TABLE 18

The table below presents a 22-year record of the differences between the April projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the April projection and the final estimate have averaged 2.2 million tons (0.4%) percent) and ranged from -6.8 to 6.5 million tons. The April projection has been below the final 13 times and above the final 9 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 2001/02 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below	Above
	Average	Average	Difference		Final	Final
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.4	2.2	-6.8	6.5	13	9
U.S.	0.1	0.0	-0.2	0.1	10	6
Foreign	0.5	2.2	-6.8	6.5	13	9
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	0.7	5.7	-14.7	13.3	16	6
U.S.	0.1	0.1	-0.2	1.3	10	6
Foreign	1.0	5.8	-14.7	13.3	16	6
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.2	4.0	-13.3	10.8	17	5
U.S.	1.0	0.1	-0.2	0.2	6	4
Foreign	1.2	4.0	-13.3	10.8	17	5
SOYBEANS						
World	1.5	1.8	-4.0	2.3	14	8
U.S.	0.9	0.5	-1.6	1.8	9	9
Foreign	2.3	1.4	-4.6	2.3	17	5
	---Million 480-lb. bales---					
COTTON						
World	0.9	0.8	-3.0	0.8	17	4
U.S.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	7	8
Foreign	1.1	0.8	-3.0	0.8	16	5
UNITED STATES	*-------Million bushels-------*					
CORN	0.0	2	-8	38	1	1
SORGHUM	0.1	0	0	4	0	2
BARLEY	0.3	2	-3	11	9	4
OATS	0.1	0	-2	1	4	2

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-2001/02 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 22 if projection was the same as the final.

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