

food outlook

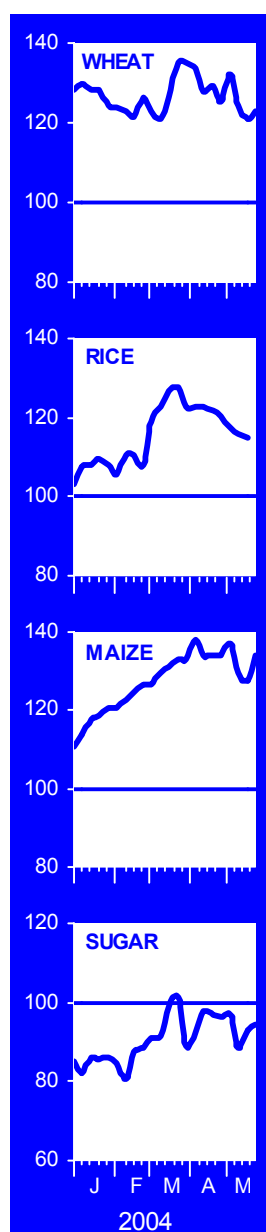
No. 2

June 2004

highlights

EXPORT PRICES

(July 2003=100)



FAO's latest forecast of global cereal production in 2004 is 1 956 million tonnes, a substantial increase from the previous year. However, despite a modest expected rise in utilization, the new 2004/05 marketing season may lead to a fifth consecutive annual drawdown of global cereal stocks.

FAO's first forecast of global cereal trade in 2004/05 stands at 229.7 million tonnes, 3 percent down from the previous year. The decline mostly reflects, good crop prospects in traditional importing countries, as well as a strong production recovery in Europe. In the case of rice, trade is also expected to be limited by tight supplies in major exporting countries.

After rising for several months, international prices of most cereals eased back somewhat in recent weeks reflecting generally favourable prospects for the 2004 crops and, for rice, also the release of government stocks onto domestic markets in China and Thailand.

Global cassava production is forecast to expand in 2004, alongside a sharp increase in trade. A tightening of feed grain supplies in China could stimulate cassava imports to the country and could further strengthen international prices.

International meat prices are surging in 2004 as animal disease outbreaks in major meat exporting countries and resulting bans on imports from these areas are reducing exportable supplies.

International prices for dairy products were well above average during the first-half of 2004, as a result of sustained import demand and limited availability of export supplies. For the remainder of the year, prices are expected to remain at or near their current high levels.

International prices in the oilcrop complex have continued to rise strongly in the past few months, being strongly influenced by tight soybean supplies and by slower growth in palm oil production.

World pulse production is forecast to reach a record 60 million tonnes in 2004, which could lead to increased consumption and trade during the year.



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Deliveries by the country to EU member states amounted to about 2 million tonnes, substantially short of the 5.25 million tonne preferential access granted to Thailand by the EU, but were easily compensated for by firm demand in the Far East, particularly from

China. The implementation of a free trade area between Thailand and China in October 2003, which resulted in the abolition of a 6 percent tariff on Thai cassava products, provided an additional boost to trade flows.

Meat and Meat Products

Meat and meat product prices continue to rise

International meat prices are surging in 2004, as animal disease outbreaks in major meat exporting countries and bans on imports from disease afflicted areas are reducing exportable supplies. Expectations of higher international prices for meat came of the heels of rising prices in the previous year. In 2003, the FAO trade-weighted meat price index rose already by 16 percent, as limited meat production gains lifted prices by 42 percent for poultry, 19 percent for beef and 8 percent for pigmeat.

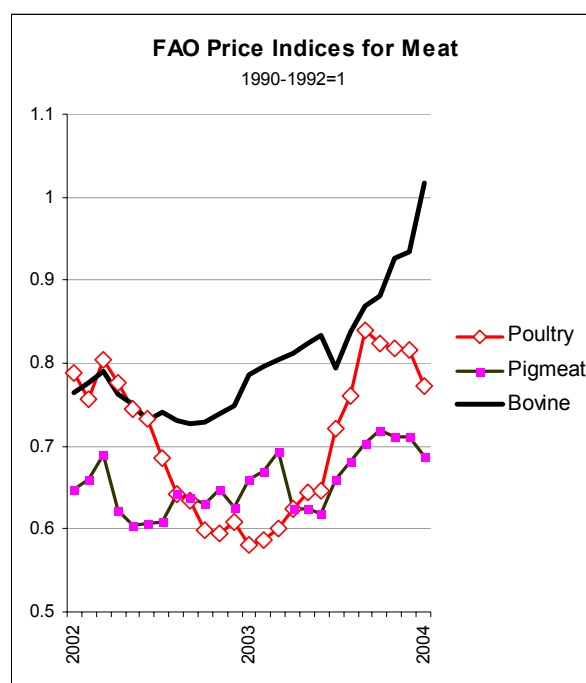
Animal diseases, rising feed prices and considerable uncertainty about consumer demand for meat products are slowing the expansion in global meat output in 2004. Production is expected to rise by 1 percent to 253.6 million tonnes, one of the slowest growths registered in FAO's database. Meat markets have been disrupted by the impact of the avian influenza (AI) which led to increased poultry mortality/culling throughout Asia and parts of North America, and the finding of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in North America. In Asia, meat output is expected to increase less than 2 percent, half the average rate of the past five years. Output gains in developed countries are expected to remain stable with a slight increase in North America offset by a decline in Europe. At the world level, per caput meat consumption is expected to remain at 39.9 kg/caput, constrained by high overall meat prices and consumer concerns about the safety of eating poultry, particularly in Asia.

Import bans on meat produced in disease-afflicted countries in early 2004 affected approximately one-third of global meat exports, or 6 million tonnes. While the bans have been temporary, global meat trade, originally forecast to rise in 2004, is now anticipated to slide by 4 percent to 18.4 million tonnes. If confirmed, this would be the first drop in meat trade since the mid-1980s. Over the past four years, alternating disease outbreaks and recoveries have resulted in rapid shortages/increases in exportable meat supplies and considerable international meat price variability. The resulting shift in trading patterns is expected to favour those disease-free meat suppliers in Latin America and Oceania. Exports from Oceania, however, are likely to be constrained in 2004 by low animal inventories and stronger currencies in the region. By contrast, meat exports from South America, which have surged over the past three years, might increase further by about 6 percent in 2004, taking the region's share of meat

exports to 27 percent, up from just 16 percent in the early 1990's. Moving into the position as the world's largest meat exporter, Brazil is expected to ship over 3.8 million tonnes of meat in 2004, or 21 percent of global trade.

Limited supplies and high prices depress bovine meat trade prospects

Global bovine meat production is forecast to reach 61.9 million tonnes in 2004, up marginally from the previous year. Low cattle inventories in Oceania, BSE concerns in North America and reduced sector support in the EU are constraining slaughtering, leading to an expected 2 percent drop in bovine meat production in developed countries. By contrast, output in developing regions is anticipated to rise by 3 percent, with continued strong gains foreseen in China, India, the Republic of Korea and Mexico. Per caput beef consumption is set to drop by 1 percent in both developed and developing regions to 22.7 and 6.4 kg/caput, respectively.



Higher prices and import bans on products originating from North America are expected to reduce global beef trade by 8 percent to 5.6 million tonnes. North American exports, totalling 1.5 million tonnes in 2003 and valued at US\$4 billion, are expected to plummet

by 50 percent. While exports from Canada will recover as the United States lifts import restrictions on Canadian products, United States exports are estimated to decline by 82 percent. As demand for beef from disease-free suppliers surges, shipments from South America might expand by 17 percent, with Brazil's share of global beef shipments rising to 22 percent. However, the gap left by beef trade restrictions on North American products is unlikely to be entirely filled by South American or Oceania. Consequently, purchases by the major importing countries of Japan, Mexico, and the Republic of Korea are projected to fall by 35 percent, 30 percent, and 40 percent respectively. While Indian beef exports are likely to rise by 14 percent, a marginal decline in Australian shipments is anticipated, on account of limited inventories and an appreciating currency. The EU is set to register their second year as a net beef importer as exports decline for the fifth consecutive year.

World Meat Statistics^{1/}

	2002	2003 estimate	2004 prelim.
	(. . . . million tonnes)		
PRODUCTION	246.3	250.4	253.6
Poultry meat	74.6	76.1	77.1
Pig meat	94.2	96.2	97.7
Bovine meat	61.3	61.7	61.9
Sheep & goat meat	11.8	12.0	12.4
Other meat	4.5	4.5	4.5
EXPORTS^{2/}	18.6	19.1	18.4
Poultry meat	7.8	7.9	7.6
Pig meat	3.8	4.2	4.3
Bovine meat	5.9	6.1	5.6
Sheep & goat meat	0.7	0.7	0.7
Other meat	0.3	0.3	0.3
PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION	39.8	39.9	39.9
Poultry meat	12.0	12.1	12.2
Pig meat	15.2	15.3	15.4
Bovine meat	9.9	9.9	9.7
Sheep & goat meat	1.9	1.9	2.0
Other meat	0.7	0.7	0.7

Source: FAO **Note:** Total computed from unrounded data.

1/ For more detailed meat statistics, go to the following web site:
<http://www.fao.org/es/ESC/en/20953/21014/index.html>

2/ Includes meat (fresh, chilled, frozen prepared and canned) in carcass weight equivalent; excludes live animals, offals and EU (15) intra-trade.

Poultry output edges up but Avian Influenza (AI) cuts into trade prospects

Rising feed prices, AI induced bird mortality and slaughter, combined with consumer responses to the spread of AI is leading to a second year of slow growth in poultry meat output. Production in 2004 is forecast at

77.1 million tonnes, implying an increase of just 1 percent from the previous year, well below the average 5 percent growth of the past five years. Beset by AI outbreaks in early 2004, Asian poultry output is set to drop by 2 percent as disease-afflicted countries, i.e. Thailand, Viet Nam, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Indonesia, among others, are estimated to have culled over 100 million birds. Recovery in many of these Asian countries, including those not affected by the disease, is constrained by lower prices in the wake of shaken consumer confidence in poultry and rising feed costs. Per caput consumption in the developing countries is forecast to decrease slightly to 8.2 kg/caput, mostly due to an estimated 2-percent decline in Asia. At the global level, per caput consumption, which grew 3 percent annually over the past five years, is expected to remain stable at 12 kg/caput.

Import bans on products originating from the 12 Asian and North American countries that were affected early in 2004 by AI are reducing supplies in world markets and causing international prices to rise. As a result, global trade in poultry products in 2004 is anticipated to contract by 4 percent to 7.6 million tonnes. Led by lower exports from the United States, developed country exports are expected to witness a third year of consecutive decline, sliding 5 percent to an estimated 3.8 million tonnes. Disease outbreaks are restricting Asian poultry exports, supplied by mainly Thailand and China, with shipments from the region forecast to be down by 21 percent. Non-traditional exporters in Asia, such as India, Malaysia, and the Philippines are increasing their exports while exports from Brazil, which have registered double-digit gains over the past 7 years, are expected to rise by a further 10 percent. High prices and consumer concerns are expected to reduce imports by major importers in Asia while trade barriers in the Russian Federation, will cause a further contraction in their imports.

Despite limited pigmeat output gains and higher prices, trade could expand

Low returns to hog producers in the context of higher feed prices are expected to limit growth in global pigmeat production to less than 2 percent in 2004, taking output to 97.7 million tonnes. In many countries, production costs are exceeding market prices as international maize and soybean meal prices have soared 20 percent and 65 percent respectively compared with last year. Lower profitability facing many of the producers in Europe and Brazil, combined with reduced prospects for exports to the Russian Federation, are negatively affecting the production outlook. Developed countries are set to experience a slight decline in output. This is despite, in the United States, a projected rise in output by 3 percent supported by strong consumer demand. In Asia, which accounts for 56 percent of global output, and where AI has bolstered pigmeat prices, output is set to increase by 3 percent. While per caput consumption is moving up in Asia and developing countries by 2 percent in 2004 to nearly 15 kg/caput and 11.8 kg/caput

respectively, it remains significantly below the level of 29.2 kg/caput in developed countries.

Trade prospects for pigmeat in 2004 are stronger than for poultry and bovine meats, with exports estimated at 4.3 million tonnes, or 2 percent higher than last year. Much of the increase is expected to be sourced in North America, which typically exports high valued cuts to lucrative Asian markets. Shipments by other traditional exporters are expected to be hampered by trade restrictions in the Russian Federation, which was the world's largest meat importer until its imposition of tariff rate quotas in 2003. Limited access to the Russian Federation market, where imports are forecast to be down by 12 percent, is set to reduce Brazilian shipments by 40 percent while the elimination of EU export subsidies early this year is forecast to reduce EU exports by 4 percent. By contrast, shipments from Mexico and Chile are anticipated to rise as a result of a trade agreement with Japan where strong consumer demand is bringing about an estimated 12 percent rise in imports, to a new record level. This is despite expectations that the strong import pace might

retrigger the pigmeat safeguard, leading to higher tariffs in August.

Output and trade gains for ovine meat to exceed that of other meats

Global ovine meat production is expected to increase by 3 percent in 2004 to 12.4 million tonnes. Growth in Asia, which accounts for more than half of global production, is expected to rise 4 percent, supported by rising output in China. Despite a steady decline in United States output, growth in developed countries should be supported by a recovery of production in Australia, the EU and New Zealand. Global per caput consumption is forecast up 2 percent to 2 kg/caput.

A recovery in drought-affected exportable supplies from Australia and strong supply availability in New Zealand is leading to an estimated 3 percent increase in trade to 696 000 tonnes. Shipments from Oceania, which comprise 90 percent of global exports, are stimulated by higher import demand from the EU, North America and Mexico.

Milk and Milk Products

Prices rise during first-half of 2004

International prices were strong during the first half of 2004, as a result of limited export supplies and sustained import demand. The FAO price index for dairy products stood at 140 in May 2004, against an average of 117 during 2003. Compared to average prices for 2003, prices in May were higher for cheese (37 percent), butter (24 percent); skimmed milk powder (11 percent), and whole milk powder (8 percent). Above-average international prices have meant that the domestic industries in developing countries with relatively open markets have been less subject to competition from low-priced imports.

Indicative Dairy Export Prices

	2003	2004		
	May	March	April	May prov.
	(US\$/tonne, f.o.b.)			
Skimmed milk powder	1 726	1 850	1 850	1 950
Whole milk powder	1 778	1 863	1 863	1 950
Cheddar cheese	1 778	2 475	2 500	2 550
Butter	1 276	1 625	1 675	1 700

Source: Mid-point of price ranges reported by USDA.

The increase in international prices is mainly attributable to slow production growth, and in some

cases declining production, in exporting countries in Oceania, South America and some parts of Europe. As world prices have risen, export subsidies paid by some high-cost producing countries in the northern hemisphere have fallen. In the case of the United States, average monthly export subsidies for skimmed milk powder declined from US\$121 per tonne in August 2003 to US\$39 per tonne in January 2004. In the EU, export subsidies for dairy products also fell. At the end of April, and compared to the start of the year, EU subsidies were reduced by 46 percent for skimmed milk powder, 19 percent for whole milk powder, 16 percent for butter, and 7 percent for gouda cheese. Despite declines, the amount of subsidy required to bring domestic prices for dairy products in high-cost producing countries down to world market levels remains substantial. As an illustration, even at their reduced levels, at the end of April, subsidies required to export one tonne of product from the EU were US\$1 795 for butter, US\$1 063 for gouda cheese, US\$1 005 for whole milk powder, and US\$419 for skimmed milk powder.

Asia and Latin America to account for most growth in 2004

Global milk output is expected to rise by approximately 1 percent during 2004, mainly as a result of increased production in Asia and Latin America. In Oceania, milk production in New Zealand for the 2003/04 dairy year is anticipated to be 2.5 percent higher than the previous year; this would be below the average annual increase in recent years. In the case of Australia,

Table A.6 – **SELECTED EXPORT PRICES OF CEREALS AND SOYBEANS**

	Wheat			Maize		Sorghum	Soybeans
	U.S. No.2 Hard Red Winter Ord. Prot. <u>1/</u>	U.S. Soft Red Winter No.2 <u>1/</u>	Argentina Trigo Pan <u>2/</u>	U.S. No.2 Yellow <u>1/</u>	Argentina <u>2/</u>	U.S. No.2 Yellow <u>1/</u>	U.S. No.2 Yellow <u>1/</u>
July/June	(..... US\$/tonne)						
1999/2000	112	97	112	91	90	89	190
2000/2001	128	101	124	86	84	93	184
2001/2002	127	113	119	90	89	95	182
2002/2003	161	138	145	107	102	112	222
2003 - May	147	131	157	108	104	103	242
November	165	159	165	107	110	120	294
December	174	159	162	112	116	121	297
2004 - January	170	157	160	116	114	124	316
February	165	157	150	122	113	126	328
March	171	158	153	129	110	132	374
April	172	158	159	133	121	131	371
May I	176	162	161	135	123	134	390
II	166	147	158	128	117	124	394
III	161	144	156	126	114	121	340
IV	164	148	154	132	118	125	343

Sources: International Grain Council and USDA.

1/ Delivered U.S. Gulf ports. 2/ Up River f.o.b.

Table A.7 – **SELECTED WHEAT AND MAIZE PRICE INDICES**

	Wheat <u>1/</u>	Maize <u>2/</u>
	(1997/98-1999/00=100)	(1997/98-1999/00=100)
1999/2000	93	92
2000/2001	97	87
2001/2002	99	91
2002/2003	121	108
2003 - May	110	109
November	123	108
December	123	113
2004 - January	124	117
February	124	123
March	125	130
April	127	134
May	129	131

Sources: FAO, International Grain Council, USDA

1/ The wheat price index has been constructed based on the IGC wheat price index, rebased to July/June 1997/98-1999/00 = 100. The IGC wheat price index is composed of a simple average of following price quotations, converted to an index, with base July/December 1986 = 1000:

1. Australian Standard White, fob Eastern States - second position quoted
2. Canadian No.1 CWRS 13.5%, fob St. Lawrence
3. Canadian No.1 CWRS 12.5%, fob Vancouver
4. United States No.2 HRW (Ordinary), fob Gulf
5. United States No.2 SRW, fob Gulf
6. United States No.2 DNS 14%, fob Lakes
7. United States No.2 Western White, fob Pacific

2/ U.S. Maize No. 2 Yellow (delivered U.S. Gulf ports) with base July/June, 1997/98-1999/00 = 100

Table A.8 - PRICE INDICES AND SELECTED EXPORT PRICES FOR RICE

Calendar years	Export Prices				FAO Indices				
	Thai 100% B	Thai broken	U.S. Long grain	Pakistani Basmati	Total	Indica		Japonica	Aromatic
	<u>1/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>4/</u>		High quality	Low quality		
January/December	(. U.S.\$/tonne)				(. 1998-2000=100)				
2000	207	143	271	418	84	84	83	83	89
2001	177	135	264	332	74	74	74	76	69
2002	197	151	207	366	72	73	75	67	74
2003	201	151	284	358	82	79	81	82	91
2003 - May	202	143	287	336	80	79	79	79	92
2004 - January	221	176	357	449	97	90	94	106	98
February	221	184	355	449	98	92	99	104	96
March	253	213	397	449	105	101	111	105	96
April	248	215	407	486	108	105	114	108	99
May I	239	220	407	523	109	105	115	110	101
II	236	217	429	523					
III	234	209	423	523					

Sources: FAO for indices. Rice prices: Jackson Son & Co. (London) Ltd. and other public sources.

Note: The FAO Rice Price Index is based on 16 rice export quotations. 'Quality' is defined by the percentage of broken kernels, with high (low) quality referring to rice with less (equal to or more) than 20 percent broken. The Sub-Index for Aromatic Rice follows movements in prices of Basmati and Fragrant rice.

1/ White rice, 100% second grade, f.o.b. Bangkok, indicative traded prices. 2/ A1 super, f.o.b. Bangkok, indicative traded prices. 3/ U.S. No.2, 4% broken f.o.b. 4/ Basmati: ordinary, f.o.b. Karachi.

Table A.9 – PRICE INDICES AND SELECTED INTERNATIONAL PRICES FOR OILCROP PRODUCTS

Marketing years	FAO Indices			International Prices				
	Oilseeds	Edible/Soap Fats/Oils	Oilcakes/ Meals	Soybeans 1/	Soybean Oil 2/	Palm Oil 3/	Soybean Cake 4/	Rapeseed Meal 5/
October/September	(..... 1990-92=100)			(..... U.S.\$/tonne)				
1998/99	89	125	82	209	483	514	149	104
1999/00	83	91	89	209	355	337	180	124
2000/01 Oct.-Mar.	82	76	98	206	314	254	198	146
Apr.-Sept.	82	86	94	197	356	289	178	135
2001/02 Oct.-Mar.	83	95	100	188	378	323	175	135
Apr.-Sept.	90	107	104	213	445	392	174	122
2002/03 Oct.-Mar.	103	124	106	241	543	442	186	133
Apr.-Sept.	104	123	110	246	535	414	197	149
2003/04 Oct.-Mar.	140	144	138	351	653	512	274	199
April	141	149	148	345	674	539	310	198

Sources: FAO and Oil World.

Note: The FAO indices are calculated using the Laspeyres formula; the weights used are the average export values of each commodity for the 1990-92 period. The indices are based on the international prices of five selected seeds, ten selected oils and fats and seven selected cakes and meals.

1/ Soybeans (US, No.2 yellow, c.i.f. Rotterdam). 2/ Soybean oil (Dutch, fob ex-mill). 3/ Palm oil (Crude, c.i.f. North West Europe). 4/ Soybean cake (Pellets, 44/45%, Argentina, c.i.f. Rotterdam). 5/ Rapeseed meal (34%, Hamburg, f.o.b. ex-mill).

Table A.10 - WHEAT AND MAIZE FUTURES PRICES

		July		September		December		March	
		this year	last year	this year	last year	this year	last year	this year	last year
(..... US\$/tonne) (.....)									
WHEAT									
April	20	149	108	151	110	154	113	156	115
	27	143	104	145	106	149	110	150	112
May	4	151	106	153	108	156	112	158	114
	11	139	122	142	123	145	127	148	129
	18	136	121	139	122	142	125	144	127
	25	139	120	141	122	145	126	148	127
MAIZE									
April	20	124	94	122	94	121	94	122	96
	27	124	91	124	91	123	92	124	94
May	4	127	93	126	93	126	94	127	104
	11	118	99	116	98	116	98	118	100
	18	115	97	113	96	112	96	113	98
	25	120	95	118	94	117	95	118	97

Source: Chicago Board of Trade

Table A.11 - OCEAN FREIGHT RATES FOR WHEAT

	From U.S. Gulf ports to:				From North Pacific ports to:	
	Rotterdam 1/	CIS Black Sea 1/ 2/	Egypt (Alexandria) 1/	Bangladesh 1/	China 1/	Japan 1/
(..... US\$/tonne.)						
July/June						
1999/2000	12.60	40.97	13.65	18.50	27.00	32.83
2000/2001	13.10	40.97	15.00	18.31	27.00	36.31
2001/2002	11.00	40.97	15.00	18.50	26.90	34.19
2002/2003	12.50	40.97	16.67	22.50	27.20	31.50
2003 - April	16.00	40.97	21.00	32.00	27.00	35.00
October	20.00	40.97	23.00	36.00	27.00	42.00
November	26.00	40.97	34.00	47.00	27.00	42.00
December	28.00	40.97	36.00	47.00	27.00	42.00
2004 - January	28.00	40.97	36.00	47.00	27.00	42.00
February	35.00	40.00	43.00	55.00
March	42.00	52.00	50.00	70.00
April	42.00	52.00	60.00	70.00

Source: International Grains Council

Note: Estimated mid-month rates based on current chartering practices for vessels ready to load three to four weeks ahead.

1/ Size of vessels: Rotterdam over 40 000 tonnes; CIS 20-40 000 tonnes; Egypt over 30 000 tonnes; Bangladesh over 40 000 tonnes; China 20-35 000 tonnes; Japan 15-24 999 tonnes. 2/ Excludes CIS and United States flag vessels.

Table A.12 - SELECTED INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY PRICES

	Currency and Unit	Effective Date	Latest Quotation	1 month ago	1 year ago	Average 1989-91
Sugar (I.S.A. daily price)	US cents per lb	21.05.04	6.24	6.65	7.40	11.4
Coffee (I.C.O. daily price)	US cents per lb	24.05.04	61.16	57.90	52.81	76.7
Cocoa (I.C.C.O. daily price)	US cents per lb	24.05.04	63.92	63.50	77.42	56.0
Tea (total tea, Mombasa)	US\$ per kg.	18.05.04	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.5
Bananas (Central America, f.o.b., Hamburg)	€ per tonne	14.05.04	1 007 ^{1/} 758 ^{2/}	1 023 ^{1/} 744 ^{2/}	858 ^{1/} 785 ^{2/}	566
Cotton (COTLOOK, index "A" 1-3/32")	US cents per lb	21.05.04	69.65	69.20	57.80	78.5
Jute "BWD" f.o.b. Mongla at sight	US cents per lb	21.05.04	290	290	245	391.2
Wool (64's, London)	Pence per kg	21.05.04	426	446	572	466

Source: FAO 1/ EU duty paid, estimated. 2/ Estimated price for EFTA markets.

STATISTICAL NOTE: Data are obtained from official and unofficial sources. For cereals, production data refer to the calendar year in which the whole harvest or bulk of harvest takes place. For sugar, production data relate to the October/September season. For vegetable oils and oil meals derived from oilseeds, production data refer to the year in which the bulk of the seeds concerned are crushed. For trade in wheat and coarse grains, the time reference period is normally the July/June marketing year unless otherwise stated. Trade data for rice and other commodities refer to the calendar year. Coarse grains refer to all other cereals except wheat and rice. Quantities are in metric tonnes unless otherwise stated. '-' means nil or negligible.

In the presentation and analysis of statistical material, countries are sub-divided, where appropriate, into the following two main economic groupings: "Developed countries" (including the developed market economies and the transition markets) and "Developing countries" (including the developing market economies and the Asia centrally planned countries). The designation "Developed and "Developing" economies is intended for statistical convenience and does not necessarily express a judgement about the stage reached by a particular country or area in the development process.

References are also made to special country groupings: Low Income Food Deficit Countries (LIFDCs), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries (NFIDCs). The LIFDCs currently includes 83 countries that are net importers of cereals with per caput income below the level used by the World Bank to determine eligibility for IDA assistance (i.e. US\$1 435 in 2001). The LDCs and NIFDCs groups include a list of countries agreed by the World Trade Organization (WTO) to qualify as beneficiaries under the Marrakech Decision on the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least-Developed and Net-Food Importing Developing Countries. The LDCs group currently includes 49 countries with low income as well as weak human resources and low level of economic diversification. The list is reviewed every three years by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The NIFDCs group includes 22 developing country WTO Members which notified their request to be listed as NFIDCs and have submitted relevant statistical data concerning their status as net-importers of basic foodstuffs during a representative period. This list is reviewed annually by the WTO Committee on Agriculture.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Contents and Release Dates ^{1/}	No. 1 7 April	No. 2 15 June	No. 3 16 September	No. 4 11 November
Cereal Supply/Demand Roundup	●	●	●	●
Cereal Production, Trade, Stocks & Prices	●	●	●	●
Cereal Utilization – extended report	●			
Food Aid and Cereal Import Bills	●			
Ocean Freight Rates		●	●	●
Cassava		●		
Meat and Meat Products		●		●
Milk and Milk Products		●		●
Oilseeds, Oils and Oilmeals		●		●
Pulses		●		
Sugar				●

^{1/} These dates are tentative and refer to the release of the English version. Food Outlook in Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish language is available shortly after the release of the English version.

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