

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 maize prices increased by 1 percent in June 2021.
- No ADMARC purchases were reported in the markets monitored by IFPRI.
- Fewer than 10% of farmers who sold maize in June received a price equal to or greater than the MFG price.
- Retail prices in Malawi remain lower than in selected markets in eastern Africa and on SAFEX.

Prices Increased by 1 percent in June

Only few traders reported trading 'old' maize (harvested in 2020) by the end of April 2021. All prices in this report are therefore for the 'new' maize harvested in 2021.

Average retail prices increased by 1 percent in June 2021. However, prices in some markets, especially in the North, decreased due to a late harvest compared to the Center and the South.

The monthly average retail maize price in June 2021 was MWK 132/kg. This is about 5 percent lower than last month, 24 percent lower than in June 2020, and 12 percent lower than the government-mandated minimum farm gate (MFG) price.

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

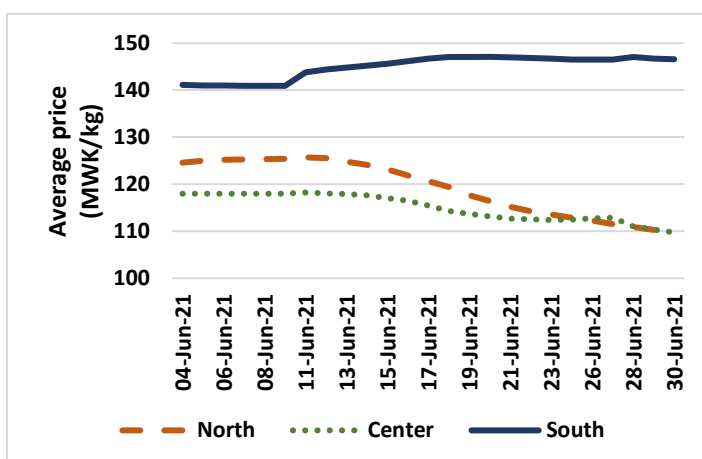
	05-Jun-21	12-Jun-21	19-Jun-21	26-Jun-21	Change
Chitipa	-	-	80	79	↓ -2%
Jenda	123	128	117	115	↓ -7%
Karonga	122	117	120	120	↓ -1%
Mzimba	120	115	113	110	↓ -8%
Mzuzu	-	150	150	150	↔ 0%
Rumphu	125	125	124	120	↓ -4%
Chimbiya	110	109	104	100	↓ -9%
Mchinji	120	119	116	120	↔ 0%
Mitundu	120	119	108	100	↓ -17%
Nsungwi	130	129	121	124	↓ -5%
Salima	110	113	120	120	↑ 9%
Balaka	100	104	116	107	↑ 7%
Bangula	173	173	173	173	↔ 0%
Chikwawa	150	151	181	200	↑ 33%
Chiringa	-	140	140	140	↔ 0%
Liwonde	-	148	139	133	↓ -10%
Luchenza	-	150	150	150	↔ 0%
Lunzu	-	140	136	130	↓ -7%
Mangochi	150	151	154	150	↔ 0%
M'baluku	130	130	132	140	↑ 8%
Mbayani	140	140	140	140	↔ 0%
Mbayani	140	140	140	140	↔ 0%
Mpondabwino	-	140	131	120	↓ -14%
Mulanje	-	170	170	-	↔ 0%
Mwanza	140	141	152	155	↑ 11%
Ngabu	147	145	141	140	↓ -5%
Nsanje	-	148	158	158	↑ 7%
All markets	131	136	134	132	↑ 1%

Note: - = prices not reported from this market.

Prices are Higher in the South

Retail maize prices were highest and steadily increasing in the South than in the Center and the North (Figure 1). Prices in the North were higher than in the Center in the first three weeks of June, thereafter, leveled with prices in the Center.

On average, prices in the center were lower than in the North by MWK 3/kg and MWK 29/kg lower than in the South.



Farmgate Prices

On average, farmgate maize prices during June 2021 were about 35 percent below the minimum farmgate (MFG) price of MWK 150/kg announced by the Ministry of Agriculture late March this year. Fewer than 10 percent of farmers who sold maize in May received at least the MFG for their produce.

ADMARC Activities

ADMARC sales continued to be reported in June 2021 in some markets monitored by IFPRI. Old maize is being offered to consumers by ADMARC at MWK 160/kg. No ADMARC purchases were reported in any of the 26 markets monitored.

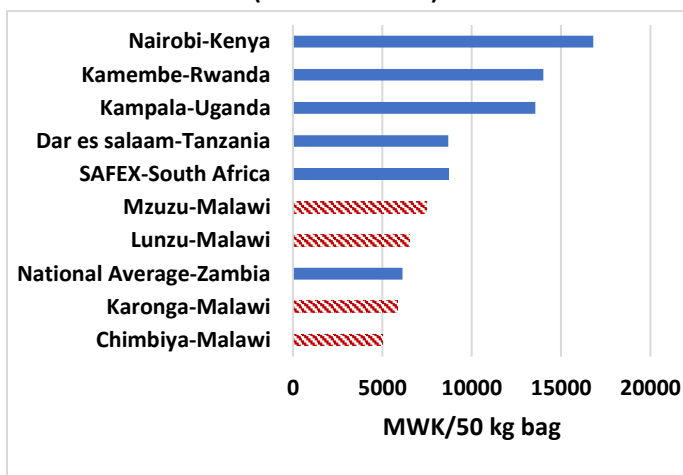
Regional Prices

By the end of June 2021, retail maize prices in 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 Mzuzu and Lunzu were higher than Zambia's national average of June 2021.

Table 2. Daily farmgate prices for maize during June 2021 (MWK/kg)

	Average			Median	Max	Min	No. of transactions
	Overall	10th percentile	90th Percentile				
Maize price	97	75	140	100	200	50	436
% of MFGP	65%	50%	93%	67%	133%	33%	

Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in eastern and southern Africa (as of June 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. **Due to technical issues with the third-party messaging platform used for data collection, prices were not reported from all markets on all days in June.** Prices in Table 1 and Figure 1 are therefore reported as weekly moving averages rather than spot prices like in the previous reports. Farm gate prices reported in Figure 2 are collected using IFPRI's new crowdsourcing method, whereby farmers are invited to report their crop sales to a free call center, and encouraged to do so by means of a raffle for agricultural input vouchers (see <https://massp.ifpri.info/2021/07/09/event-recap-a-new-method-for-monitoring-farmgate-prices-in-malawi/> for details). 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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