

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 for common beans and pigeon peas increased by 5 to 9 percent while soybean and groundnut retail prices remained stable.
- Average retail prices of cassava decreased by 31 percent, Irish potato increased by 25 percent while sweet potato retail prices remained constant.
- Rice retail prices increased by 25 percent while sorghum retail prices remained constant.

Legumes

Table 1. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common beans and pigeon s by region during February 2021

Market	Common beans					Pigeon pea					Change since Jan 30	
	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Bean	P. pea
North												
Jenda	1000	1000	1200	1200	1200						↑ 20%	-
Karonga-boma	950	950	950	950	950	600	600	650	650	650	→ 0%	↑ 8%
Mzuzu	950	950	1000	1000	1000						↑ 5%	-
Center												
Chimbiya	1000	1000	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 20%	-
Mchinji	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Mitundu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
South												
Balaka	1367	1367	1367	1367	1367	717	717	750	750	750	→ 0%	→ 5%
Bangula	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Lunzu	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	600	600	700	700	700	→ 0%	↑ 17%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	650	650	650	-	↑ 8%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	633	633	633	-	↑ 6%
All markets	1071	1071	1120	1120	1120	625	625	682	682	682	↑ 5%	↑ 9%

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

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

Market	Soybean					Groundnut					Change since Jan 30	
	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Soybean	Groundnut
North												
Jenda	400	400	400	400	400	1000	1000	867	933	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Karonga-boma	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Mzuzu	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Center												
Chimbiya	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	950	950	950	⇒ 0%	↓ -5%
Mchinji	380	375	375	375	375	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	↓ -1%	⇒ 0%
Mitundu	450	450	450	450	450	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
South												
Balaka	500	500	500	500	500	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	500	500	500	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Mangochi	450	450	450	450	450	1200	1200	1200	1200	1200	⇒ 0%	⇒ 0%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	1000	1000	1000	1000	1100	-	↑ 10%
All markets	452	451	451	451	451	1046	1046	1025	1033	1048	↓ -0.1%	↑ 0%

Note: - commodity not monitored in this market.

Roots and Tubers

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

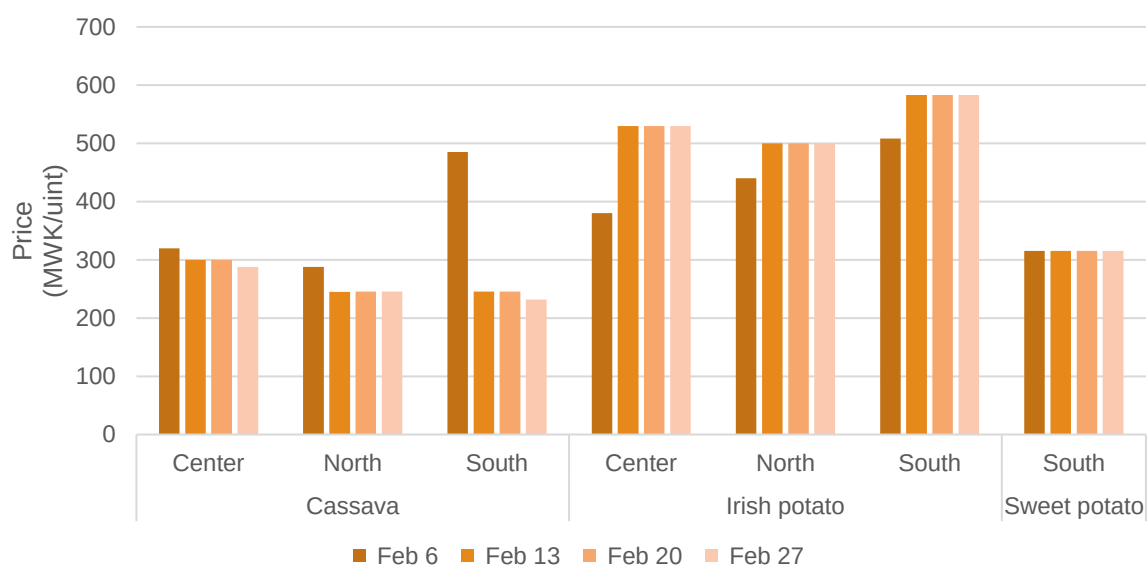


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during February 2021

Commodity	Market	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Change since Jan 30
Cassava	North						
	Nkhatabay-boma	288	245	288	245	245	↓ -15%
	Center						
	Chinkhoma	272	272	240	240	240	↓ -12%
	Kawamba	272	272	240	240	240	↓ -12%
	Mitundu	400	400	400	400	368	↓ -8%
	South						
	Limbe	640	693	240	240	235	↓ -63%
	Namwera turn-off	301	277	251	251	229	↓ -24%
	All markets	373	273	378	273	262	↓ -30%
Sweet potato	South						
	Bangwe	333	333	333	333	333	→ 0%
	Chilobwe	333	333	333	333	333	→ 0%
	Chinakanaka	292	292	292	292	292	→ 0%
	Ndirande	306	306	306	306	306	→ 0%
	Zingwanga	333	333	333	333	333	→ 0%
	All markets	315	315	315	315	315	→ 0%
Irish potato	North						
	Jenda	440	500	440	500	500	↑ 14%
	Center						
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	380	380	530	530	530	↑ 39%
	Lizulu	380	380	530	530	530	↑ 39%
	Tsangano turn-off	380	380	530	530	530	↑ 39%
	South						
	Blantyre market	517	600	517	600	600	↑ 16%
	Limbe	500	567	500	567	567	↑ 13%
	All markets	433	543	433	543	543	↑ 25%

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 February 2021

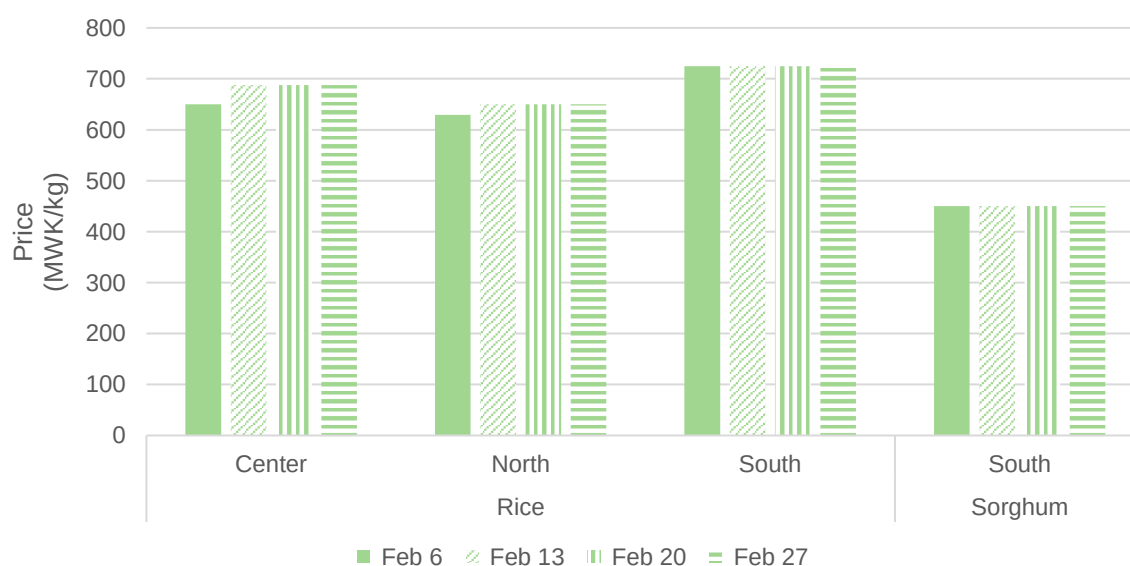


Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during February 2021

Commodity	Market	Jan 30	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Change since Jan 30	
Rice	North							
	Karonga-boma	500	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	800	800	800	→	0%
	Nkhatabay-boma	610	610	620	620	620	↑	2%
	Pusi	650	650	700	700	700	↑	8%
	Wowwe	600	600	650	650	650	↑	8%
	Center							
	Nkhotakota-boma	650	650	700	700	700	↑	8%
	Salima-kamuzu road	650	650	683	683	683	↑	5%
	South							
	Chiringa	700	700	700	700	700	→	0%
	Phalombe	800	800	800	800	800	→	0%
	Songani	675	675	675	675	675	→	0%
	All markets	661	661	678	678	678	↑	3%
Sorghum	South							
	Chikwawa	450	450	450	450	450	→	0%
	Ngabu	450	450	450	450	450	→	0%
	Nsanje	450	450	450	450	450	→	0%
	All markets	450	450	450	450	450	→	0%

How data was 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 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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