

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 declined by 4 percent during January 2021.
- Prices in the South remained higher than in the Centre and North.
- ADMARC sales were reported in all the 26 markets monitored by IFPRI.
- Retail maize prices in Malawi were higher than in most southern Africa markets.

Prices decreased by 4 percent

During the month of January, retail maize prices declined by 4 percent compared to the beginning of the month. This is an unusual pattern given the onset of the lean season.

Prices rose in 3 markets, one in each region of the country. During this period, seventeen markets recorded price declines and prices stayed constant in six markets (Table 1). The largest price increase was recorded in Salima market (10 percent), while the largest price decline was recorded in Mwanza market (17 percent).

The average retail maize price in January was MWK 205/kg, about 35 percent lower than the same time last year and 3 percent higher than in December 2020. The price is MWK 5 above the minimum farmgate price.

Prices are higher in the South

Retail maize prices remained highest in the South and lowest in the North (Figure 1), as is the usual pattern. Prices in the South and Centre remained stable throughout December and most of January. Prices in the North also fell slightly in the first week of January but bounced back in the second week of the month.

In the final week of January, prices in the North and South declined significantly but remain stable in the Centre. By the end of the month prices in the Centre were MWK 13/kg higher than in the North and MWK 22/kg lower than in the South.

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

Market	2-Jan-21	9-Jan-21	16-Jan-21	23-Jan-21	30-Jan-21	Change
Chitipa	200	200	200	200	200	0%
Karonga	180	190	190	190	185	3%
Rumphi	178	178	180	180	160	-10%
Mzuzu	180	180	180	180	180	0%
Mzimba	167	200	200	200	167	0%
Jenda	165	163	163	165	153	-7%
Salima	210	217	220	230	230	10%
Mchinji	188	188	188	188	180	-4%
Nsungwi	193	183	183	183	183	-5%
Mitundu	187	187	183	183	180	-4%
Chimbiya	180	182	182	173	170	-6%
Balaka	193	197	200	203	197	2%
M'baluku	213	213	213	213	213	0%
Mangochi	220	213	213	210	200	-9%
Liwonde	210	210	210	210	200	-5%
Chiringa	210	210	210	210	200	-5%
Mpondabwino	240	230	230	233	227	-6%
Lunzu	230	240	240	230	200	-13%
Mbayani	220	220	220	220	220	0%
Mwanza	250	250	240	220	207	-17%
Mulanje	220	220	220	220	200	-9%
Luchenza	220	230	230	230	200	-9%
Chikwawa	220	220	220	220	220	0%
Ngabu	220	220	220	213	210	-5%
Bangula	241	241	241	237	234	-3%
Nsanje	233	233	233	233	230	-1%
All markets	206	208	208	207	198	-4%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during January 2021



