

Tuesday, 26 May 2020



Food Security Monitor for the Americas

Full Report on the Agrifood Sector in the Americas during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Previous editions available at: <https://iica.int/en/monitor>

2,536,192

Confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Americas



Countries



Highest number of cases in the Americas:

- USA (1,676,401)
- BRA (374,898)
- PER (123,979)
- CAN (88,057)
- CHL (77,961)

Covid-19 in the world



Source: Johns Hopkins University, available at <https://bit.ly/3dJ1CZX> . Data as at 26 May 2020 (16:00 CST).

***This monitor is a dynamic, constantly updated tool created by IICA to analyze and forecast the impact of the world health crisis on food security in the Americas.*

Analysis and scenarios

The latest from the IICA Blog:

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has launched a series of webinars entitled, “**Reflections on the World and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean post-Covid-19**”. The initiative is designed to **anticipate possible solutions and the requisite policies to contribute to food security, economic reactivation and trade in the aftermath of the pandemic.**

There will be **6 webinars** in total. Please see below the **presentations for the fourth webinar:** “Repercussions on international trade and sanitary regulations post-Covid-19”.

[Presentation by Anabel González, former Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica](#)



“**International cooperation and regional integration** are needed to tackle the wave of the pandemic in which we find ourselves, but also to recover from the crisis, keep the **supply chains** functioning and the **trade channels open**, while guaranteeing continued financing of trade, facilitating the expansion of investment groups and **rebuilding the future**”.

We invite you to share your comments, questions and doubts on the **#IICABlog**, where you can find the complete presentation: <https://bit.ly/2XrtF96>

[Cassio Luiselli, former Advisor on agricultural development to the President of the Republic of Mexico](#)



“**In order to maintain trade operations**, we will have to revitalize our institutions. **We must increase** cooperation and dialogue, **including with the private sector**, and IICA has a **strategic and critical part to play**, by connecting the dots”.

We invite you to share your comments, questions and doubts on the **#IICABlog**, where you can find the complete presentation: <https://bit.ly/36y6n5J>

Relevant issues for the agrifood sector

Production *Measures related to the agrifood production sector, and information on impact channels and areas affected in the countries of the Americas (products grown or harvested during this time of year).	
<p>Canada: increased financial support offered to farmers</p> <p>Increased flexibility in Agriculture and Agrifood Canada’s criteria to access loans from the CEBA Emergency Fund will enable approximately 67,000 farmers to benefit from a total of \$2.68 billion in interest-free loans, 25% of which is forgivable.</p> <p>Each farmer will be able to access up to \$40,000 in credit.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2XuJ3BD</p>	<p>United States: meat inventories tumbled in April</p> <p>Frozen pork inventories declined by approximately 2 million pounds during April, in comparison to the previous month. Inventories would typically increase by 27 million pounds from March to April. On the other hand, beef inventories declined by 12 million pounds, exceeding the average decline of 6 million pounds from March to April. Various slaughterhouses and meatpackers throughout the country have had to close, due to the pandemic.</p> <p>https://reut.rs/2TAHxgb</p>
<p>Uruguay: MGAP has now included the northern region among its drought-stricken agricultural emergency areas</p> <p>The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) has expanded the area where it has declared an agricultural emergency due to drought. MGAP estimates that there are 1,500 family farmers and 300 beekeepers in the newly included areas. Family farmers can apply for assistance.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3gs3BDh</p>	<p>Mexico: 2.2% contraction in the economy during the first quarter of the year</p> <p>The Mexican economy contracted by 2.2% during the first quarter of the year (which is lower than the preliminary estimate of 2.4% in April).</p> <p>Nonetheless, primary activities, such as agriculture and livestock, grew 1.1% during the initial three months of 2020.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/2LZo1pc</p>
<p>Venezuela: fuel shortages are endangering food production</p> <p>Fedeagro is forecasting that a 95% nose-dive in fuel supply services in production regions will affect production for the winter season. Added to that concern is the fact that these areas are experiencing an extended period of drought. https://bit.ly/2yAayRT</p>	

Trade

*Trade-related measures taken by the countries, description of the impact on products usually exported during this time of year, problems in trade logistics and global supply chains.

Argentina: United States ratifies tariffs on Argentine biodiesel

The United States Department of Trade has opted not to adjust the measure that has been in effect since 2018, when the United States government imposed antidumping and anti-subsidy duties of up to 150%, meaning that Argentinian biodiesel will in effect still be barred from entering the country. In 2017, the value of the U.S. biodiesel market for Argentina was US1.2 billion.

On the other hand, Argentinian biodiesel exports to Europe, a region with which it has a volume and price agreement, have been at a standstill since last month. During 2019, biodiesel sales to Europe amounted to US750 million.

<https://bit.ly/2XzAc1k> and <https://bit.ly/2TFNyle>

Bolivia: decreased flow of international freight carriers

According to figures from the International Transport Association, only 3 out of every 10 truck trailers are operating. Freight volumes in the major sectors—soybean, minerals and construction—have fallen.

Volumes of soybean cargo have declined by 50%, although production is in the advanced stages, since the industry is operating below its usual capacity.

<https://bit.ly/3c6stNM>

Chile: fruit exporters can present a copy of their certificate of origin in Latin America, Europe or Asia

The presentation of the copy of the certificate of origin is a measure that has been implemented because of the problems arising from the pandemic.

The copy can be presented in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador and Venezuela), Europe (European Union, EFTA, the United Kingdom and Turkey) and Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand and Malaysia).

<https://bit.ly/2X1IUXo>

Colombia: 23 tons of avocado – en route to Shanghai

Having agreed on a phytosanitary protocol in July 2019, Colombia will send 23 tons of Hass avocado to China this week, thereby accessing an important market for this product.

During 2019, Colombian avocado exports grew to 44,570 tons, which is 42% more than last year.

<https://bit.ly/3c65fy7>

Central America: transporters in the region are still not satisfied with Costa Rica's pilot plan

Costa Rica's pilot plan regarding the movement of goods has failed to garner full approval. Government representatives and truckers continue to discuss

Mexico: exports fall 41% in April

As a result of Covid-19, Mexico's total exports plunged by 41% in April, the sharpest drop since 1986. Oil and manufacturing exports fell 66.4% and 41.9%, respectively.

different ways to guarantee the flow of goods while protecting workers' health.

Nicaragua has blocked the entry of goods from Costa Rica, while transporters in Panama have agreed to gradually lift border movement restrictions. Panama's government has issued decrees to open a controlled route with specific health protocols in place.

<https://bit.ly/3goSdrP> and <https://bit.ly/2ZLPjaG>

On the other hand, agricultural exports decreased by 8.2%. Producers that supply restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. <https://bit.ly/2Xsipt4>

This week's graph

Monitoring agricultural trade during Covid-19: **Total exports of goods and agricultural products**

According to data available as at March 2020, agricultural exports (chapters 1-24 of the Harmonized System) have generally increased more (or decreased less) than total exports of goods during the Covid-19 pandemic. Peru, Uruguay and Argentina are the Latin American countries whose agricultural exports have taken the greatest hit. On the other hand, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Brazil, Belize and Paraguay have seen the greatest increase in agricultural exports. As at 21 May, data up to April 2020 was only available for Brazil, El Salvador and Paraguay, whose agricultural exports increased by 35.6% and fell by 0.85% and 10.3%, respectively.

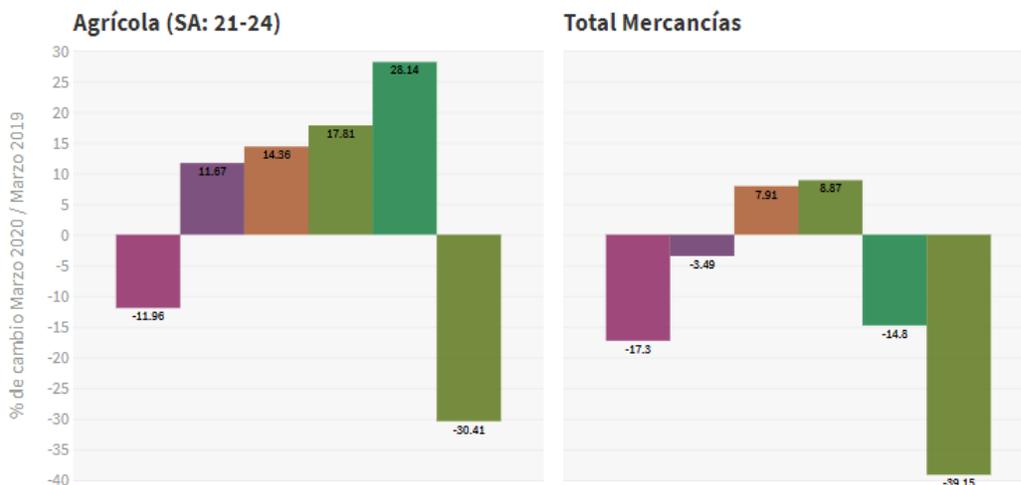
As a reference, global exports of goods (from 69 countries for which data up to March 2020 is available) fell 8.46% in March 2020 compared to March 2019, while agricultural exports increased by 1.64%.

El mundo: Exportaciones de total de mercancías y agrícolas (SA: 1 - 24)

Cambio (%) de marzo 2020 /marzo 2019

Brasil x Costa Rica x El Salvador x Belice x Perú x Argentina x Seleccione un máximo de 10 países

Argentina Belice Brasil Costa Rica El Salvador Perú



Fuente: IICA, con datos de Trade Data Monitor (TDM) • Nota: los datos de México corresponden a febrero 2020/2019 y los datos de Honduras corresponden a enero 2020/2019. El total de 69 países representaron 72% de las exportaciones agrícolas en 2019



For more information on agrifood imports and exports by trade partner, read the following post in the #IICABlog: <https://bit.ly/3gqwMGU>

Supply

*Measures taken by Ministries of Agriculture in different countries regarding food security.

International cooperation: the cornerstone of global trade recovery

International cooperation and regional integration will be critical to ensuring that value chains continue to run smoothly and distribution channels remain open, while driving the recovery of global trade, in the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Anabel González, former Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, and Cassio Luiselli, the former Advisor on agricultural development to the President of Mexico, stressed the importance of these issues in a webinar organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), focusing on repercussions on international trade and sanitary regulations in the wake of the pandemic.

<https://bit.ly/36vUcGo>

Chile's Outdoor Markets: taking precautions and innovating

Sixty-year-old Carlos Garrido has been a vendor in downtown Santiago for more than five decades. He works in the district that has recorded the most cases of Covid-19 in Chile – the only area where a total quarantine has been imposed.

Carlos has not stopped selling. He has the same daily ritual: he rises at 5 in the morning to travel to the Lo Valledor market, the largest supply center in Chile, where he proceeds to set up his vegetable stall in the market.

One important change has affected Carlos' current situation. His brother and partner in the business, 68 year-old Pedro—with whom he was born and raised in these same markets—can no longer work, due to his recent heart operation, and the fact that he is a diabetic, whose age compels him to take care of himself and remain at home. <https://bit.ly/2M31VCt>

Record wheat harvest will guarantee fresh funds through the end of the year in Argentina

The wheat farming area in Argentina is expected to expand in 2020/21. Accordingly, the Rosario Stock Exchange has estimated that wheat exports will reach USD 3.1 billion, providing the government with a key source of foreign currency. <https://bit.ly/3epW06n>

Public procurement of rural products pumps R\$1.3 billion into Brazil's rural economy

While some economic activities are dwindling, there is good news for family farming in Cachoeiro: two programs for public procurement of food from rural areas will pump approximately R\$1.35 billion into the rural economy this year. The city purchases various products such as vegetables, fruits and eggs from small-scale rural producers, which are then used to prepare meals served by the municipal school system. <https://bit.ly/3grtNOn>

13 thousand food production units in Mexico receive safety certification

Mexico now has an updated record of nearly 13 thousand packaging and production units in the agriculture, livestock farming, aquaculture and fisheries sectors that are certified in safety systems, in order to provide consumers with food produced under optimal sanitary conditions. The National Service for Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality (SENASA) promotes the application of Contamination Risk Reduction Systems (CRRS) and Good Production Practices, to implement measures to reduce the risk of physical, chemical and microbiological contamination in food.

<https://bit.ly/36wsnxH>