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World food prices edge higher in Feb - FAO

ROME (Reuters) - World food prices rose slightly in February, boosted in particular by cereals, the [United Nations](#) food agency said on Thursday.

The [Food and Agriculture Organization's](#) (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 175.5 points in February, up 0.5 percent on January levels.

The increase pushed food prices on international markets to their highest level since February 2015. They were some 17.2 percent above their levels in the same month last year.

Global cereals output is now expected to reach 2.6 billion tonnes in the 2016 season, up 0.3 percent on previous forecasts, FAO said.

FAO said its first forecast of global wheat production in 2017 stood at 744.5 million tonnes, a 1.8 percent decline from the 2016 record level but above the last five-year average.

Japan to import 8,830 tonnes feed wheat via tender

TOKYO: [Japan's Ministry of Agriculture](#) said it would import 8,830 tonnes of feed-quality wheat for livestock use via a simultaneous buy and sell (SBS) auction that closed late on Wednesday.

The ministry had sought 120,000 tonnes of feed wheat and 200,000 tonnes of feed barley to be loaded by June 30 and arrive in [Japan](#) by Aug. 31 in the tender that is usually conducted weekly.

It is seeking the same amounts for each grain to be loaded and shipped during the same period in a similar tender that will be held on March 8.

Japan buys and sells its feed wheat and barley via so-called [SBS auctions](#), in which end-users and importers specify the origin, price and quantity of grain, allowing millers to meet their varied needs for the feed grain.