MALAWI

STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM

IFPRI Malawi Monthly Maize Market Report **February 2022**

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 decreased marginally by 1 percent since January 2022.
- No ADMARC purchases were reported in any of the markets monitored by IFPRI.
- ADMARC sales were reported in 11 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI.
- Retail prices in Malawi were lower than elsewhere in eastern Africa.

Prices decreased marginally by 1 percent since January 2021

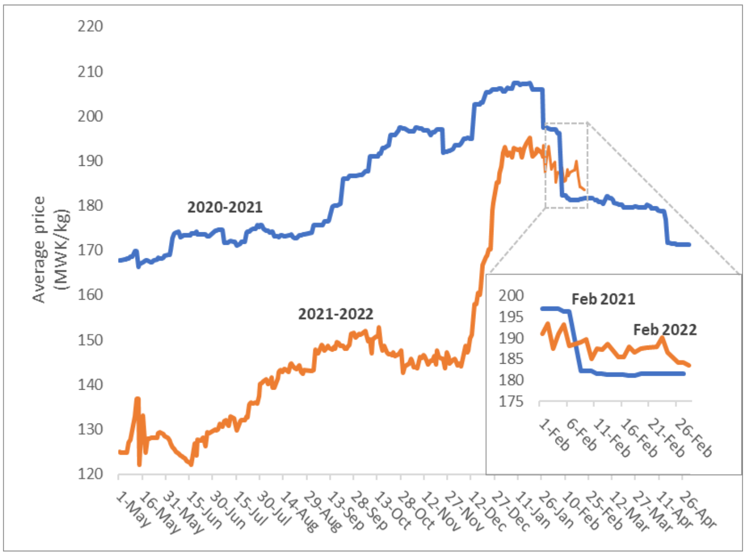
By the end of February 2022, maize retail prices averaged at MWK188/kg. This is 1 percent lower than January 2022 and 2 percent higher than February 2021. In the first week of February 2022 prices continued to increase up until second week where retail prices started declining (Figure 1). Prices might have declined possibly because of humanitarian food assistance especially in the South as a result of floods which have negatively affected households.

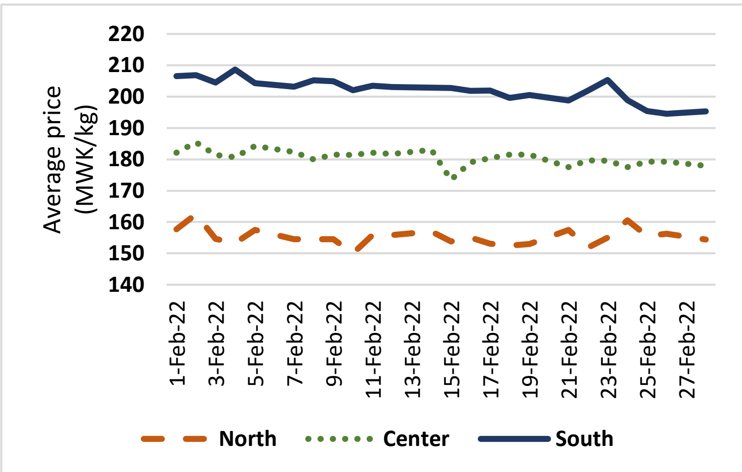
During the month of February 2022, minimum maize retail prices had gone up to MWK130/kg in Jenda and Mzimba from MWK100/kg reported in January 2022 (Table 1). While maximum price had gone down to MWK240/kg (Mbayani) from MWK250/kg reported in January 2022.

Prices remain highest in the South

Maize continues to sell at highest retail prices in the South. However, during February 2022, prices showed a declining trend. The South has been heavily hit by the floods. There have been humanitarian interventions to assist the affected households with food stuffs and other necessities. This somehow reduced households' reliance on the market for maize, hence prices declining.

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices since May 2020





As at the end of February, prices in the South averaged MWK 202/kg (1 percent lower than last month), in the Center averaged MWK 180/kg (3 percent lower than last month) as result of the reduced demand from the South, while in the North prices averaged at MWK 155/kg (1 percent higher than last month).

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

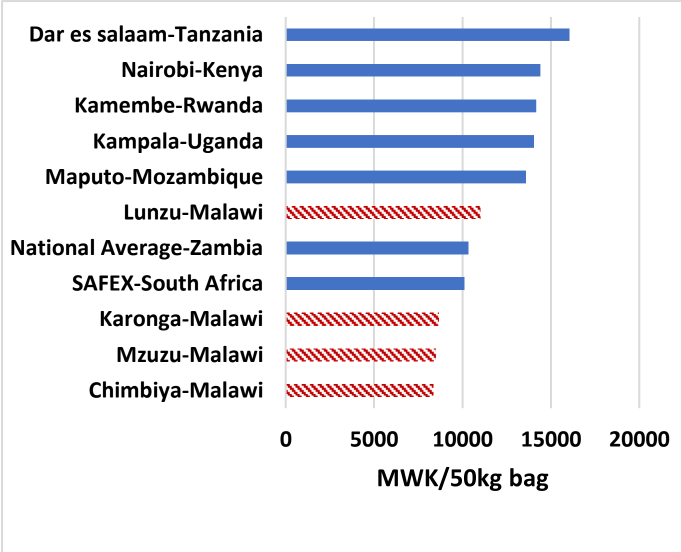
	Jan Average	5-Feb-22	12-Feb-22	19-Feb-22	26-Feb-22	Feb Average	Change
Chitipa	**178**	150	150	150	150	**150**	-15%
Jenda	**146**	135	138	137	143	**138**	-5%
Karonga	**175**	178	178	180	175	**177**	1%
Mzimba	**125**	130	130	140	140	**134**	7%
Mzuzu	**150**	175	175	170	-	**173**	16%
Rumphi	**163**	150	150	150	150	**150**	-8%
Chimbiya	**174**	170	170	168	163	**167**	-4%
Mchinji	**191**	190	190	190	187	**189**	-1%
Mitundu	**192**	180	180	180	180	**180**	-6%
Nsungwi	**186**	190	190	190	190	**190**	2%
Salima	**175**	180	180	180	180	**180**	3%
Balaka	**185**	200	190	190	200	**195**	5%
Bangula	**216**	219	214	214	194	**210**	-3%
Chikwawa	**208**	-	220	220	220	**220**	6%
Chiringa	**199**	180	190	190	200	**191**	-4%
Liwonde	**210**	220	213	193	185	**201**	-4%
Luchenza	**215**	213	200	200	190	**202**	-6%
Lunzu	**215**	220	220	220	220	**220**	3%
Mangochi	**195**	190	200	190	190	**191**	-2%
M'baluku	**212**	215	210	215	215	**214**	1%
Mbayani	**224**	240	230	220	200	**220**	-2%
Mpondabwin	**189**	185	185	190	185	**186**	-1%
Mulanje	**218**	210	215	200	200	**207**	-5%
Mwanza	**183**	190	190	190	190	**190**	4%
Ngabu	**215**	215	213	215	200	**211**	-2%
Nsanje	**226**	220	210	220	200	**210**	-7%
All markets	**191**	**193**	**187**	**187**	**184**	**188**	-1%

ADMARC Activities

No ADMARC purchases were reported in any of the markets monitored by IFPRI.

ADMARC sales were reported in 11 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI (1 from the North; Rumphi, the rest from the South). ADMARC is still selling maize at MWK205/kg.

Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in eastern and southern Africa (as of February 2022)



Regional prices

As of the end of February, retail prices of maize in the 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 higher than on SAFEX and Zambia's national average of February 2022.

How data was collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since February 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.

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