

---

[Download](#)

[Other Working Papers](#)

Keep in mind

The series Working Papers on Economics is published by the Office for Economic Studies at the *Banco de la República* (Central Bank of *Colombia*). It contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc).

On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. The works published are provisional, and their authors are fully responsible for the opinions expressed in them, as well as for possible mistakes. The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

AUTHOR OR EDITOR

[Camilo Bohorquez-Penuela](#) [Mariana Urbina-Ramirez](#)

The series Borradores de Economía (Working Papers on Economics) contributes to the dissemination and promotion of the work by researchers from the institution. On multiple occasions, these works have been the result of collaborative work with individuals from other national or international institutions. This series is indexed at Research Papers in Economics (RePEc)

---

---

Publication Date:  
Friday, 13 of November 2020

The opinions contained in this document are the sole responsibility of the author and do not commit Banco de la República or its Board of Directors.

## **Abstract**

We study the relationship between rising prices of tortillas—the Mexican staple par excellence—and household food insecurity between 2008 and 2014, a period in which global food prices experienced dramatic increases. The use of a unique combination of household-level data and official state-level information on prices allows us exploit significant variation in prices across the Mexican states. Since households cannot be tracked across time, we follow Deaton (1985) by constructing a series of pseudo-panels to control for time-invariant unobserved heterogeneity and measurement error. The regression estimates suggest that increasing tortilla prices affected food insecurity rates in Mexico. More specifically, households with children or those in the second or third income quintile are more likely to be affected.