

## Highlights

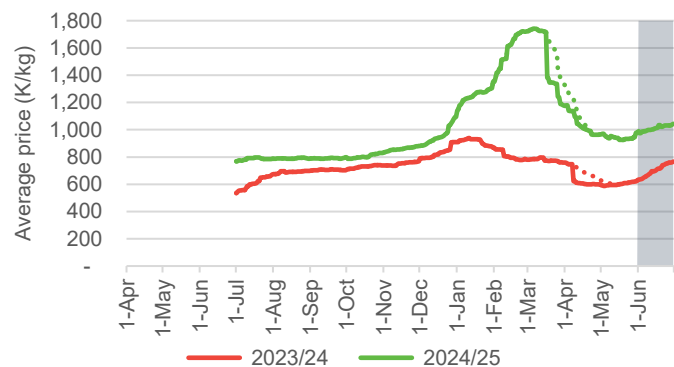
- ▶ Retail prices of maize increased by 8 percent in June.
- ▶ Prices rose in all regions of Malawi despite continued imports.
- ▶ Maize retailed above the government-mandated price in 13 out of 26 monitored markets.

## Maize prices increased by 8 percent in June

Figure 1 shows a trend in prices over the 12 months ending in June 2025, and, for comparison, over the 12 months ending in June 2024. At the beginning of the harvest season, 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 up to 20 percent of its weight. Solid lines in Figure 1 represent observed maize prices. Dotted lines represent prices adjusted for moisture content, reflecting the true price trend.

In June, there was a modest increase in maize prices (Figure 1). The weekly average price of maize increased from K951/kg in the last week of May to K1,031/kg in the last week of June (Table 1), marking a modest 8 percent rise and pushing prices closer to the government-prescribed minimum farmgate price of K1,050/kg. By comparison, last year saw a substantial 23 percent increase during the same period.

**Figure 1:** Trends in maize retail prices



## Regional price trends

Maize prices increased across all regions of Malawi in June, though the rate of increase varied significantly throughout the country. The Central Region saw the most significant price increases, especially in Lilongwe, Mchinji, and Dedza. In the Northern Region, prices increased the most in Mzimba and Karonga. The Southern Region recorded the lowest average rate of price increase, but it retained the highest absolute maize prices (Table 1 and Figure 2). By the last week of June, maize averaged K913/kg in the Northern Region, K1,036/kg in the Central Region, and K1,067/kg in the Southern Region (Table 1). Maize prices exceeded the government-mandated minimum farmgate price of K1,050/kg in only half the monitored markets by the end of the month.

## Imports continue dominating cross-border trade in maize

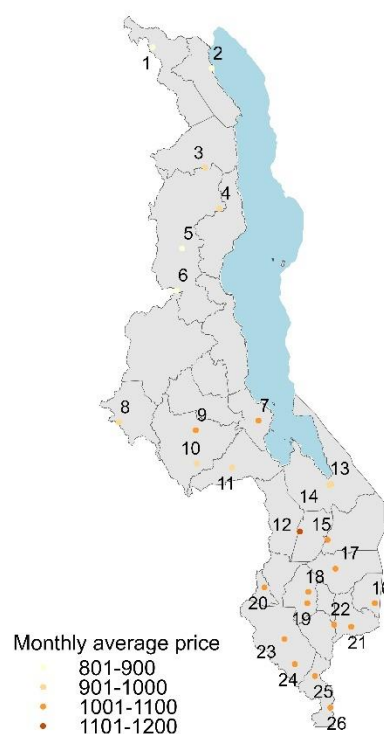
In June, Malawi continued importing more maize than it exported through nearly all monitored border locations. The only exceptions were Mkumaniza in Chikwawa, which registered net exports in the first half of the month, and Mbirima in Chitipa, where imports and exports were more or less equal in the week ending on 29 June. By the end of the month, maize was entering the country through all monitored border locations (Table 2 and Figure 3), suggesting that domestic supply of maize is unable to meet demand. However, compared to May, when much imported maize sold in Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzuzu, maize imported in June was mostly sold locally within border districts, with only limited trade further inland to Lilongwe (Figure 3).

The depreciation of the Malawi kwacha in informal exchange markets during June (Figure 4) contributed to rising maize import parity prices (Table 2), which in turn pushed up domestic retail prices.

**Table 1: Weekly average retail prices (K/kg)**

Market	Week ending on					Monthly change
	31-May	7-Jun	14-Jun	21-Jun	28-Jun	
1 Chitipa	776	840	805	796	799	3%
2 Karonga	790	865	895	888	888	12%
3 Rumphi	986	952	949	965	982	-0%
4 Mzuzu (boma)	935	941	902	913	948	1%
5 Mzimba (boma)	765	758	751	911	893	17%
6 Mzimba (Jenda)	782	801	820	844	899	15%
North	844	859	857	887	913	8%
7 Salima	996	946	992	997	1,059	6%
8 Mchinji	896	926	946	996	1,011	13%
9 Lilongwe city (Nsungwi)	917	1,001	1,015	1,067	1,067	16%
10 Lilongwe (Mitundu)	883	911	938	960	982	11%
11 Dedza (Chimbiya)	868	897	896	937	978	13%
Center	916	959	978	1,017	1,036	13%
12 Balaka	1,057	1,132	1,150	1,121	1,083	2%
13 Mangochi (M'baluku)	987	987	1,000	1,000	1,000	1%
14 Mangochi (boma)	919	933	996	1,000	985	7%
15 Liwonde	1,034	1,083	1,064	1,121	1,100	6%
16 Phalombe (Chiringa)	1,050	1,079	1,100	1,090	1,067	2%
17 Zomba (Mpondabwino)	981	1,066	1,100	1,100	1,100	12%
18 Blantyre (Lunzu)	971	1,008	1,013	1,048	1,066	10%
19 Blantyre city (Mbayani)	998	1,029	1,030	1,030	1,030	3%
20 Mwanza	1,033	1,054	1,129	1,096	1,093	6%
21 Mulanje	1,043	1,054	1,098	1,100	1,100	5%
22 Thyolo (Luchenza)	1,033	1,055	1,098	1,090	1,114	8%
23 Chikwawa (boma)	1,034	1,022	1,039	1,040	1,049	1%
24 Chikwawa (Ngabu)	1,049	1,061	1,040	1,063	1,080	3%
25 Nsanje (Bangula)	1,019	1,057	1,047	1,054	1,060	4%
26 Nsanje (boma)	1,004	1,048	1,085	1,119	1,127	12%
South	1,012	1,047	1,066	1,070	1,067	5%
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>8%</b>

**Figure 2: Location of monitored markets**

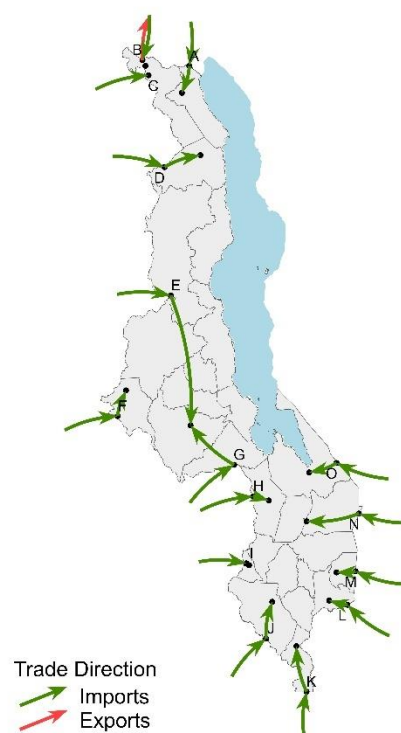


**Table 2: Cross-border trade and import/export parity prices**

District (border post) neighbor		Week ending on			
		8-Jun	15-Jun	22-Jun	29-Jun
A. Karonga (Songwe)	TZ	< 900	< 967	< 975	< 867
B. Chitipa (Mbirima)	TZ	<< 733	< 867	< 700	<
C. Chitipa (Sopolera)	ZM	<< 600	< 717	< 650	< 783
D. Rumphi (Hewe)	ZM	< 617	< 633	< 725	< 733
E. Mzimba (Mqocha/Jenda)	ZM	<< 675	<< 700	< 650	<< 817
F. Mchinji	ZM	<< 667	< 683	< 675	< 683
G. Dedza	MZ	<< 813	<< 813	<< 880	< 907
H. Ntcheu (Tsangano)	MZ	<< 783	<< 767	< 817	< 800
I. Mwanza	MZ	<< 800	< 800	< 1,000	< 1,025
J. Chikwawa (Mkumaniza)	MZ	> 1,000	> 1,000	< 750	< 800
K. Nsanje (Marka)	MZ	< 900	< 883	< 900	< 900
L. Mulanje (Muloza)	MZ	< 923	< 910	<< 993	< 993
M. Phalombe (Kolowiko)	MZ	< 925	<< 875	< 875	< 975
N. Machinga (Nayuchi)	MZ	<< 900	<< 933	<< 860	< 960
O. Mangochi (Chiponde)	MZ	<< 900	<< 925	<< 900	< 980

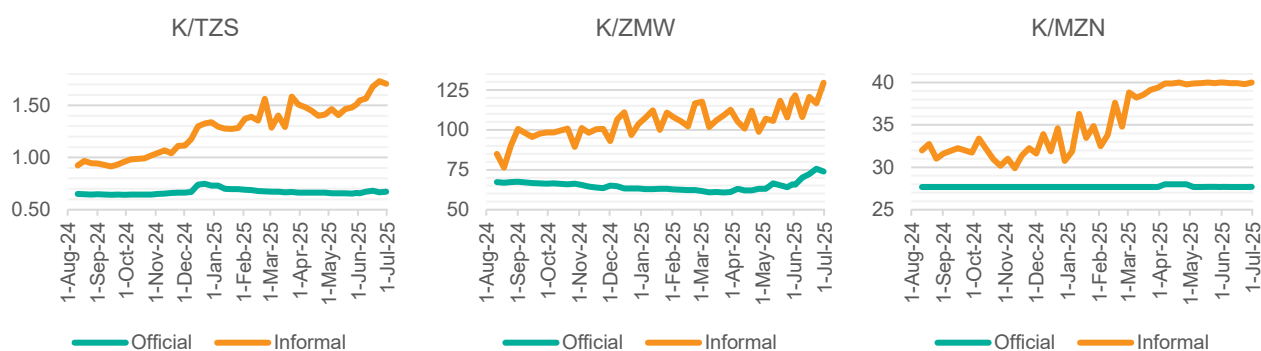
Notes: < net imports passing through to other districts, << net imports into border district only, <> similar volume of trade in both directions, > net exports sourced from border district only, >> net exports sourced from other districts, - no cross-border trade. Import and export parity prices, i.e., the prices at which imported maize can be bought and those at which maize for export can be sold on the Malawi side of the border, are reported in K/kg.

**Figure 3: Cross-border trade flows**



Notes: Arrows illustrate net imports and net exports in the week ending on 29 June 2025.

**Figure 4: Exchange rates**



Notes: Official rates are the selling rates published by the Reserve Bank of Malawi. Informal rates are reported by cross-border traders.

### How data were collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring maize retail prices in selected markets since November 2016. Price data are collected telephonically six times per week (excluding Sundays) from 26 markets across the country. Additionally, local import and export prices as well as the direction and terms of trade are collected on a weekly basis from 15 border crossing points. Three monitors (typically small grain traders) report from each location. All prices are reported in Malawi kwacha (K).