IFPRI Malawi Monthly Maize Market Report **September 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, policy makers, and other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

- Retail prices of maize increased by 3 percent in September 2022.
- No ADMARC purchases or sales were reported in any of the markets monitored by IFPRI.
- Retail prices in Malawi were higher than in Zambia and on SAFEX.

Prices increased by 3 percent since August

After a short period of stability in August, retail prices of maize were on the rise in September to around MWK 334/kg on average, 3 percent higher than at the end of July (Figure 1). Across the markets, Chitipa recorded the highest price increase (29 percent). On the other hand, some markets (Mzuzu, Mwanza, and Bangula) recorded price declines of as much as 18 percent (Table 1). Within the month, weekly average maize retail prices were highest in Chitipa and Mpondabwino (MWK 386/kg) and lowest in Mzimba (MWK 273/kg).

Figure 1 shows a trend in prices in the 12 months ending in September 2022 and, for comparison, in the 12 months ending in September 2021. At the beginning of May, we start reporting prices of newly harvested maize, which has a higher moisture content than maize from the previous harvest. High moisture content makes maize unsuitable for storage or milling. During drying, it loses about 20 percent of its weight. Solid lines in Figure 1 represent observed maize prices. Dashed lines represent prices adjusted for moisture content and thus the true price trend.

Prices remain highest in the South

Maize continues to sell the highest in the South. However, prices picked a dramatic increasing trend in all the regions in the last week of September (Figure 2). Prices in the North were also unusually higher than in the Center during the month.

Figure 1. Long-run trends in average maize retail prices

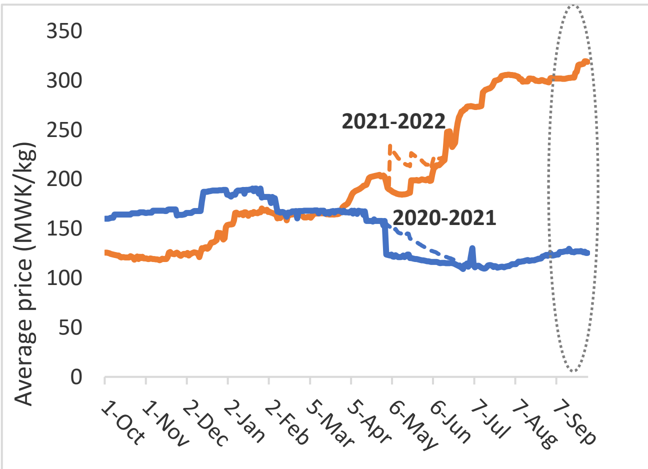
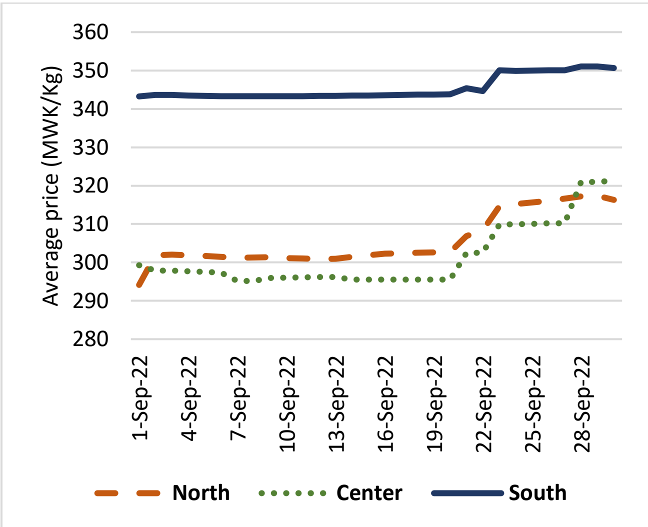


Figure 2. Average daily maize retail prices by region

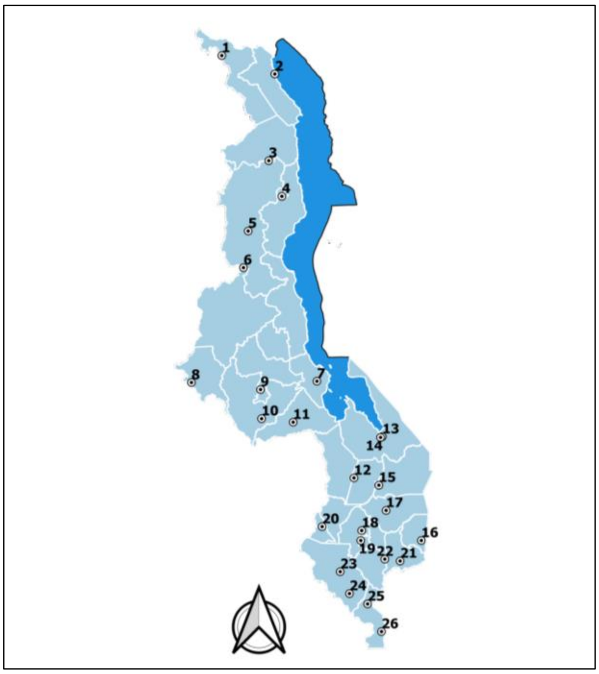


As of the end of September, prices averaged MWK 345/kg in the South, MWK 302/kg in the Center, and MWK 306/kg in the North.

Table 1. Weekly average maize retail prices (MWK/kg) market

	Week ending on					
	26-Aug-22	7-Sep-22	14-Sep-22	21-Sep-22	28-Sep-22	Change
Chitipa[1]	300	349	362	369	386	29%
Karonga[2]	321	323	325	325	336	5%
Rumphi[3]	300	300	300	300	300	0%
Mzuzu[4]	345	317	302	301	320	-7%
Mzimba[5]	250	264	272	273	271	9%
Jenda[6]	253	250	246	250	276	9%
Salima[7]	324	315	313	314	331	2%
Mchinji[8]	291	297	298	297	308	6%
Nsungwi[9]	313	300	300	302	313	0%
Mitundu[10]	297	297	290	291	302	2%
Chimbiya[11]	278	278	279	278	298	7%
Balaka[12]	330	330	330	330	338	2%
M'baluku[13]	330	341	343	343	347	5%
Mangochi[14]	317	317	317	317	340	7%
Liwonde[15]	341	340	340	344	364	7%
Chiringa[16]	349	350	348	348	353	1%
Mpondabwino[1]	363	363	363	366	386	6%
Lunzu[18]	336	337	337	339	350	4%
Mbayani[19]	370	370	370	370	387	5%
Mwanza[20]	320	320	320	320	295	-8%
Mulanje[21]	350	350	350	350	359	2%
Luchenza[22]	350	346	343	344	361	3%
Chikwawa[23]	345	345	345	344	355	3%
Ngabu[24]	336	337	337	337	337	0%
Bangula[25]	366	366	368	367	301	-18%
Nsanje[26]	341	340	340	341	368	8%
All markets	**324**	**325**	**324**	**325**	**334**	**3%**

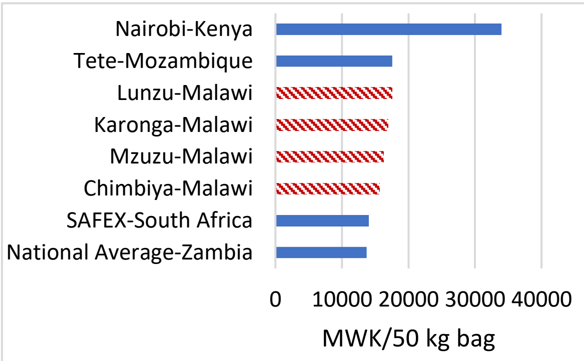
Figure 2. Location of markets; the number corresponds to a market in Table 1



Regional prices

As of the end of September, retail prices of maize in Malawian markets were lower than in selected regional markets in eastern Africa and Mozambique. However, prices in Malawian markets were higher than on SAFEX Zambia's national average for the month of September 2022. (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Regional comparison (September 2022)



ADMARC Activities

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

How data was collected

IFPRI Malawi has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since September 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 Kenya Agricultural Management Information System (KAMIS).

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