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Special Issue of the Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics: Global dynamics, food markets and the determinants of Canadian food price inflation

Momentous global events have taken place during the last four years and their consequences continue to ripple through the global economy. As these effects interact with local policies, business practices, and the structure of the retail industry in Canada, debates around the causes and consequences of food price inflation intensify. The interplay of global dynamics with Canada's local food demand, production, distribution, and retail competition is not well understood. We need to deepen our understanding of how these factors contribute to food inflation and its impacts on Canadians. It is important to clarify how food inflation has been influenced by government and corporate policies such as minimum wage hikes, carbon taxes, the Emergency Response Benefit, and pandemic-related measures like lockdowns and travel/transportation restrictions, international trade policies, among others. Weather shocks and the transmission of international prices to local markets are elements likely to impact food price inflation, but their role remains to be fully understood. It is also critical to learn about experiences in other countries, particularly in Canada's trading partners, as Canadians import much of the fresh food they eat. Finally, our special issue aims to explore methodological and theoretical advances that may help us better understand the mechanisms that underlie food price inflation and its impact on consumer welfare.

Call for Submissions.

We are looking for papers that address topics relevant to our understanding of food price inflation, its causes, and its impact on Canadian households. We will consider research on markets, policies, and data from outside Canada, but are seeking research with results that can inform the Canadian experience and policy debates. Theoretical and empirical papers providing insights into the multifaceted nature of this subject are welcome.

A non-exhaustive list of possible topics include:

1. **Supply Chain Shocks and Pricing Dynamics**
 - Interactions between supply chain disruptions due to exogenous factors and retail prices.
 - How do Canadian households form their inflationary expectations?
 - Cost pass-through, imperfect competition and the structure of demand.
 - The dynamics of online versus physical store pricing.
2. **Markets for Food in Canada**
 - The relation between food purchases in stores and away from home.
 - Market concentration and retail pricing.
 - Vertical relationships between food suppliers and retailers.
3. **The Impact of Policies on Food Prices**
 - The link between adjustments in wages and changes in food prices.
 - Carbon taxes, Climate Action Incentive and their effects on food expenditures.

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CJAE website/site web du RCA : <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17447976>

CAES website/site-web de la SCAÉ : <https://caes-scae.ca>

- Inflationary consequences of pandemic-related restrictions.
- 4. **Transmission of International Prices to Local Markets**
 - How do shocks to local food prices in other countries affect Canadian inflation?
 - The transmission of international food prices to local Canadian markets.
 - The effects of trade policies and agreements.
- 5. **Climate and Socio-Economic Aspects**
 - The impact of food inflation on nutrition and economic welfare across the income spectrum and in different regions including northern communities.
 - The influence of climatic changes and weather shocks on local food inflation in Canada and its trading partners.

The special issue will be edited by Jill Hobbs (University of Saskatchewan), José Nuño-Ledesma (University of Guelph), and Timothy Richards (Arizona State University), through the usual CJAE manuscript-review process. The review process will include at least two reviewers per paper. In total, we expect to select between 7 to 10 papers for the special issue.

Calendar proposal

- December 8th, 2023: publication of the call on the CJAE website as well as in the CAES network, the AAFA and EAFA websites, on other websites of affiliated associations of agricultural economists' websites, and on social media. The publishing company Wiley will circulate the call through its networks.
- March 1st, 2024: Proposal due. The proposal should be 250 words long, identify authors, research topic, data sources, methods and expected findings. Ideally, the proposal should indicate the progress made so far. Proposals should be submitted to José G. Nuño-Ledesma (Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph) via email (jnuno@uoguelph.ca).
- April 1st: Authors will be notified of preliminary acceptance April 1st or before.
- August 1st, 2024: Submission deadline. Authors will submit the paper through the Journal's submission platform and indicate that their submission is for a special issue. Papers will enter a normal review process, so rejection remains a possibility for abstracts that were preliminarily accepted.
- November 1st, 2024, first round of reviews due
- February 1st, 2025, revised paper due.
- April 1st, 2024, second round of reviews due.
- June 1st, 2025, final paper due.