



COMMODITIES AT A GLANCE

March 2011



UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

INTRODUCTION

This “**Commodities at a Glance**” has been prepared by the Special Unit on Commodities (SUC) of UNCTAD. This quarterly publication aims to collect, present and disseminate accurate and relevant statistical information linked to international primary commodity markets in a clear and concise format. The first edition of “Commodities at a Glance” aims to give an overview of the following issues:

- (a) Historical and recent trends in primary commodity prices and price indices both in nominal and real terms;
- (b) The distribution of primary commodity production among the main producing countries for a set of selected primary commodities; and
- (c) An overview of primary commodity import and export dependence in developing countries.

For further information about this publication, please contact the Special Unit on Commodities (SUC), UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Switzerland, telephone +41 22 917 5676 e-mail: commodities@unctad.org.

STATISTICAL DATA SOURCES

- Statistical data sources for this publication are:
 - (a) UNCTAD, UNCTADstat (for all primary commodity prices, except iron ore, as well as all data involving primary commodity trade statistics and GDP for their computation);
 - (b) IMF, International Financial Statistics (for iron ore prices);
 - (c) UNSD (for the deflator used in all current/constant computations); and
 - (d) For all computations regarding production as well as stock-to-use ratio, the source is indicated below each specific graph.
- Data on constant prices are available until September 2010 (included) as the United Nations deflator used in these computations is not available after this date.

NOTES

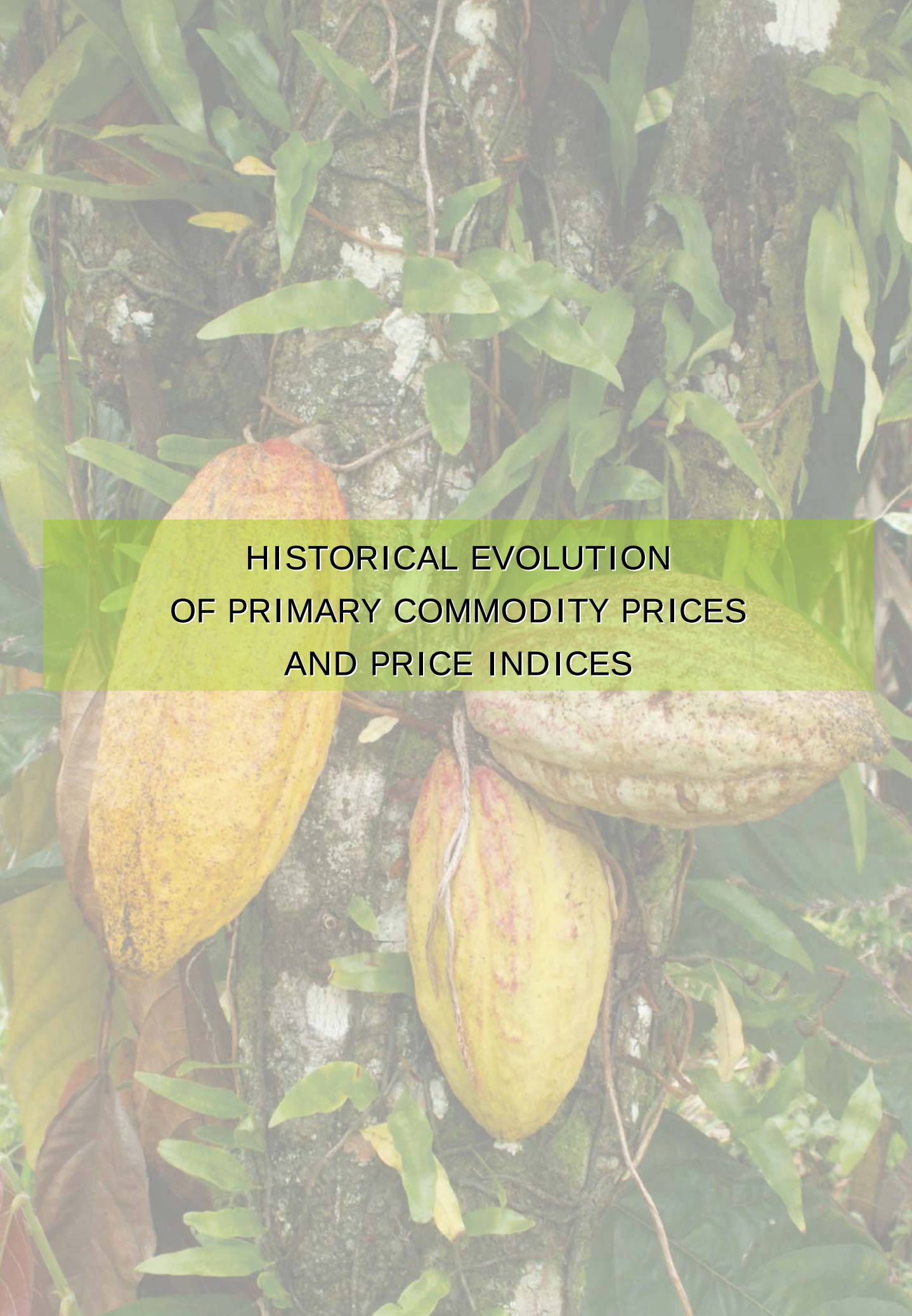
- In this publication, each graph displays both prices or price indices in constant and current terms.
- Prices and price indices are presented with an **orange line** when expressed in constant terms and using a **green line** when in current terms.
- In this document, the term “primary commodities” refers to the following SITC group:
0 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 667 + 68 + 971.
- The “Net Food Importing Countries” group refers to the group as defined by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

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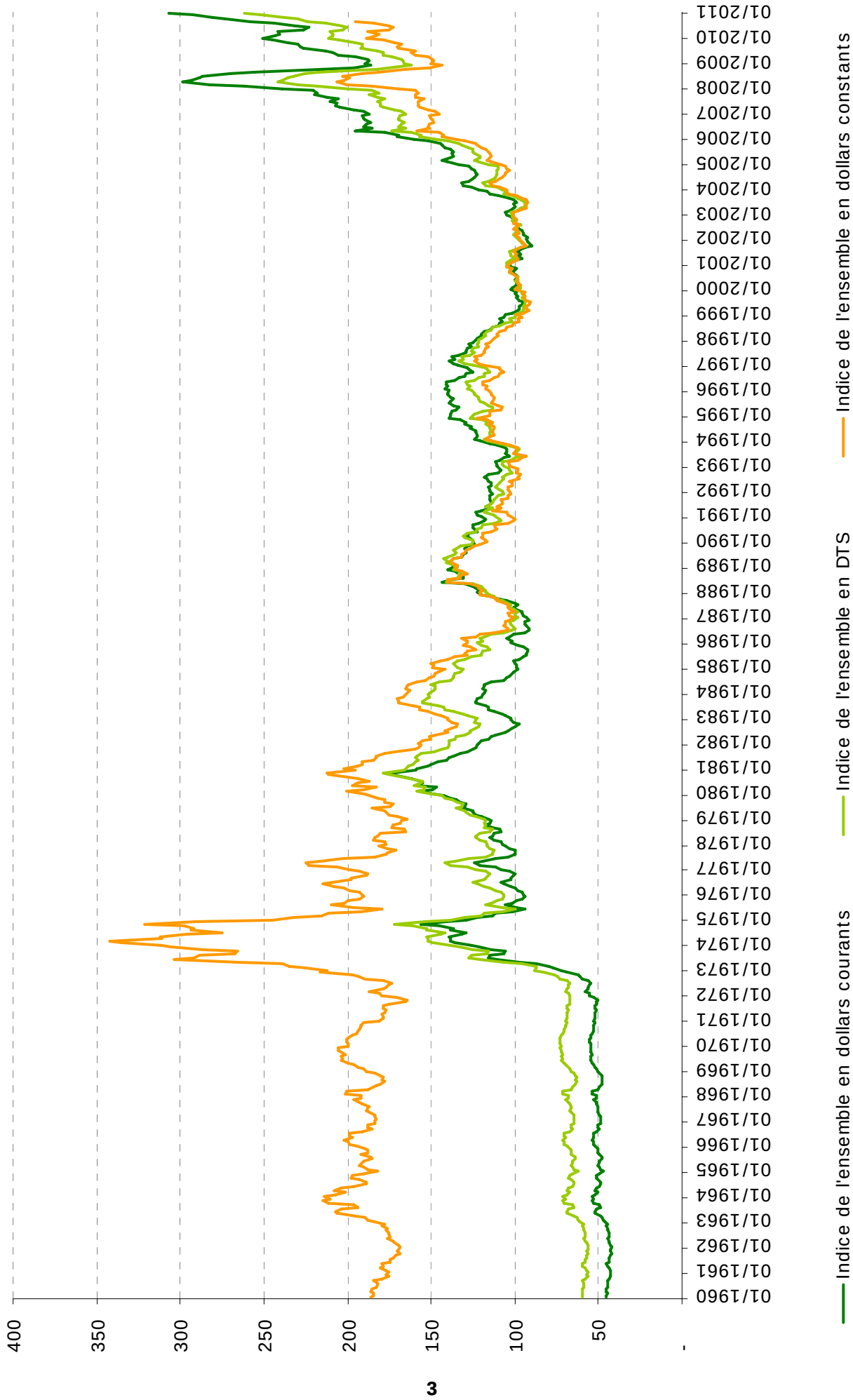
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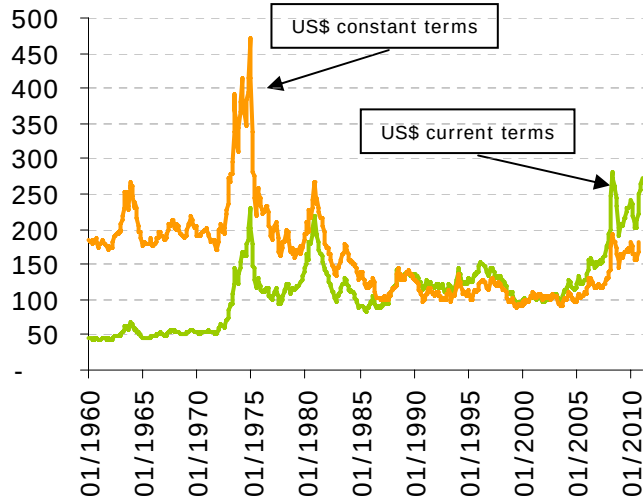
The background image shows a close-up of a tree trunk with several cacao pods. The pods are yellowish-brown with some red and green mottling, indicating they are ripe. They are attached to the trunk with short stems. The surrounding foliage consists of green, elongated leaves, some of which are slightly yellowed. A semi-transparent green rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the title text.

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF PRIMARY COMMODITY PRICES AND PRICE INDICES

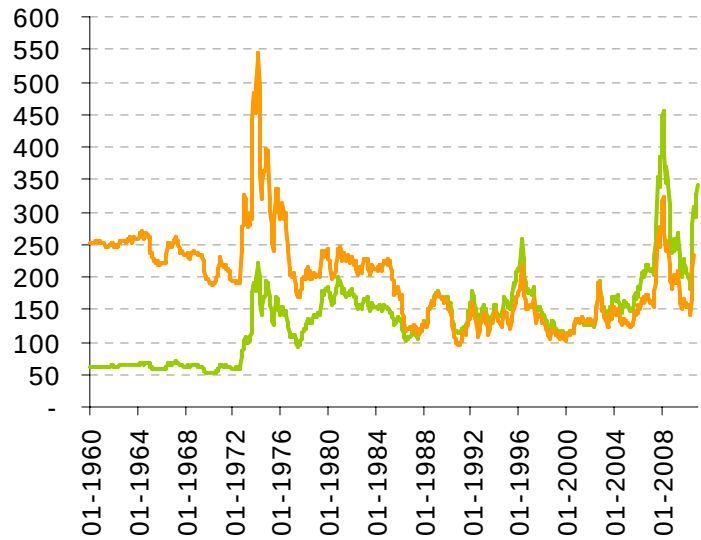
Price index – All groups in current and constant US\$ terms and SDR terms
01/1960 – 01/2011 (Base 100 = 2000)



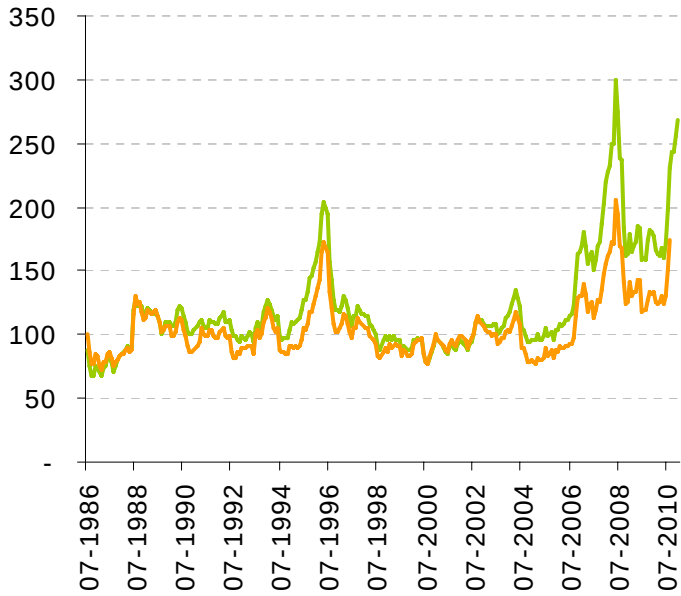
**Food Price Index
(Base 2000 = 100)
01/1960 - 01/2011**



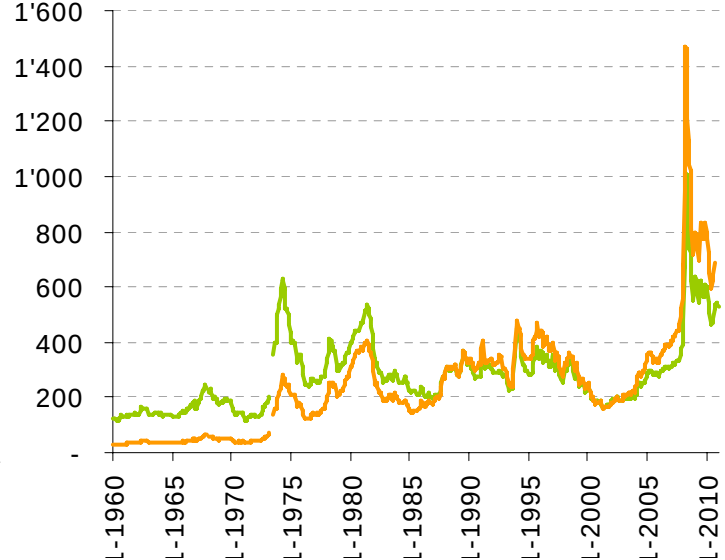
**Wheat prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)**



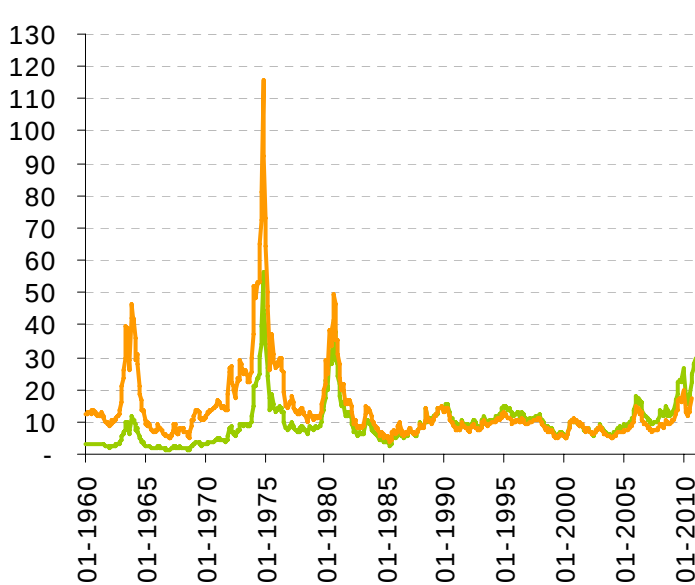
**Maize prices in US\$ per ton
01/1986 - 01/2011**



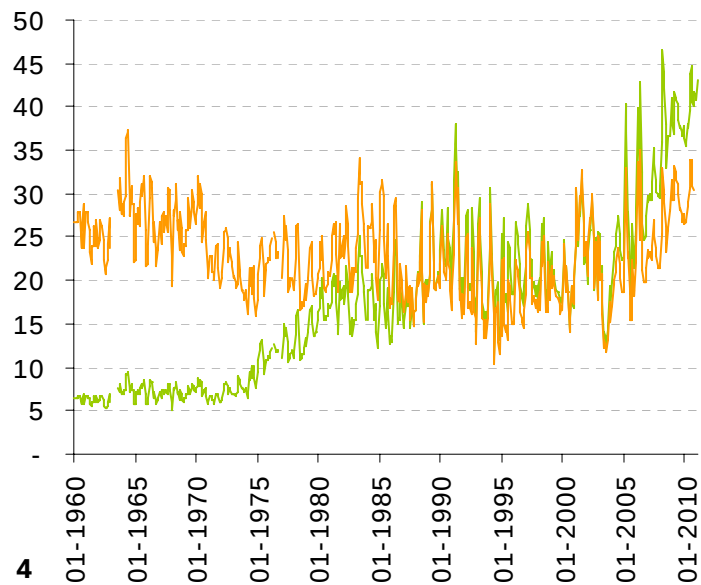
**Rice prices in US\$ per ton
01/1960 - 01/2011**



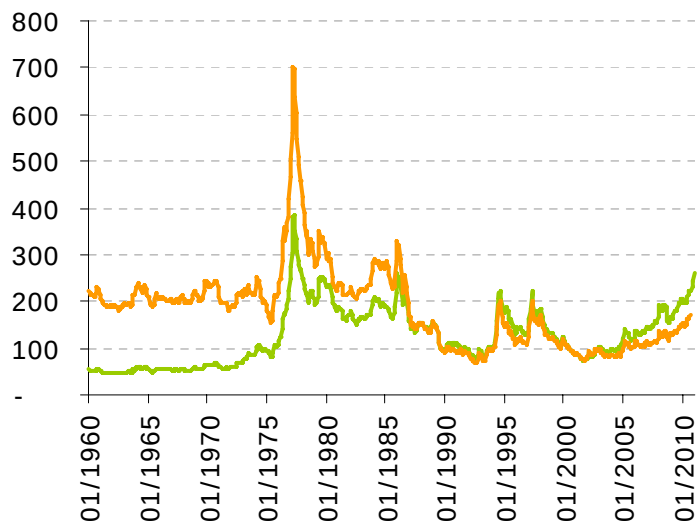
**Sugar prices in US¢ per pound
(01/1960 - 01/2011)**



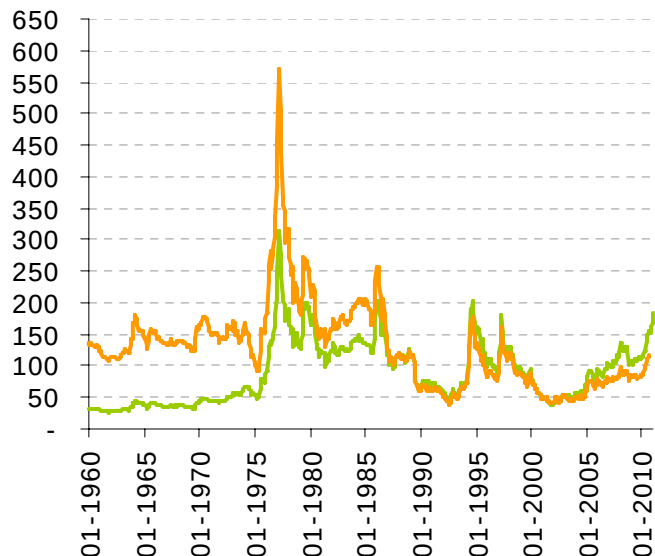
**Bananas prices in US¢ per pound
(01/1960 - 01/2011)**



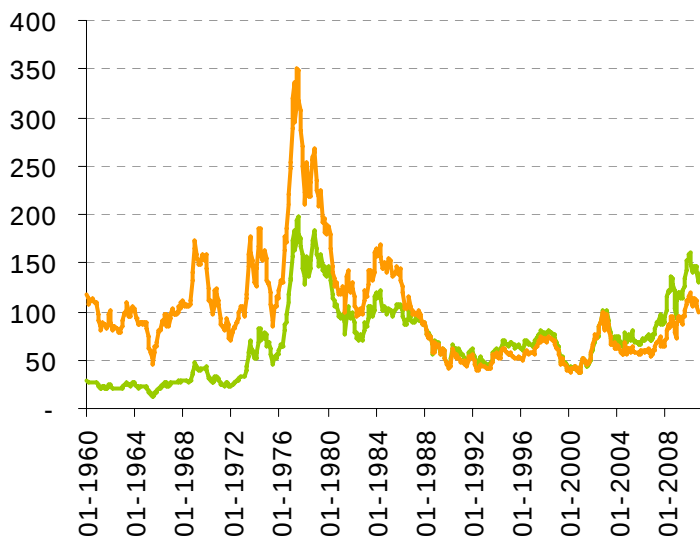
Tropical Beverages Price Index
Base 2000 = 100
01/1960 - 01/2011



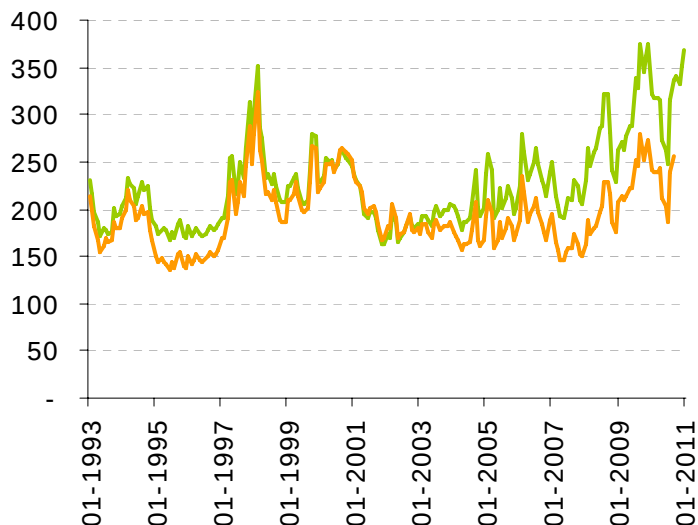
Coffee composite price 1976
in US¢ per pound
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



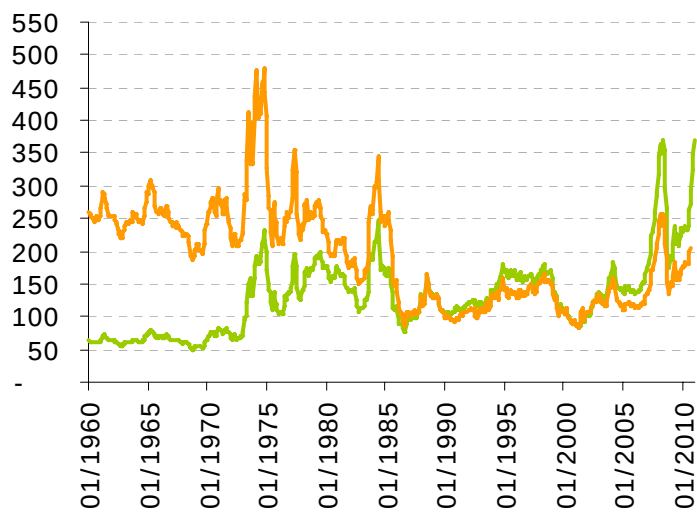
Cocoa beans prices in US¢ per pound
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



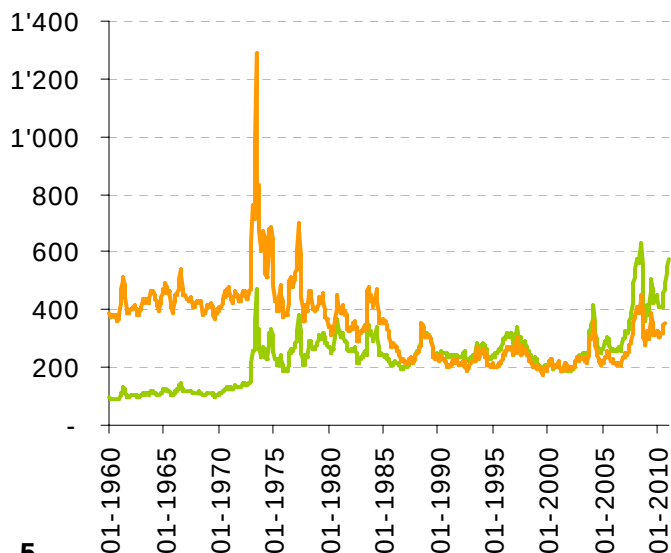
Tea prices in US¢ per kilo
(01/1993 - 01/2011)



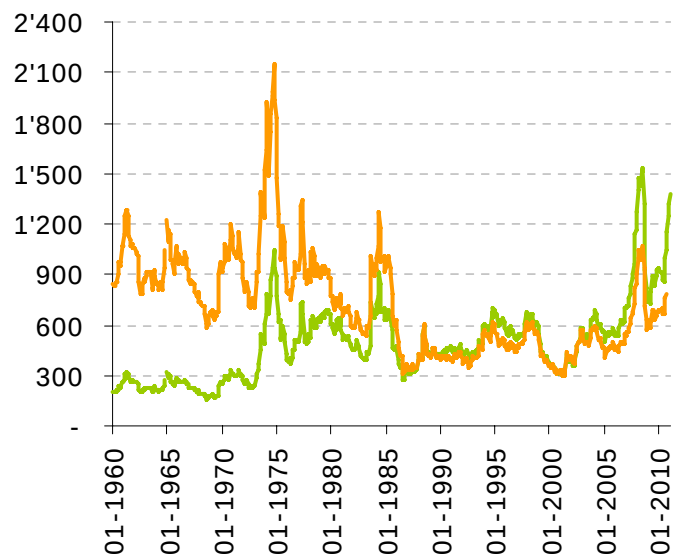
Vegetable oilseeds and oils Price Index, Base 2000 = 100
01/1960 - 01/2011



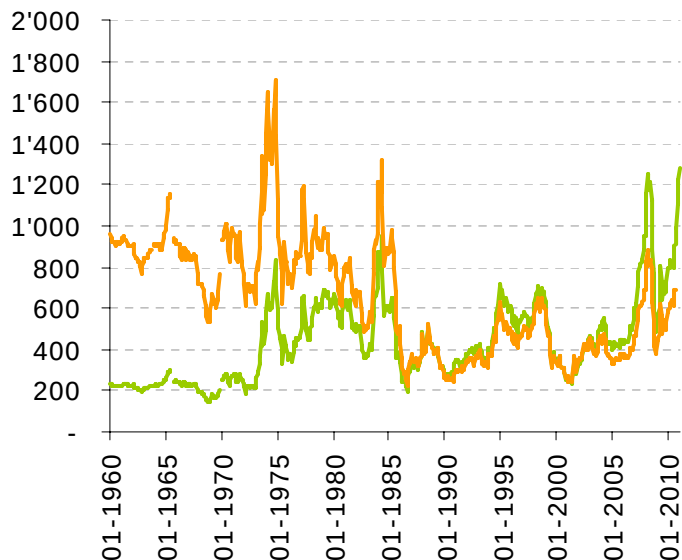
Soybeans prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



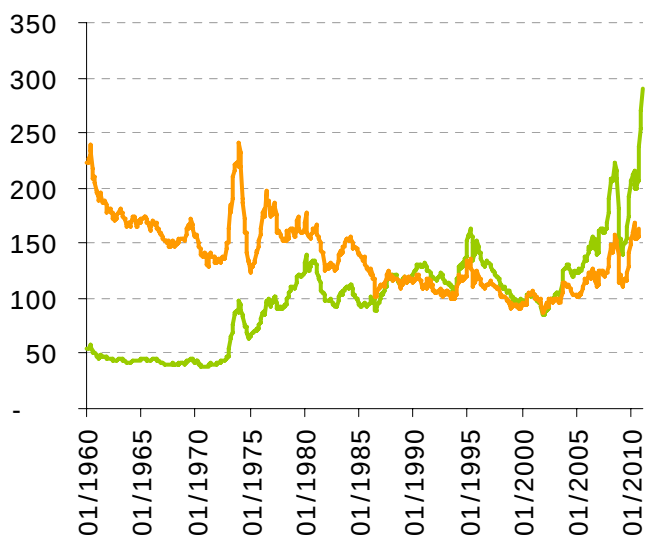
Soybean oil prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



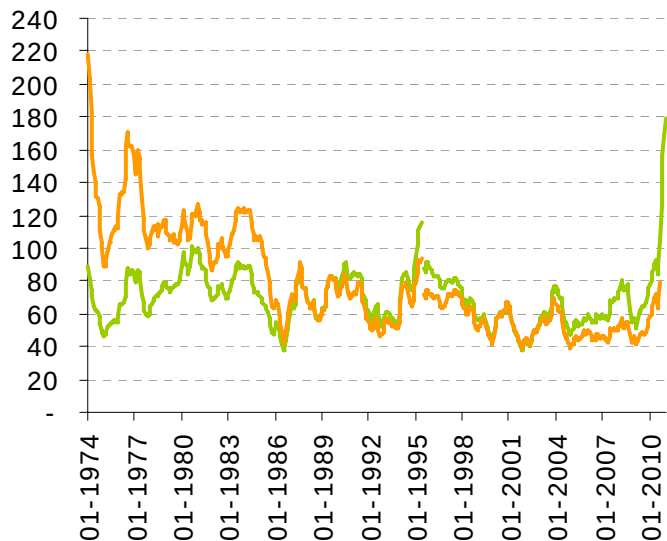
Palm oil prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



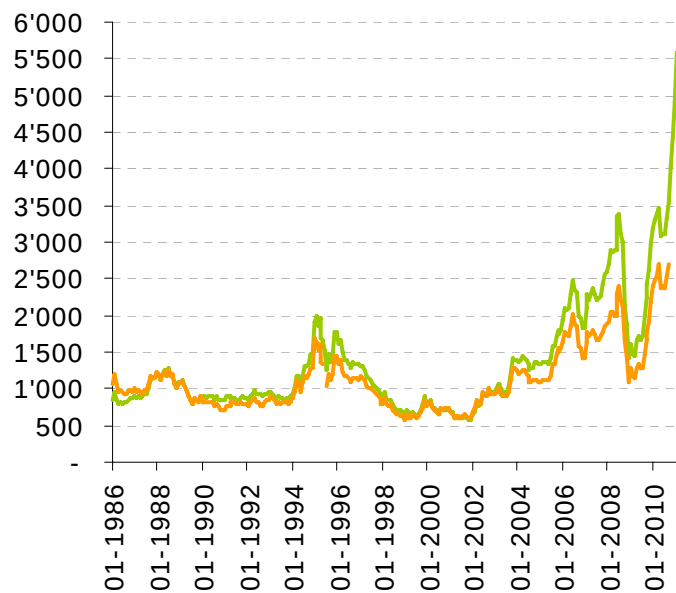
**Agricultural Raw Materials Price
Index Base 2000 = 100
01/1960 - 01/2011**



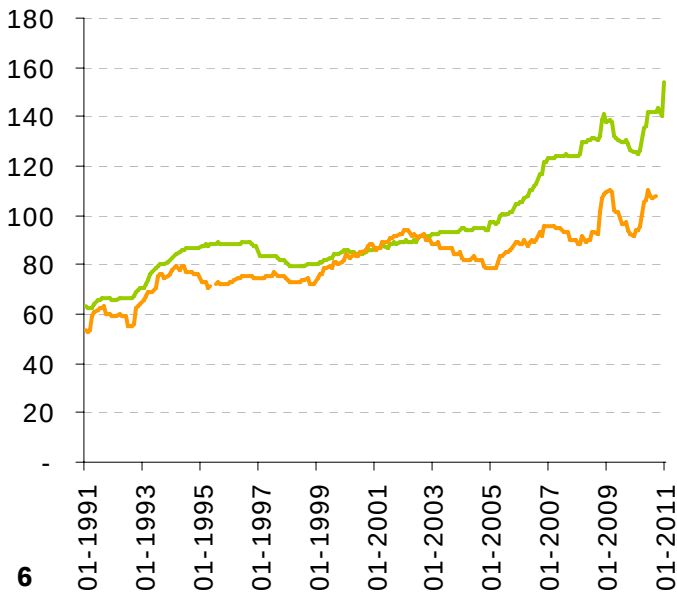
Cotton prices in US\$ per pound
(01/1974 - 01/2011)



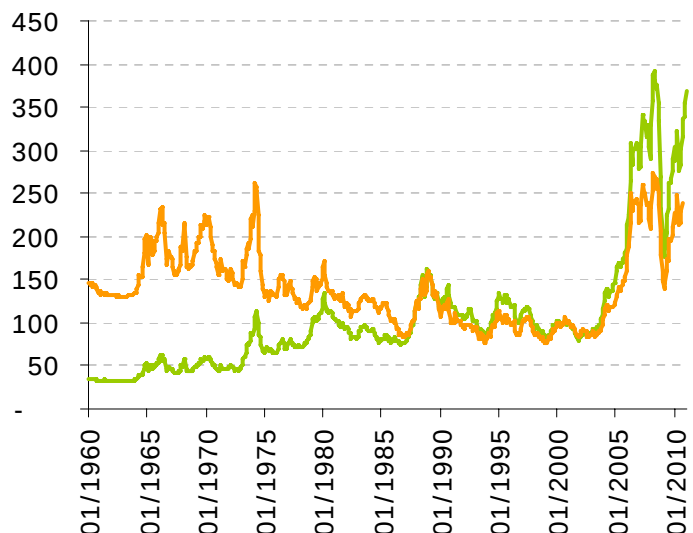
Rubber prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1986 - 01/2011)



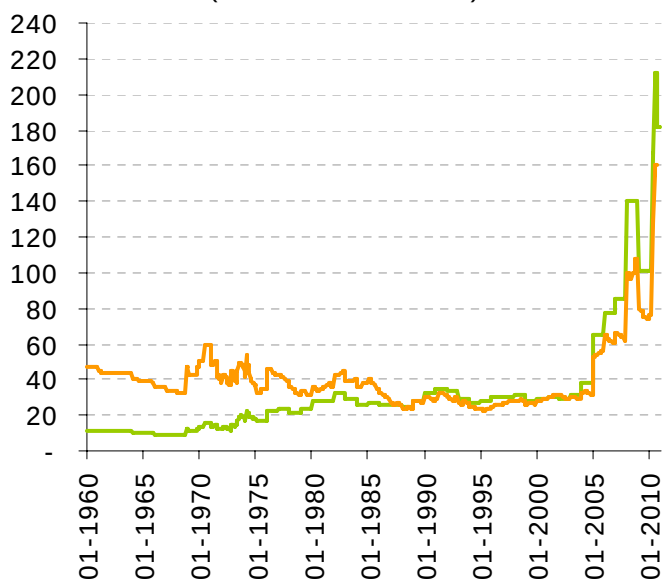
**Non-coniferous wood price,
in US\$ per ton (01/1991 - 01/2011)**



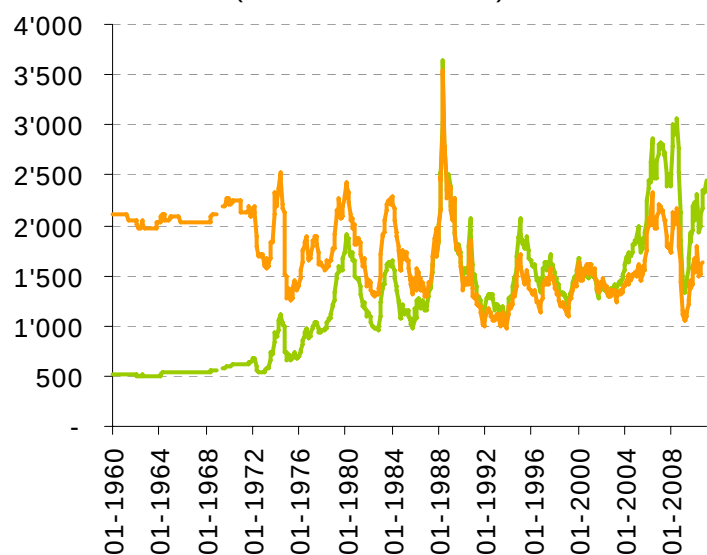
Minerals, Ores and Metals Price Index
Base 2000 = 100
01/1960 - 01/2011



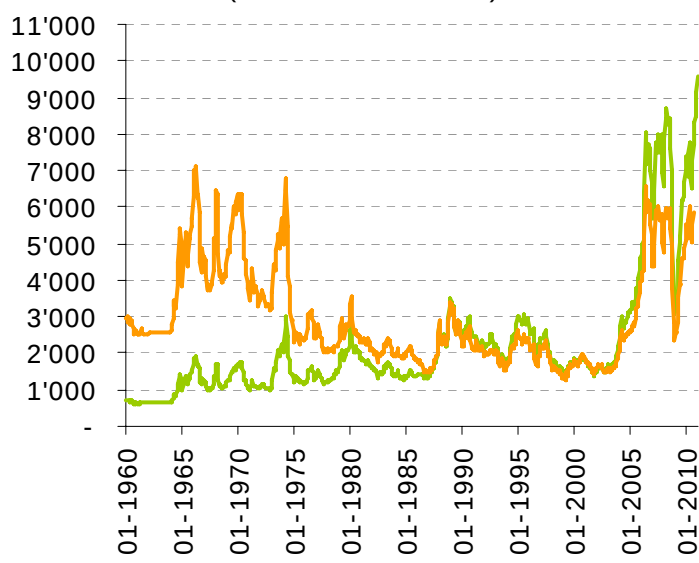
Iron Ore Prices (Brazil) in US\$/DMTU
(01/1960 - 12/2010)



Aluminium prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



Copper prices in US\$ per Ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



Lead prices in US\$ per ton
(01/1960 - 01/2011)



Nickel prices in US\$ per Ton
(01/1970 - 01/2011)



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