

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of weekly retail prices of 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 legumes (common bean, soybean, groundnut, and pigeon pea) increased by 2 to 16 percent.
- Average retail prices of cassava increased by 61 percent while sweet potato and Irish potato increased by 19 and 12 percent respectively.
- Rice and sorghum retail prices increased by 4 and 13 percent respectively.
- Retail prices are expected to rise in the next two months as the lean season progresses.

Legumes

Table 1. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common bean and pigeon pea by region during January 2020

Market	Common beans					Pigeon pea					Change since Dec 26	
	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Bean	P. pea
North												
Jenda	800	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 25%	-
Karonga-boma	733	900	900	950	950	500	500	550	600	600	↑ 30%	↑ 20%
Mzuzu	850	900	900	950	950	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 12%	-
Center												
Chimbiya	850	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 18%	-
Mchinji	1000	1000	1000	1000	1200	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 20%	-
Mitundu	950	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 5%	-
South												
Balaka	1100	1367	1367	1367	1367	650	683	717	717	717	↑ 24%	↑ 10%
Bangula	1000	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 20%	-
Lunzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	600	600	600	600	600	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	600	600	600	-	⇒ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	550	550	583	600	600	-	↑ 9%
All markets	923	1075	1075	1086	1071	593	600	618	625	625	↑ 16%	↑ 5%

Note: - = commodity is not monitored in this market.

Table 2. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during January 2020

Market	Soybean					Groundnut					Change since Dec 26	
	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Soybean	Groundnut
North												
Jenda	400	400	400	400	400	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Karonga-boma	400	400	400	400	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↑ 13%	⇒ 0%
Mzuzu	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Center												
Chimbiya	400	450	450	450	450	900	1000	1000	1000	1000	↑ 13%	↑ 11%
Mchinji	375	375	375	375	380	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↑ 1%	⇒ 0%
Mitundu	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
South												
Balaka	450	500	500	500	500	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	↑ 11%	⇒ 0%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	500	500	500	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Mangochi	450	450	450	450	450	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	⇒ 0%
All markets	419	445	445	445	452	1025	1046	1046	1046	1046	↑ 8%	↑ 2%

Note: - commodity not monitored in this market.

Roots and Tubers

Figure 1. Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during January 2020

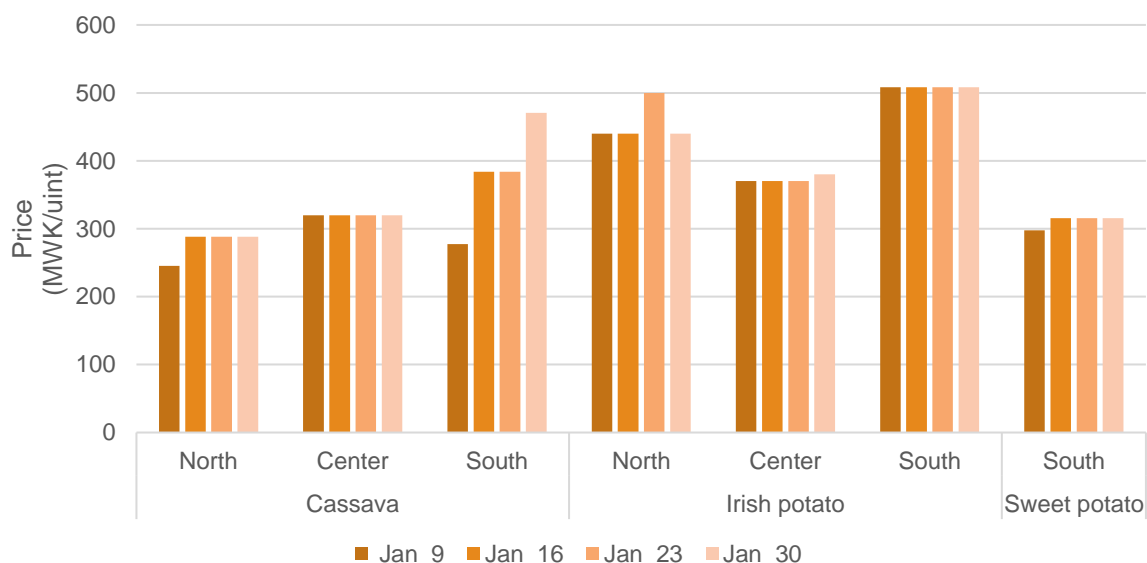


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during January 2020

Commodity	Market	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Change since Dec 26	
Cassava	North							
	Nkhatabay-boma	272	245	288	288	288	↑	6%
	Center							
	Chinkhoma	235	272	272	272	272	↑	16%
	Kawamba	192	272	272	272	272	↑	42%
	Mitundu	171	400	400	400	400	↑	134%
	South							
Limbe	272	320	480	480	640	↑	135%	
Namwera turn-off	247	235	288	288	301	↑	22%	
	All markets	231	295	340	340	373	↑	61%
Sweet potato	South							
	Bangwe	250	250	333	333	333	↑	33%
	Chilobwe	333	333	333	333	333	→	0%
	Chinakanaka	238	292	292	292	292	↑	23%
	Ndirande	250	306	306	306	306	↑	22%
	Zingwanga	275	333	333	333	333	↑	21%
	All markets	266	298	315	315	315	↑	19%
Irish potato	North							
	Jenda	400	440	440	500	440	↑	10%
	Center							
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	350	370	370	370	380	↑	9%
	Lizulu	350	370	370	370	380	↑	9%
	Tsangano turn-off	350	370	370	370	380	↑	9%
	South							
Blantyre market	400	517	517	517	517	↑	29%	
Limbe	460	500	500	500	500	↑	9%	
	All markets	385	428	428	438	433	↑	12%

Note: 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 January 2020

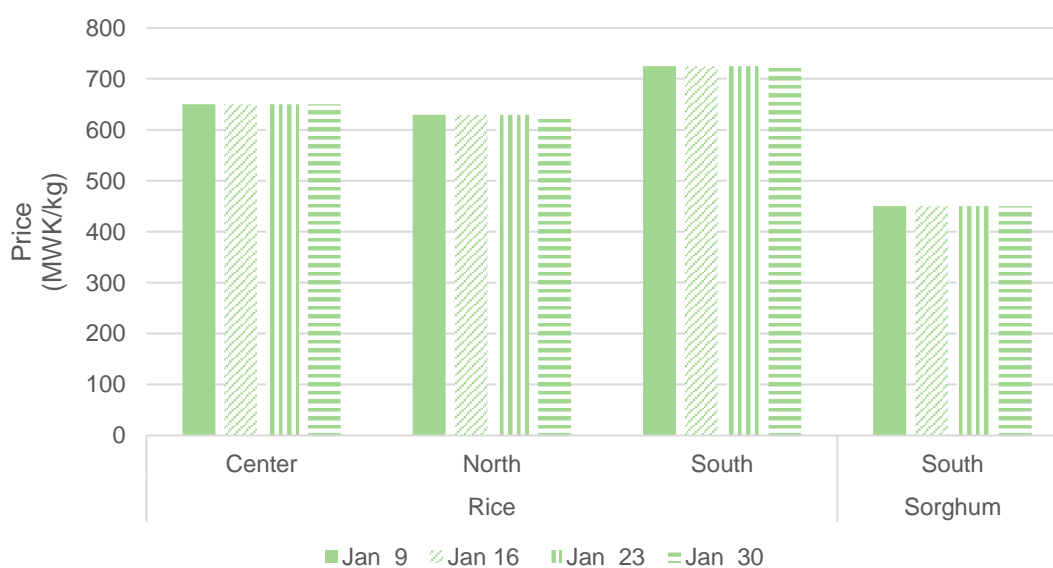


Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during January 2020

Commodity	Market	Dec 26	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23	Jan 30	Change since Dec 26	
Rice	North							
	Karonga-boma	500	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	800	→	0%
	Nkhatabay-boma	600	610	610	610	610	↑	2%
	Pusi	600	650	650	650	650	↑	8%
	Wowwe	500	600	600	600	600	↑	20%
	Center							
	Nkhotakota-boma	600	650	650	650	650	↑	8%
	Salima-kamuzu road	600	650	650	650	650	↑	8%
	South							
Chiringa	700	700	700	700	700	→	0%	
Phalombe	800	800	800	800	800	→	0%	
Songani	675	675	675	675	675	→	0%	
All markets	638	661	661	661	661	↑	4%	
Sorghum	South							
	Chikwawa	400	450	450	450	450	↑	13%
	Ngabu	400	450	450	450	450	↑	13%
	Nsanje	400	450	450	450	450	↑	13%
All markets	400	450	450	450	450	↑	13%	

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 were phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of 2020. 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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