

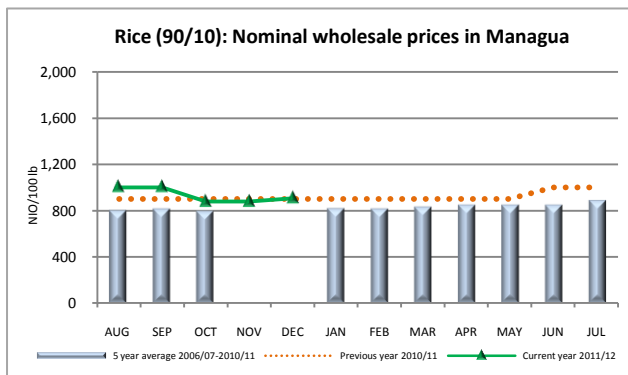
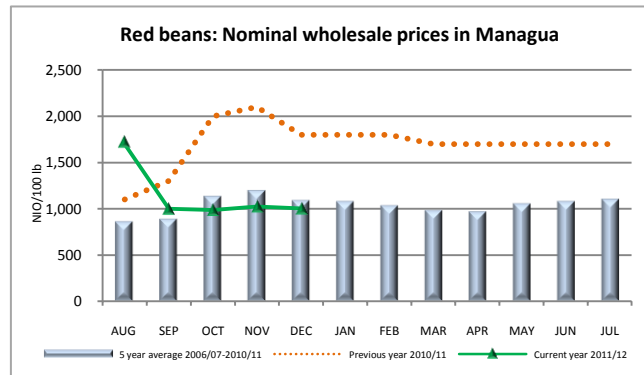
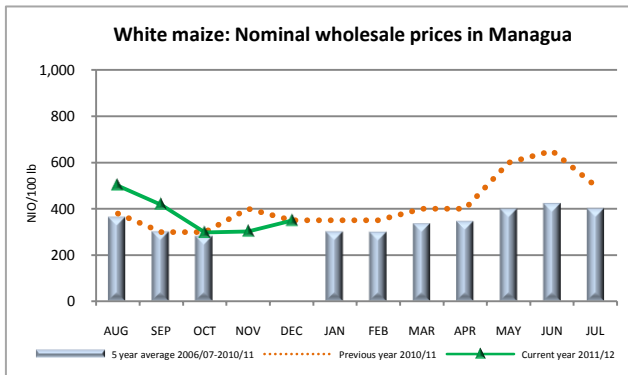
# NICARAGUA Price Bulletin

March 2012

The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) monitors trends in staple food prices in countries vulnerable to food insecurity. For each FEWS NET country and region, the Price Bulletin provides a set of charts showing monthly prices in the current marketing year in selected urban centers and allowing users to compare current trends with both five-year average prices, indicative of seasonal trends, and prices in the previous year.



Nicaragua has the largest land mass of countries in Central America. Maize, beans, and rice are the primary source of calories and protein in the diet. Nicaragua has historically had a deficit of both maize and rice, but Nicaragua is a major exporter of beans in the region. Managua is the capital city and largest market. Chontales and Rivas are major maize and bean assembly markets and serve as a key export gateways to Costa Rica. Rivas is the largest supplier for cross-border trade with Costa Rica. León in the west and Esteli at north west are large markets with strong trade links to both Honduras and El Salvador. Matagalpa is a key central assembly market for domestically produced maize and beans. Bluefields and Billwi are markets that serve the sparsely populated and chronically food insecure Caribbean coast.



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