

# FLOUR FACTS

Information Provided by General Mills Professional Baking Solutions  
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## Weekly Market Highlights

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- Wheat futures prices have moved sharply higher over the past week. Forecast is calling for continued hot, dry weather, and weather is expected to continue to determine price direction.
- Wheat futures have been following corn futures, which have soared due to drought concerns. Third quarter corn stocks were estimated to be the smallest in more than 14 years.
- Spring wheat basis premiums have offset soaring futures as farmers and elevators confidently loosened their hold on their old crop wheat as new crop is off to a great start.
- Spring wheat crop condition dropped to 71% good to excellent this week, but along with heat stress comes the benefit of higher protein in the crop. 73% of the crop is headed, more than twice the average for this time of year.
- Wheat prices can be expected to remain high pending a change in the weather.

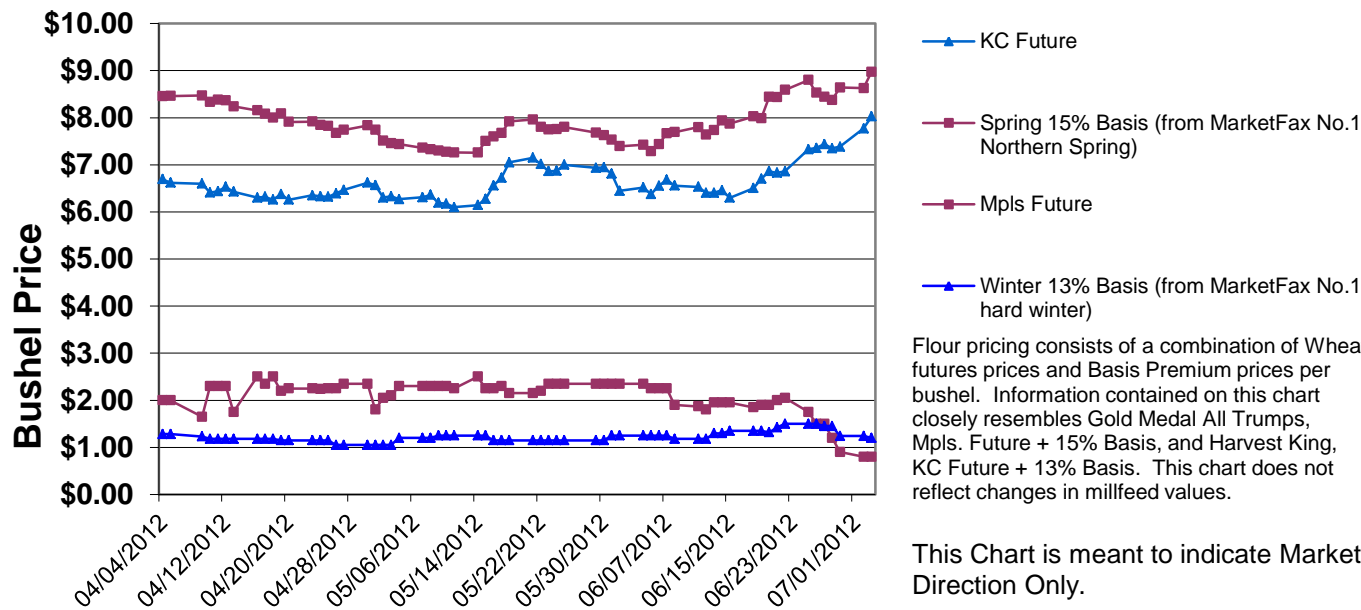
## Facts on Flour

### Hard and Soft

Another major classification category for wheat is kernel hardness. The wheat kernel, often called a berry, will either be of a hard or soft variety. The terms are very self descriptive. Hard wheat has hard kernels and soft wheat has soft kernels. Although it sounds simplistic, this difference is critically important to the functionality of the finished flour. Hard wheat flours have the correct protein structure for yeast-raised goods: breads, bagels, pizza crust, etc. Soft wheat flour protein will not support yeast fermentation, but is ideal for products using baking powder for the rising action. In future publications, we will discuss the difference between soft and hard wheat proteins.

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## Futures & Basis Markets



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