



MONTHLY PRICE UPDATE

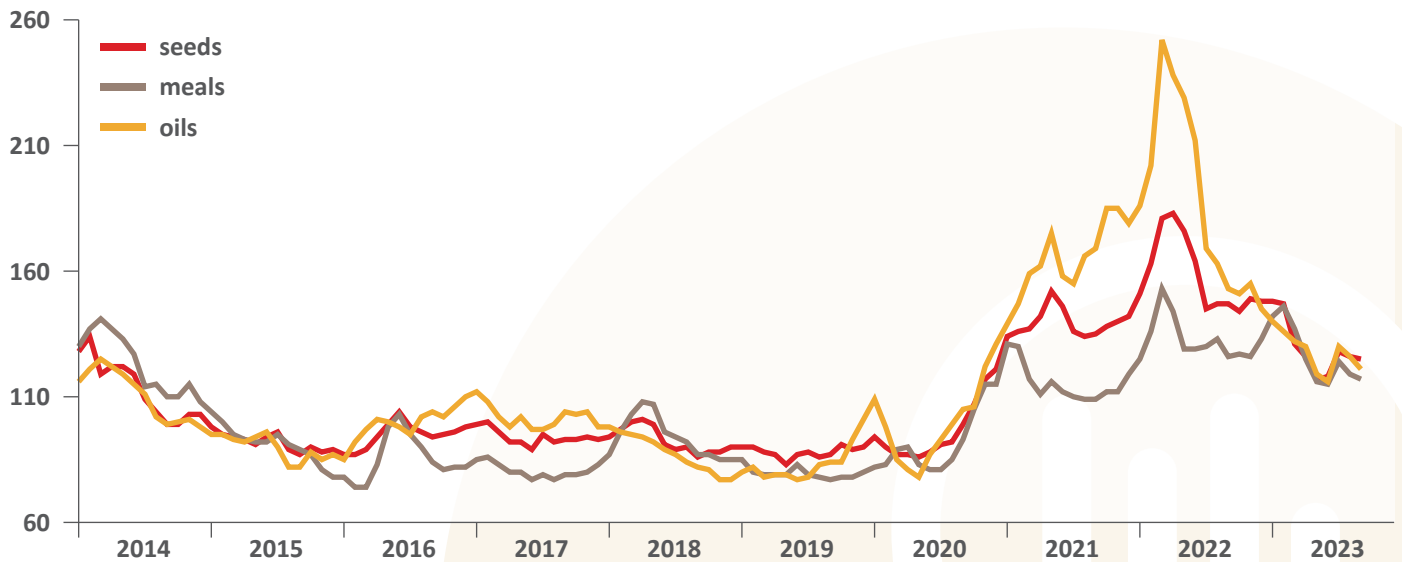
OILSEEDS, OILS AND MEALS

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In September, all FAO prices trailing the oilcrops complex continued to decline. The oilseed and oilmeal price indices dropped by, respectively, 0.7 and 2.2 points (0.5 and 1.9 percent) from August, while the vegetable oil index declined by 5.0 points (3.9 percent) month-on-month. At these levels, all three indices stood below their year-earlier levels, with the vegetable oil index down by about 20 percent.

The further decline of the oilseed price index in September was chiefly due to lower world prices of sunflower seed and rapeseed, whereas soybean quotations remained virtually unchanged. After fluctuating in a narrow range in the past few months, international soybean prices were essentially stable in September. While lingering unfavourable crop conditions and the resulting prospective lower production in the United States of America

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>.

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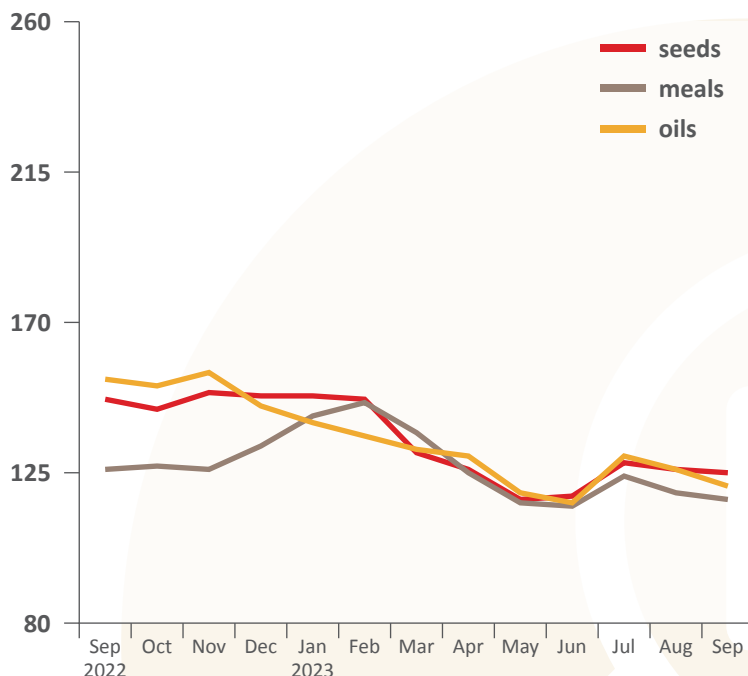
continued to lend support to soybean prices, the impact was counterbalanced by a number of factors: i) the mounting harvest pressure in the United States of America; ii) prospects of record-breaking outputs in South America in 2023/24; iii) a subdued global import demand; and iv) an appreciation of the United States dollar against other major currencies. Moreover, the implementation of the fourth “soy dollar” programme in Argentina since the beginning of September has led to a new round of farmer sales, resulting in amplified export availabilities and exerting downward pressure on global soybean prices. In the case of sunflower seed, international prices in September dropped by nearly 10 percent from August, primarily underpinned by larger-than-expected production estimates in both the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Similarly, world rapeseed quotations decreased for the second consecutive month, reflecting ample supplies in Europe and the Black Sea region.

As for oilmeals, the continued fall in the price index was driven by lower quotations of soy, rapeseed

and sunflower meals, amid protracted lacklustre global protein meal demand from the livestock sector, primarily in China and the European Union. This is despite reduced supplies from Argentina, the world’s leading soymeal exporter, following the substantial drop in its soybean production in the 2022/23 season.

With regard to vegetable oils, the decline of the price index reflected lower world prices across palm, sunflower, soy and rapeseed oils. International palm oil prices continued to decrease in September, chiefly underpinned by seasonally elevated production in major producing countries in Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, world sunflower oil quotations dropped markedly, reflecting the harvest pressure of sunflower seed in the Black Sea region amid robust farmer selling activities. As for rapeseed oils, international prices declined on lingering abundant global export supplies, while world soyoil prices followed suit, affected by weakening margins in the biodiesel sector in the United States of America.

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) ^a		
	Oilseeds	Oilcakes/meals	Vegetable oils
Annual (Oct/Sep)			
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
Monthly			
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
2023 - September	125	117	121
^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, based on Oil World data.			

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