

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 prices of maize increased by 5 percent in September 2021.
- No ADMARC purchases were reported in the last 3 weeks of September in the markets monitored by IFPRI.
- The average retail prices of maize were trending below the ADMARC selling price.
- Retail prices in Malawi were lower than elsewhere in eastern Africa and on SAFEX.

Prices increased by 5 percent in September

Retail maize prices have been rising since May 2021. During September 2021, maize retail prices increased by 5 percent. However, retail prices decreased in 4 markets monitored by IFPRI and remained constant in 11 markets. The largest decrease was recorded in Chiringa (6 percent) while the largest increase was recorded in Nsungwi (16 percent). Chikwawa recorded the highest average retail price (MWK200/kg) while Chitipa recorded the lowest average retail price (MWK103/kg) during the month.

Despite the increase in ADMARC's selling price from MWK160/kg to MWK205/kg, retail prices of maize in the month of September were still trending below the old ADMARC selling price, averaging MWK 147/kg. This is about 5 percent higher than last month's average price and 18 percent lower than in September 2020.

Prices remain highest in the South

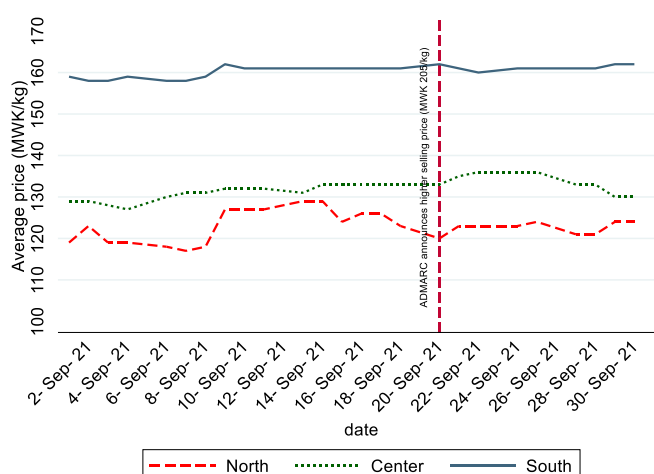
Retail prices of maize remained highest in the South and lowest in the North (Figure 1) with mixed trends in the North. Prices increased immediately after ADMARC selling price hike in the North and Center unlike in the South where they decreased.

As at the end of the month, prices in the North ranged from MWK117/kg to MWK132/kg and averaged MWK 123/kg, in the Center ranged from MWK127/kg to MWK136/kg and averaged MWK 132/kg North, while averaging MWK 160/kg in the South, they ranged from MWK158/kg to MWK162/kg.

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

	4-Sep-21	11-Sep-21	18-Sep-21	25-Sep-21	Change
Chitipa	105	105	100	100	↓ -5%
Jenda	123	123	135	135	↑ 9%
Karonga	115	139	112	115	↔ 0%
Mzimba	110	110	125	125	↑ 14%
Mzuzu	130	-	-	-	-
Rumphu	125	125	125	125	↔ 0%
Chimbiya	127	128	129	127	↔ 0%
Mchinji	127	137	137	137	↑ 8%
Mitundu	130	130	130	-	↔ 0%
Nsungwi	125	130	135	145	↑ 16%
Salima	130	133	133	140	↑ 8%
Balaka	130	145	150	140	↑ 8%
Bangula	180	176	176	176	↓ -2%
Chikwawa	200	200	200	200	↔ 0%
Chiringa	170	160	160	160	↓ -6%
Liwonde	150	150	150	150	↔ 0%
Luchenza	170	170	170	170	↔ 0%
Lunzu	160	-	155	150	↑ 7%
Mangochi	150	150	150	150	↔ 0%
M'baluku	160	165	170	160	↔ 0%
Mbayani	165	180	175	165	↔ 0%
Mpondabwino	160	160	165	165	↑ 3%
Mulanje	160	170	170	170	↑ 6%
Mwanza	175	175	175	170	↓ -3%
Ngabu	150	165	165	165	↑ 10%
Nsanje	160	160	160	160	↔ 0%
All markets	143	147	148	149	↑ 5%

Figure 1. Daily average maize retail prices during September 2021



ADMARC Activities

No ADMARC purchases were reported in the last 3 weeks of September in the markets monitored by IFPRI. ADMARC is reported to have run out of the funds to continue buying maize. Some farmers and traders report to have stacked their maize outside ADMARC depots at a reported cost of MWK100 per bag per night to guard the maize until ADMARC buys from them. Old maize is now being sold to consumers by ADMARC at MWK 205/kg.

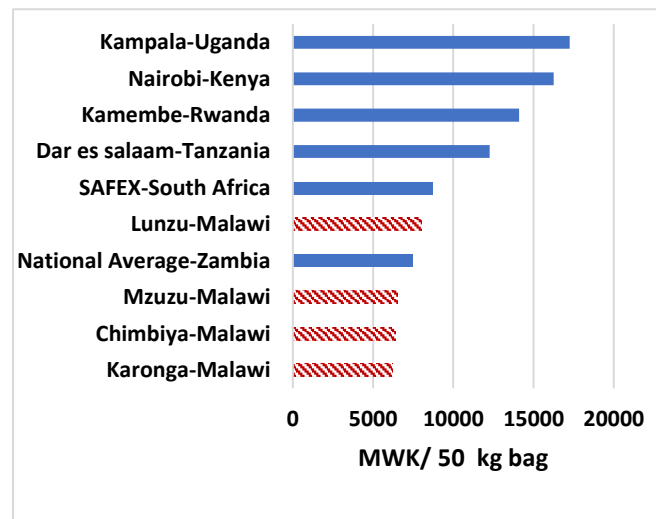


Farmers and traders stack their maize waiting for ADMARC to buy from them at Mwenitete ADMARC in Karonga

Regional prices

As of the end of September, retail prices of maize in the main 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 Lunzu were marginally higher than Zambia's national average of September 2021, but still lower than elsewhere in the region.

Figure 2. Retail maize prices in selected markets in eastern and southern Africa (as of September 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. 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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