

Food Crisis Developments:

- *Missing Links: The Global Food Fight, By Moisés Naím, Foreign Policy, July/August 2008*
The spike in food prices is a global crisis, and it is destabilizing politics and economics everywhere. Food prices have doubled in the past two years, and most signs indicate they will stay high.
http://www.foreignpolicy.com/story/cms.php?story_id=4347
Contact Foreign Policy Magazine: (202) 939-2230
- *Quest for farmland and fuel destroys forests, by Barnabas Bii, Business Daily Africa, July 17, 2008*
Growing demand for farmland to produce cereals to meet the country's rising food and fuel needs is driving invasion of natural forests and destruction of biodiversity, experts warned.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8810&Itemid=5810
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *N. Rift region faces hard times as production dips, by Dennis Odunga, Business Daily Africa, July 17, 2008*
Local authorities in the North Rift region, the country's food basket, that depend on grain sales for revenue are facing hard times following reduced output from farmers.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8811&Itemid=5813
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *Mandelson warns on world trade talk, by Tony Barber, Financial Times, July 17, 2008*
International agreements on climate change, food security and energy use may drift out of reach if next week's Geneva talks on liberalising world trade collapse, Peter Mandelson, the European Union's chief trade negotiator, said on Thursday.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/041964ae-53fc-11dd-aa78-000077b07658.html>
- *Argentine farmers, government backers hold rallies ahead of key tax vote, AP, International Herald Tribune, July 16, 2008*
Tens of thousands of Argentine farmers and government supporters staged dueling protests Tuesday ahead of a Senate vote on a package of grain-export taxes that generated months of bitter farm strikes.
<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/07/15/america/LA-Argentina-Farm-Crisis.php>
- *UN: Lack of rain leaves crops dry in large parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, AP, International Herald Tribune*
A U.N. food agency says a poor rainy season has damaged crops in large parts of Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.
<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/07/15/europe/EU-UN-Food-East-Africa.php>
- *Africa's Resources still best bet for its growth, Lexis Nexis, China Daily, July 15, 2008*

The African Union (AU) convened its 11th summit on June 30 and July 1 in Egypt. The top-level meeting attracted intense media attention around the world because it was held as the world economic growth was slowing down, the international prices of energy resources and food were soaring and the situation in Zimbabwe was getting tense.

- *Indonesia's Answer to Rising Food Prices*, by Simon Montlake, **Christian Science Monitor**, July 14, 2008
A top rice importer last year, Indonesia's government is allocating more land to grow it and other food crops.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0715/p07s01-wosc.html>
Contact the Christian Science Monitor: 617.450.7929
- *Food crisis: Drought hurts vital Australian wheat*, by Tanalee Smitt, **Washington Post**, July 13, 2008
One of Australia's worst droughts on record is hurting wheat farming just as the world needs it most.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/13/AR2008071300941.html>
Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500
- *Greatest challenge lies beyond southern shores*, by Heba Saleh, Ben Hall and Roula Khalaf, **Financial Times**, July 11, 2008
"Our problems are real, serious, people are suffering from high oil prices, food prices and we have a young demography, we need the right kind of skills and investment," the official said.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/e7867658-4ee0-11dd-ba7c-000077b07658.html>
Contact the Financial Times: +44 (0) 20 7873 3000
- *North Korean daily reports on worldwide efforts to resolve food crisis*, BBC through **Lexis Nexis**, July 12, 2008
A while ago, the "End Hunger: Walk the World 2008" march was carried out in Smart Village, in the western suburbs of Cairo, the capital of Egypt. An official at the UN Information Centre in Cairo said that the purpose of this march was to raise money to provide meals for the 59 million children worldwide who go to school in a condition of starvation every day.
- *Britain urging return to wartime food frugality*, by David Stringer, **Washington Post**, July 11, 2008
Evoking an era of World War II austerity, British families are being urged to cut food waste and use leftovers in a nationwide effort to fight sharply rising global food prices.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/11/AR2008071102059.html>
Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500
- *Hunger brings anguish for millions of Pakistanis*, by Aftab Borika, **Washington Post**, July 10, 2008
When Pakistani laborer Mangal Ram's children cry from hunger all he has to offer them is empty promises.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/10/AR2008071002663.html>
Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500
- *A bad habit they can't give up*, **The Economist**, July 10, 2008

IT IS hard to get a grip on food. The UN's World Health Organisation worries about diminishing supplies and increased prices in poor countries; recent riots and near-riots in Haiti, Bangladesh and Egypt were sparked by the growing cost of wheat and rice

http://www.economist.com/books/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11703074

Contact the Economist: +44 (0) 1444 475647

- *About 50 million more hungry people in 2007: Hunger on the rise due to soaring food price, **FAO**, July 3, 2008*

The number of hungry people increased by about 50 million in 2007 as a result of high food prices, FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf said today addressing a conference at the European Parliament in Brussels. "Poor countries are feeling the serious impact of soaring food and energy prices," Dr Diouf said. "We urgently need new and stronger partnerships to address the growing food security problems in poor countries. No single institution or country will be able to resolve this crisis. Donor countries, international institutions, governments of developing countries, civil society and the private sector have an important role to play in the global fight against hunger."

<http://www.fao.org/newsroom/en/news/2008/1000866/index.html>

- *How to End the Global Food Shortage, by Jeffery Sachs, **TIME Magazine**, April 24, 2008*

The world economy has run into a brick wall. Despite countless warnings in recent years about the need to address a looming hunger crisis in poor countries and a looming energy crisis worldwide, world leaders failed to think ahead.

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1734834,00.html>

Relationship between food/fuel prices:

- *When food and fuel demand clash, by Steve Mbogo, **International Herald Tribune**, July 16, 2008*
Escalating global demand for fuel, food, and wood fibre will destroy the world's ecosystems.

http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8772&Itemid=5813

Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121

- *Wholesale prices soar in June; sales are sluggish, by Martin Crutsinger, **Washington Post**, July 15, 2008*

The economy showed the depth of its twin problems on Tuesday, slow growth and rising inflation, as the nation wrestled with a teetering financial system, a slumping dollar and rising prices for food and fuel.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071500880.html>

Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500

- *Africa Faces Another Rising Expense: Fuel, by Lydia Polgreen, **The New York Times**, July 12, 2008*
Rising global food prices have sent discontent rippling across Africa in recent months, prompting riots and demonstrations from Zambia to Senegal, Tanzania to Niger. Now fuel prices are causing rumblings as well.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/12/world/africa/12nigeria.html?scp=2&sq=food%20prices&st=cse>

Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234

- *Study: green jobs rising, fossil fuel jobs falling*, Eoin O'Carroll, **Christian Science Monitor**, July 10, 2008
The Worldwatch Institute released a study Thursday showing that [jobs in renewable energy are expanding worldwide](http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2008/07/10/study-green-jobs-rising-fossil-fuel-jobs-falling/), while jobs in coal and natural gas are disappearing
<http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2008/07/10/study-green-jobs-rising-fossil-fuel-jobs-falling/>
Contact the Christian Science Monitor: 617.450.7929
- *Japan's Squid Hunters, Beset by Red Ink, to Lead Strike over Oil*, by Hiroko Tabuchi, **The Wall Street Journal**, July 12, 2008
Japanese fishermen, up in arms over rising oil prices, will stage their first nationwide strike on Tuesday -- a worrisome prospect in this nation of seafood eaters.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121582236267347787.html>
Contact the Wall Street Journal: (212) 416-2000

Agricultural development practices (corporate, IGO, NGO, government) with focus in SE Asia/Sub-Saharan Africa:

- *G8 Leaders Statement on Global Food Security, G-8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit*
 1. We are deeply concerned that the steep rise in global food prices coupled with availability problems in a number of developing countries is threatening global food security. The negative impacts of this recent trend could push millions more back into poverty, rolling back progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We have taken additional steps to assist those suffering from food insecurity or hunger, and today renew our commitment to address this multifaceted and structural crisis.
http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/doc080709_04_en.html
- *How to achieve goals of green revolution*, by Angela Cropper, **Business Daily Africa**, July 15, 2008
We are living in a time of multiple crises. These are grabbing the headlines and requiring the international community to find solutions on so many fronts. What will it be next — a new wave of natural disasters in another vulnerable area of the globe: or will it be a global water crisis?
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8739&Itemid=5821
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *Kenya to benefit from UN campaign against hunger*, by Allan Odhiambo, **Business Daily Africa**, July 14, 2008
Provision of fertilisers and other agricultural inputs to small farmers is intended to encourage donors, financial institutions and national governments to support the scheme on a much larger scale.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8712&Itemid=5813
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *World food supplies get \$50m boost*, **The Sydney Morning Herald**, July 13, 2008
The federal government will provide \$50 million to boost agriculture in developing countries, which have been suffering from recent food price hikes.

<http://news.smh.com.au/national/world-food-supplies-gets-50m-boost-20080713-3ecq.html>

Contact the Sydney Morning Herald: (02) 9282 2833

- *Exporting Farmland to Feed Global Demand*, by Tom Wright, Mariam Fam, and Patrick Barta, **The Wall Street Journal**, July 11, 2008
Emerging nations are trying to cash in on the global food crisis by getting big importers of crops to effectively lease their farmlands -- a new trend that is already sparking complaints from farmers in some countries who are concerned about their own food supplies.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121571364505343205.html>
Contact the Wall Street Journal: (212) 416-2000
- *Virtual Reality: as the ground shifts under their feet, food giants experiment with new strategies*, by Grist.com, **Washington Post**, July 11, 2008
For more than a generation, the major corporations that process and sell the vast bulk of our food have had it pretty easy.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/15/AR2008071500319.html>
Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500
- *At G-8, EU Pledges 1 Billion for Agriculture in Africa and Beyond*, by Lisa Abend, **Christian Science Monitor**, July 10, 2008
High food prices are allowing Europe to reallocate money usually budgeted for European farm subsidies.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/2008/0710/p04s04-woeu.html>
Contact the Christian Science Monitor: 617.450.7929
- *Africans urged to 'eat locally' at poor people's summit*, **The Sydney Morning Herald**, July 9, 2008
While the Group of Eight wealthy nations get together in Japan to discuss the food crisis, an African anti-globalist meeting stressed Africans could help themselves by eating local products.
<http://news.smh.com.au/world/africans-urged-to-eat-locally-at-poor-peoples-summit-20080709-3cbr.html>
Contact the Sydney Morning Herald: (02) 9282 2833

Small-scale farms and agricultural productivity:

- *Services offer hedgehog approach to progress*, by David Mataen, **Business Daily Africa**, July 17, 2008
Competition and oil embargoes of 1973 and 1979 helped to put agriculture at the bottom of the pile in global sectoral productivity.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8823&Itemid=5848
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *To end Africa's cycle of drought and hunger, key is better farms—not food aid*, AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 16, 2008
To break out of endless cycles of drought, poverty and hunger, experts say, Africa desperately needs to modernize its age-old farming techniques
<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/07/16/africa/AF-Ethiopia-Modern-Farms.php>

- *Nigeria; Commercial Farming, Panacea to Food Crisis, Lexis Nexis, Africa News*, July 15, 2008
Former Minister of External Affairs, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi has called on Nigerians to embrace commercial farming as a potent tool for combating global food crisis.
- *A time to sow? By Clive Cookson, Financial Times*, July 11, 2008
So widely are genetically modified crops now grown around the world, for use in animal feed and as processed food ingredients, that feed importers in Europe and Asia are finding it difficult to supply customers who want non-GM soya or maize
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/8abbc0cc-4ee0-11dd-ba7c-000077b07658.html>
Contact the Financial Times: +44 (0) 20 7873 3000
- *Worlds Poor Pay as Crop Research is Cut, by Keith Bradsher and Andrew Martin, The New York Times*, May 18, 2008
The brown plant hopper, an insect no bigger than a gnat, is multiplying by the billions and chewing through rice paddies in East Asia, threatening the diets of many poor people
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/18/business/worldbusiness/18focus.html?_r=1&hp&oref=slogin
Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234
- *Tierney Lab Blog, Agriculture Section, by John Tierney, The New York Times*
<http://tierneylab.blogs.nytimes.com/tag/agriculture/?scp=5&sq=agriculture&st=cse>
Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234

Biofuels:

- *Kenya needs to re-assess its energy policies, by George Wachira, Business Daily Africa*, July 15, 2008
Bio-fuels can only be useful if there is no conflict with food production since they are accessible to the rural majority who depend on biomass for their energy needs.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8744&Itemid=5821
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *The Man Who Dared to Question Ethanol, by Andrew Martin of The New York Times*, July 13, 2008
IT wasn't too long ago that a loose coalition of anti-ethanol forces was bemoaning the futility of its fight.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/13/business/13feed.html?ex=1216612800&en=f47be7a5b29f1e00&ei=5070&emc=eta1>
Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234
- *Ethanol: The Battle Continues, by Keith Johnson, The Wall Street Journal*, July 14, 2008
The U.S. Renewable Fuels Association sent an [after-hours letter](#) to President Bush late Friday warning him not to heel to pressure from Senators, the Federal Reserve of St. Louis, and U.S. food corporations like Tyson Foods who are calling for an end to the \$0.54 per gallon import tax on Brazilian ethanol –the archrival to U.S. ethanol makers.
<http://blogs.wsj.com/environmentalcapital/2008/07/14/ethanol-the-battle-continues/>
Contact the Wall Street Journal: (212) 416-2000

- *Tortillas, Ethanol, and High Fructose Corn Syrup*, by Andy Posner, **The Huffington Post**, July 13, 2008
A recent [leaked report from the World Bank](#), stating that 75% of the increase in world food prices is due to biofuels, has served to reignite the food vs. fuel debate. However, what is lost in all the biofuel controversy is the fact that tremendous amounts of land are devoted neither to fuel nor nutritive food, but rather to non-nutritive uses like tobacco, high fructose corn syrup and cane sugar.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/andy-posner/tortillas-ethanol-and-hig_b_112419.html
Contact the Huffington Post: info@huffingtonpost.com
- *Governors talk of moving beyond corn-based ethanol*, AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 13, 2008
Governors from the coal fields of West Virginia to the corn fields of Iowa talked Sunday at their summer meeting about moving beyond ethanol produced just from food sources.
<http://www.ihrt.com/articles/ap/2008/07/13/america/Governors-Global-Warming.php>
- *Brazilian president says speculators, not biofuels, to blame for soaring food prices*, AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 12, 2008
Biofuel production is not to blame for soaring global food costs, Brazil's president said Saturday, calling for incentives for developing countries to grow food crops as a way out of the crisis.
<http://www.ihrt.com/articles/ap/2008/07/12/asia/AS-Indonesia-Brazil-Biofuels.php>
- *Food Price link leads to retreat on biofuel targets*, by Fiona Harvey, **Financial Times**, July 8, 2008
The (UK) government signalled a retreat on its biofuels targets yesterday after the publication of a report showing the fuels contributed to rises in food prices.
<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/0de2839c-4c88-11dd-96bb-000077b07658.html>
Contact the Financial Times: +44 (0) 20 7873 3000

Food Aid:

- *At Summit, More Promises of African Aid*, by Michael Abramowitz, **Washington Post**, July 10, 2008
The United States and other members of the [Group of Eight](#) industrialized countries this week reiterated their commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/07/09/AR2008070901545.html>
Contact the Washington Post: 703.469.2500
- *U.S. Food Aid: We Pay for Shipping*, by Avi Salzman, **Business Week**, July 8, 2008
In the midst of a worldwide hunger crisis, Congress signed on to a food aid program last month that sends hefty paychecks to agribusinesses and shipping companies, but an ever-shrinking supply of food to hungry people. Critics of the farm bill passed into law by Congress over President Bush's veto on June 18 say the inefficiencies in U.S. food aid will only exacerbate food shortages.
http://www.businessweek.com/bwdaily/dnflash/content/jul2008/db2008078_468803.htm

- **More aid won't solve food crisis**, by *Caroline Boine and Alec Van Gelder*, **Business Daily**, July 7, 2008

The world food crisis “threatens to destroy years, if not decades, of economic progress,” the Africa Progress Panel said last week, prompting its chairman Kofi Annan, Bob Geldof and Bono to call on rich countries to honour their commitment of doubling aid to Africa by 2010. But more aid will not solve the problems that make poverty perpetual.

http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8595&Itemid=5821

Market Access:

- *Why the WTO ministerial will be fiery*, by *Martin Khor*, **Business Daily Africa**, July 17, 2008
July 21, ministers of trade of some 30 to 40 countries gather at the World Trade Organisation for a final try to finalise the main parameters or “modalities” for liberalisation of trade in agricultural and industrial goods under the Doha Round.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8796&Itemid=5821
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *Reaping what Foreign Growers Sow*, by *Julie Jargon*, **The Wall Street Journal**, July 15, 2008
Five years ago, CHS Inc. was muddling along exporting U.S.-grown corn, wheat and soybeans to foreign customers. Then, Chief Executive John Johnson hatched an idea that amounted to heresy in a company owned by American farmers: CHS should buy grain from growers outside the U.S.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121608452549753073.html>
Contact the Wall Street Journal: (212) 416-2000
- *European Official Calls for Unity Ahead of Trade Talks*, by *Stephen Castle*, **The New York Times**, July 15, 2008
Mr. Mandelson’s comments underline the tensions on trade policy between the European Commission and Mr. Sarkozy, who has accused him of naïveté for promising cuts in Europe’s farm tariffs before receiving reciprocal concessions from rapidly developing nations.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/business/worldbusiness/15trade.html?scp=4&sq=agriculture&st=cse>
Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234
- *EU farm ministers criticize agriculture aid reform plans*, the AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 15, 2008
EU governments on Tuesday criticized plans aimed at slashing handouts to farmers and boosting production in the 27-nation bloc to address global food shortages.
<http://www.ihrt.com/articles/ap/2008/07/15/business/EU-EU-Farm-Reform.php>
- *Brazil says agriculture remains stumbling block at world trade talks*, AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 15, 2008
Developed nations' agricultural subsidies and farm good tariffs remain the biggest obstacles to an agreement on the long-stalled Doha round of World Trade Organization talks, Brazil's foreign minister said Monday.
<http://www.ihrt.com/articles/ap/2008/07/14/business/LA-Brazil-World-Trade.php>

- *Australia battles against food barriers, by Jessica Irvine and Yuko Narushima, **The Sydney Morning Herald**, July 15, 2008*
AMID rising food prices and fears that a hotter climate will make food scarcer, trade ministers will meet in Geneva next week to broker an agreement to remove agricultural trade barriers.
<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/australia-battles-against-food-barriers/2008/07/14/1215887540844.html>
Contact the Sydney Morning Herald: (02) 9282 2833
- *European farmers criticize EU trade chief over agriculture deal on eve of WTO talks, AP, **International Herald Tribune**, July 14, 2008*
European farmers said Monday that an agricultural deal on the table at upcoming World Trade Organization talks would cost them billions of euros (dollars) and at least a half-million jobs.
<http://www.ihf.com/articles/ap/2008/07/14/business/EU-EU-WTO-Farmers.php>
- *Tougher rules to control wheat imports, by Allan Odhaimbo, **Business Daily Africa**, July 14, 2008*
Importers of wheat face new tough rules aimed at curbing illegal entry into the domestic market of wheat flour from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa).
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8721&Itemid=5813
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121
- *China trade deficit in food up 14-fold: report, **The Sydney Morning Herald**, July 13, 2008*
China registered a 7.57 billion dollar trade deficit in agricultural products during the first five months of 2008, up by more than 14-fold over the same period last year, state press said Sunday.
<http://news.smh.com.au/world/china-trade-deficit-in-food-up-14fold-report-20080713-3efk.html>
Contact the Sydney Morning Herald: (02) 9282 2833

Poverty Alleviation:

- *Let them eat bugs, **The Economist**, July 12, 2008*
A new, abundant and environmentally friendly source of protein is creating some buzz. The world is getting hungrier. After years of falling food prices, eating is suddenly getting expensive.
http://www.economist.com/world/international/displaystory.cfm?story_id=11731829
Contact the Economist: Tel: +44 (0) 1444 475647

Developments in Agriculture, Science and Technology

- *Country, the City Version: Farms in the sky gain new interest, by Bina Venkataraman, **The New York Times**, July 15, 2008*
What if “eating local” in Shanghai or New York meant getting your fresh produce from five blocks away? And what if skyscrapers grew off the grid, as verdant, self-sustaining towers where city slickers cultivated their own food?
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/15/science/15farm.html>
Contact the New York Times: 212-556-1234

- *Clearance of arrears revives interest in growing pyrethrum*, by James Kariuki and George Omondi, **Business Daily Africa**, July 14, 2008
The recent clearance of pyrethrum farmers' arrears amounting to Sh863 million has revived interest in growing the crop.
http://www.bdafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=8732&Itemid=5811
Contact Business Daily Africa: +254 20 328 8121

New Reports

- *Food Price Inflation: Explanations and Policy Implications*, by Karen Johnson **Council on Foreign Relations**, July 2008
Increases in the prices for major food crops that are traded globally have reached extraordinary levels, sparking riots in some countries and becoming the focus of widespread debate and policy concern. At the June 2008 summit meeting of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization in Rome, officials from around the world engaged in discussions of who or what is to blame. In this [Center for Geoeconomic Studies](#) Working Paper, Karen H. Johnson explains the causes and likely future course of food-price inflation, and analyzes the implications for central banks, trade negotiators, and agricultural policy.
http://www.cfr.org/publication/16729/food_price_inflation.html
- *Food Prices*, by Lee Hudson Teslik, **Council on Foreign Relations**, June 30, 2008
By just about any measure, global food prices rose significantly over the past two years. The consumer price index (CPI) measuring inflation for retail foodstuffs in the United States is expected to rise from 4.5 percent in 2007 to [5.5 percent in 2008](#). Those figures pale in comparison to the price increases faced by consumers in the developing world, who more often purchase non-packaged food directly (i.e. corn, not cornflakes) and thus are more exposed to the prices of individual food commodities. The prices of rice and wheat, for instance, have more than doubled in twelve months; for someone subsisting mainly on rice and purchasing it directly, that means food inflation of roughly 100 percent in a year. This jump in prices has led to [riots in dozens of poorer countries](#).
http://www.cfr.org/publication/16662/price_of_food.html?breadcrumb=%2F