

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, policy makers, and other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

- Retail prices of maize increased by 9 percent in January 2023.
- ADMARC sales were reported in 10 out of 26 markets monitored by IFPRI.
- No ADMARC purchases were reported in any of the markets monitored by IFPRI.
- Retail maize prices in Malawi were higher than in Zambia and South Africa.

Prices increased by 9 percent in January

In the final week of January, maize was selling at an average retail price of MWK 512/kg, a 9 percent increase from the previous month (Figure 1, 3 and Table 1). In the same period, Rumphu market reported the lowest average selling price (MWK 413/kg) and the highest decline between end December 2022 and end January 2023. The highest average selling price was reported in Nsanje market (MWK 570/kg) while the Mangochi market recorded the highest increase in retail maize price of 19 percent between final weeks of December 2022 and January 2023.

Figure 1 shows a trend in prices in the 12 months ending in January 2023 and, for comparison, in the 12 months ending in January 2022. At the beginning of May, we start reporting prices of newly harvested maize, which has a higher moisture content than maize from the previous harvest. High moisture content makes maize unsuitable for storage or milling. During drying, it loses about 20 percent of its weight. Solid and dashed lines in Figure 1 represent observed maize prices. Dotted lines represent prices adjusted for moisture content and thus the true price trend.

Prices remain highest in the South

The average retail price of maize remains highest in the southern region as most maize retailers incur additional transaction costs of purchasing maize from other regions. In the month of January, the average retail price of maize was MWK 522/kg in the South, 10 percent and 14 percent higher than in the Center (MWK 474/kg) and the North (MWK 458/kg) respectively (Figure 2 and 3).

Figure 1. Long-run trends in average maize retail prices

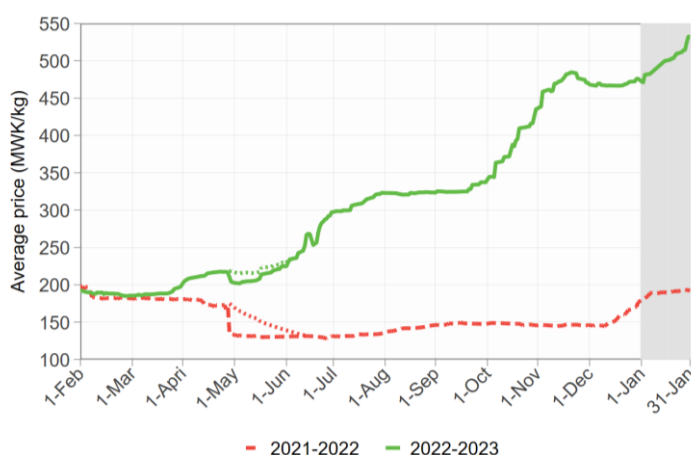


Figure 2. Average daily maize retail prices by region

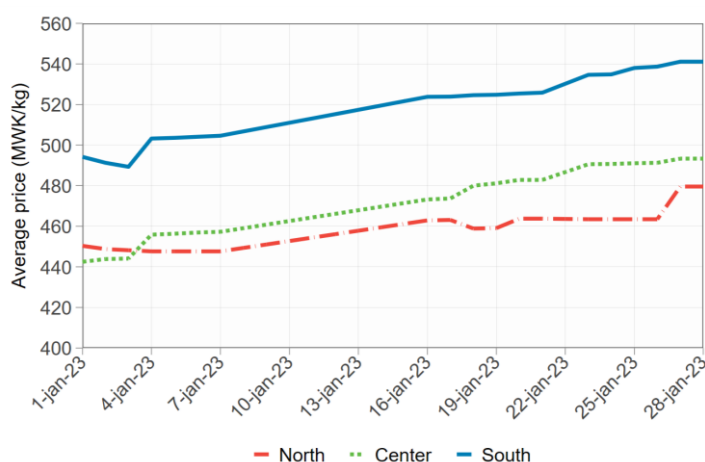
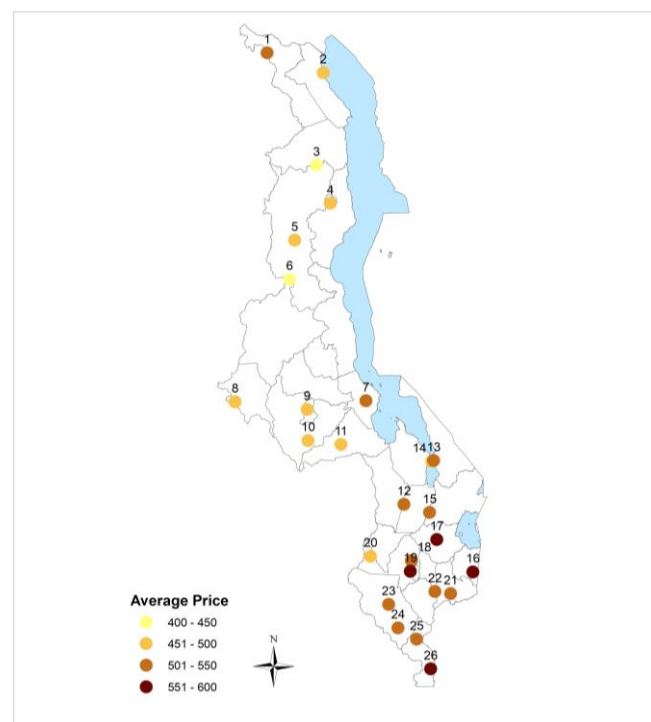


Table 1. Weekly average maize retail prices (MWK/kg) market

| | Week ending on | | | | | Change |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| | 28-Dec-22 | 7-Jan-23 | 14-Jan-23 | 21-Jan-23 | 28-Jan-23 | |
| Chitipa ¹ | 450 | 443 | 462 | 488 | 512 | 📈 14% |
| Karonga ² | 463 | 463 | 477 | 494 | 495 | 📈 7% |
| Rumphi ³ | 444 | 438 | 432 | 418 | 413 | 📉 -7% |
| Mzuzu ⁴ | 456 | 463 | 463 | 470 | 452 | 📉 -1% |
| Mzimba ⁵ | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 📊 0% |
| Jenda ⁶ | 409 | 408 | 419 | 425 | 462 | 📈 13% |
| Salima ⁷ | 463 | 498 | 512 | 515 | 534 | 📈 15% |
| Mchinji ⁸ | 406 | 416 | 434 | 460 | 472 | 📈 16% |
| Nsungwi ⁹ | 449 | 453 | 456 | 471 | 486 | 📈 8% |
| Mitundu ¹⁰ | 434 | 442 | 464 | 479 | 485 | 📈 12% |
| Chimbiya ¹¹ | 422 | 446 | 456 | 465 | 478 | 📈 13% |
| Balaka ¹² | 445 | 492 | 503 | 503 | 506 | 📈 14% |
| M'baluku ¹³ | 473 | 486 | 502 | 507 | 545 | 📈 15% |
| Mangochi ¹⁴ | 409 | 436 | 454 | 476 | 488 | 📈 19% |
| Liwonde ¹⁵ | 487 | 490 | 513 | 538 | 540 | 📈 11% |
| Chiringa ¹⁶ | 500 | 501 | 509 | 524 | 558 | 📈 12% |
| Mpondabwino ¹⁷ | 508 | 412 | 453 | 538 | 586 | 📈 15% |
| Lunzu ¹⁸ | 513 | 523 | 527 | 527 | 535 | 📈 4% |
| Mbayani ¹⁹ | 513 | 524 | 543 | 553 | 553 | 📈 8% |
| Mwanza ²⁰ | 527 | 508 | 504 | 497 | 498 | 📉 -5% |
| Mulanje ²¹ | 550 | 540 | 539 | 547 | 550 | 📊 0% |
| Luchenza ²² | 481 | 496 | 516 | 533 | 533 | 📈 11% |
| Chikwawa ²³ | 500 | 511 | 520 | 520 | 520 | 📈 4% |
| Ngabu ²⁴ | 487 | 521 | 541 | 534 | 540 | 📈 11% |
| Bangula ²⁵ | 458 | 490 | 500 | 500 | 531 | 📈 16% |
| Nsanje ²⁶ | 503 | 549 | 574 | 568 | 570 | 📈 13% |
| All markets | 470 | 478 | 490 | 501 | 512 | 📈 9% |

Figure 3. Location of markets



Note: The number on the map corresponds to a market in Table 1

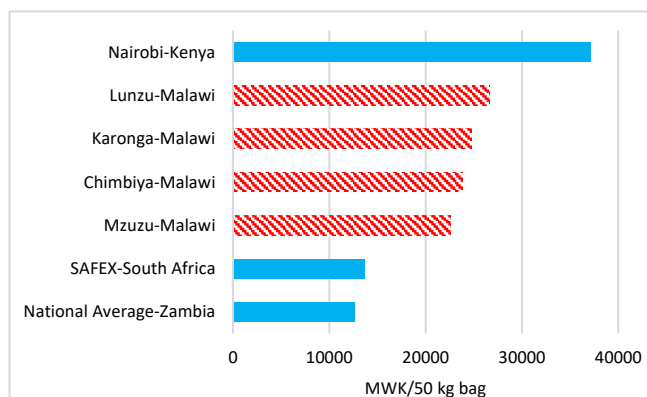
Regional prices

At regional level, retail price of maize was highest in Nairobi, Kenya and lowest in Zambia at the end of January 2023. However, the retail prices of maize in selected markets in Malawi, were higher than in Zambia and South Africa (Figure 4).

ADMARC Activities

ADMARC sales were reported in 10 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI (1 in the Center, 4 in the North and 5 in the South).

Figure 4. Regional comparison (January 2023)



How data was collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since October 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 phone calls to the monitors. Regional prices reported in Figure 4 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 Kenya Agricultural Management Information System (KAMIS).



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