

TABLE 18

The table below presents a 23-year record of the differences between the December projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the December projection and the final estimate have averaged 3.7 million tons (0.7 percent) and ranged from -10.2 to 6.1 million tons. The December projection has been below the final 15 times and above the final 8 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 2003/04 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below Final	Above Final
	Average	Average	Difference			
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.7	3.7	-10.2	6.1	15	8
U.S.	0.3	0.2	-1.2	0.5	12	9
Foreign	0.8	3.7	-10.3	6.3	15	8
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	1.0	8.0	-20.2	6.9	14	9
U.S.	1.0	2.3	-7.5	5.8	12	11
Foreign	1.3	8.0	-24.0	7.6	13	10
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.7	5.7	-16.2	4.7	17	6
U.S.	2.8	0.2	-0.3	0.5	11	10
Foreign	1.7	5.7	-16.2	4.6	18	5
SOYBEANS						
World	2.5	3.3	-7.9	9.9	14	9
U.S.	1.7	1.0	-2.7	2.1	8	15
Foreign	4.4	3.1	-7.5	10.0	13	10
COTTON		---Million 480-lb. bales---				
World	2.2	1.9	-6.3	4.4	12	10
U.S.	1.4	0.2	-0.5	0.4	11	11
Foreign	2.7	1.9	-6.7	4.3	11	11
UNITED STATES		-----Million bushels-----				
CORN	1.1	80	-250	164	12	10
SORGHUM	2.4	16	-53	52	11	12
BARLEY	1.2	5	-12	24	9	10
OATS	0.9	3	-18	16	7	8

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-2002/03 is defined as the first December estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 23 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.