

MEX ALMANAC



October 2011

Precious Metals

With equities market falling across the globe, investors sought to alternative investments like gold and silver, to garner profits for the month. A string of negative data's from the world's largest economy, weakened the USD as against the gold prices. With the focus solely on the EU Summit, gold and silver were making steady gains across the globe.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	39111.89	41377.29	5.79%
Silver	720.48	826.44	14.71%
Platinum	36812.75	38629.89	4.94%
Palladium	14671.2	15601.2	6.34%

Base Metal

The base metal came under heavy selling pressure over the month as all participants headed for the exit at once. Better than expected US ISM data gave copper prices some impetus to the prices, but the rally quickly subsided to head southwards. Copper prices were expected to drift lower following Italy's downgrade and concerns over the health of some European banks.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	595.68	549.52	-7.75%

Energy

The crude oil prices extended its rally throughout the month reaching high levels due to optimism from Europe that EU leaders would finally come up with a comprehensive plan for the Euro area to contain its crisis.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	7635	8190	7.27%
Crude Oil	5889.75	6937.5	17.79%
Heating Oil	54.93	60.32	9.81%
Natural Gas	273.225	294.225	7.69%

Agro

Farmers from Vietnam to Brazil were expected to supply a record high production in the marketing year, which extended a slump in coffee futures. Sugar futures went bullish since the start of the week as there was fall in the production of sugar in South Africa. The overall agro market was filled with sentiments of optimism this week as most of the commodities progressed towards north.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	194.25	201.675	3.82%
Coffee	377.68	376.16	-0.40%
Corn	17.4	19.14	10.00%
Cotton	165.26	170.44	3.13%
Soybean Oil	82.74	84.62	2.27%
Soybean	32.42	33.18	2.34%
Sugar	41.76	42.7	2.25%
Wheat	16.78	17.36	3.46%



The figures above are the percentage change in the prices of corresponding commodity over the corresponding month. % change is calculated as ((Close-Open)/Open*100)

November 2011

Precious Metals

Precious Metals fell due to the news that Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi would resign in exchange for parliament's approval of structural reforms intended to improve the country's fiscal situation. Precious metals also declined by the losses seen across the European main indexes, which drove investors to close their gold positions in order to recover widely spread losses.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	41372.47	41109.78	-0.63%
Silver	825.96	758.64	-8.15%
Platinum	38487.7	37612.87	-2.27%
Palladium	15465.6	14772	-4.48%

Base Metal

The base metals tracked the ups and downs in Italian politics and the euro. Chinese CPI for October came in at 5.1%, down from 6.1% in the month of September which saw considerable selling pressure.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	693.68	514.32	-25.86%

Energy

The rally in the price of black gold was possible as there was optimism in the market especially after the upbeat earning report from European firms which saw equities rally in the European market. The bullish trend was also due to the news regarding the Enbridge Inc. reserving the direction of the seaway pipeline. This news saw price of crude oil reach the four month high.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8205	8277	0.88%
Crude Oil	6944.25	7530	8.44%
Heating Oil	60.32	59.5	-1.36%
Natural Gas	294.525	267.825	-9.07%

Agro

Coffee futures had risen amid signs that Europe was expected to take more aggressive steps to stem its debt crisis. Corn futures saw bearish trend as production was anticipated to be increased. The demand for ethanol production also remained constant. The wheat market was influenced much by the European wheat which plunged to its one year low price.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	199.05	173.025	-13.07%
Coffee	374.24	390.72	4.40%
Corn	19.08	17.43	-8.65%
Cotton	169.3	151.04	-10.79%
Soybean Oil	84.42	80.3	-4.88%
Soybean	33.49	31.23	-6.75%
Sugar	42.52	39.18	-7.86%
Wheat	17.33	16.26	-6.17%

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December 2011

Precious Metals

Gold dropped to nearly to a two-month low amid tensions in the markets after EU's summit saw less fruitful conclusions. The metals group also fell sharply after the Fed kept interest rates at the level of 0.25% and mentioned that the US will continue its expansion. Gold also tumbled after concerns were raised over the sustainability of demand out of China and India.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	42244.89	37728.55	-10.69%
Silver	792.12	667.2	-15.77%
Platinum	37605.64	33262.82	-11.55%
Palladium	14772	15780	6.82%

Base Metal

With no change to policy or hint of QE3, the markets had resigned themselves to the fact that the Euro zone crisis is as bad, the real global economy is slowing and the cavalry, be it the Chinese or the Fed, are still preoccupied with their own problems.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	595.68	549.52	-7.75%

Energy

The world's major central banks were considering serious measures to tackle the debt crisis which saw investor cautious while investing, resulting in declined prices of energy commodities. The weather was forecasted for warmer than normal winter for the US East coast which was expected to decline the demand for the Natural Gas.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8281.5	8064.75	-2.62%
Crude Oil	7538.25	7423.5	-1.52%
Heating Oil	59.96	57.85	-3.52%
Natural Gas	267.75	222.525	-16.89%

Agro

The bailout drafts prepared by the European leaders to stem the regions debt crisis increased the demand for corn along with the expectation that the U.S. retails sales is going to increase before the holiday season. Positive sentiments was seen in the soybean market and prices started to move in upward direction. The political distress in the largest cocoa producing country, Ivory Coast, dissipated, which eased the supply side.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	170	158.025	-7.04%
Coffee	389.12	370.72	-4.73%
Corn	17.96	19.07	6.18%
Cotton	150.5	150.14	-0.24%
Soybean Oil	82.08	85.22	3.83%
Soybean	31.23	32.85	5.19%
Sugar	39.22	38.56	-1.68%
Wheat	16.93	17.96	6.08%

January 2012

Precious Metals

Positive global economic data along with a weaker US Dollar seemed to propel the precious metals to the higher side. Escalating tensions between Iran and the west also provided further upside momentum to the precious metals due to safe haven demand. The US economic indicators including worsening labor situation and sales outlook had initially accelerated the demand for alternative assets.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	37861.1	42047.27	11.06%
Silver	674.64	798.84	18.41%
Platinum	33935.21	38321.41	12.93%
Palladium	15818.4	16510.8	4.38%

Base Metal

With Chinese PMI data coming short of expectation, the base metal prices went bearish for the month amidst weak Chinese manufacturing data.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	572	526.64	-7.93%

Energy

The price of most of the energy commodities rose over the news regarding positive economic data and worries over the Iran. This rise in the price of heating oil was the result of higher level of oil price in the international market and also the shutdown of the refineries in the Northeast US and Europe.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8126.25	8325	2.45%
Crude Oil	7479	7372.5	-1.42%
Heating Oil	58	61.02	5.21%
Natural Gas	222.825	184.2	-17.33%

Agro

Cocoa futures experienced an increasing trend on a note of decrease in supply from Ivory Coast; the major production region, from the month of February due to dry wind hitting this region. The price further increased as a labor stoppage threatened to disrupt supplies from Nigeria. The increasing trend continued as there was sharp slowdown in the production of cocoa in Ivory Coast. Coffee futures showed a falling trend as wet weather improved the crop conditions in Brazil, the world's largest grower. Corn and Soybean futures showed a declining trend on a note improved weather condition in Argentina. Later on the session the price continued to decline as the threat of crop damage from dry weather in South America eased following rain in Argentina.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	158.325	173.025	9.28%
Coffee	374.88	354.72	-5.38%
Corn	19.48	18.86	-3.18%
Cotton	152.52	154.44	1.26%
Soybean Oil	87.84	83.74	-4.67%
Soybean	33.94	33.03	-2.68%
Sugar	38.74	39.3	1.45%
Wheat	18.32	18.34	0.11%

The figures above are the percentage change in the prices of corresponding commodity over the corresponding month. % change is calculated as ((Close-Open)/Open*100)

February 2012

Precious Metals

Bernanke's testimony to the Congress in regards to the weak economic outlook coupled with the situation in Greece weakened the greenback and sent the precious metals sky-rocketing. The developments across the Eurozone including the highly influenced second Greek bailout package saw the investors shift their focus towards acquiring more of precious metals in the form of alternative investments.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	41958.1	40938.67	-2.43%
Silver	798.24	895.2	12.15%
Platinum	38304.54	40521.74	5.79%
Palladium	16498.8	17360.4	5.22%

Base Metal

The base metals rallied strongly over the week due to a number of different factors including comments about Chinese bank support for affordable housing, salary increases and recycled headlines about the focus on job creation in the next 5-years. The base metals rallied strongly as the developments across Greece regarding the second bailout package provided further impetus to the enhancement of the metals prices.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	626.64	639.36	2.03%

Energy

Price of black gold advanced as Greek official said that government is in final stage of agreement on 130 billion euro bailout. The Iranian government TV said that they have stopped exporting oil to six European nations i.e. Netherland, Greece, France, Portugal, Spain and Italy. This saw price of crude oil hitting six month high. Gas.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8340.75	9214.5	10.48%
Crude Oil	7378.5	8014.5	8.62%
Heating Oil	60.52	64.44	6.48%
Natural Gas	185.025	194.25	4.99%

Agro

The adverse condition reduced the output of Corn in South America. Soybean futures showed an inclining trend amid forecasts for rain in the next two weeks in South America and speculation that China will increase purchases next week. Sugar saw incline in its price as the largest producer Brazil showed a decline in its sugar production.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	172.5	175.725	1.87%
Coffee	354.64	335.52	-5.39%
Corn	18.86	19.31	2.39%
Cotton	154.62	149.26	-3.47%
Soybean Oil	84.04	80.91	-3.72%
Soybean	33.13	35.98	8.60%
Sugar	39.26	42.82	9.07%
Wheat	18.37	18.33	-0.22%

The figures above are the percentage change in the prices of corresponding commodity over the corresponding month. % change is calculated as $((\text{Close}-\text{Open})/\text{Open} \times 100)$

March 2012

Precious Metals

Already stumped down by lowered expectations of global liquidity, after disappointing Chinese trade data, gold came under strong selling pressure after the FOMC announcement. The US bank stress test also enhanced the US Dollar which consequently diminished the demand for precious metals.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	40873.6	40039.74	-2.04%
Silver	835.32	778.32	-6.82%
Platinum	40468.72	39564.97	-2.23%
Palladium	16911.6	15759.6	-6.81%

Base Metal

A poor set of Chinese and European economic data have seen the base metals come under further selling pressure this week. A weak euro and renewed concerns over Spain's sovereign debt situation have also helped weigh on base metal prices.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	638.64	632.64	-0.94%

Energy

The price of Brent crude declined as there was some disappointing data in form of US durable goods order. China's downgrade of its economic growth also affected the oil price which pulled prices down. The decline in heating oil was due to a weak global market sentiment created by the news regarding the hard landing of Chinese economy which saw 5th consecutive month of decreased PMI.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	9202.5	9222.75	0.22%
Crude Oil	8010.75	7729.5	-3.51%
Heating Oil	63.64	62.92	-1.13%
Natural Gas	193.95	158.925	-18.06%

Agro

Corn futures showed a decline in its price as US government reported an increase in its production which is expected to double the reserves before the start of the harvest in 2013. Wheat showed a decline in its price after the USDA forecasted a larger domestic crop and rising world supplies boosting stockpiles.. Coffee showed a decrease in its price as there was increase in the production of coffee in Brazil as expected. Later on, the price started edging up due to increase in export by 40.3% from Vietnam.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	175.125	166.5	-4.93%
Coffee	335.28	301.36	-10.12%
Corn	19.34	18.98	-1.86%
Cotton	149.96	153.96	2.67%
Soybean Oil	89.94	90.7	0.85%
Soybean	36.25	38.64	6.59%
Sugar	41.32	40.82	-1.21%
Wheat	18.36	18.14	-1.20%

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April 2012

Precious Metals

The better-than expected Unemployment Claims report, which declined from 364000 to 359000 declined the prices of precious metals. Other US and international indicators including the rise in the ISM Manufacturing PMI from 52.4 to 53.4 strengthened the US Dollar thereby weakening the demand for the alternative investments.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	40300.2	40157.83	-0.35%
Silver	781.8	745.44	-4.65%
Platinum	39651.73	37812.9	-4.64%
Palladium	15709.2	16460.4	4.78%

Base Metal

Worse-than-expected US Durable Goods Orders weighed on base metals prices, while further doom and gloom from the UK and Europe this week had seen the base metals come under further heavy selling pressure amid a weaker euro and struggling equity markets.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	636.24	633.68	-0.40%

Energy

News regarding the increase in the output of crude oil by Saudi Arabia also dragged the oil price lower. Decline in the price of Brent crude was due to the fact that the Spanish bad debt rose to the highest level since October 1994 striking fear amongst investors to remain away from the Brent crude market.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	9252	8940.75	-3.36%
Crude Oil	7746.75	7863	1.50%
Heating Oil	62.83	63.08	0.40%
Natural Gas	159.3	173.475	8.90%

Agro

Wheat futures showed a declining trend on speculation that supplies will be ample as exports from U.S. increased due to increase in its production. Corn fell to a 3 1/2 month low as traders liquidated positions aggressively ahead of USDA reports. U.S. soybean futures fell last week, as market participants took profits amid dampened optimism that a month-long rally can further extend its course.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	166.725	165.675	-0.63%
Coffee	301.04	296.48	-1.51%
Corn	19.16	19.46	1.57%
Cotton	153.98	147.74	-4.05%
Soybean Oil	91.18	90.5	-0.75%
Soybean	38.76	41.39	6.79%
Sugar	40.78	35.06	-14.03%
Wheat	18.28	17.8	-2.63%

May 2012

Precious Metals

The decline in the USA's Unemployment Rate report, from 8.2% to 8.1%, weakened the demand for gold and other precious metals. Precious metals continued to receive a beating over the month end, weighed down by the dollar strength and negative sentiment.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	40174.7	37641.79	-6.30%
Silver	747	666.96	-10.71%
Platinum	37798.44	34128.01	-9.71%
Palladium	16344	14724	-9.91%

Base Metal

With the euro under pressure, and a physical market that remains lackluster, base metals remained under pressure over the week. With equity markets under pressure in Asia, base metals found it difficult to sustain a rally.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	634.48	555.28	-12.48%

Energy

The bearish movement in the price of Brent crude was mainly due to negative economic report from euro zone. Likewise, decline in manufacturing activity in the eurozone as well as increase in unemployment in countries like Germany and France also pressured Brent prices. Iran agreed to allow western nuclear inspectors into the country which reduced the supply risk in the oil market. At the same time, worries over Greece exiting the eurozone also pressurized the oil market to decline.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8955.75	7634.25	-14.76%
Crude Oil	7866	6488.25	-17.52%
Heating Oil	62.93	53.65	-14.75%
Natural Gas	173.1	181.05	4.59%

Agro

Lack of positive fundamentals prevented cotton from going any higher. The recent announcement by India to lift cotton export ban however saw cotton futures free fall. The pressure in sugar prices was mostly a result of ample supplies which outpaced demand by 6 million metric tons, according to the International Sugar Organization.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	165.525	155.775	-5.89%
Coffee	296.56	265.44	-10.49%
Corn	18.64	16.44	-11.80%
Cotton	147.82	118.26	-20.00%
Soybean Oil	91.16	81.24	-10.88%
Soybean	41.44	36.91	-10.93%
Sugar	34.74	32.16	-7.43%
Wheat	18.01	17.74	-1.50%

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June 2012

Precious Metals

Precious metals continued to enjoy the respite given by the disappointing US non-farm payroll numbers. Gold managed to tread higher, as Euro zone fears (further encouraged by Fitch's downgrade of 18 Spanish banks) saw a renewed appetite for the metal from a safe-haven point of view.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	37651.43	38545.64	2.37%
Silver	666.84	662.52	-0.65%
Platinum	34048.48	34778.71	2.14%
Palladium	14709.6	14038	-4.57%

Base Metal

A bounce in the euro, combined with grounds for optimistic Chinese PMI, has helped the base metals complex to stabilize during the end of the month.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	555.04	578.48	4.22%

Energy

The bearish trend in the price of black gold was mainly due to worries over Spain and China. Spain is going deeper into the recession as the bond yields rose to the highest level since November last year, nearer to 7 percent. Similarly, the retail sales in the world largest economy decline for the second consecutive months in May which again supported the bearish trend in the oil market. The oil market suffered another round of sell-off in the initial phase as US oil inventory grew more than expected and the Fed failed to deliver another round of quantitative easing.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	7626	7319.25	-4.02%
Crude Oil	6483.75	6364.5	-1.84%
Heating Oil	53.62	53.28	-0.63%
Natural Gas	180.675	211.725	17.19%

Agro

The European turmoil which shows no signs of being resolved remained the prime culprit for the lackluster performance in cotton. Weather concerns in key production areas like India as well as speculation that the USDA may lower its 2012/13 wheat production forecast next month pushed the market higher for agro commodities. Sugar futures initially rose on sighs that rains will hamper crops in Brazil, the world's top producer of sugar.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	155.325	172.425	11.01%
Coffee	265.36	282.4	6.42%
Corn	16.53	19.87	20.21%
Cotton	118.76	116.34	-2.04%
Soybean Oil	81.6	85.72	5.05%
Soybean	37.04	41.65	12.45%
Sugar	32.18	36.12	12.24%
Wheat	17.8	20.27	13.88%

July 2012

Precious Metals

The news, to allow European Financial Stability Funds, had cheered markets, with buying across assets, and precious metals are also benefitting from the renewed strength in the euro. Precious metals received renewed buying interest off the back of a surprise downturn in US ISM manufacturing which has reignited hopes of further Fed monetary accommodation. Chinese stimulus response (owing to the weak Chinese data flow) had seen precious metals respond in a positive manner.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	38547.95	38940.78	1.02%
Silver	661.44	673.44	1.81%
Platinum	35024.53	34125.6	-2.57%
Palladium	14076	14202	0.90%

Base Metal

Speculation regarding further Chinese easing has perhaps also deterred participants from selling too aggressively, though overall, the euro and the evolution of the Euro zone crisis still remain in charge of price direction.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	577.84	564.8	-2.26%

Energy

The incline in the price of Brent crude was due to cut down in the interest rate by the major economies around the globe i.e. China and European Union which are struggling with weaker economic performance. US federal chairman's testimony, who showed his readiness to act if required for the economy forced energy prices to rally.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	7299	7855.5	7.62%
Crude Oil	6353.25	6606	3.98%
Heating Oil	53.69	56.32	4.90%
Natural Gas	209.4	241.95	15.54%

Agro

The positive sentiments of cotton were mainly due to anticipation of a weak result for the USDA's annual acreage estimate. The main catalyst for wheat prices this review period seemed to be the weather concerns in the US and Latin America. Coffee prices hit a two-month high amid concerns regarding the impact of unseasonably wet weather.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	171.075	177.6	3.81%
Coffee	282.56	288.8	2.21%
Corn	18.98	23.81	25.45%
Cotton	117.64	118.06	0.36%
Soybean Oil	87.26	87.28	0.02%
Soybean	41.14	47.52	15.51%
Sugar	34.86	37.44	7.40%
Wheat	21.08	24.54	16.41%

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August 2012

Precious Metals

The Fed's August minutes were dovish, indicating further monetary easing highly likely. As the minutes indicated that many members believed that more monetary easing measures should be implemented soon unless upcoming economic data showed "a substantial and sustainable strengthening" in economic recovery, which eventually rallied precious metals.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	38707.01	40779.61	5.35%
Silver	669.6	758.4	13.26%
Platinum	33826.76	37089.9	9.65%
Palladium	13897.2	15111.6	8.74%

Base Metal

The euro strength had come in spite of generally disappointing European economic data including weaker than expected German Factory Orders, and the fact that the data probably leans towards further easing from the ECB. The biggest Chinese reverse repo action seen to date helped the base metal to rally.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	564.48	570.16	1.01%

Energy

The increase in the price of Brent crude was due to the possibility of major steps to be taken by US and European central bank on their upcoming meetings. The bullish trend in the price of black gold was due to speculation regarding the European Central Bank's possible action to curb the ongoing debt crisis.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	7824	8610.75	10.06%
Crude Oil	6600	7231.5	9.57%
Heating Oil	56.26	62.75	11.54%
Natural Gas	241.35	210.075	-12.96%

Agro

The continuing unfavorable weather conditions across most of the sugar producing countries had lifted the prices up. With the possibility of improved output from Brazil owing mainly to improved harvest conditions, coffee prices declined. Wheat futures edged lower, pressured mainly by the improved weather conditions in the American Midwest.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	178.2	195.75	9.85%
Coffee	288.56	271.76	-5.82%
Corn	23.82	23.65	-0.71%
Cotton	117.9	127.52	8.16%
Soybean Oil	87.22	93.8	7.54%
Soybean	45.66	48.56	6.35%
Sugar	37.34	32.68	-12.48%
Wheat	24.51	23.99	-2.12%

The figures above are the percentage change in the prices of corresponding commodity over the corresponding month. % change is calculated as ((Close-Open)/Open*100)

September 2012

Precious Metals

In the month of September, as soon as the announcement came through from the Fed regarding execution of quantitative easing, precious metals, and indeed most other markets, rallied. The increase in the prices of the yellow metal and silver was due to increase of stimulus by Bank of Japan. BOJ had again come up with a stimulus package worth 10 trillion Yen to boost growth which pushed gold prices to reach the weekly highs.

	Open	Close	% Change
Gold	40174.7	37641.79	-6.30%
Silver	747	666.96	-10.71%
Platinum	37798.44	34128.01	-9.71%
Palladium	16344	14724	-9.91%

Base Metal

The rally in prices of base metal was due to then ongoing port strike at Antofagasta (port not the eponymous company), or in anticipation of stronger demand in China as we head into Q4. Base metals continued to find support from indications of (1) renewed fiscal stimulus aid from China and (2) further monetary stimulus from the US Fed.

	Open	Close	% Change
Copper	634.48	555.28	-12.48%

Energy

The fall in price of crude and Brent Crude for the month was attributed towards the deepening economic slowdown in one of the world's biggest energy consumer, China. The decline in energy prices was as a result of Europe's debt crisis which has continued to affect the demand growth from the region.

	Open	Close	% Change
Brent Crude	8955.75	7634.25	-14.76%
Crude Oil	7866	6488.25	-17.52%
Heating Oil	62.93	53.65	-14.75%
Natural Gas	173.1	181.05	4.59%

Agro

Doubts over Spain's willingness to seek international aid also refocused investor's attention on the euro zone debt crisis, hurting the entire commodity complex. Cotton futures were mainly pressured by news that the Northern Hemisphere was getting ready for harvest, a sign that there would be ample supply of cotton in the near future.

	Open	Close	% Change
Cocoa	165.525	155.775	-5.89%
Coffee	296.56	265.44	-10.49%
Corn	18.64	16.44	-11.80%
Cotton	147.82	118.26	-20.00%
Soybean Oil	91.16	81.24	-10.88%
Soybean	41.44	36.91	-10.93%
Sugar	34.74	32.16	-7.43%
Wheat	18.01	17.74	-1.50%

The figures above are the percentage change in the prices of corresponding commodity over the corresponding month. % change is calculated as ((Close-Open)/Open*100)

