

The Monthly Maize Market Report was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of daily maize prices in selected markets throughout Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in maize markets in Malawi, namely producers, traders, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

- Retail maize prices increased by 1 percent during May 2020.
- Prices in southern Malawi were higher than in central and northern Malawi.
- ADMARC purchases were reported in 13 of the 26 markets monitored, and ADMARC sales in 15 markets.
- Retail maize prices in Malawi were lower than in most eastern African markets.

Prices increased by 1 percent

During the month of May, the average retail maize price rose marginally by 1 percent to MWK168/kg, which is 3 percent higher than in May 2019. This slight change in prices is expected as the main harvest season for maize is coming to an end in most districts.

Prices fell in 13 markets, stayed constant in 4 and rose in 9 markets (Table 1). The largest price decline was recorded in Chitipa (19 percent) followed by Jenda market (18 percent). Mangochi market recorded the largest price increase (33 percent) followed by Mwanza (25 percent).

A separate crowdsourcing exercise showed that 72 percent of farmers sold their maize below the minimum farm gate price of MWK200/kg announced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) in early April 2020. The average farm gate price recorded during April and the first three weeks of May was MWK147/kg.

Prices are higher in the South

Regional maize prices have returned to their usual pattern, with retail prices in the South higher than in the central and northern regions throughout the month (Figure 1). While prices in the central and southern region remained relatively stable during the month, prices in the North dipped in mid-May. Afterwards, prices in the North remained stable up to the end of the month. By the end of May, prices in the central region were MWK18/kg higher than in the North and MWK15/kg lower than in the South.

Table 1. Maize retail prices (MWK/kg) by market

Market	2-May-20	9-May-20	16-May-20	23-May-20	30-May-20	Change
Chitipa	160	160	130	130	130	↓ -19%
Karonga	168	171	171	174	174	↑ 4%
Rumphu	158	158	142	142	143	↓ -9%
Mzuzu	167	167	167	167	160	↓ -4%
Mzimba	147	147	147	145	143	↓ -2%
Jenda	150	150	130	140	123	↓ -18%
Salima	153	153	153	153	157	↑ 2%
Mchinji	178	178	178	178	178	↔ 0%
Nsungwi	173	173	173	173	167	↓ -4%
Mitundu	160	160	160	160	170	↑ 6%
Chimbiya	150	150	150	148	149	↔ 0%
Balaka	183	190	190	180	173	↓ -5%
M'baluku	150	150	150	150	160	↑ 7%
Mangochi	163	147	163	167	160	↓ -2%
Liwonde	150	150	150	150	200	↑ 33%
Chiringa	180	180	180	180	170	↓ -6%
Mpondabwino	197	197	191	193	197	↔ 0%
Lunzu	163	170	170	160	160	↓ -2%
Mbayani	183	190	193	183	180	↓ -2%
Mwanza	160	160	160	197	200	↑ 25%
Mulanje	170	170	170	170	170	↔ 0%
Luchenza	150	150	160	160	160	↑ 7%
Chikwawa	200	200	200	200	200	↔ 0%
Ngabu	187	200	187	193	193	↑ 4%
Bangula	209	209	209	209	209	↔ 0%
Nsanje	153	160	180	163	170	↑ 11%
All markets	168	169	167	168	169	↑ 1%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during May



