



# MONTHLY PRICE UPDATE

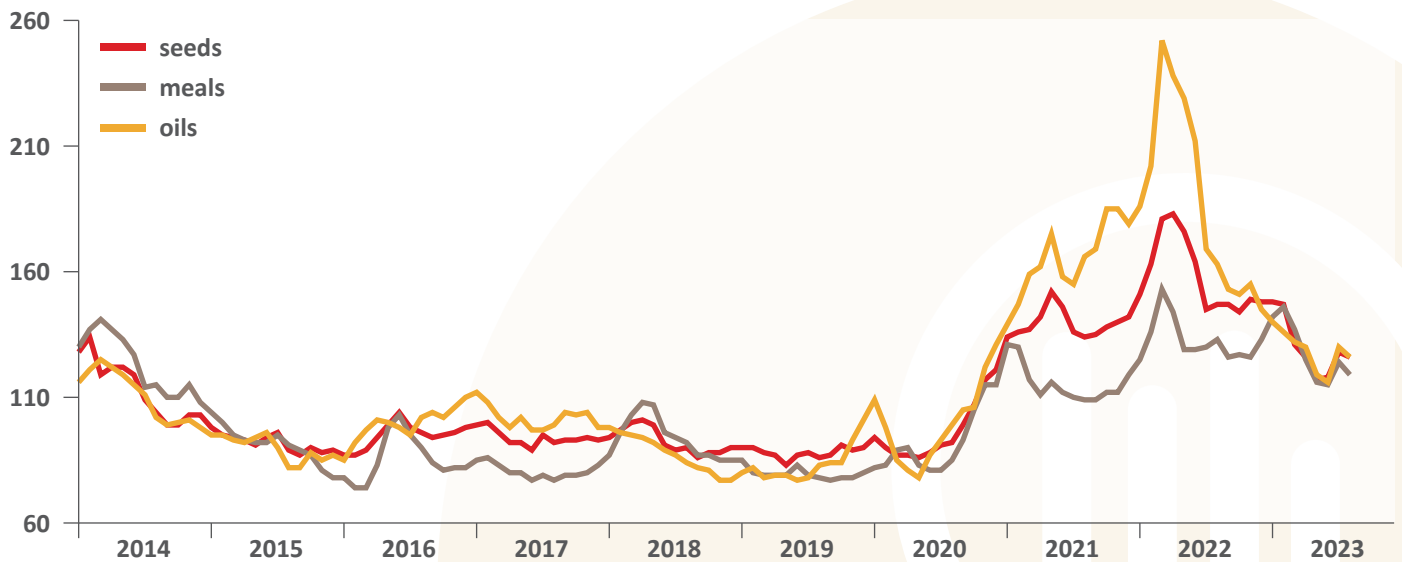
## OILSEEDS, OILS AND MEALS

No. 170 | September 2023

In August, all three FAO price indices trailing the oilcrops complex declined from the previous month. The oilseed and oilmeal indices fell by 2.6 and 5.0 points (2.0 and 4.0 percent), respectively, while the vegetable oil index dropped by 4.0 points (3.1 percent) month-on-month. All three price indices were below their respective year-earlier levels, with the vegetable oil index standing nearly 25 percent below its level in August 2022.

The latest decline of the oilseed price index was mainly the result of lower world prices of soybean and rapeseed, more than offsetting higher sunflower seed quotations. After rising for two consecutive months, international soybean prices dropped marginally in August, largely underpinned by improving weather conditions in the main growing regions in the United States of America in early August. Nevertheless, renewed concerns over dry and hot weather since mid-August, in

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



Source: FAO, 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>.

Please note that the views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

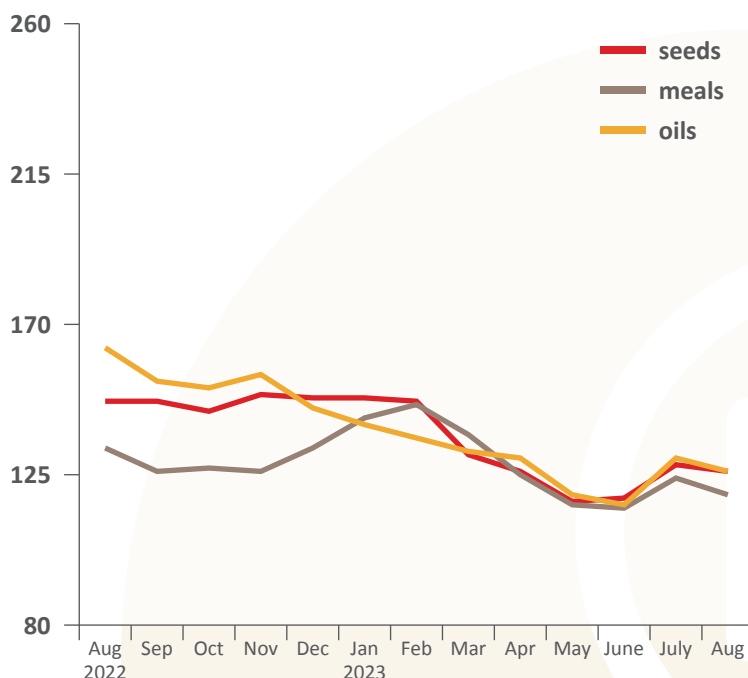
tandem with higher-than-expected crushings in the country, contributed to price recoveries towards the second half of August, containing a further drop in soybean quotations. In the meantime, world rapeseed prices declined amid seasonal harvest pressure from the main producing countries in the northern hemisphere. In addition, notwithstanding expectations of a moderately lower harvest in Canada compared with the previous season, the global rapeseed market is still assessed as well supplied in the 2023/24 season, exerting further downward pressure on international rapeseed prices. In the case of sunflower seed, world quotations increased slightly in August, extending gains for the second successive month following the termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative. This is despite favourable growing conditions across the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

With regard to oilmeals, the month-on-month decline of the price index chiefly reflected lower world soymeal quotations. While global exportable

supplies remained limited due to sharply lower output from Argentina, international soymeal prices were negatively influenced by subdued demand from the livestock sector, particularly in China and the European Union.

As for vegetable oils, the price index dropped by 3.1 percent after a short-lived recovery in July, mainly reflecting lower world prices across palm, sunflower, soy and rapeseed oils. International palm oil prices fell moderately in August, underpinned by subdued global import demand as well as seasonally rising outputs in leading producing countries in Southeast Asia. World prices of sunflower oil declined by nearly 8 percent from the previous month amid weakening import demand that coincided with abundant offers from leading exporters. World prices of soy oil dropped in August due to improving soybean crop conditions in the United States of America, while those of rapeseed oil declined owing to ample global exportable supplies.

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



Source: FAO, based on Oil World data.

|  | FAO price indices (2014–2016=100) <sup>a</sup> |                |                |
|--|--|----------------|----------------|
|  | Oilseeds                                       | Oilcakes/meals | Vegetable oils |
| <b>Annual (Oct/Sep)</b>  |  |                |                |
| 2012/13  | 132  | 129            | 120            |
| 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            |
| <b>Monthly</b>   |  |                |                |
| 2022 - August  | 147  | 133            | 163            |
| 2022 - September   | 147  | 126            | 153            |
| 2022 - October   | 144  | 127            | 151            |
| 2022 - November  | 149  | 126            | 155            |
| 2022 - December  | 148  | 133            | 145            |
| 2023 - January   | 148  | 142            | 140            |
| 2023 - February  | 147  | 146            | 136            |
| 2023 - March   | 131  | 137            | 132            |
| 2023 - April   | 126  | 125            | 130            |
| 2023 - May   | 117  | 116            | 119            |
| 2023 - June  | 118  | 115            | 116            |
| 2023 - July  | 128  | 124            | 130            |
| 2023 - August  | 126  | 119            | 126            |
| <sup>a</sup> 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, based on Oil World data.  |  |                |                |

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The use, reproduction and dissemination of this product is encouraged, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) as source is given.

## CONTACT

Markets and Trade Division - Economic and Social Development stream

[FAO-oilcropsmarkets@fao.org](mailto:FAO-oilcropsmarkets@fao.org)

[www.fao.org/markets-and-trade](http://www.fao.org/markets-and-trade)

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
Rome, Italy



Some rights reserved. This work is available under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/) licence