WFP has more than 20 years of experience in price data collection in Afghanistan. Until recently, WFP collected price data on a weekly basis for 17 food and non-food commodities from 8 main cities in the country where WFP has its offices, and produced weekly heads up notes and monthly market price bulletins containing information on food access and availability of food in the markets. As COVID-19 outbreak increased and affected food and non-food commodity prices, WFP launched daily market price bulletins using data from these 8 cities, while establishing a system for market price monitoring and data collection to all 34 provinces of the country, adding 9 extra commodities to the analysis, including livelihood related items (fertilizers, improved seed and animal feed) based on requests from the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Data collection was launched during the first week of May 2020 in all the 34 provincial capitals, while maintaining the daily bulletins until 31 May 2020. The second and third bulletins covering week 3 and 4 weeks of May 2020 were circulated on 7 June 2020, while fourth bulletin covering week 1 of June 2020 will be issued on 10 June 2020. Following this, WFP will regularise the issue of its weekly bulletins every Wednesday covering the market trends of the previous week.

Situation Update

- in the main city markets, compared to 14 March 2020 (pre-COVID-19 prices):
  - The average wheat flour price (high price & low price) in the main city markets is 19% higher;
  - The average price of cooking oil was 36% percent higher;
  - The average price of Pulses was 32% higher;
  - The average price of Sugar was 19% higher;
  - The average price of rice (high & low quality) were 8% and 22% higher, respectively;
  - Casual laborers’ and pastoralists’ purchasing power have deteriorated by 12% and 15%, mainly due to increased wheat prices.
Cooking Oil: The average price increased by 0.7% compared to the third week of May and was 36% higher compared to 14 March.

The increase occurred in: Kapisa (6%), Kunar and Ghor (5%), Nangarhar, Hirat & Sari Pul (4%), Nimroz (3%) and Takhar (1%). The main reason for the increase was increased demand during Eid days and decreased supply.

Meanwhile prices decreased in: Kandahar and Kabul (3%) and Faryab (1%), mainly due more supply of Sunflower edible oil.

Sugar: The average price increased by 0.7% compared to the third week of May and was 19% higher than the 14 March.

The increase occurred in: Badghis (20%), Nimroz and Balkh (6%), Takhar (4%) and Nangarhar (1%). The main reason for the increase was decreased supply from source of point because of Eid holidays.

Meanwhile prices decreased in: Wardak (6%), Kabul(4%) and Kandahar (2%), mainly due to improved supply.

Rice (Low Quality): The average price increased by 0.7% compared to the third week of May and was 22% higher than on 14th March.

The increase occurred in: Badghis (20%), Kunduz (13%), Zabul (10%) and Hirat (5%). The main reason for the increase was increased demand for the Eid days and decreased supply.

Meanwhile prices decreased in: Samangan (10%), Takhar (8%), Logar, Paktya and Badakhshan (2%), due to improved supply of low quality Pakistan rice.

Pulses: The average price increased by 0.1% compared to the third week of May and was 32% higher compared to 14 March.

The increase occurred in: Takhar (9%) and Ghor (7%). The main reason for the increase was reduced supply of red beans and split peas.

Meanwhile prices decreased in: Badakhshan and Badghis (3%), Bamyan, Sari Pul and Nangarhar(2%) and Kandahar (0.8%), due to improved supply.

Prices where highest in Nimroz, followed by Zabul, Uruzgan, Kandahar and Hilmand at AFN 138, 132, 130, 122 and 116 per kg respectively, while prices were lowest in Samangan, Sar-i-Pul and Badghis at AFN 76, 77 and 78 per kg, respectively.
Animal feed (Concentrate): The average price increased by 0.8% compared to the third week of May.

The increase only occurred in: Kabul (1.6%), Main reason for the increase was daily price fluctuation.

Meanwhile prices only decreased in: Faryab (8%), due to decreased demand.

Prices were highest in Hilmand, followed by Nangarhar, Panjsher, Ghazni, Wardak and Daykundi at AFN 3,600, 3,571, 3,533 and 3,333 per 100 kg respectively, while prices were lowest in Kabul, Faryab, Parwan, Sar-i-Pul and Jawzjan at AFN 2,150, 2,200, 2,297, 2,300 and 2,350 per 100 kg, respectively.

Tomato: The average price increased by 9.6% compared to the third week of May. The increase occurred in: Kabul (167%), Kapisa (70%), Khost (50%), Paktya (37%), Badakhshan (30%), Logar (26%), Hirat (20%), Panjsher (19%), Badghis and Jawzjan (11%), Nimroz and Samangan (10%), and Kandahar (9%). The main reason for the increase was a supply shortfall during Eid holidays.

Meanwhile prices decreased in Daykundi (21%), Zabul (15%), Ghazni and Wardak (3%) and Ghor (0.3%). The main reason for the decrease, local harvesting season in some provinces and more supply.

Potato: The average price increased by 0.6% compared to the third week of May. The increase occurred in: Panjsher (38%), Badghis (20%), Badakhshan (11%), Kunduz (17.8%), Ghazni (17.1%), Daykundi (16%), Badakhshan (15%), Kapisa (10%), Logar (9%), Kandahar (7%), Sari Pul (6%), Kabul and Faryab (3%). The main reasons for the increase were supply disruption due to Eid holidays.

Meanwhile prices decreased in: Paktika and Ghor (17%), Takhar (13%), Wardak (12%), Ghazni (10%), Zabul (9%) and Jawzjan (3%).

The main reason for the decrease was the local harvesting season in some provinces which supplied markets.
Wheat: The average price decreased by 0.6% compared to the third week of May but remained 16% higher compared to 14 March.

The decrease occurred in: Zabul (12%), Faryab (7%), Takhar (4%), Kandahar (3%), Badakhshan and Hirat less than (1%), mainly due to improved supply.

Meanwhile prices increased in: Nimroz (8%), Jawzjan (4%) and Hilmand (2%). The main reason for the increase was supply disruptions and daily price fluctuations.

The highest price of wheat was observed in Ghazni and Wardak 38, Nuristan and Paktika 35, Daykundi and Parwan at 34 AFN per kg, while the lowest prices were in Farah, Badghis, Hirat and Hilmand 20, 22, 24, 25 AFN per kg respectively.

Wheat Flour (Low Price): The average price decreased by 0.4% compared to the third week of May and was 19% higher compared to 14 March. The decrease occurred in: Zabul (8%), Takhar (7%), Kandahar (6%), Faryab (3%) and Badakhshan (2%), mainly due to improved supply.

Meanwhile prices increased in: Nimroz (7%) and Badghis (6%). The main reason for the increase was temporary supply shortfall.

The highest prices of wheat flour (low price) were in Nuristan, followed by Daykundi, Badakhshan and Wardak provinces at 39, 38, 37 AFN per kg, respectively. The lowest prices were in Hirat, Nimroz, Hilmand and Takhar provinces at 23, 29, 31 and 32 AFN per kg in the 4th week of May 2020.

Wheat Flour (High Price): The average price decreased by 0.2% compared to the third week of May but remained 19% higher compared to 14 March. The decrease occurred in: Zabul (11%), Takhar (4%), Kapisa and Kandahar (3%) and Badakhshan (2%), due to improved supply from source of point (Kazakh wheat F).

Meanwhile prices increased in: Nimroz (9%), Badghis (5%), Paktya (3%) and Nangahar (1%), The main reason for the increase was high demand for Eid, decreased supply and daily price fluctuations.

The highest price of wheat flour (high price) was observed in Badakhshan, Farah Nuristan, Ghor and Uruzgan 42, Daykundi and Badghis at 40 AFN per kg, while the lowest prices were in Hirat, Zabul and Paktika 31, 34, 35 AFN per kg respectively.
Onion: The average price decreased by 3% compared to the third week of May. The decrease occurred in: Ghor (32%), Daykundi (22%) and Paktika (11%). The main reason for the decrease was the local harvest season supplying markets. Meanwhile prices increased in: Takhar (21%), Panjsher (17%), Kabul (5%), Kandahar (3%) and Zabul (2%). The main reasons was supply disruption.

Improved Seed: The average price decreased by 0.6% compared to the third week of May. The decrease only occurred in: Balkh (3%), Main reason for the decrease was decreased demand.

Fertilizer (UREA): The average price decreased by 0.3% compared to the third week of May. The decrease occurred in: Balkh (5%), Takhar (4%), Paktya (2%) and Hilmand (1%), Main reason for the decrease was decreased demand.

Rice (High Quality): The average price decreased by 0.4% compared to the third week of May but remained 8% higher compared to 14 March. The decrease occurred in: Takhar (10%), Kabul (6%), Badakhshan (3%), Kandahar and Logar (1.3%) and Hirat (1%), due to improved supply. Meanwhile prices increased in: Zabul (5%), Nangarhar (4%), Nimroz and Sari Pul (1%). The main reason for the increase was increased demand during Eid holidays. Prices where highest in Bamyan, followed by Daykundi, Ghor and Badakhshan at AFN 105, 103, 100 and 97 per kg, respectively, while prices were lowest in Ghazni, Laghman and Paktika at AFN 70, 74 and 76 per kg, respectively.

Items with no or slight (increase/decrease) price changes:
The price of fertilizer (DAP) remained unchanged, live female sheep, number of days work available increased slightly; while the skilled labor wage, unskilled labor wage, Bread, Salt, Diesel and improved seed, decreased slightly in the fourth week of May compared to the first week of May 2020.
Terms of Trade (ToT) situation

Casual labor/Wheat ToT average deteriorated by 0.9% compared to the third week of May, lower by 12% compared to 14 March.

The deterioration occurred in: Parwan (25%), Ghazni (17%), Hilmand (16%) and Nimroz (7%), mainly due to increased wheat prices and the decreased labor wage.

Meanwhile the ToT improved in: Zabul (13%), Ghor (12%), Faryab and Kabul (7%), Takhar and Kandahar(4%), Badakhshan and Hirat less than(1%), due to the decreased wheat price and the increased labor wage.

One-year alive female sheep/Wheat ToT average improved by 1.7% compared to the third week of May but still showed a 15% deterioration compared to 14 March.

The improvement occurred in: Ghor (15%), Zabul (13%), Paktya and Takhar (9%), Samangan (8%), Faryab (7%), Balkh, Khost, Logar and Kandahar (4%), Ghazni (2%) and Hirat less than (1%), due to the decreased wheat price and increased sheep price.

Meanwhile the ToT deteriorated in: Daykundi (9%), Nimroz (7%), Hilmand (2%) and Badakhshan (1%) due to decreased sheep price and increased wheat price.

Currency Exchange Rate

The average value of Afghani currency against US dollar remained unchanged (US$ 1=AFN 76.5) in the fourth week of May 2020.
## AFGHANISTAN

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Source: WFP/VAME market data from Afghanistan (34 provinces)