

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 in October 2021.
- ADMARC purchases were reported in 15 out of the 26 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 and on SAFEX.

Prices decreased by 1 percent in October

During October 2021, maize retail prices somewhat unexpectedly, decreased by 1 percent. One of the reasons is that as the rainy season is fast approaching, farmers are releasing their maize as in-kind payment for farm preparation activities. Some of this maize eventually gets on market, hence increasing maize supply on the maize. The largest decrease was recorded in Mzuzu (14 percent) followed by Mulanje (12 percent). Retail prices, however, increased in some markets. Salima recorded the highest increase (14 percent). Retail maize prices remained constant in Chitipa, Mchinji, Nsungwi, Chikwawa, Liwonde, Lunzu and Mwanza.

Retail prices of maize in the month of October continued trending below ADMARC selling price (MWK205/kg), averaging MWK 148/kg. This is about 1 percent higher than last month's average price (MWK147/kg) and 23 percent lower than in October 2020.

Prices remain highest in the South

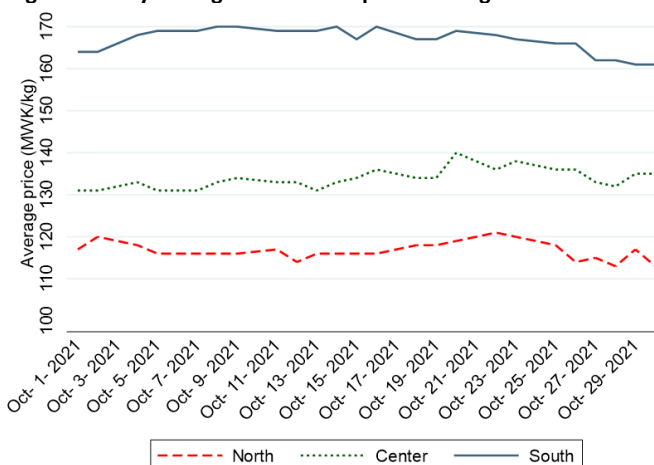
Retail prices of maize remained highest in the South and more stable in the North (Figure 1) than last month.

As at the end of the month, prices in the South averaged MWK 166/kg (4 percent higher than last month), in the Center averaged MWK 134/kg (1 percent higher than last month), while in the North prices averaged at MWK 117/kg (5 percent lower than last month).

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

	02-Oct-21	09-Oct-21	16-Oct-21	23-Oct-21	30-Oct-21	Month average	Change
Chitipa	100	100	100	100	100	100	0%
Jenda	120	110	120	120	110	114	-8%
Karonga	115	125	125	121	121	121	5%
Mzimba	100	90	100	100	90	97	-10%
Mzuzu	140	150	140	145	120	131	-14%
Rumphi	130	130	130	130	120	127	-8%
Chimbiya	123	125	125	120	117	121	-5%
Mchinji	130	130	130	130	130	130	0%
Mitundu	130	140	140	140	130	136	8%
Nsungwi	140	140	140	140	140	140	0%
Salima	140	140	140	160	160	148	14%
Balaka	150	150	145	145	147	147	-2%
Bangula	177	184	185	184	188	184	6%
Chikwawa	200	200	200	200	200	200	0%
Chiringa	170	170	170	170	163	168	-4%
Liwonde	150	150	150	160	150	151	0%
Luchenza	170	170	170	170	163	168	-4%
Lunzu	160	160	160	160	160	160	0%
Mangochi	150	160	160	160	160	158	7%
M'baluku	153	170	160	160	160	160	4%
Mbayani	165	175	170	170	173	171	5%
Mpondabwino	165	181	186	186	178	179	8%
Mulanje	170	180	175	170	150	168	-12%
Mwanza	170	170	190	170	170	173	0%
Ngabu	170	170	170	165	160	166	-6%
Nsanje	160	160	160	160	163	161	2%
All markets	149	151	150	148	147	148	-1%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during October 2021



ADMARC Activities

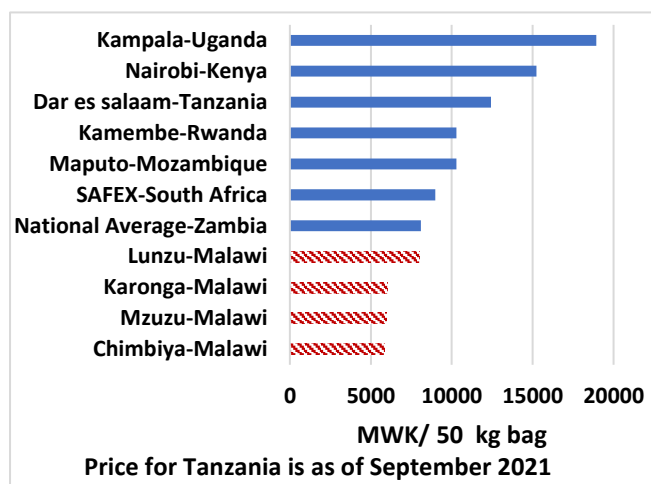
ADMARC purchases were reported in 15 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI. Proportionately, ADMARC purchases were more concentrated in the markets from the North. Some traders from the South reported that some ADMARC depots have been used as storage for Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP) fertiliser. Hence, ADMARC does not have enough storage for maize purchasing from those markets.

ADMARC sales were reported in 11 out of the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI. Eight of these markets are from the South. ADMARC is selling maize at MWK 205/kg, 39 percent higher than average retail price in October 2021.

Regional prices

As of the end of October, retail prices of maize in their 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 lower than Zambia's national average of October 2021, but still lower than elsewhere in the region.

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