**IFPRI Monthly Maize Market Report** **July 2018**

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, sellers, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

## *Highlights*

- The average maize retail price increased by 9 percent during July 2018.
- The average retail price of MWK115/kg in July was 23 percent lower than the minimum farmgate price announced by the Malawi Government in mid-April.
- No purchases or sales by ADMARC were reported during the month.
- Maize prices in Malawi remained lower than prices in most eastern and southern Africa markets.

## *Prices increased in July*

The average maize price during the month of July was MWK115/kg. The national average retail price increased by 9 percent during July, with prices rising in 13 markets, remaining constant in two markets, and falling in just one. Chikwawa and Nsanje markets had the highest price increases of 30 and 33 percent respectively during the month. Mchinji and Mitundu markets had a constant price throughout the month, while the price in Karonga market declined by 5 percent during July.

Retail prices in all markets were lower than the minimum farm gate price for maize of MWK150/kg announced by the Malawi Government in mid-April 2018.

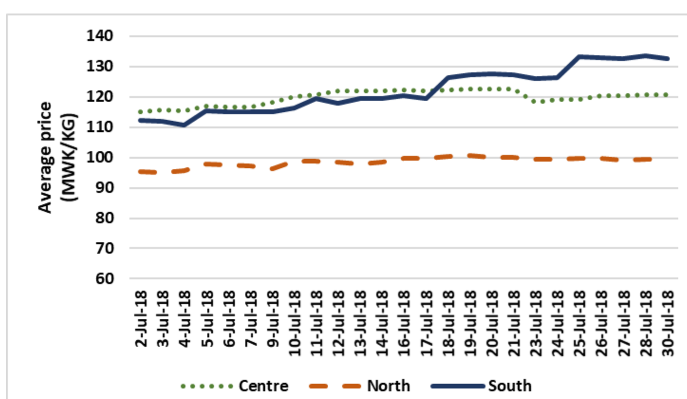
**Table 1. Maize retail prices (MWK/kg) by market**

| Market | 7-Jul-18 | 14-Jul-18 | 21-Jul-18 | 28-Jul-18 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chitipa | 77 | 75 | 81 | 81 | 6% |
| Karonga | 105 | 101 | 103 | 100 | -5% |
| Rumphi | 113 | 112 | 117 | 117 | 3% |
| Mzuzu | 98 | 103 | 108 | 107 | 8% |
| Mzimba | 90 | 92 | 92 | 93 | 4% |
| Salima | 123 | 137 | 140 | 133 | 8% |
| Mchinji | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 0% |
| Mitundu | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 0% |
| Chimbiya | 103 | 111 | 110 | 110 | 6% |
| Lunzu | 120 | 130 | 130 | 130 | 8% |
| Mwanza | 120 | 123 | 130 | 130 | 8% |
| Liwonde | 113 | 113 | 128 | 130 | 15% |
| Luchenza | 123 | 133 | 137 | 140 | 14% |
| Mulanje | 123 | 120 | 117 | 140 | 14% |
| Chikwawa | 100 | 110 | 120 | 130 | 30% |
| Nsanje | 100 | 100 | 127 | 133 | 33% |
| **All markets** | **109** | **113** | **117** | **120** | 9% |

## *Prices remain highest in the South*

Maize prices were highest in the South towards the end of July and lowest in the North, as has been the case since January 2018. In contrast to previous months where prices were highest in the South throughout the month, prices were highest in the central region for the first half of July 2018, with a gradual decline towards the end of the month. Despite having the lowest prices throughout the month, prices in the North increased slightly in the second half of July.

**Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during July 2018**



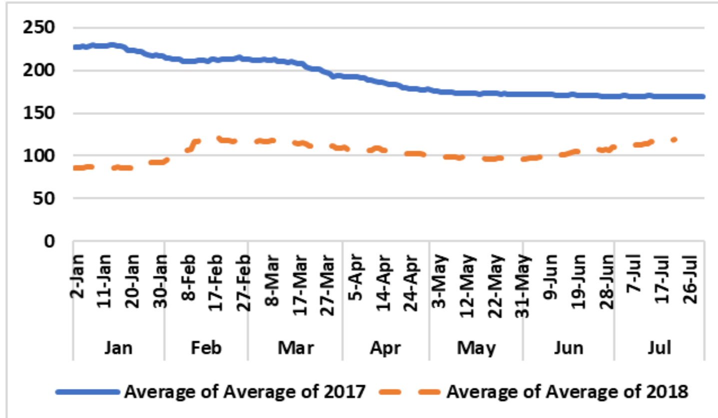
## ADMARC and NFRA activities

No buying or selling activities were reported in any markets by ADMARC depots during the month of July. AHCX expects to start buying maize for the SGR towards the end of August 2018.

## Price trend – 2017 to 2018

Figure 2 compares average retail price trends from January to July in 2017 as compared to 2018. Maize prices in 2018 remain significantly lower than prices were in the first half of 2017. However, an upward trend in prices was observed during July 2018 in contrast to July 2017, when prices remained stable during the month. July was also the month in which maize prices peaked in 2016.

**Figure 2. Average retail prices – Jan to July in 2017 and 2018**

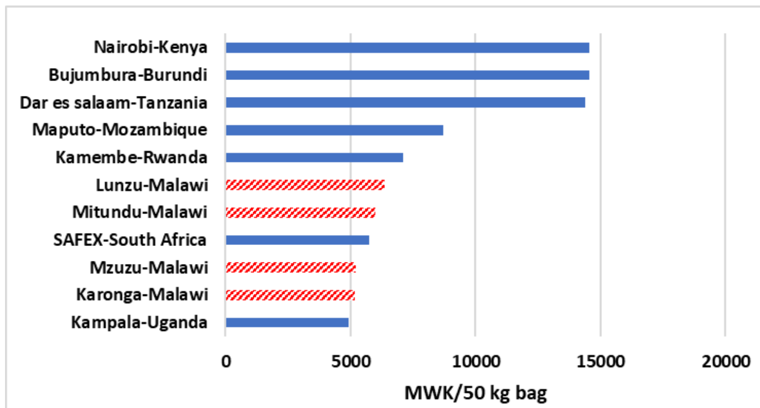



## Regional prices in July 2018

Figure 3 shows retail maize prices per 50kg bag in selected markets in Malawi as well as in seven other countries in the region. The maize retail price per 50 kg bag was the highest in Nairobi, closely followed by Bujumbura and Dar es Salaam; Kampala recorded the lowest price during July 2018.

While maize prices in Malawi at the end of July were significantly lower than the prices in most eastern and southern Africa markets, retail prices in Lunzu and Mitundu were slightly higher than on SAFEX-South Africa.

**Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in Eastern and Southern Africa (as of end of July 2018)**




**Sources**: RATIN, IFPRI-Malawi, SAFEX, FAO-GIEWS

## How data was collected

IFPRI has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since November 2016. Currently, the data is collected from 16 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring six days per week, excluding Sundays. At least three monitors report data from each of the 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 collected from the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN), IFPRI Malawi, and the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).


**For further information contact:** Dennis Ochieng (D.Ochieng@cgiar.org) or Rosemary Botha (R.Botha@cgiar.org) at IFPRI Malawi.


**To learn more about IFPRI Malawi's work, please visit:** http://massp.ifpri.info