

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 10 percent between 30 December 2017 and 31 January 2018.
- Prices remained highest in the Southern region.
- Maize retail prices in Malawi are now the lowest in Eastern and Southern Africa.

### Prices increase in January 2018

Retail maize prices increased by 10 percent on average during the month of January 2018. The largest price increases were recorded in the Central region, with Chimbiya reporting a price increase of 31 percent, followed by Mitundu at 23 percent. Of the 15 markets monitored by IFPRI, only three (Rumphi, Mulanje, and Nsanje) reported price decreases. Two markets (Karonga and Luchenza) reported stable prices during the month. The average retail maize price in January 2018 was MWK89/kg.

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

Market	30-Dec-17	6-Jan-18	13-Jan-18	20-Jan-18	27-Jan-18	31-Jan-18	Monthly change
Karonga	90	90	90	90	88	90	↔ 0%
Rumphi	87	88	88	88	80	80	↓ -8%
Mzimba	68	68	68	68	72	72	↑ 5%
Mzuzu	70	77	73	73	73	73	↑ 5%
Mchinji	75	75	76	78	80	87	↑ 16%
Mitundu	73	77	70	70	87	90	↑ 23%
Chimbiya	70	70	70	70	83	92	↑ 31%
Salima (new market)			92	92	100	107	↑ 16%
Liwonde (new market)	80	80	80	93	97	97	↑ 21%
Mwanza	110	113	110	107	120	120	↑ 9%
Lunzu	100	100	100	83	97	110	↑ 10%
Luchenza			100	100	100	100	↔ 0%
Mulanje	120	120	100	105	107	103	↓ -14%
Chikwawa	90	95	100	100	100	100	↑ 11%
Nsanje	107	107	107	107	103	103	↓ -3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>↑ 10%</b>

Note that two new markets (Salima and Liwonde) have been added this month, while Mponela and Nkhamenya have been dropped (though their prices will still be monitored on a weekly basis by the World Food Programme). IFPRI will begin daily monitoring of maize prices in Chitipa in February 2018.

### Prices remain highest in the South

While prices in the North dipped slightly during the last week of the month, prices in the Centre showed a strong upward trend during the second half of the month, increasing from MWK78/kg in the third week of the month to MWK94/kg at the end of January 2018. Prices were highest in the South throughout the month, particularly in Mwanza (MWK120/kg) and Lunzu (MWK110/kg).

**Figure 1. Daily average maize prices since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018**



