

## BALANCE SHEET METHODOLOGY

### 1. FREQUENCY

The Directorate General for Agricultural and Rural Development's supply and demand estimates for cereals, oilseeds and rice are published monthly at this address:

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cereals/balance-sheets/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cereals/balance-sheets/index_en.htm)

### 2. COVERAGE

Balance sheets are compiled for the following agricultural commodities: cereals (including common wheat, durum wheat, barley, maize, rye, sorghum, oats, triticale and other grains such as buckwheat and millet) rice, oilseeds, oilseed meals and vegetable oils.

### 3. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The coverage of the published data is confined to the 27 Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

The balance sheets disseminated by the Directorate General for Agricultural and Rural Development provide aggregated statistics for the EU as a whole and not for any individual Member States.

### 4. TIME COVERAGE

The data are annual (with the exception of monthly stock data) and expressed according to the crop-specific marketing years applied in the EU:

- Cereals: from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June
- Rice: from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August
- Oilseeds, oilseed meals and vegetable oils: from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June

### 5. DEFINITIONS OF BALANCE SHEET ITEMS

A full balance sheet is published for each commodity, providing separate estimates for the following components:

*Updated: 15/12/2011*

**TOTAL SUPPLY = Beginning stocks + Usable production + Imports (from third countries)**

- *Beginning stocks*: The quantities unused but stored, on the first day of the reference period and coming from the previous reference period. This excludes stocks at retail trade level and at household level (which are included in the various Domestic uses). If possible, beginning stocks is broken down to Private stocks and Intervention stocks.
- *Usable production*: harvested production after deduction of on-field losses and wastage.
- *Imports (from third countries)*: volume of goods which enter the statistical territory of the EU (extra-EU imports). Internal trade between EU Member States is not included.

**TOTAL USE = Domestic use + Exports (to third countries)**

- **Domestic use**: If possible, this category is broken down into the following sub-categories:
  - **Human consumption**: quantities placed at the disposal of human consumption in all forms: quantities consumed with or without processing
  - **Seeds**: quantities of raw product used for the next production cycle
  - **Industrial uses**: quantities used by industry for the production of products not intended for animal feed or direct human consumption; includes use by beer and alcohol industries
  - **Animal feed**: quantities of product used directly for animal feed and/or for the manufacture of animal feedstuffs
  - **Losses**: losses occurring after the product's delivery (at the time of storage, handling, processing or conditioning, etc.) including quantities withdrawn from the market.
- **Exports (to third countries)**: volume of goods leaving the statistical territory of the EU (extra-EU exports). Internal trade between the EU Member States is not included.

### **Final stocks**

Quantities in storage on the last day of the marketing year. This excludes retail trade and household stocks. If possible, final stocks are broken down into Private stocks and Intervention stocks.

### **Stocks at the end of month**

Quantities in storage on the last day of the month before publication of the balance sheet, excluding stocks at retail trade and household level. This sub-category is published only for cereals.

## **6. DATA SOURCES**

The data published are Directorate General for Agricultural and Rural Development estimates and forecasts, based mainly on Member State communications (collected by National Statistical Institutes or Ministries of Agriculture) plus other data sources (i.e. EUROSTAT / COMEXT, issued import/export licences, the Taxation and Customs Union Directorate General / Surveillance<sup>2</sup>).

## **7. UNIT**

The balance sheets are expressed in quantitative terms:

- cereals in million metric tonnes
- oilseeds, oilseed meals, vegetable oils and rice, in thousand metric tonnes.

## **8. OTHER CROP-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

Rice data are expressed in milled equivalent.

Private stocks of rice (both beginning and final stocks) include only producer and rice mill stocks.