

Market Monitor Report

MAF | GDS | WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis

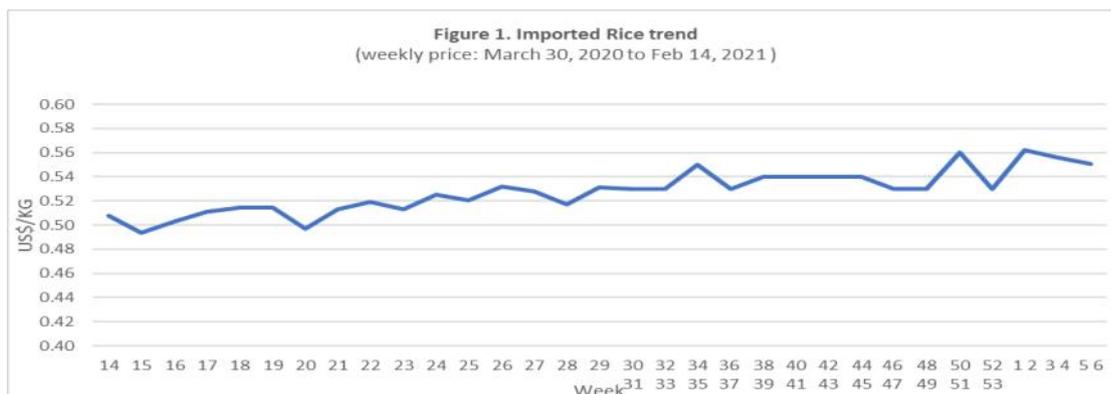
Timor-Leste | Week 5/6 2021 (1st - 14th February)

HIGHLIGHTS

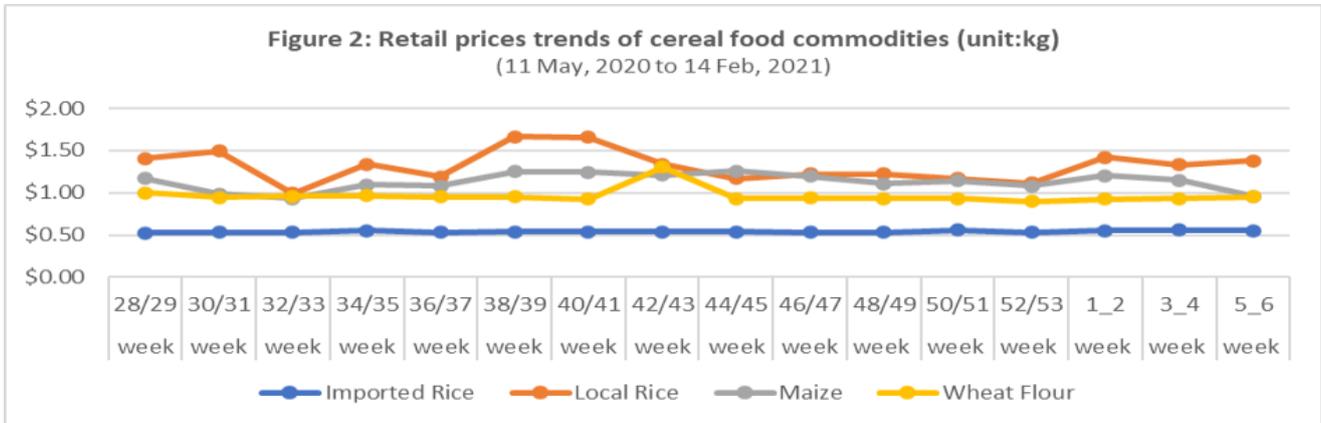
- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the General Directorate of Statistics collected data on the week of 5/6 2021. Monitoring has been conducted on prices of key food commodities from 62 retailers in 10 municipalities (Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica, Manatuto, and Oecusse).
- **Cereals (imported rice, local rice, maize, wheat flour):** Overall imported rice prices stayed at an average range between 0.52 US\$/KG to 0.57 US\$/KG. The price spike in the Oecusse region has eased, but it is still higher compared to other municipalities. The region is still under the impact of the tight shipping schedule and distributor's pricing from Dili. Local rice and wheat flour maintained an upward curve compared to Dec 2020 while maize price has shown a slight decrease.
- **Non-Cereal Foods:** Overall prices stabilised compared to the first two weeks of January 2021. Prices of potatoes, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, onion, frozen chicken has shown to a decrease. However, beans, chili and egg prices increased.
- Among 120 responses from retailers, 36% replied that prices of overall food commodities increased. For the top 5 food items sold in the shop the majority responded saying there were no changes compared to the week before. Retailers also show concerns regarding the stock availability in the market (open market, supermarket, loja, kiosk) as the amount of stock is decreasing especially for the local rice.
- **Cesta Basica:** Coordination with MCAE, line ministries continue to distribute basic baskets with the Cesta Basica program. WFP is providing technical support including the training of beneficiary registrations and progress monitoring.

RETAIL PRICE TREND OF IMPORTED RICE (30 March 2020 to 14 Feb 2021)

- The average imported rice price range between 0.52 US\$/kg to 0.57 US\$/kg price at Oecusse remained high but decreased from its highest peak that was at 0.65 US\$/kg. According to the FAO report, Vietnamese rice prices remained at an upward curve due to limited domestic supplies, one of the biggest rice exporters to Timor-Leste, that affected the price hikes in the country. Road accessibility during the rainy season, became a challenge for service delivery to the customers at the municipality level (figure 1).

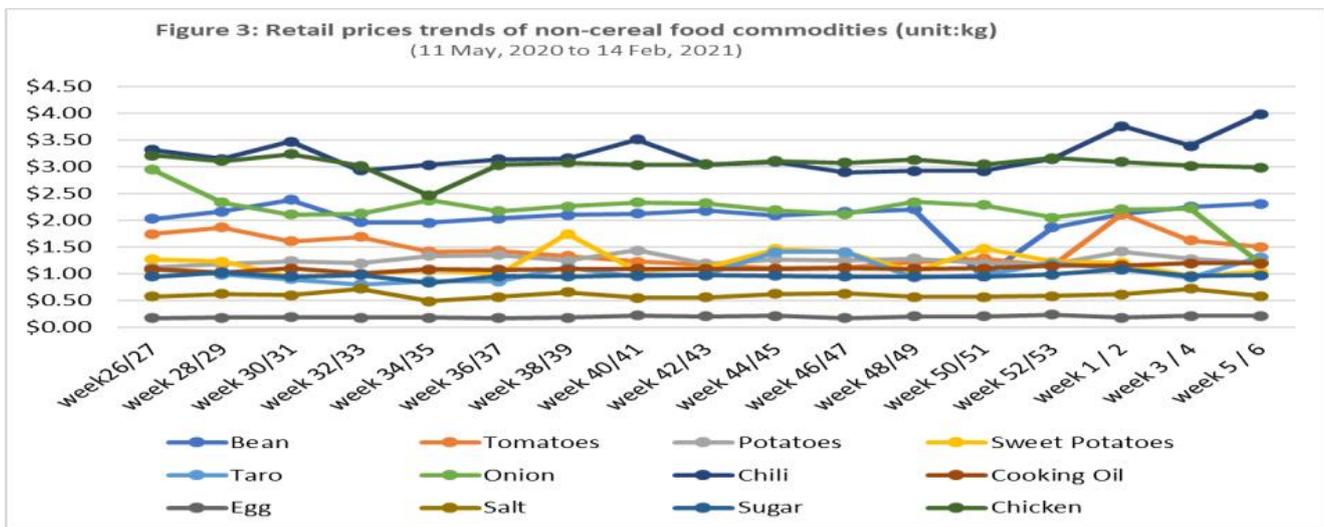


Local rice and wheat flour price shows a slight decrease by 1.38 USD/kg and 0.95 USD/kg during the first two weeks of 2021, but it still shows an upward curve compared to the 2020 price trend. Maize price has stabilised to the usual price range (figure 2). Retailers in Dili reported a decrease in local rice stock. According to FAO global cereal price index, cereal prices remained high for the seventh consecutive monthly rise. International Maize price also rose significantly by 11.2 percent in January, up 42.3 percent above their January 2020 level.



RETAIL PRICE TREND OF NON-CEREAL FOOD

Compared to the week 1 & 2 2021, prices of Bean (USD 2.31/kg) and Chili (USD 3.99/kg) remained high. For Tomatoes (USD 1.50/kg), Potato (USD 1.20/kg), Taro (USD 1.31/kg), Salt (USD 0.58/kg), Sugar (USD 0.97/kg) and the whole frozen chicken (USD 2.99/kg). In Oecusse, boat availability continuously impacts the stock and price changes in the area. (figure3). According to the FAO vegetable oil index, at global level, increased 5.8 percent from December and marking the highest level since May 2012. The index's eighth consecutive monthly increase mainly reflected higher palm, soy, and sunflower seed oil prices.



Openmarket-Aileu



Maize field-Covalima



Openmarket-Covalima



Price monitoring-Dili

To monitor the impact of COVID-19 on market prices, the average retail prices of cereals and non-cereals essential food commodities across the country's main markets in the municipal capital level were monitored and analyzed.

Imported rice price are based on the most consumed brand per retailers.

Report is accessible at <https://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste>