

**Required Report:** Required - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Grain and Feed Annual

**Country:** Tunisia

**Post:** Tunis

**Report Category:** Grain and Feed

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**Report Highlights:**

Favorable winter growing conditions set Tunisia up for an above average 2024 harvest. The wheat and barley crops have developed well entering the most critical growing period in April. Post forecasts MY 2024/25 wheat and barley production at 1.25 MMT and 600,000 MT, respectively, with imports at 1.8 MMT and 500,000 MT. Recent policy changes now allow private companies to import barley, and Post decreased the MY 2023/24 wheat consumption estimate due to occasional wheat shortages caused by Tunisia's worsening procurement capacity.

## **Executive Summary:**

### **MY 2024/25**

- With better winter rains than in recent years, Post forecasts MY 2024/25 wheat production at 1.25 MMT and barley production at 600,000 MT.
- Tunisia's MY 2024/25 seeded area for wheat decreased to 566,000 HA from 620,000 HA in MY 2023/24, of which 514,000 HA is durum wheat and 52,000 HA is common wheat.
- Wheat seed shortages and dry weather during planting season caused some farmers to plant barley in place of wheat. Barley seeded area increased to 395,000 HA in MY 2024/25 from 332,000 HA in MY 2023/24.
- The irrigated area of wheat and barley increased from 80,000 HA to 84,000 HA in MY 2024/25.
- Despite a dry start during planting, good rainfall and moderate temperatures are stretching wheat and barley production. As a result, Post anticipates that Tunisia will have a well beyond average production in MY 2024/25.
- Wheat yields remain dependent on April rainfall, which could improve yields by 10 to 20 percent if favorable.
- Tunisian wheat consumption in MY 2024/25 is forecast at 2.89 MMT, reflecting an average growth trend of roughly two percent. Barley consumption in MY 2024/25 is forecast at 1.08 MMT, reflecting average growth.
- To cover demand while maintaining stock levels, Post forecasts Tunisia's wheat imports in MY 2024/25 at 1.8 MMT, while barley imports are forecast at 500,000 MT.
- The Tunisian Government made recent policy changes, which allow private companies to directly import barley instead of going through Tunisia's Office des Cereales (Cereal Board).

### **MY 2023/24**

Post adjusts the MY 2023/24 balance sheet to reflect official harvested area and production for wheat and barley. Post decreased the MY 2023/24 estimate for wheat ending stocks to 218,000 MT to reflect final production estimates. Post decreased the MY 2023/24 wheat consumption estimate due to occasional wheat shortages caused by Tunisia's worsening procurement capacity.

### **MY 2022/23**

Post changed the MY 2022/23 wheat and barley imports based on revised and finalized trade numbers.

## Commodities:

### Area

#### Wheat

#### Barley

According to the Ministry of Agriculture<sup>1</sup> and farmer associations, Tunisian seeded area for wheat decreased from 620,000 HA in MY 2023/24 to 566,000 HA in MY 2024/25. Seeded area includes 514,000 HA of durum wheat and 52,000 HA of common wheat. The seeded area for barley is 395,000 HA, up from 332,000 HA in MY 2023/24. Irrigated area of wheat and barley slightly increased from 80,000 HA to 84,000 HA. The decrease in wheat planted area is due to seed availabilities the beginning of the campaign and unfavorable weather conditions around the seeding period. Following last year's severe drought and low soil moisture availability in October- November 2023, farmers increased barley seeded area at the expense of wheat as barley is better resistant to drought than wheat in the Tunisian context.

**Table 1: Wheat and Barley Area by Year**

	MY 19/20	MY 20/21	MY 21/22	MY 22/23	MY 23/24	MY 24/25
<b>Wheat, Seeded</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>566</b>
- Durum	614	495	542	515	550	514
- Common	86	61	65	64	70	52
<b>Barley, Seeded</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>Wheat and Barley, Seeded</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>1,074</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>952</b>	<b>961</b>
<b>Wheat, Harvested</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>515</b>
- Durum	518	435	459	448	380	467
- Common	78	55	63	62	54	48
<b>Barley, Harvested</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Wheat and Barley, Harvested</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>865</b>

Source: Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture; \*FAS/Tunis forecast MY 24/25 harvested area

### Production

Post forecasts MY 2024/25 wheat production at 1.25 MMT and barley production at 600,000 MT. Planting was started and completed by mid-December 2023 during continued dry weather. This was followed by high levels of rainfall in January and February 2024, and wheat and barley benefited from this moisture and moderate temperatures. USDA field visits in March 2024 confirmed that, the Tunisian wheat crop is experiencing beyond average vegetation growth with no noticeable pest or disease. (Contacts report that fertilizer supplies are normal, but given expected high production, fertilizer

<sup>1</sup> Tunisia's official production estimates are reported by the Agricultural Production Division, which is under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture. In general, Tunisian production estimates are performed by the Ministry of Agriculture through an annual survey and in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Center and the Field Crop Institute, which provides estimates based on satellite imagery.

demand would exceed supply). Tunisian wheat sector contacts currently estimate that production could increase by as much as 160 to 200 percent compared to poor crop in MY 2023/24, especially if the crops receive enough rainfall in April 2024. Wheat seeds were not available at the requested level during the sowing period. (Planting normally runs mid-October to mid-December) which also caused some farmers to switch to barley.

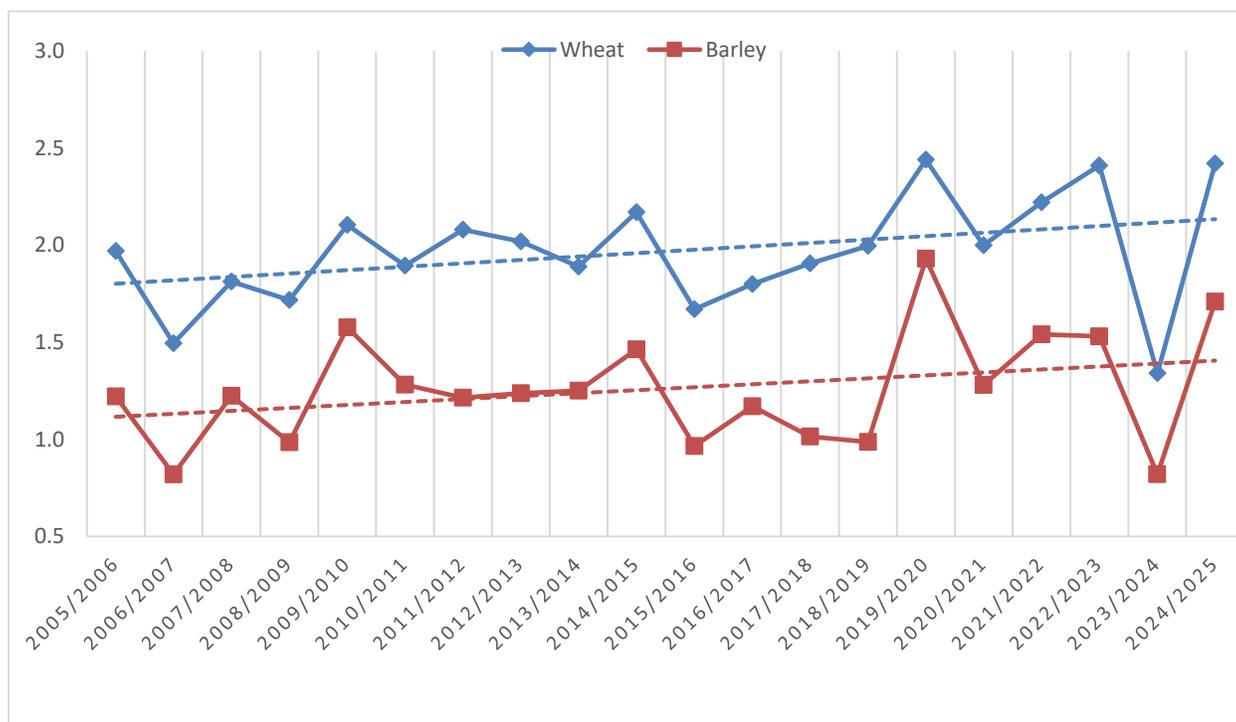
Based on industry and official Tunisian estimates, Post revised production downward in MY 2023/24 to 441,000 MT for wheat and to 89,000 MT for barley due to a lower-than-expected harvest.

**Table 2: Wheat and Barley Production by Year**

	MY 19/20	MY 20/21	MY 21/22	MY 22/23	MY 23/24	MY 24/25
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>1,191</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>1,250</b>
- Durum	1,267	959	1,071	1,030	427	1,130
- Common	187	84	120	200	14	120
<b>Barley</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>600</b>

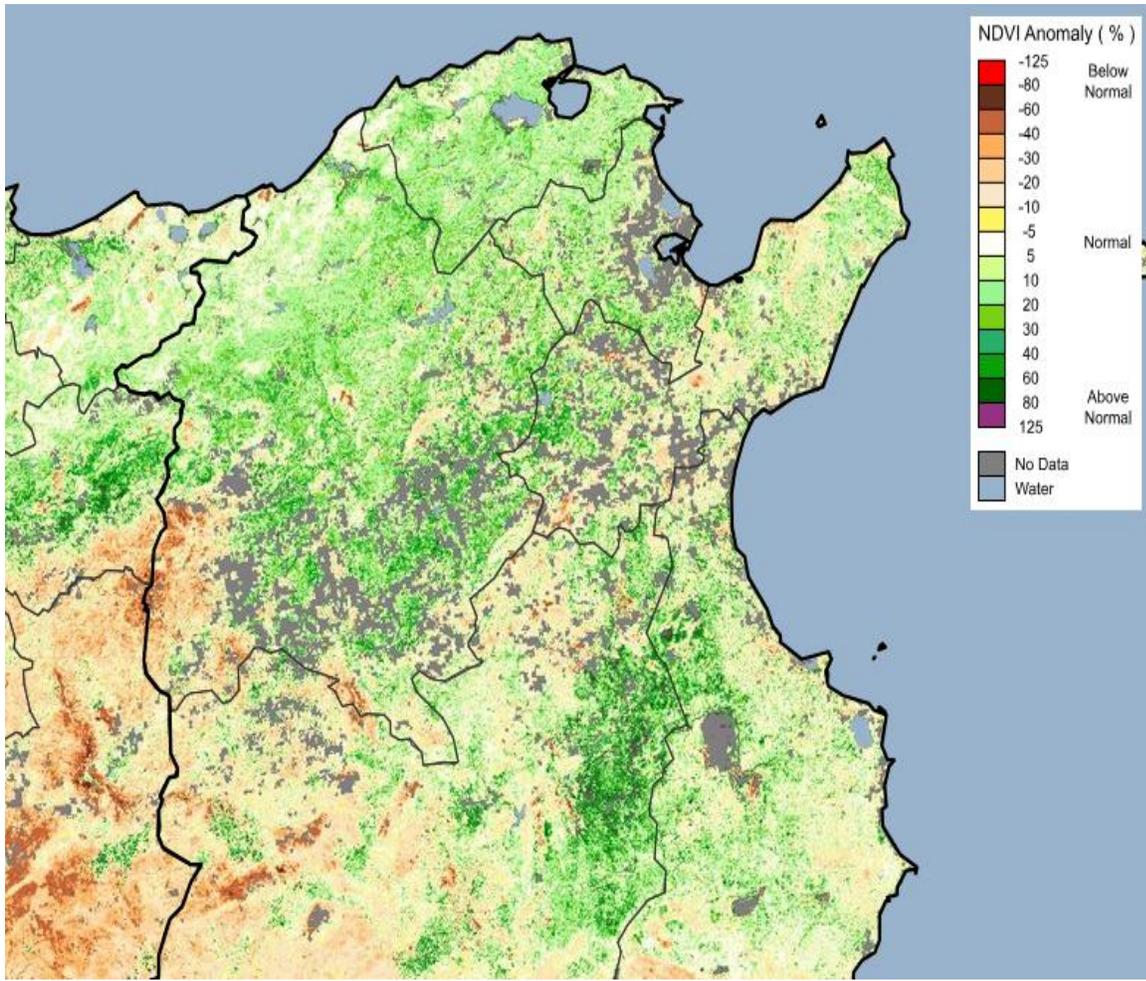
Source: Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture; \*FAS/Tunis forecast (MY 24/25)

**Figure 1: Wheat and Barley Yields by Market Year (MT/HA)**



Source: Official USDA estimates; FAS/Tunis forecast (MY 24/25)

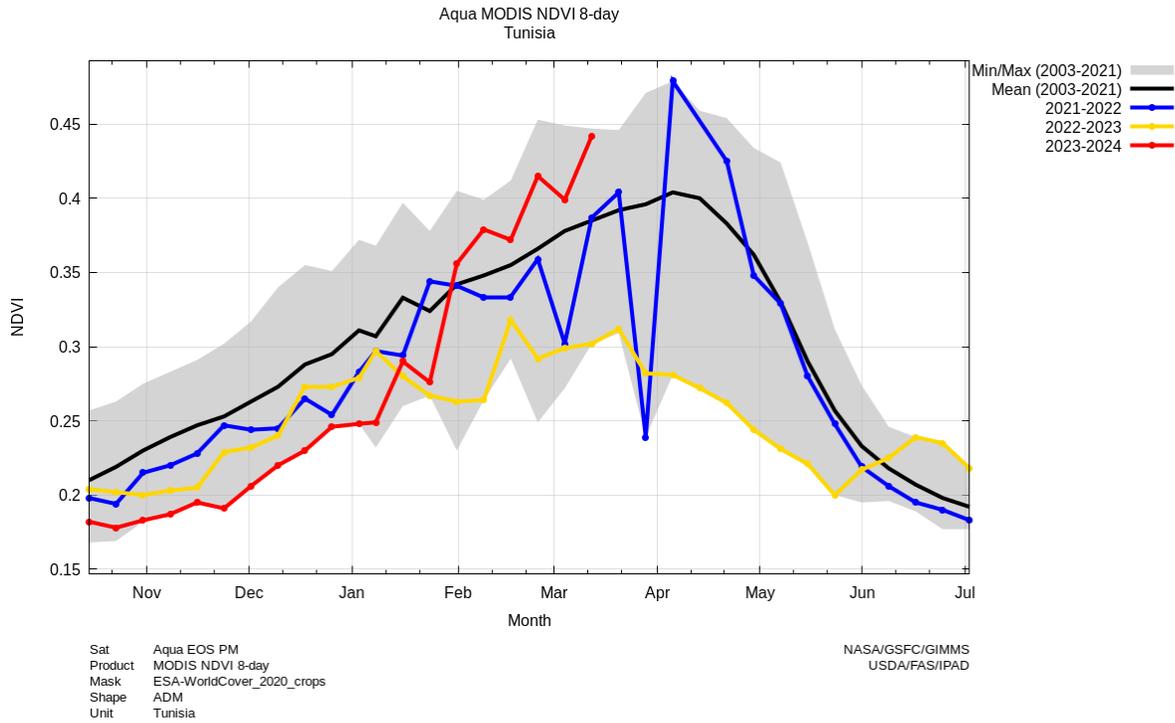
**Image 1: Aqua MODIS NDVI Anomaly, 03/05/2024-03/12/2024 Range**



*Description: The satellite-derived Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) depicts current vegetation vigor compared to previous periods.*

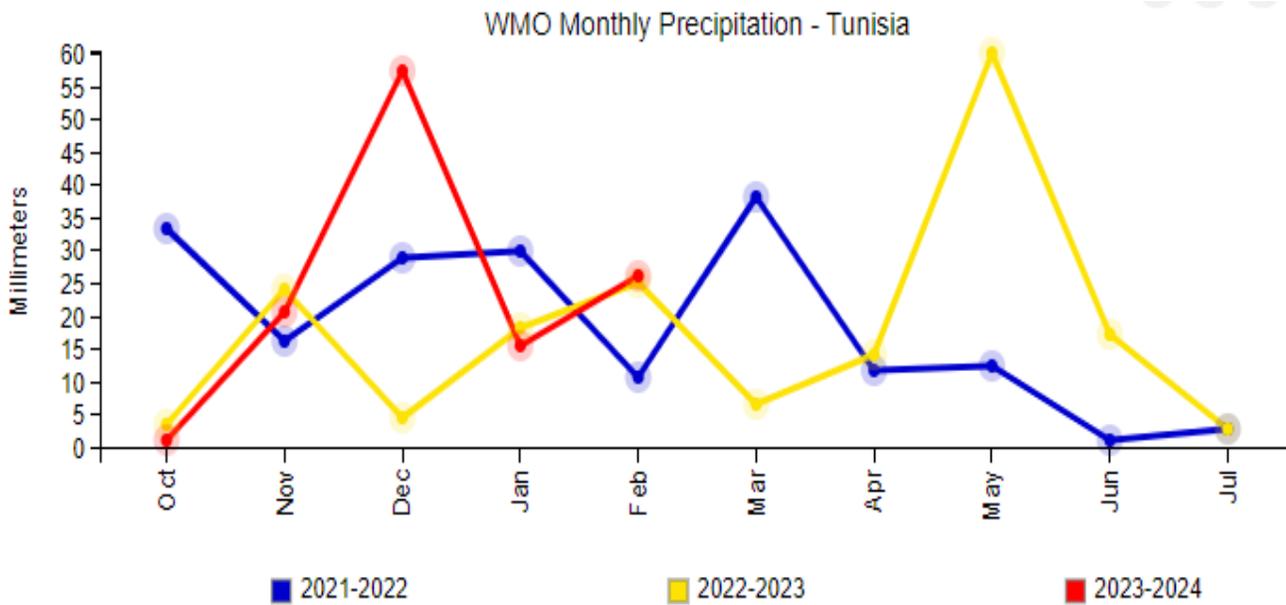
*Source: NASA/GSFC/GIMMS, USDA/FAS/IPAD*

**Figure 2: Aqua MODIS NDVI, Times Series October-July**



Source: NASA/GSFC/GIMMS, USDA/FAS/IPAD

**Figure 3: WMO Monthly Precipitation, Times Series October-July**



Source: USDA/FAS/IPAD

**Production Policy:** Tunisia maintained MY 2023/24 farm-gate prices for domestic wheat and barley as follows:

- Durum Wheat: 1,300 TD/MT (\$436/MT),
- Common Wheat: 1,000 TD/MT (\$336/MT),
- Barley: 800 TD/MT (\$267/MT).

Other Tunisian domestic support policies remain unchanged from MY 2023/24. To achieve the government's self-sufficiency goal of reaching average annual production of 3 MMT for cereals, of which 1.7 MMT is durum wheat, state-sponsored programs include:

- Subsidizing certified seeds,
- Subsidizing 50 percent of agricultural machinery costs and 40-50 percent of irrigation equipment costs,
- Subsidizing irrigation water \$0.07/m<sup>3</sup> (32 percent of the cost) to encourage increasing irrigated wheat area to 120,000 HA,
- Improving access to seasonal credit for grain producers
- Providing technical assistance to irrigated wheat farmers to increase yields.

Tunisia's Office des Cereales (Cereal Board) maintains an official monopoly on the inventory, purchase, and sale of wheat and barley for the domestic market. However, collection of local production has been privatized for both crops. Collection by the Cereal Board currently accounts for 40-60 percent of wheat production and 10-40 percent of barley production.

## **Consumption**

### **Wheat**

Post expects total domestic consumption in MY 2024/25 to slightly increase to 2.8 MMT reflecting the average population growth trend of approximately two percent. Per capita consumption is estimated at around 224 kg in MY 2024/25, with a population of 12.458 million. Total domestic consumption in MY 2023/24 is estimated to decrease to 2.7 MMT reflecting occasional wheat flour shortage and a drastic reduction in bread waste estimated at 5 to 8 percent in previous years. The reduction in bread waste is explained by lower availability of subsidized bread in MY 2023/24.

**Consumer Policy:** Tunisia subsidizes wheat consumption, guaranteeing the entire population access to wheat flour, semolina, and bread at prices below market rate. Bread prices are a sensitive issue, and as a result, wheat subsidies have remained unchanged despite the extreme burden that they place on the state budget.

### **Barley**

Tunisia's barley consumption in MY 2024/25 is forecast at 1.08 MMT, reflecting the same average growth trend of roughly two percent. Barley is consumed mainly in feedlots and as supplemental feed,

especially when and where rangelands are stressed. USDA crop survey indicates that rangeland for Tunisian sheep and goats is in above average condition.

## **Trade**

### **Wheat**

Post expects imports to be 1.8 MMT in MY 2024/25 based on consumption, stable stock levels, and above average production. Post increases the MY 2023/24 import estimate at 2.2 MMT to reflect a lower domestic production.

Tunisia's fragile economic situation has weakened the Office of Cereals' ability to import grains. Amid concerns regarding Tunisia's ability to pay for the much-needed imported wheat in MY 2022/23 and MY 2023/24, Tunisia obtained funding and grants from international institutions and donors (World Bank, European Union, African Development Bank, and others) to fund some of the wheat and barley shipments. Tunisia still looking for funding to secure wheat shipments in MY 2023/24. Post's import estimate includes the assumption that Tunisia strives to maintain stocks equivalent to approximately one to two months' supply, i.e., the minimum quantity necessary to ensure an uninterrupted supply chain.

**Trade Policy:** Tunisia's Cereal Board controls imports and exports of wheat and wheat products. As the monopoly importer, all Cereal Board wheat tenders are destined for domestic use. Imported wheat is sold on the market at a subsidized rate, and the difference is covered by the Tunisian government. Despite concerns that the wheat subsidy is becoming too expensive for the Tunisian budget, there is no indication that the subsidy program will change or that imports will decrease.

Private millers may import wheat under a temporary admission regime but are required to export the finished product after milling occurs in Tunisia. Exports of Tunisian wheat products require an export license.

### **Barley**

MY 2024/25 barley imports are forecast to fall to 500,000 MT due to increased domestic production.

**Trade Policy:** In order to bring some relief to the state budget and in compliance with some of international institutions and donors' guidance, Tunisia decided in MY 2023/24 to liberalize barley imports after a first failed experience twenty years ago. Now, private sector companies are allowed to import barley.

Tunisia created by Decree No 25 of January 10, 2024, a National Feed Board under Ministry of Agriculture which will produce, procure, and distribute animal feed including barley to the livestock and poultry sectors. According to the Decree and to Tunisian industry members, there are no indications at this stage that there will be a shift from a the newly barley private-sector procurement process to a public-sector procurement process. Implementing texts that will determine how the National Feed Board will operate will only be prepared after the Board is physically in place in late MY 2023/24.

**Table 3: Tariff Table for Wheat, Barley, and Wheat Products**

HS code	Description	Average of AV Duties	Exchange Rate NC/US\$
<b>1001</b>	Wheat and meslin.	0	2.15
<b>1003</b>	Barley	36	2.15
<b>1101</b>	Wheat or meslin flour.	36	2.15
<b>190219</b>	Uncooked pasta, not stuffed or otherwise prepared, not containing eggs	36	2.15
<b>190230</b>	Pasta, cooked or otherwise prepared (excl. stuffed)	36	2.15
<b>190240</b>	Couscous, whether or not prepared	36	2.15

Source: World Trade Organization: Tariff Download Facility

**Table 4: Wheat Production, Supply and Distribution**

Wheat Market Year Begins Tunisia	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
<b>Area Harvested</b> (1000 HA)	510	510	435	329	0	515
<b>Beginning Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	650	650	706	383	0	218
<b>Production</b> (1000 MT)	1230	1230	800	441	0	1250
<b>MY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	1940	1617	2000	2200	0	1800
<b>TY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	1940	1617	2000	2200	0	1800
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	27	27	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b> (1000 MT)	<b>3820</b>	<b>3497</b>	<b>3506</b>	<b>3024</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3268</b>
<b>MY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	14	14	20	16	0	18
<b>TY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	14	14	20	16	0	18
<b>Feed and Residual</b> (1000 MT)	100	100	100	90	0	92
<b>FSI Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	3000	3000	2800	2700	0	2800
<b>Total Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	3100	3100	2900	2790	0	2892
<b>Ending Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	706	383	586	218	0	358
<b>Total Distribution</b> (1000 MT)	<b>3820</b>	<b>3497</b>	<b>3506</b>	<b>3024</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3268</b>
<b>Yield</b> (MT/HA)	2.4118	2.4118	1.8391	1.3404	0	2.4272

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)

MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column

TY = Trade Year, which for Wheat begins in July for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = July 2024 - June 2025

**Table 5: Barley Production, Supply and Distribution**

Barley Market Year Begins Tunisia	2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025	
	Jul 2022		Jul 2023		Jul 2024	
	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post	USDA Official	New Post
<b>Area Harvested</b> (1000 HA)	300	300	200	108	0	350
<b>Beginning Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	212	212	157	90	0	94
<b>Production</b> (1000 MT)	460	460	170	89	0	600
<b>MY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	665	538	800	950	0	500
<b>TY Imports</b> (1000 MT)	767	538	800	950	0	500
<b>TY Imp. from U.S.</b> (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Supply</b> (1000 MT)	1337	1210	1127	1129	0	1194
<b>MY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TY Exports</b> (1000 MT)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Feed and Residual</b> (1000 MT)	1100	1040	950	950	0	1000
<b>FSI Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	80	80	80	85	0	88
<b>Total Consumption</b> (1000 MT)	1180	1120	1030	1035	0	1088
<b>Ending Stocks</b> (1000 MT)	157	90	97	94	0	106
<b>Total Distribution</b> (1000 MT)	1337	1210	1127	1129	0	1194
<b>Yield</b> (MT/HA)	1.5333	1.5333	0.85	0.8241	0	1.7143

(1000 HA), (1000 MT), (MT/HA)  
 MY = Marketing Year, begins with the month listed at the top of each column  
 TY = Trade Year, which for Barley begins in October for all countries. TY 2024/2025 = October 2024 - September 2025

**Attachments:**

No Attachments