Food Price Monitoring and Analysis

BULLETIN

10 October 2017

MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

- 7 International prices of wheat increased in September mostly because of weather-related concerns, while maize quotations fell further on crop harvest pressure. International rice prices remained generally firm, supported by seasonally tight availabilities of fragrant rice and strong demand for higher quality Indica supplies.
- → In East Africa, prices of cereals remained at levels above those of a year earlier in most countries, particularly in Ethiopia reflecting seasonal tightness amid concerns over the impact of the Fall Armyworm infestation on the main harvest and in South Sudan mainly due to the ongoing conflict.
- **↗** In Asia, prices of rice in Bangladesh increased again in September and reached record highs, with seasonal patterns exacerbated by the reduced 2017 main season output and concerns over the impact of the July-August floods on the second season crop, to be harvested from November.

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Domestic price warnings



Price warning level: High Moderate [Based on GIEWS analysis]



Warnings are only included if latest available price data is not older than two months.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Bangladesh | Rice

Burundi | Maize

Ethiopia | Grains

Mali | Coarse grains

Niger | Coarse grains

Nigeria | Staple foods

Somalia | Coarse grains

South Sudan | Staple foods

Sri Lanka | Rice

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

International price movements were mixed across the cereal market

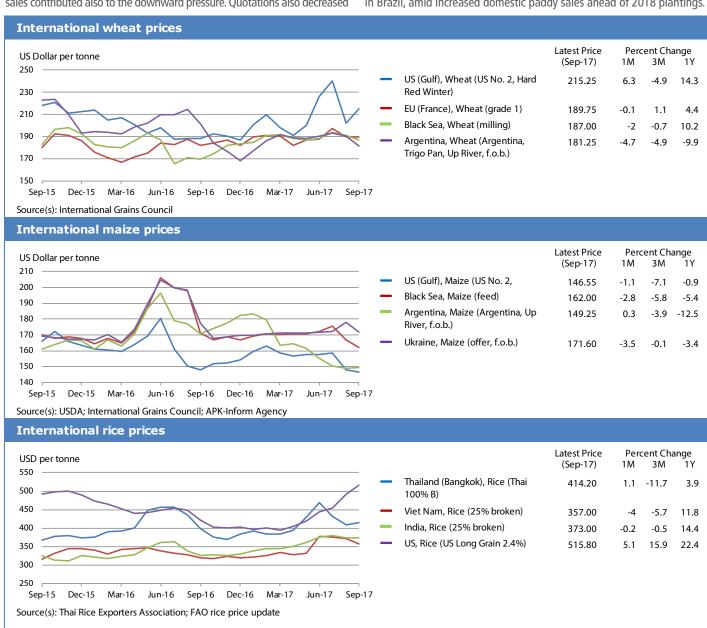
After a dip in August, the benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) price rose by 6 percent in September, averaging USD 215 per tonne, and up 14 percent from September 2016. Planting delays (winter wheat) in some growing areas in the United States of America due to dry weather and concerns over crop conditions in Australia and Argentina underpinned prices. Improved import demand, in part driven by a weaker US dollar, also lent support. However, abundant supplies and stiff competition among exporters limited the price increases. Export quotations of wheat fell further in the Black Sea region on account of a bumper harvest, while in the European Union, prices remained subdued mainly reflecting frail export activity.

International prices of maize decreased further in September, albeit slightly. The benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) price averaged USD 147 per tonne, nearly 1 percent down from August and marginally lower than its level in the corresponding month in 2016. Despite concerns over slow crop maturation, expectations of a bumper harvest in the United States of America weighed on prices. Large global supplies and low export sales contributed also to the downward pressure. Quotations also decreased

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in the Black Sea region with the beginning of the new harvests and because of slow trading activity. In South America, delayed planting of the new crop, due to adverse weather, and strong demand kept prices relatively stable.

The FAO All **Rice** Price Index (2002-04=100) averaged 213.1 points in September, close to its value in August, as stronger prices of aromatic and high quality Indica rice offset declines in lower quality Indica quotations. Price increases were most evident in the Thai fragrant market in September, where thinning availabilities lifted Hom Mali prices to a 29-month high of USD 1 064 per tonne. United States of America's long grain quotations also registered notable gains, posting their sixth successive monthly rise in response to prospects of a much-diminished long grain crop. Prices of higher-grade Indica rice also strengthened in India and Thailand. However, gains in both countries were more moderate, as currency depreciations towards the end of the month capped support provided by firm demand from Bangladesh and African buyers. By contrast, the harvest pressure lowered prices in Pakistan for the third consecutive month, while slow deals weighed on Indica values in Viet Nam. Quotations also softened in Brazil, amid increased domestic paddy sales ahead of 2018 plantings.



DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS

Countries where prices of one or more basic food commodity are at abnormal high levels which could negatively impact access to food

O Bangladesh | Rice

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	-0.3	1.0
12 months	2.0	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Bangladesh, Dhaka, Retail, Rice (coarse-BR-8/11/Guti/Sharna)

O Burundi | Maize

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	-2.8	4.5
12 months	1.7	0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Burundi, Bujumbura, Wholesale, Maize

Prices of rice increased in September and reached record levels

Prices of rice in Dhaka increased again in September, after some declines in July and August, and reached record levels, more than 30 percent higher than a year earlier. The recent increase to the all-time highs reflects seasonal tightness exacerbated by a reduced 2017 main *boro* crop, gathered earlier in the year, combined with lower production and imports in 2016, which had already underpinned prices last year. More recently, concerns over the impact of the July-August floods on the 2017 second *aman* season crop, to be harvested from November, also contributed to the upward pressure. In an effort to ease the prices of rice, the Government has recently launched the Open Market Sale (OMS) for rice (FPMA Food Policies), has implemented measures to boost imports (FPMA Food Policies) and also actively started buying rice from the international market. Prices of atta (loose wheat flour), another important staple, also increased significantly in September for the second consecutive month on account of stronger domestic demand due to a substitution effect from rice to cheaper wheat flour.

Prices of maize firm and at high levels

Prices of **maize** remained relatively stable in September after declining in the past two months with a satisfactory *2017B* main season harvest. However, prices were still more than 40 percent higher than their year-earlier levels reflecting an overall tight supply situation due to a reduced *2017A* harvest, gathered earlier in the year, and lower imports from neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda. A weak currency and low foreign currency reserves hampering trade, coupled with fuel shortages leading to higher transport costs, also contributed to the high level of prices.

O Ethiopia | Grains

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	8.6	0.8
12 months	3.1	-0.6

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Ethiopia, Diredawa, Wholesale, Maize

Prices of grains remained at record to near-record highs in September

Prices of maize continued to increase but to a lesser extent than in the previous months or began to decline in September from the record highs reached in August as the green harvest of the main *meher* crops improved market supplies. By contrast, prices of sorghum, teff and wheat, partly imported and mainly consumed in urban areas, further strengthened. Prices of grains, in general, were at record to near-record highs in September due to the poor performance of the secondary season *belg* harvest and concerns over the impact of Fall Armyworm infestations on the current *meher* crops. The presence of Fall Armyworm is reported in six regions (Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambella, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray) with up to 2.5 million hectares of maize crops at risk. As of early September, about 23 percent of the total area planted with maize was estimated to be infested. The Government, with the technical and financial support of FAO, is undertaking monitoring activities and applying appropriate control measures. As of early September, 41 percent of the total infested area was sprayed with pesticides, while the remaining areas were treated using different measures, including handpicking.

Price warning level:



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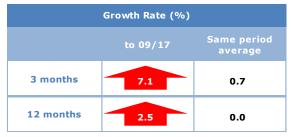
Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

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DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

Mali | Coarse grains



Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Mali, Bamako, Wholesale, Millet (local)

Prices of coarse grains rose sharply in September and were well above their year-earlier levels

Prices of millet and sorghum rose sharply in September and were well above their values a year earlier. The high level of prices reflects seasonal tightness exacerbated by persistent insecurity, especially in the central and northern part of the country, which disrupted traditional supply routes. Strong demand from deficit areas within the country as well as from neighbouring countries, particularly from Burkina Faso and Niger, also put upward pressure on prices. However, humanitarian food distributions and favourable prospects for the new harvest, about to begin, are expected to put downward pressure on prices in the coming months.

Niger | Coarse grains

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	-0.7	1.8
12 months	1.6	0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Niger, Agadez, Wholesale, Millet (local)

Prices of coarse grains declined after peaking in August

Prices of coarse grains decreased in most markets in September, while they remained relatively stable in others. In general, the overall good outlook for the recently-started 2017 harvests, coupled with recently-increased imports from neighbouring countries, contributed to increase supplies in the markets and weighed on prices. However, quotations remained well above their year-earlier levels after increasing in the past months due to large institutional purchases, lower imports from Nigeria and localized production shortfalls in 2016. In addition, civil insecurity in some areas continued to hamper normal market functioning.

Nigeria | Staple foods

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 08/17	Same period average
3 months	2.5	1.1
12 months	3.7	0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Nigeria, Lagos, Wholesale, Sorghum (white)

Prices of food showed mixed trends in August but still high

Prices of coarse grains and other food staples, including white gari (a staple food made from cassava) and rice, followed mixed trends in August. Ongoing early harvests and a gradual improvement in the macro-economic situation, including some stability in the exchange rate, contributed to put some downward pressure on food prices, which declined or strengthened but to a lesser extent than in previous months. In general, however, prices remained high as a result of a substantial depreciation of the local currency over the past year, trade restrictions and civil insecurity in the northeast areas. The high level of food prices is reflected in the annual food inflation, which, although marginally lower than the rate recorded in July, was still high at 20.3 percent.

Price warning level:



Moderate

DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS contd.

O Somalia | Coarse grains

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	-10.8	-8.7
12 months	1.8	-0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Somalia, Mogadishu, Retail, Maize (white)

Prices of coarse grains declining but still well above their year-earlier levels

Prices of **sorghum** and **maize** continued to decline seasonally in September as a result of the improved market availabilities from the 2017 *gu* harvest which is, however, estimated at about 40 percent below-average due to poor rains. However, despite the recent declines, prices of coarse grains remained well above their year-earlier values, underpinned by a tight supply situation due to three consecutive drought-reduced harvests. Prices of **livestock** in September were significantly lower than a year earlier in most markets as a result of drought-induced animal emaciation. By contrast, prices of **milk** were higher due to the reduced supplies. In Galkayo, one of the main livestock markets in the Horn of Africa in the Mudug Region, prices of **goats** and **camels** in September were 21 and 29 percent lower than a year earlier, respectively, while prices of **camel milk** were 51 percent higher.

O South Sudan | Staple foods

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	-9.3	-6.7
12 months	2.3	0.6

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: South Sudan, Juba, Retail, Maize (white)

Prices of food declined further in September but still exceptionally high

In the capital, Juba, prices of food declined or levelled-off in September after declining in the previous months with the first season harvest, concluded in August in southern bi-modal rainfall areas. Prices of **sorghum**, **cassava** and **groundnuts** declined, while those of **maize** and **wheat flour** remained relatively stable. Overall, however, prices of staple foods in September were more than twice their levels a year earlier and more than ten times higher than in the corresponding period two years earlier, in nominal terms, underpinned by tight supplies, high fuel prices, a weak local currency and widespread insecurity. Continued food aid distribution and Government subsidized sales of basic food commodities prevented further increases. The prices of these subsidized food items are 25-45 percent lower than the market prices.

O Sri Lanka | Rice

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	0.2	-0.1
12 months	0.8	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Sri Lanka, Colombo, Retail, Rice (white)

Prices of rice were stable in September but still well-above their year earlier values

Prices of **rice** were generally stable in September with the progressive arrival of the 2017 secondary *yala* harvest in the markets and increased supplies from imports. However, prices were almost 20 percent above their year-earlier levels due to a sharp reduction in the 2017 aggregate output, which is anticipated to have decreased by almost 40 percent compared to last year's production and the lowest level since 2002, due to a severe drought in 2016 and early 2017 (Sri Lanka, GIEWS Special Report). In an effort to boost imports and lower prices, the Government has reduced taxes on imported rice (FPMA Food Policies) and started to deliver rice to the State-owned *Lanka Sathosa* distribution centres, which sell at subsidized prices.

For more information visit the FPMA website here

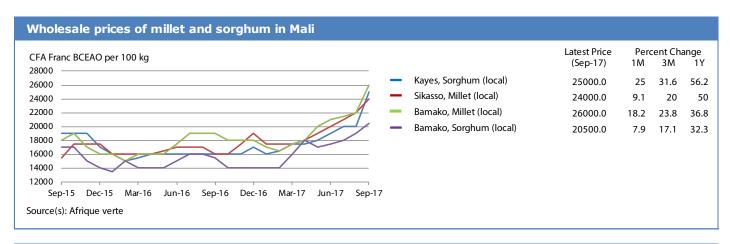
WEST AFRICA

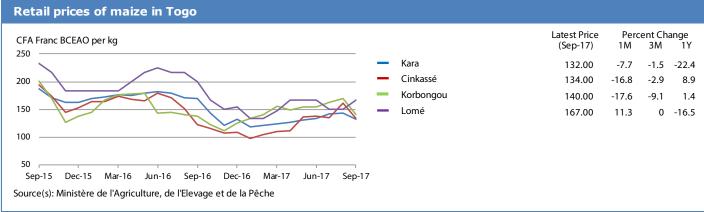
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Prices of coarse grains continued to increase seasonally in most countries of the subregion

In general, prices of coarse grains continued their seasonal increase in September, although they began to decline in the countries where harvesting of the 2017 crops has started, notably the coastal countries. In Mali, prices of millet and sorghum increased in most markets and were at levels well above those a year earlier. Seasonal tightness was compounded by the persistent insecurity situation in the country which disrupted trade flows particularly in the northern and central parts of the country. Strong demand from the food deficit areas within the country and from neighbouring countries also contributed to the price increases. Similarly in Burkina Faso, prices of coarse grains increased in September, although to a lesser extent, with still-adequate market supplies partly offsetting the upward pressure from sustained subregional demand. In Niger, prices declined significantly in September as a result of imports from neighbouring countries and the start of the harvest, which is expected to be good. In these countries, prices of rice remained stable. In Chad, prices of coarse grains increased seasonally

in most markets in August and were generally higher than their year-earlier levels, also driven by the ongoing conflict in the northeast of Nigeria, which affected the central and southwestern parts of the country. However, the upcoming harvest is expected to be good and this should ease the pressure on prices in the coming months. In Senegal, prices of millet and sorghum strengthened further in August and were higher than a year earlier due to the reduced output in 2016 and lower imports. In coastal countries, in Ghana, prices of maize weakened in most markets in September with the new harvest, which is completed in the southern growing areas of the country and is estimated to be good. Similarly, in Togo, maize prices generally declined in September with the start of the new harvest and were lower than a year earlier. In Nigeria, prices of coarse grains showed mixed trends in August and remained well above their year-earlier levels due to the weak currency, trade restrictions and the ongoing conflict in the northeastern part of the country.



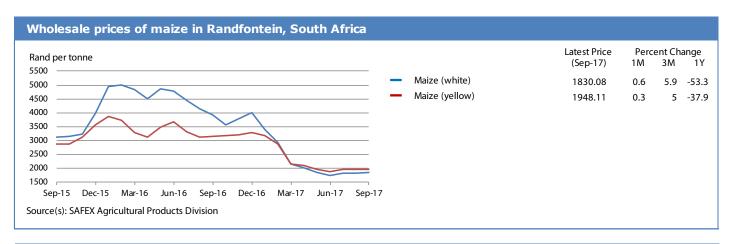


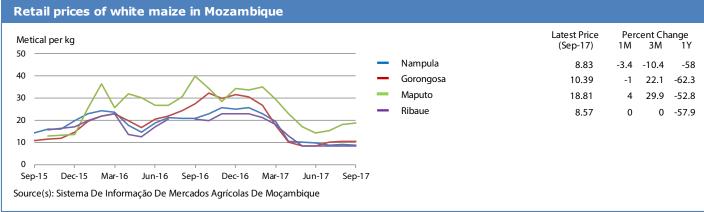
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Large supplies maintain maize prices stable and lower than a year earlier

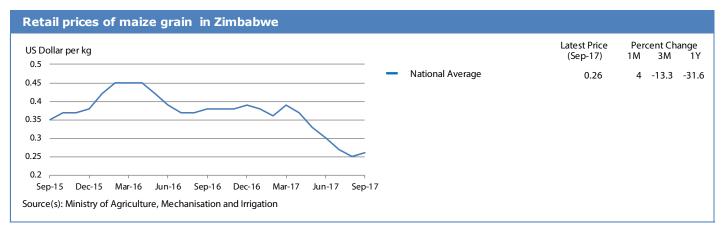
Prices of maize were generally stable in September and lower than a year earlier reflecting the favourable supply situation across the subregion. In **South Africa**, prices of maize were unchanged compared to the previous month and remained well below their year-earlier levels, on account of abundant supplies from the record 2017 output. The focus of the maize market is now expected to shift to the 2018 crop, with weather forecasts indicating favourable rains for the season, although the current low prices of maize may result in a cut to plantings that could exert upward pressure on prices in the coming months. Prices of wheat fell for the second consecutive month in September despite the uncertainty over the 2017 wheat output due to dry weather. The country is a net importer and the recent decrease mainly reflects lower prices in Europe, the main source of imported wheat. In Mozambique, prices in most markets of the country were relatively stable in September, reflecting adequate national supplies, except in Maputo where prices rose seasonally, although remaining lower on an annual basis. In **Zimbabwe**, the national average price of maize grain increased for the first time in five months in September, following strong monthly declines reflective of the bumper 2017 harvest but remained significantly below

the previous year's values. Prices of maize in Namibia and Swaziland, which both import the bulk of their consumption needs from South Africa, were also generally stable or declined further in August, reflecting recent trends in the neighbouring exporter as well as good domestic harvests, which contributed to the downward pressure and kept prices at lower levels compared to the previous year. In Zambia, prices of maize grain and maize products continued to decline sharply in September and fell to levels around 20 percent lower than those a year earlier as a result of the ample supplies from the bumper 2017 harvest. A downward revision of fuel prices in early August contributed to put further downward pressure on prices. Prices of maize also continued to decline significantly in most markets of Malawi in August and were at levels well below those a year earlier. In Madagascar, prices of main staple rice remained stable, but up on a yearly basis, due to a decrease in the national output. Large import volumes in 2017, already higher than the quantity imported in 2016, contributed to stabilize supplies and prices in recent months.



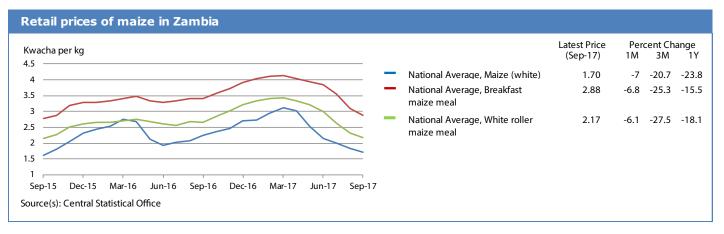


SOUTHERN AFRICA contd.



Otjiwarongo 11.96 -5.5 Gobabis 12.00 0.8 Katima 12.80 0 Keetmanshoop 12.57 0	(Aug-17) 1M 3M	(Aug-17)		oia Dollar per kg
- Katima 12.80 0	11.96 -5.5 8	11.96	Otjiwarongo	
12:00	12.00 0.8 0	12.00	Gobabis	
Keetmanshoop 12.57 0	12.80 0 0	12.80	Katima	
	12.57 0 0	12.57	Keetmanshoop	

Lilangeni per kg		Latest Price (Aug-17)	Percent Change 1M 3M 1
12	 National average 	9.72	0 -13.1 -17
	Hhohho	10.00	0 0 -13
	Shiselweni	10.00	0 -13.8 -13
8 6	Manzini	8.90	0 -5.3 -10
4	,		



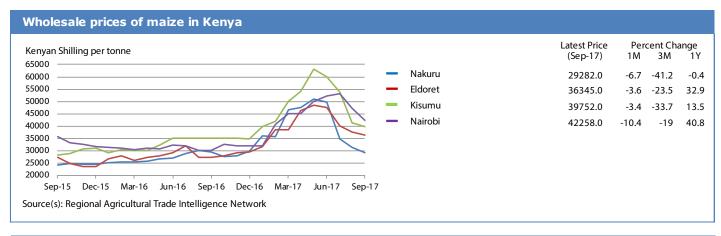
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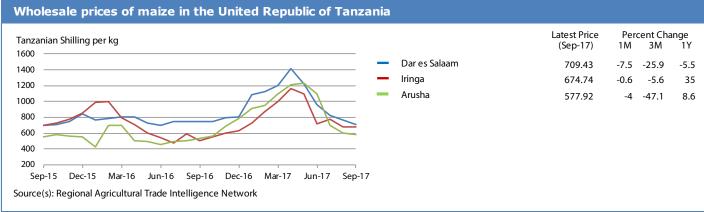
EAST AFRICA

Prices of cereals at high levels in Ethiopia and South Sudan

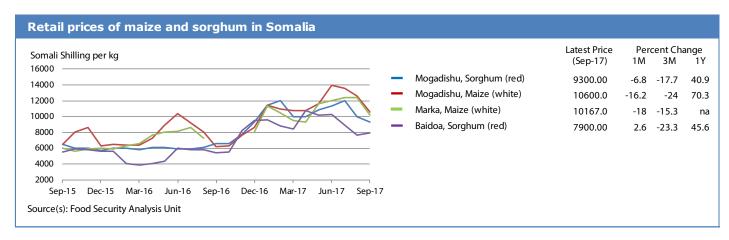
Prices of cereals followed mixed trends in September and were generally above those a year earlier, particularly in Ethiopia and South Sudan. In Kenya, maize prices continued to decrease in September, mainly reflecting sustained imports, which benefited from an extension of the waiver on import duties and the prolongation of the maize subsidy programme, following a delay of the 2017 main long rains harvest in the main producing areas of the Rift Valley due to heavy rains (FPMA Food Policies). Prices, however, remained overall above their year-earlier levels. In the United Republic of Tanzania, prices of maize also continued to decline in September as a result of increased supplies from the recently-completed 2017 *msimu* and *masika* harvests. A maize grain export ban, introduced in June 2017, exerted further downward pressure on domestic prices. In Somalia, prices of locally-produced maize and sorghum continued to decrease in several markets in September after the completion of the 2017 qu harvest gathered in August which is, however, estimated to be reduced. Despite the recent declines, prices remained well above their year-earlier levels due to an overall tight supply situation. In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize levelled off or began to decline in September in some markets, including the capital, Addis Ababa, with the green harvest of the main meher crops. By contrast, prices of sorghum, teff and wheat continued to increase. Prices remained overall well above

their year-earlier values, underpinned by the poor performance of the secondary season belg harvest and by concerns over the impact of Fall Armyworm infestations on current crops. In **South Sudan**, prices of grains declined further or remained stable in September in the capital, Juba, after declining in previous months with the first season harvest concluded in August in southern bi-modal rainfall areas. Prices in September were at exceptionally high levels, due to tight supplies, high fuel prices, a weak local currency and widespread insecurity. In Burundi, prices of maize remained firm in September, well above their levels a year earlier, despite the good performance of the recently-completed 2017B harvest, as prices were underpinned by lower imports from neighbouring Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, a weak local currency and fuel shortages leading to high transportation costs. Similarly, in Rwanda, maize prices were stable in September but higher than a year earlier. In Uganda, maize prices began to increase seasonally in September, after the steep declines of the previous months, but remained around their year-earlier levels. In the Sudan, prices of coarse grains continued to increase in September following seasonal patterns. However, prices of sorghum were still around their year-earlier values, due to adequate domestic availabilities from the above-average 2016 harvest and overall favourable prospects for the incoming 2017 harvest, to be gathered from November.



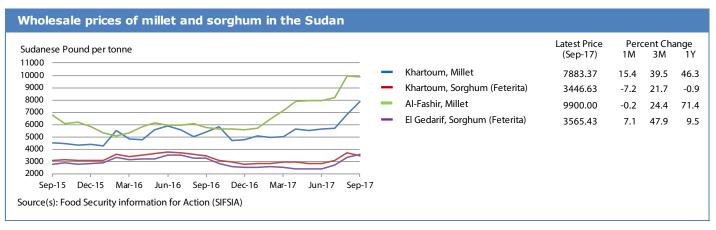


EAST AFRICA contd.



Ethiopian Birr per tonne		Latest Price (Sep-17)	Pero 1M	ent Ch	ange 1Y
10000	- Addis Ababa	8390.00	-10	10.8	45.
9000	Mekele	8975.00	4	29.3	45
8000	Bahirdar	7875.00	-0.3	24.6	43
7000	Shashemene	10025.0	3.5	34.6	54
Sep-15 Dec-15 Mar-16 Jun-16 Sep-16 Dec-16 Mar-17 Jun-17 Sep-17 Durce(s): Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise; The Economic Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU)					

outh Sudanese Pound per kg		Latest Price (Sep-17)	Percent Change 1M 3M 1Y
00 —	Maize (white)	408.00	1 -10.1 164.9
00	Sorghum (Feterita)	397.00	-2.7 -14.1 115.
00 —	Wheat (flour)	142.00	0.7 15.4 59.
00			
0 Sep-15 Dec-15 Mar-16 Jun-16 Sep-16 Dec-16 Mar-17 Jun-17 Sep-1	7		

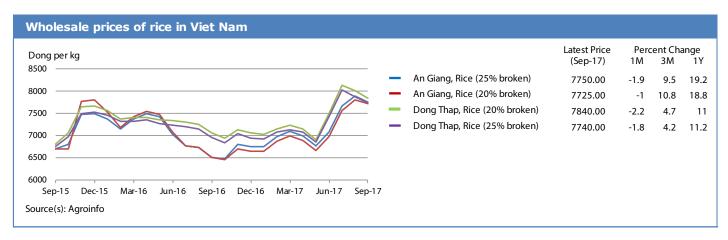


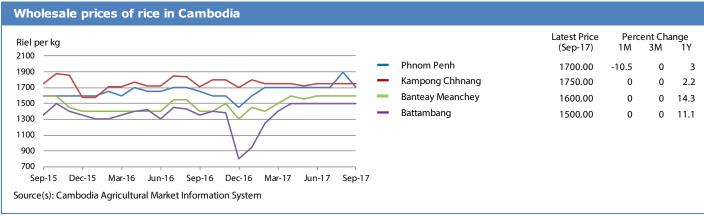
EAST ASIA

Domestic prices of rice showed mixed trends, those of wheat were overall stable

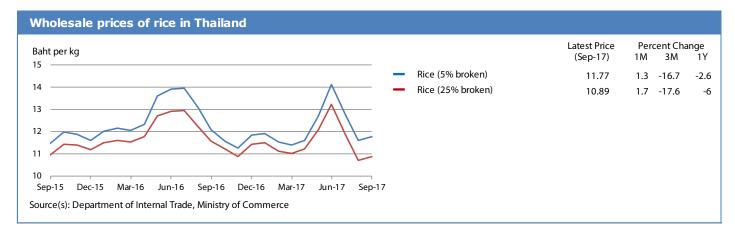
In the exporting countries of the subregion, domestic prices of rice showed mixed trends in September and were generally above their yearearlier levels. In Viet Nam, prices of rice declined slightly for the second consecutive month in September, mostly pressured by a slowdown in demand. However, prices remained above their values a year earlier, after strong increases in mid-2017, due to a reduced winter-spring harvest and strong demand. In **India**, prices of rice were mostly stable or increased in some markets, reflecting seasonal tightness ahead of the 2017 main kharif harvest, about to start. Prices of rice remained unchanged in Cambodia, with the exception of Phnom Penh, where a sharp decline reversed the increase of the previous month, and were generally higher than a year earlier. By contrast, in Thailand, tightening availabilities and steady demand led to a marginal increase in prices of rice in September, after the sharp declines in the previous two months. Gains were more pronounced in Myanmar, where wholesale prices of emata rice resumed an upward trend in Yangon market, reflecting tightening availabilities ahead of the 2017 main season harvest from mid-October and steady sales. Retail prices of rice remained unchanged in China as a result of the good 2017 harvests and imports. Prices were

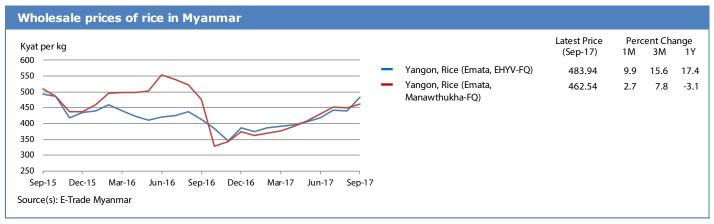
stable and around their values a year earlier also in Indonesia and the Philippines. In Sri Lanka, adequate supplies from the ongoing 2017 secondary *yala* harvest and increased imports contributed to keep prices stable, although they remained above their year-earlier levels due to an expected sharp reduction in the 2017 aggregate output. In Bangladesh, prices of rice in Dhaka increased again in September, after some declines in July and August, and reached record highs, reflecting seasonal patterns exacerbated by concerns over the impact of successive floods on production. As for wheat and wheat flour, prices changed little in most countries, with a few exceptions. They were relatively stable and generally lower than a year earlier in India and Pakistan, reflecting good market supplies from the 2017 bumper outputs. Similarly, prices of wheat flour remained stable in China and **Sri Lanka**. They increased slightly in **Indonesia**, and more significantly in Bangladesh on account of stronger domestic demand due to a substitution effect from rice to cheaper wheat flour. In Afghanistan, prices of mostly-imported wheat flour weakened in September and were lower than a year earlier as a result of the steady flow of imports from Kazakhstan and Pakistan.



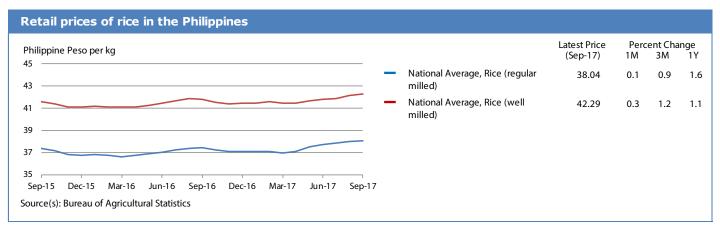


EAST ASIA contd.





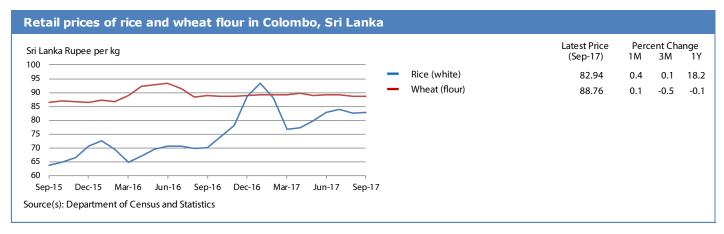
Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Indonesia						
Rupiah per kg			Latest Price (Sep-17)	Perc 1M	ent Cha 3M	inge 1Y
10500	-	National Average, Rice (medium quality)	10635.8	0.2	0.3	0.3
10000	_	National Average, Wheat (flour)	9226.58	2	4.5	3
9500 —						
9000						
8500 Sep-15 Dec-15 Mar-16 Jun-16 Sep-16 Dec-16 Mar-17 Jun-17 Sep-17 Source(s): Ministry of Trade	,					



For more information visit the FPMA website here

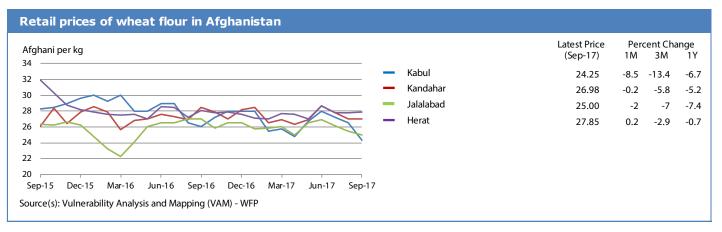
10 October 2017

EAST ASIA contd.



Taka per kg	_		Latest Price (Sep-17)	Pero 1M	ent Cha 3M	ange 1Y
45	_	Rice (coarse- BR-8/11/ Guti/ Sharna)	47.78	12.6	1.3	31.
35	- -	Wheat (flour)	28.25	12.5	17.7	15.
30 25	-					
20	¬ p-1 <i>7</i>					

Pakistan Rupee per kg		Latest Price (Sep-17)	Pero 1M	ent Cha	ange 1 Y
45 40 40 43 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40	 Karachi, Wheat Karachi, Wheat (flour) Lahore, Wheat Lahore, Wheat (flour) 	35.00 40.76 31.60 37.13	0 0.1 0 4	0 -1.5 -3.2 1.7	1 -2 -6 -2
30	7				



For more information visit the FPMA website here

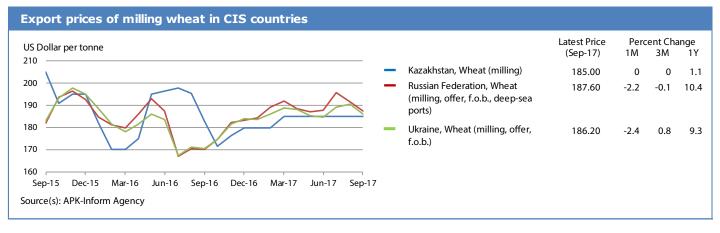
CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE

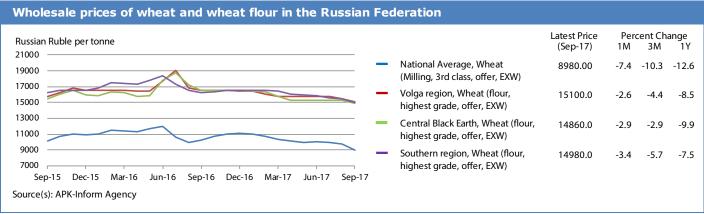
Prices of wheat declined in exporters, stable in importing countries

In the exporting countries of the subregion, domestic and export prices of wheat declined in the Russian Federation pressured by ample supplies from the record 2017 harvest, although solid demand provided some support in the second half of the month. Wholesale prices of milling wheat reached their lowest level since October 2014. In **Ukraine**, prices of wheat also declined, although in the domestic market concerns over reduced availabilities of high-quality grain limited the decline in prices of wheat grain and pushed up prices of wheat flour. In Kazakhstan, prices of wheat remained at the same level of the past several months despite the ongoing harvest, mainly as a result of low trade activity and excessive rainfall delaying field activities. In importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour were generally stable, mainly reflecting trends in Kazakhstan, the main exporter of the subregion. In **Tajikistan**, prices of wheat flour remained relatively unchanged in September but higher than a year earlier, mainly due to the weak local currency and increased fuel costs. In Kyrgyzstan, prices of wheat flour were also stable, but lower than in September last year, while those of wheat grain declined further in September with improved supplies from the new harvest. In **Uzbekistan**, prices remained unchanged despite the recent implementation of a free-floating exchange rate regime

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(FPMA Food Policy) as the Government continues to regulate prices of several basic foods, including wheat flour and bread. Similarly, in **Armenia**, prices were stable and around their year-earlier values. By contrast, in Azerbaijan, prices of wheat flour were higher, underpinned by a weak currency and increased producing costs. Prices of wheat flour were above their values a year earlier also in Belarus. With respect to potatoes, prices continued to decline in September with the new harvests but remained generally above their values a year earlier. In Belarus, the main exporter of the subregion, prices declined by nearly 40 percent in August with the start of the new harvest but were still one-third higher than their values in the corresponding month last year. Early estimates point to a good 2017 output, which should enable the country to meet the domestic needs and ensure the potential for export. In the Russian Federation, prices continued to decline sharply from their record highs in June; however, an anticipated reduction in the 2017 crop is expected to keep prices above their values a year earlier. Sharp declines were also reported in other countries of the subregion, and with the exception of Armenia, prices remained generally well above their year-earlier levels, particularly in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.





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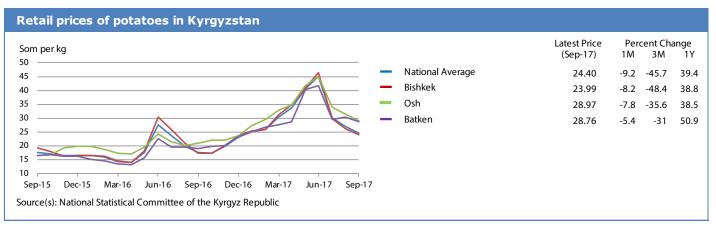
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CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE contd.



iom per kg		Latest Price (Sep-17)	Pero 1M	ent Cha 3M	ange 1Y
4	Bishkek	29.40	-0.1	-0.5	2.
	National Average	29.06	0	-0.9	-2.
	Naryn	27.16	0	0	-7
	Batken	26.62	-1	-0.4	-6
Gep-15 Dec-15 Mar-16 Jun-16 Sep-16 Dec-16 Mar-17 Jun-17 Sep-17 Urce(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic	7				

Russian Ruble per kg			Latest Price (Sep-17)	Per 1M	cent Cha 3M	nge 1\
5 0 5 0 5 0 5 5 0 5 5 0 6 7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	-	National Average, Potatoes	22.09	-20.2	-48.6	8



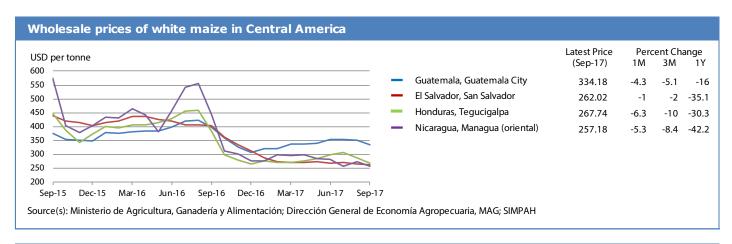
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

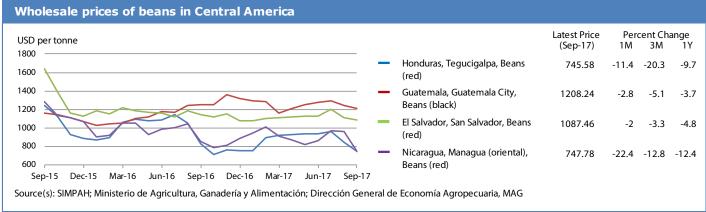
Prices of main staples maize and beans declined seasonally

In most countries of the subregion, prices of white maize declined in September reflecting improved supplies from the 2017 main primera season harvest, which benefited from regular rainfall during the growing season and is expected to be average to above average. Prices were at multi-year lows in most countries and well below their year-earlier levels. In El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, prices declined and were more than 30 percent lower than the a year earlier. In **Guatemala**, prices decreased also in the "dry corridor", a deficit producing area, and were generally lower than in September last year, with imports from Mexico contributing to the downward pressure. In Costa Rica, national average prices declined by some 5 percent and were down from a year earlier. In main producer, Mexico, prices remained relatively unchanged in September and were lower than in the same month last year reflecting adequate availabilities from the 2017 autumn/winter harvest. In the Caribbean countries, prices of maize meal remained relatively stable in Haiti, with the notable exception of the capital, Port-au-Prince, where they increased sharply, while they dropped in the Dominican Republic with the ongoing main season harvest.

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However, in both countries, prices remained overall higher than a year earlier. Prices of staple beans also declined in September as a result of the ongoing harvest coupled with favourable prospects for the main postrera harvest, to be gathered from November. In Honduras and Nicaragua, prices dropped sharply and were nearly 10 percent lower than in September last year. In **El Salvador**, the regular flow of imports and the good harvest put downward pressure on prices and kept them lower than a year earlier. In Guatemala, where black beans are the variety mostly consumed and produced, prices also decreased reflecting the improved supplies from the first season harvest and imports from Mexico. In Mexico, prices of black beans strengthened further in September and were higher than in September last year supported by seasonal supply tightness and expectations of a reduced spring/summer crop to be harvested from October, due to a decline in plantings. In the Dominican Republic, prices of red and black beans were overall stable and around their year-earlier levels, while in Haiti, they followed mixed trends, with those of red beans increasing due to a reduced *spring* harvest and strong demand for seeds.





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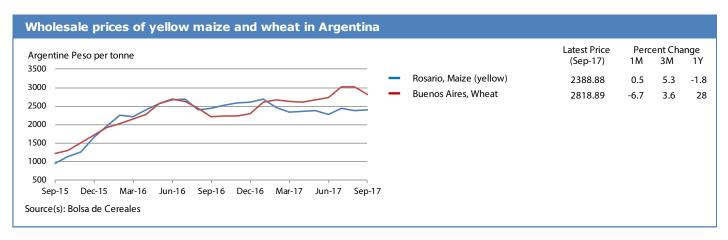
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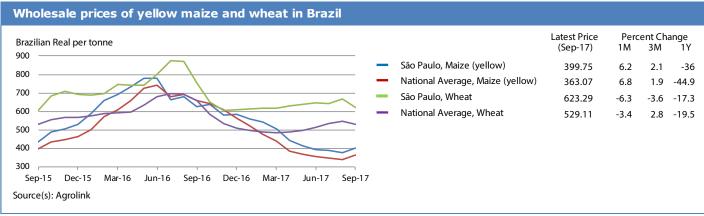
SOUTH AMERICA

Prices of cereals declined across the subregion in September

In the key-producing countries of the subregion, Argentina and Brazil, prices of wheat declined in September on expectations of good 2017 outputs and ample availabilities from last year's bumper crop, while they remained generally stable elsewhere. Despite recent declines, however, prices of wheat in Argentina remained higher than a year earlier on account of strong exports and some concerns over the new crop, while in **Brazil** they were nearly 20 percent lower as a result of large volumes of imports in the past months. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), prices of mostly-imported wheat flour remained overall unchanged in September and were down from a year earlier reflecting abundant imports in the form of grain and flour, mostly from Argentina. In Ecuador and Chile, prices of wheat were stable and lower than in September last year, while in Colombia and Peru, prices were higher. In Paraguay, prices of wheat flour increased further in the past month, on expectations of a reduced crop, about to be harvested, due to adverse weather conditions in July and August. With respect to maize, the 2017 bumper harvests and relatively low prices in the international market continued to weigh on domestic prices in most countries of the subregion and kept them generally below their values a year earlier. However, in Argentina and Brazil, the downward pressure from ample domestic availabilities was more than offset by the delayed planting of the new crop, due to adverse weather, and strong demand. In spite of the recent increase,

however, quotations remained below their year-earlier values. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), prices of yellow maize followed mixed trends across the markets in September but were significantly below their year-earlier levels reflecting the good 2017 output and imports. In Chile, prices eased further in September and were 10 percent lower than a year earlier mainly on account of imports. Prices declined also in Peru and were nearly 20 percent lower year-on-year reflecting the good supplies from the 2017 harvest and low prices in the international market. Similar trends were recorded in Colombia, while in Ecuador, prices increased somewhat in September after the completion of the main season harvest in August. Prices of staple rice generally decreased in September and were lower than a year earlier. In Brazil, prices of paddy declined further in September and were some 20 percent lower year-on-year, reflecting good availabilities from the 2017 harvest. Harvest pressure continued to weigh on rice prices in Colombia in September and were well below their values a year earlier as a result of an anticipated good output. In Peru, prices declined moderately in September mainly following imports and were unchanged from a year earlier. In **Ecuador**, prices of rice were stable or decreased in some markets with the beginning of the *summer* harvest and were lower than a year earlier, while in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), prices continued relatively unchanged, reflecting adequate imports from neighbouring countries compensating for a decline in this year's output.





This bulletin is prepared by the **Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA)** Team of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in the Trade and Markets Division of FAO. It contains latest information and analysis on domestic prices of basic foods mainly in developing countries, complementing FAO analysis on international markets. It provides early warning on high food prices at country level that may negatively affect food security.

This report is based on information available up to early October 2017.

All the data used in the analysis can be found in the **FPMA Tool** at: www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/index. html#/home

For more information visit the **FPMA Website** at: www.fao.org/giews/food-prices

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