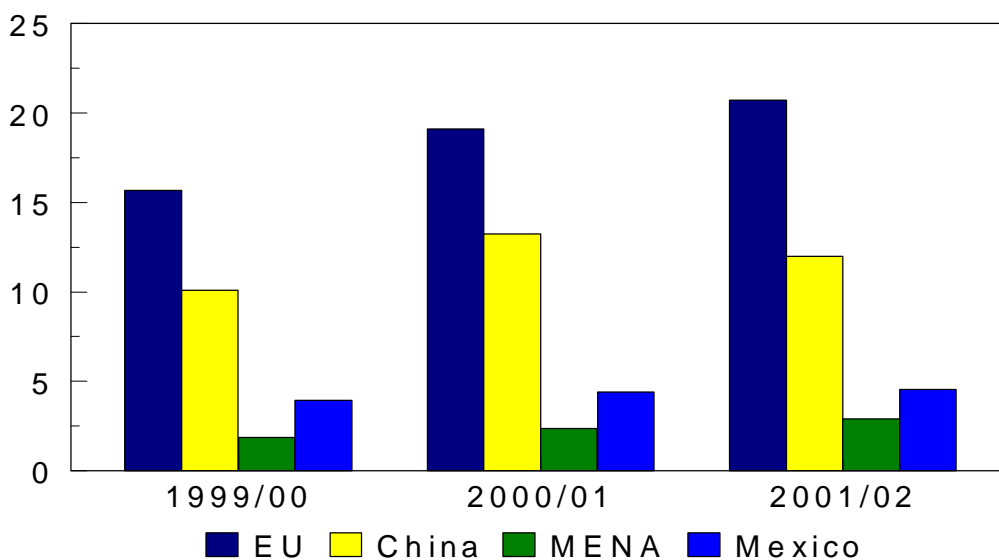




Oilseeds: World Markets and Trade

Strong Demand for Soybeans in 2001/02 Continues to Push World Trade to Record Levels

Million Tons



Global soybean imports are expected to increase more than 2.6 million tons in MY 2001/02, reaching 58.6 million tons - the highest level ever. These trade gains have held in spite of the pending uncertainty over China's implementation of new biotechnology regulations. As a result of the Chinese regulations, 2001/02 imports by China this month are estimated at 12.0 million tons, down 1.0 million from last month's estimate. Export estimates for Brazil and Argentina are also reduced this month, by 500 and 350 thousand tons respectively, to account for the lower imports by China. Significant trade gains have been made in the European Union, where imports are up 1.6 million tons over last year, for a total of 20.7 million tons in MY 2001/02. Gains are also forecasted for Taiwan and the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA), principally Egypt. The estimate for U.S. exports for 2001/02 remains unchanged this month at 27.8 million tons, also an all time high. Uncertainty generated by Chinese interim biotech certification procedures is expected to have an increasingly negative effect on South America's exports.