

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Bolivia

September-December 2010

Key Messages

- Cereals prices have been rising in recent months and are much higher than international prices.
- The country has been affected by widespread drought and fires which have severely impacted on food security conditions.
- According to international agencies the country is faced with a worrying food security situation and thousands of people are in need of food assistance.
- The Government has lifted its export ban on maize.

Background

Bolivia's total population is about 9.8 million, while the annual growth rate is 1%. Latest estimates report the prevalence of undernourishment at 27%.

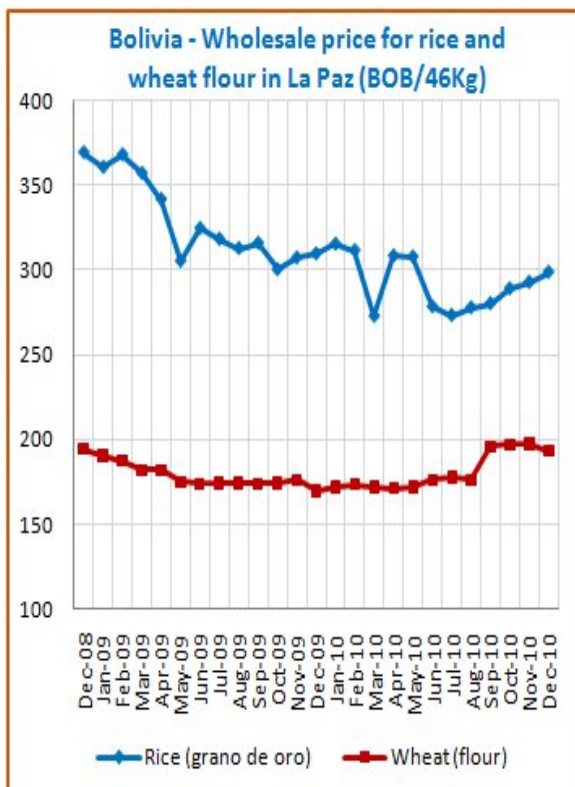
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	9.863
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	1%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2009 (WB)	4250
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2007 (MDGI)	11%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	33%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	13%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	27%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	47%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	10%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	25%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	67
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	86%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.2%

Prices

The price of wheat flour, which is mostly imported, rose steeply during Sept because of the sharp increase in international prices. In La Paz, wheat flour was sold at 4.36 BoB/kg in December. Rice prices rose slightly from 6.09 BoB/Kg in Sept to 6.25 in Dec. In Santa Cruz, yellow maize prices have continued to rise in recent months and were at 2.46 BoB/kg in Dec while in Cochabamba, prices reached a peak of 3.86 in Oct. In La Paz in December 2010, the price of wheat flour (611 USD/T) was 88% higher than the price of US wheat No2 Red Winter (327.25 USD/T) while the price of rice (grano de oro) was at 924.13 USD/T, 119% above the international price of Thai Rice A1 Super (422.25 USD/T).



Source: [GIEWS National basic food prices data and analysis tool](#)

Food Security Situation Assessment

A specialized nutrition and food security team, formed by members of the civil defence, the Ministry of Rural Land and Development, WFP and FAO, calculate that 12,000 families will need food aid until the next harvest in May 2011. A further 11,500 families are in moderate food insecurity. WFP is already assisting people with a range of different initiatives, including Food for Work programmes and schools meals programmes. FAO estimates high prevalence of hunger with undernourishment levels between 25-34%. IFRPI reports also a serious hunger problem in the long term.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
---	---------------------------	----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Bolivia is not covered by FEWSNET. [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

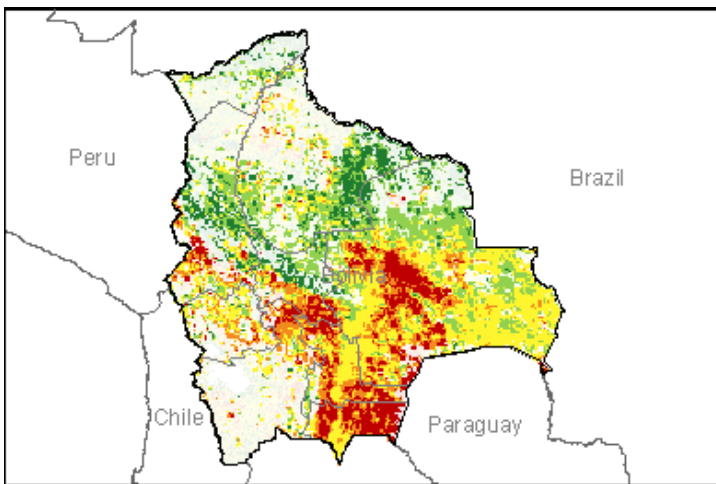
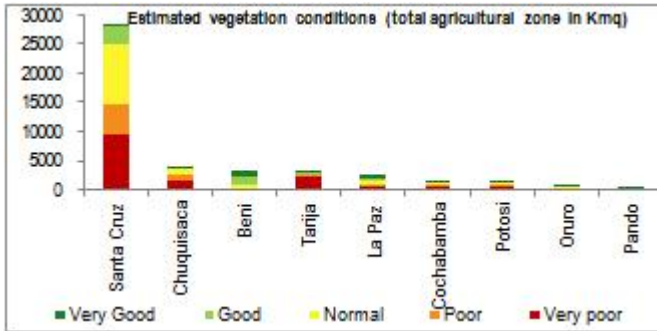
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
--------------------	---------------	--------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	--------------------------------

FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2010 GHI
--------------------	----------	---------	----------	-----	--------------------------------

Vegetation Condition

Poor to very poor vegetation conditions are observed in the center and south of the country whereas normal to good conditions are observed in the north. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for December 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Barley (Second) - Wheat (Andinean) - Sweet Potatoes
Growing	Maize - Rice - Potatoes - Soybean
Harvesting	No crops are harvested during the reference period

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

A long dry spell in the El Chaco region of southern Bolivia has decimated maize harvests and has extremely affected food security conditions. Several regions in the country are suffering effects of drought and a state of national emergency was declared in the department of Beni and will be probably extended to include the department of La Paz.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	794	755	713
Total outside the country	851	615	738

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2010-12-16	Potosi Province	1/3
Earthquake	2010-12-15	Potosi Province	1/3
Flood	2010-01-27	Many provinces	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

The 2010 cereals output is estimated to be at 1.7 million tonnes, about 5% below 2009 (1.8 million tonnes), but in line with the 2005-2009 average. Poor rainfall during the agricultural season, particularly in the regions of Chaco and Santa Cruz, reduced crop yields. Rice production fell most steeply, by 13% below last year's output.

Bolivia				
Cereal production				
	2005-2009 average	2009	2010 forecast	change 2010/2009
	000 tonnes			percent
Maize	800	770	750	-3
Rice (paddy)	470	572	500	-13
Sorghum	229	260	260	0
Others	235	235	235	0
Total	1735	1837	1745	-5

Note: percentage change calculated from unrounded data.
Source: FAO/GIEWS Country Cereal Balance Sheets

Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The reduced output is due to the smaller sown acreages, particularly for maize, because of the low prices at sowing time as a result of a government decree (since withdrawn) limiting exports, which increased stocks.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	Lifted export ban
Safety net (increased or introduced)	n.a.

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[BOLIVIA: UNA RIADA INUNDA TARATA, EL DESBORDE AFECTA A...](#)
[REDLAC Nota Semanal sobre Emergencias América Latina &...](#)
[REDLAC Weekly Note on Emergencies Latin America & the ...](#)
[Ministro de salud argentino toma medidas por brotes de...](#)
[Global food price monitor - January 2011](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the **GIEWS Workstation**

The Programme on Linkin Information and Decision Making to Improve Food Security is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.