

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the weekly variation of retail prices for 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

- Average retail prices for common beans, groundnut and soybean increased by 25 to 80 percent.
- Retail prices of pigeon pea remained constant.
- Average retail prices of cassava and Irish potato decreased by 4 to 18 percent while that of sweet potato increased by 4 percent.
- Rice retail prices decreased by 13 percent, while sorghum retail prices increased by 25 percent in the last week of May.

Legumes

Table 1. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common beans and pigeon pea by region during May 2021

Market	Common beans				Pegionpea				Change	
	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	Bean	P.pea
North										
Jenda	1200	700	700	900	-	-	-	-	↑ 29%	-
Karonga-boma	950	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
Mzuzu	1000	-	-	900	-	-	-	-	-	-
Center										
Chimbiya	1200	500	500	700	-	-	-	-	↑ 40%	-
Mchirji	1200	500	500	-	-	-	-	-	→ 0%	-
Mitundu	1000	600	600	900	-	-	-	-	↑ 50%	-
South										
Balaka	1133	500	500	1000	500	-	-	-	↑ 100%	-
Bangula	1200	-	-	-	-	400	400	400	-	→ 0%
Lunzu	1000	-	-	-	600	400	400	400	-	→ 0%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	500	-	-	-	-	-
All markets	1095	538	538	967	533	400	400	400	↑ 80%	→ 0%

Note: - = commodity not monitored or prices were not reported in this market; prices in red are for the 'old' commodities (harvested in 2019/20 season); the change is from the beginning of May to end May unlike the usual change calculated from the end of previous month to the end of current month.

Table 2. Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during May 2021

Market	Soybean				Groundnut				Change	
	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	Soybean	Groundnut
North										
Jenda	375	375	375	-	800	-	-	600	⇒ 0%	-
Karonga-boma	350	350	367	-	1000	-	-	-	↑ 5%	-
Mzuzu	375	375	400	450	1000	500	500	800	↑ 20%	↑ 60%
Center										
Chimbiya	400	400	400	-	950	500	500	770	⇒ 0%	↑ 54%
Mchinji	375	375	425	520	800	600	600	800	↑ 39%	↑ 33%
Mitundu	400	400	425	-	900	500	500	800	↑ 6%	↑ 60%
South										
Balaka	475	517	517	510	1100	500	500	1100	↑ 7%	↑ 120%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	400	400	400	-	-	-	-	-	⇒ 0%	-
Mangochi	425	425	425	-	1033	-	-	800	⇒ 0%	-
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	900	500	500	850	-	↑ 70%
All markets	397	405	418	498	944	520	520	829	↑ 25%	↑ 59%

Note: - = prices not reported from this market; prices in red are for the 'old' commodities (harvested in 2019/20 season); the change is from the beginning of May to end May (except for soybean) unlike the usual change calculated from the end of previous month to the end of current month

Roots and Tubers

Figure 1. Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during May 2021

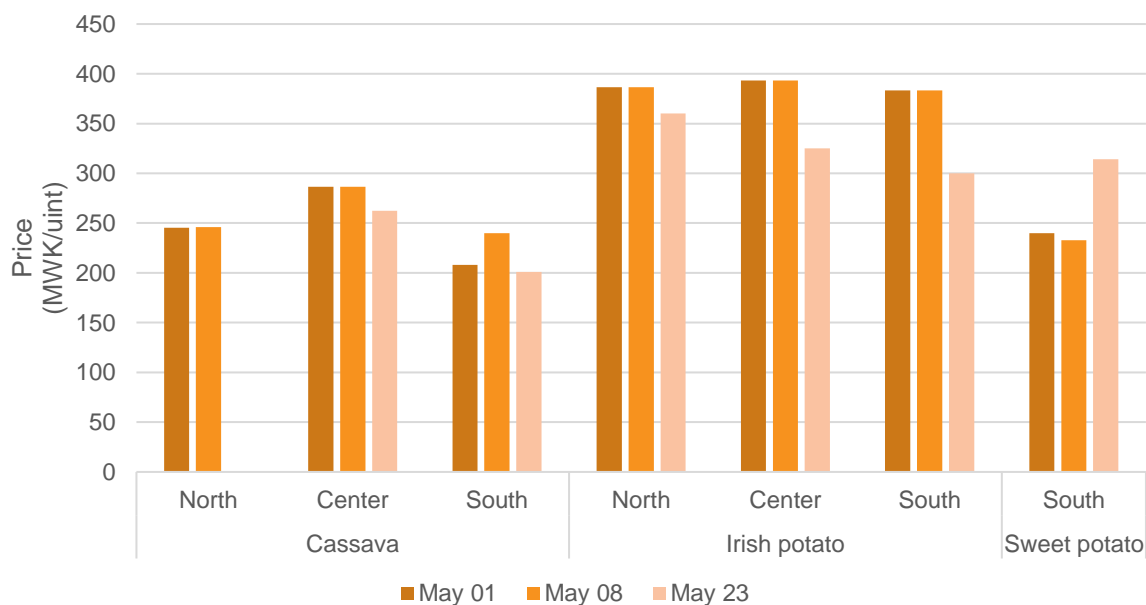


Table 3. Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during May 2021

Commodity	Market	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	Change since April 24
Cassava	North					
	Nkhatabay-boma	245	245	246	-	↑ 0.4%
	Center					
	Chinkhoma	264	264	264	208	↓ -21%
	Kawamba	320	320	320	320	→ 0%
	Mitundu	480	-	-	256	↓ -47%
	South					
Limbe	258	240	240	-	↓ -7%	
Namwera turn-off	172	160	-	201	↑ 17%	
All markets		264	247	264	252	↓ -4%
Sweet potato	South					
	Bangwe	306	225	225	300	↓ -2%
	Chilobwe	333	200	200	292	↓ -13%
	Chinakanaka	292	225	225	333	↑ 14%
	Ndirande	275	283	294	250	↓ -9%
	Zingwanga	333	333	200	400	↑ 20%
All markets		303	240	233	314	↑ 4%
Irish potato	North					
	Jenda	380	387	387	360	↓ -5%
	Center					
	Lizulu-Lilongwe	380	380	380	-	→ 0%
	Lizulu	420	420	420	350	↓ -17%
	Tsangano turn-off	380	380	380	300	↓ -21%
	South					
Blantyre market	400	367	367	300	↓ -25%	
Limbe	400	400	400	300	↓ -25%	
All markets		394	389	389	323	↓ -18%

Note: - = prices not reported from this market; cassava and Irish potatoes are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap.

Other Cereals

Figure 2. Regional average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice during May 2021

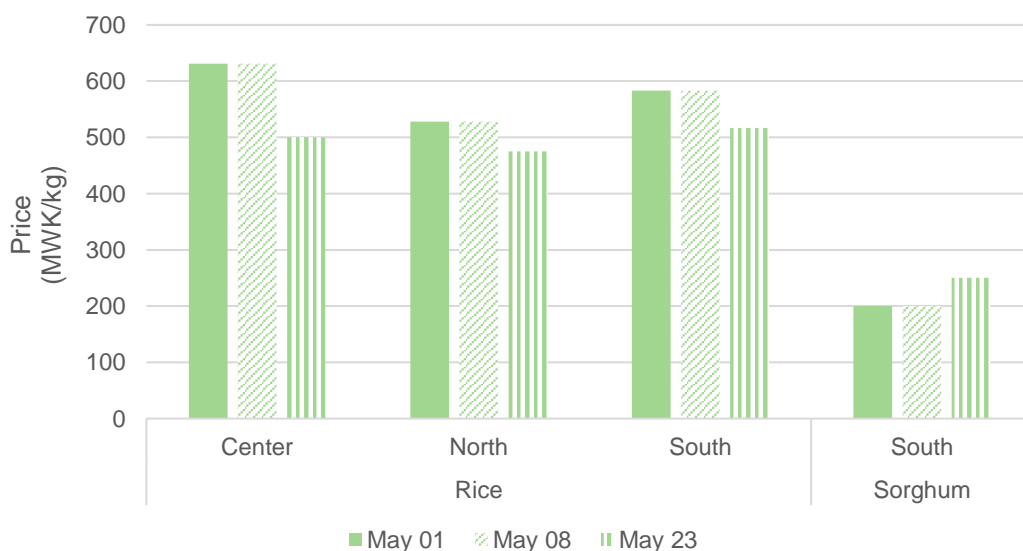


Table 4. Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during May 2021

Commodity	Market	April 24	May 1	May 8	May 23	Change since April 24	
Rice	North						
	Karonga-boma	425	425	425	350	↓	-18%
	Mzimba-boma	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Nkhatabay-boma	550	550	550	517	↓	-6%
	Pusi	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Wowwe	650	650	650	325	↓	-50%
	Center						
	Nkhotakota-boma	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Salima-kamuzu road	675	675	675		→	0%
	South						
	Chiringa	500	500	500	500	→	0%
	Phalombe	717	717	717	600	↓	-16%
	Songani	533	533	533	450	↓	-16%
All markets	558	558	558	485	↓	-13%	
Sorghum	South						
	Chikwawa	200	200	200	250	↑	25%
	Ngabu	200	200	200	250	↑	25%
	Nsanje	200	200	200	250	↑	25%
	All markets	200	200	200	250	↑	25%

Note: From the fourth week of May, sorghum prices are for 'new' sorghum (harvested from the current season)

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 were phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of 2020. 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 May. Note that the number of markets monitored vary by commodity because major markets in areas where these commodities are widely produced have been selected.

* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



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