UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT
AND ARBEITERKAMMER WIEN

PRICE FORMATION IN FINANCIALIZED COMMODITY MARKETS

The role of information

EMBARGO
The contents of this Publication
must not be quoted
summarized in the print, broadcast
or electronic media before
5 June 2011, 17:00 hours GMT

UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS
UNCTAD

AK WIEN

PRICE FORMATION IN FINANCIALIZED COMMODITY MARKETS: THE ROLE OF INFORMATION

Study prepared by the secretariat of the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNITED NATIONS
New York and Geneva, June 2011

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

*

*   *

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

*

*   *

Material in this publication may be freely quoted or reprinted, but acknowledgement is requested, together with a reference to the document number. A copy of the publication containing the quotation or reprint should be sent to the Publications Assistant, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10.

UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATION

UNCTAD/GDS/2011/1

Table of contents

Page

List of tables

List of figures

Abbreviations

CBOT	Chicago Board of Trade
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
CIT	commodity index traders
COT	commitments of traders
CPB	Central Planning Bureau Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis
DCOT	disaggregated commitments of traders
DJ-UBSCI	Dow-Jones-Union Bank of Switzerland Commodity Index
ECB	European Central Bank
EIA	Energy Information Agency
EMH	efficient market hypothesis
ETF	exchange-traded fund
ETN	exchange-traded note
ETP	exchange-traded product
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HFT	high-frequency trading
ICE	Intercontinental Exchange
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOSCO	International Organization of Securities Commissions
ISO	International Sugar Organization
JODI	Joint Organisations Data Initiative
LIFFE	London International Financial Futures Exchange
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OTC	over the counter
PMPU	producers, merchants, processors, users
S&P GSCI	Standard & Poor's Goldman Sachs Commodity Index
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WTI	West Texas Intermediate

Acknowledgements

This study was prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat for Arbeiterkammer Wien (Austria). It was prepared by a research team consisting of Heiner Flassbeck (team leader), Director, Division on Globalization and Development Strategies, David Bicchetti, Jörg Mayer and Katja Rietzler (independent consultant). Pilar Fajarnes and Nicolas Maystre provided specific inputs. Makameh Bahrami helped with the data. The study was edited by Praveen Bhalla.

The financial support of Arbeiterkammer Wien is gratefully acknowledged.