

Global food prices remain unchanged in November

According to the latest report by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The benchmark for world food commodity prices was broadly stable in November, with lower international cereal quotations offset by higher prices of vegetable oils.



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The [FAO Food Price Index](#), which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of a set of globally-traded food commodities, averaged 120.4 points in November, unchanged from its level in the previous month and 10.7 percent lower than in November 2022.

The **cereal price index** decreased by 3.0% from October. International prices of coarse grains dropped by 5.6 percent, led by a sharp fall in maize prices, while those of wheat declined by 2.4% in November. The [FAO All Rice Price Index](#) remained stable month-on-month amidst contrasting price movements across different origins and market segments.

The **vegetable oil price index**, meanwhile, increased by 3.4% from October. International palm oil prices rebounded by more than 6.0 percent in November, chiefly underpinned by more active purchases by leading importing countries and seasonally lower outputs in major producing countries. World sunflower oil prices rose moderately, while quotations for soy oil and rapeseed oils dropped slightly in November.

The **dairy price index** rose 2.2% from October, led by high import demand for butter and skim milk powder from Northeast

Asian buyers, along with increased internal demand ahead of the winter holidays in Western Europe.

The **sugar price index** rose by 1.4% month on month, averaging November as much as 41.1% higher than its level in the same month last year, influenced by heightened concerns over global export availabilities amid worsening production prospects in two leading exporting countries, Thailand and India, due to severe dry weather conditions associated with the El Niño event.

The **meat price index** dipped 0.4% from October, reflecting minor drops in the world prices of poultry, pig and bovine meats, driven mostly by ample exportable supplies.

Record cereal production

FAO raised its forecast for this season's harvests in a new [Cereal Supply and Demand Brief](#), also released Friday. World cereal production in 2023 is now pegged at 2 823 million tonnes, up 0.9% from the previous year and 10.3 million tonnes above the previous record high reached in 2021.



Global food prices dip in October

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Upward revisions were made for wheat output in the Russian Federation and Türkiye and for maize in the United States of America, while production forecasts were reduced somewhat for Argentina and Brazil. Meantime, the forecasts for maize production were trimmed for the European Union and Mexico. FAO also expects global rice production in 2023/24 to rise by 0.8% from the previous marketing season.

Looking ahead to the next season, planting of the 2024 winter wheat crop is ongoing in the northern hemisphere countries and, reflecting lower crop prices, area growth could be limited. Sowing of the 2024 coarse grain crops is ongoing in the southern hemisphere countries, with slower sowings in Brazil but a rebound in Argentina.

World cereal total utilization in 2023/24 is forecast at 2 813 million tonnes, 1.1% higher than in 2022/23.

World cereal stocks by the close of seasons in 2024 are predicted to rise by 2.7% above their opening level and mark a new record high. Based on the latest forecasts, the global cereal stock-to-use ratio would be 30.8% in 2023/24, indicating an overall comfortable supply level.

World trade in cereals in 2023/24 is forecast to contract slightly to 468.4 million tonnes, down 1.8% from the 2022/23 level.

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