

PRICE WATCH Urban Food Markets in FEWS NET Countries

July 2008

High international food and fuel prices represent a relatively new global food security threat, especially for poor urban households. To more closely monitor the evolution and transmission of international food prices, FEWS NET is monitoring and reporting on staple food prices in key urban markets in the 20 countries it covers.

This month's Price Watch consists of two tables:

- **Table 1 provides a summary of the largest increases and decreases in prices of a staple food of the urban poor; and**
- **Table 2 compares prices of a staple of the poor with another major urban staple, over the last month, and the average monthly change over 3 months, and 12 months.**

Key analytic points: The information shown in these two tables tends to suggest that a variety of local, regional, and global factors may be responsible for the often very different trends in the evolution of prices seen for both a commodity consumed by the poor, and a second major urban commodity, among the urban centers included here. While it is always difficult to accomplish a quick, but rigorous analysis of whether rising prices of "preferred" commodities are leading to significant increases in the prices of the commodity most often consumed by the poor, there is little basis in Table 2 to suggest that such a "substitution" impact is a common or clearly present phenomenon in these urban centers.

In future months, the number of markets and foods monitored will increase. Other aspects of the rise in food prices, and its impacts on food security, will be examined.

Largest increases in staple food prices for the urban poor			Largest decreases in staple food prices for the urban poor						
Urban Center	% change 1 month	Observation	Urban Center	% change 1 year	Urban Center	% change 1 month	Observation	Urban Center	% change 1 year
Harare, Zimbabwe (Maize grain)	768	Continued hyper-inflation.	Harare, Zimbabwe (Maize grain)	117,391,178	Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (White maize)	-23	Increased availability following the harvest, and export ban, has lowered prices.	Guatemala City, Guatemala (White maize)	-4
N'Djamena, Chad (Sorghum)	37	Heavy rains in early July have significantly slowed the supply of cereals from surplus areas towards N'Djamena.	Mogadishu, Somalia (Rice)	341	Nairobi, Kenya (Maize)	-12	Prices are declining with the beginning of the harvest.		
Djibouti City, Djibouti (Sorghum)	13	Limited availability due to an export ban in Ethiopia.	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (White maize)	176	Maputo, Mozambique (Rice)	-4	Rice prices are stable due to good availability of food commodities from the recent harvest.		
Port-au-Prince, Haiti (Imported rice)	12	Removal of government subsidies causes prices to rise.	Lilongwe, Malawi (Maize)	134	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (Millet)	-1	The decrease in Ouagadougou's Sankaryare market is not significant.		
Niamey, Niger (Millet)	11	Seasonal price increases compounded by higher cereal prices elsewhere.	Kano, Nigeria (Sorghum)	132					

NOTES: Be aware that seasonal patterns (e.g., hunger season/harvest period) may be responsible for some of these variations. These price data form one important additional stream of information that may reflect significant changes in food access, especially for the urban poor. FEWS NET combines this information with other regularly-collected current and contextual food security information to help interpret the evolution and status of new and ongoing food security problems, and where to prioritize further monitoring and assessment. These products are available on the FEWS NET web site at www.fews.net. Source: FEWS NET, via a variety of partner agencies in each country.

Major Food Commodities for Urban Centers						Major Food Commodities for Urban Centers						
Urban Center	Current price/kg US\$ price	Change over 1 month (%)	Avg monthly change (%)		Change over 1 mo, avg for 3 months and avg for 1 year (time→)	Urban Center	Current price/kg US\$ price	Change over 1 month (%)	Avg monthly change (%)		Change over 1 mo, avg for 3 months and avg for 1 year (time→)	
			over 3 months	over 12 months					over 3 months	over 12 months		
West Africa	Ouagadougou Burkina Faso	Millet 185 CFA \$0.46	-1	3	3	▶▶▶	Djibouti city Djibouti	Sorghum 223 DJF \$1.30	13	25	7	▲▲▲
		Maize 188 CFA \$0.47	-2	9	8	▶▲▲		Belem Rice 170 DJF \$0.99	0	4	6	▶▶▲
	N'Djamena Chad	Sorghum 201 CFA \$0.50	37	14	2	▲▲▶	Addis Ababa Ethiopia	Wh. maize 6 ETB \$0.59	9	24	15	▲▲▲
		Pearl millet 260 CFA \$0.64	29	12	6	▲▲▲		Sorghum 8 ETB \$0.80	20	25	10	▲▲▲
	Bamako Mali	Millet 187 CFA \$0.46	7	8	2	▲▲▶	Nairobi Kenya	Wh. maize* 21 KES \$0.32	-12	8	5	▼▲▲
		Rice 391 CFA \$0.97	6	5	3	▲▲▶		Beans* 56 KES \$0.85	-2	-3	4	▶▶▶
	Nouakchott Mauritania	Maize† 150 MRO \$0.67	0	0	1	▶▶▶	Mogadishu Somalia	Sorghum 11,200 SOS \$0.33	3	16	27	▶▲▲
		Imp. rice† 240 MRO \$1.07	9	7	3	▲▲▶		Rice 43,000 SOS \$1.26	2	25	28	▶▲▲
	Niamey Niger	Millet 228 CFA \$0.56	11	5	3	▲▲▶	Juba South Sudan	Sorghum 1.44 SDG \$0.69	2	8	3	▶▶▶
		Wh. maize 252 CFA \$0.62	6	7	4	▲▲▶		Dar Es Salaam Tanzania	Wh. maize 479 TZS \$0.42	-23	-4	-
Kano Nigeria	Sorghum* 65 NGN \$0.56	5	11	11	▲▲▲	Rice 1,100 TZS \$0.96	7	-3	3	▶▶▶		
	Maize* 74 NGN \$0.64	16	14	18	▲▲▲		Kampala Uganda	Wh. maize 869 UGX \$0.42	7	12	8	▲▲▲
Southern Africa	Lilongwe Malawi	Maize 47 MWK \$0.34	9	3	11	▶▶▶		Port-au-Prince Haiti	Imp. rice 50 HTG \$1.30	12	-1	6
		Rice 140 MWK \$1.01	-7	-7	-1	▼▶▶	Black beans 47 HTG \$1.23		-18	-12	-2	▼▶▶
	Maputo Mozambique	Rice 18 MZM \$0.76	-4	5	3	▶▶▶	Kabul Afghanistan	Wheat flr. 30 AFG \$0.60	0	10	10	▶▶▶
		Maize flour 25 MZM \$1.06	3	20	8	▶▶▶		Rice 35 AFG \$0.46	-22	17	6	▼▶▶
	Lusaka Zambia	Wh. maize 1,111 ZMK \$0.34	0	-3	1	▶▶▶	Guatemala City Guatemala	Wh. maize 3 GTQ \$0.45	4	4	0	▶▶▶
		Maize flour 1320 ZMK \$0.40	3	7	3	▶▶▶		Black beans 12 GTQ \$1.67	13	19	5	▲▲▲
	Harare Zimbabwe	Maize grain 15,428,571.428 ZVW\$ \$0.15	769	44,967	9,782,598	▲▲▲						
		Maize flour† 25,000,000 ZVW\$ \$0.05	25	57,517	52,592	▲▲▲						

* Wholesale prices

† Does not reflect current month's prices

NOTES: The commodity shaded in gray is the staple most often consumed by the poorest of the poor in the urban area indicated. The second is an important commodity consumed in the same urban area. Average monthly prices are calculated using weekly price data available at the time of publication and may be based on less than one full month of price data. Consequently, monthly prices reported here may be different than those reported in FEWS NET monthly Food Security Updates, which are based on a full set of weekly price data for the month. ▲▶▼ The symbols depict the direction of price changes: the red upward-facing arrow denotes an increase of greater than 5 percent, the blue horizontal arrow denotes no change or changes that are smaller than 5 percent, and the green downward-facing arrow denotes price decreases that are greater than 5 percent. The first arrow corresponds to the change in price over one month, the second arrow refers to the average percentage change over the past three months, and the third arrow reflects the average monthly percentage change over the previous year. The “-” symbol indicates that no data are available.