

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, pigeon pea, soybean, and groundnut) increased by 1 to 12 percent.
- Average retail prices of cassava and Irish potato increased by 11 and 3 percent respectively. Sweet potato prices remained constant.
- Sorghum retail prices increased by 18 percent while rice prices remained constant.

Legumes

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

Market	Common bean					Pigeon pea					Change since Nov 28	
	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Bean	P. pea
North												
Karonga-boma	700	700	700	700	733	500	500	500	500	500	↑ 5%	→ 0%
Mzuzu	850	850	850	850	850	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Jenda	800	800	800	800	800	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Center												
Mchinji	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Mitundu	950	950	950	950	950	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Chimbiya	733	733	800	800	850	-	-	-	-	-	→ 16%	-
South												
Balaka	1100	1100	1100	1100	1100	633	650	650	650	650	→ 0%	↑ 3%
Lunzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	500	500	500	500	600	→ 0%	↑ 20%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	600	-	↑ 20%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	550	-	↑ 10%
Bangula	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
All markets	907	907	914	914	923	529	532	532	532	593	↑ 2%	↑ 12%

Note: - = commodity was not monitored.

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

Market	Soybean					Groundnut					since Nov 28	
	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Soybean	Groundnut
North												
Karonga-boma	400	400	400	400	400	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mzuzu	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Jenda	400	400	400	400	400	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Center												
Mchinji	375	375	375	375	375	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mitundu	400	450	450	450	450	950	950	1000	1000	1000	↑ 13%	↑ 5%
Chimbiya	400	400	400	400	400	900	900	900	900	900	→ 0%	→ 0%
South												
Balaka	450	450	450	450	450	1167	1167	1167	1167	1200	→ 0%	↑ 3%
Lunzu	450	450	450	450	500	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 11%	-
Mangochi	450	450	450	450	450	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	→ 0%	→ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	→ 0%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All markets	419	425	425	425	431	1025	1025	1031	1031	1035	↑ 3%	↑ 1%

Note: - commodity was not monitored.

Roots and Tubers

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

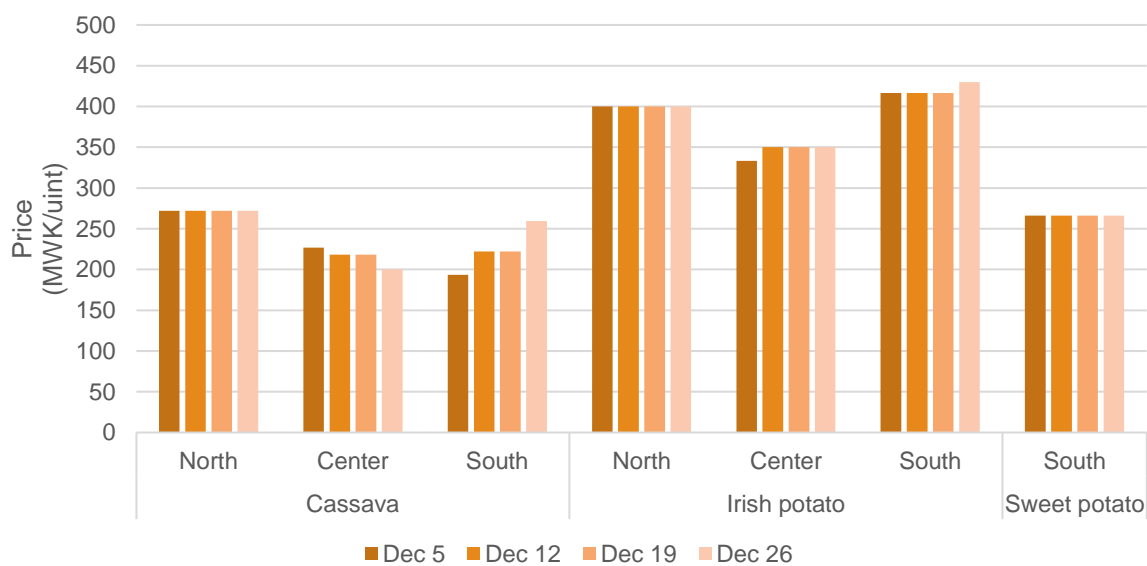


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during December 2020

Commodity	Market	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Change since Nov 28	
Cassava	North							
	Nkhatabay-boma	272	272	272	272	272	→	0%
	Center							
	Chinkhoma	220	206	235	235	235	↑	14%
	Kawamba	240	237	240	240	192	↓	-20%
	Mitundu	187	240	187	187	171	↓	-29%
	South							
	Limbe	200	235	235	235	272	↑	36%
	Namwera turn-off	166	152	210	210	247	↑	49%
	All markets	209	220	226	226	231	↑	11%
Sweet potato	South							
	Bangwe	250	250	250	250	250	→	0%
	Chilobwe	333	333	333	333	333	→	0%
	Chinakanaka	238	238	238	238	238	→	0%
	Ndirande	250	250	250	250	250	→	0%
	Zingwanga	275	275	275	275	275	→	0%
	All markets	266	266	266	266	266	→	0%
Irish potato	North							
	Jenda	400	400	400	400	400	→	0%
	Center							
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	400	300	350	350	350	↓	-13%
	Lizulu	433	350	350	350	350	↓	-19%
	Tsangano turn-off	300	350	350	350	350	↑	17%
	South							
	Blantyre market	350	400	400	400	400	↑	14%
	Limbe	350	433	433	433	460	↑	31%
All markets	372	372	381	381	385	↑	3%	

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 December 2020

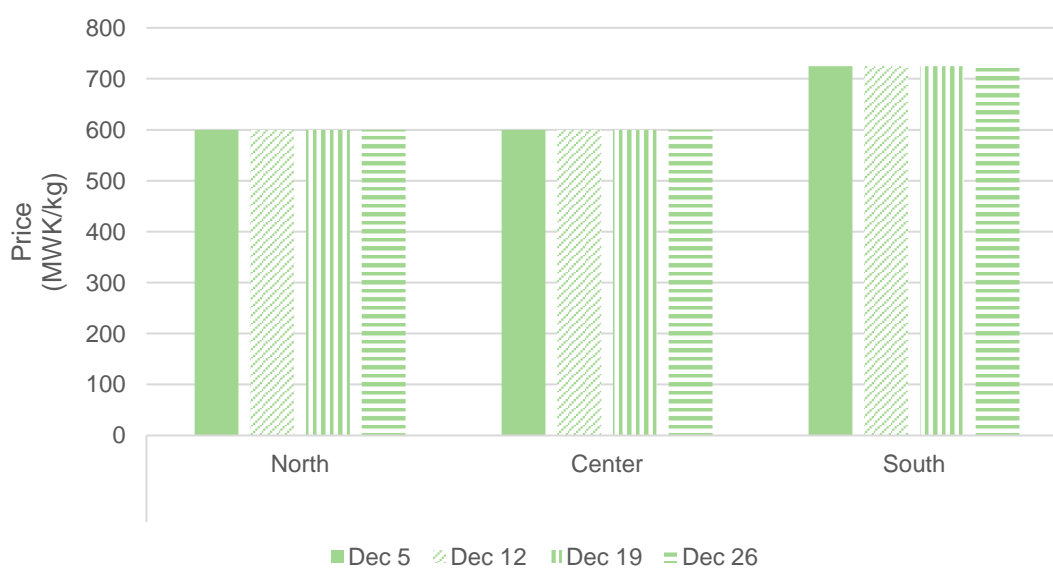


Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during December 2020

Commodity	Market	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Change since Nov 28
Rice	North						
	Karonga-boma	500	500	500	500	500	→ 0%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	800	→ 0%
	Nkhatabay-boma	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	Pusi	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	Wowwe	500	500	500	500	500	→ 0%
	Center						
	Salima-kamuzu road	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	Nkhotakota-boma	600	600	600	600	600	→ 0%
	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	638	638	638	638	→ 0%	
Sorghum	South						
	Chikwawa	300	300	333	333	400	↑ 33%
	Ngabu	400	400	400	400	400	→ 0%
	Nsanje	400	400	400	400	400	→ 0%
	All markets	340	340	360	360	400	↑ 18%

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 are being 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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