

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Bolivia

January-April 2011

Key Messages

- In recent months wheat prices in La Paz stabilized, but remain at high levels and nearly double the international prices. The highest increase was recorded for yellow maize in Santa Cruz.
- Different agencies report a worrisome situation of food security and hunger with a high prevalence of undernourishment.
- Heavy rains and landslides in several districts caused negative effects on food security conditions of thousands of people. International agencies are delivering assistance.
- The Government has lifted an export ban on few products in support of producers and introduced price control measures in support of consumers.

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%.

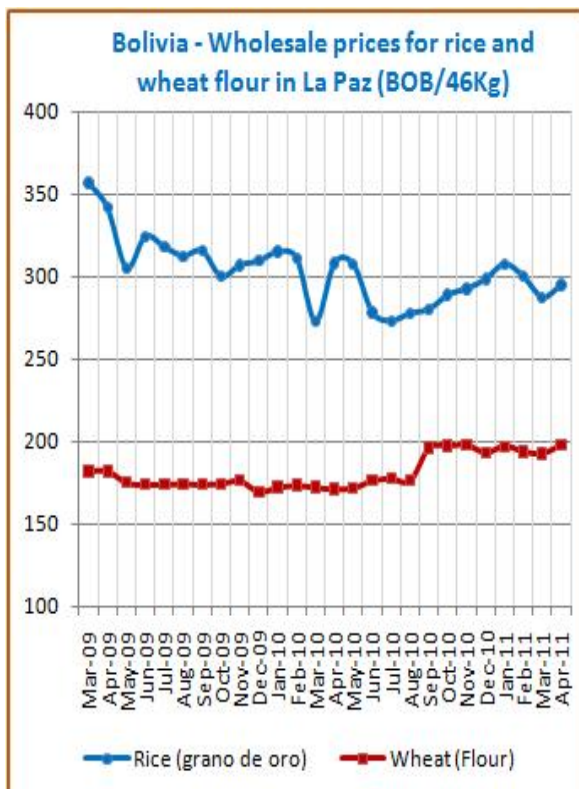
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	9.863
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	1%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2009 (WB)	4250
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2007 (MDGI)	11%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	33%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2009 (WB)	13%

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

In La Paz, wheat flour prices (198 BoB/46Kg in April) and wheat pelado (319.7) remained almost stable. Rice prices declined by 6% from Jan to 289.8 in April. In Santa Cruz, yellow maize prices increased by 41% from Dec reaching 159.6 BoB/46Kg in April. On the contrary, rice prices dropped by 12% between Jan and April to 257. In the same period, wheat flour prices increased by 7% to 207 BoB/46Kg. In Cochabamba, between Dec and April, wheat flour prices increased by 14% (324.7) and rice prices by 8% (254.8). In La Paz, wheat flour prices (611.98 USD/T) were 83% higher than US Wheat Hard Red Winter and rice prices (893.3) were 108% higher than prices of Rice Thai A1 Super.



Source: [GIEWS Country Briefs](#)

Food Security Situation Assessment

In early February, heavy rains, resulting in floods and landslides, damaged crops and affected food security of thousands of families in La Paz and in northern regions. The Government has declared a national emergency therefore WFP, together with the Government and partner agencies are assisting the population with food and non-food items. The FAO Hunger map reports high levels of undernourishment and IFPRI estimates serious hunger in Bolivia.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
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Bolivia is not covered by FEWSNET. FEWSNET coverage is limited 14 African countries 1 Caribbean (Haiti) and 1 Central Asia (Afghanistan). Food security status is given for different parts of the country in each case.

[FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

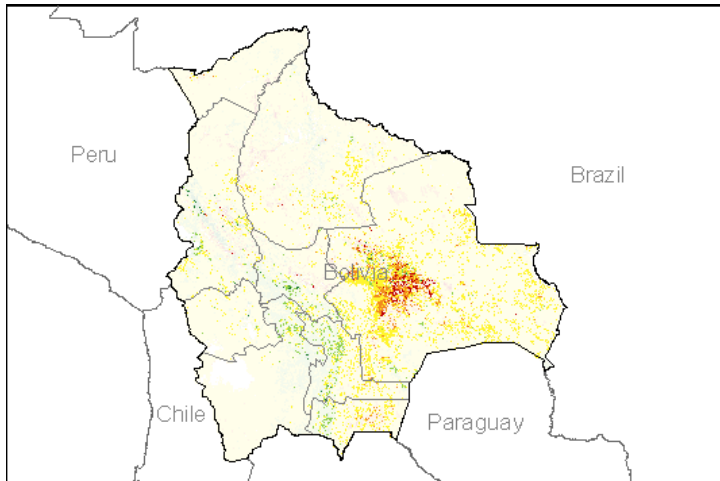
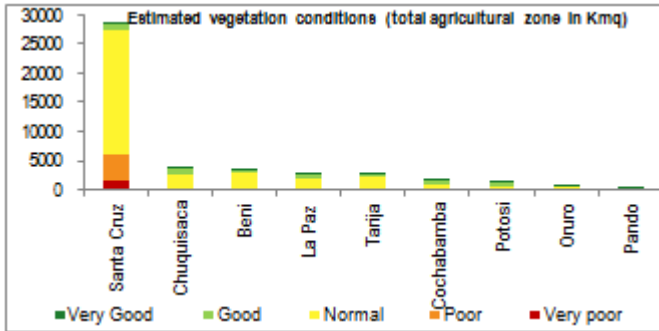
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
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FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2010 GHI
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Vegetation Condition

Normal conditions are observed in the major part of the country except for the province of Santa Cruz where poor to very poor conditions are observed. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2011 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** No crops are sowed during the reference period
- Growing** Barley - Maize - Potatoes - Rice - Soybean - Wheat
- Harvesting** Barley - Maize - Potatoes - Rice - Soybean - Wheat

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Recent heavy rains affected some 25,000 families as of April 2011. The Beni and Madre de Dios Rivers overflowed causing floods in the regions of northern Pando, northern Beni, and Riberalta, affecting an estimated 2,780 families. In February, rains also caused massive landslides in the capital city of La Paz, displacing hundreds of families.

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	2011-04-27	Potosi Province	1/3
Earthquake	2011-04-01	Potosi Province	1/3
Flood	2011-02-14	North of Cochabamba	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

Total cereals production (winter and summer seasons) should be about 1,74 mlnMT, 5% below the good 2009 levels (1,83 mlnMT), but still almost equal to the five year average. Rice production (500,000 MT) fell most steeply, by 13% below last year's output, but 6% above the five year average.

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

In Bolivia, the Government lifted the export ban on of sugar, maize and sorghum. It also announced the import of large quantities of maize in order to increase supplies and curb prices.

Consumer and market oriented measures	Imports
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)

No News Found

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

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The Programme on Linking 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.

* For a further analysis of prices in Bolivia please see: [Annex](#)