



# Global food price monitor

## Key messages

- **Export prices of wheat and maize declined for the second consecutive month in January but were still above their levels a year earlier.** International rice prices followed mixed trends, depending on variety and origin.
- **In Southern Africa, prices of main staple maize continued to rise in the past two months,** particularly in Malawi, where in January they were double their levels of a year earlier in several markets.
- **In Eastern and Western Africa, cereal prices declined markedly in recent months,** although still remaining high in some markets.
- **Domestic prices of wheat in importing and exporting countries remain at high levels.**

## Regional highlights

- **In Southern Africa, maize prices have escalated in the past two months, reaching record levels in several markets,** due to a combination of factors including tight local supplies, exchange rates variations and floods.
- **In Eastern Africa, coarse grains prices generally declined in recent months,** mainly reflecting improved domestic availabilities from the new harvests; however, prices remain high in some markets of the subregion.
- **In Western Africa, coarse grain prices decreased significantly in January and December with the completion of the good 2012 cereal harvests** and were generally below or around their levels of a year earlier.
- **In Far East Asia, domestic rice prices remained relatively stable or declined in January,** reflecting trends in regional export markets and good 2012 harvests. Wheat prices continued to rise and were at high levels.
- **In CIS importing countries, prices of wheat flour were generally unchanged in January but still at record or near record levels,** due to high regional export prices.
- **In Central America and the Caribbean, prices of maize increased seasonally in January,** after sustained declines in late 2012, but remained generally low. By contrast, prices of beans continued to fall with the 2012 main season bean harvests.
- **In South American wheat importing countries, prices of wheat flour strengthened further in January** following trends in the Argentinean wheat export market. Prices of yellow maize showed mixed patterns, while those of rice declined.

## Contents

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES	2
<b>EASTERN AFRICA:</b> Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Somalia, Ethiopia, the Sudan, South Sudan	3
<b>WESTERN AFRICA:</b> Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Senegal, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Mauritania	5
<b>SOUTHERN AFRICA:</b> South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Madagascar	7
<b>FAR EAST ASIA:</b> Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, China, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan	9
<b>CIS - Asia and Europe:</b> the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan	12
<b>CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN:</b> Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico, Haiti, Dominican Republic	14
<b>SOUTH AMERICA:</b> Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador	15
<b>CHARTS:</b> Largest changes in prices of key commodities	16

## Price data

Go to GIEWS Food Price Data and Analysis Tool at:

[www.fao.org/giews/pricetool](http://www.fao.org/giews/pricetool)

## INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

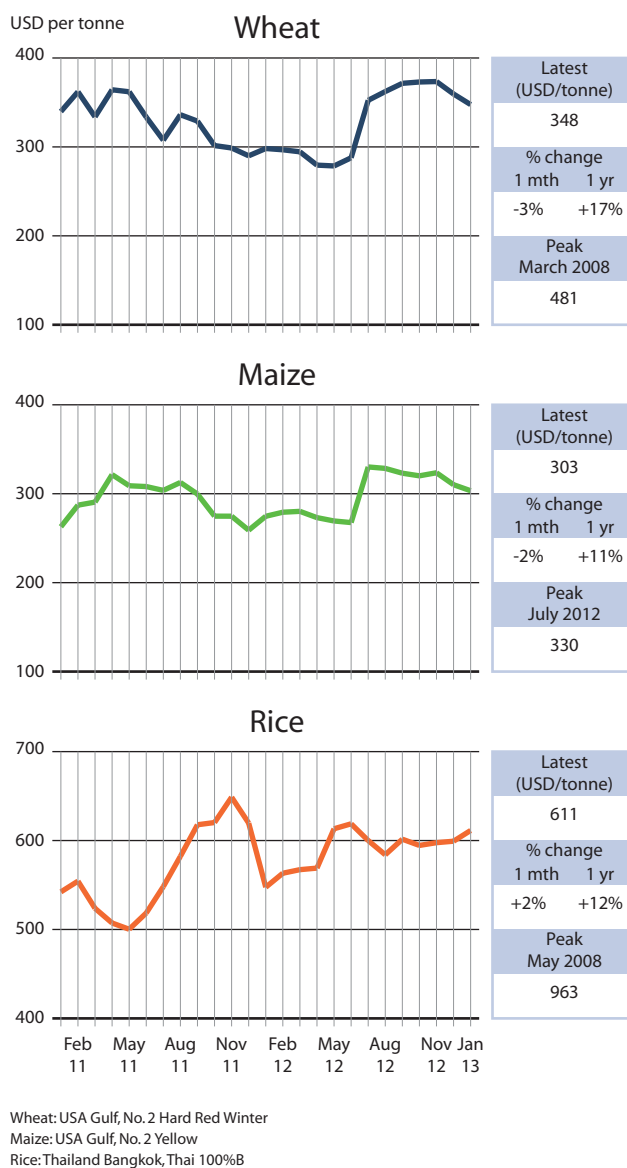
### International grain prices declined slightly in January while those of rice were stable

■ Export prices of **wheat** declined for the second consecutive month in January. The benchmark US wheat price (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) averaged USD 348 per tonne, down 3 percent from its level in December but still 17 percent higher than in January 2012. Low levels of wheat exports from the United States and large supplies of feed wheat weighed on international wheat prices. However, continued drought conditions in the United States, affecting wheat conditions in the southern Plains, and weakening dollar limited the decline.

■ International prices of **maize** also decreased in the past two months and in January the benchmark US maize price (US No.2, Yellow) averaged USD 303 per tonne, 2 percent lower than in December although 11 percent above its level in January 2012. Weaker pace in trade activity has been one reason while expectation of large supplies from South America also pressured prices. However, prices rebounded somewhat since late January on concerns about the impact of dry weather on the 2013 maize crop in Argentina.

■ International **rice** prices followed diverging directions in January 2013, depending on the type and origin. While the FAO All Rice Price Index was unchanged at its December 2012 value, indicating an overall stability, aromatic rice quotations strengthened, while prices of Indica moved up only marginally and Japonica prices fell. Quotations of the benchmark Thai white 100%B rice, however, rose by 2 percent to USD 611 per tonne in January 2013, reflecting large government purchases under the pledging programme, and resulting in a widening gap between Thai prices and prices from other origins.

### International cereal prices (benchmark monthly averages)



## EASTERN AFRICA

### Coarse grain prices declined in the past months, although remained at high levels in some countries

Prices of locally produced maize and sorghum decreased in most markets of the region in December and January, reflecting fresh supplies from the 2012/13 second season cereal crops, being gathered in several countries, on top of the overall good outputs of the 2012 main season harvests. The main exception was the United Republic of Tanzania where, fueled by reduced production, maize prices continued rising to reach new record levels. However, food prices remained higher than a year earlier in several markets, supported by generally high inflation, increased transport costs and sustained export demand.

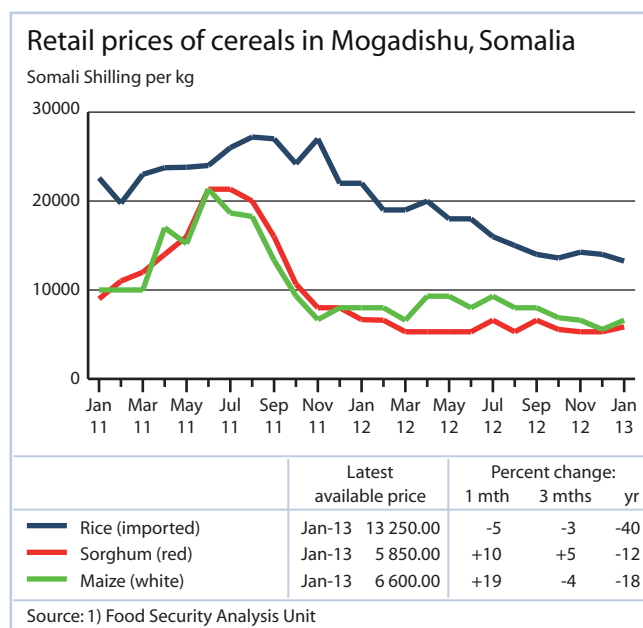
In **Kenya**, maize prices further decreased in January in most markets with the beginning of the improved secondary “short rains” harvest. Good supplies from the recently completed main “long rains” harvest and imports from Uganda also weighed on prices, which were significantly below their levels in January 2012.

In **Uganda**, maize prices generally declined in January as newly harvested crops from the good 2012 second season increased supplies. However, in the main Kampala market, the price of maize continued its increasing trend of recent months due to strong local and export demand, mainly from Kenya. Prices of main staple cooking bananas “matooke” declined sharply in late January/early February, reflecting abundant

supplies from the new harvest, but they still remained well above their low levels in January 2012. Prices of cassava flour, another important staple, also remained higher than a year earlier although stable. Higher diesel prices and transport costs are supporting food prices.

In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize continued to generally increase in January, reaching new record highs and doubling their levels of a year earlier in some southern markets. This reflects a poor production of the secondary “Vuli” season crop, currently being harvested in northern bimodal areas and a reduced 2012 main season output. Sustained import demand from neighboring countries and high transportation costs have also provided support. In an effort to ease upward pressure on prices the government has approved the release of some 40 000 tonnes of relief maize from the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) in late January.

In **Somalia**, prices of locally produced cereals declined in most markets in the past two months reflecting an anticipated good outturn of the 2012/13 second “Deyer” season harvest, currently underway. In the capital city Mogadishu, however, prices of sorghum and maize strengthened in January due to increased demand following improved security and economic situation. By contrast, prices of imported rice declined as a result of the appreciation of the local currency. Overall, cereal prices remained at low levels, well below those of a year earlier.



## EAST AFRICA *(continued)*

In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize and wheat remained stable in January in most deficit and surplus areas, after marked declines in December as the bulk of the 2012 main “*meher*” season reached markets. After the record levels of November 2012, prices of white sorghum and teff decreased for the second consecutive month in the capital Addis Ababa. Nevertheless, despite the overall good performance of the 2012 cereal crops, prices in January were generally still above their year-earlier levels, as a result of sustained domestic demand and inflation, which remains high, notwithstanding declines in recent months following government price controls for some commodities, including palm oil, wheat flour and sugar.

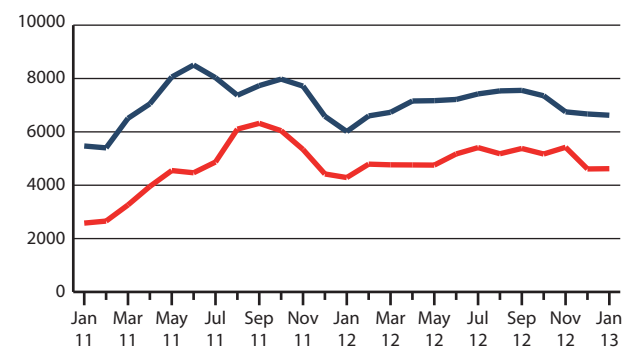
In the **Sudan**, prices of locally produced sorghum and millet strengthened in January in most markets after declining in the

previous two months with increased supplies from the 2012 harvest. Although a good production was obtained, January 2013 cereal prices remained substantially higher than a year earlier, mainly due to high costs of agricultural inputs and overall general inflation (year-on-year inflation rate 43 percent in January). Resumption of sorghum exports in the last quarter of 2012 also provided support. Prices of wheat, mostly imported, increased from December to January in the capital Khartoum reaching new record highs.

In **South Sudan**, prices of main staple sorghum followed mixed trends in December reflecting limited market integration mainly as a result of poor transport infrastructure and civil insecurity. Sorghum prices declined in Rumbek, Bor and Malakal, as the newly harvested crops increased supply, remained stable in the capital Juba, and increased in Wau and Aweil.

### Wholesale prices of cereals in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Ethiopian Birr per tonne

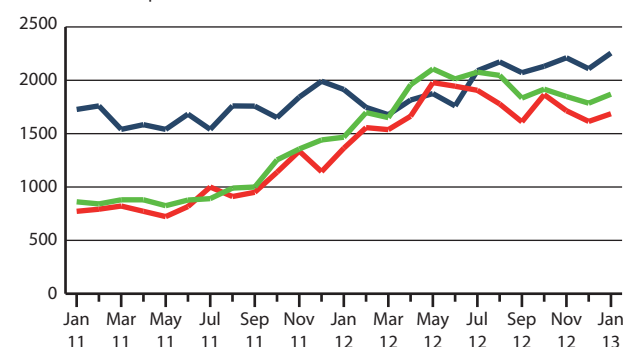


	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Wheat (white)	Jan-13 6 623.30	-1	-10	+10
— Maize	Jan-13 4 620.00	0	-11	+8

Source: 1) Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise

### Wholesale prices of sorghum and wheat in Sudan

Sudanese Pound per tonne



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Khartoum, Wheat	Jan-13 2 255.00	+7	+6	+18
— El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita)	Jan-13 1 686.63	+4	-10	+24
— Khartoum, Sorghum (Feterita)	Jan-13 1 870.00	+5	-2	+28

Source: 1) Ministry of Agriculture, Sudan

## WESTERN AFRICA

### Prices of coarse grains dropped considerably in the past months

Reflecting the good 2012 cereal crops recently harvested, markets are generally well supplied and sorghum and millet prices have declined significantly in Sahelian countries in recent months. Similarly, in the coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize, the staple cereal decreased substantially. With the exception of few markets, prices in January and December were below or around their levels of a year earlier. Prices of imported rice, mainly consumed in urban centres, have remained stable in past months in both the Sahel and the coastal countries.

In **Mali** and **Burkina Faso**, prices of millet and sorghum continued their downward movement through January 2013 in most markets and were well below their levels a year earlier. In **Niger**, millet prices were stable in January in the capital Niamey, and increased in some markets, due to the beginning of institutional purchases in the country.

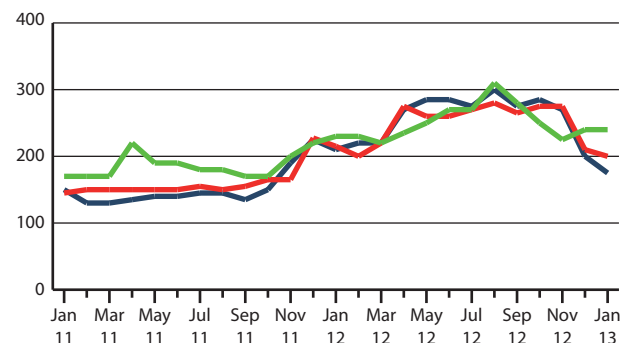
Seasonal declines in coarse grain prices were less notable in a

few countries due to various reasons. In **Chad**, in the main market of N'Djamena, millet prices that have been following an upward trend since early 2012, declined only slightly during the harvest period. In December 2012, millet prices were 46 percent up on their levels of a year earlier. Internal trade restriction has reduced the flow of commodities between deficit and surplus areas of the country and contributed to higher prices in the capital city. The same trend was observed in **Senegal**, where millet prices declined with the harvest but in December 2012 were still above the previous year's high level, notably in the capital city Dakar. The ongoing marketing of main cash crop groundnut has reportedly resulted in limited coarse grains supplies from farmers. Prices of imported rice, the main staple in the country, have stabilized since mid-2012 following Government interventions and recent trends in international markets. However, in December 2012 rice prices were still well above their levels in December 2011.

Overall, cereal prices in the Sahelian countries were lower or around their levels of January last year.

#### Wholesale prices of millet in Western Africa

CFA Franc per kg

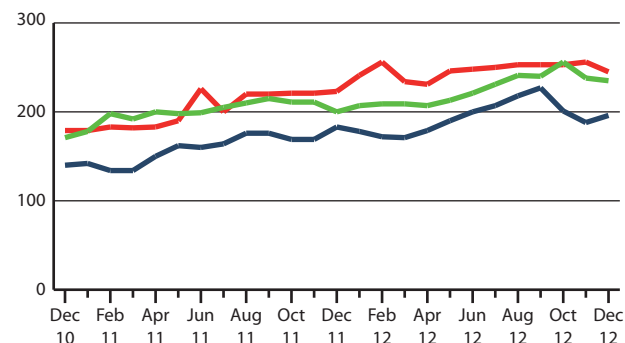


	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Mali, Bamako	Jan-13 175.00	-13	-39	-17
— Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou	Jan-13 200.00	-5	-27	-7
— Niger, Niamey	Jan-13 240.00	0	-4	+4

Source: 1) Afrique verte

#### Retail prices of millet in Senegal

CFA Franc per kg



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Kaolack	Dec-12 196.00	+4	-14	+7
— Dakar	Dec-12 245.00	-4	-3	+10
— Kolda	Dec-12 235.00	-1	-2	+18

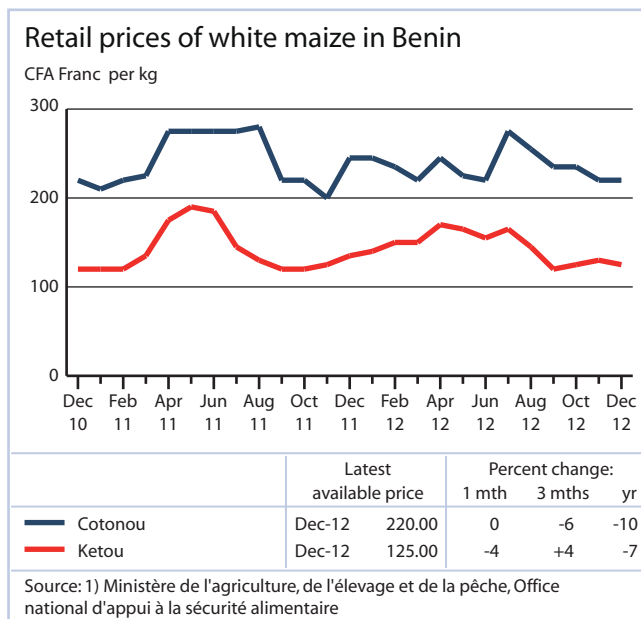
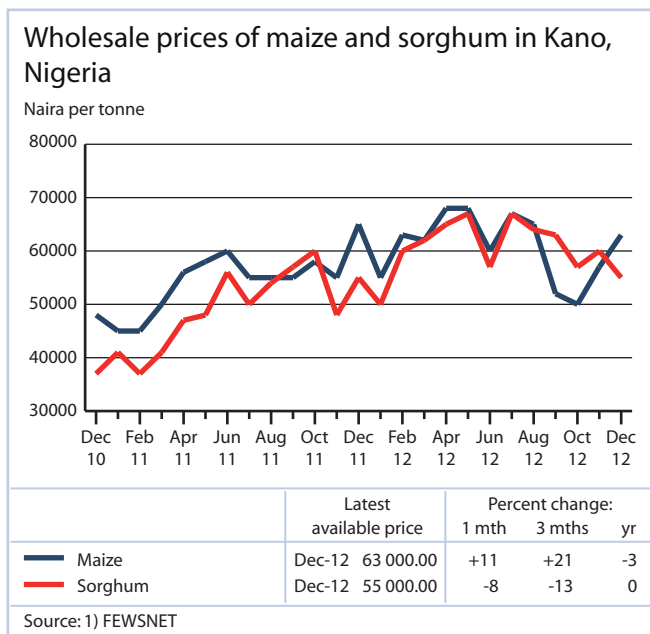
Source: 1) Commissariat à la sécurité alimentaire

## WESTERN AFRICA *(continued)*

In coastal countries, in **Nigeria**, maize prices in Kano, the most important city in the northern part of the country, rebounded in the past two months after falling sharply with the 2012 harvest but were still below their levels of a year earlier. In other markets, coarse grain prices declined or stabilized.

In **Benin** and **Ghana**, prices of maize in December 2012 remained generally stable after significant declines in previous months with the arrival of the new harvests. Overall, prices were well below those in December 2011.

In **Mauritania**, prices of main staple imported wheat fell markedly in December 2012 and were lower than their levels at the same time a year earlier. This decline reflects the trend in international prices in recent months.



## SOUTHERN AFRICA

### Maize prices sharply increased in the past months reaching record or near-record levels in several markets

In several areas of Southern Africa, maize prices have experienced sharp rises, above normal trends, in recent months, reaching new record or near-record highs in markets of Malawi and Mozambique. Overall, maize prices are above their year-earlier levels, with the exception of South Africa. Several factors have pushed prices up, including: tight local supplies following lower 2012 harvests; exchange rate variations; increased regional import demand; high inflation rates; robust demand for building strategic reserves, and localized floods.

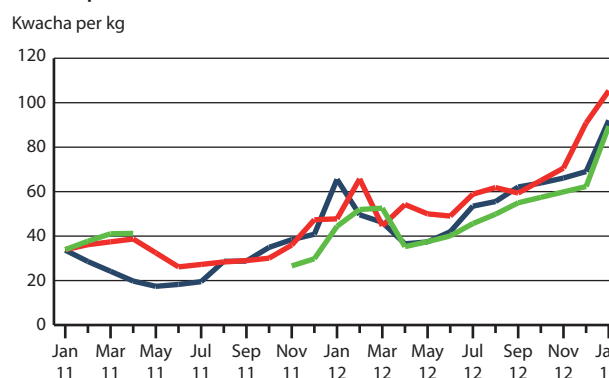
In **South Africa**, the subregion's main exporter, maize prices fell for the second consecutive month in January, to well below their record levels of a year earlier. The recent declines primarily reflect the positive outlook for the 2013 maize harvest, from May onwards, on the back of an increase in the area planted. The weakening international quotations also weighed on prices.

In **Malawi**, maize prices climbed sharply in January, continuing the steep increase since the second half of 2012 and reaching new record highs. At their current levels, prices exceed those of a year earlier. In particular, in northern markets, where strong demand from deficit southern parts and Tanzania has put pressure on maize supplies, prices were more than double and in some markets three times the level of January 2012. The continued depreciation of the national currency (kwacha), following the devaluation in May 2012, has supported import demand from neighbouring countries and maintained high inflation rates. Tight localized supplies, as a result of production deficits in the Southern Region, also underpinned the higher prices. Furthermore, heavy rains and localized floods in southern areas during January disrupted market activities

providing further support. On-going humanitarian assistance, including the distribution of food aid, and the release of subsidized maize through the Government's Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) have alleviated market shortfalls in some locations. The increase in the minimum farm gate price for maize in the forthcoming 2013/14 marketing season (May/April) to MWK 60 per kg, nearly double the level of the previous year, is likely to continue to provide support to prices, whilst benefiting net-selling households.

In **Mozambique**, maize prices in January were well above those of a year earlier and remained close to their record levels reached in December 2012, despite declines in some markets.

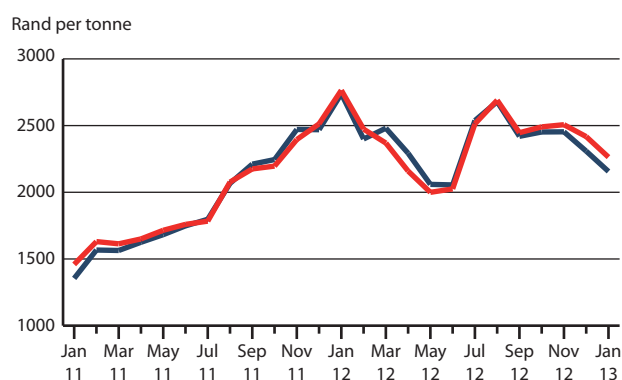
#### Retail prices of maize in Malawi



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Liwonde	Jan-13 92.05	+33	+44	+40
— Mzuzu	Jan-13 105.40	+16	+62	+121
— Mzimba	Jan-13 89.45	+44	+56	+101

Source: 1) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

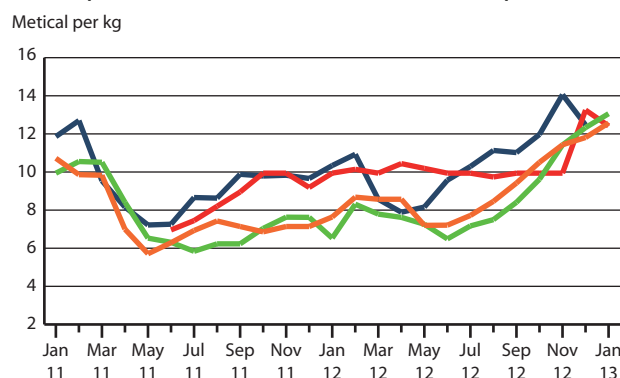
#### Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein, South Africa



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Maize (white)	Jan-13 2 156.05	-7	-12	-21
— Maize (yellow)	Jan-13 2 263.41	-6	-9	-18

Source: 1) SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

#### Retail prices of white maize in Mozambique



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Maxixe	Dec-12 12.47	-11	+13	+29
— Chokwe	Jan-13 12.42	-6	+25	+25
— Gorongosa	Jan-13 13.06	+6	+36	+100
— Nampula	Jan-13 12.57	+6	+20	+65

Source: 1) Sistema De Informação De Mercados Agrícolas De Moçambique

## SOUTHERN AFRICA *(continued)*

The high prices mainly reflect tighter market supplies following reduced production in 2012. In addition, recent heavy rains and localized floods in January disrupted access to some markets, with reports indicating reduced food supplies in the wholesale markets of Maputo, Gherkin, Beira and Nampula. In the most-affected Gaza Province, the closure of the main market warehouse in Chokwe triggered market shortages in other areas of the province, instigating sharp price rises.

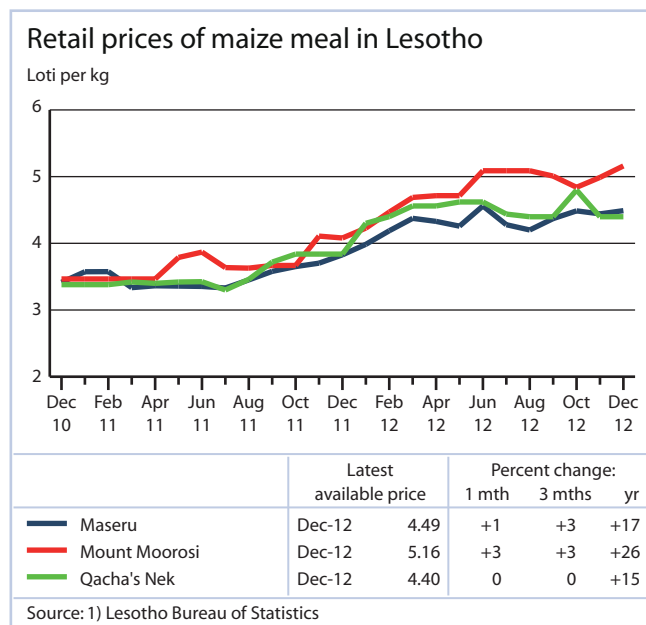
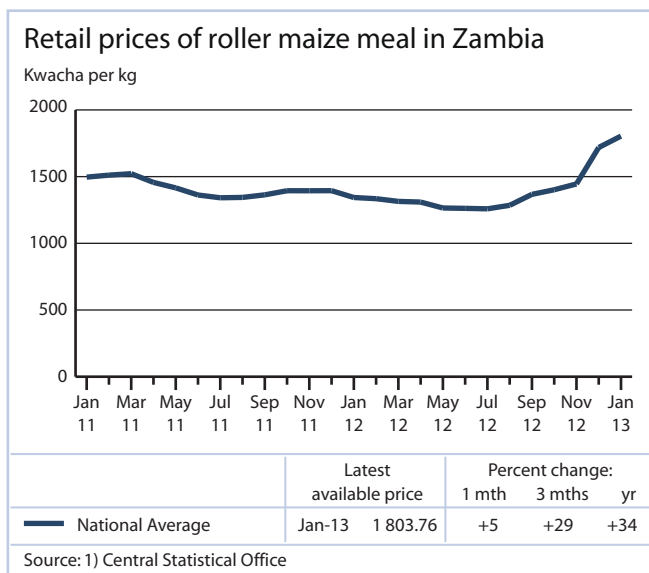
In **Zambia**, national average roller maize meal prices rose steeply from November 2012, exceeding historical seasonal trends; between November and January prices jumped by 25 percent. As well as the national procurement programme by the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) that has accumulated high stock levels, strong demand from neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo and Tanzania, supported by the gradual depreciation of the Zambian kwacha, has put upward pressure on prices. To prevent further rises, the Government issued a directive to maize millers in December to reduce prices of maize meal to ZMW 50/per 25 kg or below. As a result, more moderate increases were observed in January, although the average price of breakfast meal during the month remained at ZMW 58 per 25 kg. Monthly FRA distributions onto the market since December have also contributed to limiting

increases in prices. In October, the Government announced the removal of value added tax on bread and wheat for 2013, which is expected to contribute to reducing prices.

In **Lesotho**, following an increasing trend at the start of 2012, maize meal prices have shown limited movement since June 2012. However, prices still remain high at levels well above those of a year earlier, supported by elevated prices in South Africa despite their recent declines.

In **Zimbabwe**, stable maize grain prices have been recorded in Harare, reflecting generally adequate supplies. Commercial imports and on-going humanitarian food distribution have helped to contain prices at levels that are comparable to the previous year. However, in areas that experienced production short-falls in 2012, price spikes have been observed, notably in south-western parts.

National average local rice prices in **Madagascar** remained stable reflecting adequate supplies. The price of imported rice has also remained stable and decreased marginally in January. However the passing of cyclone Felleng in January resulted in heavy rains in some locations, notably in the north and east preventing normal trade flows that lead to local market shortages and consequent price increases.





## FAR EAST ASIA

### Rice prices generally stable or decrease in January, while those of wheat gain strength

Domestic rice prices in the subregion remained generally stable or declined in January in most markets, reflecting trends in the regional export prices and the recently completed 2012 main season bumper harvests, together with government price stabilization measures. In major wheat consuming countries, wheat and wheat flour prices continued to move upwards or stabilized at high levels in several markets, mainly reflecting strong prices in the regional export markets.

Domestic prices of rice in **Viet Nam** declined for the second consecutive month in January, reflecting weak demand from the export market, mainly from large destinations Indonesia and the Philippines. The record production of the minor season 10<sup>th</sup> Month crop, harvested until December 2012, added to the downward pressure on prices. In January, retail rice prices were well below their levels in the same month last year.

In **Thailand**, domestic rice prices remained relatively stable, around their levels of a month and a year earlier.

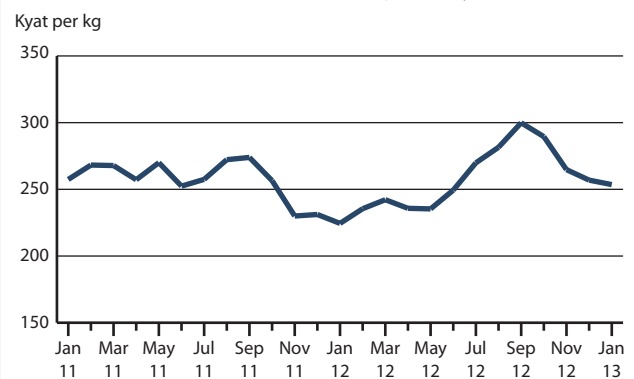
In **Myanmar**, domestic prices for Emata 25% rice, the main staple variety in the country, weakened further in January after steadily decreasing in previous months with adequate supplies from the 2012 main season harvest, completed in December. However, at their January levels, rice prices remained higher than a year earlier. In provinces affected by flood damage during the 2012 season, particularly Ayeyarwady and Bago, prices have declined more pronouncedly because of the poor quality of the rice.

In **Cambodia**, wholesale prices of rice declined in the capital city Phnom Penh and remained relatively stable in the main

producing northern areas. New supplies from the ongoing 2012 main wet season harvest, anticipated at record levels, are putting downward pressure on prices.

In **Indonesia**, prices for medium quality rice in January continued their increasing trend of the past six months, with the national average price reaching new highs. Marketing disruptions caused by recent floods in the main crop producing areas of Jakarta and Java supported prices in January. In response, the State Procurement Agency (BULOG) has released some stocks. Prices of beef meat have been rising steadily since mid-2011 at rates well above consumer price inflation, with a more robust pace in the last three months, reaching record level in January 2013. The price increase reflects

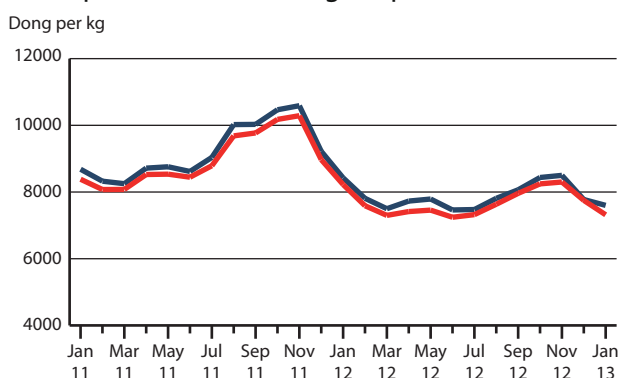
### Wholesale prices of rice in Yangon, Myanmar



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Rice (Emata 25%)	Jan-13 253.55	-1	-12	+13

Source: 1) E-Trade Myanmar

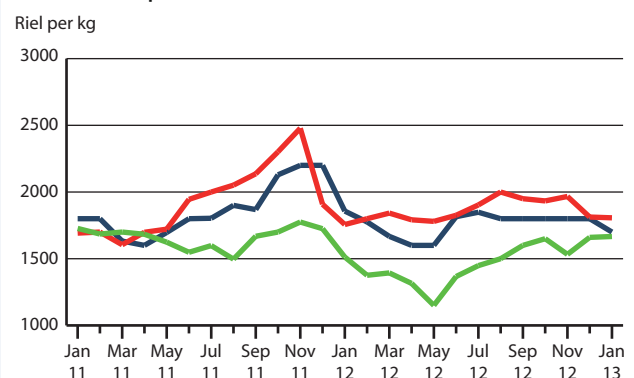
### Retail prices of rice in Dong Thap, Viet Nam



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Rice (20% broken)	Jan-13 7 600.00	-2	-10	-10
— Rice (25% broken)	Jan-13 7 316.67	-6	-11	-11

Source: 1) Agroinfo

### Wholesale prices of rice in Cambodia



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Phnom Penh	Jan-13 1 700.00	-6	-6	-8
— Kampong Chhnang	Jan-13 1 806.67	0	-7	+3
— Battambang	Jan-13 1 666.67	0	+1	+10

Source: 1) Cambodia Agricultural Market Information System

## FAR EAST ASIA *(continued)*

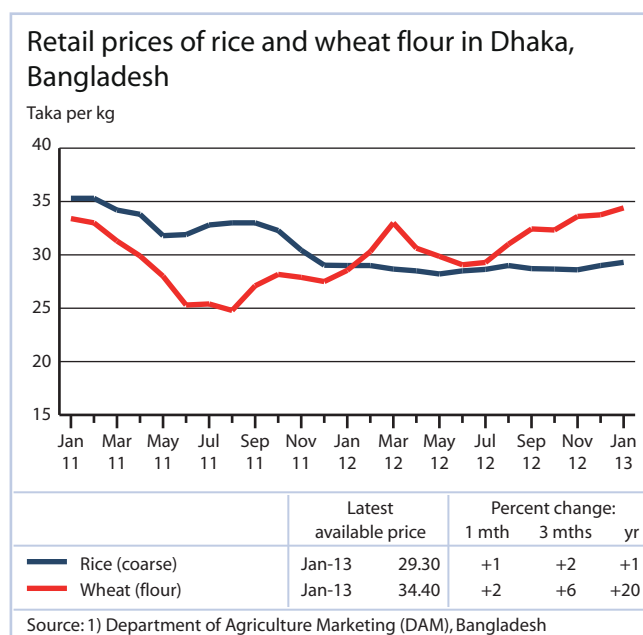
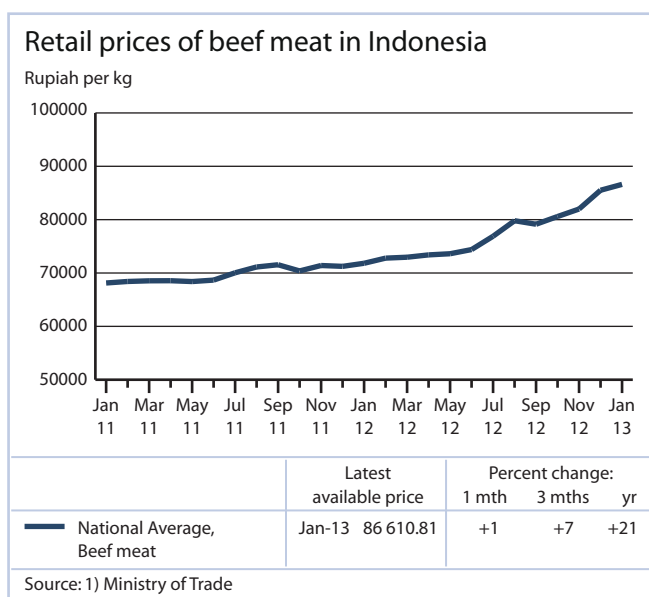
government-imposed restriction on imports of both fresh/frozen beef and live cattle, in order to achieve self-sufficiency in beef production.

In the **Philippines**, national average prices of regular and well milled rice varieties remained stable in January reflecting the 2012 record main season crop, gathered by mid-December, and the beginning of the secondary season harvest. The price stabilizing efforts of the National Food Authority have also contributed to keep the average retail rice prices at around their levels a year earlier.

In **Bangladesh**, retail prices of rice remained generally stable at relatively low levels in January. This reflects adequate supplies from 2012 bumper harvest, sufficient domestic stocks and continuous public rice distribution through Open Market Sale (OMS). By contrast, prices of wheat flour continued their gradual upward trend in January, due to lower wheat imports.

In **China**, prices of staples rice and wheat strengthened further in January continuing the sustained upward trend over the past year. Prices were 5 and 4 percent respectively higher than in January 2012, which is above the year-on-year general inflation measured at 2 percent in January 2013. Cereal prices have been supported by strong demand and annually rising minimum procurement prices, which for 2013 have just been increased by 9.8 percent for wheat and 7 percent for Japonica rice.

In **India**, retail rice prices remained relatively firm in January in most markets, reflecting progress of the *Kharif* main season harvest, as well as generally favourable prospects for the ongoing 2012 *Rabi* crop. However, rice prices increased exceptionally in Chennai market, due to sluggish inflows from the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, reaching a new record level, some 55 percent higher than a year earlier.

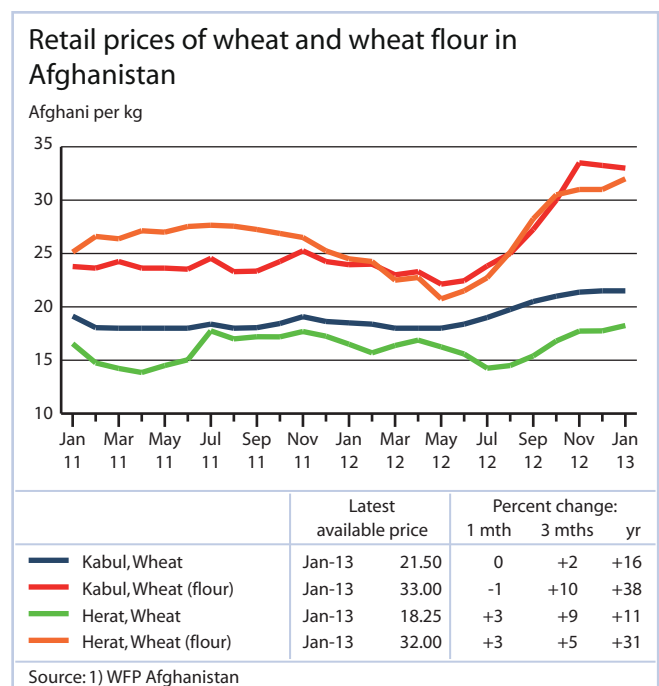
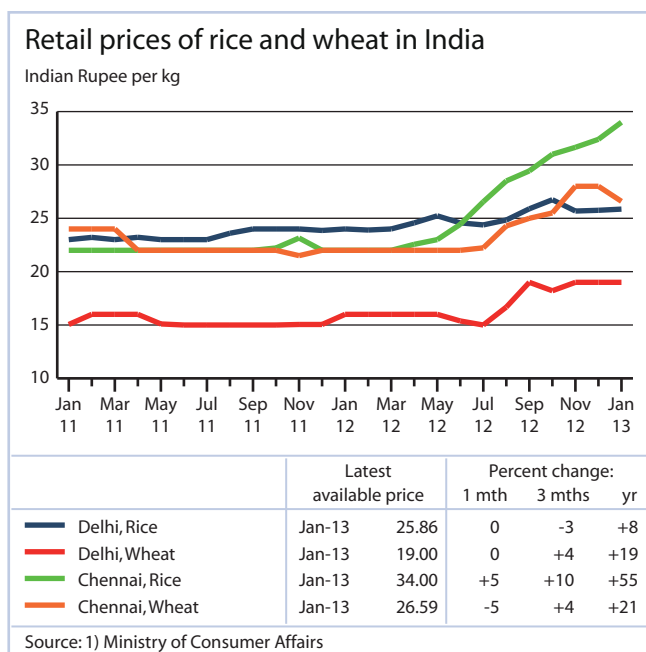
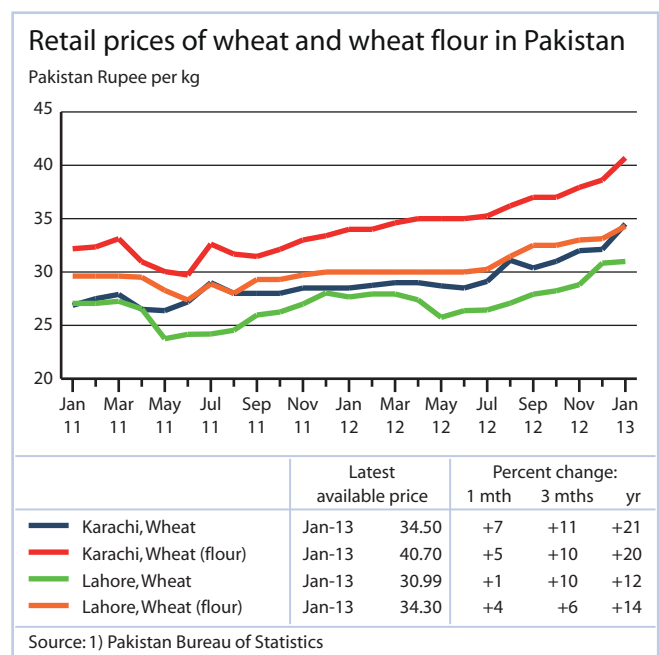
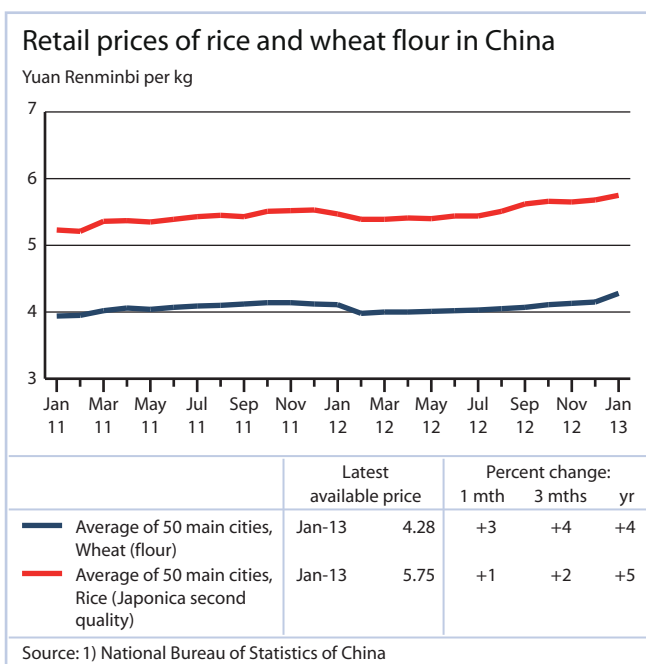


Wheat prices stabilized in most markets of the country, although continued to increase in Mumbai. Overall, cereal prices were well above both their levels a year earlier and the general inflation (10.6 percent year-on-year in December 2012), mainly as result of higher minimum support prices in the agricultural season 2012/13, increasing procurement volumes by the Government and strong export demand.

In **Pakistan**, prices of wheat and wheat flour continued to strengthen in January, reaching record levels in most markets supported by higher producer support prices. In order to curtail price hikes, the Government announced in mid-January the

immediate release of 1 million tonnes of wheat from stocks held by the Pakistan Agriculture Storage and Services Corporation (Passco).

In **Afghanistan**, prices of wheat and wheat flour in January 2013 stabilized in most markets after sustained increases since mid-2012. However, prices remained at levels substantially higher than a year ago. This reflects the limited domestic milling capacity of the country and reliance on imported flour, coupled with increased regional prices (Kazakhstan). The 2012 large domestic wheat production has, however, cushioned the impact of the international flour price transmission.



## CIS - Asia and Europe

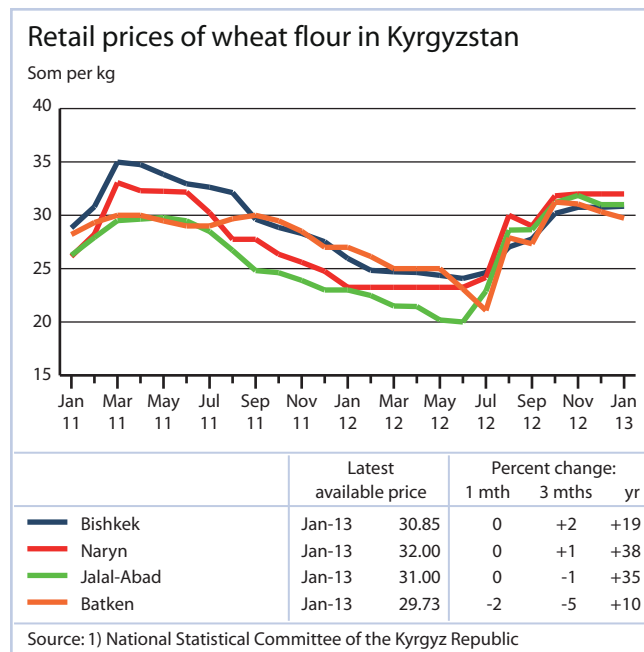
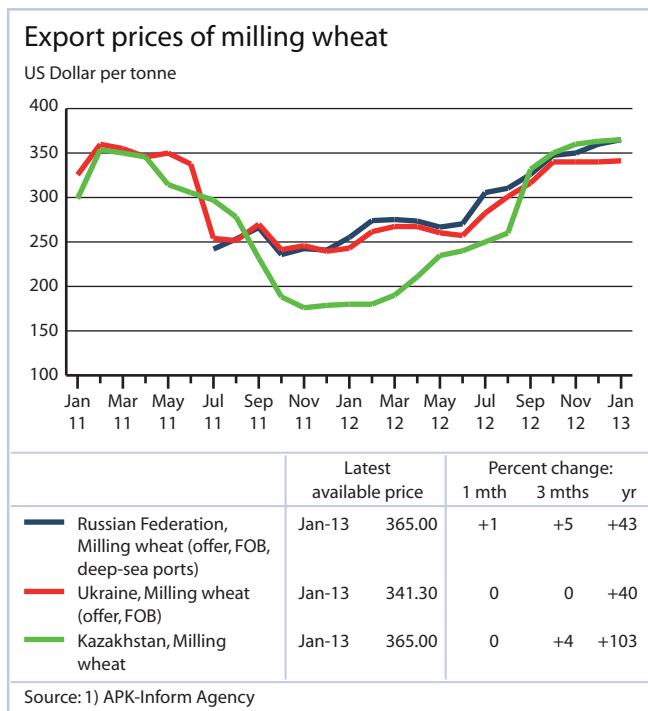
### Prices of wheat flour firm and at near record levels

In most wheat import-dependent countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour in January remained overall stable but at near record levels, mirroring price patterns in the export markets of the subregion.

Wheat export prices in the regional markets, which include **the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan** remained steady in January as a result of sluggish export sales. However, export prices in January were 40 to 100 percent above their levels a year earlier, after the sharply reduced 2012 wheat outputs tightened export availabilities. In these countries, domestic prices of wheat strengthened further in January continuing the sustained upward trend started in mid-2012. In the Russian Federation, where state

reserves have been released in the previous months to limit domestic price increases, the Government is now considering the possibility to eliminate the current 5 percent duty on wheat imports.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, prices of wheat flour remained generally unchanged at high levels in January, mainly reflecting trends in the neighbouring export markets, from where the country imports about one-third of its consumption requirements. Reduced wheat production in 2012 also underpinned prices. However, imports of wheat and wheat flour on concessional basis from the Russian Federation in late 2012 - expected to continue in early 2013 - contributed to limit upward price pressure and led to slight declines in some markets. At their January levels, prices of wheat flour and bread continued at near record levels.

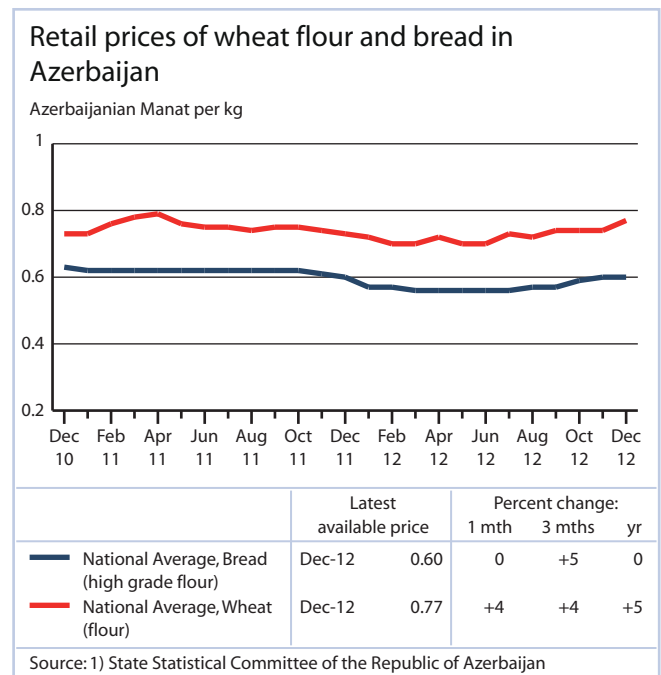
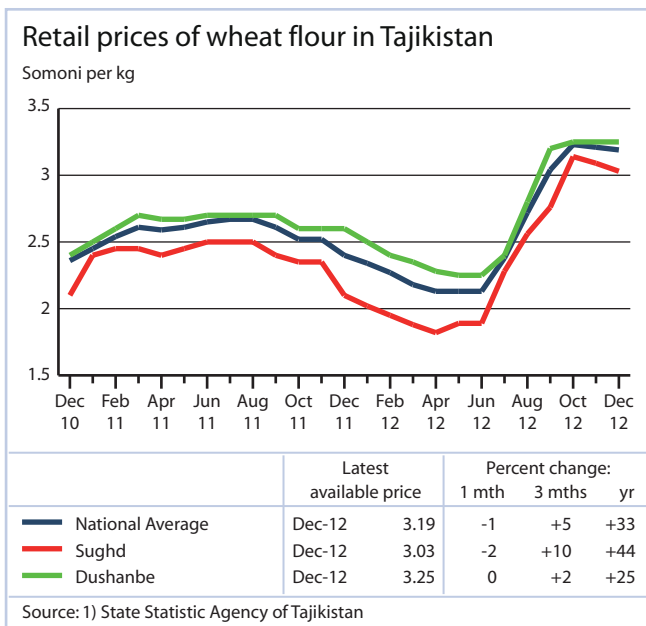


In **Tajikistan**, which normally imports about half of its wheat consumption needs, prices of wheat flour remained stable or showed some declines in December 2012. This mainly reflects large imports in late 2012 from Kazakhstan, the country's main supplier.

In **Georgia**, wheat flour prices remained virtually unchanged at record levels in January, after rising steeply in the last three months of 2012. Prices were supported by high quotations in neighbouring export markets, as the country imports some 90 percent of wheat to satisfy its consumption needs.

In **Azerbaijan**, despite normally importing about forty percent of its wheat consumption requirements, price increases have been moderate compared to other countries of the subregion. This is due to the good 2012 domestic wheat output and high levels of

state reserves. The Government's decision in September last year to exempt imported wheat and wheat flour from value added tax (VAT), also contributed to keep the average retail rice prices at around their levels a year earlier.



\*Georgia is no longer a member of CIS but its inclusion in this group is maintained temporarily

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Prices of white maize generally increased in January

Prices of main staple white maize rose seasonally in most countries of the subregion in January, after declining substantially in the last months of 2012 with the good harvests. However, despite the recent increases, prices remained at relatively low levels.

The sharpest increase in maize prices was recorded in **Guatemala** where, nevertheless, prices were lower than in January 2012. By contrast, in **Nicaragua** and **Honduras** prices were higher than their low levels of a year earlier, despite less pronounced increases in January. In **El Salvador**, maize prices in January continued to decline and were well below their levels a year earlier. This reflects steady import flows from neighboring countries, Honduras and Nicaragua.

In **Mexico**, by far the largest producer of the subregion, prices of white maize declined for the third consecutive month in January with progress of the 2012 main season harvest, anticipated to be good. Prices in January were below their high levels at the

same time last year. Nevertheless, prices of staple maize *tortillas* strengthened further in January reaching new highs of MXN 11.19 (USD 0.88) per Kg, mainly due to higher producing costs.

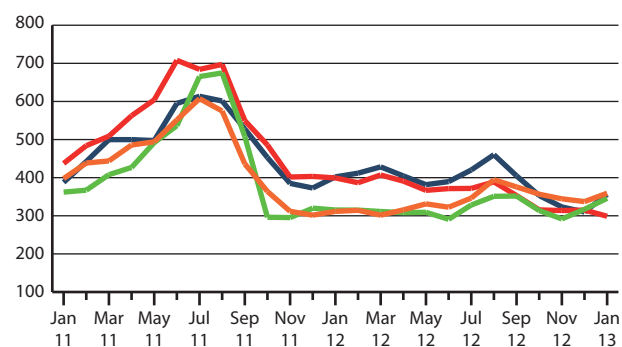
Prices of staple beans dropped in most countries of the subregion in January with the harvest of the second season, the most important for beans production, and were generally below their levels in January 2012.

In **Haiti**, prices of staple imported rice continued virtually unchanged in January mirroring recent trends in rice export prices from the United States, the country's main supplier. Overall, however, prices remained at high levels. Prices of domestically produced maize showed mixed trends in January, but were also generally high. The sharpest increases were recorded in Les Cayes, but prices rose also in Jacmel and Jeremie as a result of reduced 2012 harvests.

In the **Dominican Republic**, prices of domestically produced staple rice increased in December following seasonal trends ahead of the arrival into the markets of the new 2012 second season harvest. However, prices remained close to their year-earlier levels.

### Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America

USD per tonne

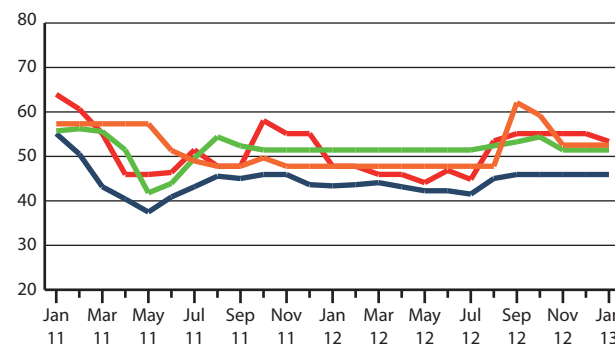


	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
Guatemala, Guatemala City	Jan-13 356.40	+15	+1	-11
El Salvador, San Salvador	Jan-13 298.76	-5	-5	-25
Nicaragua, Managua	Jan-13 345.84	+9	+10	+10
Honduras, Tegucigalpa	Jan-13 359.26	+7	+1	+15

Source: 1) Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; 2) Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria; 3) Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal; 4) SIMPAH

### Retail prices of imported rice in Haiti

Gourde per kg



	Latest available price	Percent change:		
		1 mth	3 mths	yr
Port-au-Prince	Jan-13 45.93	0	0	+6
Jacmel	Jan-13 53.36	-3	-3	+12
Hinche	Jan-13 51.44	0	-5	0
Jeremie	Jan-13 52.55	0	-11	+10

Source: 1) Coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Prices of wheat flour increased in January and are high

In several wheat importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour rose in January exceeding their levels of a year earlier. Domestic prices were supported by increasing wheat export quotations in Argentina, a main exporter in the subregion, where prices have strengthened in recent months –unlike the US benchmark prices. Maize prices followed mixed trends in January, while those of rice declined but remained at relatively high levels.

In **Brazil**, prices of wheat flour recorded the sharpest increase in January underpinned by a reduced domestic output in 2012 and higher import prices. In an attempt to ease upward pressure on prices of wheat and wheat products, the Government announced in early February the exemption from the 10 percent import tariff of 1 million tonnes of wheat imports from outside the Mercosur area between April and July. This exemption may be extended to an additional 1 million tonnes. In **Bolivia**, which imports about 70 percent of its wheat consumption requirements, mainly from

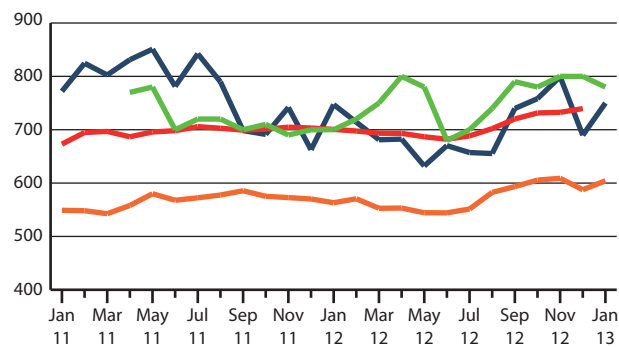
Argentina, prices of wheat flour increased in January and were at record or near-record levels. In **Ecuador** prices were also at near-record levels despite easing somewhat in January.

Prices of yellow maize, used as feed, showed mixed trends in January. In **Brazil**, the main producer and exporter of the subregion, prices declined slightly from the record highs reached in December (in local currency) after sharp increases in the second half of 2012. Prices also declined in **Bolivia** but were at low levels as a result of adequate domestic availabilities. By contrast, in **Ecuador** prices continued to steadily rise in the past month on account of strong domestic demand from the feed industry, and reached new record levels.

Prices of domestically produced rice showed declines in most countries of the subregion although remaining generally at high levels. In **Brazil**, where prices had reached record highs in late 2012, they declined in January following the government release of paddy from state reserves.

### Wholesale prices of wheat flour in South America

USD per tonne

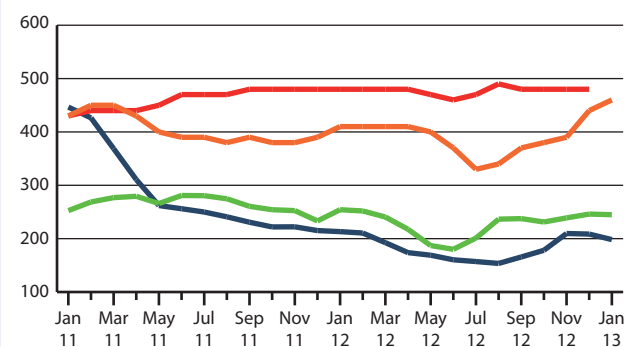


	Latest available price	Percent change:	1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Brazil, São Paulo	Jan-13 750.00	+9	-1	0	
— Peru, National Average	Dec-12 739.60	+1	+3	+5	
— Ecuador, Quito	Jan-13 780.00	-2	0	+11	
— Bolivia, La Paz	Jan-13 604.20	+3	0	+7	

Source: 1) Instituto de Economía Agrícola; 2) Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática; 3) Sistema de Información Nacional de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca - SINAGAP; 4) Servicio de Información y Análisis de Mercados Agropecuarios, Bolivia

### Wholesale prices of yellow maize in South America

USD per tonne



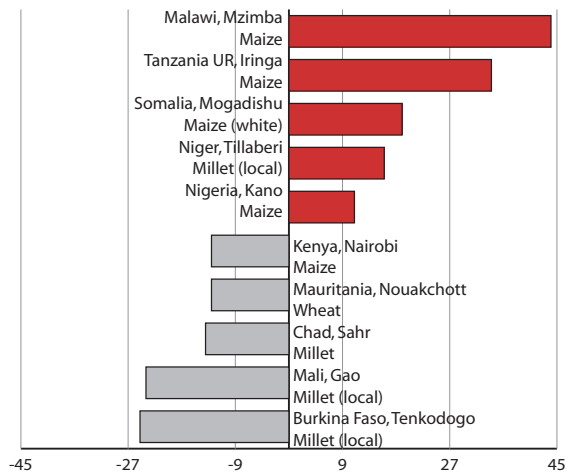
	Latest available price	Percent change:	1 mth	3 mths	yr
— Bolivia, Santa Cruz	Jan-13 198.22	-5	+11	-7	
— Peru, National Average	Dec-12 480.00	0	0	0	
— Brazil, São Paulo	Jan-13 244.88	0	+6	-4	
— Ecuador, Quito	Jan-13 460.00	+5	+21	+12	

Source: 1) Servicio de Información y Análisis de Mercados Agropecuarios, Bolivia; 2) Instituto Nacional de Estadística e Informática; 3) Agrolink; 4) Sistema de Información Nacional de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca - SINAGAP

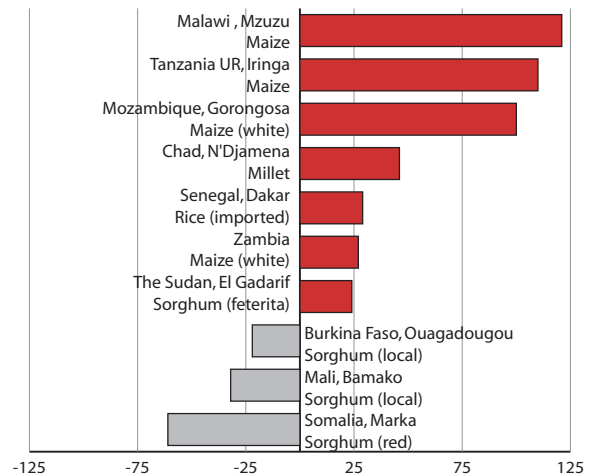
## Largest changes in prices of key commodities

### Africa

Change in latest available prices compared to one month earlier (%)

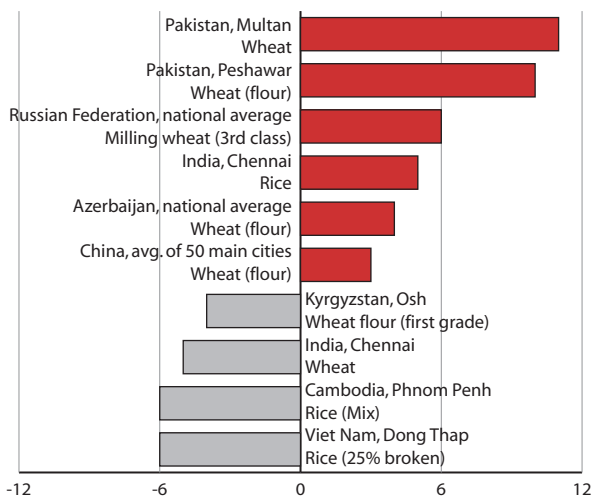


Change in latest available prices compared to one year earlier (%)

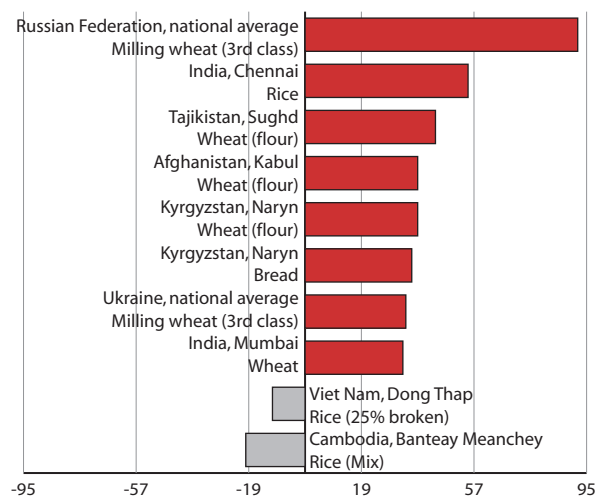


### Asia and Europe

Change in latest available prices compared to one month earlier (%)

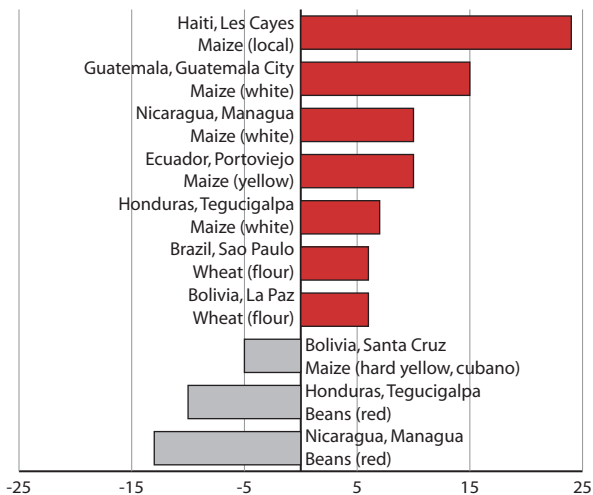


Change in latest available prices compared to one year earlier (%)

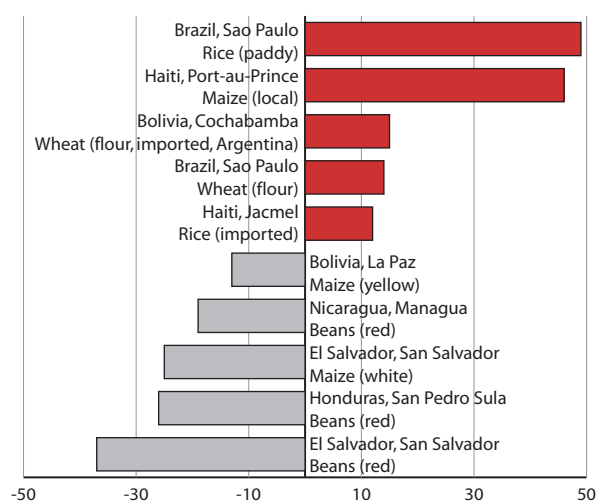


### Latin America

Change in latest available prices compared to one month earlier (%)



Change in latest available prices compared to one year earlier (%)



Note: Latest available prices range from December 2012 to January 2013 depending on series.





**Global Food Price Monitor** is prepared by the Trade and Markets Division of FAO under the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS).

**Global Food Price Monitor** and other GIEWS reports are available on the internet as part of the FAO world wide web (<http://www.fao.org/>) at the following URL address: <http://www.fao.org/giews/>. In addition, GIEWS **Special Reports** and **Special Alerts**, when published, can be received by e-mail through automatic mailing lists: subscription information is available at <http://www.fao.org/giews/english/listserv.htm>.

**This report is based on information available up to early-February 2013.**

**Enquiries may be directed to:**

Global Information and Early Warning System  
Trade and Markets Division (EST)  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome - Italy

**Direct Facsimile:** 0039-06-5705-4495,  
**E-mail:** [GIEWS1@fao.org](mailto:GIEWS1@fao.org)

**Disclaimer**

This report is prepared by the FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, with information from official and unofficial sources. None of the information in this report should be regarded as statements of governmental views.

Furthermore, the designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.