

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 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 decreased by 4.7 percent in April 2021.
- Retail prices for new maize were lower than the minimum farmgate price for maize.
- Prices of old maize (from previous season) was MWK 41/kg higher than of new maize.
- Retail prices in Malawi remain lower than in selected markets in eastern Africa.

Prices decreased in April

Retail maize prices for ‘old’ maize, harvested in the 2019/20 season decreased by 4.7 percent during the month of April. ‘New’ maize that has recently been harvested, continues to be sold at a discount to old maize (see next page). By the end of the month, retail maize prices for old maize declined in 13 markets and remained stable in 13 markets. The largest decline was recorded in Mitundu (21 percent).

The monthly average retail maize price for April 2021 was MWK 171/kg. This is about 6 percent lower than last month and the same as in April 2020.

Prices are higher in the South

Retail maize prices remained highest in the South and lowest in the North (Figure 1), as is the usual pattern. Prices in all regions remained relatively stable during the first two weeks of the month before dropping sharply thereafter.

Towards the end of the month, prices in the center remained higher than in the North by MWK 13/kg and MWK 14/kg lower than in the South.

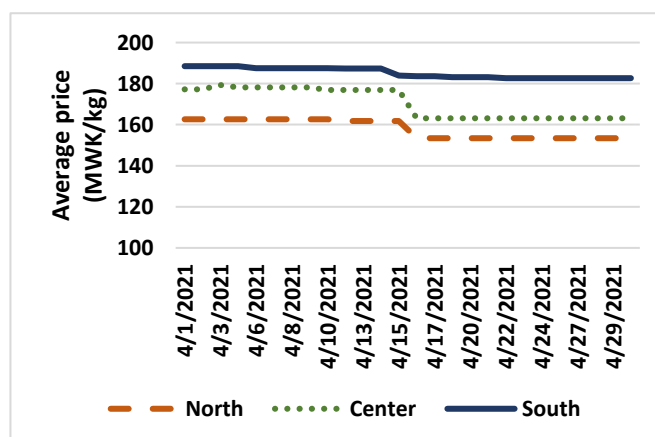
ADMARC Activities

In the Month of April 2021, ADMARC sales continued to be reported in some markets monitored by IFPRI. Old maize is being sold to consumers by ADMARC at MWK160/kg. No ADMARC purchases were reported in any of the 26 markets monitored.

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

Market	03-Apr-21	10-Apr-21	17-Apr-21	24-Apr-21	Change
Chitipa	147	147	147	147	↔ 0%
Karonga	170	170	150	150	↓ -12%
Rumphi	153	153	153	153	↔ 0%
Mzuzu	180	180	160	160	↓ -11%
Mzimba	162	162	150	150	↓ -7%
Jenda	162	162	162	162	↔ 0%
Salima	200	200	200	200	↔ 0%
Mchinji	160	160	150	150	↓ -6%
Nsungwi	180	180	150	150	↓ -17%
Mitundu	190	190	150	150	↓ -21%
Chimbiya	170	160	170	170	↔ 0%
Balaka	173	173	160	160	↓ -8%
M'baluku	190	190	190	190	↔ 0%
Mangochi	180	180	187	180	↔ 0%
Liwonde	180	180	160	160	↓ -11%
Chiringa	200	200	200	200	↔ 0%
Mpondabwino	201	201	194	194	↓ -3%
Lunzu	190	190	190	190	↔ 0%
Mbayani	180	180	180	180	↔ 0%
Mwanza	193	180	180	180	↓ -7%
Mulanje	190	190	180	180	↓ -5%
Luchenza	193	193	180	180	↓ -7%
Chikwawa	220	220	220	200	↓ -9%
Ngabu	190	190	190	190	↔ 0%
Bangula	192	192	192	192	↔ 0%
Nsanje	173	173	173	173	↔ 0%
All markets	180	179	172	171	↓ -4.7%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during April 2021



Prices for old and new maize in April 2021

As the 2020/21 harvesting season is underway, both ‘old’ (harvested in the 2019/20 season) and ‘new’ (recently harvested) maize stocks are for sale on the market. Figure 2 compares the average retail maize price of ‘old’ and ‘new’ maize stock in April 2021. Prices for ‘new’ maize are usually lower than for ‘old’ maize because of its higher moisture content but follow the same pattern as old maize price throughout the month. On average, retail prices of ‘new’ maize were MWK41/kg lower than for ‘old’ maize during April, MWK11/kg lower than last month and were also lower than minimum farmgate price for maize (MWK 150/kg) set by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

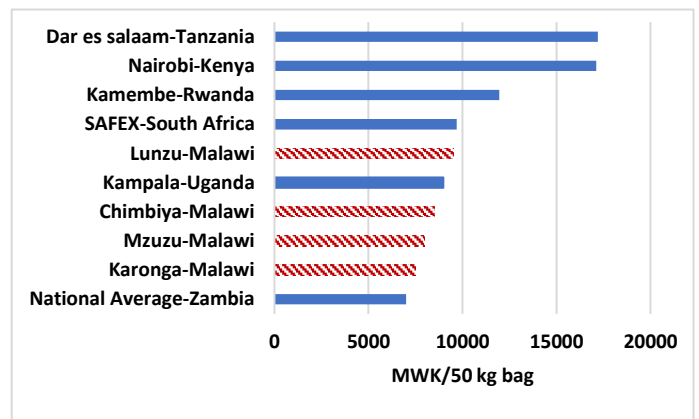
Figure 2. Daily retail prices for old and new maize (MWK/kg)



Regional prices

Towards the end of April 2021, retail maize prices in Malawian markets were lower than in selected regional markets in eastern Africa. Prices in the selected markets from Malawi were lower than on SAFEX (the main grain futures market in South Africa) but higher than the April’s national average of Zambia.

Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in eastern and southern Africa (as of end April 2021)



How data was collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since December 2016. Currently, data is collected from 26 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring six days per week, excluding Sundays. At least three monitors report data from each of these markets. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone if necessary. The regional prices reported in Figure 3 are sourced from Food and Agriculture Organization’s Global Information and Early Warning System (FAO-GIEWS), IFPRI Malawi, the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), and the Zambia Statistics Agency.



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