

## Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

**Mauritania**

September-December 2010

### Key Messages

- Access to food for rural and urban consumers is affected by high wheat and rice prices.
- Insecurity caused by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) continues and the government is cooperating with Mali to defeat the militias.
- Food security situation is improving; however food prices are very high and limit economic access.
- The government has implemented agricultural policies to support producers in farming activities.

### Background

In Mauritania, the total population is 3.2 million and the growth rate is 2% per annum. According to latest data, the prevalence of undernourishment is 7%.

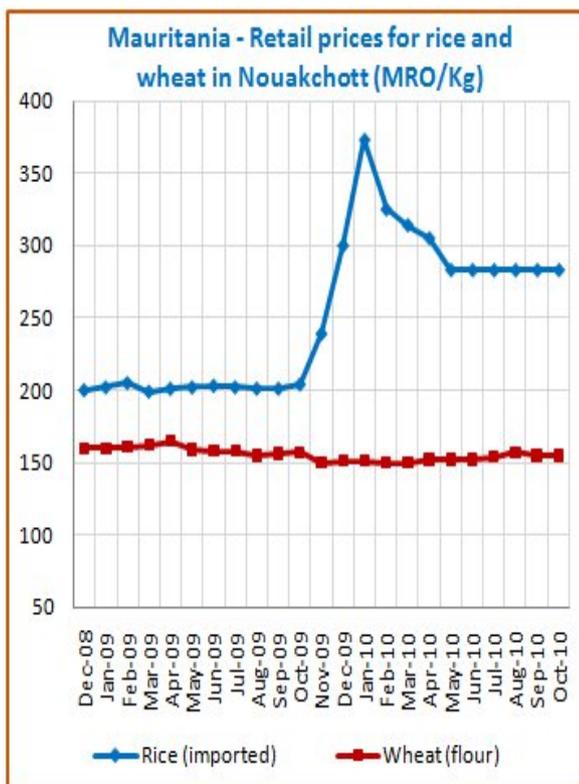
Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	3.291
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2009 (WB)	1960
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2000 (MDGI)	21%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	58%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2002 (WB)	25%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	7%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	51%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	5%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	26%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	58
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	49%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years - 2009 (WHO)	0.7%

### Prices

Prices of millet and sorghum remained mostly stable following good harvests in neighbouring countries. Wheat (flour) and rice prices in Nouakchott were also reported to have remained stable in recent months, registering 155 and 283 MRO /Kg respectively in Sept and Oct. However, domestic prices are significantly higher than international prices, eroding purchasing power. In Oct, wheat (flour) prices on local markets (535.97 USD/T) were 84% higher than prices of wheat No2 Red Hard Winter on the international market (290.75) and rice prices reached a peak of 978.58 USD/T compared to 430.67 USD/T of Rice Thai A1 Super (127% higher).



Source: [GIEWS National basic food prices data and analysis tool](#)

### Food Security Situation Assessment

GIEWS does not report Mauritania in the list of countries in crisis requiring external assistance for food therefore suggesting an improvement compared to past months when the situation of shortfalls in food production was reported as serious. According to FEWSNET, pockets of moderate food insecurity exist in the central Senegal River Valley and in northern agropastoral areas. However, in other regions food insecurity conditions have eased thanks to good rainfall which has ameliorated agricultural and pastoral conditions in recent months. FAO hunger map estimates moderately low undernourishment levels while IFPRI warns of a serious situation of hunger.

#### CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	<a href="#">FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010</a>
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Agricultural and pastoral conditions remain satisfactory throughout the country. Markets are still well-supplied with imported food, despite the rising prices of imported food and fuel. The FEWS NET-CILSS-Government joint crop assessment ... [more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

#### SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

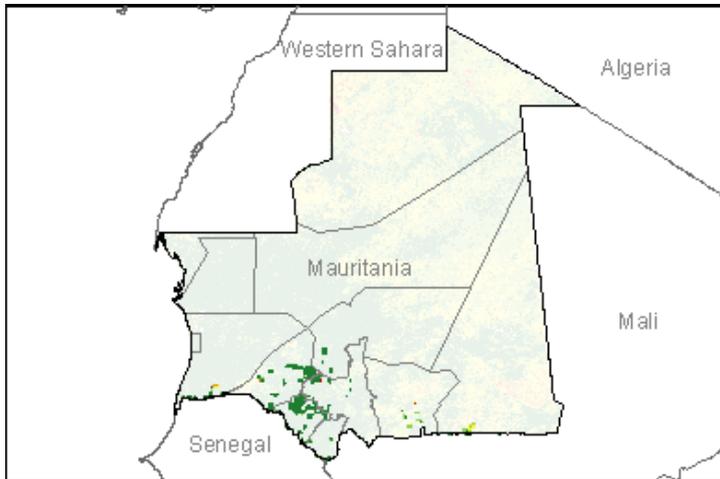
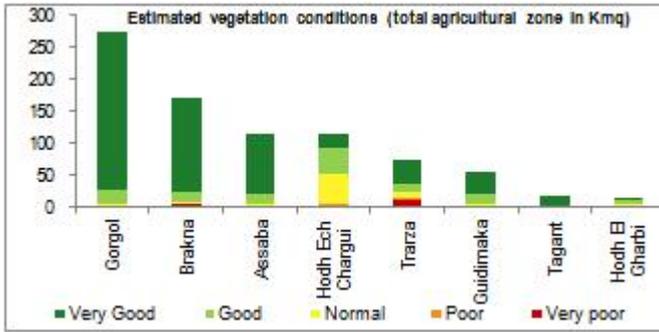
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	<a href="#">FAO Hunger Map</a>
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FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	<a href="#">IFPRI/2010 GHI</a>
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### Vegetation Condition

At the middle of the dry season, very good conditions are observed for the most part of the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for December 2010 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the Cropland Use Intensity dataset (USGS, 1988).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

### Crop phase in the reference period

<b>Sowing</b>	Wheat - Barley - Potatoes (Maritime Zone)
<b>Growing</b>	Sorghum (Second Season) - Potatoes (River Zone)
<b>Harvesting</b>	Sorghum (Main Season - Arid and River Zones) - Rice (Main Season - River Zone)

### Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

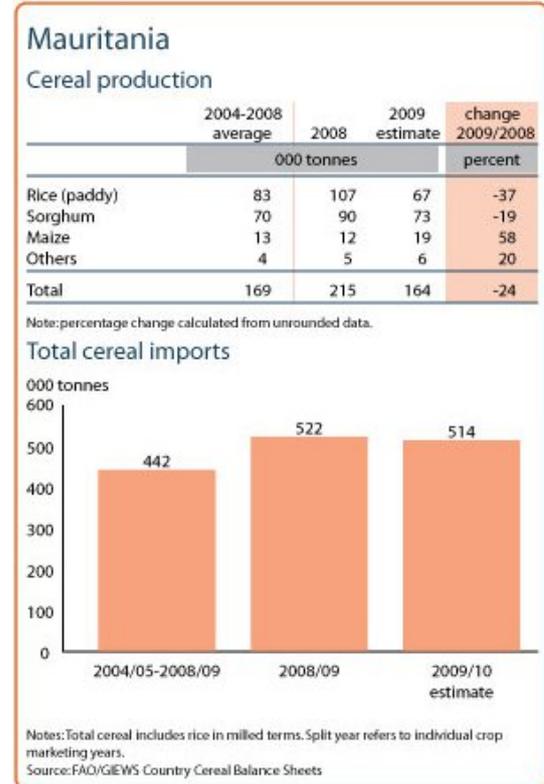
Malian and Mauritanian armies have set up joint patrols to improve cooperation in the fight against Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). By the end of the year, UNHCR is committed to bring 2,500 people displaced in Senegal back to Mauritania.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	2009
Total in the country	30496	34139	38926
Total outside the country	34125	53421	52067

Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

### Food Balance Sheet

According to estimates of the joint mission of FEWSNET/CILSS and the Government, the 2010 cereal production is put at 242,710 tonnes, representing an increase of 42% from the 2009/10 production and 33% from the five year average. The 2010/11 import requirements amount at 508,000 T compared to 514,000 T in 2009/2010 and 442,000 T for the five year average.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

### Government Policies

During this year the government has improved access to farm credit, transportation for farm labourers, and seed access. The measures succeeded in increasing the size of the area planted in irrigated and diéri (rainfed) crops compared with last year.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	Access to farm credit; Access to seeds.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	WFP food for job

Different sources

### Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

[WFP News - Special Nutrition Edition January 2011](#)  
[SAHEL ET AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST Mise à jour de la perspect...](#)  
[Latest round of UN-backed Western Sahara talks conclud...](#)  
[MAURITANIE Perspective de la sécurité alimentaire Janv...](#)  
[Desert Locust situation update 14 January 2011](#)

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Website: [www.foodsec.org](http://www.foodsec.org)

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The Programme on Linkin 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.