

# Quarterly Market Report

## Report No. 4a for Selected Legumes, Roots, Tubers, and Other Cereals, July to September 2021

*This quarterly market report was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of weekly and monthly 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

- Retail prices of soyabean, groundnut and pigeon pea increased throughout the country by between 1 percent and 30 percent, depending on the crop and region.
- Common bean prices decreased marginally by 1 percent on average, but more drastically in the North.
- Average retail prices of cassava, Irish potato and sweet potato increased by 1 to 17 percent.
- Retail prices of rice mostly increased in the last month of the quarter. Retail prices of sorghum remained constant throughout the quarter.

### Legumes

Table 1 presents the regional average retail prices of legumes during the third quarter of 2021. During this quarter, the market was supplied with commodities mostly harvested in the last quarter.

Retail prices of common bean increased by 6 percent in the Center and by 8 percent in the South but decreased by 17 percent in the North.

Soyabean prices have been rising since the first quarter of the year. During this quarter, they increased by 13 percent. The highest increase was recorded in the South (25 percent). The increase is attributed to a poor harvest in Malawi and abroad combined with increased global demand.

Pigeon pea prices decreased by 30 percent with a largest increase coming from the North (24 percent).

**Table 1.** Legume retail prices (MWK/kg) by region

	July	August	September	Percentage change (July-September)	
<b>Legumes</b>					
<b>Common beans</b>					
North	1089	947	908	↓	-17%
Center	1026	1090	1091	↑	6%
South	1058	1093	1147	↑	8%
All markets	<b>1058</b>	<b>1043</b>	<b>1048</b>	↓	-1%
<b>Pigeon peas</b>					
North	382	474	-	↑	24%
South	452	469	544	↑	20%
All markets	<b>417</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>544</b>	↑	30%
<b>Soybean</b>					
North	653	673	700	↑	7%
Center	590	648	643	↑	9%
South	537	627	671	↑	25%
All markets	<b>593</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>671</b>	↑	13%
<b>Groundnut</b>					
North	867	866	877	↑	1%
Center	867	920	886	↑	2%
South	986	976	991	↑	1%
All markets	<b>907</b>	<b>921</b>	<b>918</b>	↑	1%

**Note:** Number of markets monitored: common bean = 9; pigeon pea = 5; sorghum = 9; groundnut = 9; - = prices not reported

Groundnut prices also increased marginally by 1 percent during the quarter selling at an average retail price of MWK915/kg.

## Roots and Tubers

On average, retail prices for roots and tubers have increased during this quarter. Table 2 presents the average retail prices for roots and tubers.

These commodities were mostly harvested in the first and second quarter of the year. Average retail prices of cassava and Irish potato increased by 3 and 1 percent respectively. However, Irish potato retail prices decreased by 9 and 15 percent in the Center and South respectively, while cassava prices decreased by 5 percent in the South.

**Table 2.** Root and tuber prices (MWK/unit) by region

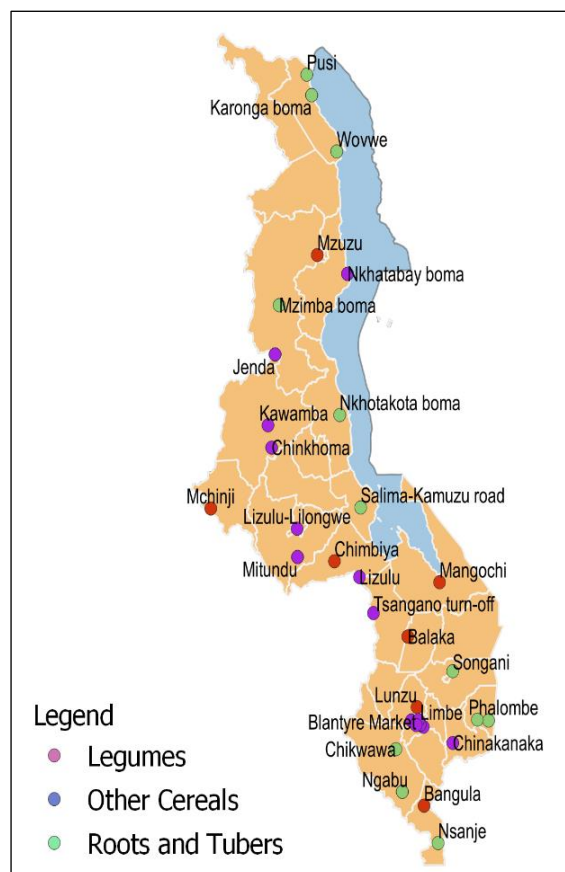
	July	August	September	Percentage change (July-September)
<b>Note:</b> Cassava and Irish potato are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap and only monitored in the south; number of markets monitored: cassava = 6; Irish potato = 5; sweet potato = 5				
South	313	296	297	↓ -5%
All markets	292	327	302	↑ 3%
<b>Irish potato</b>				
North	410	500	522	↑ 27%
Center	407	385	368	↓ -9%
South	407	382	346	↓ -15%
All markets	408	422	412	↑ 1%
<b>Sweet potato</b>				
South	235	250	274	↑ 17%
All markets	235	250	274	↑ 17%

## Other Cereals

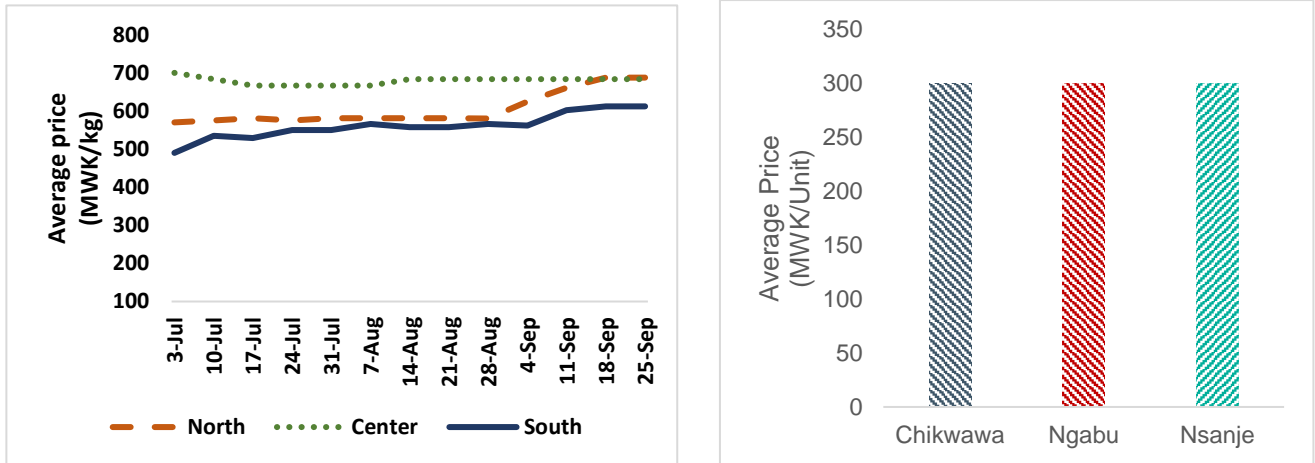
Unlike in the second quarter where prices were lowest in the North, average retail prices of rice were lower in the South than in the Center and North during this quarter as shown in figure 2. Rice retail prices in the North and South were stable in the first two months of the quarter but showed an increased trend in the last month of the quarter. On average, rice retail prices in the Center (MWK679/kg) were higher than in the North (MWK605/kg) and South (MWK561/kg). Overall, rice retail prices have increased by 4 percent from last quarter.

Figure 2 shows prices of Sorghum from the three markets where it is monitored. Sorghum retail prices remained stable and constant at MWK300/kg during the quarter.

**Figure 1.** Location of markets by commodity type



**Figure 2.** Average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice and sorghum



### How data were 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 are being phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of March 2021. 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](#)



For further information contact

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