

**TABLE 18**

The table below presents a 27-year record of the differences between the May projection and the final estimate. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the May projection and the final estimate have averaged 14.7 million tons (2.7 percent) and ranged from -35.0 to 30.0 million tons. The May projection has been below the final 15 times and above the final 12 times.

**RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS**

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 2005/06 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below	Above
	Average	Average	Difference		Final	Final
	Percent	---Million metric tons---		Number of years 2/		
<b>WHEAT</b>						
World	2.7	14.7	-35.0	30.0	15	12
U.S.	5.2	3.1	-7.2	9.8	12	15
Foreign	2.8	13.4	-32.9	28.7	14	13
<b>COARSE GRAINS 3/</b>						
World	2.9	24.4	-72.3	75.3	12	15
U.S.	9.3	19.7	-35.9	70.3	14	13
Foreign	2.3	14.0	-36.8	42.8	9	18
<b>RICE (Milled)</b>						
World	2.0	7.0	-21.8	15.2	17	10
U.S.	5.7	0.3	-1.0	0.5	16	11
Foreign	2.1	7.1	-22.0	15.3	17	10
<b>SOYBEANS</b>						
World	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
U.S.	7.4	4.4	-11.3	12.0	13	14
Foreign	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	---Million 480-lb. bales---					
<b>COTTON</b>						
World	4.8	4.3	-16.7	11.4	18	9
U.S.	9.7	1.6	-5.5	3.1	14	13
Foreign	4.8	3.5	-12.2	10.5	17	10
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	-----Million bushels-----					
<b>CORN</b>	9.6	682	-1382	2379	12	15
<b>SORGHUM</b>	16.6	98	-228	171	11	15
<b>BARLEY</b>	9.6	33	-73	206	9	18
<b>OATS</b>	18.5	41	-77	231	7	20

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-2006/07 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 25 if projection was the same as the final.

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