FAO FOOD PRICE INDEX SUMMARY - OCTOBER 2ND 2026

Please see below a brief overview of the latest FAO Food Price Index and Cereal Supply and Demand Brief, highlighting key developments relevant to the Caribbean poultry industry and the organisations and technical professionals supporting the sector.

Food Price Index

136.0 Points

- The FAO Food Price Index rose by **1.5% in September**, driven by higher cereal, vegetable oil and sugar prices.
- The Cereal Price Index increased by **5.1%**, with wheat prices rising by **6.3%** due mainly to Black Sea logistical constraints and dry weather ahead of winter wheat planting in parts of North America.
- Maize prices increased by **5.6%**, reflecting lower-than-anticipated yields in the United States, reduced export availability from Brazil and continued trade disruptions in the Black Sea region.
- International poultry-meat prices declined amid ample Brazilian export supplies and weaker import demand from the European Union following new antimicrobial-related import requirements.

Cereal Supply and Demand

- Global cereal production in 2026 is forecast at **2.979 billion tonnes** - 2.1% below the 2025 record, but still the second-largest harvest on record.
- Global coarse grain production is forecast at **1.612 billion tonnes**. The reduction is largely linked to weaker maize-production prospects following hot and dry weather in the European Union and the United States.
- World cereal stocks are forecast at **950.0 million tonnes**, with the stocks-to-use ratio of 31.7% still indicating relatively comfortable supplies. However, the global cereal-trade forecast was lowered to 505.8 million tonnes, largely due to Black Sea shipping constraints.

For the Caribbean poultry industry, the sharp increases in wheat and maize prices may place further pressure on imported feed costs. Although global cereal supplies remain relatively comfortable, weaker maize-production prospects and continued disruptions to Black Sea trade routes require close monitoring.

Read the full reports:

FAO Food Price Index

FAO Cereal Supply and Demand Brief