

PRICE WATCH Urban Food Markets

October 2008

To more closely monitor the evolution and transmission of international and local food prices, FEWS NET is monitoring and reporting on staple food prices in key markets in urban and town centers in food insecure countries. A selection of these market centers along with additional markets in non-presence (no FEWS NET office) countries are presented here. A much longer list of commodities and markets are available at www.fews.net.

Key points:

- Prices remained stable or declined for about 80 percent of all commodities covered this month (see Price Watch Annex), largely due to local harvests and falling international commodities prices.
- While prices are still above average for this time of year, local harvests and food distribution have eased prices in Somalia, with the exception of sorghum in Burao market.
- Commodity prices in most markets in West Africa decreased as newly harvested crops entered the markets and international commodity prices declined; Malian markets are an exception.

This month's Price Watch includes 78 markets in 25 countries and now includes Rwanda.

- Table 1 lists the five largest increases and decreases in the current month's prices of primary food commodities consumed by urban populations.
- Table 2 includes a list of the 40 commodities and markets with the largest change in price over the previous month. Note that the staple foods for the urban poor are shaded in gray.

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Table 1. Five largest price increases and decreases in October 2008

Largest increases in primary food commodity prices			Largest decreases in primary food commodity prices						
Urban Center	change 1 month	Observation	Urban Center	change 1 year	Urban Center	change 1 month	Observation	Urban Center	change 1 year
Harare, Zimbabwe (Maize)	4,900	Hyper-inflation.	Harare, Zimbabwe (Maize)	375,000,027,243	Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Beans)	-34	No FEWS NET presence	San Salvador, El Salvador (White maize)	-17
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Wh. Maze)	22	Follows the normal seasonal trend. Maize stocks are held by few traders and prices tend to peak at this point in the hunger season.	Baidoa, Somalia (Sorghum)	442	Juba, Sudan (Sorghum)	-30	Prices fall with the conclusion of the first season harvests in the surrounding area.	Tegucigalpa, Honduras (Beans)	-5
Kisumu, Kenya (Potatoes)	21	Follows the normal seasonal trend; however, levels are higher than normal reflecting reduced supplies due to poor production in Molo, the main producing area	Jijiga Ethiopia (Yellow Maize)	300	Moussoro, Chad (Maize)	-30	Prices fall with the onset of the harvest period in the Lake Chad, the main supply area.		
Lusaka, Zambia (Maize)	20	Reduction in maize supply on the market pushing prices up above average.	Jijiga, Ethiopia (Sorghum)	300	Qorioley, Somalia (Sorghum)	-28	As off-season harvests bring down maize prices, Sorghum prices fall as consumers switch to maize, the preferred commodity. Increased food aid distribution also moderates food prices.		
Burao, Somalia (Sorghum)	20	Prices rise as consumers substitute sorghum for imported rice, the preferred food, in response to rising rice prices.	Dhusamareb, Somalia (Sorghum)	300	N'Djamena Chad (Sorghum)	-27	Price falls as newly harvested crops reach the market and price of maize (a substitute) falls, easing demand for sorghum.		

Table 2. Forty largest price increases in September 2008

Urban Center	Major Food Commodities				Change over 1 mo, avg for 3 months and avg for 1 year (time →)
	Current price/kg US\$ price	Change over 1 month (%)	Over 3 months	Average change (%) Over 12 months	
Harare	Maize grain				
Zimbabwe	17,143 ZWD \$0.57	4,900	370,337	31,250,002,270	▲▲▲
Dar Es Salaam	Wh. maize				
Tanzania	550 TZS \$0.43	22	5	-	▲▲-
Kisumu	Potato				
Kenya	21 KES \$0.29	21	-3	-	▲▶-
Lusaka	Wh. Maize				
Zambia	1,566 ZMK \$0.36	20	13	8	▲▲▲
Burao	Sorghum				
Somalia	12,000 SOS \$0.34	20	3	12	▲▶▲
Malanville	Maize				
Benin	176 CFA \$0.35	17	-12	3	▲▶▶
Eldoret	Potato				
Kenya	10 KES \$0.14	16	13	-	▲▲-
Ouagadougou	Sorghum				
Burkina Faso	180 CFA \$0.36	16	2	3	▲▶▶
Beira	Maize				
Mozambique	10 MZM \$0.43	15	7	9	▲▲▲
Lusaka	Maize flour				
Zambia	1,630 ZMK \$0.38	15	8	5	▲▲▲
Kathmandu	Crs. Rice				
Nepal	40 NPR \$0.51	14	3	3	▲▶▶
Eldoret	Beans				
Kenya	49 KES \$0.68	14	4	6	▲▶▲
Villa Nueva	Black Beans				
Guatemala	14 GTQ \$1.93	13	3	-	▲▶-
Kampala	Matoke				
Uganda	491 UGX \$0.26	12	6	0	▲▶▶
Segou	Rice				
Mali	425 CFA \$0.85	12	6	5	▲▲▲
Dire Dawa	Wh. wheat				
Ethiopia	8 ETB \$0.85	11	2	-	▲▶-
Lilongwe	Rice				
Malawi	168 MWK \$1.23	10	7	2	▲▶▶
Beira	Grnd. Nuts				
Mozambique	37 MZM \$1.54	10	3	9	▲▶▲
Addis Ababa	Wh. wheat				
Ethiopia	8 ETB \$0.85	10	7	10	▲▲▲
Beira	Rice				
Mozambique	27 MZM \$1.14	10	2	-	▲▶-
Ndola	Wh. Maize				
Zambia	1,333 ZMK \$0.31	9	-	4	▲▶
Parakou	Maize				
Benin	269 CFA \$0.54	8	-10	13	▲▶▲
Agadez	Rice				
Niger	500 CFA \$1.01	8	6	4	▲▶▶
Bamako	Rice				
Mali	431 CFA \$0.87	8	3	4	▲▶▶
Ibadan	Maize				
Nigeria	56 NGN \$0.48	8	-10	5	▲▶▲
Ndola	Maize flour				
Zambia	1,680 ZMK \$0.39	8	-	6	▲▶
Nairobi	Sorghum				
Kenya	28 KES \$0.39	7	4	5	▲▶▲
Maputo	Maize				
Mozambique	12 MZM \$0.52	7	11	7	▲▲▲
	Beans				
	32 MZM \$1.34	7	-1	2	▲▶▶
Bobo Dioulasso	Millet				
Burkina Faso	192 CFA \$0.39	7	7	-	▲▶-
Blantyre	Rice				
Malawi	172 MWK \$1.25	7	11	11	▲▲▲
Bahir Dar	Wh. wheat				
Ethiopia	7 ETB \$0.78	6	3	13	▲▶▲
Nairobi	Wh. maize				
Kenya	25 KES \$0.34	6	5	7	▲▲▲
Kigali	Maize*				
Rwanda	249 RWF \$0.45	6	7	8	▲▲▲
Nairobi	Beans				
Kenya	57 KES \$0.79	6	1	6	▲▶▲
	Potato				
	23 KES \$0.31	5	16	-	▲▶-
Kisumu	Sorghum				
Kenya	27 KES \$0.37	5	6	5	▲▲▲
Mbarara	Beans				
Uganda	1,350 UGX \$0.71	4	4	1	▶▶▶
Jijiga	Wh. wheat				
Ethiopia	9 ETB \$0.96	4	-1	17	▶▶▲
Eldoret	Sorghum				
Kenya	19 KES \$0.27	3	-6	1	▶▶▶

NOTES: The commodity shaded in gray is the staple most often consumed by the poorest of the poor in the urban area indicated. Additional commodities provided are important commodity(ies) consumed in the same urban area. Average monthly prices are calculated using weekly price data available at the time of publication, and may be based on less than one full month of price data. Consequently, monthly prices reported here may be different than those reported in FEWS NET monthly Food Security Updates, which are based on a full set of weekly price data for the month. ▲▶▶ The symbols depict the direction of price changes: the red upward-facing arrow denotes an increase of greater than 5 percent, the blue horizontal arrow denotes no change, or changes that are smaller than 5 percent, and the green downward-facing arrow denotes price decreases that are greater than 5 percent. The first arrow corresponds to the change in price over one month, the second arrow refers to the average percentage change over the past three months, and the third arrow reflects the average monthly percentage change over the previous year. The “-” symbol indicates that no data are available.