

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, or other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

- Retail prices of maize increased by 5 percent in August 2021.
- ADMARC purchases were reported in 21 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI.
- The average retail prices of maize were trending slightly below the ADMARC purchasing price.
- Retail prices in Malawi were lower than elsewhere in eastern Africa and on SAFEX.

Prices increased by 5 percent in August

Retail maize prices increased by 5 percent during August 2021. During the month, retail prices increased in 21 markets and remained constant in 5 markets. The largest increase was recorded in Chitipa (31 percent). Chikwawa recorded the highest average retail price (MWK200/kg) while Chitipa recorded the lowest average retail price (MWK94/kg) during the month.

By the end of August, the average retail prices of maize were trending slightly below the ADMARC purchasing price averaging MWK 140/kg. This is about 7 percent higher than last month's average price and 22 percent lower than in August 2020.

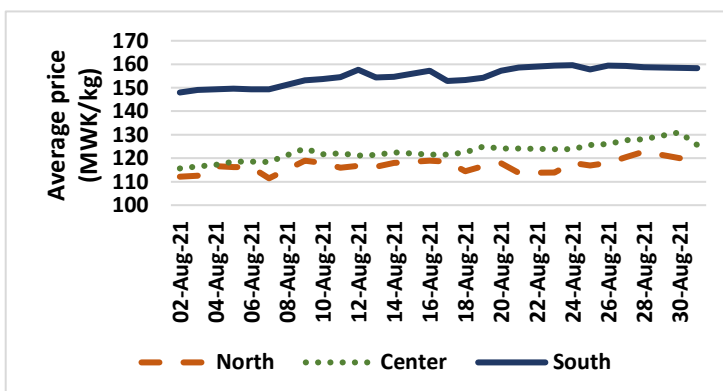
Prices remain highest in the South

Retail prices of maize remained highest in the South and lowest in the North (Figure 1) with mixed trends in the North and Center. As at the end of the month, prices in the Center ranged from MWK116/kg to MWK131/kg and averaged MWK 122/kg, in the North ranged from MWK111/kg to MWK123/kg and averaged MWK 117/kg North, while averaging MWK 154/kg in the South, where they ranged from MWK148/kg to MWK160/kg.

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

	07-Aug-21	14-Aug-21	21-Aug-21	28-Aug-21	Change
Chitipa	84	100	-	110	↑ 31%
Jenda	110	130	110	130	↑ 18%
Karonga	108	109	108	122	↑ 12%
Mzimba	110	110	110	110	→ 0%
Mzuzu	-	128	130	130	↑ 2%
Rumphi	125	123	125	130	↑ 4%
Chimbiya	118	122	125	126	↑ 6%
Mchinji	112	123	123	128	↑ 14%
Mitundu	125	130	-	130	↑ 4%
Nsungwi	120	120	120	123	↑ 2%
Salima	120	120	127	133	↑ 11%
Balaka	125	137	133	145	↑ 16%
Bangula	173	173	173	175	↑ 1%
Chikwawa	200	200	200	200	→ 0%
Chiringa	150	170	150	160	↑ 7%
Liwonde	145	150	140	145	→ 0%
Luchenza	160	160	165	167	↑ 4%
Lunzu	150	-	160	-	↑ 7%
Mangochi	153	153	153	153	→ 0%
M'baluku	155	160	160	160	↑ 3%
Mbayani	145	145	150	155	↑ 7%
Mpondabwin	150	160	155	155	↑ 3%
Mulanje	160	160	160	160	→ 0%
Mwanza	163	173	173	175	↑ 8%
Ngabu	147	150	160	153	↑ 5%
Nsanje	150	155	155	170	↑ 13%
All markets	138	140	143	145	↑ 5%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during August 2021



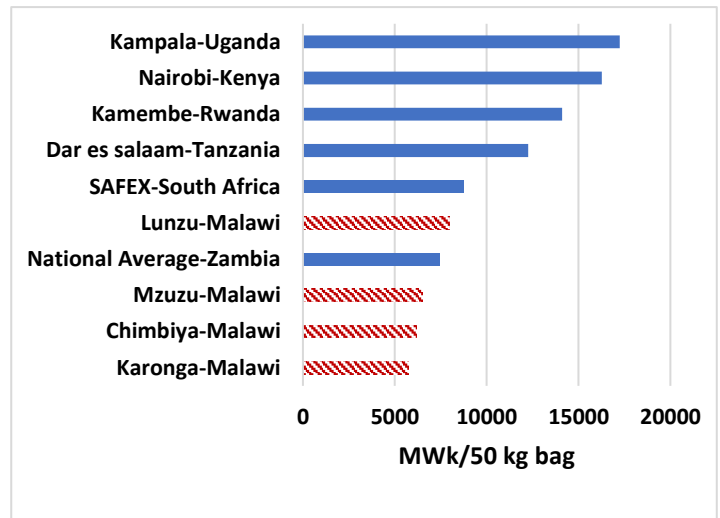
ADMARC Activities

During the month of August, ADMARC purchases were reported in 21 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI. ADMARC is buying maize at the minimum farmgate price of MWK 150/kg. Old maize is also being offered to consumers by ADMARC at MWK 160/kg in some ADMARC depots.

Regional prices

As of the end of August, retail prices of maize in the main Malawian markets were lower than in selected regional markets in eastern Africa and on SAFEX (the main grain futures market in South Africa). Prices in Lunzu were marginally higher than Zambia's national average of August 2021, but still lower than elsewhere in the region.

Figure 2. Retail maize prices in selected markets in eastern and southern Africa (as of August 2021)



How data was collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since December 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 automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone if necessary. Regional prices reported in Figure 3 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 Zambia Statistics Agency.



For further information contact

Aubrey Jolex (A.Jolex@cgiar.org) at IFPRI Malawi.

To learn more about our work, visit www.massp.ifpri.info or follow us on Twitter (@IFPRIMalawi).