



## ព្រឹត្តិប័ត្រ តម្លៃអាហារ និងប្រាក់ឈ្នួលនៅកម្ពុជា



### Highlights for February 2011

- The FAO (global) Food Price Index was at an all time peak in February 2011 – increasing 34.1% year-on-year – but the FAO (global) All Rice Price Index was stable – increasing only 0.8% year-on-year in January 2011.
- Export price of Thai white rice, the benchmark for Asia, increased 2.2% month-on-month and decreased 3.7% year-on-year.
- Consumer prices were stable as the Consumer Price Index increased 0.7% month-on-month and 3.8% year-on-year.
- Wholesale price of mixed rice decreased 1.0% month-on-month and 7.4% year-on-year.
- Retail price of lowest quality rice decreased 1.2% month-on-month and 5.3% year-on-year.
- Food purchasing power of households slightly decreased (ToT of unskilled wages and lowest quality rice decreased from 6.7 kg/day in January from 6.5 kg/day in February).

### Overview

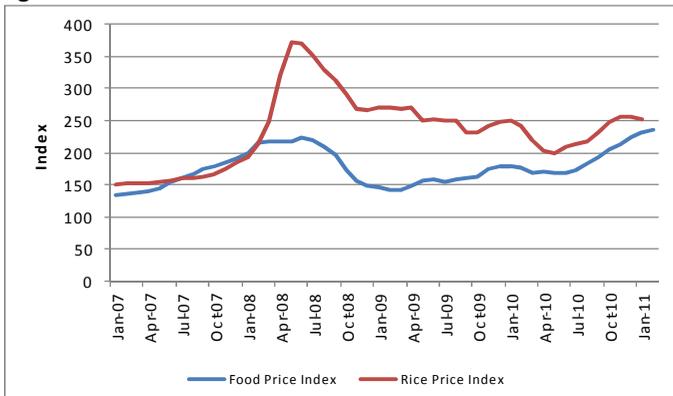
The United Nations World Food Programme's Cambodia Food Price and Wage Bulletin monitors the price of food commodities and unskilled wage rates on a monthly basis. The Bulletin aims to detect changes and identify trends in the food purchasing power of vulnerable households.

### International Food and Rice prices

The FAO Food Price Index<sup>1</sup> rose for the ninth consecutive month and was the highest (in both real and nominal terms) since the index has been backtracked in 1990. The index rose 34.1% year-on-year and 2.3% month-on-month (Figure 1).

In contrast, the FAO All Rice Price Index<sup>2</sup>, moderated by relatively abundant global rice supplies, was stable in January 2011 (February index not yet published), only slightly increasing 0.8% year-on-year and decreasing 1.2% month-on-month. Stable rice prices in international markets were also in contrast to the sharp rises observed in wheat and maize prices.

Figure 1: FAO Food Price Index and Rice Price Index



Source: FAO, <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/FoodPricesIndex/en/>

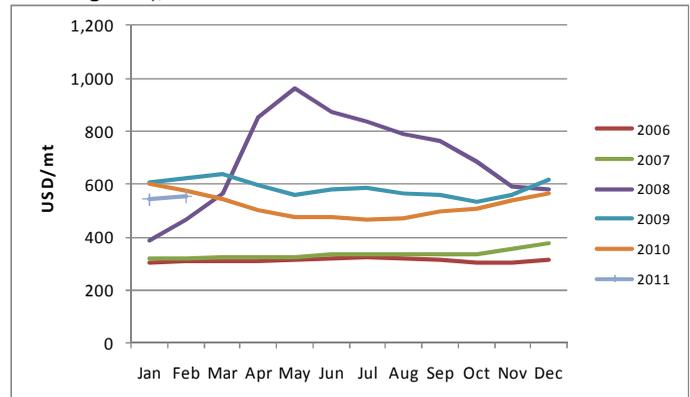
<sup>1</sup> The FAO Food Price Index is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities. It consists of the average of 5 commodity group price indices (i.e. meat, dairy, cereals, oils/fats, and sugar) weighted with the average export shares of each of the groups for 2002-2004. In total 55 commodity quotations are included in the overall index.

<sup>2</sup> Based on 16 rice export quotations.

### Regional Rice Wholesale Price

In February 2011, the f.o.b. price of Thai 100% grade-B white rice, the benchmark for Asia, was 554.3 USD/mt. The price increased 2.2% month-on-month, from 542.3 USD/mt in January, and decreased 3.7% year-on-year (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Monthly wholesale price of Thai white rice (100% B second grade), 2006-11



Source: FAO, <http://www.fao.org/es/esc/prices/PricesServlet.jsp?lang=en>

### Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Inflation, as measured by the year-on-year increase in the consumer price index<sup>3</sup>, was 3.8% in February, a slight increase from the 3.3% inflation rate in January. Consumer prices increased 0.7% month-on-month. The food price inflation was similar to overall inflation at 3.9%.

Of the various food commodity indices captured by the CPI, the price of oils and fats saw a 7.7% year-on-year increase in February 2011. The rice price index was stable, increasing 0.3% month-on-month and decreasing 0.2% year-on-year.

<sup>3</sup> The CPI is collected and reported by the National Institute of Statistics (NIS).

The ratio of food prices to non-food prices<sup>4</sup> can be used as a proxy indicator for food purchasing power. When the ratio of food prices to non-food prices (FPI/non-food CPI) goes above 1, the cost of food is increasing relative to the prices of other goods in the typical consumer basket. This could indicate increasing difficulty in access to food, as food purchasing power decreases for households.

In February 2011, the ratio of food prices to non-food prices in the CPI was 1.22, seeing no change from January 2011, but still approximately 22 percentage points higher than prior to the food price crisis of 2008 when the ratio was close to 1 (Figure 3).

**Figure 3:** Ratio of food to non-food items in CPI (base = Oct-Dec 2006)

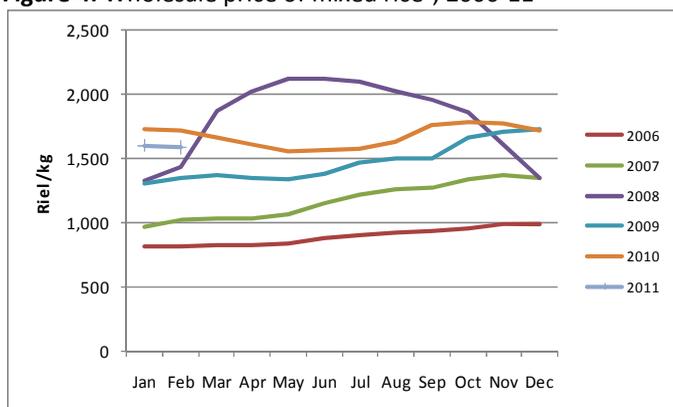


Source: National Institute of Statistics

### Local Rice Wholesale Prices

Price reports from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) show that the average wholesale price of mixed rice<sup>5</sup> in Cambodia decreased slightly in February. Prices were 1.0% lower than in January 2011 and also 7.4% lower than February 2010 (Figure 4).

**Figure 4:** Wholesale price of mixed rice<sup>6</sup>, 2006-11



Source: Cambodia Agricultural Market Information Service, MAFF  
<http://www.agriculturalmarketinformation.org.kh>

<sup>4</sup> The ratio of food prices to non-food prices is calculated as (food and non-alcoholic beverages component of CPI) / (non-food component of CPI)

<sup>5</sup> Mixed rice is considered one of the lowest quality rice.

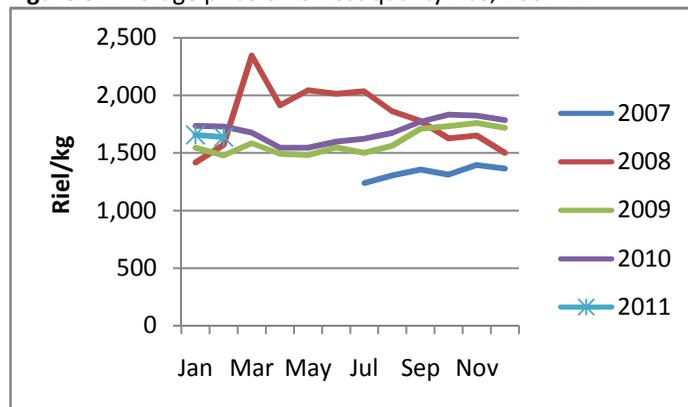
<sup>6</sup> Wholesale rice prices are collected from the provincial center markets of the following provinces: Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Cham, Takeo, Siem Reap, Prey Veng, Phnom Penh, Kampot, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey.

### Local Food Commodity Retail Prices

The retail price of the following food commodities are collected from 10 urban and 10 rural markets by WFP field monitors (Appendix 1): rice, smoked fish, beef, pork and vegetable oil.

The retail price of rice in February 2011 from WFP market price monitoring was in line with MAFF's reported wholesale price trends. In February, the average retail price of the lowest quality rice<sup>7</sup> in rural and urban areas was 1,637.2 riel/kg, a 1.2% month-on-month decrease and a 5.3% year-on-year decrease (Figure 5).

**Figure 5:** Average price of lowest quality rice, 2007-11



Source: WFP

The continued decrease of rice prices in February confirm the seasonal rice price patterns where prices rise during the wet season and reach their peak before the main harvest. However, the steep decrease in rice prices seen in January 2011 did not continue in February, suggesting that the main wet season harvest has come to an end.

Prices of other food commodities in each of the 10 rural and 10 urban markets are presented in Appendix 2. Vegetable oil has increased for the seventh consecutive month. In February 2011, vegetable oil prices were 8.9% higher than in January 2011 and 43.4% higher than in February 2010.

### Food Purchasing Power of Vulnerable Households

The daily wages of unskilled workers engaged in rice and non-rice farming, construction, motor-taxi driving and factory work are monitored by WFP field monitors on a monthly basis.

In February, the average wage of unskilled labour (agricultural and non-agricultural activities) in rural areas was 10,527.1 riel/day and 10,812.0 riel/day in urban areas. The average unskilled daily wages in all areas was 10,669.6 riel/day, a 3.2% month-on-month decrease (Figure 6).

<sup>7</sup> Mixed rice, IR rice and Banla Pdao rice



**Appendix 2: Price of food commodities in rural and urban markets**

Mkt	Food Items	Current price	Change in price (%)		Direction of change		Mkt	Food Items	Current price	Change in price (%)		Direction of change			
		(riel/kg)	1m	3m	1m	3m			(riel/kg)	1m	3m	1m	3m		
<b>Rural Markets</b>							<b>Urban Markets</b>								
Banteay Meanchey	Thma Puck	Second qual rice	-	-	-	-	Banteay Meanchey	Serei Saophoan	Second qual rice	2,533	4.1	8.6	▶	▶	
		Lowest qual rice	1,933	14.2	-3.3	▲			▶	Lowest qual rice	1,933	9.4	18	▲	▶
		Vegetable Oil	8,330	-0.4	27.5	▶			▲	Vegetable Oil	8,330	7.1	17.9	▲	▲
		Smoked fish	3,1667	-12.0	-	▼			-	Smoked fish	27,200	4.6	-14.1	▶	▼
		Fresh fish	10,000	-4.8	-	▶			▲	Fresh fish	5,500	50.0	32.0	▲	▲
		Pork with fat	15,000	25.0	-	▲			-	Pork with fat	13,667	7.9	7.9	▲	▶
Siem Reap	Kralanh	Beef	13,000	8.3	8.3	▶	-	Beef	11,333	0.0	0.0	▶	▶		
		Second qual rice	1,633	16.7	-4.8	▲	▶	Second qual rice	2,200	22.2	16.8	▲	▲		
		Lowest qual rice	1,283	4.3	-20.3	▶	▼	Lowest qual rice	1,633	-10	-5.8	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	7,592	11.0	23.1	▲	▲	Vegetable Oil	6,533	8.9	8.9	▲	▶		
		Smoked fish	25,417	2.90	-	▶	-	Smoked fish	16,000	6.7	6.7	▶	▶		
		Fresh fish	3,500	0.0	-30.0	▶	▼	Fresh fish	2,833	-29.2	-29.2	▼	▼		
Oddar Meanchey	Anlong Veng	Pork with fat	12,000	0.0	5.9	▶	▶	Pork with fat	11,833	-14	-14	▶	▶		
		Beef	10,667	-11.1	-11.1	▼	▼	Beef	7,667	-4.2	-4.2	▶	▶		
		Second qual rice	1,967	-7.8	-6.3	▼	▶	Second qual rice	2,500	-13	-8.5	▶	▶		
		Lowest qual rice	1,733	-3.7	-5.5	▶	▶	Lowest qual rice	1,800	19	-10.0	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,767	19.4	69.2	▲	▲	Vegetable Oil	7,511	56.5	55.4	▲	▲		
		Smoked fish	12,000	-	4.3	-	▶	▶	Smoked fish	20,000	-24.6	17.6	▼	▲	
Kampong Cham	Phlatav	Fresh fish	4,500	-10.0	-6.9	▼	▶	Fresh fish	5,000	-9.1	-	-	-		
		Pork with fat	13,000	-9.3	-9.3	▼	▶	Pork with fat	14,000	0.0	0.0	▶	▶		
		Beef	10,000	0.0	-23.1	▶	▼	Beef	14,000	16.7	-17.6	▲	▼		
		Second qual rice	1,733	15.6	-14.8	▲	▼	Second qual rice	1,800	12.5	-15.6	▶	▼		
		Lowest qual rice	1,557	7.4	-13.5	▲	▶	Lowest qual rice	1,500	4.7	-8.2	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,500	16	18.2	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	6,267	1.1	9.9	▶	▶		
Kampong Thom	Kampong Chhnoutal	Smoked fish	-	-	-	-	-	Smoked fish	-	-	-	-	-		
		Fresh fish	4,667	-42.9	-50.0	▼	▼	Fresh fish	4,000	90.5	-50.0	▲	▼		
		Pork with fat	12,000	-20.0	-7.7	▼	▶	Pork with fat	12,667	-3.8	-2.6	▶	▶		
		Beef	7,000	-12.5	-41.7	▼	▼	Beef	9,000	44.4	-32.5	▲	▼		
		Second qual rice	1,800	5.9	-12.9	▶	▼	Second qual rice	1,700	4.1	-15.0	▶	▼		
		Lowest qual rice	-	-	-	-	-	Lowest qual rice	1,500	7.1	-13.5	▲	▼		
Prey Veng	Chheu Kach Thmei	Vegetable Oil	6,500	10	211	▶	▲	Vegetable Oil	6,733	7.4	22.1	▲	▲		
		Smoked fish	6,933	-	-	-	-	Smoked fish	15,833	8.0	58.3	▲	▲		
		Fresh fish	7,333	-8.3	-	▼	-	Fresh fish	5,333	6.7	-	▲	-		
		Pork with fat	12,667	0.0	-2.6	▶	▶	Pork with fat	12,000	2.9	2.9	▶	▶		
		Beef	6,000	-18.2	-50.0	▼	▼	Beef	6,000	0.0	-45.5	▼	▼		
		Second qual rice	1,600	-4.0	-20.0	▶	▼	Second qual rice	1,867	-15.2	-16.4	▼	▼		
Svay Rieng	Kampong Traeh	Lowest qual rice	-	-	-	-	-	Lowest qual rice	1,700	0.0	-8.9	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,500	4.8	14.7	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	6,867	0.5	17.7	▶	▲		
		Smoked fish	-	-	-	-	-	Smoked fish	14,000	-53.3	-	▼	-		
		Fresh fish	6,667	17.6	-28.6	▲	▼	Fresh fish	11,500	15.0	-	▲	-		
		Pork with fat	11,000	10.0	10.0	▶	▶	Pork with fat	12,000	0.0	0.0	▶	▶		
		Beef	15,000	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	Beef	-	-	-	-	-		
Kampong Chhnang	Sala Lek Pram	Second qual rice	1,600	4.3	-11.1	▶	▼	Second qual rice	1,800	0.0	-10.0	▶	▶		
		Lowest qual rice	1,300	-	-19.6	-	▼	Lowest qual rice	1,600	-	-11.1	-	▼		
		Vegetable Oil	6,567	13.2	18.7	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	6,533	4.3	14.0	▶	▲		
		Smoked fish	15,800	-16.8	-	▼	-	Smoked fish	13,500	-	-	-	-		
		Fresh fish	5,000	0.0	-9.6	▶	▶	Fresh fish	5,800	0.0	3.0	▶	▶		
		Pork with fat	8,833	10.4	8.2	▶	▶	Pork with fat	10,667	6.7	6.7	▶	▶		
Kampong Speu	Bat Doeng	Beef	7,000	16.7	13.5	▶	▶	Beef	7,000	16.7	16.7	▶	▶		
		Second qual rice	2,533	15.2	11.8	▶	▶	Second qual rice	2,233	6.3	8.1	▶	▶		
		Lowest qual rice	1,767	-8.6	-7.0	▶	▶	Lowest qual rice	1,700	-7.3	-7.3	▼	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,467	3.2	12.8	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	6,533	10.1	14.0	▶	▲		
		Smoked fish	-	-	-	-	-	Smoked fish	19,333	-20.5	-20.5	▼	▼		
		Fresh fish	5,250	50.0	-	▲	-	Fresh fish	7,333	-	-	-	-		
Pursat	Chheu Tom	Pork with fat	12,000	-2.7	-7.7	▶	▶	Pork with fat	12,333	-15.9	-15.9	▼	▼		
		Beef	7,667	-11.5	-6.1	▼	▶	Beef	10,000	-14.3	-14.3	▼	▼		
		Second qual rice	2,267	9.7	-6.8	▶	▶	Second qual rice	2,200	-4.3	-5.7	▶	▶		
		Lowest qual rice	1,667	2.0	-18.0	▶	▼	Lowest qual rice	1,867	0.0	3.7	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,700	8.1	19.6	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	7,000	10.5	28.8	▶	▲		
		Smoked fish	18,833	-3.3	7.6	▶	▶	Smoked fish	25,000	-	-	-	-		
Pursat	Central	Fresh fish	5,000	11.1	-3.2	▶	▶	Fresh fish	10,667	18.5	3.2	▶	▶		
		Pork with fat	14,333	13.2	19.4	▶	▶	Pork with fat	12,333	27.6	48.0	▶	▶		
		Beef	10,667	6.7	33.3	▶	▶	Beef	9,333	0.0	16.7	▶	▶		
		Second qual rice	2,400	-4.0	-6.5	▶	▶	Second qual rice	2,400	-5.3	0.0	▶	▶		
		Lowest qual rice	1,500	-23.7	-25.0	▼	▼	Lowest qual rice	1,800	-3.6	-18	▶	▶		
		Vegetable Oil	6,833	13.9	24.2	▶	▶	Vegetable Oil	7,000	12.9	21.4	▶	▲		
Pursat	Central	Smoked fish	16,667	4.2	4.2	▶	▶	Smoked fish	-	-	-	-	-		
		Fresh fish	4,333	-27.8	-18.8	▼	▼	Fresh fish	8,000	2.1	-7.7	▶	▶		
		Pork with fat	14,000	16.7	16.7	▶	▶	Pork with fat	10,667	14.3	33.3	▶	▶		
		Beef	10,333	-6.1	-6.1	▼	▶	Beef	10,667	6.7	0.0	▶	▶		

▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation  
▶ Normal price fluctuation  
▼ Price decrease below normal price fluctuation  
- Commodity not available in reporting month

Price fluctuation is considered normal if the price change is within:  
5% for month, 10% for 3 months