# Article information:

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food prices: Evidence from storable and perishable commodities in India - PMC
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8893685/>

# Article summary:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to changes in food prices globally, with impacts on both supply and demand sides of food markets.

2. In India, during the pandemic, the price of basic food items such as wheat flour and rice increased significantly compared to the pre-pandemic period, while the price of onions declined significantly.

3. The study suggests that panic-buying, hoarding, and storability of food items may have influenced these price changes, and that families may have shifted their demand away from essential foods during the pandemic.

# Article rating:

May be slightly imbalanced: The article presents the information in a generally reliable way, but there are minor points of consideration that could be explored further or claims that are not fully backed by appropriate evidence. Some perspectives may also be omitted, and you are encouraged to use the research topics section to explore the topic further.

# Article analysis:

The article "Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food prices: Evidence from storable and perishable commodities in India" provides an analysis of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food prices in India. The study uses household-level data collected through phone surveys by the World Bank to assess the impact of COVID-19 on retail prices of three essential food items: wheat flour, rice, and onions.

The article highlights that during the COVID-19 induced lockdown in India, prices of rice and wheat increased significantly, while onion prices decreased. The authors suggest that panic-buying, hoarding, and storability of food items may have influenced these price changes. Additionally, they argue that weak market infrastructure and ineffective antitrust laws in India could be contributing factors to the increase in prices of essential food items.

While the study provides valuable insights into the impact of COVID-19 on food prices in India, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider. Firstly, the study only focuses on three essential food items consumed by Indian households. Therefore, it may not provide a comprehensive picture of how COVID-19 has affected other food commodities or sectors in India.

Secondly, while the authors suggest that weak market infrastructure and ineffective antitrust laws could be contributing factors to price increases for essential food items in India, they do not provide sufficient evidence to support this claim. It would be helpful if future studies could explore this issue further.

Thirdly, while the study suggests that panic-buying and hoarding may have influenced price changes for storable commodities like rice and wheat flour during COVID-19 lockdowns in India, it does not explore why onion prices decreased during this period. Further research is needed to understand this phenomenon better.

Finally, while the article notes that domestic surplus of essential commodities might not be enough to stabilize domestic prices during a disruption like COVID-19 pandemic, it does not provide any recommendations or policy suggestions for addressing this issue.

In conclusion, while "Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on food prices: Evidence from storable and perishable commodities in India" provides valuable insights into how COVID-19 has affected food prices in India, there are some potential biases and limitations to consider. Future studies should explore these issues further to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how pandemics affect global food systems.

# Topics for further research:

* Impact of COVID-19 on food prices in other sectors in India
* Market infrastructure and antitrust laws in India and their impact on food prices
* Reasons for the decrease in onion prices during COVID-19 lockdowns in India
* Strategies for stabilizing domestic food prices during disruptions like pandemics
* Impact of COVID-19 on food prices in other countries
* Long-term effects of COVID-19 on global food systems

# Report location:

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