddy, and from PHP 19 000 to 23 000 (USD 333 to 403), to PHP 23 000 to 30 000

(USD 403 to 526) per tonne for clean and dry paddy. This is expected to help the NFA fill the rice buffer stock to reach 300 000 tonnes for the year.

Biofuels

- On 19 April, the **US** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted an emergency fuel waiver permitting the sale of E15 gasoline - fuel blended with 15 percent ethanol - during the summer driving season. This measure follows earlier authorization of eight Midwest states to sell E15 (see AMIS Market Monitor March 2024). Estimates suggest that, on average, E15 is approximately USD 0.25 per gallon cheaper than E10.

Fertilizers

- On 28 March, the **US** Department of Agriculture announced an investment of USD 124 million in renewable energy and fertilizer production projects across 44 states. This initiative aims to reduce input costs for agricultural producers. The project is anticipated to generate 3 800 tonnes of dry fertilizer per year, with an annual total of 11 400 tonnes across three facilities in Iowa and Nebraska. These products will be accessible to 1 500 producers.
- On 10 April, the Ministry of Economy in **Argentina** announced it would proceed with the elimination of import tariffs on urea and its mixtures with ammonium nitrate. Currently, these tariffs stand at 5.4 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

Vegetable oils

- On 18 April, the Ministry of Commerce in **Bangladesh** revised the retail prices of soybean oil, raising the price of commonly used bottled products from BDT 163 (USD 1.48) to BDT 167 (USD 1.53) per litre. Meanwhile, the Ministry reduced the price of unpacked soybean oil by BDT 2 (USD 0.02), setting it at BDT 147 (USD 1.34) per litre. Additionally, the price of palm super oil (refined, bleached and deodorized form of palm oil) has been fixed at BDT 135 (USD 1.2) per litre. These new rates will come into effect immediately.

Across the board

- On 28 March, **China** notified the World Trade Organization of its new National Food Safety Standard on maximum residue limits for pesticides in foods, including rice and maize, in document G/SPS/N/CHN/1299.
- On 5 April, **India** through Notification No. 03/2023 authorized limited exports of essential commodities including wheat and rice to the Maldives. Shipments of these commodities during the 2024/25 financial year, which commenced on 1 April, has been exempt from any current or future restrictions or prohibitions on exports. Specifically, India has permitted exports of 124 218 tonnes of rice and 109 162 tonnes of wheat flour.
- On 23 April, the **EU** Parliament voted to extend the suspension of import duties and quotas on Ukrainian agricultural exports to the EU for an additional year, until 5 June 2025. This follows an agreement both the EU Parliament and the Council presidency reached on 12 April. The agreement includes an "emergency brake" allowing for the reimposition of tariffs if import volumes of certain "sensitive" agricultural products exceed historical averages, with poultry, eggs, sugar, oats, groats, maize, and honey among those set to be covered by the mechanism.
- On 10 April 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture in the **Russian Federation** approved minimum intervention prices for 2024/25 grain purchases, including third class wheat (used for lower-grade flour, animal feed, or industrial purposes) at RUB 15 620 (USD 168) per tonne, fourth class wheat (used for animal feed or industrial processes where high-quality flour is not required) at RUB 15 070 (USD 162).
- On 12 April , Poland (**EU** member) announced it would finalize plans for a state aid program to assist farmers affected by declining grain prices, specifying that support would be directed towards farmers rather than trading companies. The government intends to allocate approximately PLN 2 billion (USD 512 million) to purchase surplus grain from local farmers. The aid is targeted at producers of certain cereals, including wheat, and will apply to sales made between 1 January and 31 May.
- On 18 April, the President of the **Philippines**, through Administrative Order No. 20, removed all non-tariff barriers including but not limited to import licensing systems and quotas on the importation of agricultural products, with the aim of stabilizing domestic prices.
- On 19 April, the **Russian Federation** through Resolution No. 505 set a tariff rate quota for the export of grains outside the Eurasian Economic Union, totalling 29 million tonnes for the period from 15 February to 30 June. Additionally, according to the signed resolution, an extra quota of 5 million tonnes has been assigned for the export of wheat, meslin, barley, rye, and maize.
- On 21 April, **Bangladesh** fixed the procurement prices for paddy, rice and wheat for the upcoming Boro season (from

Policy developments

December/January to April). The target for collection has been set at 500 000 tonnes of paddy rice, 1.1 million tonnes of parboiled rice, 100 000 tonnes of non-parboiled or Atap rice, and 50 000 tonnes of wheat. The procurement prices have been fixed at BDT 32 (USD 0.3) for Boro paddy, BDT 45 (USD 0.4) for parboiled rice, BDT 44 (USD 0.4) for Atap rice, and BDT 34 (USD 0.3) for wheat. The Inner Borough collection will commence on 7 May and continue until 31 August 2024.

Note

Only AMIS participants are marked in **bold**.

International prices

International Grains Council (IGC) Grains and Oilseeds Index (GOI) and GOI sub-Indices

	Apr 2024 Average*	Change	
		M/M	Y/Y
GOI	226.8	+0.3%	-18.9%
Wheat	200.7	+0.8%	-21.0%
Maize	201.5	+2.7%	-29.7%
Rice	246.8	-2.7%	+23.0%
Soybeans	220.1	+0.1%	-20.7%

*Jan 2000=100, derived from daily export quotations

Wheat

Average GOI wheat sub-Index values were broadly steady month-on-month in April. The sub-Index initially touched a three-and-a-half-year-low on ideas of adequate nearby availabilities and sustained Black Sea competition, but rallied towards the end of the month on mounting concerns about unfavourable conditions for 2024/25 crops in parts of the EU, United States of America and the Russian Federation. Background support also came from news of fresh attacks on shipping infrastructure in Ukraine, which temporarily disrupted deliveries to a major deep seaport. However, a firming US dollar helped to limit overall upside in global prices. With smaller advanced compared to other key origins, Russian supplies remained competitively priced.

Maize

The IGC GOI maize sub-Index firmed by an average of 2 percent in April, pulled higher by advances in South America and Ukraine. Amid seasonally tight supplies and limited farmer selling interest, old crop prices strengthened in Brazil (Paranagua), albeit with quotations remaining seasonally nominal. Export values in Argentina were lightly buoyed by a steady flow of early-season shipments as well as deepening concerns about leafhopper infestations. Average deep sea fob quotations in Ukraine were firmer on logistical constraints and as exporters looked to cover nearby shipping programmes. The US market was little changed, as traders assessed prospects for the 2024/25 planting campaign.

Rice

Reflecting seasonal harvesting pressure and generally subdued demand, average international rice prices were moderately weaker in April, albeit with some support stemming from further purchases by Indonesia's state food logistics agency, Bulog. In Thailand, off-season crop arrivals and generally muted buying interest weighed on white and parboiled values. Vietnamese quotes also retreated amid threshing of the main, winter-spring outturn, while Indian parboiled quotes were pressured by subdued buying interest from key West African markets. In South America, Brazilian offers were also lower, as 2023/24 harvesting boosted nearby availabilities.

Soybeans

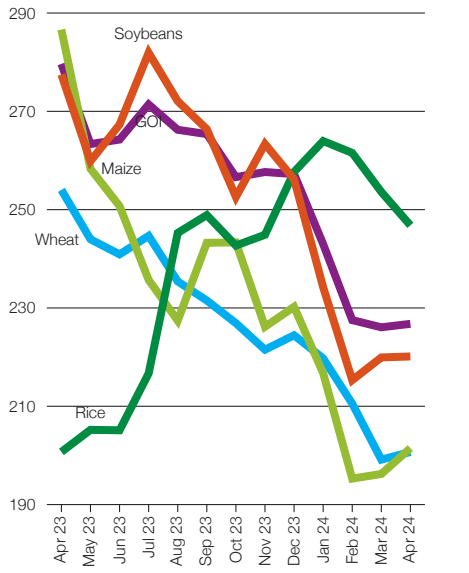
Average international soybean values, as measured by the GOI sub-Index, were broadly unchanged during April as weaker US Gulf quotations were offset by modestly firmer South American prices. While movements in soya product values and external influences were supportive at times, this was countered by generally favourable Midwest planting weather and continued soft export interest - as evidenced by 2023/24 export commitments being some 20 percent lower year-on-year. In contrast, fob values in Brazil (Paranagua) were a touch higher over the month on reluctant grower sales and steady demand, more than offsetting pressure from the advancing harvest. Up River prices in Argentina were also marginally firmer.

IGC commodity price indices

		GOI	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Soybeans
2023	April	**279.7**	254.0	286.6	200.7	277.5
	May	**263.3**	244.0	258.3	205.2	259.9
	June	**264.3**	240.9	250.7	205.1	267.3
	July	**271.4**	244.7	235.7	216.7	281.9
	August	**266.2**	235.4	227.4	245.3	272.1
	September	**265.4**	231.5	243.3	248.9	266.4
	October	**256.6**	226.9	243.3	242.7	252.6
	November	**257.7**	221.5	226.2	244.9	263.4
	December	**257.2**	224.4	230.2	257.7	256.2
2024	January	**243.0**	219.7	216.7	264.0	234.2
	February	**227.5**	210.5	195.3	261.5	215.3
	March	**226.1**	199.1	196.2	253.6	219.9
	April	**226.8**	200.7	201.5	246.8	220.1

(..... January 2000 = 100 .....)

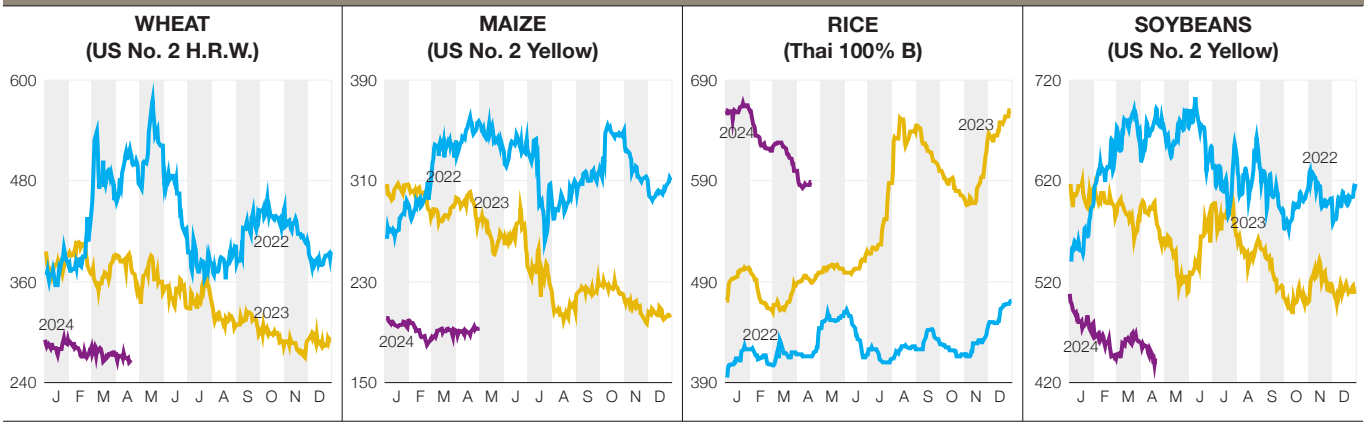
IGC commodity price indices



International prices

Selected export prices, currencies and indices

Daily quotations of selected export prices (USD/tonnes, 2022-2024)



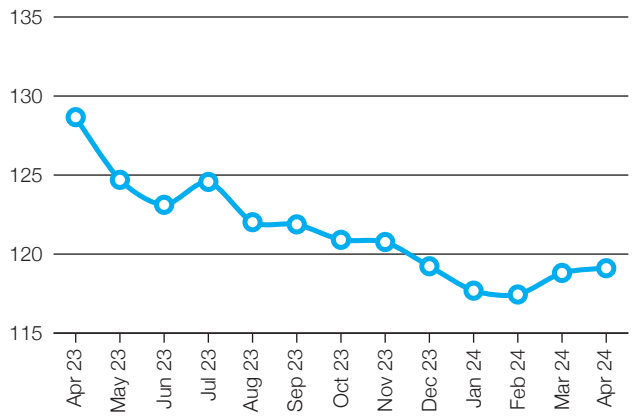
Daily quotations of selected export prices

	Effective date	Quotation	Month ago	Year ago	% change M/M	% change Y/Y
		USD/tonne				
Wheat (US No. 2, HRW)	19-Apr	267	276	353	-3.3%	-24.4%
Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	30-Apr	193	192	278	+0.2%	-30.6%
Rice (Thai 100% B)	19-Apr	589	600	499	-1.8%	+18.0%
Soybeans (US No. 2, Yellow)	19-Apr	444	461	563	-3.7%	-21.1%

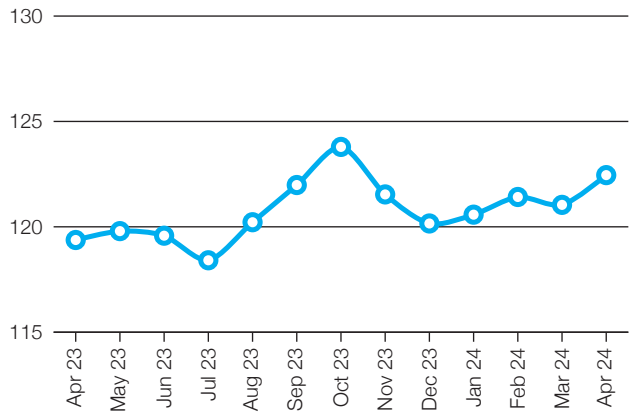
AMIS countries' currencies against US Dollar

AMIS Countries	Currency	Apr 2024 Average	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Argentina	ARS	867.1	-1.9%	-75.1%
Australia	AUD	1.5	-0.8%	-2.7%
Bangladesh	BDT	109.5	0.0%	-3.0%
Brazil	BRL	5.1	-2.8%	-2.1%
Canada	CAD	1.4	-1.0%	-1.4%
China	CNY	7.2	-0.5%	-4.8%
Egypt	EGP	47.8	-5.7%	-35.4%
EU	EUR	0.9	-1.3%	-2.2%
India	INR	83.4	-0.4%	-1.7%
Indonesia	IDR	16035.5	-2.1%	-7.5%
Japan	JPY	153.9	-2.7%	-13.3%
Kazakhstan	KZT	445.5	0.8%	1.3%
Rep. of Korea	KRW	1368.6	-2.7%	-3.4%
Mexico	MXN	16.8	-0.2%	7.7%
Nigeria	NGN	1223.9	24.1%	-62.4%
Philippines	PHP	57.0	-2.0%	-2.9%
Russian Fed.	RUB	92.9	-1.3%	-13.1%
Saudi Arabia	SAR	3.8	0.0%	0.0%
South Africa	ZAR	18.9	-0.2%	-3.6%
Thailand	THB	36.7	-2.2%	-6.9%
Türkiye	TRY	32.3	-0.9%	-40.2%
UK	GBP	0.8	-1.5%	0.6%
Ukraine	UAH	39.3	-1.6%	-6.3%
Viet Nam	VND	25163.1	-1.8%	-6.7%

FAO Food Price Index Apr 2023 - Apr 2024



Nominal Broad Dollar Index Apr 2023 - Apr 2024

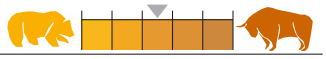


Futures markets

Overall market sentiment

- CME and Euronext wheat futures rebounded sharply mostly on weather-related concerns but the abundant availability of the 2023 crop have capped the momentum. CME maize and soybean futures remained relatively stable amidst continued strong competition from Brazil export availability.
- While historical volatility remained contained, market participants are factoring in a notable risk of increased volatility in CME wheat futures.
- Funds continue to demonstrate a pronounced bearish stance on CME wheat, maize, and soybean futures. However, they have largely unwound their short positions on Euronext wheat, signalling a shift towards a more neutral outlook on the European market.

MONTHLY PRICE TREND



Futures prices

CME and Euronext wheat futures surged to a two-month peak, marking the most substantial monthly rally since July 2023. Concerns about new crop conditions in the United States, EU, and Russian Federation, coupled with continuing tensions in the Black Sea region, drove this month's price dynamics. However, the rebound was capped by the still ample availability of competitively-priced 2023 crop in the Black Sea region.

US maize and soybean futures were mostly stable for most of the month, as price escalation attempts amid scrutiny of US spring sowing risks were tempered by large availability of 2023 crop and easing crude oil prices. Subdued demand from China for US products persists, as strong United States dollar and competitive alternatives from Ukraine and Brazil continue to shape both 2023 crop and new crops price dynamics.

Volumes & volatility

Historical volatility remained contained close to the 10-year average on wheat, maize, and soybean futures traded on the CME. As historical volatility was subdued over the period of 45 days used for the calculation, CME thresholds for daily price limits - a mechanism aimed at limiting excessive volatility - were revised down, signaling a gradual return to more standard market operation.

However, concerns about new wheat crop have led market participants to price in a significant risk of volatility upsurge in CME wheat futures, with CME wheat implied volatility nearing the maximum seasonal level of the last 10 years at 40 percent. Implied volatility on CME maize and soybean remained contained near the 10-year average of 20 percent, indicating a lower risk premium priced in by market participants at this point of the season.

Traded volumes were high, notably on Euronext wheat, which saw a new all-time high volume as commercial traders wound down their exposure on 2023 crop and gradually increased their exposure on 2024 crop.

Forward curves

CME and Euronext wheat displayed a steeper contango, as futures contracts corresponding to new crop were driven up by concerns over crop development, while nearby delivery showed less momentum reflecting still tepid international demand on the US and EU physical market.

CME maize and soybean still display a sharp contango, highlighting the perceived high physical grain availability in the US in both 2023 and new crops. This low price on nearby delivery and higher price on longer-dated futures contracts sends a strong incentive for farmers and commercial elevators to refrain from selling and to store grain to expand carry-over, a strong determinant in the current slow selling pace of US farmers.

Investment flows

Funds have reached their shortest net position across CME maize, soybean, and wheat futures in 4.5 years. Interestingly, the price rally in CME wheat in March saw non-commercial traders covering some of their net-short futures, while funds kept most of their net short positions, indicating that money managers still have a bearish leaning on CME markets amid perceived surpluses and a stronger dollar. On Euronext wheat, money managers have unwound a large part of their short position, a buying spree from funds which was absorbed by commercial participants with limited impact on price increases.

Euronext futures volumes and price evolution

Average daily volume (1000 tonnes)	Apr 2024	M/M	Y/Y
Wheat	5 101.5	+23.8%	+40.0%
Maize	117.3	-91.2%	+27.5%

Prices (USD/t)	Apr 2024	M/M	Y/Y
Wheat	224.5	+4.7%	-18.0%
Maize	211.1	+6.6%	-21.3%

CME futures volumes and prices evolution

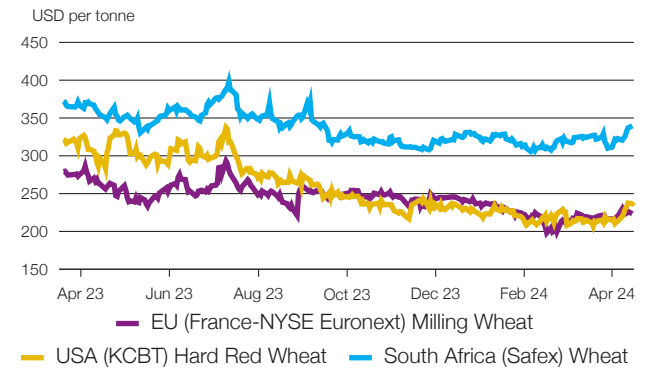
Average daily volume (1000 tonnes)	Apr 2024	M/M	Y/Y
Wheat	20 386.7	+26.3%	+1.5%
Maize	55 950.4	+41.4%	+14.8%
Soybean	42 130.8	+25.8%	+11.9%

Prices (USD/t)	Apr 2024	M/M	Y/Y
Wheat	210.7	+5.0%	-15.0%
Maize	173.5	+1.1%	-29.8%
Soybean	431.6	-0.9%	-20.0%

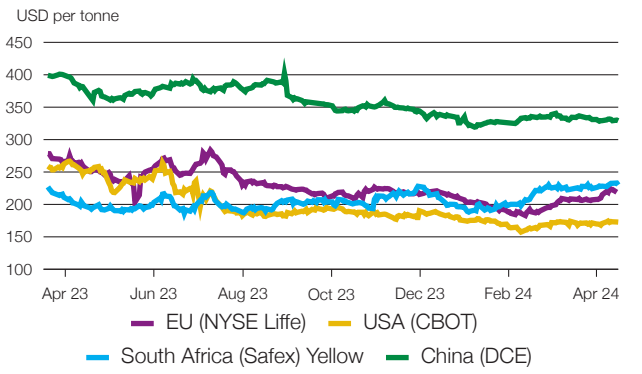
Market indicators

Daily quotations from leading exchanges - nearby futures

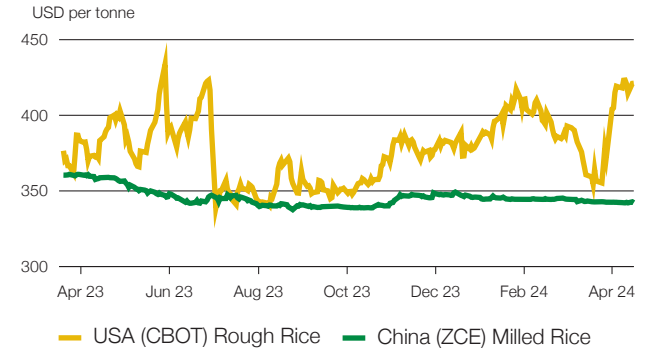
Wheat



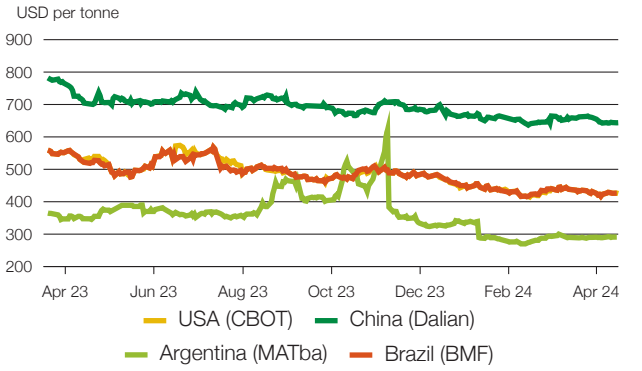
Maize



Rice



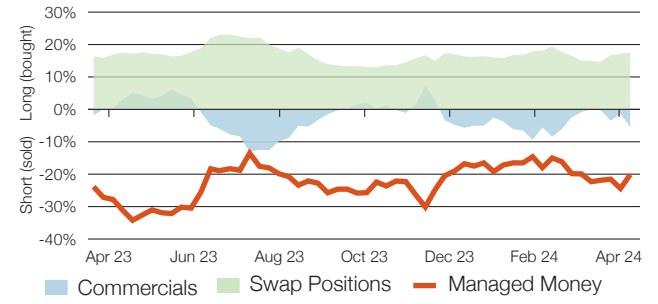
Soybean



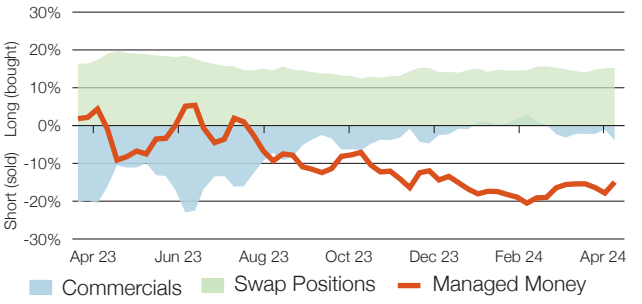
CFTC commitments of traders

Major categories net length as percentage of open interest*

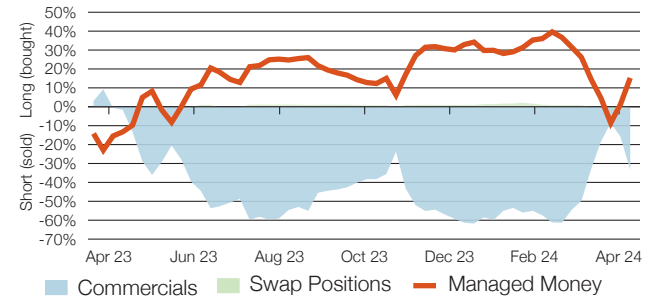
Wheat



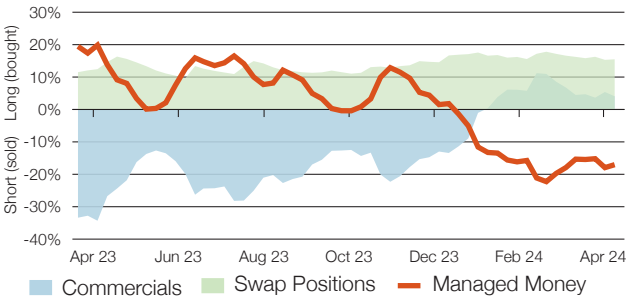
Maize



Rice



Soybean

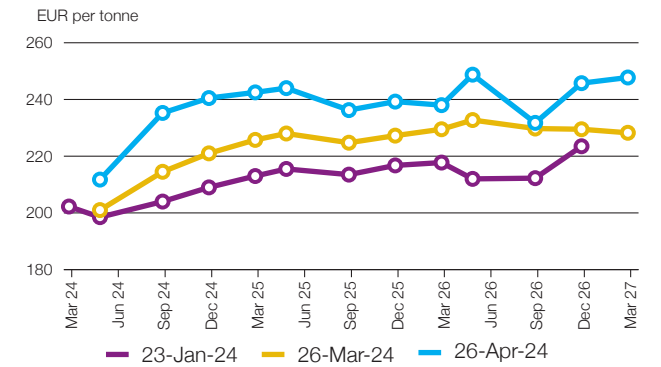


*Disaggregated futures only. Though not all positions are reflected in the charts, total long positions always equal total short positions.

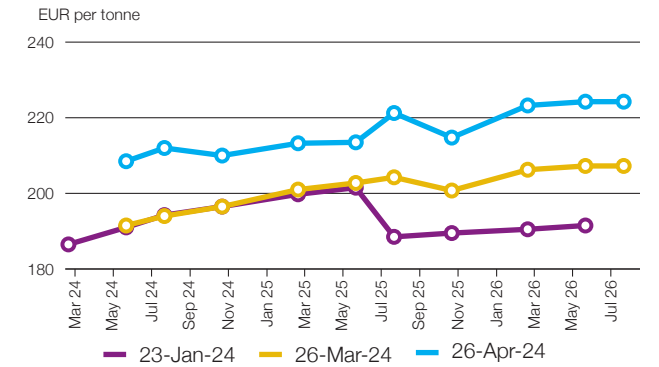
Market indicators

Forward curves

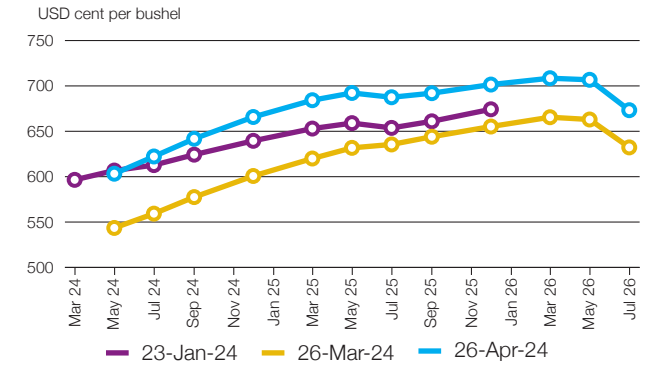
Euronext wheat (EBM)



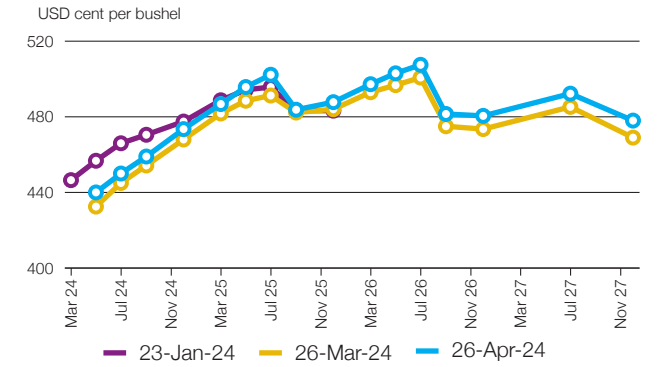
Euronext maize (EMA)



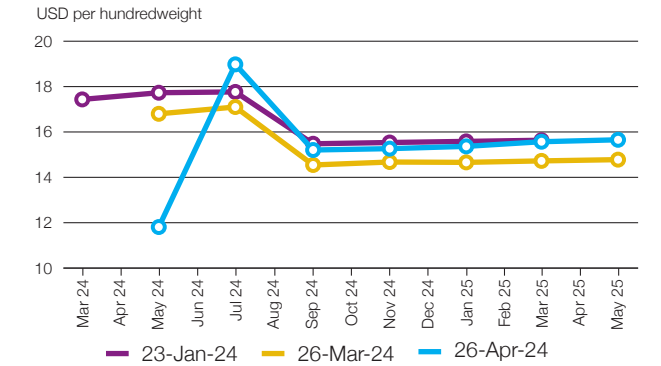
CBOT wheat



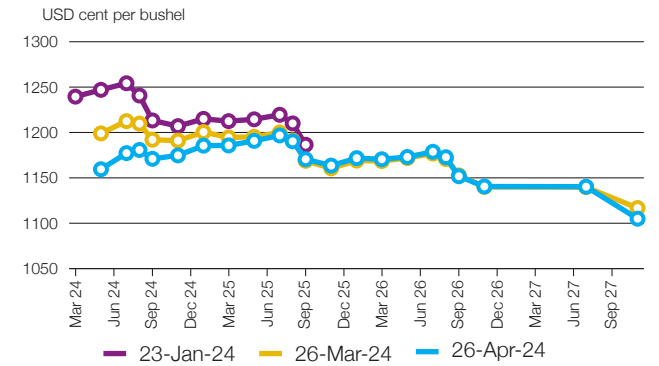
CBOT maize



CBOT rice

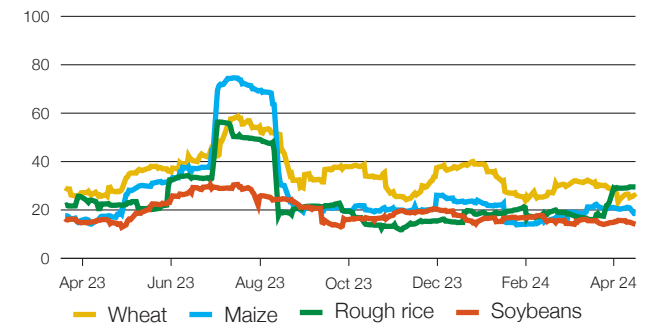


CBOT soybean

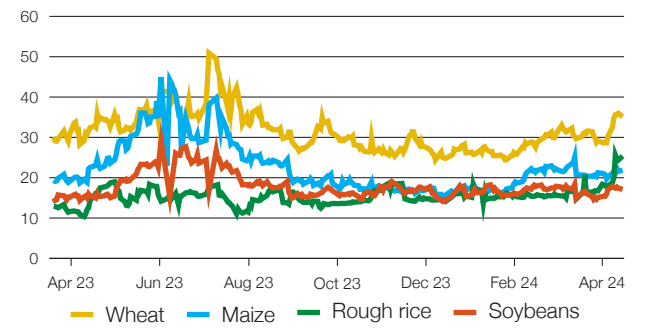


Historical and implied volatilities

Historical volatility (30 days)



Implied volatility (Daily)

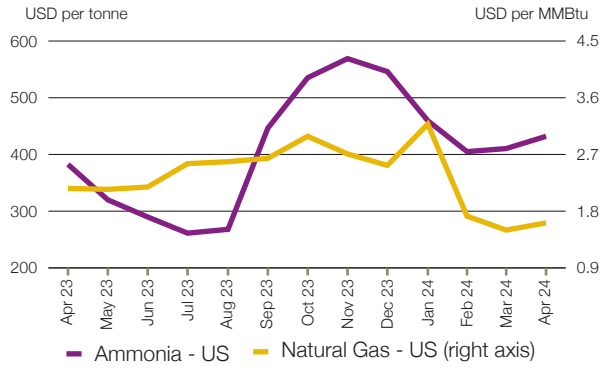


AMIS market indicators

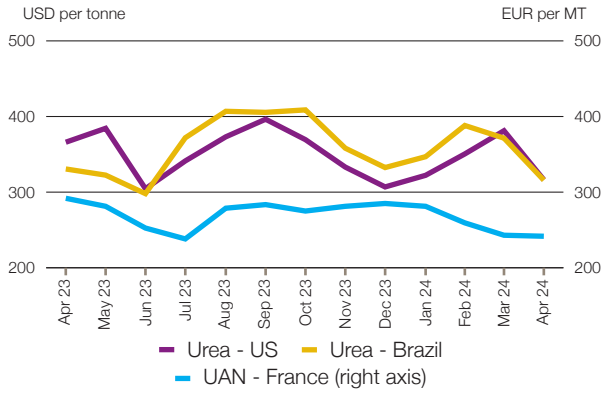
Several of the indicators covered in this report are updated regularly on the AMIS website. These, as well as other market indicators, can be found at: https://www.amis-outlook.org/amis-monitoring/indicators/. For more information about forward curves see the feature article in AMIS Market Monitor no. 75, February 2020.

Fertilizer outlook

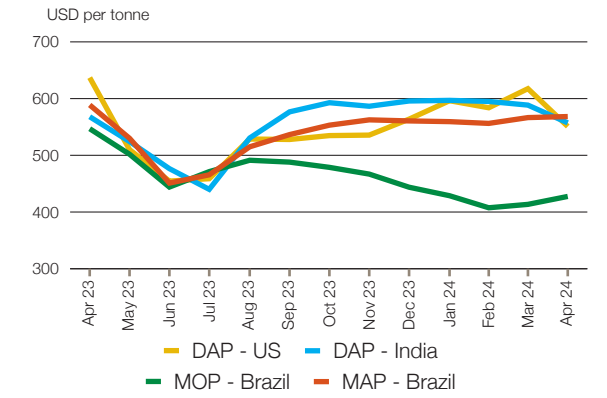
Input prices for manufacturing fertilizers



Nitrogen prices



Potash and phosphate



Major market developments

Fertilizer markets were mostly stable in April. The trend appears subdued for the upcoming months as demand seasonally winds down in the Northern Hemisphere, unless tensions intensify in the Middle East with economic repercussions beyond the region or export patterns from China deviate significantly from expectations.

- **Fertilizer input prices**. Natural gas prices were volatile in Europe in April amid tensions in the Middle East and supply disruptions in Norway. However, storage levels remain comfortable, and demand usually softens into the summer. Similarly, U.S. natural gas prices futures show a downward trend. Ammonia prices rose in April on tight spot availability, particularly East of Suez, and some tighter sentiment could be felt in Europe with two plants in Spain and Germany in turnaround.
- **Nitrogen fertilizer prices**. Global urea prices decreased in April, driven by lower-than-anticipated purchases in the latest Indian tender. Production and stocks are up in India, which should keep import demand in check until the third quarter. Global supply is ample, with North Africa, Nigeria and Arab Gulf reporting availability for May. The return of exports from China could add up to four million tonnes to global supply. Against this backdrop, nitrogen markets may remain soft into the summer. However, concerns persist around the situation in the Middle East, given the region's significant share in global nitrogen exports.
- **Phosphorus fertilizer prices**. Phosphate prices are increasingly fragmented. The return of Chinese exports triggered a decline in India CFR pricing while Western markets were less impacted given the relatively small share of Chinese phosphates in their import mix. World prices are expected to converge lower as seasonal demand softens, with only Brazil showing some upward price evolution on MAP.
- **Potash prices**. Potash prices saw a slight uptick in Brazil this month, supported by increased demand due to favorable affordability levels. Elsewhere, slow demand has persisted longer than expected in many regions. Prices are under downward pressure in Northwest Europe, where the application season has largely concluded. Ample supply availability and high producer stocks are likely to hinder upside potential in the coming months.

Fertilizer outlook prices

	Apr-24 average	Apr-24 std. dev.	% change last month*	% change last year*	12 month high	12-month low
Ammonia - US (USD/ST)	432.0	-	+5.3	+12.9	569.0	261.2
Natural Gas - US (USD/MMBtu)	1.6	0.2	+7.7	-25.3	3.2	1.5
Natural Gas - EU (EUR/MWh)	29.0	2.5	+8.3	-30.7	46.9	25.7
Urea Ammonium Nitrate (UAN) - France (EUR/MT)	241.7	1.4	-0.5	-17.2	285.0	238.1
Urea - US (USD/ST)	316.3	25.0	-17.0	-13.6	396.4	304.5
Urea - Brazil (USD/MT)	315.8	17.0	-15.0	-4.5	408.8	298.0
Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) - India (USD/MT)	557.2	15.4	-5.3	-1.9	596.9	440.0
Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP) - US (USD/ST)	550.8	21.0	-10.8	-13.5	617.5	454.6
Mono-ammonium Phosphate (MAP) - Brazil (USD/MT)	568.3	3.8	+0.3	-3.5	568.3	451.0
Muriate of Potash (MOP) - Brazil (USD/MT)	427.5	-	+3.4	-21.8	501.9	407.5

Source: Own elaboration based on Bloomberg. Units: MT = Metric Tonne; ST = Short Ton; MMBtu = Million British Thermal Unit
*Estimated using available weekly data to date.

Ocean freight markets

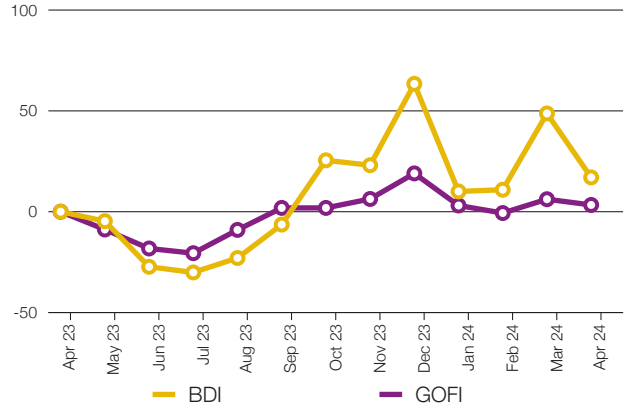
Dry bulk freight market developments

	Apr-24 average	Change M/M	Change Y/Y
Baltic Dry Index (BDI)	**1741.4**	**-21.3%**	**+17.0%**
sub-indices:			
Capesize	2488.1	-33.0%	+28.7%
Panamax	1780.8	-11.3%	+3.5%
Supramax	1319.2	-0.9%	+13.8%
Baltic Handysize Index (BHSI)	*738.5*	*-4.3%*	*+13.7%*

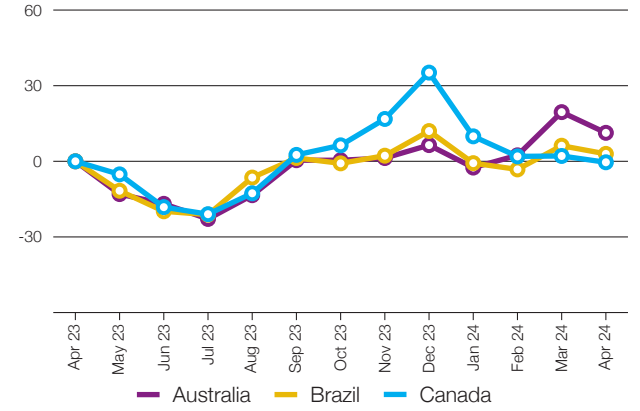
Source: Baltic Exchange, IGC. Base period for BDI: 4 January 1985 = 1000; for BHSI: 23 May 2006 = 1000; for GOFI: 1 January 2013 = 100

	Apr-24 average	Change M/M	Change Y/Y
IGC Grains and Oilseeds Freight Index (GOFI)	**155.8**	**-2.7%**	**+3.4%**
sub-Indices:			
Argentina	*199.9*	*-1.4%*	*+4.9%*
Australia	*109.3*	*-6.9%*	*+11.3%*
Brazil	*208.8*	*-3.0%*	*+2.9%*
Black Sea	*162.7*	*-1.3%*	*+7.5%*
Canada	*109.9*	*-2.4%*	*-0.4%*
Europe	*121.8*	*-1.7%*	*-1.1%*
US	*122.1*	*-3.6%*	*+2.2%*

BDI and IGC GOFI



Selected IGC GOFI sub-indices



- Reflecting a build-up of available vessels amid seasonal holidays in several regions, average **Baltic Dry Index** (BDI) values were 21 percent lower month-on-month in April. However, two-sided movements in freight rates were noted throughout the period, while average rates remained around one-fifth higher year-on-year.
- Logistical challenges continued to shape trade flows: a collapsed bridge prevented coal dispatches from Baltimore Port in the eastern US, which contributed to increased availability of Capesize bulkers in the Atlantic. Moreover, security concerns persisted in the Red Sea, while transits via the Panama Canal were still curtailed by low water levels, albeit conditions began to improve.
- Largest declines were recorded in the **Capesize** sector, notably on transatlantic routes amid excessive vessel supply, while subdued demand for shipments in Asia added to downside.
- Rates in the grains and oilseeds carrying sectors were also softer. **Panamax** earnings averaged 11 percent lower month-on-month, as rising flows of ballasting vessels from the Pacific boosted tonnage availability in the Atlantic Basin, albeit with some support from a seasonal increase in soybean dispatches from Brazil.
- Rates for smaller-sized vessels fared slightly better, with average **Supramax** values posting only a modest month-on-month decline on slow fixing at the US Gulf and growing tonnage in the southern Pacific, only partly countered by an uptick in enquiries in Europe.
- The **Handysize** sector was likewise weaker, as rising vessel availability in Asia outweighed a pick-up in activity in the Atlantic Basin.
- The **IGC Grains and Oilseeds Freight Index** (GOFI), which accounts for fuel costs, was 3 percent lower month-on-month, with losses pared by higher bunker costs.

+i Source: International Grains Council

Baltic Dry Index (BDI): A benchmark indicator issued daily by the Baltic Exchange, providing assessed costs of moving raw materials on ocean going vessels. Comprises sub-Indices for three segments: Capesize, Panamax and Supramax. The Baltic Handysize Index excluded from the BDI from 1 March 2018. **IGC Grains and Oilseeds Freight Index (GOFI):** A trade-weighted composite measure of ocean freight costs for grains and oilseeds, issued daily by the International Grains Council. Includes sub-Indices for seven main origins (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Black Sea, Canada, the EU and the USA). Constructed based on nominal HSS (heavy grains, soybeans, sorghum) voyage rates on selected major routes. **Capesize:** Vessels with deadweight tonnage (DWT) above 80,000 DWT, primarily transporting coal, iron ore and other heavy raw materials on long-haul routes. **Panamax:** Carriers with capacity of 60,000-80,000 DWT, mostly geared to transporting coal, grains, oilseeds and other bulks, including sugar and cement. **Supramax/Handysize:** Ships with capacity below 60,000 DWT, accounting for the majority of the world's ocean-going vessels and able to transport a wide variety of cargos, including grains and oilseeds.

Explanatory note

The notions of **tightening** and **easing** used in the summary table of "**Markets at a glance**" reflect judgmental views that take into account market fundamentals, inter-alia price developments and short-term trends in demand and supply, especially changes in stocks.

All totals (aggregates) are computed from unrounded data. World supply and demand estimates/forecasts are based on the latest data published by FAO, IGC and USDA. For the former, they also take into account information provided by AMIS focal points (hence the notion "**FAO-AMIS**"). World estimates and forecasts produced by the three sources may vary due to several reasons, such as varying release dates and different methodologies used in constructing commodity balances. Specifically:

PRODUCTION: Wheat production data from all three sources refer to production occurring in the first year of the marketing season shown (e.g. crops harvested in 2016 are allocated to the 2016/17 marketing season). Maize and rice production data for FAO-AMIS refer to crops harvested during the first year of the marketing season (e.g. 2016 for the 2016/17 marketing season) in both the northern and southern hemisphere. Rice production data for FAO-AMIS also include northern hemisphere production from secondary crops harvested in the second year of the marketing season (e.g. 2017 for the 2016/17 marketing season). By contrast, rice and maize data for USDA and IGC encompass production in the northern hemisphere occurring during the first year of the season (e.g. 2016 for the 2016/17 marketing season), as well as crops harvested in the southern hemisphere during the second year of the season (e.g. 2017 for the 2016/17 marketing season). For soybeans, the latter approach is used by all three sources.

SUPPLY: Defined as production plus opening stocks by all three sources.

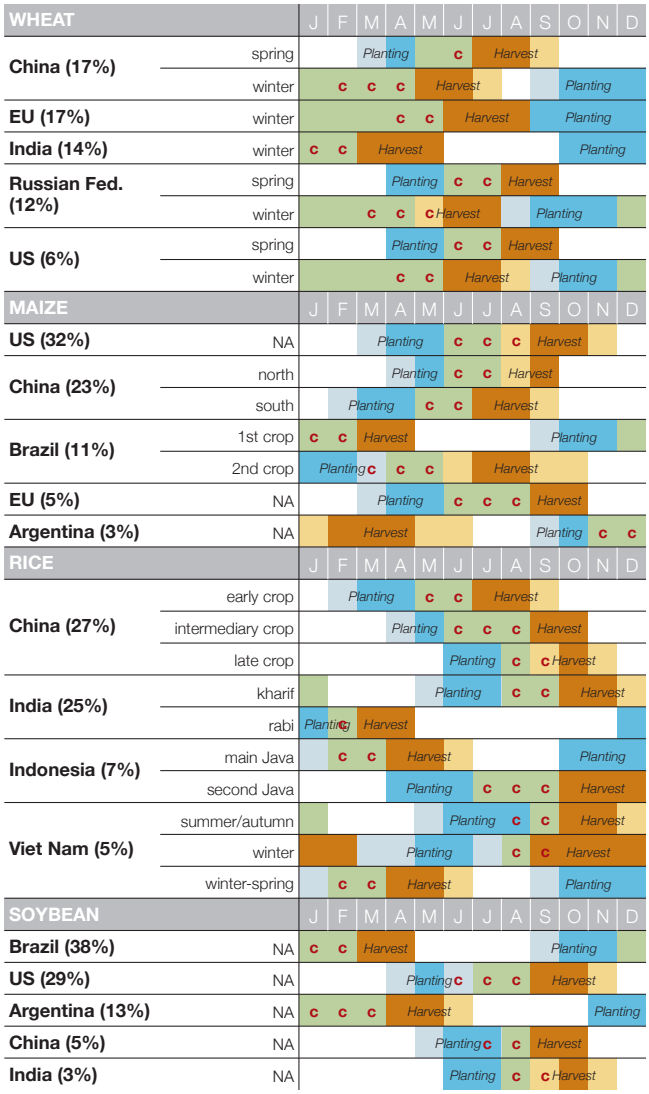
UTILIZATION: For all three sources, wheat, maize and rice utilization includes food, feed and other uses (namely, seeds, industrial uses and post-harvest losses). For soybeans, it comprises crush, food and other uses. However, for all AMIS commodities, the use categories may be grouped differently across sources and may also include residual values.

TRADE: Data refer to exports. For wheat and maize, trade is reported on a July/June basis, except for USDA maize trade estimates, which are reported on an October/September basis. Wheat trade data from all three sources includes wheat flour in wheat grain equivalent, while the USDA also considers wheat products. For rice, trade covers shipments from January to December of the second year of the respective marketing season. For soybeans, trade is reported on an October/September basis by FAO-AMIS and the IGC, while USDA data are based on local marketing years except for Argentina and Brazil which are reported on an October/September basis. Trade between European Union member states is excluded.

STOCKS: In general, world stocks of AMIS crops refer to the sum of carry-overs at the close of each country's national marketing year. For soybeans, stock levels reported by the USDA are based on local marketing years, except for Argentina and Brazil, which are adjusted to October/September. For maize and rice, global estimates may vary across sources because of differences in the allocation of production in southern hemisphere countries.

AMIS - GEOGLAM Crop Calendar

Selected leading producers*



***Percentages refer to the global share of production according to the latest AMIS-FAO estimates available for the most recent season**

- **Planting (peak)**
- **Harvest (peak)**
- **Planting**
- **Harvest**
- **c** **Weather conditions in this period are critical for yields**
- **Growing period**

For more information on AMIS Supply and Demand, please view AMIS Supply and Demand Balance Manual

Main sources
Bloomberg, CFTC, CME Group, FAO, GEOGLAM, IFPRI, IGC, OECD, Reuters, USDA, US Federal Reserve, WTO

2024 AMIS Market Monitor release dates
1 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December

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