Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

MONTHLY PRICE UPDATE

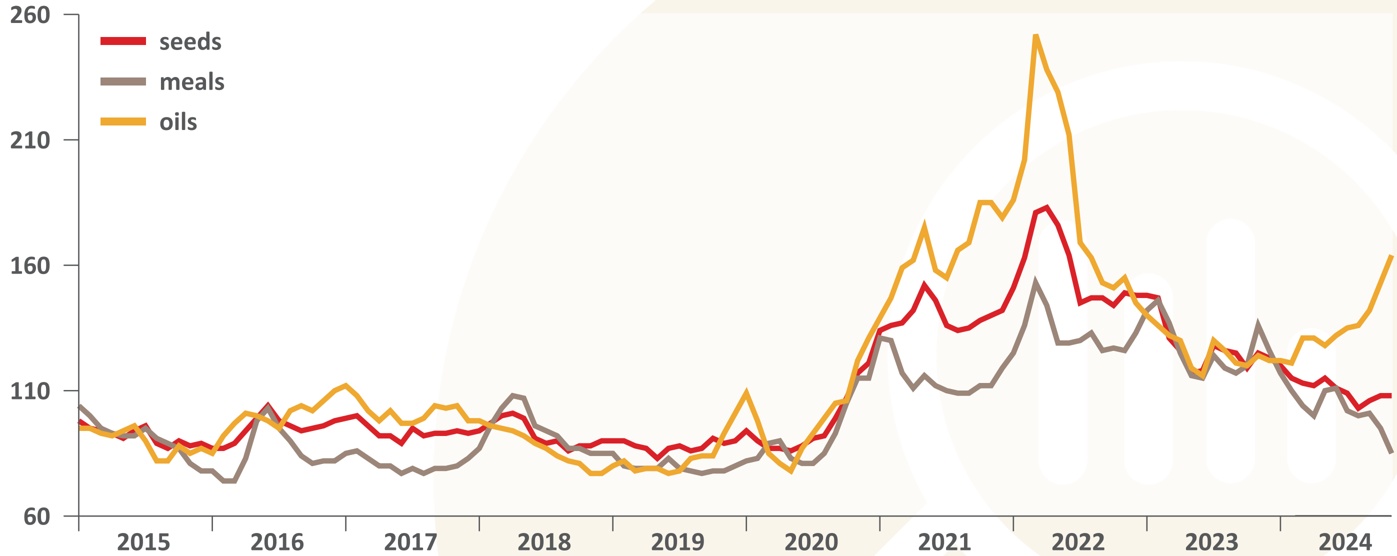
OILSEEDS, OILS AND MEALS

No. 185 | December 2024

In November 2024, the FAO price index for oilseeds continued to increase for the third consecutive month, gaining 0.7 points (0.6 percent) from October but remained 13.2 percent below its year earlier level. The vegetable oil price index also strengthened, up 11.4 points (7.5 percent) month-on-month to reach its highest level since July 2022. By contrast, the oilmeal price index fell markedly, down 10.2 points (10.7 percent) from the previous month and stood 37.6 percent below its November 2023 reading.

The marginal increase of the oilseed price index mostly reflected higher rapeseed and sunflower seed prices, more than offsetting a slight contraction in soybean quotations. Following a renewed decline in the previous month, international soybean prices continued to slide on a downward trajectory in November. Notwithstanding a lower-than-expected production estimate in the United States of America in its monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report, global soybean prospects in the 2024/25 season remain abundant,

Figure 1. FAO price indices for oilseeds, oils and meals (monthly values, 2014–2016=100)



Source: FAO's own elaboration, based on Oil World data.

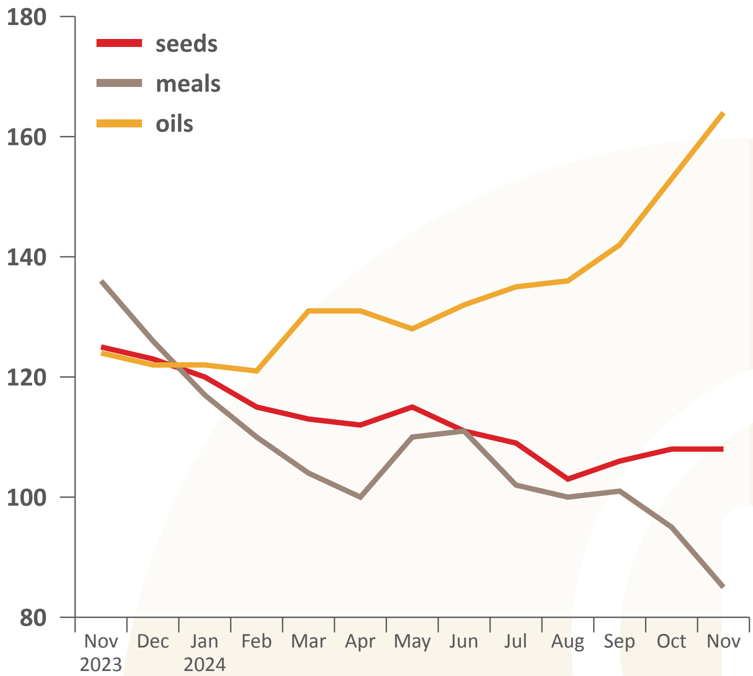
* The *Monthly Price Update* is an information product provided by the oilseeds desk of the Markets and Trade Division of FAO. It reviews the development of international prices for oilseeds, oils and meals as reflected by FAO's price indices. Previous issues can be downloaded from the FAO website at the following webpage: https://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade/publications/en/?querystring=oilseeds

largely underpinned by expectations of favourable harvests in South America. While beneficial rainfall prompted a rapid wrap-up of sowing operations in Brazil, generally sufficient soil moisture levels in Argentina were also favourable for plantings, which were halfway completed by the end of November. On the demand side, however, continued firm import purchases for US produced soybeans by China, in preparation for potential trade policy changes, limited further decline in soybean quotations. In the case of rapeseed, world prices rose for the third consecutive month on tightening fundamentals for 2024/25, while international sunflower seed prices also rose markedly, following reports of additional downward production revision in the Black Sea region.

As for oilmeals, the significant decline in the index was driven by lower prices across rapeseed, soy and sunflower meals. Continuing favourable crush margins in major consuming countries boosted soybean crushings, resulting in ample soymeal production globally, while rape and sunflower meal prices also followed suit, despite relatively tighter supplies due to reduced production of respective oilseeds.

By contrast, the vegetable oil index has been increasing uninterruptedly since June 2024, driven by higher quotations for palm, rapeseed, soy and sunflower oils. International palm oil prices increased for the sixth consecutive month, maintaining a premium over alternative oils due to lingering concerns about lower-than-expected global production amid excessive rainfall in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, world soyoil prices also continued to rise, mainly due to robust global import demand. Similarly, prices of rapeseed and sunflower oils increased, reflecting prospects of tightening global supplies in their respective markets.

Figure 2. FAO monthly price indices for oilseeds, oils and meals (2014–2016=100)



Source: FAO's own elaboration, based on Oil World data.

	FAO price indices (2014–2016=100) [a]		
	Oilseeds	**Oilcakes/meals**	**Vegetable oils**
Annual (Oct/Sep)			
2013/14	120	128	116
2014/15	95	99	93
2015/16	93	85	95
2016/17	95	81	103
2017/18	94	93	94
2018/19	88	81	80
2019/20	90	84	93
2020/21	133	115	149
2021/22	156	129	196
2022/23	134	127	133
2023/24	114	111	129
Monthly			
2023 - November	125	136	124
2023 - December	123	126	122
2024 - January	120	117	122
2024 - February	115	110	121
2024 - March	113	104	131
2024 - April	112	100	131
2024 - May	115	110	128
2024 - June	111	111	132
2024 - July	109	102	135
2024 - August	103	100	136
2024 - September	106	101	142
2024 - October	108	95	153
2024 - November	108	85	164

[a] FAO's price indices are based on the international Spot prices of five selected seeds, ten selected vegetable oils and five selected cakes and meals. The indices are calculated using the Laspeyres formula; the weights used are derived from the export values of each commodity for the 2014–2016 period.

Source: FAO's own elaboration, based on Oil World data.

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