

## Global Food Security Index Overview

The *Global Food Security Index* (GFSI), developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit, considers the core issues of food affordability, availability, access and quality across a set of 105 countries. The index is a dynamic quantitative and qualitative scoring model, constructed from over 25 indicators, that measures these drivers of food security across both developed and developing countries. While food security research is the focus of many organisations worldwide, this effort is distinct for two main reasons. First, the study looks beyond hunger to the underlying factors affecting food insecurity. Second, the study will employ an adjustment factor for global food price fluctuations to examine the risk countries face throughout the course of the year.

For the purpose of this index, food security is defined as the state in which people at all times have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for a healthy and active life. The overall goal of the study is to understand which countries are most and least vulnerable to food insecurity through an examination of the three internationally recognized areas of assessment: Affordability, Availability, and Utilisation; the latter defined for the purposes of this study as Food Quality and Food Safety.

The GFSI is presented in an interactive benchmarking model format and includes:

- An assessment of food security based on the three broad category scores derived from a set of qualitative and quantitative sub-category indicators. These indicators will explore the drivers of food security in the 105 countries
- A food commodities price adjustment factor that will be applied to the model on a monthly basis (quarterly reporting) to capture the impact of changing food prices on each country's food security risk level
- An interactive heat map that presents overall scores
- Adjustable weightings to allow for scenario planning
- A list of country ranks by indicators
- The ability to compare multiple countries simultaneously
- A country details page with more information about country scores. The study website also includes key economic, risk and demographic data

To increase the scope, relevance and depth of the study, a peer panel meeting was held in Washington, DC in February 2012. This discussion panel forum brought together a group of senior-level specialists in various aspects of food security. The panel featured representatives from academia, government, non-profit and private sectors, and their comments and insights have been incorporated into the design and development of the research and the resulting analysis presented in the index.

The index was completed in June 2012, and will be launched on July 10, 2012 in Brussels, Washington DC, São Paulo and Johannesburg. A website containing the results of the research programme will be available on that date and can be found at: <http://foodsecurityindex.eiu.com>