

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the weekly variation of retail prices for selected agricultural commodities that are important for food security and nutrition in Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural markets in Malawi.

Highlights

- Average retail prices of common bean, soybeans, pigeon peas and groundnuts increased by 6 to 29 percent.
- Average retail prices of cassava and sweet potatoes decreased by 1 and 6 percent respectively while irish potatoes increased by 19 percent.
- Average retail price of rice decreased by 4 percent while sorghum retail prices remained constant.

Legumes

Table 1. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common beans and pigeon pea by region during October 2021

Market	Common bean						Pigeon pea						Change since September 26	
	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Bean	P. pea
North	897	897	892	900	841	904		394	-	-	411	411	↔ 1%	↑ 4%
Jenda	800	800	817	833	817	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 6%	-
Karonga-boma	1000	1000	950	950	925	950	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -5%	-
Mzuzu	888	888	975	975	808	925	-	394	-	-	411	411	↑ 4%	↑ 4%
Center	1133	1100	1100	1100	1133	1130							↓ 0%	-
Chimbiya	1200	1200	1000	1000	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	-	↔ 0%	-
Mchinji	-	-	1200	1200	1067	1025	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -15%	-
Mitundu	1100	1050	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 9%	-
South	1150	1200	1140	1140	1006	1260	563	590	607	607	614	621	↑ 10%	↑ 10%
Balaka	1300	1300	1350	1350	1233	1300	600	625	725	725	733	700	↔ 0%	↑ 17%
Bangula	1000	1000	800	800	867	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -13%	-
Lunzu	1000	1000	1100	1100	875	1200	500	-	600	600	683	600	↑ 20%	↑ 20%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	500	500	483	600	-	↔ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	-	498	550	550	550	525	525	-	↑ 5%
All markets	1012	1005	1030	1033	981	1086	563	557	607	607	597	595	↑ 7.3%	↑ 6%

Note: - = commodity not monitored or prices not reported in this market.

Table 2. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during October 2021

Market	Soyabean						Groundnut						Change since September 26	
	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Soybean	Groundnut
North	725	725	850	850	913	900	907	914	775	788	764	915	↑ 24%	→ 1%
Jenda	-	-	-	-	-	-	650	725	733	750	750	850	-	↑ 31%
Karonga-boma	725	725	-	-	900	900	1000	1000	-	-	1200	1200	↑ 24%	↑ 20%
Mzuzu	-	-	850	850	925	900	983	983	900	900	900	838	↑ 6%	↓ -15%
Center	625	700	850	850	858	870	867	873	977	977	950	995	↑ 39%	↑ 15%
Chimbiya	-	-	700	700	800	800	850	860	880	880	933	890	↑ 14%	↑ 5%
Mchinji	-	-	1000	1000	950	950	-	-	1100	1100	950	1175	↓ -5%	↑ 7%
Mitundu	800	800	-	-	850	850	900	900	950	950	975	950	↑ 6%	↑ 6%
South	700	708	760	790	790	850	1020	1050	1100	1120	1056	1167	↑ 21%	↑ 14%
Balaka	750	763	850	925	925	933	1150	1225	1200	1200	1150	1267	↑ 24%	↑ 10%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	-	-	750	750	800	775	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mangochi	600	600	600	600	650	750	800	800	1000	1000	933	1000	↑ 25%	↑ 25%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	1000	1050	1100	1100	1100	-	↑ 10%
All markets	672	711	794	813	850	865	937	951	961	973	969	1032	↑ 29%	↑ 10%

Note: - = prices not reported from this market; soybean and groundnut are priced per kilogram

Roots and Tubers

Figure 1. Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during October 2021

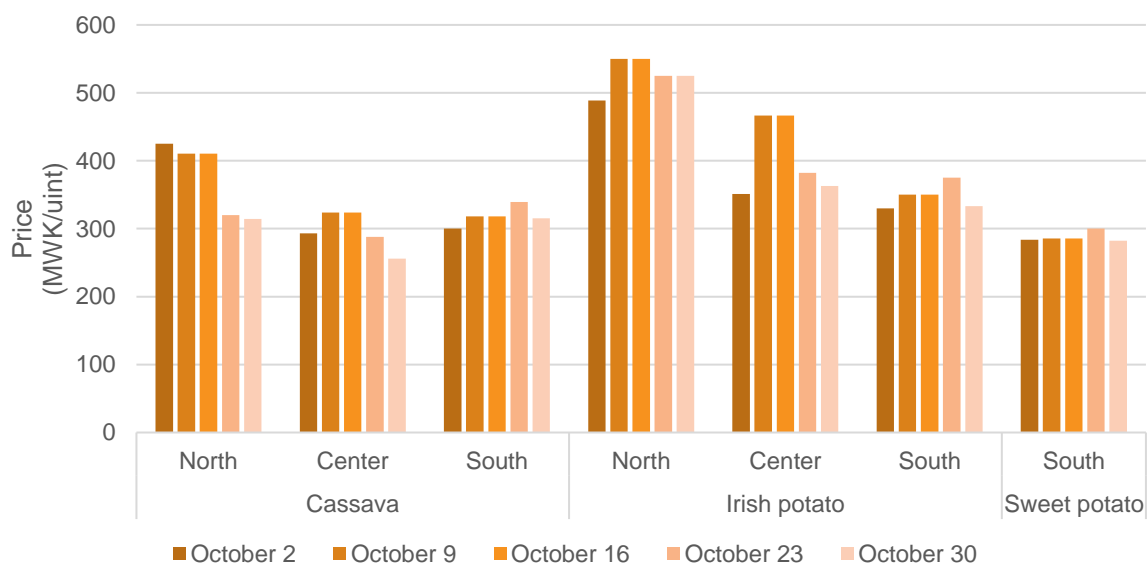


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during October 2021

Commodity	Market	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Change	
									since September 26
Cassava	North	381	335	365	365	311	307	↓	-19%
	Mpamba	-	-	-	-	320	264	↓	-18%
	Mzuzu	381	425	410	410	320	365	↑	14%
	Nkhatabay-boma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Center	256	293	324	324	288	256	⇒	0%
	Chinkhoma	256	293	324	324	256	256	⇒	0%
	Kawamba	-	-	-	-	320	-	-	-
	Mitundu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	South	300	300	318	318	339	315	↑	5%
	Limbe	315	315	320	320	-	373	↑	19%
Namwera turn-off	256	256	316	316	339	296	↑	16%	
All markets	325	335	365	365	311	307	↓	-6%	
Sweet potato	South	286	284	286	286	300	282	↓	-1%
	Bangwe	183	183	183	183	208	211	↑	15%
	Chilobwe	333	307	333	333	333	292	↓	-12%
	Chinakataka	389	397	333	333	304	286	↓	-26%
	Ndirande	-	300	350	350	400	375	↑	25%
	Zingwanga	-	275	275	275	275	275	⇒	0%
	All markets	286	284	286	286	300	282	↓	-1%
Irish potato	North	489	489	550	550	525	525	↑	7%
	Jenda	489	489	550	550	525	525	↑	7%
	Center	363	351	467	467	382	363	↑	0.1%
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	450	450	500	500	425	400	↓	-11%
	Lizulu	350	333	300	300	353	372	↑	6%
	Tsangano turn-off	317	303	600	600	-	300	↓	-5%
	South	370	330	350	350	375	333	↓	-10%
	Blantyre market	400	350	300	300	300	300	↓	-25%
	Limbe	350	317	400	400	400	400	↑	14%
All markets	325	370	442	442	405	387	↑	19%	

Note: - = prices not reported from this market; cassava and Irish potatoes are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap.

Other Cereals

Figure 2. Regional average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice during October 2021



Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during October 2021

Commodity	Market	Sept 25	Oct 2	Oct 9	Oct 16	Oct 23	Oct 30	Change	
								since	September 26
Rice	North	688	636	646	654	725	650	↓	-5%
	Karonga-boma	650	550	663	663	750	617	↓	-5%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	800	775	↓	-3%
	Nkhatabay-boma	688	633	600	600	738	640	↓	-7%
	Pusi	650	650	650	700	700	700	↑	8%
	Wowwe	-	-	500	500	675	550	↑	10%
	Center	683	667	650	650	633	600	↓	-12%
	Nkhotakota-boma	700	700	-	-	700	-	→	0%
	Salima-kamuzu road	675	650	650	650	600	600	↓	-11%
	South	612	594	606	606	644	622	↑	2%
	Chiringa	650	600	567	567	633	583	↓	-10%
	Phalombe	625	625	690	690	725	700	↑	12%
	Songani	510	520	580	580	580	583	↑	1%
All markets	663	628	628	631	683	636	↓	-4%	
Sorghum	South	300	300	300	300	313	300	→	0%
	Chikwawa	300	300	300	300	317	300	→	0%
	Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Nsanje	300	300	300	300	300	-	→	0%
	All markets	300	300	300	300	313	300	→	0%

Note: - = prices not reported from this market; rice and sorghum are priced per kilogram

How data were collected

With financial support from the European Union, IFPRI Malawi began monitoring retail prices of selected legumes, roots and tubers, and non-maize cereals* in selected markets in October 2020. Currently, prices are collected from 44 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring once per week. Three monitors report prices from each market. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone the next day if needed. The commodities monitored are being phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of March 2021. Note that the number of markets monitored vary by commodity because major markets are targeted in areas where these commodities are widely produced.

* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



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