

PNA Purse Seine Monthly Update

May 2023

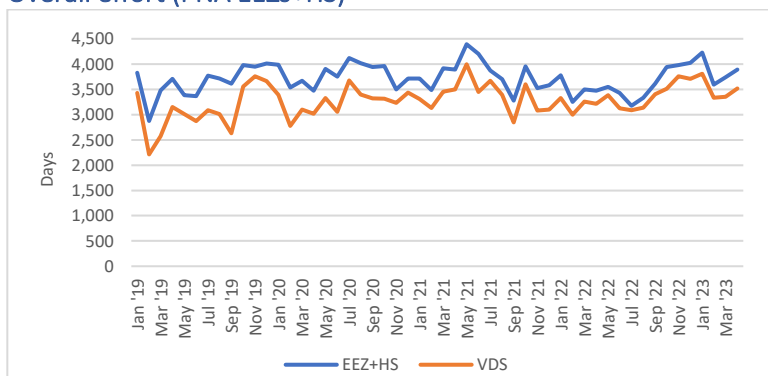


Key trends:

- Preliminary figures indicate that overall purse seine fishing effort moderately rose in April as did fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day). Note that April figures may be adjusted as NFDs are processed.
- Total purse seine catch (EEZs+HS) rose in April, 7% on the March catch. Catch and effort saw major shifts towards the east and contraction in the west with PG and FM combined accounting for 46% as against 67% in March.
- Based on preliminary figures, fishing conditions steadied in April with overall catch rate only a marginal 1% up on March, noting that overall catch rate has been on a downtrend since Nov '22. Highest catch rates were in MH, PG and HS in that order but there was a mix of performances across all zones compared to March performances.
- Reported transshipment volumes was down 6% in April with reported volumes highest in FM and PG but these were down on March as transhipped volumes in MH and KI increased. Note that transshipment volumes are not available for all vessels.
- Bangkok SKJ prices averaged \$2,000/mt in April, marginally up on March price but the highest in recent years, according to Thai Union figures. In contrast the Singapore MGO price reduced marginally to an average \$737/mt in April. The differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO price has further widened.
- ENSO conditions receded to ENSO-neutral conditions over the first 4 months of the year and El Nino conditions are forecast with 90% chance in the May-July period onwards.

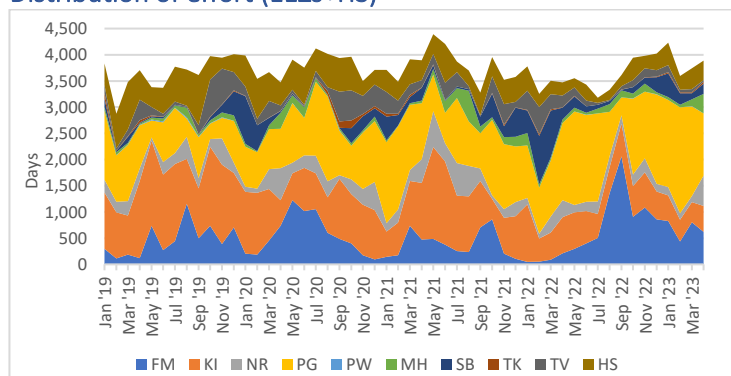
Fishing effort

Overall effort (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall fishing effort (EEZ+HS) rose in Apr, up 4% on Mar (3,890 vs 3,741) that continues the increase in Mar of 4% and 12% higher than in Apr '22. Fishing intensity (fishing days/calendar day) rose in Apr (7%), as intensity in EEZs (+9%) outweighed the marginal decline in HS (-2%). VDS usage at 3,517 days was 5% higher than in Mar and 9% above the Apr '22 period. The first 4 months VDS usage at 14,020 was 10% higher compared to the same period last year.

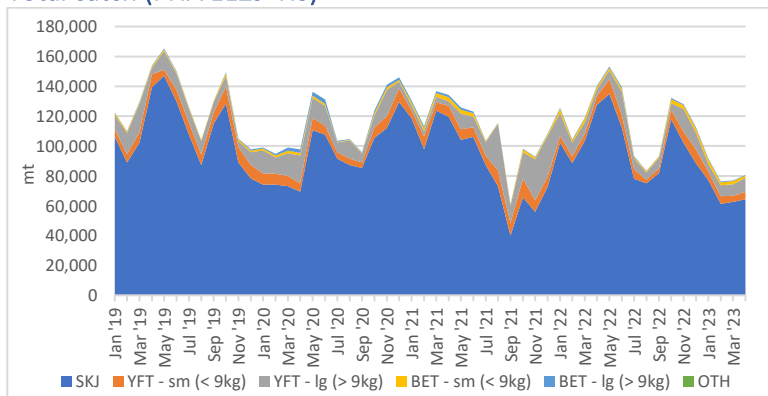
Distribution of effort (EEZs+HS)



- Effort concentration saw a major shift towards the central/eastern PNA EEZs especially to NR (~ 5-fold increase), MH (~ 3-fold), and TK (~3-fold). KI and SB also increased (29% and 63% respectively). Efforts in TV and HS decreased (-59% and -5% respectively). The western-most EEZs FM and PG declined (-23% and -31% respectively). PG nonetheless still accounted for greatest effort share at 31% in Apr.

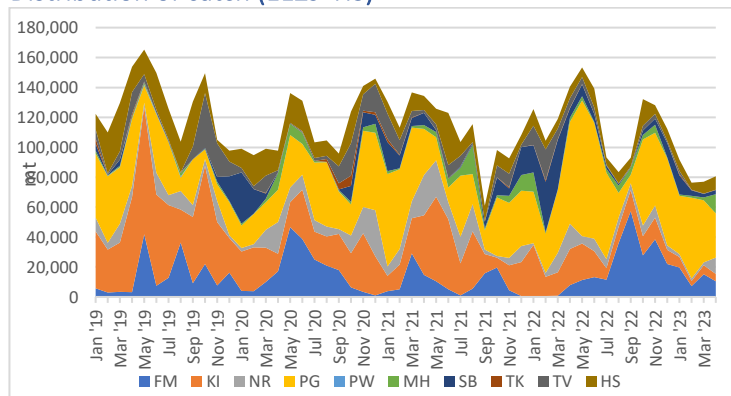
Catch

Total catch (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Total catch (EEZ+HS) increased by 5% in Apr (80,652t) compared to Mar when catch only marginally rose 1%. The overall increase came from increases in SKJ (3%) and YFT (21%) as BET decreased (-25%).

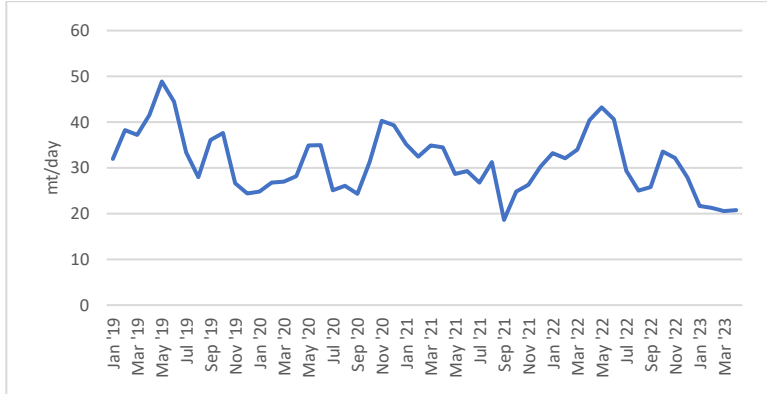
Distribution of catch (EEZs+HS)



- Notable catch increases were in NR, MH and TK (6-fold across). Catches in SB and HS also increased. Catches declined in TV, FM and PG. Nonetheless, PG continued to account for the greatest proportion (37%).

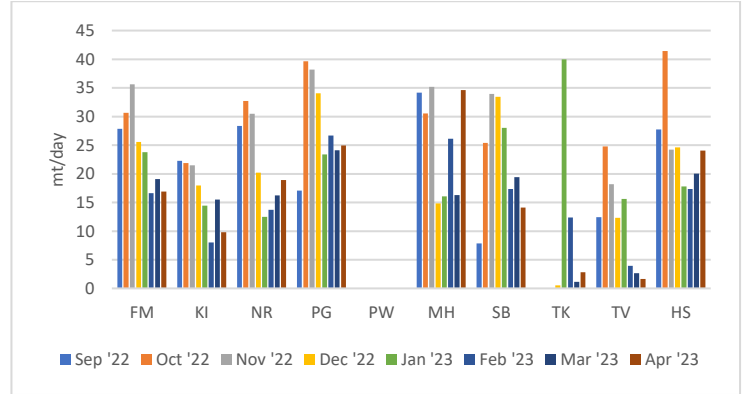
Catch rates

Overall (PNA EEZs+HS)



- Overall catch rate in Apr was almost the same as in Mar (20.7t vs 20.6t) but considerably lower by 49% against the Apr '22 (40.4t) and similarly against the 2019-2022 average (32.1t). Catch rates are adjusted as NFDs are processed and additional e-reporting received.

Catch rate by zone (EEZs+HS)



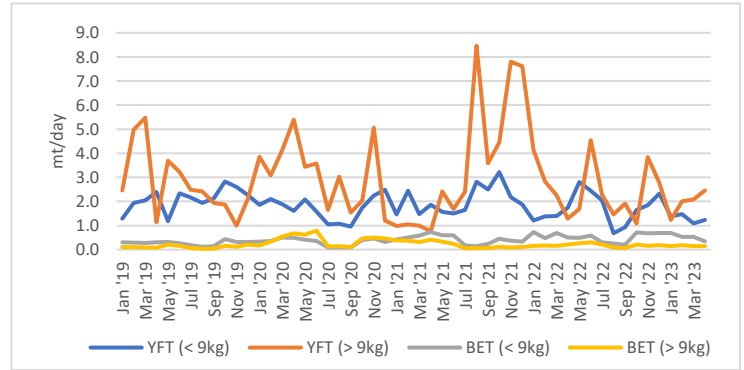
- The catch rate in Apr was highest in MH at 35t (more than doubled on Mar). Catch rates improved in PG to 25t (+3%), HS 24t (+20%) and NR 19t (+17%). Catch rates deteriorated in FM, KI, SB, TK and TV.

Skipjack



- SKJ catch rate broadly maintained at 16.5t/day (-1%) in Apr. SKJ catch rate has declined successively since Nov '22. The stability in SKJ catch rate for the month reflected in overall catch rate given the significance of SKJ in total catch (80%). The Apr SKJ catch rate is among the lowest in the last two years.

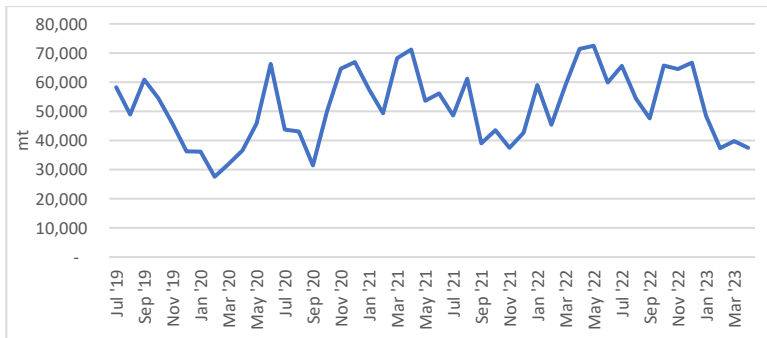
Other species



- Catch rates for small and large YFT improved during Apr with catch rates at 1.2t (+14%) and 2.5t (+18%) respectively. Catch rates for small and large BET declined to 0.3t (-34%) and 0.1t (-3%) respectively.

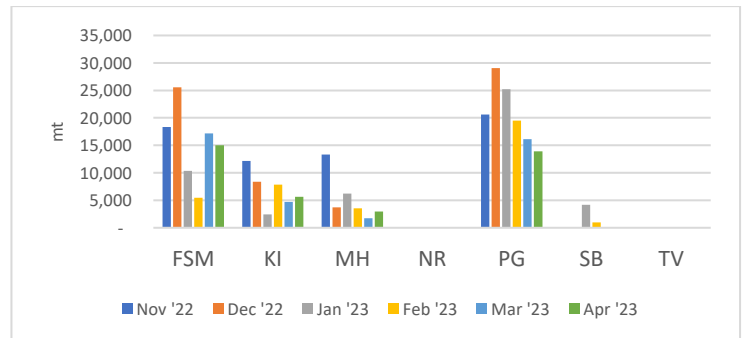
Reported Transshipment

Volume



- Reported transshipment volumes in PNA ports in Apr was 6% lower than in Mar (37,458t vs 39,760t). Note that transshipment volumes for some vessels are not available, so the figures reported here represent a sub-set of overall volumes.

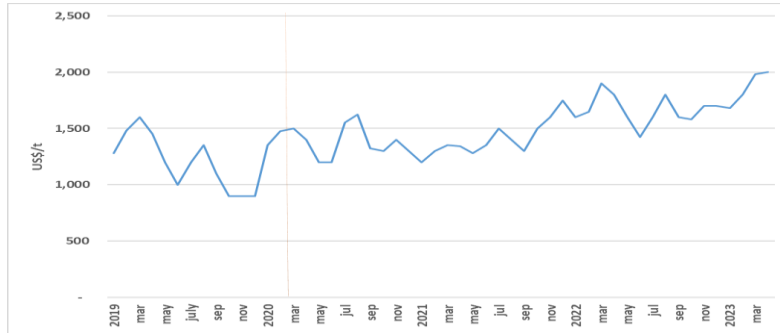
Location



- Reported transshipment remained concentrated in the west in Apr, as in recent months, with highest volumes in FM (40% of total) and PG (37%). Nonetheless, transshipment in these ports were lower (13% and 14% respectively) as transshipment in KI and MH increased (20% and 67% respectively).

Prices

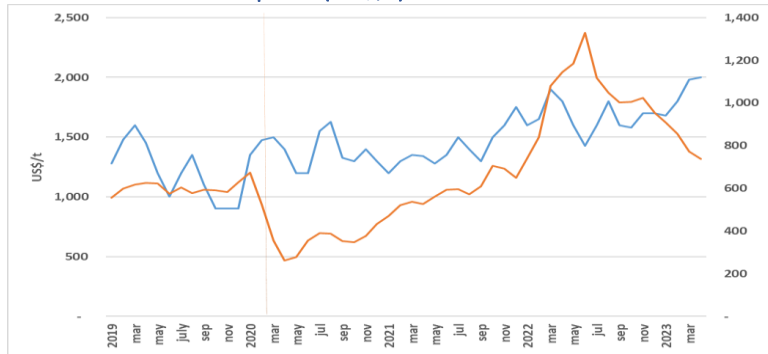
SKJ Price



https://investor.thaiunion.com/raw_material.html

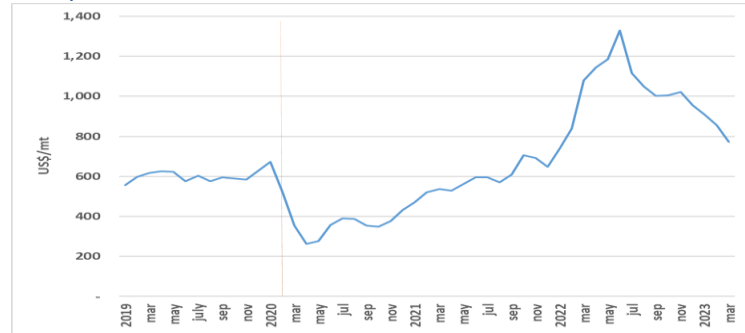
- Bangkok SKJ prices as reported by Thai Union rose to a high of \$2,000/mt in Apr, which is marginally (1%) above the Mar price but 11% higher than Apr '22 price of \$1,800 and higher by 18% than the preceding 12-month average of \$1,689. Supply issue is reportedly the cause as WCPO catch remained poor.

BKK SKJ Price vs Fuel price (US\$/t)



- In Apr, the Singapore MGO price line and SKJ price diverged further as fuel price fell and BKK SKJ price rose relative to Mar prices. Although the fish price/fuel price divergence in this instance is of potential benefit to fleets, the relatively poor catch rates continue to dampen the potential gains.

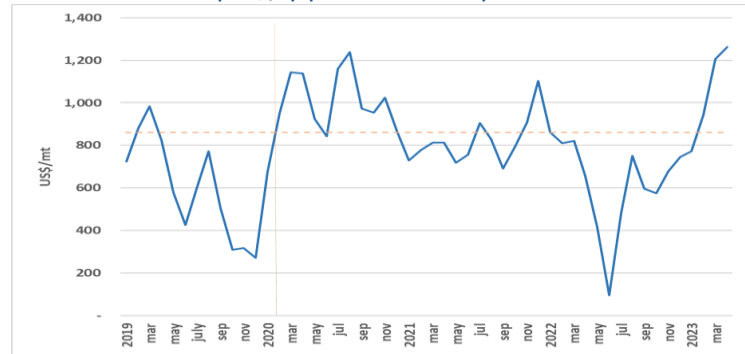
Fuel price



<https://shipandbunker.com/prices/apac/sea/sg-sin-singapore#MGO>

- Singapore MGO price declined further in Apr to \$736/mt from US\$773/mt in Mar. The downtrend has continued into May with average price at US\$706/mt as at 19th as crude oil continue to downtrend since its peak in mid-2022, reportedly pressured by recessionary concerns.

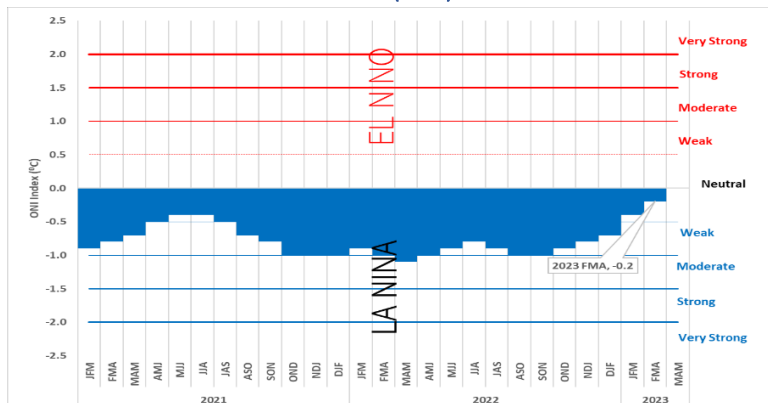
Price differential (US\$/t) (BKK SKJ – Fuel)



- The differential between BKK SKJ price and Singapore MGO increased in Apr to US\$1,264, up from US\$1,207 in Mar and rose further above the 10-year average of \$862.

ENSO Data

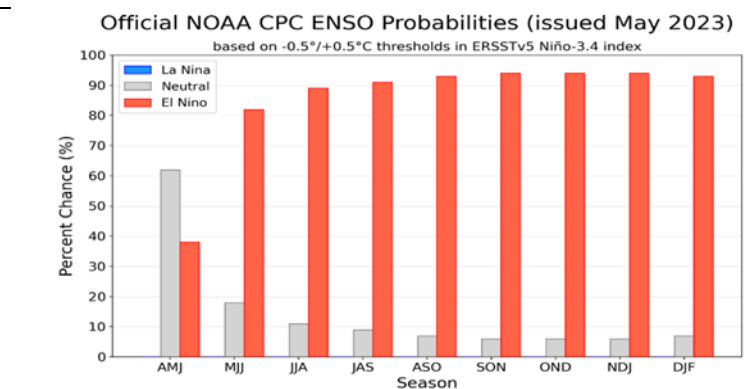
NOAA ENSO Oceanic Nino Index (ONI)



https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

- The La Nina conditions that prevailed since around mid-2020 weakened as of Dec '22 and conditions have moved to ENSO-neutral over the Jan-Apr '23 months. The 3-month mean ONI for the Jan-Mar '23 period showed a departure from average SST of -0.4°C and the Feb-Apr '23 ONI a departure of -0.2°C (which are > the -0.5°C La Nina threshold).

NOAA ENSO ONI Probabilities

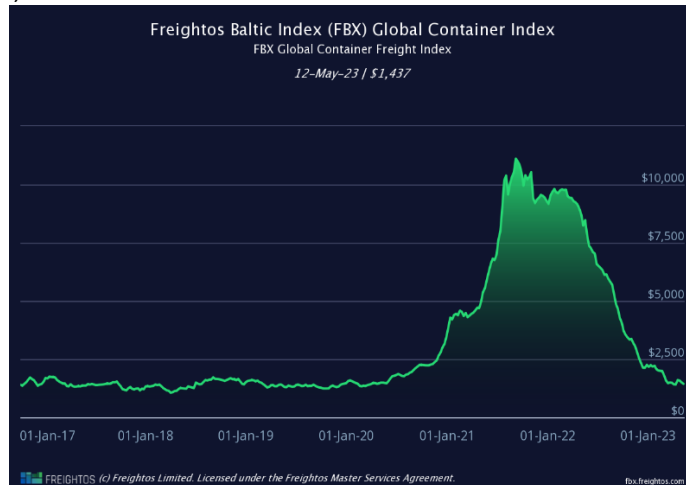


https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/lanina/enso_evolution-status-fcsts-web.pdf

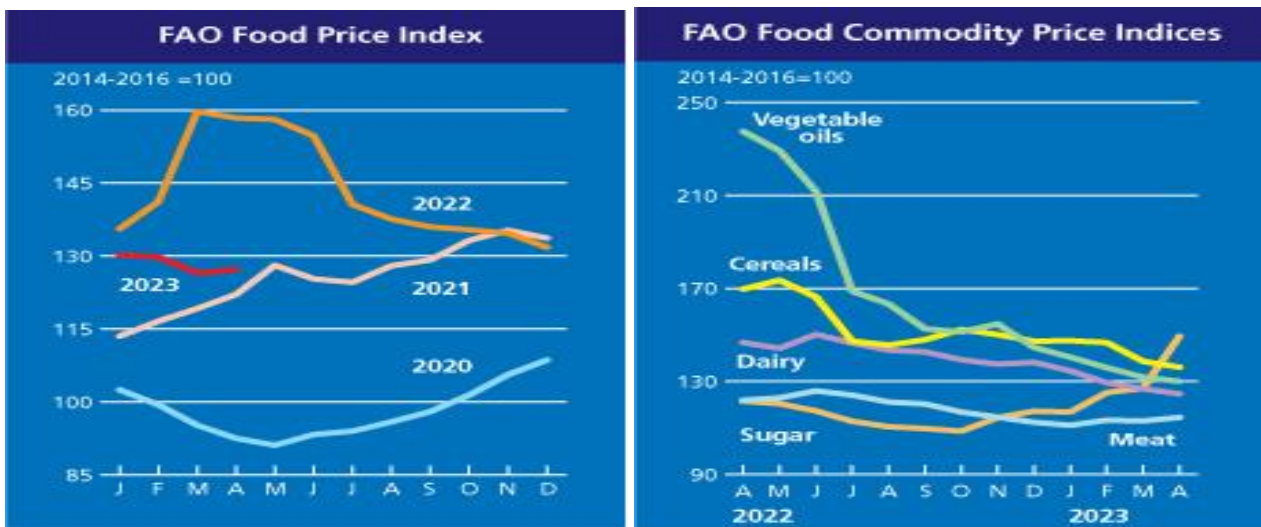
- A transition from ENSO-neutral to El Niño is projected during May-July 2023, with chances of El Niño increasing to greater than 90%. With the forecast of El Niño, the PS catch/effort distribution is expected to expand further to the east and correspondingly contract further in western areas as the La Niña conditions have dissipated.

Other issues:

- The FBX global container freight index for a 40ft container trended up 5% to \$1,556 at end Apr from \$1,481 at end March. As at 15th May it was down again to \$1,446.¹



- The FAO Food Price Index, following 12 successive monthly declines from the peak in March '22 to Mar '23, rebounded in April '23, albeit by a slight 0.6%. The April Index is 19.7% lower compared to the index in April '22. The rebound in the April '23 index was driven largely by the significant increase in the sugar index along with the increase in meat index. Cereals, dairy and vegetable oil price indices continued their drops.²



Notes:

- Data on catch, effort, catch rates and transshipment is based on electronic reporting through iFIMS as at 16th April, 2023. Updates to previous monthly catch and effort data were made and some data therefore may have changed due to more information having been added over time. Figures for April 2023 should be considered preliminary.
- The EEZs+HS effort figures in the fishing effort graph do not include a VDS vessel size adjustment factor. The actual VDS usage figures are adjusted for vessel size. HS days may include some non-fishing time. HS effort figures are those for the eastern high seas and HSPs 4 and 5.
- The Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) measures sea surface temperature (SST) departures from average with thresholds of +/- 0.5°C and El Nino is characterised by a positive ONI >= +0.5°C and La Nina by a negative ONI <= -0.5°C. A full-fledged El Niño or La Niña episode must exceed these thresholds for a period of at least 5 consecutive overlapping 3-month seasons (NOAA).

¹ <https://fbx.freightos.com/>

² <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>