

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Pakistan

September 2011 - February 2012

Key Messages

- Prices of wheat, wheat flour and rice have shown an increasing trend during the reference period.
- Food security remains a major challenge for the flood-affected population in southern districts; agencies agree that there is a high prevalence of hunger.
- The influx of refugees from Afghanistan has been increasing in recent months while the political situation in the country remains tense.
- The government supported production through incentives to farmers such as input subsidies and minimum procurement price.

Background

Total population in Pakistan was around 173 million with an annual growth rate of 1%. The proportion of undernourishment is estimated at 25%.

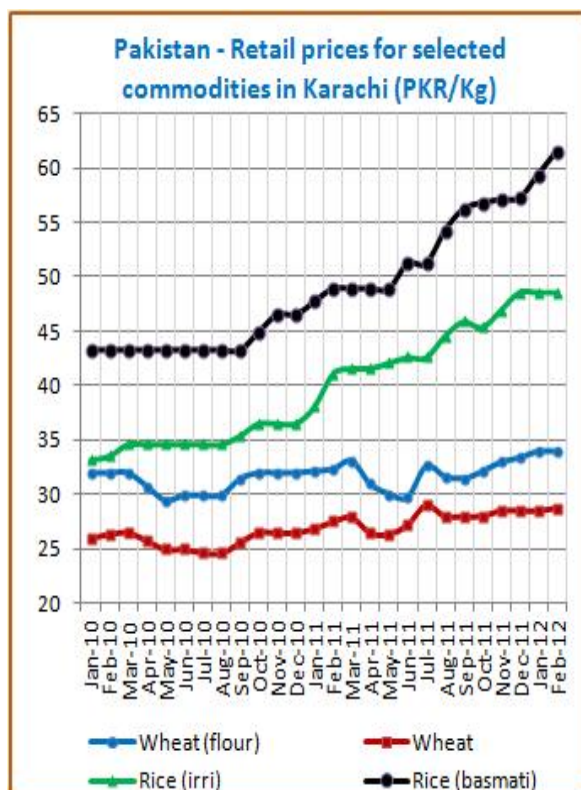
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2010 (WB)	173.593
Population growth rate - 2010 (WB)	1%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2010 (WB)	2780
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2005 (MDGI)	22%
Rural population - 2010 (WB)	63%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2010 (WB)	21%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2006/2008 (FAO)	25%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	47%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	3%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	45%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2009 (WHO)	63
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	90%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.1%

Prices

With a strong export demand the prices of wheat and wheat flour have increased over the last six months after a post-harvest dip in mid-2011. In February 2012, wheat (28.75 PKR/Kg) and wheat flour (34) prices in Karachi were 3 and 8% above their levels in September, respectively. In Lahore prices registered 8% increase for wheat and 2% for wheat flour. In Karachi, in February 2012, rice (irri) prices (48.62 PKR/Kg) were 6% above September's prices and 18% above prices in February 2011. The price of rice (540 USD/T) in Karachi was almost at the same level of international price of Rice Thai A1 Super (530 USD/T).



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Food Security Situation Assessment

The overall food supply situation in Pakistan has been satisfactory following consecutive years of relatively good harvests. However, the country has been hit by severe floods for the second consecutive year; this has extremely affected people's food security. According to UN agencies, of the 9 million people affected, some 5 million still need basic assistance. Additionally, the impact of high inflation is a cause for concern, especially for the low income population. FAO hunger map describes high prevalence of undernourishment and IFPRI GHI confirms an alarming situation of hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2011
---	---------------------------	----------------------------------	---------------------

Pakistan 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)

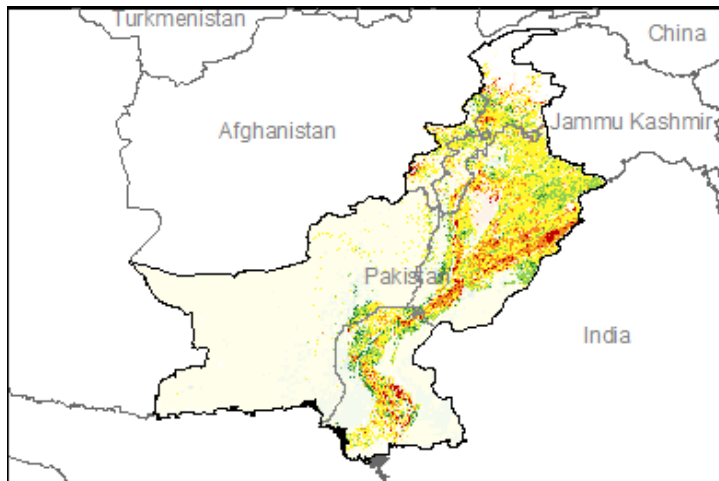
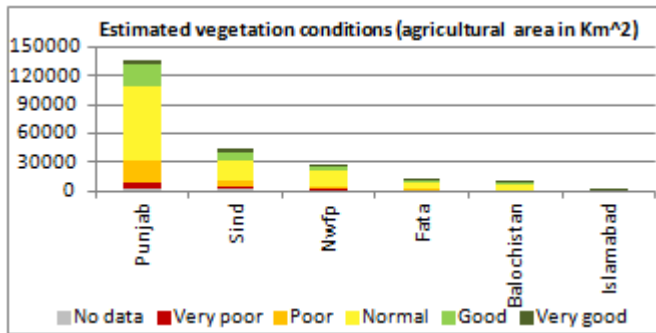
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	FAO Hunger Map
--------------------	---------------	--------------------------	------------------------	------------------------	----------------

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

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	IFPRI/2011 GHI
--------------------	----------	---------	----------	-----	----------------

Vegetation Condition

Normal conditions are observed throughout the country. The indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the absolute difference between the NDVI for February 2012 and the average of the last 10 years on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	Barley - Potatoes - Wheat (Winter)
Growing	Barley - Wheat (Winter)
Harvesting	Maize - Millet - Rice

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

The political situation remains volatile in the northwest. The number of registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan is 1.7 mln, but there is no official information on the arrival of new refugees in the last few months. Over 9 mln people were affected by severe flooding in Aug/Sept and at least 880,000 ha of standing crops have been damaged.

Refugees and IDPs	2008	2009	2010
Total in the country	1939700	4744098	4041642
Total outside the country	194471	3040845	2198891

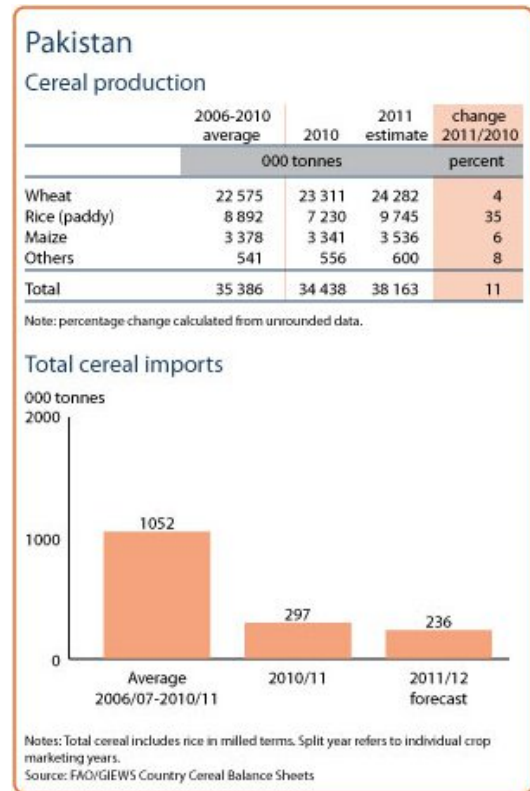
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/03/2012.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-04-25	North-west Frontier Province	1/3
Earthquake	2011-02-09	Northern Areas Province	1/3
Flood	2010-07-27	Rawalpindi	3/3

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

Paddy output is put at 9.7 mlnT (6.5 mlnT milled), 35% above last year's crop. The 2011 total production is at 38 mlnT, 11% more than 2010's output and 8% more than average. Exports for 2012 are forecast at about 3 mlnT of rice and 600,000T of wheat, 8% below 2011 exports. Imports are at 263,000T, 11% above those in 2010 and 75% below average.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

The Government subsidized fertilizers and implemented the minimum support purchase price at PKR 950 per 40 kg.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Minimum support price; Input subsidies
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food transfers; Livestock input support

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

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

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.