United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNCTAD-ICO Workshop on

Fostering sustainable development in coffee-exporting countries

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The International Coffee Market: Issues for Developing Countries

by

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.

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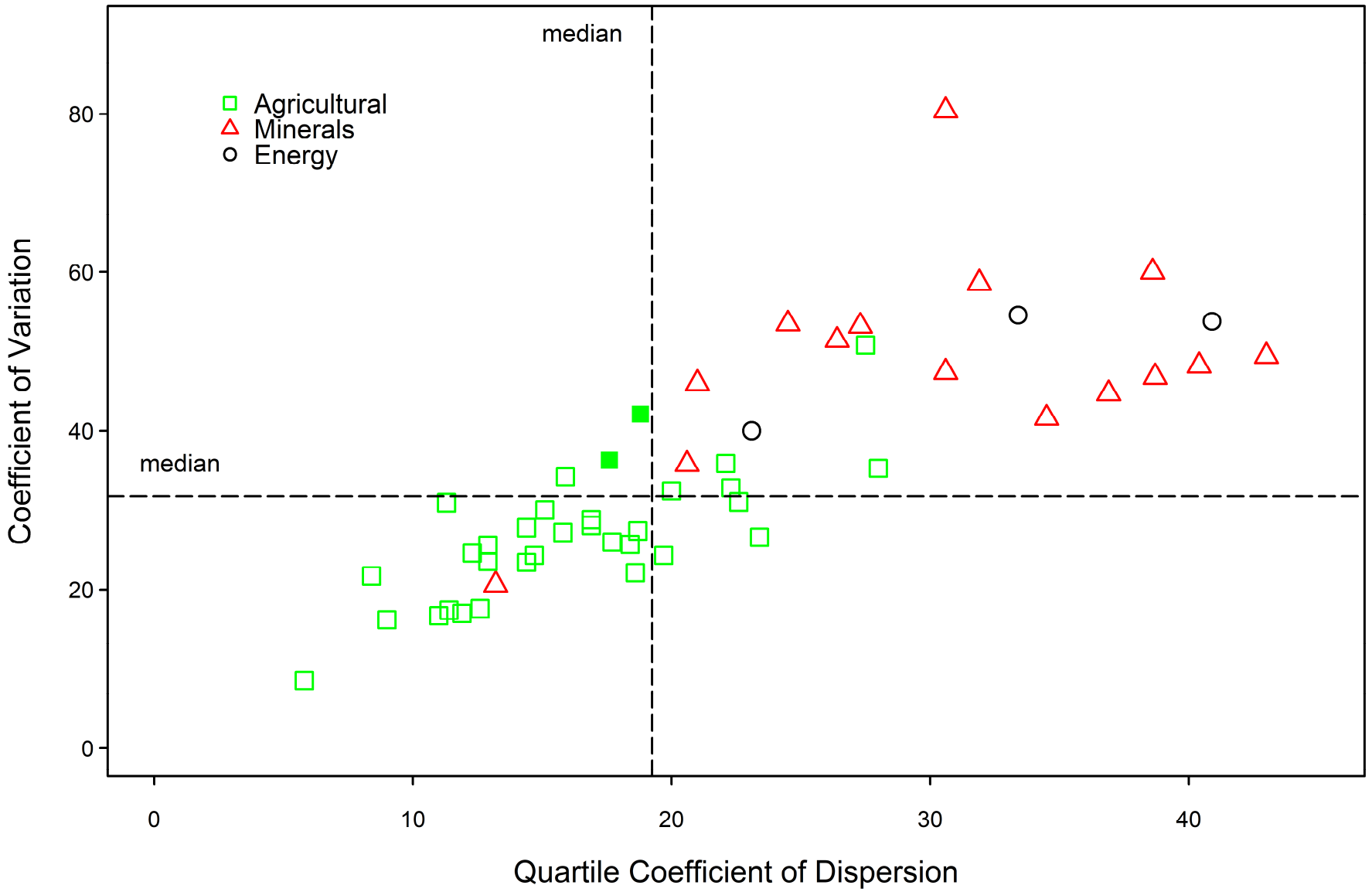
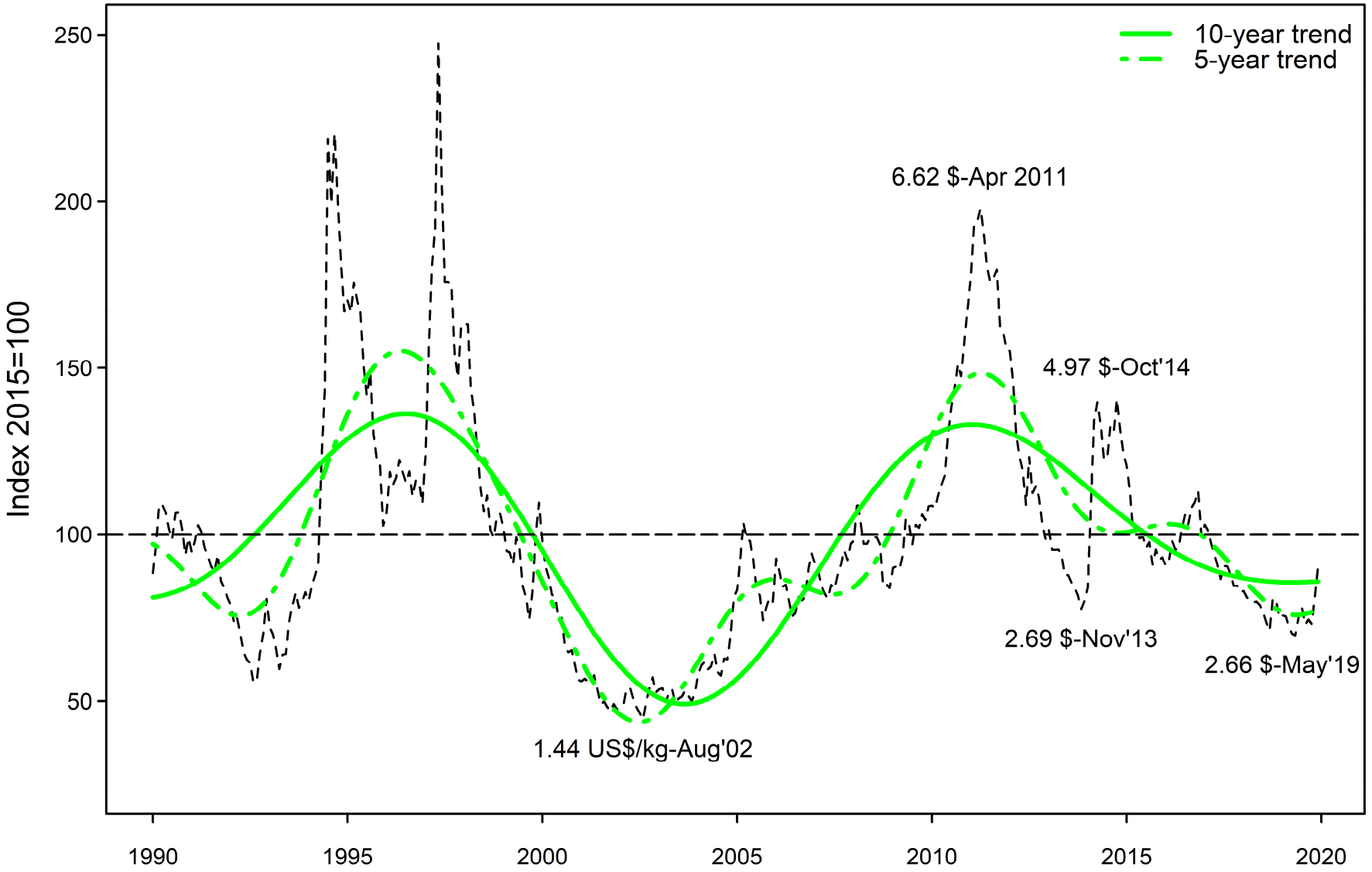
Rodrigo Cárcamo, DITC - Commodities Branch, UNCTAD

Real Commodity Price Volatility. Monthly Prices 1990-2019



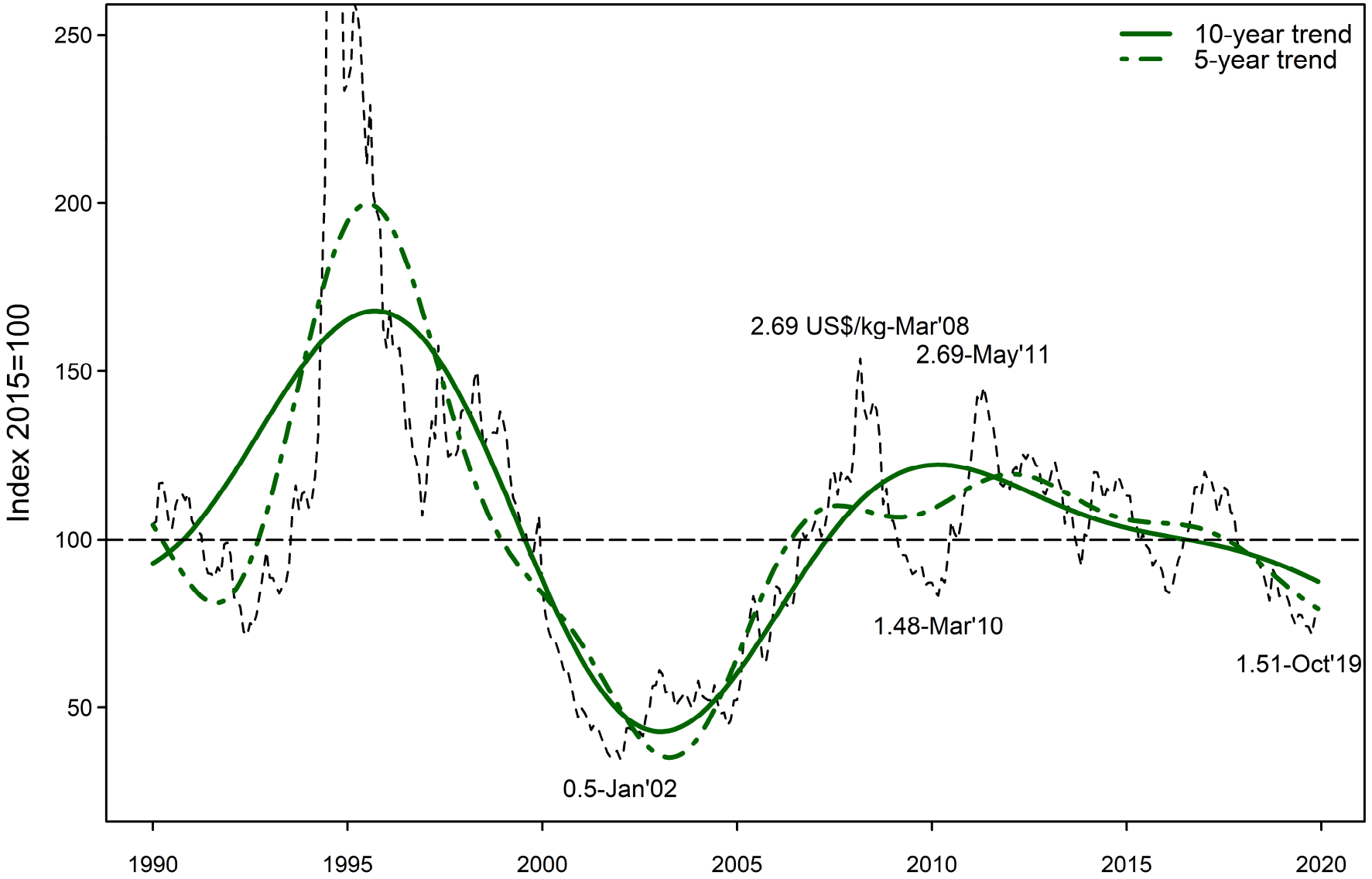
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of World Bank price data

Real Arabica Coffee Prices and Trends



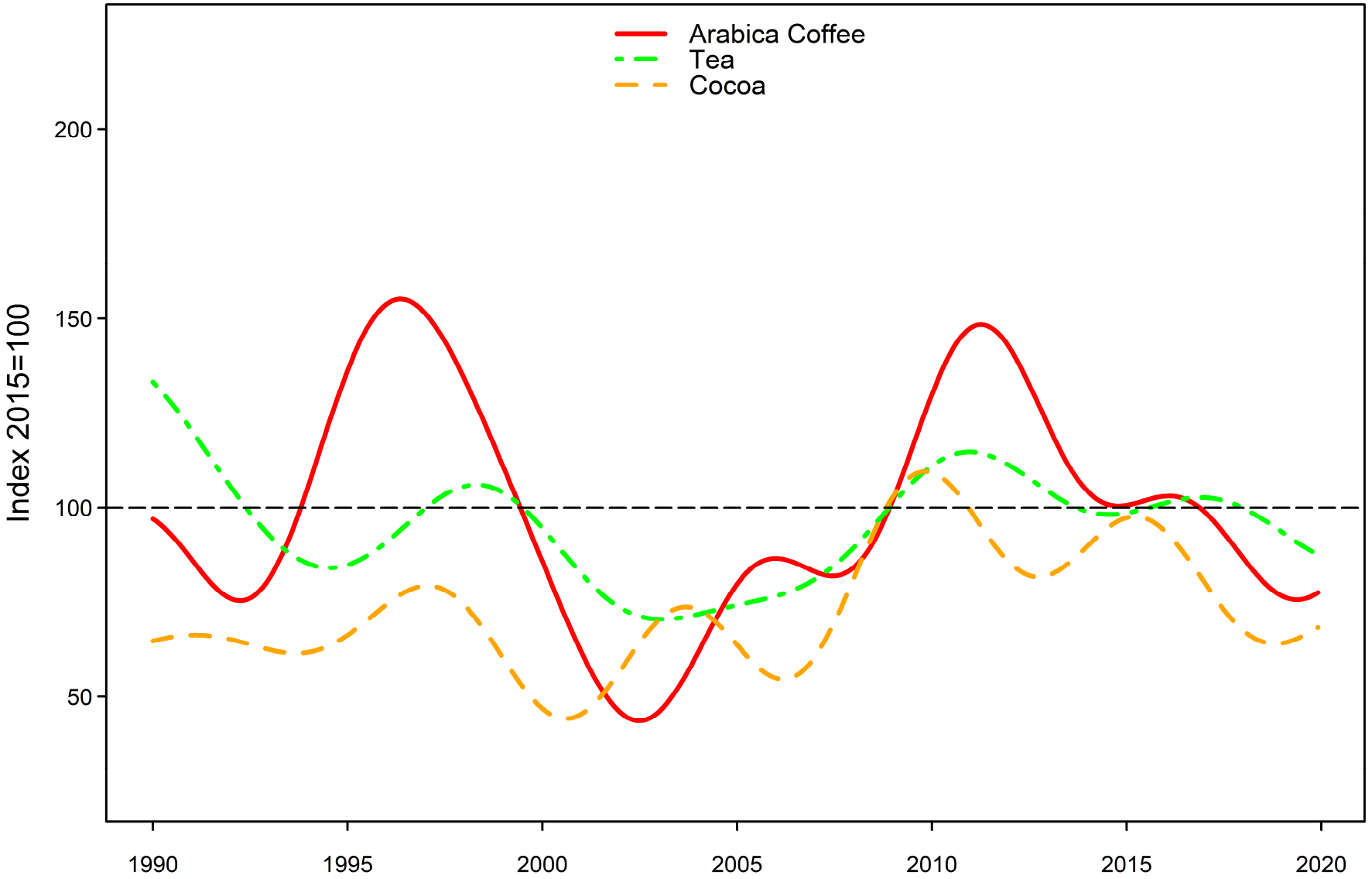
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of World Bank price data

Real Robusta Coffee Prices and Trends



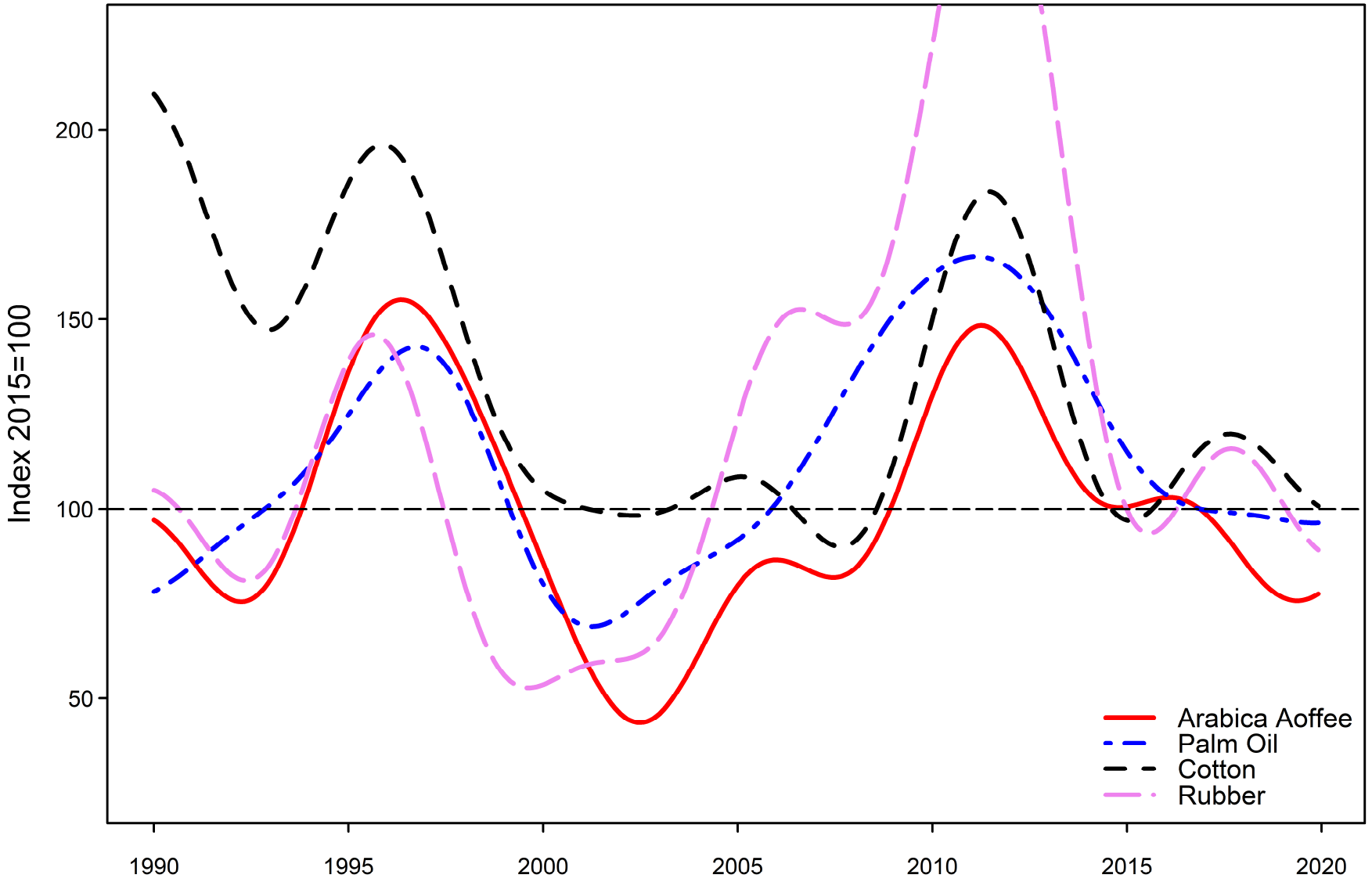
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of World Bank price data

5-Year Trends of Real Prices of Selected Commodities I



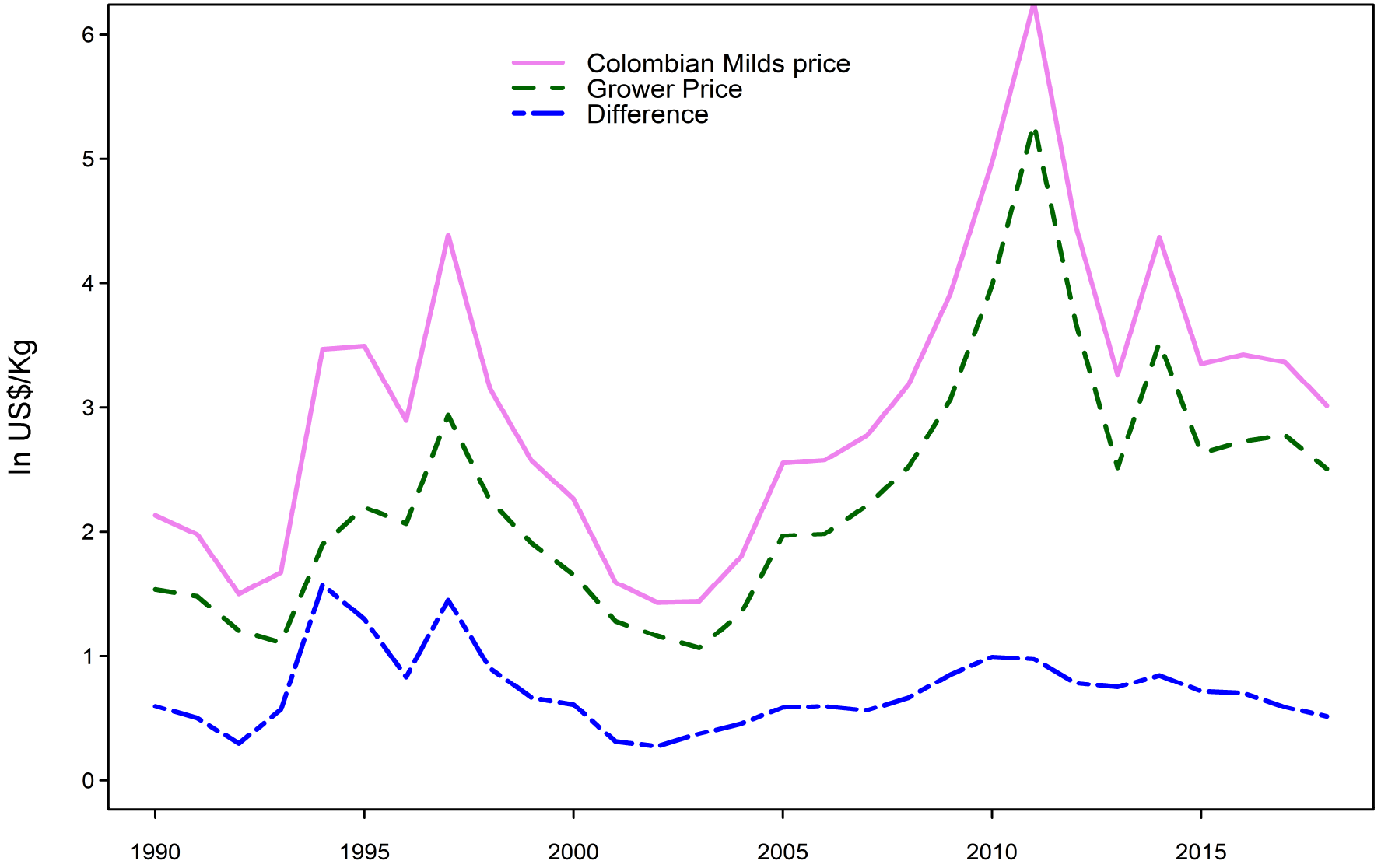
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of World Bank price data

5-Year Trends of Real Prices of Selected Commodities II



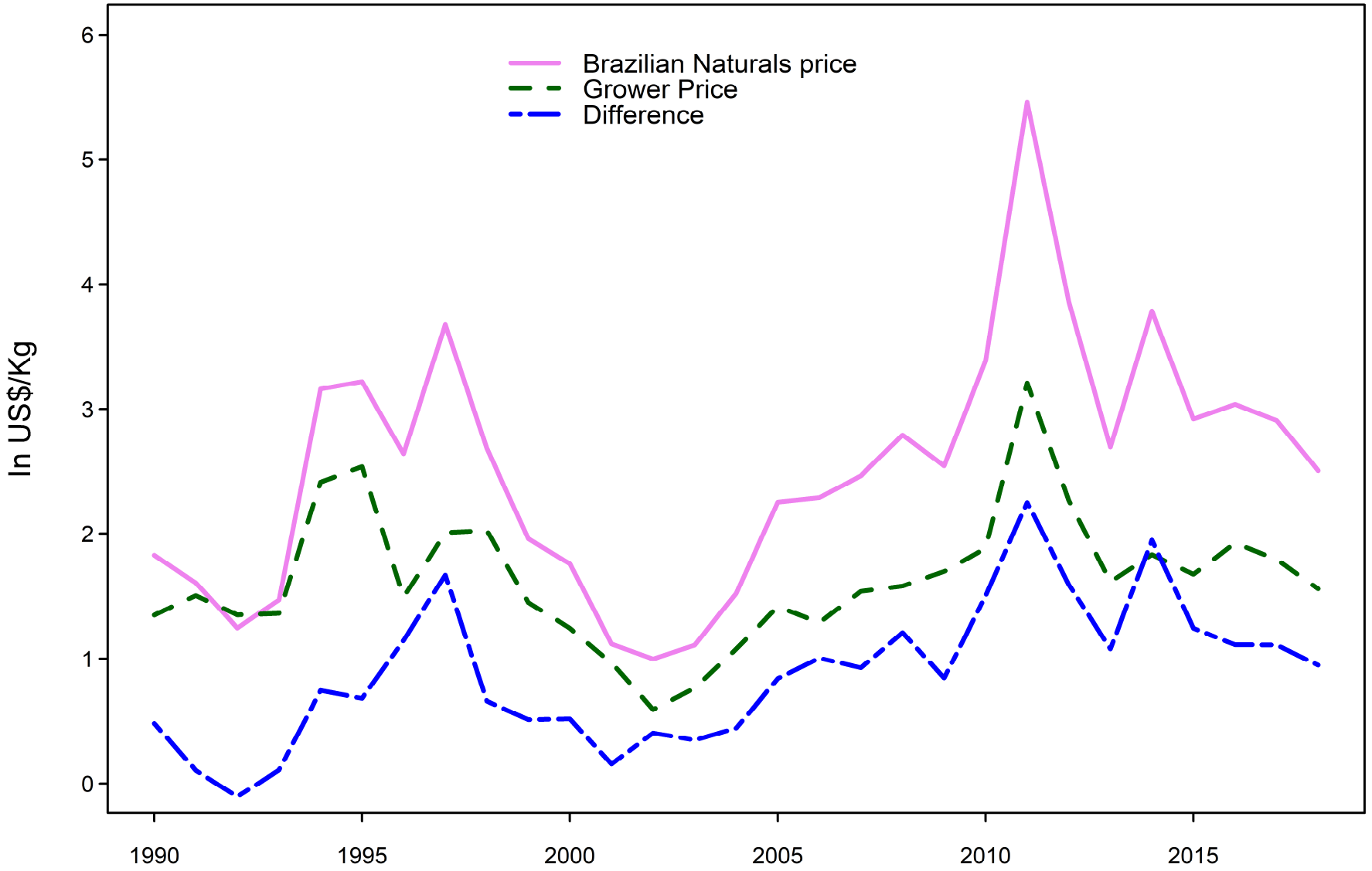
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of World Bank price data

Grower and Indicator Prices in Colombia, 1990-2018



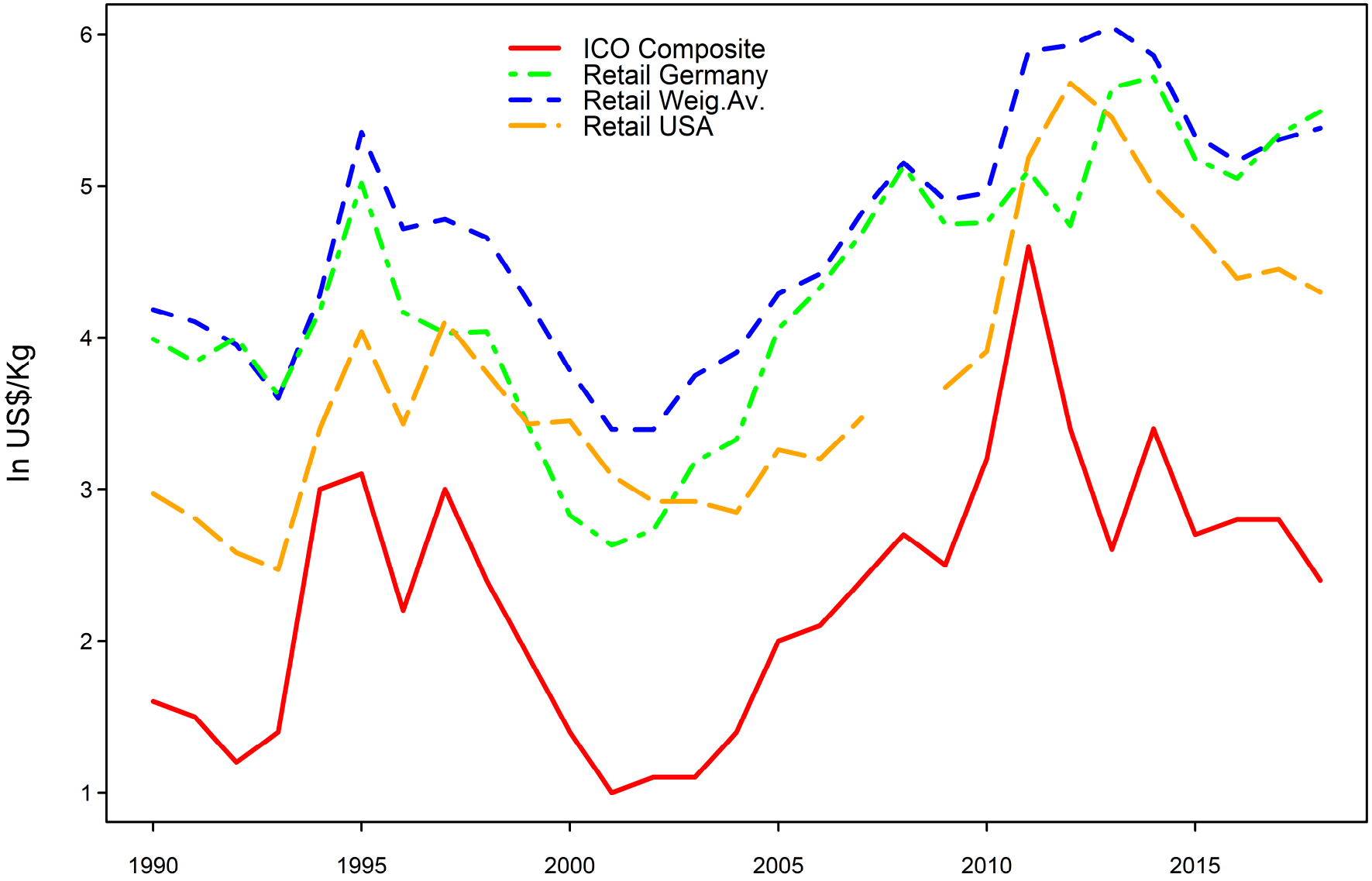
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of International Coffee Organization price data

Grower and Indicator Prices in Ethiopia, 1990-2018



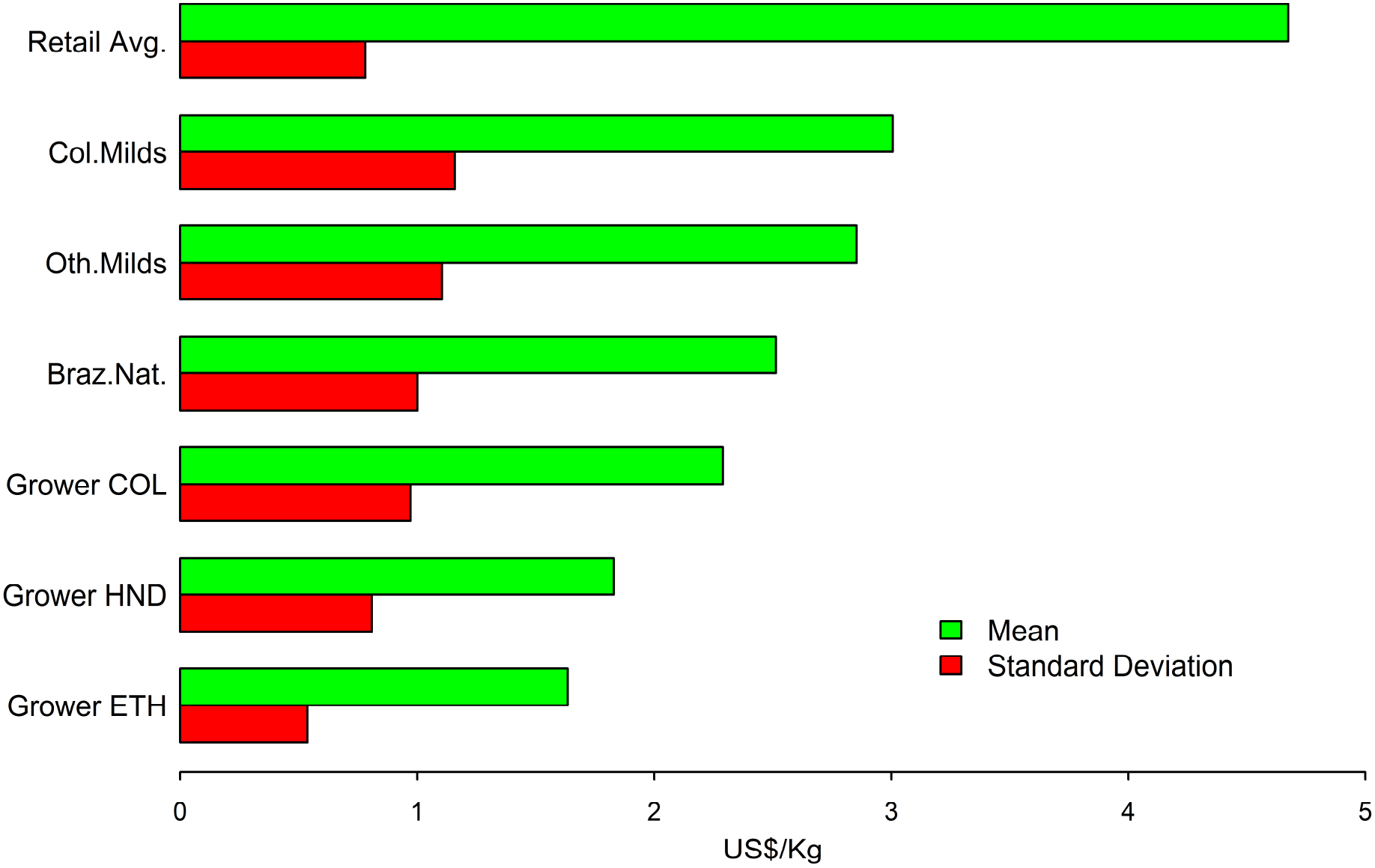
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of International Coffee Organization price data

Retail and Indicator Coffee Prices 1990-2018



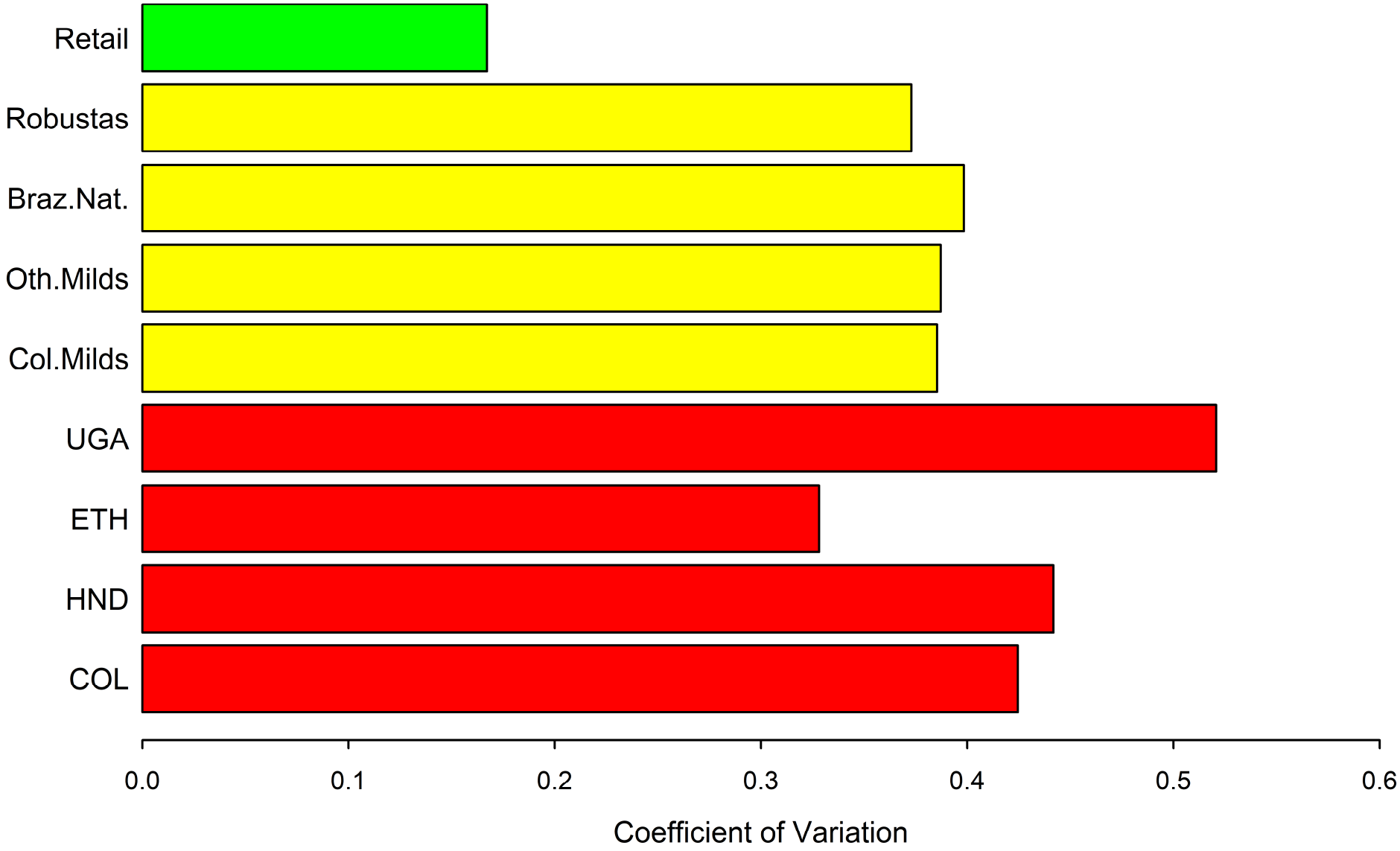
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of International Coffee Organization price data

Mean and S.D. of Selected Coffee Prices, 1990-2018



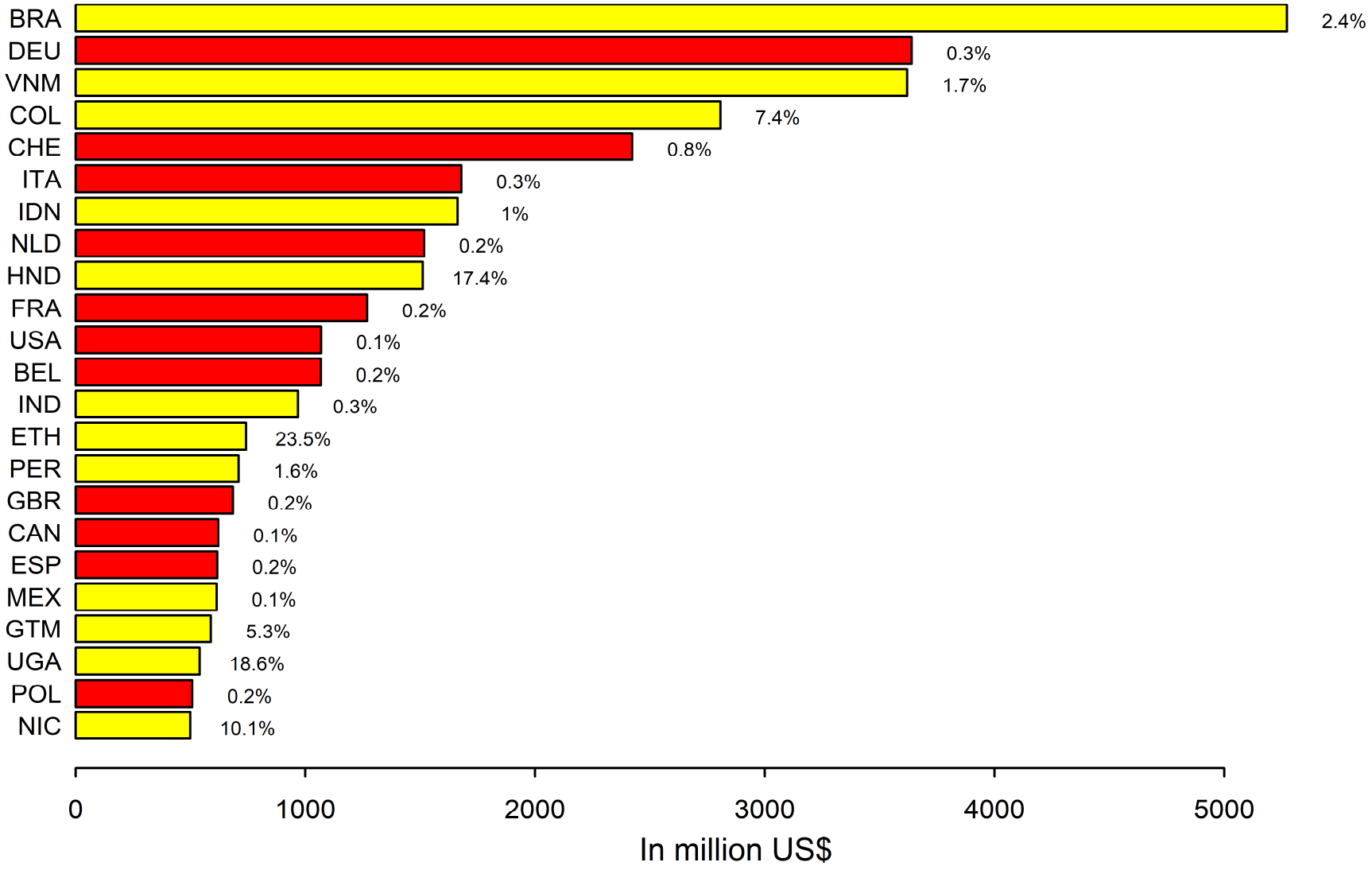
Source: UNCTAD on the basis of International Coffee Organization price data

Volatility of Retail, Indicator and Grower Prices, 1990-2018



Source: UNCTAD on the basis of International Coffee Organization price data

Coffee and Substitutes Export Value and Share, 2017



Source: UNCTAD on the basis of UNCTADStat data

Conclusions

- Coffee is among the most volatile agricultural commodities, but not as much as Energy and Minerals.
- There is strong persistence in price cycles, with high short-term volatility.
- Different policies exist for the short and long-term addressing of volatility, but they have limits.
- Value Addition has multiple advantages (employment, income, poverty reduction,etc), and can also reduce the vulnerability to commodity price volatility.
- There is substantial space for value addition by coffee-producing countries, as evidenced by the strength of re-exports by importing countries.

Thank you!

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