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WHEAT OUTLOOK, **WHS-0400** **April 13, 2000**

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board

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Highlights

- -- ***March 1 Wheat Stocks Down from a Year Ago***
- -- ***Import Projections Lowered This Month***
- -- ***Domestic Use and Export Projections for 1999/2000 Are Up***
- -- ***World Production, Consumption, and Trade Forecast Up This Month***
- -- ***U.S. 1999/2000 Export Forecast Increased as Donation Pace Accelerates***
- -- ***Prospective Wheat Plantings Are Down 2 Percent from Last Year***
- -- ***Winter Wheat Crop Conditions Down from a Year Ago But Improving***

March 1 Wheat Stocks Down from a Year Ago

The ***Grain Stocks*** report, released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on March 31, estimated all wheat stocks in all positions on March 1 at 1.41 million bushels, down 3 percent from March 1, 1999. Off-farm stocks were estimated at 989 million bushels, up 1 percent from a year ago. Farm stocks were estimated at 423 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year. Farmers in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota accounted for 63 percent of the wheat stocks stored on-farm on March 1, 2000.

The lower-than-expected stocks imply a positive feed and residual use during the third quarter of 39 million bushels. Implied total wheat disappearance for the December-February quarter is estimated at 498 million bushels, up about 23 million from the same period in 1998/99. Third quarter estimates will be firmed up in May when wheat and product trade estimates for February and mill grind estimates for the first quarter of calender 2000 are available from the Census Bureau. Revised mill grind estimates for calendar year 1999 will likely be released by the Bureau of the Census before the May report is released.

Import Projection Lowered This Month

After a fast start during the summer of 1999, the pace of imports of wheat and wheat products has slowed in recent months. As a result, the projection of total imports is reduced 5 million bushels this month to 90 million. If realized, this will be the lowest import level since 1995/96. Only two wheat classes were affected by this change. The white wheat import forecast was reduced 1 million bushels, and the durum import forecast was reduced 4 million bushels. Limited supplies of high quality wheat in Canada may be constraining imports from Canada.

Domestic Use and Export Projections for 1999/2000 Are Up

Ending stocks for 1999/2000 are projected at 943.4 million bushels, slightly below last year's carryover of 945.9 million. The larger than expected feed and residual use in the third quarter resulted in a 25-million-bushel increase in the forecast of feed and residual use for the 1999/2000 marketing year. Feed and residual use for all wheat is now projected at 325 million bushels for the year. If this level is realized, feed and residual use for the fourth quarter will be positive, an outcome observed in past years when ending stocks have been large. Seed use in 1999/2000 was reduced 1 million this month.

Projected total food use is unchanged from last month, but the food use projection for hard red spring (HRS) was increased, offsetting a reduction in the food use projection for hard red winter (HRW) wheat. There are indications that millers continue to blend larger quantities of the higher protein HRS wheat with the lower protein HRW.

Export projections for individual classes were increased this month as prospects for shipping donations in the current marketing year improve. Also, the pace of export sales and shipments indicated that projections for selected classes needed to be increased. Therefore, the export estimates for HRS, soft red winter (SRW), and white classes of wheat were increased by 10 million, 5 million, and 10 million bushels, respectively.

World Production, Consumption, and Trade Forecast Up This Month

World wheat production in 1999/2000 is forecast at 587 million tons, up 1.4 million from last month. Argentina's wheat production was increased 0.5 million tons to 15 million because area and yield were higher than earlier expected. Information from Ethiopia indicates that although the summer crops were devastated by drought, winter wheat production was 0.9 million tons larger than previously estimated.

The world wheat consumption forecast for 1999/2000 increased 2.7 million tons this month to a record 597 million. Foreign consumption increased 2.0 million tons, with Ethiopia expected to consume its increased production. Wheat consumption is expected to increase in several countries with increased imports or reduced exports, including Indonesia, the Philippines, and Ukraine. These increases more than offset small reductions in consumption forecast for Iran, Venezuela, and Egypt.

Although forecast 1999/2000 global consumption growth is up a little less than 1 percent from a year earlier this month, it is off the pace of recent years. Since 1996/97, estimated global wheat consumption has been increasing about 1 percent per year. A factor limiting 1999/2000 growth in world wheat consumption has been stagnant or declining feed use. Although wheat prices have been fairly low, corn prices have been enough lower to discourage wheat feeding outside the United States. Foreign wheat feed use is forecast little changed from the previous year because increased wheat feeding in the EU is offset by reduced feeding in countries like South Korea that are more sensitive to world prices. Global wheat feeding is down in 1999/2000 because of the year-to-year decline in feed and residual use in the United States (although the forecast was increased this month).

U.S. 1999/2000 Export Forecast Increased as Donation Pace Accelerates

World wheat trade is forecast to reach 104.8 million tons in 1999/2000, up 0.5

million from last month. The increase stems from a rise in the U.S. export forecast that is partially due to an anticipated strong pace of donations scheduled for shipment before the end of the marketing year. Imports were boosted in several countries receiving shipments, including Indonesia, and Pakistan. There are also increases for the Philippines and United Arab Emirates that are not due to the expected U.S. donations.

Forecast world trade is the highest in 12 years, and the second highest ever. The growth in trade appears to result from a combination of factors. Drought across the Middle East and parts of North Africa has boosted demand, and a second year of production problems has increased Russia's imports. However, foreign consumption growth has not accelerated, and exceptional production problems--not consumption growth--are expanding world trade.

Prospective Wheat Plantings Are Down 2 Percent from Last Year

USDA released its ***Prospective Plantings*** report on March 31, 2000. Farmers were surveyed in the first 2 weeks of March to determine 2000 planting intentions. All wheat planted acreage is estimated at 61.66 million acres, down 2 percent from last year and the lowest since 1973.

The area seeded to winter wheat this year, pegged at 43.24 million acres, is down 186,000 acres from 1999, but 329,000 above the indications in the ***Winter Wheat Seedings*** report released in January. Of the total, an estimated 70 percent is seeded to hard red winter (HRW) wheat varieties, 22 percent is seeded to soft red winter (SRW) wheat varieties, and 8 percent is seeded to white winter wheat varieties. Producers' planting intentions for durum and other spring wheat in 2000 total 18.42 million acres.

<u>Hard Red Winter Wheat</u>--An estimated 30.49 million acres are seeded to HRW wheats for the 2000 crop. This HRW acreage is down 36,0000 acres from 1999, reflecting declines in all the major HRW producing States of the Central and Southern Plains (Colorado, down 2 percent; Kansas, down 2 percent; Nebraska, down 7 percent; Oklahoma, down 5 percent; and Texas, down 3 percent). Producers in Montana indicated that winter wheat plantings will increase to 1.5 million acres in 2000, up 450,000 acres or 43 percent from a year ago.

<u>Soft Red Winter Wheat</u>--Producers seeded 9.3 million acres to SRW wheats for the 2000 crop. This area is about 26,000 acres more than was seeded for harvest in 1999, and it reflects modest acreage increases in a number of States.

<u>White Wheat</u>--Producers seeded 3.46 million acres to white winter wheat in the fall of 1999. Producers indicated intentions to seed another 984,000 acres to white spring wheat in 2000, bringing the total area seeded to white wheat varieties to 4.44 million in 2000.

<u>Other Spring Wheat</u>--Other spring wheat (excluding durum) intended acres are down 4 percent from 1999 to 14.81 million. If realized, this will be the smallest area since 1988. Spring wheat prices are the lowest in several years. About 13.83 million of the prospective acres are hard red spring (HRS), with the remainder white spring (WS). HRS area will be down about 20 percent in South Dakota, reflecting primarily a shift to the planting of soybeans and corn in 2000. Montana growers are intending to reduce area seeded to other spring by 450,000 acres in 2000, a reduction equal to the

expansion in area seeded to winter wheat in that State last fall.

Other spring wheat acreage will down in the Pacific Northwest where white spring wheat is grown. Washington farmers are planning to seed 670,000 acres this year, up from 625,000 last year. In Oregon, the area seeded is expected to decrease to 115,000 acres, down from 160,000 in 1999. Idaho growers are expected to seed 630,000 acres in 2000, down from 660,000 last year. In Oregon and Washington the area seeded to white winter wheat represents offsetting changes.

Durum Wheat--Producers indicated plans to reduce durum wheat acres to 3.61 million, down 11 percent from last year and the lowest since 1997. In North Dakota, planting intentions indicate that area will decline 550,000 acres from 1999 and is projected at 2.9 million acres, the smallest area since 1997. Economic incentives associated with the pilot crop revenue coverage (CRC) insurance program offered for durum in 1999 are not a determining factor in planting decisions in 2000. Durum area in Montana is expected to increase 47 percent to 530,000 acres, the largest area since 1957. In contrast, Montana producers significantly reduced acreage intentions for “other spring” wheat. Acreage seeded to “desert durum” will drop slightly in 2000. Arizona and California seedings continued into February. Seedings in the Imperial Valley of California progressed normally through February. Arizona acreage will be up slightly, partially offsetting a decline in California.

Winter Wheat Crop Conditions Down from a Year Ago But Improving

Winter wheat crop conditions are below a year ago, but conditions continue to improve with warmer weather and recent rains. However, Texas is a major exception, as drought has affected the crop and hail damage has been devastating at some locations. As of April 9, USDA’s ***Crop Progress*** report indicated that 61 percent of the winter wheat crop was rated in good to excellent condition nationwide, down from 73 percent on the same date last year. Above-normal temperatures promoted early, rapid development in the Great Plains, Corn Belt, and Southeast.

The Kansas wheat crop was said to have sustained only minimal winterkill, wind damage, and freeze damage, according to the ***Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin*** issued by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service. As of April 9, 59 percent of the Kansas crop was rated good to excellent, down from 75 percent the previous year. However, the crop progress is well ahead of normal, with 60 percent of the crop jointing, compared with 51 percent in 1999 and the 5-year average of 40 percent.

Winter wheat conditions in Texas are rated as 15 percent good to excellent, down from 52 percent the previous year. On April 9, 56 percent of the crop was rated as poor or very poor. Some fields that were not abandoned earlier continued to be grazed out and plowed. Abandonment is expected to be up substantially in 2000. Texas wheat producers expect to harvest 75 million bushels this year, 39 percent less than the 1999 crop and 45 percent less than the 1998 crop. According to an April 1 survey conducted by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, planted acreage for the 2000 crop is estimated at 6 million acres, down 3 percent from 1999 and down 2 percent from 1998. Texas is the only State that makes an April 1 winter wheat production estimate. The first national wheat forecast will be released by the National Agricultural Statistics Service on May 12, 2000.

Oklahoma's winter wheat crop was rated 75 percent good to excellent, down from 90 percent a year ago. The Oklahoma crop is developing rapidly with 89 percent of the State's acreage jointing. Wheat is starting to head in the central and southern districts of Oklahoma. Some wheat was reportedly cut for hay in the southwestern district. Some irrigated wheat in the Oklahoma Panhandle will likely be cut for hay to fill the critical need for forage.

Conditions in other States were: Colorado, 83 percent good to excellent; Nebraska, 48 percent rated good to excellent; South Dakota, 71 percent; and Montana, 56 percent. The overall lack of snow cover during the winter in Montana allowed some wind damage to occur to the winter wheat crop. An estimated 10 percent of the Montana winter wheat crop had moderate to heavy wind damage, but freeze and drought damage was minimal, with moderate to heavy damage affecting only 5 percent of the State's crop. Many of these acres may be replanted to durum or other spring wheat.

Supply and Use Projections for 2000/01

The first official U.S., world, and country-specific supply and use projections for 2000/01 will be in the May 12 ***World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*** report. Those projections will be analyzed in the May 16 ***Wheat Outlook*** report.

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NOTICE:

ERS Plans to Shift to All-Internet Distribution of Wheat Documents and Data Products in July 2000

Recent data indicate that very few people are obtaining reports and data from the ERS Autofax system. However, maintaining this system is costly to us. As a result, we are planning to phase out Autofax access to the monthly **Wheat Outlook** report (**Autofax Document 12105**) as of July 2000. Starting in July, we plan to only provide access to this report through the Internet. You can find this document at http://www.ers.usda.gov in PDF and ASCII formats. Select "**Outlook Reports**," then "**Wheat**." It will be available on the same schedule through the Internet as through the Autofax (e.g., at approximately 9:00 a.m. EST on the day of release).

The next electronic **Wheat Outlook** report will be issued on May 16, 2000.

The 2000 Wheat Yearbook data tables are available at:

1) ERS Web Site: www.ers.usda.gov/, select "Data Products," then "Field Crops," then "Wheat," then "Wheat Yearbook."
2) ERS Web Site: www.ers.usda.gov/, select "Wheat" Briefing Room, then "Data," then "Wheat Yearbook," and select desired table. The "README.TXT" file contains a list of appendix and text tables by title.
3) ERS AutoFax; Call (202) 694-5700 and select document 12100 for a complete directory of the historical tables (2000 is the last year that the AutoFax tables will be updated).

Other wheat articles and publications may be obtained from the ERS "Wheat Briefing Room" at http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/wheat. Look in the "Articles and Publications" section.

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Table 1--Wheat: U.S. market year supply and disappearance, 4/13/00

Item	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99E	1999/00P
Area: (mil. ac.)						
National total base	88.9	88.5	87.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eff. base/Ctr. acres						
0,50/92,85	5.2	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CRP base retired	10.8	10.8	10.6	10.1	9.7	0.0
Planted	70.3	69.0	75.1	70.4	65.8	62.8
Harvested	61.8	61.0	62.8	62.8	59.0	53.9
Yield: (bu/acre)	37.6	35.8	36.3	39.5	43.2	42.7
Supply: (mil. bu.)						
Beginning stocks	568.5	506.6	376.0	443.6	722.5	945.9
Production	2,321.0	2,182.7	2,277.4	2,481.5	2,547.3	2,302.4
Imports 1/	91.9	67.9	92.3	94.9	103.0	95.0
Total supply	2,981.4	2,757.2	2,745.7	3,020.0	3,372.8	3,343.4
Use:						
Food	853.0	882.9	890.7	914.1	907.3	905.0
Seed	89.0	103.5	102.3	92.5	80.7	90.0
Feed and residual	344.5	153.7	307.6	250.5	396.6	325.0
Total domestic	1,286.6	1,140.1	1,300.6	1,257.1	1,384.5	1,320.0
Exports 1/	1,188.3	1,241.1	1,001.5	1,040.4	1,042.4	1,075.0
Total use	2,474.8	2,381.2	2,302.1	2,297.5	2,426.9	2,395.0
Ending stocks:	506.6	376.0	443.6	722.5	945.9	943.4
Farmer-owned reserve	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CCC inventory 2/	142.0	118.0	93.0	94.0	128.0	100.0
Free stocks	364.6	258.0	350.6	628.5	817.9	843.4
Stocks-to-use ratio	20.5	15.8	19.3	31.4	39.0	39.4
Prices: ($/bu.)						
Target price	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan rate	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.58	2.58
Contract rate 3/	0.61	0.00	0.87	0.63	0.66	0.64
Ave. farm price	3.45	4.55	4.30	3.38	2.65	2.50
Contract payments						
(mil. dollars) 3/	1,146	100	1,941	1,413	1,972	2,397
Market value						
of production						
(mil. dollars)	8,007	9,787	9,782	8,387	6,781	5,756

Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, USDA. Totals may not add due to rounding. E=Estimated, P=Projected, N.A.=not applicable. 1/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent. 2/ Includes Food Security Reserve. 3/ Deficiency payments prior to 1996/97.

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Table 2--Wheat: U.S. market year supply and disappearance, 4/13/00 1/

1998/99 E	HRW	HRS	SRW	White	Durum	All wheat
Area:			Million acres			
Planted	32.22	14.80	10.18	4.81	3.80	65.82
Harvested	27.27	14.37	9.08	4.56	3.73	59.02
			Bushels per acre			
Yield:	43.3	34.8	48.8	65.9	37.0	43.2
Supply:			Million bushels			
Beg. stocks	306.7	220.0	80.0	90.0	25.8	722.5
Production	1,179.5	486.4	442.7	300.7	138.1	2,547.3
Imports 2/	0.9	58.2	0.0	10.5	33.5	103.0
Total	1487.0	764.5	522.7	401.2	197.4	3372.8
Utilization:						
Food	384.8	230.0	150.0	75.0	67.5	907.3
Seed	34.8	18.2	17.6	6.1	4.0	80.7
Feed and residual	179.4	36.1	114.5	35.0	31.6	396.6
Total domestic	598.9	284.3	282.1	116.1	103.1	1,384.5
Exports 2/	453.0	247.2	104.6	198.1	39.5	1,042.4
Total	1,051.9	531.5	386.7	314.2	142.6	2,426.9
Ending stocks:	435.1	233.0	136.0	87.0	54.8	945.9

1999/00 P	HRW	HRS	SRW	White	Durum	All wheat
Area:			Million acres			
Planted	30.85	14.34	9.13	4.45	4.04	62.81
Harvested	24.45	13.79	8.02	4.09	3.57	53.91
			Bushels per acre			
Yield:	43.2	32.5	56.5	60.3	27.8	42.7
Supply:			Million bushels			
Beg. stocks	435.1	233.0	136.0	87.0	54.8	945.9
Production	1,055.0	447.9	453.4	246.8	99.3	2,302.4
Imports 2/	1.0	55.0	0.0	6.0	28.0	90.0
Total	1,491.1	735.9	589.4	339.8	182.1	3,338.4
Utilization:						
Total domestic	519.0	303.3	302.9	101.1	93.5	1,320.0
Exports 2/	485.0	225.0	165.0	160.0	40.0	1,075.0
Total	1,004.0	528.3	467.9	261.1	133.5	2,395.0
Ending stocks:	486.9	207.7	121.5	78.7	48.6	943.4

Source: World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, USDA.
Totals may not add due to rounding. E=Estimated, P=Projected. 1/ ERS estimates of area, yield, and domestic use. 2/ Imports and exports include flour and other products expressed in wheat equivalent.

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Table 3--Wheat: Quarterly supply and disappearance (1,000 bu.), 4/13/00

Market Year	Production	Imports 1/	Supply	Food	Seed	Feed	Exports 1/	Ending stocks
				Million bushels				
1997/98:								
Jun-Aug	2,481	23	2,948	228	3	352	288	2,076
Sep-Nov	---	23	2,099	239	59	(113)	296	1,619
Dec-Feb	---	24	1,643	219	2	0	255	1,167
Mar-May	---	26	1,192	228	29	11	201	722
Mkt. year	2,481	95	3,020	914	92	251	1,040	722
1998/99 E:								
Jun-Aug	2,547	24	3,294	226	1	425	257	2,385
Sep-Nov	---	24	2,409	241	55	(74)	292	1,896
Dec-Feb	---	28	1,923	213	1	12	247	1,450
Mar-May	---	27	1,477	228	23	34	247	946
Mkt. year	2,547	103	3,373	907	81	397	1,042	946
1999/00 P:								
Jun-Aug	2,302	31	3,279	224	6	279	325	2,445
Sep-Nov	---	19	2,465	238	54	(5)	291	1,886
Dec-Feb	---	17	1,903	217	2	38	233	1,412
Mar-May	---	23	1,435	226	27	13	226	943
Mkt. year	2,302	90	3,338	905	90	325	1,075	943

Totals might not add due to rounding. E=Estimated, P=Projected. 1/ Imports and exports include flour and selected products expressed in wheat equivalent.

Table 4--Monthly food use estimates for last 12 months, (1,000 bu.), 4/13/00

Item		February	March	April	May	June	July
Mill grind	+	69,355	73,582	75,536	77,233	73,892	73,438
Food imports 1/	+	1,766	1,860	1,836	1,803	1,927	1,703
Non-flour food use 2/	+	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Food exports 1/	-	3,535	4,323	3,304	2,107	6,113	5,289
Food use*	=	69,586	73,119	76,068	78,929	71,707	71,852

Item		August	September	October	November	December	January
Mill grind	+	80,263	77,179	83,883	80,289	75,363	N/A
Food imports 1/	+	1,772	1,576	1,830	1,939	2,066	2,277
Non-flour food use 2/	+	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Food exports 1/	-	3,932	6,904	4,950	2,607	6,812	3,245
Food use*	=	80,103	73,851	82,763	81,621	72,617	N/A

Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. Totals may not add due to rounding. 1/ Wheat flour and products converted to wheat grain equivalent. 2/ ERS estimate of cereal use. N/A=not available

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Table 5--Wheat: Farm prices and prices at selected markets ($/bu.), 4/13/00

Month	Farm prices: All wheat 98/99	All wheat 99/00	Winter 98/99	Winter 99/00	Durum 98/99	Durum 99/00	Other spring 98/99	Other spring 99/00
June	2.77	2.50	2.68	2.32	3.98	2.93	3.22	3.01
July	2.56	2.23	2.47	2.13	3.39	2.89	3.08	2.93
August	2.38	2.52	2.25	2.34	3.23	2.74	2.69	2.85
September	2.39	2.57	2 29	2.46	3.03	2.30	2.62	2.86
October	2.77	2.58	2.66	2.47	3.04	2.17	3.04	2.80
November	2.95	2.66	2.76	2.42	3.08	2.62	3.23	2.95
December	2.86	2.52	2.68	2.27	3.05	2.96	3.19	2.87
January	2.84	2.50	2.70	2.32	3.20	2.89	3.12	2.80
February	2.73	2.54	2.55	2.37	2.84	2.89	3.09	2.82
March 1/	2.65	2.57	2.53	2.37	2.82	2.84	3.00	2.85
April	2.62	.	2.48	.	2.80	.	2.95	.
May	2.49	.	2.34	.	2.84	.	2.92	.

Month	KC HRW #1 ordinary 98/99	KC HRW #1 ordinary 99/00	KC HRW #1 13% protein 98/99	KC HRW #1 13% protein 99/00	Minneapolis DNS 14% prot. 98/99	Minneapolis DNS 14% prot. 99/00	Minneapolis #1 HAD milling 98/99	Minneapolis #1 HAD milling 99/00
June	3.16	2.93	3.57	3.22	4.01	3.73	5.00	N/Q
July	3.02	2.68	3.57	3.39	3.89	3.68	4.59	3.92
August	2.74	2.85	3.12	3.42	3.58	3.58	4.20	3.73
September	2.81	2.92	3.17	3.52	3.53	3.55	3.78	4.14
October	3.30	2.80	3.67	3.40	4.03	3.70	4.04	4.46
November	3.42	2.89	3.89	3.54	4.15	3.78	4.15	4.80
December	3.31	2.81	3.74	3.44	3.97	3.64	4.05	N/Q
January	3.27	2.90	3.61	3.46	3.92	3.37	3.91	N/Q
February	3.05	2.94	3.35	3.37	3.78	3.59	3.67	4.40
March	3.02	.	3.34	.	3.79	.	3.65	.
April	2.94	.	3.34	.	3.65	.	3.61	.
May	2.89	.	3.28	.	3.61	.	N/Q	.

Month	St. Louis #2 SRW 98/99	St. Louis #2 SRW 99/00	Portland #1 soft white 98/99	Portland #1 soft white 99/00	Portland #1 HRW Ord. 98/99	Portland #1 HRW Ord. 99/00	FOB Gulf $/ton (HRW) 98/99	FOB Gulf $/ton (HRW) 99/00
June	2.66	2.31	2.93	3.17	3.37	3.10	120.52	110.60
July	2.43	N.A.	2.72	3.06	3.04	2.83	117.95	101.04
August	2.26	2.22	2.66	3.14	2.93	3.00	108.76	109.86
September	2.12	2.48	2.69	3.25	3.06	3.12	108.03	113.17
October	2.23	2.31	3.15	3.24	3.56	2.97	126.03	107.29
November	2.41	2.50	3.15	3.09	3.66	2.98	131.18	108.76
December	2.54	2.26	3.12	2.83	3.62	2.84	126.40	102.88
January	2.51	2.38	3.15	2.91	3.58	2.95	125.30	106.19
February	2.33	2.51	3.10	2.88	3.36	3.01	116.48	109.86
March	2.44	.	3.22	.	3.43	.	117.95	.
April	2.44	.	3.23	.	3.31	.	113.90	.
May	2.45	.	3.17	.	3.11	.	112.07	.

1/ Mid-month price for current month of the 1999/00 marketing year.
N.A.-not available. N/Q-no quote. Source: NASS & AMS, USDA.

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Table 6--Wheat: U.S. exports and imports for last 6 months, 4/13/00

Item 1/	August	September	October	November	December	January
	Exports, (1,000 bu.) 1999/2000					
Wheat grain	107,168	91,438	96,154	89,211	84,460	71,763
Wheat flour	3,673	6,503	4,576	2,332	6,566	2,924
Products	656	401	374	283	246	322
Total	111,496	98,343	101,105	91,826	91,272	75,010

Item 1/	August	September	October	November	December	January
	Imports, (1,000 bu.) 1999/2000					
Wheat grain	8,201	4,839	4,570	4,712	4,711	2,971
Wheat flour	593	537	556	634	636	764
Products	1,181	1,041	1,275	1,308	1,433	1,827
Total	9,974	6,418	6,402	6,655	6,779	2,590

Source: Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census. 1/ Wheat flour and products converted to wheat grain equivalent. Totals may not add due to rounding. Monthly and quarterly estimates since 1995/96 are available in ERS AutoFax Document 12181, and electronically at www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/wheat/data.

Table 7--Wheat: U.S. exports, Census and Export Sales comparison, 4/13/00 1/

Importing country	1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000 (as of 3/30/00)		
	Shipments				Shipments	Outstanding sales	Total
Data Source	Census	Export sales	Census	Export sales	Export Sales		
	--1,000 metric tons--						
Country:							
Egypt	4,837	4,982	4,516	4,397	3,566	356	3,923
EU	1,302	1,298	1,421	1,407	1,068	288	1,356
Israel	830	786	716	734	741	75	816
Japan	3,169	3,373	3,076	3,201	2,447	648	3,095
S. Korea	1,446	1,400	1,534	1,366	1,253	253	1,506
Mexico	1,156	1,151	1,734	1,860	1,759	150	1,909
Nigeria	730	817	1,238	1,300	1,020	142	1,162
Pakistan	2,180	2,232	867	844	401	0	401
Philippines	1,458	1,531	1,682	1,749	1,681	398	2,079
Taiwan	1,003	975	889	920	862	140	1,002
Total grain	27,295	27,518	27,202	25,555	21,486	3,218	24,704
Total(incl products)	28,308	27,626	28,359	25,648	21,527	3,226	24,754
USDA forecast of Census							29,257

1/Export sales and shipments from USDA's weekly ***U.S. Export Sales*** report.