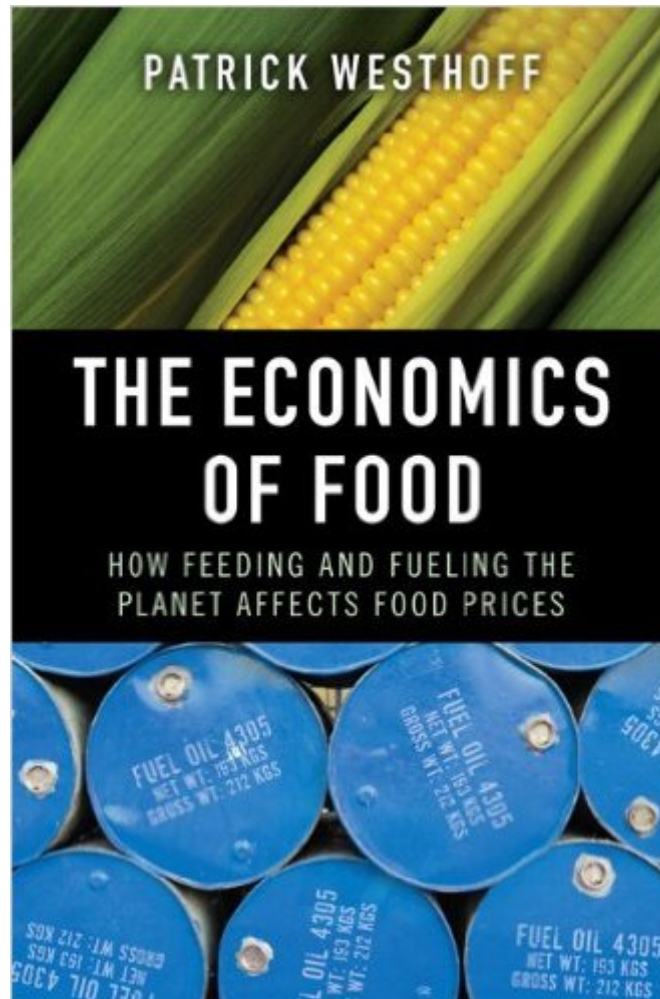


The book was found

# The Economics Of Food: How Feeding And Fueling The Planet Affects Food Prices (paperback)



## Synopsis

Over the past two years, food prices have soared -- and plummeted. As crops are increasingly shifted to biofuel production, will food prices soar again? Will people starve as a result? What are the hidden relationships between the food on your plate and the gas in your car? Will economic recovery lead directly to massive price inflation in both food and energy? In this book, one of the world's leading experts untangles the complex global relationships between food, energy, and economics and helps readers come to their own conclusions about the future of food. Pat Westhoff reveals what really causes large swings in food prices and what is likely to cause them to rise and fall in the future. Westhoff discusses all the factors that drive changes in the cost of food: not just biofuel production, but also weather, income growth, exchange rates, energy prices, government policies, market speculation, and more. Next, he walks through several of the most likely scenarios for the future, offering insights that will be indispensable to consumers, commodity speculators, and policymakers alike.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: FT Press; 1 edition (March 15, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0133381056

ISBN-13: 978-0133381054

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.8 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (33 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #641,043 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) [#285 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Restaurant & Food](#) [#1046 in Books > Business & Money > Industries > Hospitality, Travel & Tourism](#) [#3552 in Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Cooking Education & Reference](#)

## Customer Reviews

Patrick Westhoff's *The Economics of Food: How Feeding and Fueling the Planet Affects Food Prices* specifically examines the reasons for sharp swings in food prices between 2005 and 2009 as the basis for more general study about what affects our food supplies and costs. He considers "weather, economic growth, exchange rates, biofuel productions levels, petroleum prices, governmental policies, and market speculation." Calling these "the usual suspects," Westhoff adds,

in italics and as one of his rules of thumb: "There will always be surprises that make it impossible to predict food prices with confidence." On his list of surprises that already jolted us are "[a]vian flu, mad cow disease" as well as popular diet plans and new technologies. The study of economics employs statistics and other methodology to try to systematically understand, document, and even predict patterns, trends, and future conditions. But human behavior and natural events often stymie anything but the ability to form a record after the fact. Stuff does happen and so something as elemental as the price of food can shift significantly without benefit of warning by economists. This book makes no bankable predictions. It simply reviews the main factors thought to have contributed to that recent food price rise and its subsequent readjustment. In chapters that lay out basic facts and arguments, Westhoff goes the extra mile and investigates "Why the Story is a Little More Complicated." Graphs and charts, as well as an appendix, support the text.

This book paints a complex picture of world food markets and factors affecting food production and consumption and, therefore, food prices. The first seven chapters provide analyses of the effects of seven individual factors, one chapter per factor. These factors are: biofuel production, energy prices, government policies (e.g., farm subsidies, import tariffs), weather, economic growth and changing diets, U.S. dollar strength, and speculation. Chapter 8 covers additional factors such as food safety practices and disease outbreaks, while Chapter 9 contemplates the effects in the longer run of things such as population growth and technology trends on food prices. The Appendix provides miscellaneous interesting tidbits such as what countries are major exporters and importers of what foods (e.g., the United States is a major exporter of corn and wheat, but an importer of cheese), food consumption patterns in various countries (e.g., Chinese eat more rice and pork than Americans), and roughly how much of every U.S. consumer's food dollar goes to farmers (19%) after all other participants in the supply chain get paid (38.5% goes to labor costs, 7.5% to energy and transport, 8% packaging, 27% others). The analyses are quite comprehensive. Using data from 2005 to 2009 (a period that saw remarkable swings in food prices) as common reference data, each analysis starts with a discussion of a single factor's general effect on food prices in isolation. This is then usually followed by a discussion of how a current factor's effect on food prices can potentially be modulated (i.e., amplified or countered) by other factors.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Economics of Food: How Feeding and Fueling the Planet Affects Food Prices (paperback)  
Talking Prices: Symbolic Meanings of Prices on the Market for Contemporary Art (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology)  
Coin World 2014 Guide to U.S. Coins: Prices & Value Trends (Coin World

Guide to Us Coins, Prices & Value Trends) Fat Fueled: Complete Program & Meal Plan: Uncover Your Best Self by Fueling; and Healing, with Fat and Whole Food-Based Nutritional Ketosis Lonely Planet the Gambia & Senegal (Lonely Planet the Gambia and Senegal, 1st ed) (Lonely Planet the Big Trip: Your Ultimate Guide to Gap Years & Overseas Adventures) Lonely Planet Atlas de Un Mundo Fascinante 1 ES (Kids Amazing World Atlas) (Lonely Planet Junior / Lonely Planet Kids) (Spanish Edition) Secret Suffering: How Women's Sexual and Pelvic Pain Affects Their Relationships (Sex, Love, and Psychology) Religious Affections: How Man's Will Affects His Character Before God Confessions of the Pricing Man: How Price Affects Everything Make Art Make Money: Lessons from Jim Henson on Fueling Your Creative Career Empires of Coal: Fueling China's Entry into the Modern World Order, 1860-1920 (Studies of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute) Fueling Freedom: Exposing the Mad War on Energy The Food Service Professional Guide to Controlling Restaurant & Food Service Food Costs (The Food Service Professional Guide to, 6) (The Food Service Professionals Guide To) Lonely Planet French Phrasebook & Dictionary (Lonely Planet Phrasebook and Dictionary) Lonely Planet Korean Phrasebook & Dictionary (Lonely Planet Phrasebook and Dictionary) Planet of the Apes Vol. 3: Children of Fire (Planet of the Apes (Boom Studios)) Not For Parents Extreme Planet (Lonely Planet Not for Parents) Helping Your Child with Extreme Picky Eating: A Step-by-Step Guide for Overcoming Selective Eating, Food Aversion, and Feeding Disorders 20th Century Linens and Lace: A Guide to Identification, Care and Prices of Household Linens (Schiffer Book for Collectors) Investors and Markets: Portfolio Choices, Asset Prices, and Investment Advice (Princeton Lectures in Finance)

[Dmca](#)