

China's Agricultural Production and Trade in 2017

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January 2018

This issue of SAIN Information Sheet gives a snapshot of China's agricultural production and trade in 2017.

China continues the supply-side reform in agriculture in 2017 with focus on adjusting the crop planting structure, optimizing the distribution of production zones, and strengthening the production capacity by improving land quality, fostering new type of agricultural business entities and training new generation of farmers.

In 2017, the Government also adopted agricultural green development and rural vitalization as the national strategy to promote integrated urban-rural development, and speed up the modernization of agriculture and rural areas.

What Did China Grow in 2017

In 2017, China's grain crop sown area was 112.22 Mha, 810 thousand ha less than in 2016, declined 0.7%. As part of the supply side reform, China continued reducing grain maize sown area and encouraging pulses planting. As the result, cereals sown area declined to 92.93 Mha, 1.46 Mha less than in 2016, of which maize sown area reduced by over 1.3 million ha. Meanwhile, the sown area for pulses increased by 6.6% from 2016, reached 10.35 M ha.

Table 1. Crop grown area in 2017

Crops	Sown area in 2017 (M ha)	Comparing 2016 (%)
Total sown area	112.22	0.7 ↓
Cereals	92.93	1.6 ↓
In which: Maize	35.45	3.6 ↓
Rice	30.18	0.0 ↑
Wheat	23.99	0.2 ↑
Pulses	10.35	6.6 ↑
Root and Tuber	8.94	0.1 ↓

Production of this report was supported by Defra (SAIN), STFC-Newton Fund (AgriTech in China Network+), and BBSRC/NERC-Newton Fund (N-Circle Virtual Joint Centre). The data come from various statistical documents of Ministry of Agriculture and National Bureau of Statistics.

How Much Did China Produce in 2017

The total grain output in 2017 was 617.91 million ton, 0.3% increase than the year before. This is the second highest yield on record. China's grain output peaked in 2015 at 621.4 million ton. Meat output increased by 0.8% compared with 2016. There was a minor increase in pork output, by 0.8% only, while beef, lamb and poultry output increased by 2.4%, 4.2% and 3.4% respectively. Eggs and milk output declined by 0.8% and 1.6% respectively.

Table 2. China Agricultural production in 2017

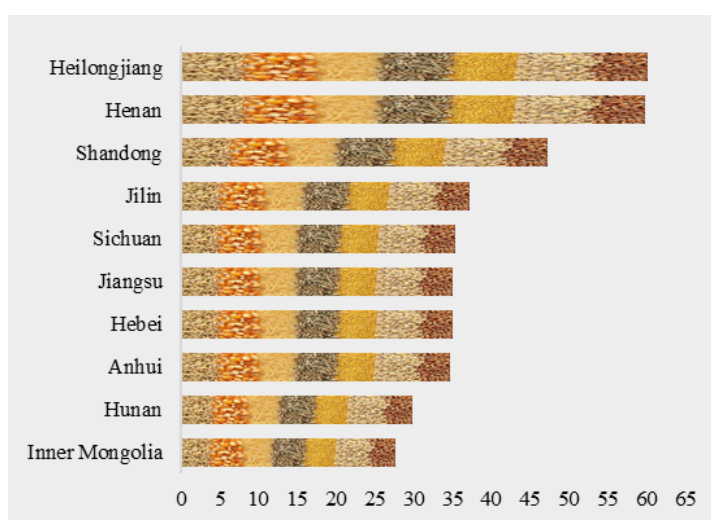
	Output in 2017 (M ton)	Comparing 2016 (%)
Grain	617.9	0.3 ↑
In which: Maize	215.9	1.7 ↓
Rice	208.6	0.8 ↑
Wheat	129.8	0.7 ↑
Pulses	19.17	10.8 ↑
Root and Tuber	34.19	1.2 ↑
Cotton	5.49	2.7 ↑
Meat	84.31	0.8 ↑
In which: Pork	53.4	0.8 ↑
Beef	7.26	1.3 ↑
Lamb	4.68	1.8 ↑
Poultry	18.97	0.5 ↑
Eggs	30.7	0.8 ↓
Milk	35.45	1.6 ↓

Where Did China Produce Grain in 2017

In 2017, China's top ten grain production provinces were Heilongjiang, Henan, Shandong, Jilin, Sichuan, Jiangsu, Hebei, Anhui, Hunan and Inner Mongolia. These ten provinces produced 65% of the nation's total grain. The top three grain production provinces, Heilongjiang, Henan and Shandong accounted for 9.7%, 9.6% and 7.6% of the nation's total grain output respectively.

Comparing with 2016, China's top ten grain production provinces remain the same.

Fig 1. Top ten provinces of grain output in 2017 (M ton)



How Much Did China Trade Agricultural Products in Jan-Nov 2017

In the period of January to November 2017, the total value of China's agricultural product trade was 181.85 billion USD, an increase of 9.8% compared with the same period in the previous year. Export was 67.7 billion USD, a 3.1% increase, and import was 114.15 billion USD, a 14.2 %

increase. The trade deficit in the first 11 months was 45.45 billion USD, increased by 35.3% compared with 2016. China became a net agricultural product import country since 2004.

There was a 15.3% increase in cereal imports, mostly due to increased imports of wheat and barley, although maize and sorghum imports decreased by 22% and 24% respectively. Soy imports in 2017 remained strong, totalling 86 million tons in the first 11 months, 15.8% greater than in 2016. The value of livestock products imports increased by 9%, reaching over 23 billion USD in the first 11 months. There was a significant decrease in pork and pig offal imports, by 26.6% and 14.4% respectively, but a strong increase in beef, lamb and milk powder imports, by 18.8%, 8.6%, and 26% respectively comparing with 2016. There was a strong increase in imports (by 20.8%) and a minor increase in exports (by 1.3%) of aquatic products in the first 11 months of 2017.

Table 3. Import and export of agricultural products, Jan – Nov 2017

	Import	Comparing with 2016 (%)	Export	Comparing with 2016 (%)
Cereals (M ton)	23.7	15.3 ↑	1.48	159 ↑
Wheat	4.22	32.4 ↑	0.14	40.7 ↑
Maize	3.37	21.6 ↓	0.08	2791 ↑
Rice	3.6	15.3 ↑	1.13	215 ↑
Barley	8.28	80 ↑	0.83	88.3 ↑
Sorghum	4.9	24.1 ↓	0.03	42.7 ↑
Cotton (M ton)	1.25	17.7 ↑	1.8	1.5 ↑
Sugar (M ton)	2.16	24.2 ↓		
Edible oil seed (M ton)	92.01	15.8 ↑	0.96	24.1 ↑
Soy	85.99	15.8 ↑		
Rapeseed	4.42	32.9 ↑		
Edible oil (M ton)	6.67	12.2 ↑	0.18	84.6 ↑
Palm oil	4.51	18.8 ↑		
Vegetables (Bln USD)	0.48	0.6 ↑	13.97	5.1 ↑
Fruits (Bln USD)	5.69	7.2 ↑	6.15	1.4 ↓
Livestock (Bln USD)	23.24	9.0 ↑	5.7	12.3 ↑
Pork (M ton)	1.11	26.6 ↓		
Pig offal (M ton)	1.16	14.4 ↓		
Beef (M ton)	0.62	18.8 ↑		
Lamb (M ton)	0.22	8.6 ↑		
Milk Powder (M ton)	0.97	26 ↑		
Aquatic products (Bln USD)	10.34	20.8 ↑	18.96	1.3 ↑

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