

Opinion **War in Ukraine**

# Ukraine war disrupts global market for grains

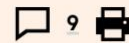
Black Sea port closures threaten food supplies around the world

JOHN DIZARD [+ Add to myFT](#)



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John Dizard 7 HOURS AGO



Wheat and other grain prices have [soared](#) since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. But those prices are not an adequate picture of the problems with losing Ukrainian grain exports.

The disruption of grain exports from Ukraine and Russia through the Black Sea will probably lead to physical shortages of food in the world, particularly for countries dependent on those supplies.



If the war is prolonged, it will impact millions of people living in places such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Pakistan and Indonesia.

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Americans, as expressed in campaign commercials, think their country is the breadbasket of the world. That was true, in part, for a while. But in the 2021-2022 crop year, the US is forecast to export 22mn tonnes, less than half the Russia/Ukraine total, according to S&P Global Platts. Canada should export about 15.2mn tonnes and the EU 37.5mn tonnes.