

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the weekly variation of retail prices for 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 for common beans, groundnut, and pigeon peas increased by 1 to 3 percent.
- Retail prices of soybean fell by 12 percent, partly due to the availability of newly harvested soybean.
- Average retail prices of selected roots and tubers (cassava, Irish potato and sweet potato) decreased by 1 to 10 percent.
- Rice retail prices decreased by 17 percent, while sorghum retail prices fell by 46 percent in the last week of April due to newly harvested supplies.

## Legumes

**Table 1.** Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common beans and pigeon pea by region during April 2021

Market	Common beans					Pigeon pea					Change since March 27	
	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	Bean	P. pea
<b>North</b>												
Jenda	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Karonga-boma	950	950	950	950	950	-	-	-	-	500	⇒ 0%	-
Mzuzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
<b>Center</b>												
Chimbiya	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Mchinji	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Mitundu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
<b>South</b>												
Balaka	1100	1100	1100	1100	1133	500	500	500	500	500	↑ 3%	⇒ 0%
Bangula	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Lunzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	550	550	550	550	600	⇒ 0%	↑ 9%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	500	-	⇒ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	500	500	500	500	500	-	⇒ 0%
<b>All markets</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>↑ 1%</b>	<b>↑ 3%</b>

**Note:** - = commodity is not monitored in this market.

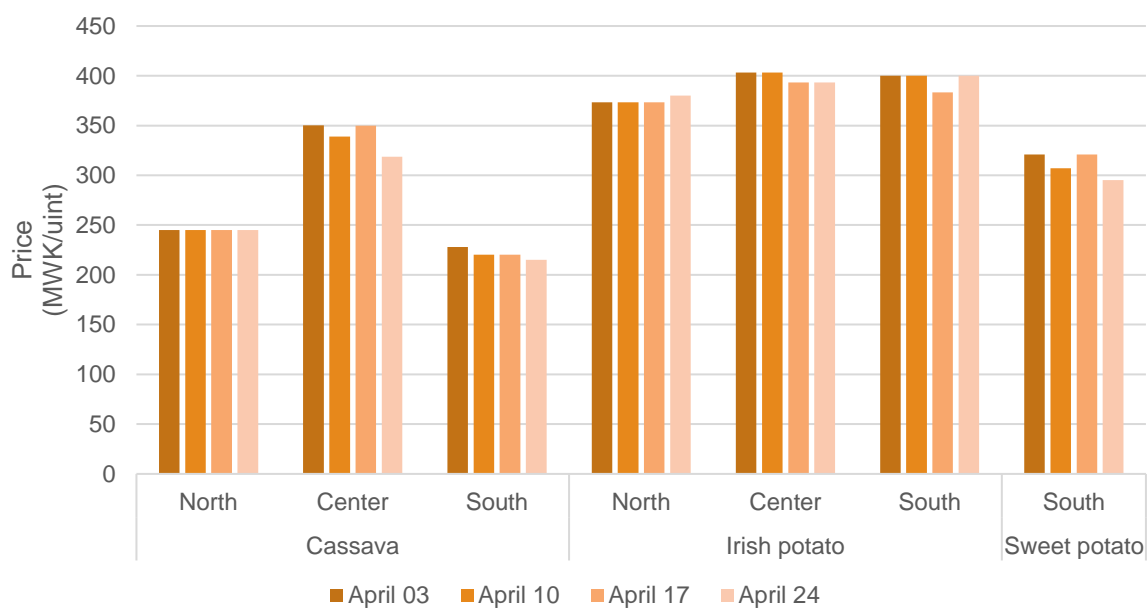
**Table 2.** Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during April 2021

Market	Soybean					Groundnut					Change since March 27	
	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	Soybean	Groundnut
<b>North</b>												
Jenda	400	400	320	290	375	800	800	800	800	800	↓ -6%	→ 0%
Karonga-boma	450	450	350	320	350	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↓ -22%	→ 0%
Mzuzu	450	450	335	290	375	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↓ -17%	→ 0%
<b>Center</b>												
Chimbiya	450	450	353	300	400	950	950	950	950	950	↓ -11%	→ 0%
Mchinji	375	375	320	290	375	800	800	800	800	800	→ 0%	→ 0%
Mitundu	450	450	335	290	400	900	900	900	900	900	↓ -11%	→ 0%
<b>South</b>												
Balaka	500	500	500	320	475	1000	1000	1000	1000	1100	↓ -5%	↑ 10%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	500	500	500	350	400	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -20%	-
Mangochi	450	450	350	300	425	1033	1033	1033	1033	1033	↓ -6%	→ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	900	900	900	900	900	-	→ 0%
<b>All markets</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>↓ -12%</b>	<b>↑ 1%</b>

**Note:** - commodity not monitored in this market; soybean prices from the third week of April are for 'new' soybean (harvested in the current season)

## Roots and Tubers

**Figure 1.** Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during April 2021



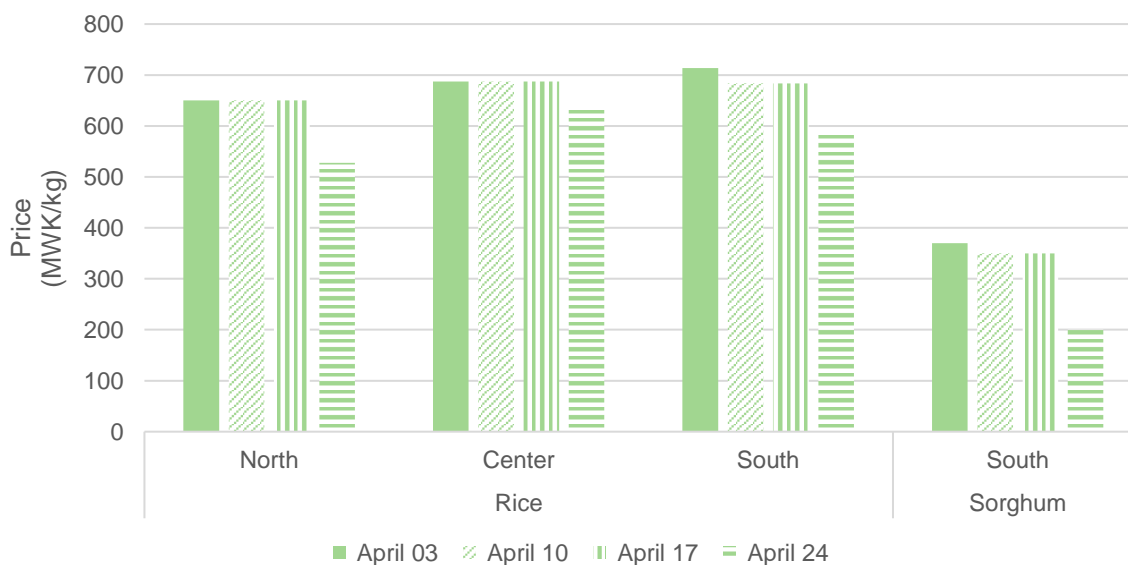
**Table 3.** Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during April 2021

Commodity	Market	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	Change since March 27
<b>Cassava</b>	<b>North</b>						
	Nkhatabay-boma	245	245	245	245	245	→ 0%
	<b>Center</b>						
	Chinkhoma	264	264	264	262	264	→ 0%
	Kawamba	320	320	320	320	320	→ 0%
	Mitundu	457	457	427	457	480	↑ 5%
	<b>South</b>						
	Limbe	267	267	267	267	258	↓ -3%
Namwera turn-off	252	189	174	174	172	↓ -32%	
<b>All markets</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>↓ -10%</b>	
<b>Sweet potato</b>	<b>South</b>						
	Bangwe	314	314	314	314	306	↓ -3%
	Chilobwe	333	333	333	333	333	→ 0%
	Chinakanaka	322	292	292	292	292	↓ -9%
	Ndirande	250	294	294	294	275	→ 0%
	Zingwanga	333	500		500	333	→ 0%
	<b>All markets</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>↓ -1%</b>
<b>Irish potato</b>	<b>North</b>						
	Jenda	373	373	373	373	380	↑ 2%
	<b>Center</b>						
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	380	380	380	380	380	→ 0%
	Lizulu	450	450	450	420	420	↓ -7%
	Tsangano turn-off	380	380	380	380	380	→ 0%
	<b>South</b>						
	Blantyre market	433	433	433	400	400	↓ -8%
Limbe	367	367	367	367	400	↑ 9%	
<b>All markets</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>↓ -1%</b>	

**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 April 2021



**Table 4.** Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during April 2021

Commodity	Market	March 27	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24	Change since March 27
<b>Rice</b>	<b>North</b>						
	Karonga-boma	500	500	500	500	425	↓ -15%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	500	↓ -38%
	Nkhatabay-boma	620	620	620	620	550	↓ -11%
	Pusi	700	700	700	700	500	↓ -29%
	Wowwe	650	650	650	650	650	→ 0%
	<b>Center</b>						
	Nkhotakota-boma	700	700	700	700	500	↓ -29%
	Salima-kamuzu road	683	683	683	683	675	↓ -1%
	<b>South</b>						
	Chiringa	700	700	700	700	500	↓ -29%
	Phalombe	767	767	750	750	717	↓ -7%
Songani	675	675	600	600	533	↓ -21%	
<b>All markets</b>		<b>674</b>	<b>674</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>558</b>	↓ -17%
<b>Sorghum</b>	<b>South</b>						
	Chikwawa	350	350	350	350	200	↓ -43%
	Ngabu	400	400	350	350	200	↓ -50%
	Nsanje	400	400	350	350	200	↓ -50%
	<b>All markets</b>		<b>370</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>200</b>

**Note:** From the fourth week of April, sorghum prices are for 'new' sorghum (harvested from the current season)

### 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 were 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 in areas where these commodities are widely produced have been selected.

\* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



For further information contact

Aubrey Jolex ([a.jolex@cgiar.org](mailto:a.jolex@cgiar.org)) at IFPRI Malawi.

To learn more about our work, visit <https://massp.ifpri.info> or follow us on Twitter ([@IFPRIMalawi](#)).

Photos: IFPRI Malawi