Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Trade of agricultural commodities

2010–2023

HIGHLIGHTS

→ **The monetary value* of global agricultural** exports in 2023 was 1.7 times higher in nominal terms than in 2010, while the share of agriculture in total merchandise trade value increased from 7 percent in 2010 to 8 percent in 2023.**

→ **The Americas is the largest net food exporter, and Asia is the largest net food importer. Europe became a net food exporter in 2013. Oceania reclaimed its status as the second-largest net exporter in 2023.**

→ **In 2023, the export unit values of rapeseed and soybean oilseeds declined by 23 percent and 10 percent, respectively, from their 2022 record levels. Global soybean production increased by 17.4 million tonnes, driven primarily by Brazil's 30.8 million tonnes surge in output and improved yields.**

→ **Global wheat exports increased to 199.1 million tonnes in 2023, 8.1 million tonnes higher than in 2022.**

→ **This year's data release introduces trade indicators and nutrient values. This addition offers valuable insights into global food trade as it provides a deeper understanding of the nutritional dimension of trade and key trade indicators.**

* Throughout this brief, all values are measured in current prices.
** Throughout this brief, 'agriculture' excludes fishing and forestry; food excludes aquatic animal foods.
*** Regional and subregional values exclude intra-trade.

FAOSTAT CROPS AND LIVESTOCK TRADE

INTRODUCTION

Trade is essential to the functioning of agrifood systems, as it enables the distribution of agricultural commodities worldwide and improves the availability of food and nutrients. It enhances access to healthy and affordable food, playing a significant role in food security, nutrition and safety – a vital element for countries that cannot produce enough to meet their domestic demand. It also contributes to enhancing the diversity of its outputs, the assortment, and the quality and safety of food products, and ultimately, dietary composition. Openness to food trade promotes higher availability, greater diversity and a more stable food supply throughout seasons. Additionally, it can lower prices and improve access to food. Beyond direct benefits, trade influences the wider economy, spurring economic growth and accelerating the nutrition transition (FAO, 2024).
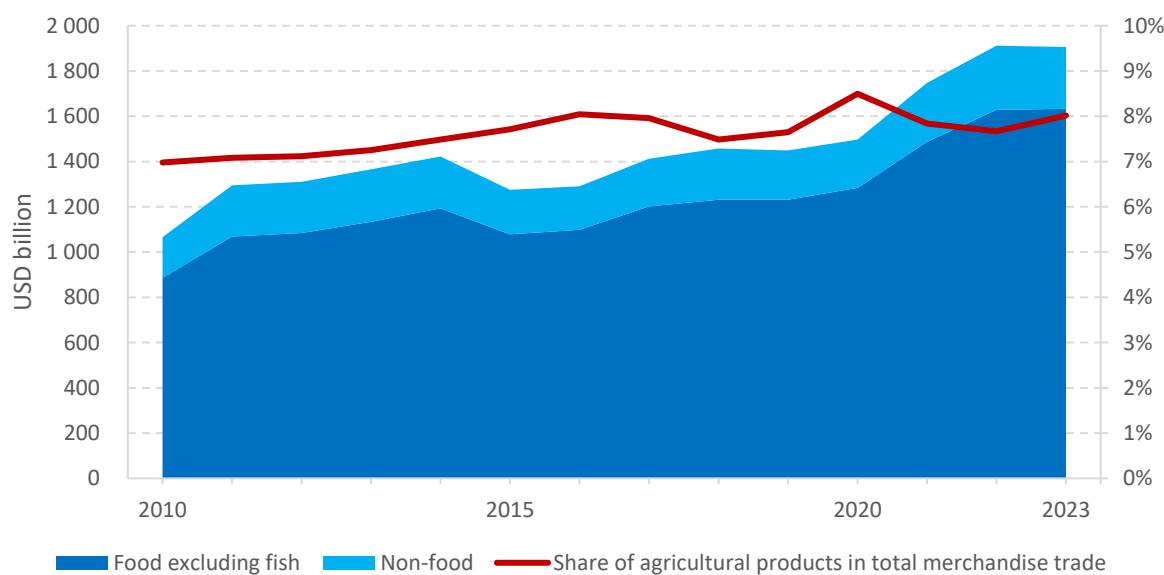
This analytical brief looks at the overall trade of agricultural[1] products for the period 2010–2023 as reported in the FAOSTAT database.

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[1] Agricultural exports in this brief exclude aquatic animal foods.

FOOD

The monetary value of global agricultural exports in 2023 was USD 1 905 billion, or 1.7 times higher in nominal terms compared to 2010 (Figure 1). Food[2] accounted for most of this increase. Its share in total agricultural trade increased from 83 percent in 2010 (USD 641 billion) to 86 percent (USD 1 632 billion) in 2023. Trends in the value of exports mirror to a large extent changes in international prices; prices surged in 2007/2008 (when cereal prices reached record levels) and remained at a high level between 2011 and 2014. The share of agricultural products in total merchandise trade value went up from 7 percent in 2010 to 8 percent in 2023 – the share increased in 2023 but remained below its pandemic peak, reflecting the resilience of global agrifood trade. Rapid adaptation of supply chains enabled food trade volumes across major economies to recover, approaching pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 1: Value of world agricultural products exports by group and share in total merchandise trade
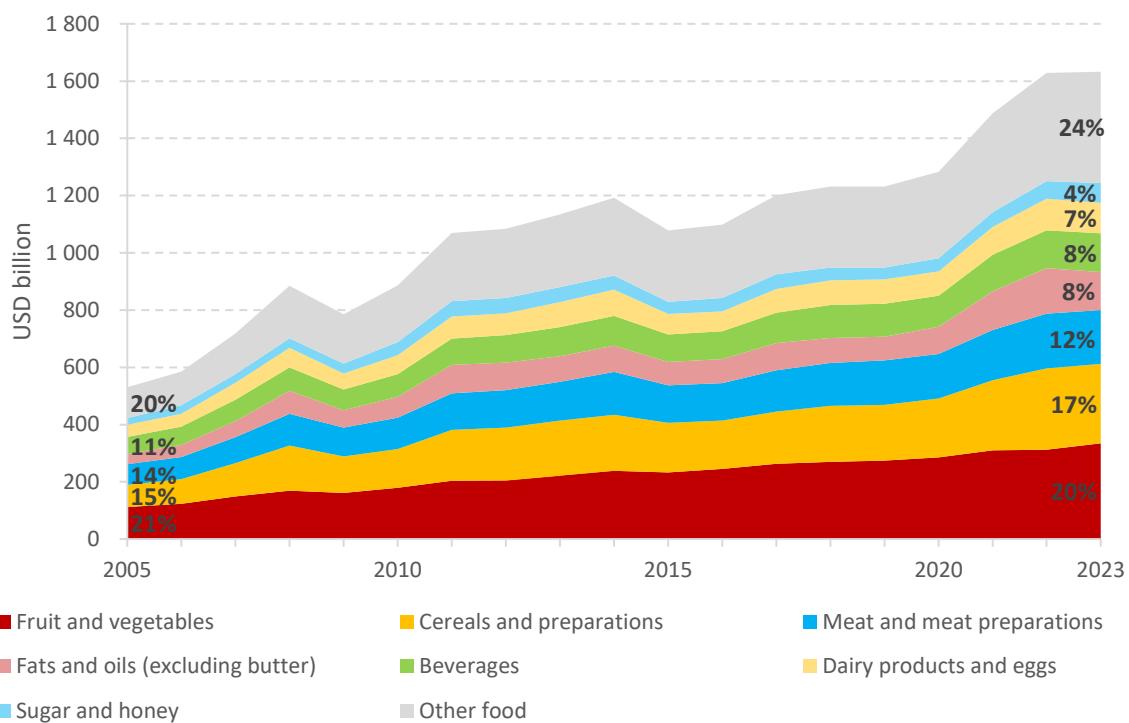

Food excluding fish   Non-food   Share of agricultural products in total merchandise trade

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Fruit and vegetables accounted for 20 percent of the total value of food exports in 2023, followed by cereals and preparations (17 percent) and meat and meat preparations (12 percent) (Figure 2). The United States of America was the largest exporter[3] in 2023 with USD 142 billion (8.7 percent of the total), followed by Brazil (USD 127 billion, or 7.8 percent) and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (USD 99.6 billion, or 6.1 percent).

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[2] Throughout this brief, "food" excludes fish.
[3] Exports include re-exports.

Figure 2: Value of world food exports by group
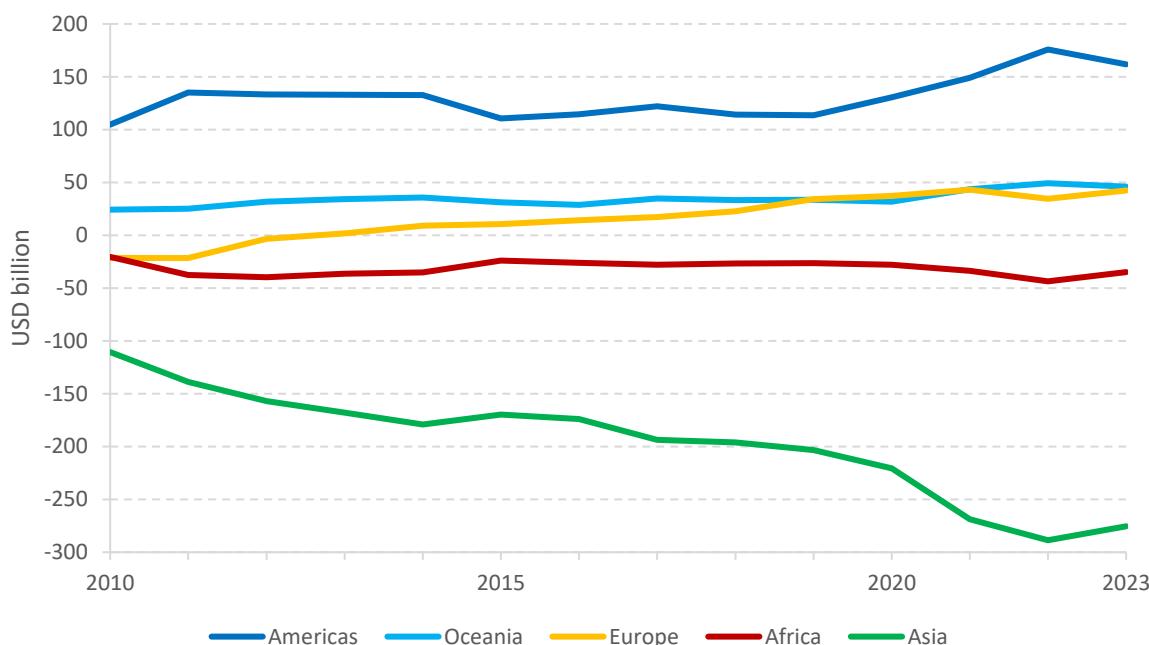
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Comparative advantages in agriculture depend on several factors, including differences in climate, and the availability of the productive agricultural land. All these factors taken together play a key role in determining trade flows between regions and countries. According to the 2021 *Agricultural Outlook* (OECD/FAO, 2021), over the coming decade, the differentiation between net exporting and net importing regions is expected to intensify. Established net exporters of agricultural commodities are expected to increase their trade surpluses while regions with important population growth or constraints on land or other natural resources are expected to see their trade deficit widen.

Two regions stand out in terms of net trade, with a trend that is not only consistent, but also intensifying: the Americas as the largest net exporter with a USD 161 billion surplus in 2023, and Asia as the largest net importer, with a USD 275 billion deficit in 2023 (Figure 3). Oceania remained a net exporter of food during the 2010–2023 period and Africa a net importer. While the Americas' and Oceania's surplus, as well as Africa's and Asia's deficit increased between 2010 and 2023, Europe, a net importer of food during most of the period, became a net exporter in 2013 and briefly overtook Oceania in 2019 and 2020. In 2021, Oceania's net trade increased due to a surge in the export value of cereals and the region became the second largest net exporter again.

Figure 3: Food net trade by region

In 2023, the largest export flow of food took place between Brazil and China which was worth USD 53.6 billion (with soya beans accounting for two-thirds of this value). Five of the ten largest trade flows illustrate the magnitude of the reciprocal food trade between the United States of America and Mexico and Canada – the United States of America being a net importer with both countries – and between Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Table 1).

**Table 1: Largest food trade flows between countries (USD billion)**
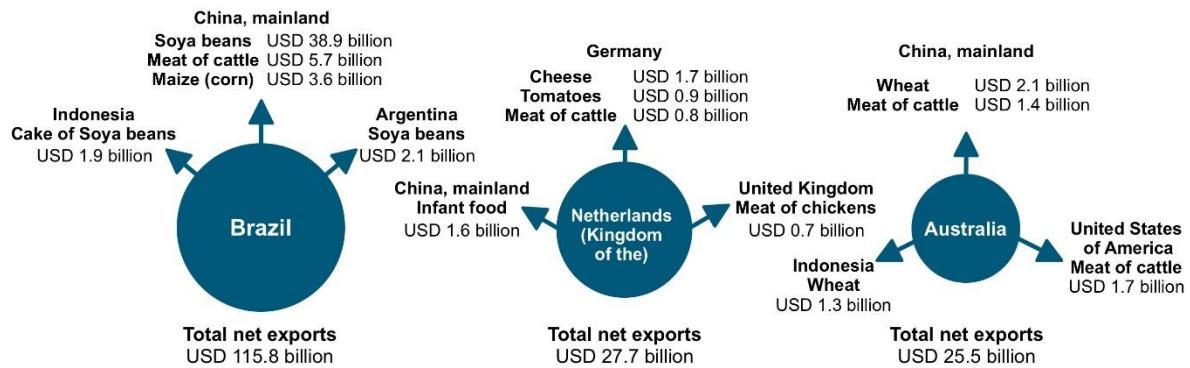
Exports from	To	Value
Brazil	China, mainland	53.6
Mexico	United States of America	40.0
Canada	United States of America	36.7
United States of America	Canada	26.2
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Germany	24.9
United States of America	Mexico	24.8
United States of America	China, mainland	24.5
Germany	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	12.6
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	Belgium	12.1
Thailand	China, mainland	10.9

The largest net food exporting countries in 2023 were Brazil (+USD 115.8 billion), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (+USD 27.7 billion) and Australia (+USD 25.5 billion) (Figure 4). Soya beans were Brazil's top export and represented 33 percent of country's total food net export value. The largest net importing
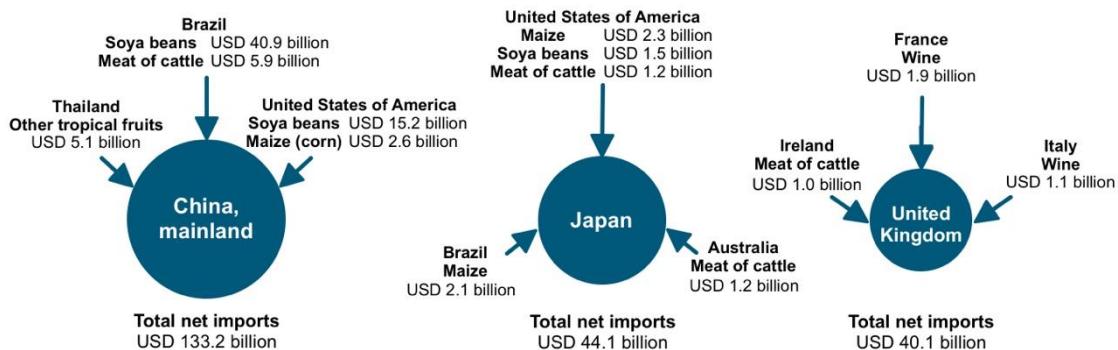
countries in 2023 were China, mainland (−USD 133.2 billion), Japan (−USD 44.1 billion), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (−USD 40.1 billion) (Figure 5). China, mainland's top import was soya beans, accounting for 30 percent of the country's total food net import value, Japan's was maize (5 percent) and the United Kingdom's was wine (4 percent).

Figure 4: Top net exporters and their largest partners and trade flows

Figure 5: Top net importers and their largest partners and trade flows
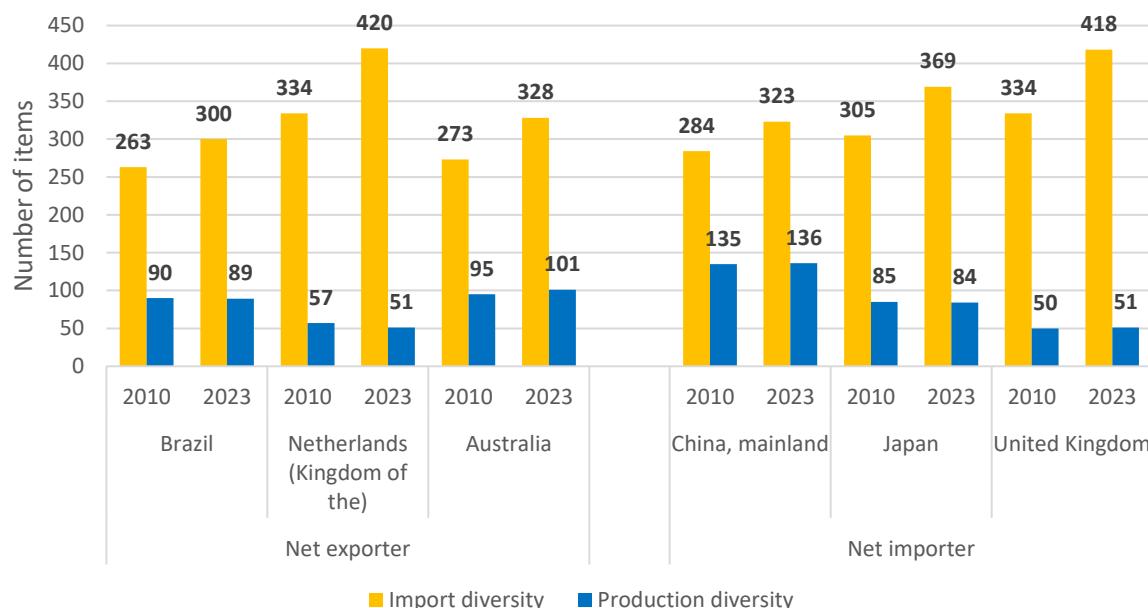
Both import and production diversity are essential for maintaining resilient food systems and ensuring global food security. Greater diversity allows countries to adapt to disruptions, mitigate risks and meet a broader spectrum of nutritional needs (FAO, 2024). For exporters, diverse production enables better access to international markets, while import diversity reduces dependency on a limited number of trade partners.

Both import and production diversity generally exhibit an increase in diversity over time for both net exporters and net importers, highlighting broader global trade and production trends. Among net exporters, the Kingdom of the Netherlands stands out for its exceptional import diversity, underscoring its pivotal role as a global trade hub in the European Union. Conversely, China, as a leading net importer,

demonstrates remarkable production diversity, reflecting its strategic focus on food self-sufficiency and agricultural development (Wanger *et al.*, 2024).

Figure 6: Imports and production diversity of top net exporters and importers

Note: The number of derived items for production data has been carried forward from 2022.
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0 and FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Production: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.
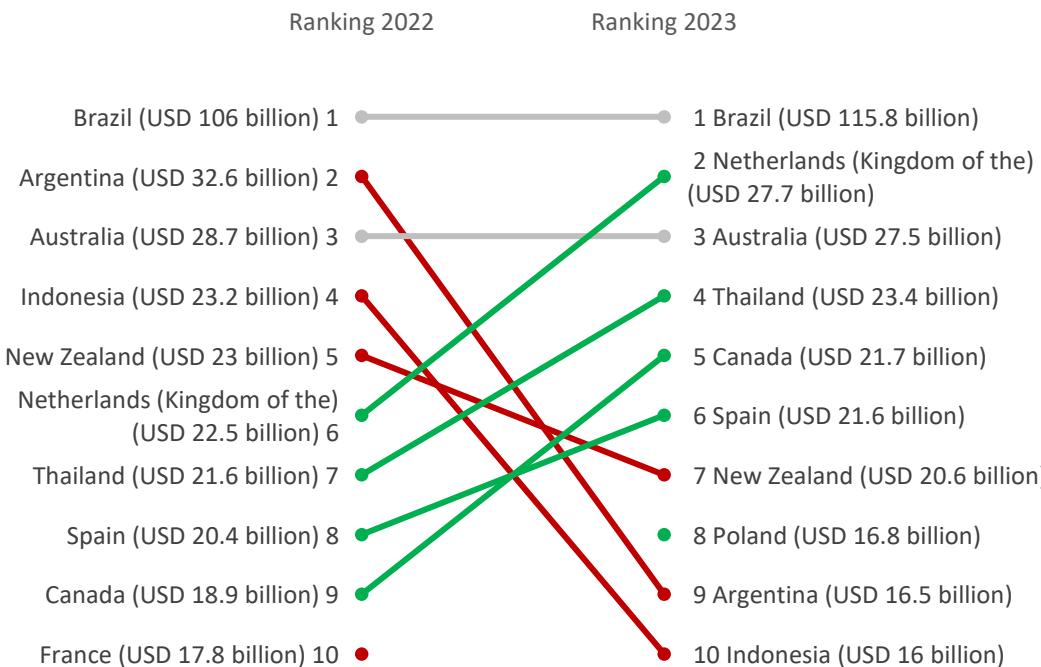
Food demand is driven by divergent productivity growth, together with animal diseases, policy factors, climate change (with impacts on production, affecting supply) as well as socioeconomic changes in consumption behaviour. Trade plays a vital role in diversifying the risk of market disruptions for importer countries, and in smoothing the supply fluctuations while reinforcing comparative advantages of the net exporting countries such as Brazil, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Australia. Despite the deepening differentiation between net exporting and net importing regions, the ranking of individual countries is not static: the Kingdom of the Netherlands became the second largest exporter, as its surplus reached USD 27.7 billion in 2023, up 23 percent from USD 22.5 billion in 2022. As mentioned above, Oceania maintained a trade surplus in 2023 (despite a slight decrease compared to 2022), driven by Australia and New Zealand. The former remained the third largest net exporter with a surplus of USD 27.5 billion in 2023, down 4 percent from USD 28.7 billion in 2022. Brazil's net exports went up 9 percent between 2022 and 2023, driven by increases in the export value of soya beans and cereals (Figure 7).

Figure 8 illustrates the global trade landscape in terms of calories: countries such as the United States of America, Brazil and Australia stand out as significant net exporters, supplying calories to the global market. In contrast, densely populated regions in Asia and Africa show a low degree of self-sufficiency,[4] signalling limited reliance on national agriculture.

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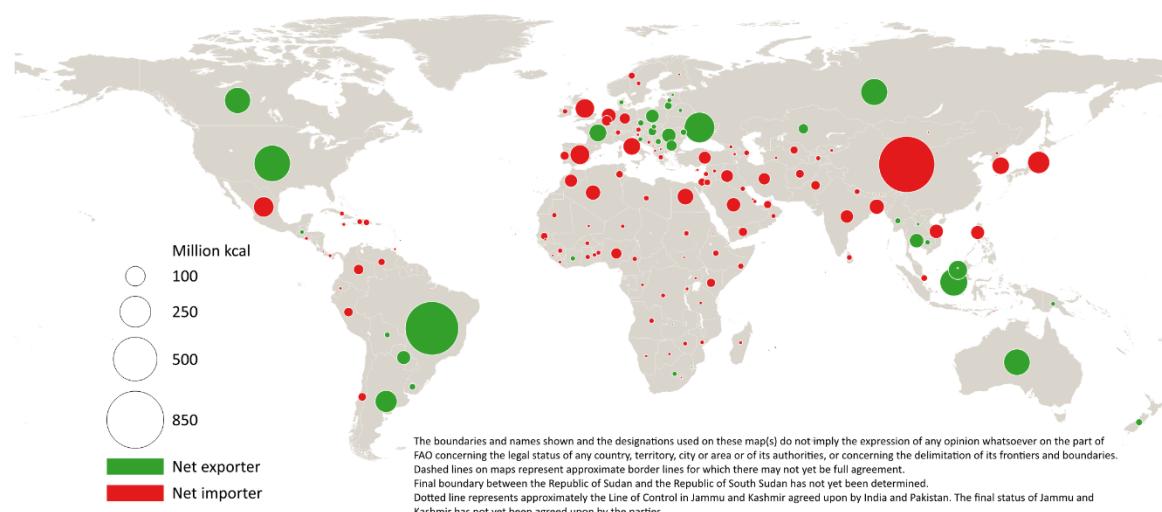
[4] The concept of food self-sufficiency is generally taken to mean the extent to which a country can satisfy its food needs from its own domestic production (FAO, 1999).

Figure 7: Top net exporters of food

Ranking 2022   Ranking 2023

Ranking 2022	Ranking 2023
Brazil (USD 106 billion) 1	1 Brazil (USD 115.8 billion)
Argentina (USD 32.6 billion) 2	2 Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (USD 27.7 billion)
Australia (USD 28.7 billion) 3	3 Australia (USD 27.5 billion)
Indonesia (USD 23.2 billion) 4	4 Thailand (USD 23.4 billion)
New Zealand (USD 23 billion) 5	5 Canada (USD 21.7 billion)
Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (USD 22.5 billion) 6	6 Spain (USD 21.6 billion)
Thailand (USD 21.6 billion) 7	7 New Zealand (USD 20.6 billion)
Spain (USD 20.4 billion) 8	8 Poland (USD 16.8 billion)
Canada (USD 18.9 billion) 9	9 Argentina (USD 16.5 billion)
France (USD 17.8 billion) 10	10 Indonesia (USD 16 billion)

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Figure 8: Net trade of calories (2023)

Million kcal
- 100
- 250
- 500
- 850

- Net exporter (green)
- Net importer (red)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries. Dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties.

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Trade flows vary considerably between regions and commodity groups (Figure 9). The largest individual flows in 2023 were observed for cereal and cereal preparations, Asia's imports (USD 78.0 billion) and America's exports (USD 38.4 billion). Asia was the largest importer of cereals and preparations, dairy products and eggs, fats and oils, meat and meat preparations, and sugar and honey; for beverages, the

largest importer was the Americas, and for fruit and vegetables it was Europe. The largest exporter of beverages, cereals and preparations and dairy products and eggs was Europe; the Americas led the exports of fruit and vegetables, meat and meat preparations, and sugar and honey, while Asia was the largest exporter of fats and oils.

In 2023, the Americas, Europe and Oceania were net exporters of nearly all commodity groups. The Americas was a net importer of beverages (−USD 16.6 billion), Europe was a net importer of fruit and vegetables (−USD 36.1 billion) and sugar and honey (−USD 0.6 billion) and Oceania was a net importer of sugar and honey (−USD 0.3 billion). Asia was a net importer of all commodity groups, and Africa a net exporter of only fruit and vegetables.

Figure 9: Food imports and exports by main categories and region (2023)
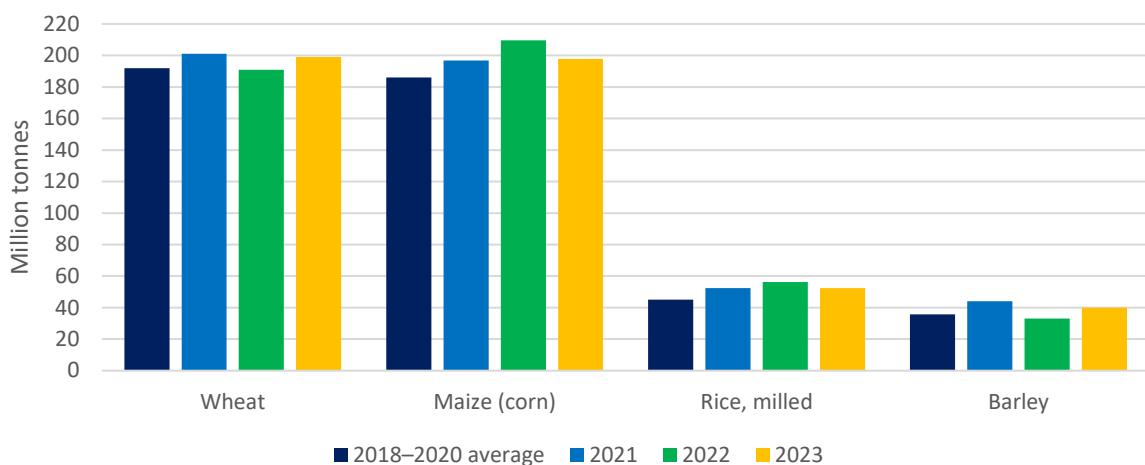
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

CEREALS

Global wheat exports increased to 199.1 million tonnes (Mt) in 2023, 8.1 Mt higher than in 2022 (Figure 10). This is due to a significant increase in exports from the Russian Federation[5] and Canada, which were among the top five exporters in 2023. Ukraine regained in 2023 its position among the top net exporters of wheat, with a 4.9 Mt increase compared to 2022 (Figure 13). Similarly, global exports of barley increased to 39.9 Mt in 2023, which is 6.9 Mt higher than in 2022. In 2023, global maize exports declined to 197.9 Mt, down 11.6 Mt from a record high of 209.5 Mt in 2022. This decrease is due to a decrease in exports from the United States of America and Argentina, which showed a drop of 12.7 and 11.8 Mt, respectively compared to 2022. Global rice exports declined to 52.3 Mt in 2023, with a reduction of 3.9 Mt from the record levels reached in 2022.

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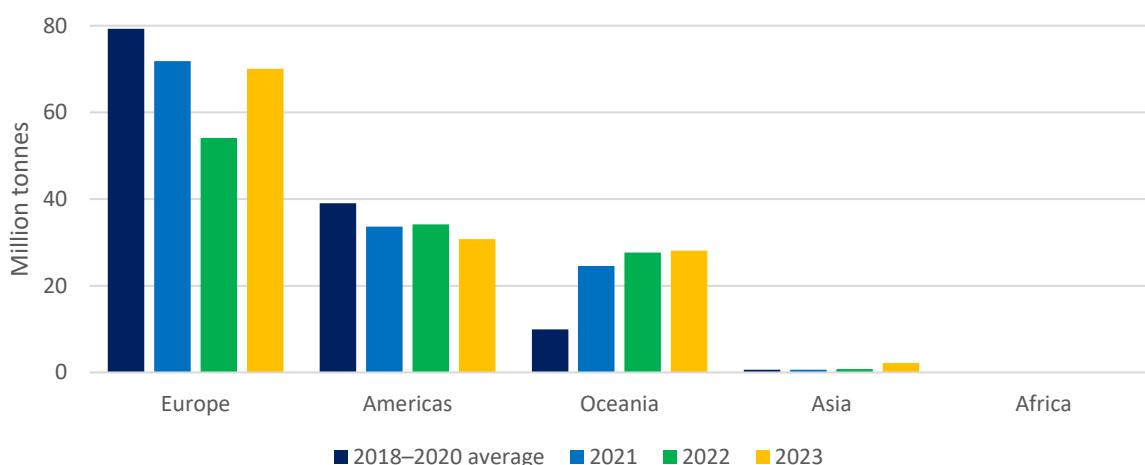
[5] Trade data for the Russian Federation are unofficial and mirrored from its trading partners.

Figure 10: World exports of cereals by main commodity

Figure 11: Global wheat exports by region
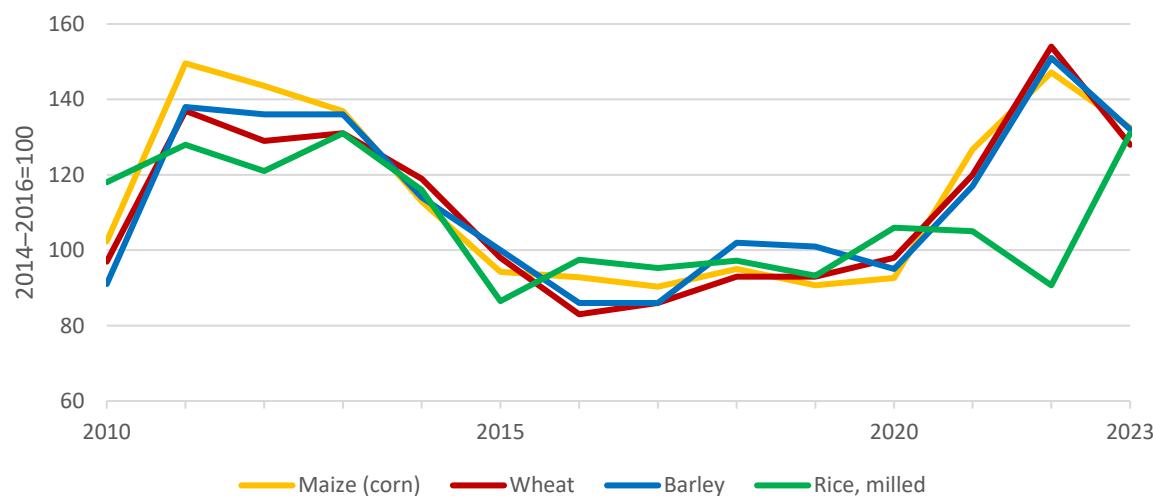
An established trade pattern sees the Americas and Europe as major cereals suppliers for Asia and Africa, where fast-rising populations and expanding livestock production make demand expand faster than domestic production.

Europe recorded an increase of 15.9 Mt between 2022 and 2023, mainly driven by an increase of 18.7 Mt in wheat exports that was caused by surging exports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine (9.5 and 4.9 Mt, respectively). Oceania remained the third-largest cereals exporter region in 2023, registering an increase of nearly 0.5a Mt compared to 2022. This is mainly due to a small but steady increase of wheat exports from Australia, as the country's wheat production increased from 14.5 Mt in 2020 to 41.2 Mt in 2023 – the country was the second largest net exporter of wheat in 2023, after the Russian Federation.
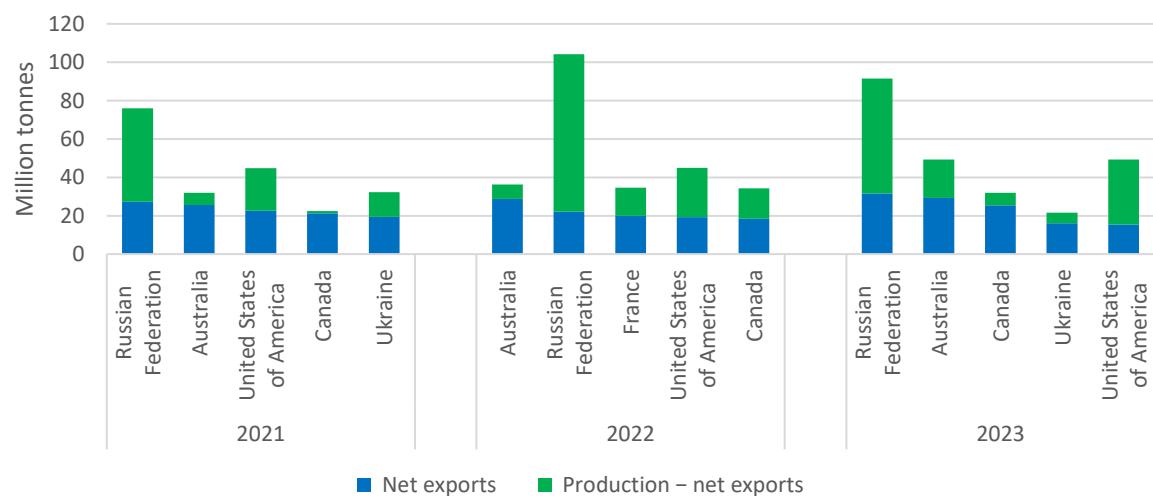
In 2023, the global export unit value indices of major cereals fell from their 2022, except rice, which saw a significant increase of 44 percent. The most notable decrease was observed in wheat, which fell by 17 percent between 2022 and 2023 (Figure 12). The rice market faced some turbulence due to El Niño concerns and subsequent supply shortfalls, but stabilized by late 2023, as production impacts were milder than expected (OECD and FAO, 2024).

Figure 12: Export unit value index by main traded cereal
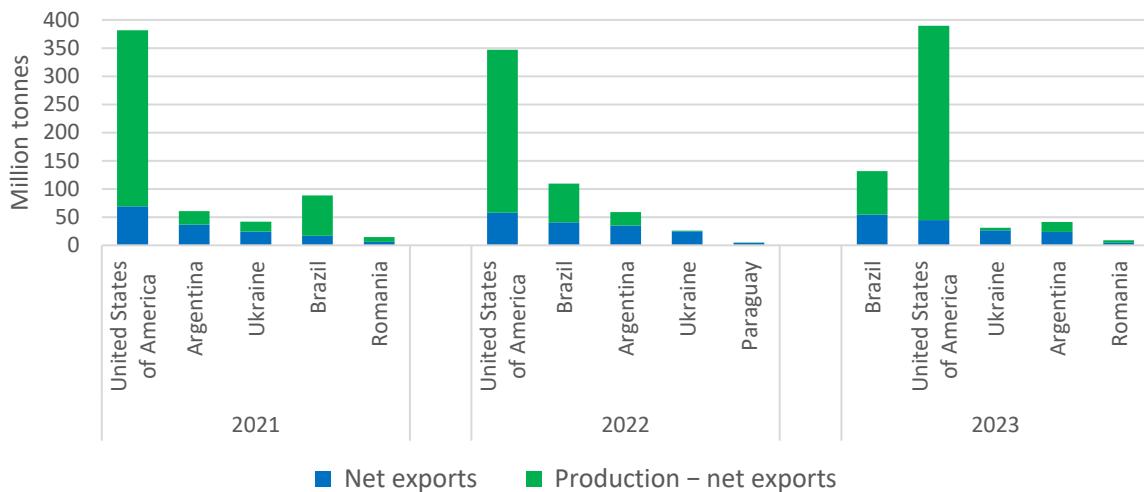
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Figure 13: Production and share of net exports among top wheat net exporters

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0 and FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Production: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.
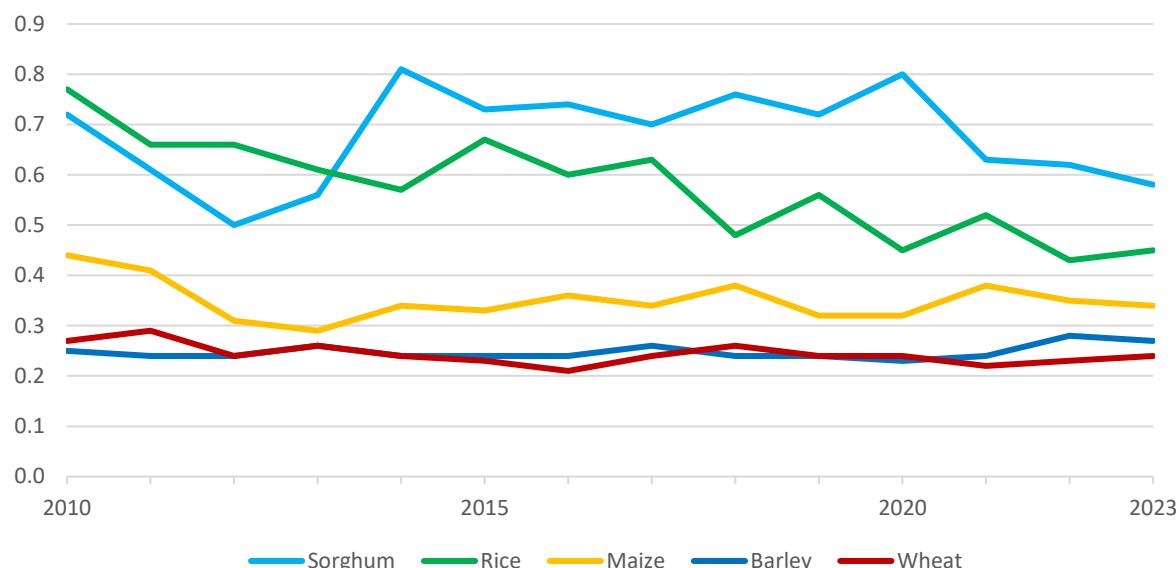
Figure 14: Production and share of net exports among top maize net exporters

Chart showing production and net exports (in Million tonnes) for top maize net exporters across 2021, 2022, and 2023. Legend: ■ Net exports ■ Production − net exports

2021: United States of America (~380), Argentina (~60), Ukraine (~45), Brazil (~90), Romania (~15)
2022: United States of America (~350), Brazil (~110), Argentina (~60), Ukraine (~28), Paraguay (~5)
2023: Brazil (~135), United States of America (~390), Ukraine (~33), Argentina (~42), Romania (~8)

The export market concentration index for cereals, a measure that evaluates whether exports are concentrated among a few countries or spread across multiple countries, reveals distinct patterns of export trends and diversification across commodities over time. Sorghum exhibits a high and fluctuating concentration, indicating that exports are often dominated by few countries; however, the concentration started decreasing in 2021. Rice shows medium-to-low concentration with periodic spikes, reflecting variability in the dominance of leading exporters. Maize demonstrates moderate and consistent concentration, indicating a balanced distribution of exports compared to sorghum and rice. Barley and wheat, on the other hand, maintain relatively low and stable indices, suggesting that their exports are distributed more evenly among multiple countries. These trends underscore the diverse trade dynamics in cereal markets, shaped by global supply chains and the export strategies of key producers, highlighting the complexity and variability of international cereal trade. Geographic concentration has its limitations as a concept for these products, particularly regarding the ability to control prices.

**Figure 15: Export market concentration index by main traded cereal**
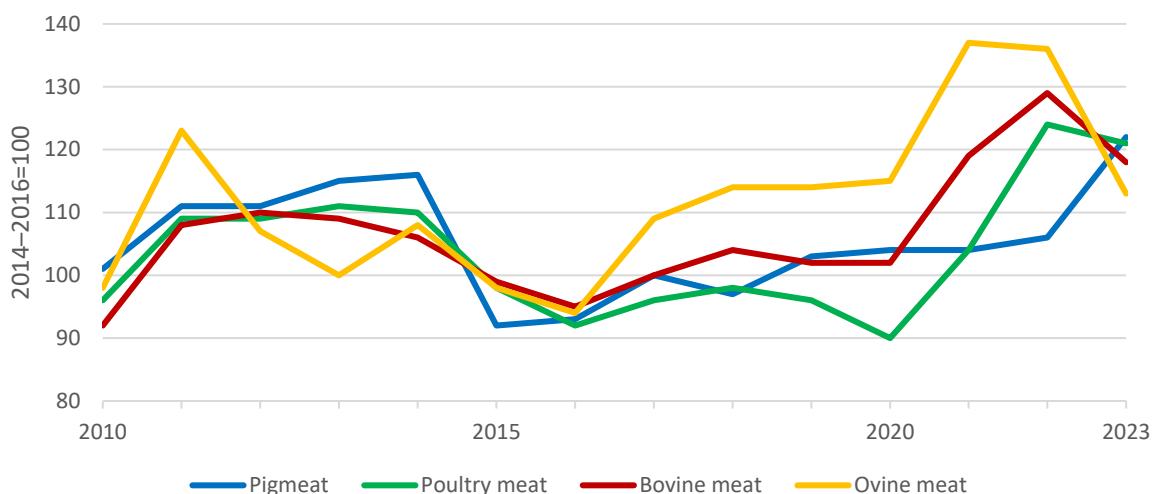
MEAT

The export unit value of poultry meat remained close to its all-time high of 2022, while ovine and bovine meat, which also peaked in 2022, experienced significant declines of 17 percent and 9 percent, respectively. This decrease brought ovine meat trade back to its pre-pandemic levels. On the contrary, pig meat saw a notable increase of 15 percent (Figure 16). International trade in meat is seen heading towards a contraction as high inflation, sluggish economic growth and accumulated stocks lower import demand (FAO, 2023a).
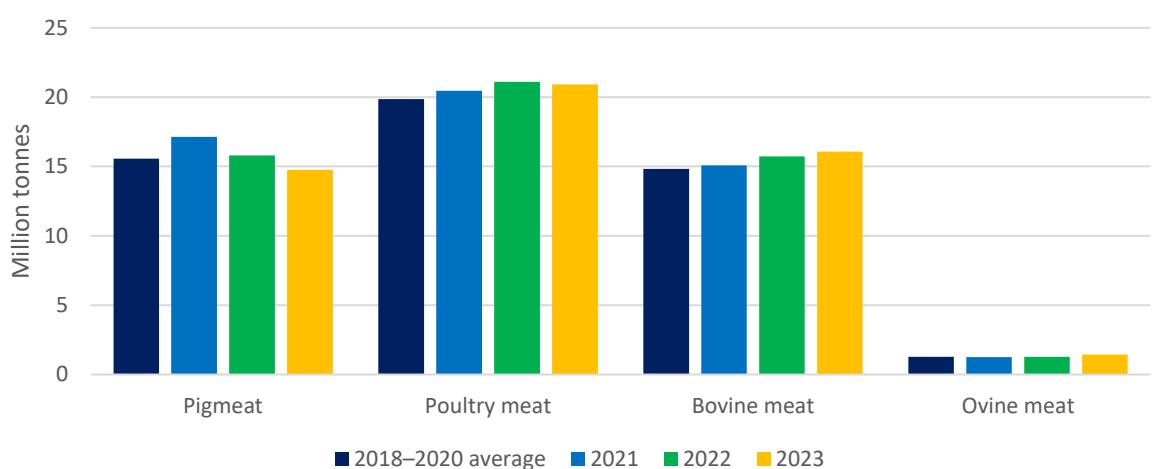
Global exports of bovine and ovine meat increased by 2 percent and 11 percent between 2022 and 2023, to 16.1 Mt and 1.4 Mt, respectively. Pig meat exports, instead, declined by 7 percent (or 1 Mt) to 14.8 Mt, due to lower demand, especially in Europe. Market access was limited in many importing countries due to continued concerns over the African swine fever virus (FAO, 2023b). Poultry meat exports saw a slight decrease of 1 percent (to 20.9 Mt) compared to 2022 (Figure 17).

Figure 16: Export unit value index by main traded meat

Pigmeat — *Poultry meat* — *Bovine meat* — *Ovine meat*
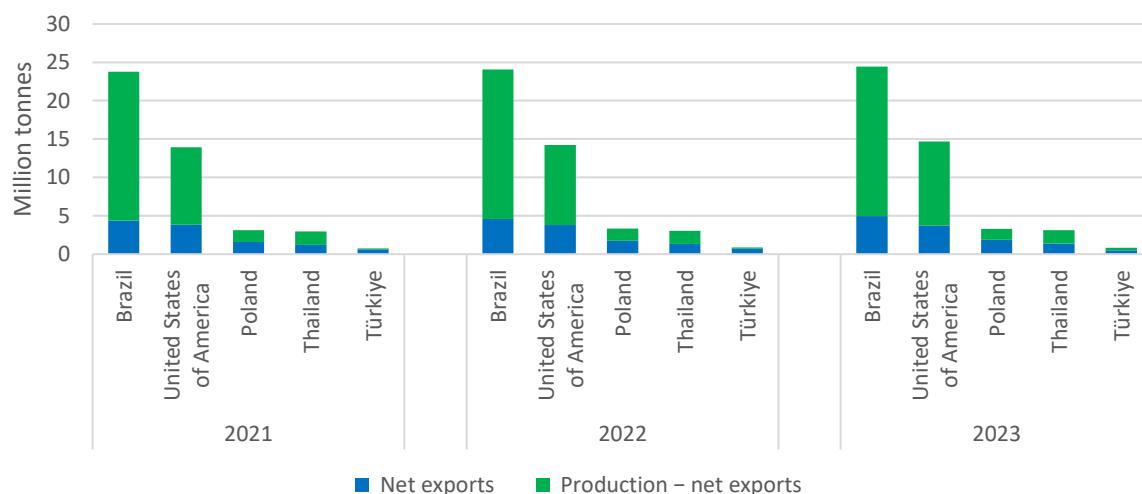
Figure 17: World exports of meat by main commodity

■ 2018–2020 average ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

The leading exporting region for poultry meat was the Americas, with Brazil and the United States of America as the main exporting countries (Figure 18). Even though China accounted for about 18 percent of global poultry production, the country was not among the top exporters, as most of its production is for domestic consumption.
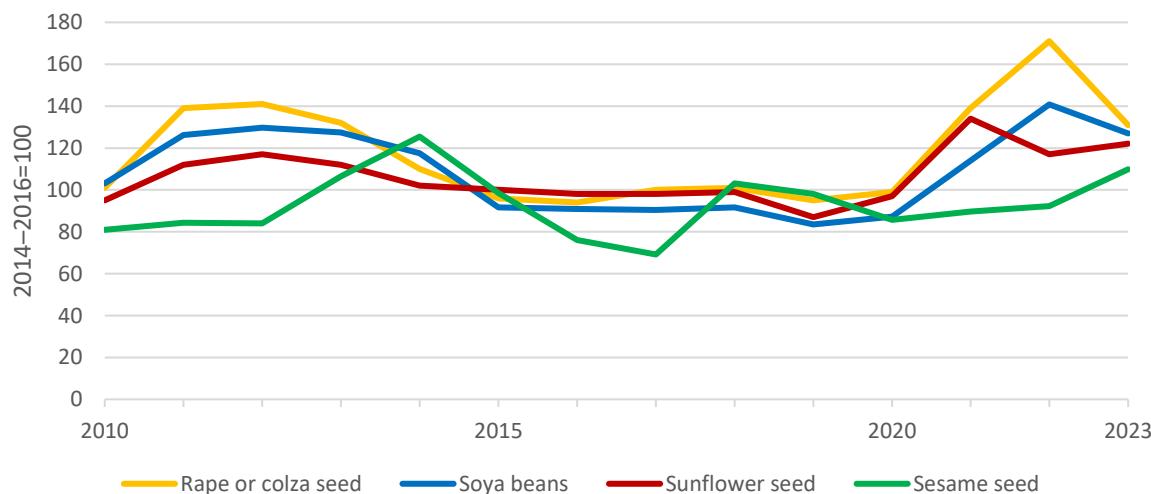
Europe and the Americas were the leading exporters of pigmeat; Europe experienced a decrease of 1.2 Mt (11 percent) between 2022 and 2023 while the Americas showed an increase of 2 percent. At the country level, the top five net exporter countries of pigmeat together accounted for 59 percent of the global pigmeat exports: three of them (Spain, Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands) had lower exports in 2023 compared to 2022 and the other two (the United States of America and Brazil) higher exports.

**Figure 18: Production and share of net exports among top net poultry meat exporters**

Legend: ■ Net exports ■ Production – net exports

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0 and FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Production: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.I

OILSEEDS
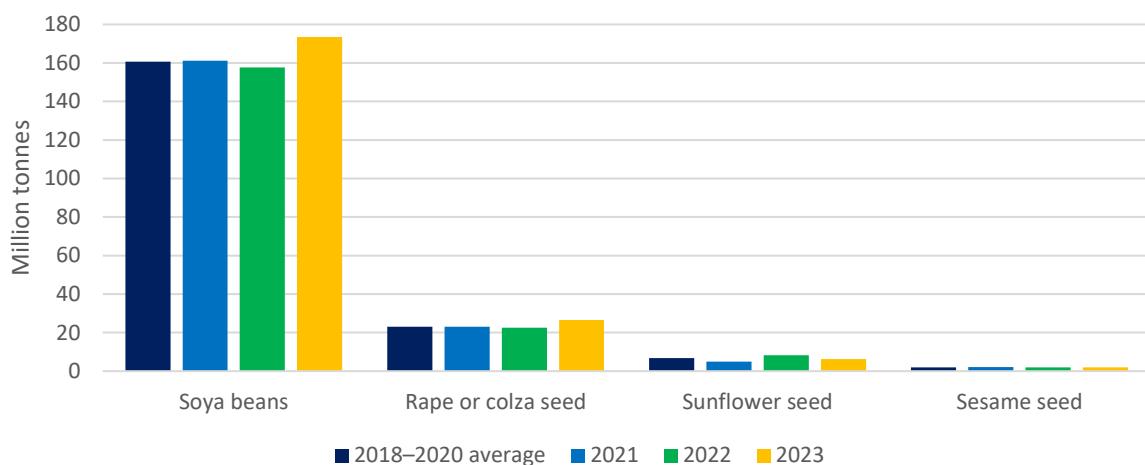
In 2023, the export unit values of rapeseed and soya beans dropped by 23 percent and 10 percent, respectively, from their 2022 record levels. For soya beans, this could be linked to the increased global production driven by Brazil. The export value index for sunflower seeds saw a slight increase of 4 percent.

Figure 19: Export unit value index by main traded main oilseed

Legend: ── Rape or colza seed ── Soya beans ── Sunflower seed ── Sesame seed

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.
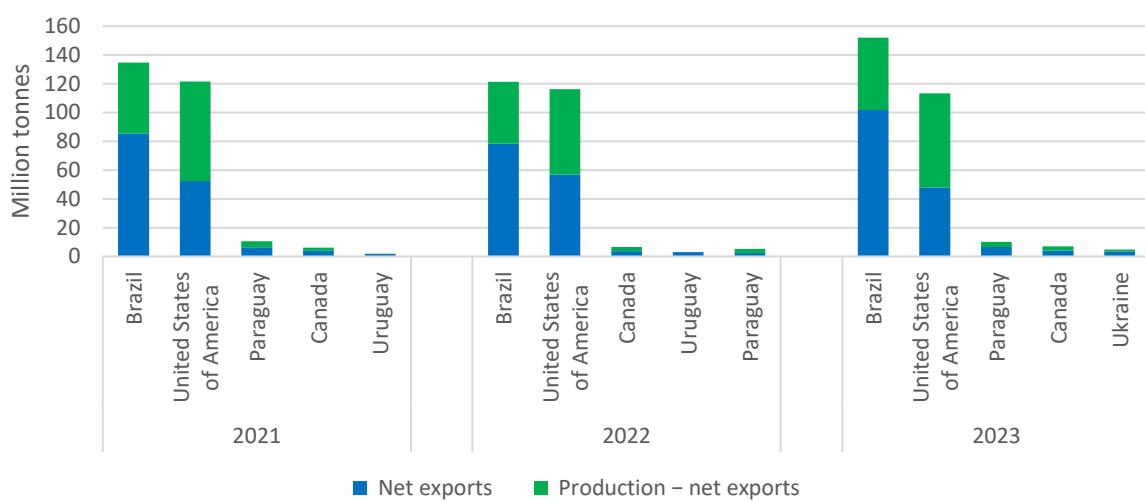
Exports of three major oilseed commodities increased in 2023. Soybeans, which represented 80 percent of global oilseed exports by volume, saw an increase of 15.8 Mt between 2022 and 2023, reaching their highest quantity ever recorded. Brazil, which significantly increased its production (from 121.3 Mt in 2022 to 152.1 Mt in 2023) and net exports following rising demand for both oil and cakes globally (USDA, 2024), was the main driver. In contrast, the global exports of sunflower seeds decreased by 2.1 Mt from their 2022 peak. With Brazil and the United States of America as the main exporters of soya beans and Canada as the main exporter of rapeseeds (Figures 21 and 22) the Americas accounted for 81 percent of total oilseeds exports in 2023.

**Figure 20: World exports of oilseeds by main commodity**
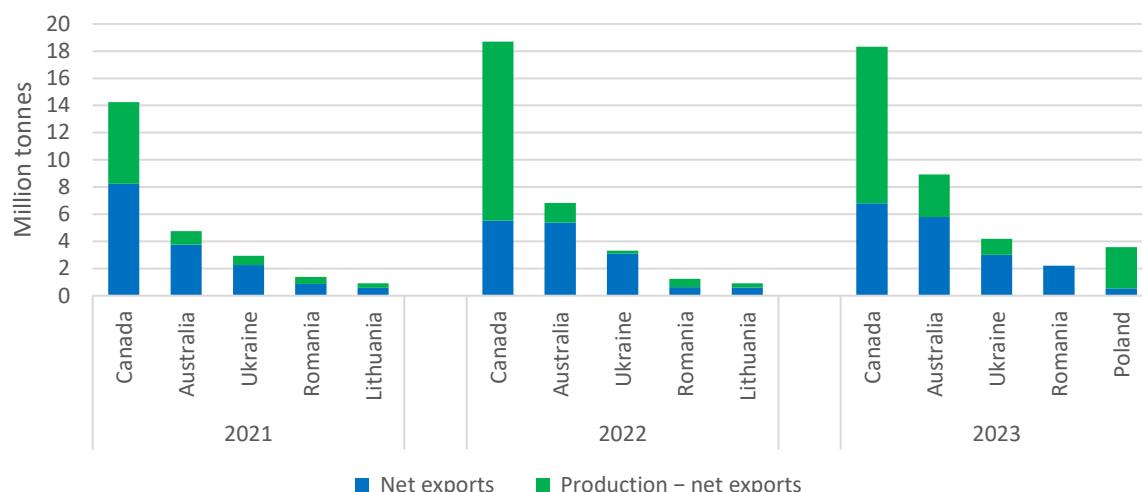
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Figure 21: Production and share of net exports among top net soya beans exporters

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0 and FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Production: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

Figure 22: Production and share of net exports among top net rape or colza seed exporters
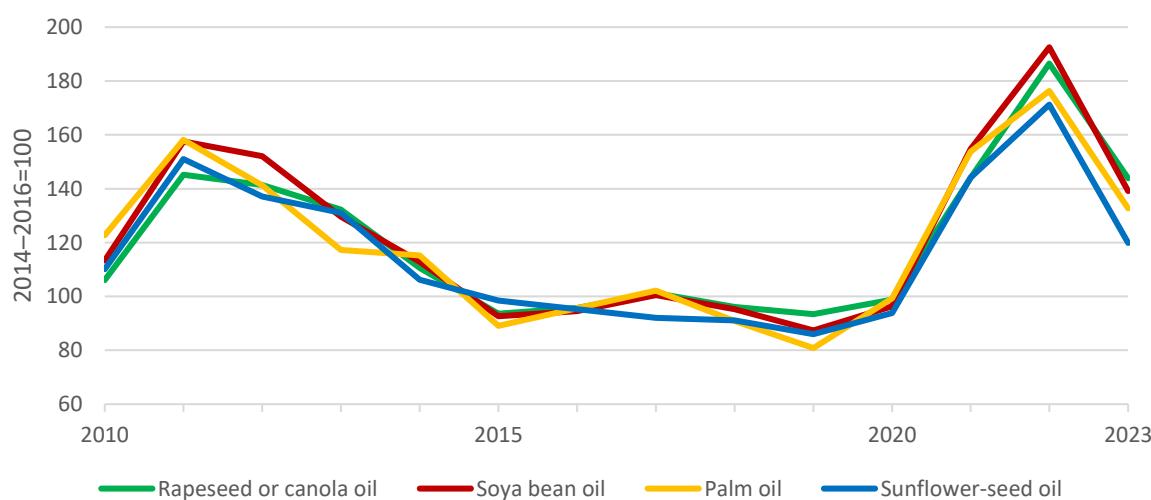
Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0 and FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Production: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/QCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.

OILS

The export unit values of the four major vegetable oils traded worldwide surged to record highs in 2021 and 2022 after a long decline between 2012 and 2020. The year 2023 saw a steep decline for all four vegetable oils ranging from 23 to 30 percent (Figure 23). World vegetable oil prices stabilized after this fall and reached low levels in mid-2023, as below-potential growth in palm oil outputs coincided with subdued global demand (OECD and FAO, 2024).
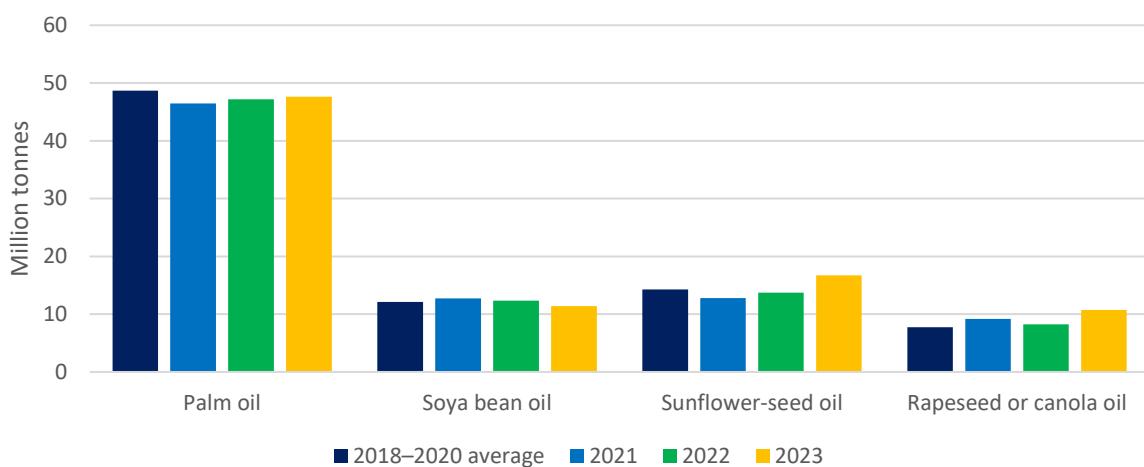
Figure 23: Export unit value index by main traded vegetable oil

Source: FAO. 2024. FAOSTAT: Trade: Crops and livestock products. [Accessed December 2024]. https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/TCL. Licence: CC-BY-4.0.
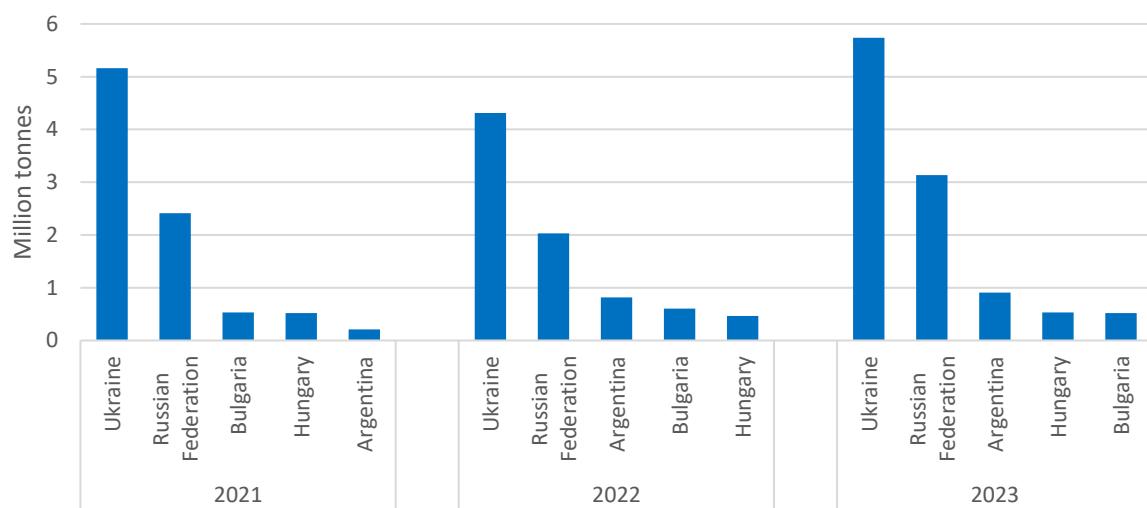
The exported quantities of palm oil, sunflower-seed oil and rapeseed oil increased by 1.0 percent, 21.8 percent and 30.3 percent, respectively. In contrast, soybean oil exports declined by 7.5 percent in 2023 (Figure 24). Palm oil remains the most globally traded vegetable oil, representing 46.6 percent of all vegetable oil exports in 2023 (compared with 16 percent for sunflower-seed oil and 11.2 percent for soybean oil) with a volume of 47.6 Mt. Indonesia remained in 2023 the largest exporter of palm oil, registering an increase of 4.5 percent compared to 2022. Ukraine and the Russian Federation, the two largest net exporters of sunflower-seed oil, increased their exports by 33.2 and 54.2 percent in 2023 compared to 2022. Canada was the main exporter of rapeseed oil in 2023 with 3.6 Mt, which is 23.0 percent higher than in 2022.

Figure 24: World exports of vegetable oils by main commodity

The origin of exports shows great concentration for palm oil (as this product is mainly exported from Asian countries) and for sunflower-seed oil, whose exports mostly originate from European countries. The leading countries for palm oil exports were Indonesia and Malaysia. Ukraine and the Russian Federation were the top two exporters of sunflower-seed oil. Asia was the major importer for all vegetable oils except palm oil, for which the top importer was Europe. India and Türkiye kept their positions as the largest and second-largest importers of sunflower-seed oil, respectively, while China surged to become the third-largest importer in 2023, with a remarkable 150 percent increase in its imports.

Figure 25: Top net exporters of sunflower-seed oil
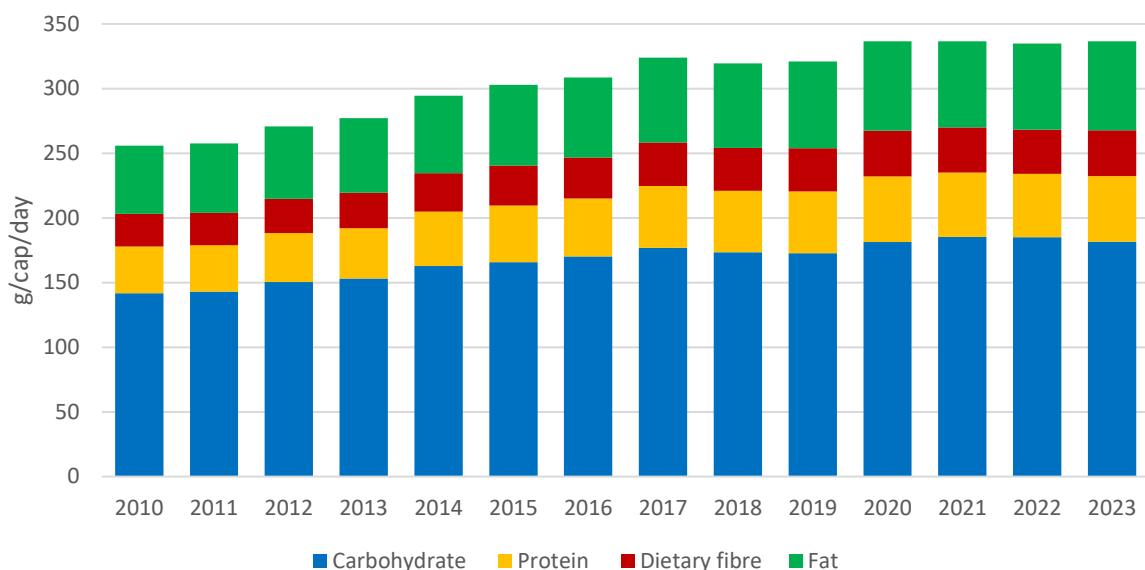
NUTRIENTS

The 2024 data release presents agricultural and food trade flows in terms of energy and nutrients for the first time in FAOSTAT. This addition aims to provide a comprehensive perspective on the nutritional content of traded commodities, which improves the understanding of the nutritional implications of global trade patterns. In turn, this can further support decision-making in food and nutrition policies.

Global exports of macronutrients steadily increased from 2010 to 2023, stabilizing after 2020. Carbohydrates led exports and accounted for 54 percent of the total, followed by fats (20 percent) and proteins (15 percent), underscoring their central role in nutrition and trade (Figure 26). These trends highlight the importance of efficient trade systems in ensuring equitable access to essential nutrients, particularly for regions with limited production capacity.

Figure 26: World food exports by macronutrient

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The FAOSTAT Trade data domain disseminates statistics on the international trade of food and agricultural products for the period 1961–2023. The food and agricultural trade datasets are collected, processed and disseminated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) according to the standard international merchandise trade statistics methodology. The detailed tariff line data for reporting countries (import and export quantities, animal numbers and dollar values for total and bilateral flows) are mainly obtained from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) for the world excluding the European Union, while the raw data from European countries are obtained from Eurostat and national authorities as needed. Trade partner data are used for non-reporting countries together with other alternative data sources.

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