



MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

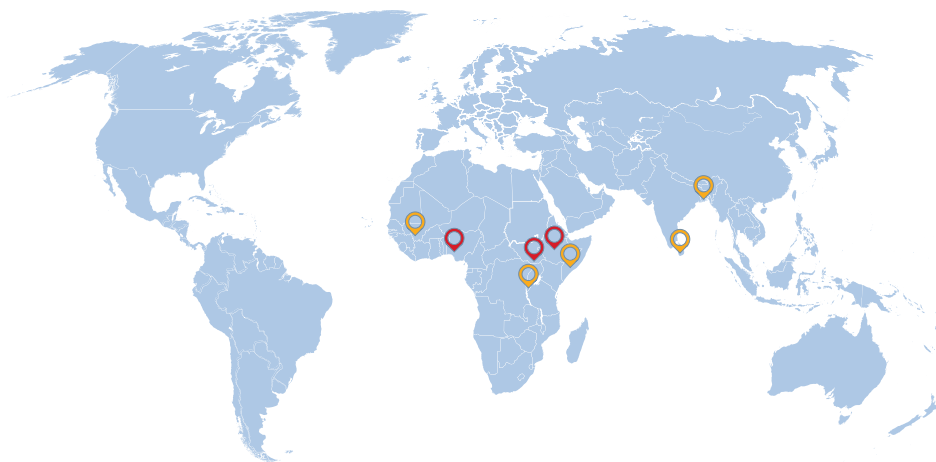
- The benchmark US wheat price declined in October mostly because of higher supply prospects while maize quotations firmed due to rain-induced harvest delays. International rice prices strengthened in October, mainly reflecting seasonally tight Japonica and fragrant supplies.
- In East and West Africa, cereal prices declined in October with the 2017 ongoing or recently-started harvests. However, concerns over crop outputs and civil insecurity kept prices at high levels in some countries, particularly in Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Sudan.
- In Central America, heavy rains in October led to unseasonal increases in maize and bean prices. They remained, however, at levels well below those a year earlier as a result of adequate domestic supplies, following the overall good outputs in 2016 and the 2017 first season harvests.

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Domestic price warnings

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



Bangladesh | Rice

Burundi | Maize

Ethiopia | Grains

Mali | Coarse grains

Nigeria | Staple foods

Somalia | Coarse grains

South Sudan | Staple foods

Sri Lanka | Rice

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.

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

International price movements continued to be mixed across the cereal market

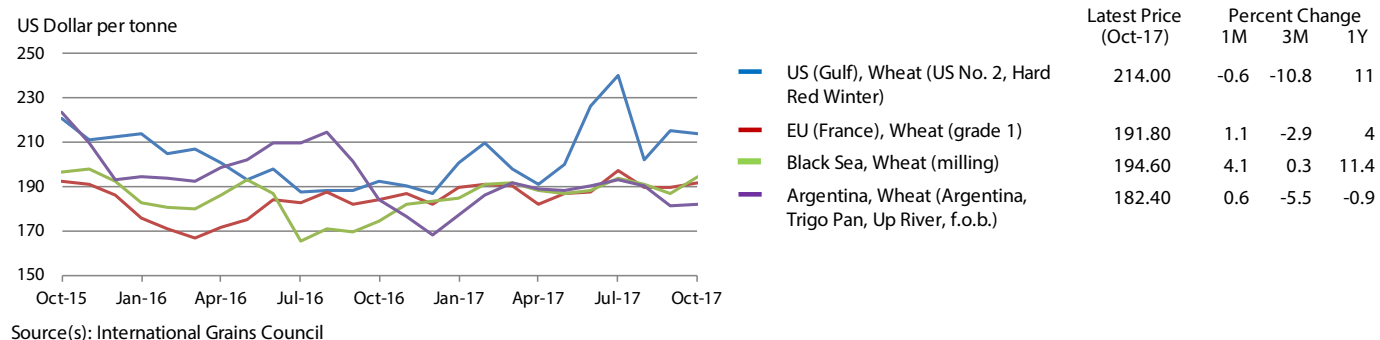
After a sharp increase in September, the benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) price fell slightly in October, averaging USD 214 per tonne, nearly 1 percent down from the previous month but still up 11 percent from October 2016. The recent decline reflects higher supply prospects, while improved weather conditions in the key-producing areas also weighed on the US prices. By contrast, export quotations of wheat increased in the Black Sea region, largely on account of strong export demand, while in Argentina, concerns about crop quality due to excessive rains lent some support to prices.

The benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) price firmed in October and averaged USD 148 per tonne, more than 1 percent up from September and slightly lower than its level in the corresponding month in 2016. Harvesting delays due to excessive rains in the key-growing areas of the US Corn Belt underpinned prices. Improved export sales also contributed to the upward pressure. However, large global availabilities limited the

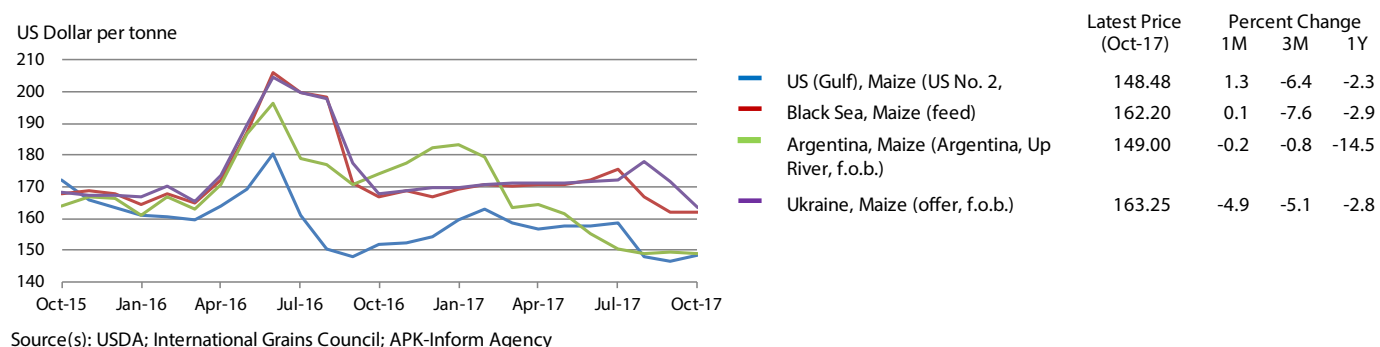
increase in prices. In Ukraine, maize export prices declined significantly under pressure from the ongoing harvest, which is expected to be above average and only slightly below last year's record high level. In South America, maize prices weakened on account of abundant supplies.

The FAO All Rice Price Index (2002-04=100) averaged 216.3 points in October, up 2 percent from September, on thinning availabilities of fragrant and medium/short grain rice. By contrast, prices of Indica white rice were steady or mildly softer in most Asian and American exporters. In India, prices dropped mostly in response to currency movements, while declines in Thailand and Pakistan were prompted by limited demand. Amid ebbing interest from African buyers, a supply deal with Bangladesh also proved insufficient to sustain parboiled values in India, providing limited support to those of Thailand. By contrast, prices strengthened in Viet Nam following the completion of the *summer-autumn* harvest and concerns over crop losses due to floods.

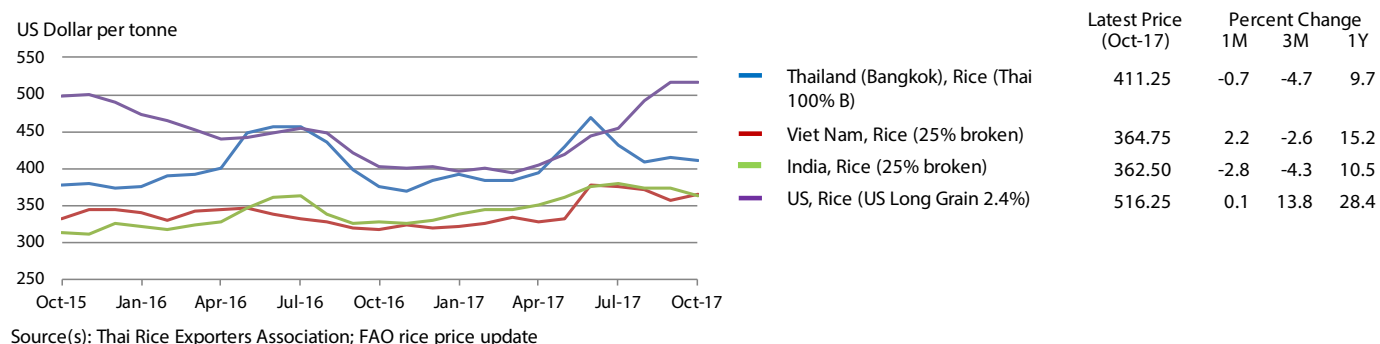
International wheat prices



International maize prices



International rice prices




For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

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

Bangladesh | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	-1.2	0.6
12 months	 0.6	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

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

Prices of rice decreased in October but still at near-record highs

In Dhaka, prices of **rice** decreased significantly in October from the record highs reached in the previous month mostly reflecting increased imports in recent months. Despite the recent declines, prices remained well above their year-earlier levels. Overall, rice prices had been on an increasing trend since mid-2016 due to reduced output and lower imports last year. Severe flooding in 2017 negatively affected the two main *boro* and *aman* seasons, which together account for more than 90 percent of the total annual output, further exacerbating the already tight supply situation and underpinning rice prices. In an effort to ease prices, the Government implemented several measures, including higher imports, reducing custom duties to encourage private sector imports and launching open market sales of rice ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). Prices of **atta** (loose wheat flour), another important staple, firmed in October and were nearly 20 percent higher than a year earlier due to stronger domestic demand as consumers are substituting rice with the cheaper wheat flour.

Burundi | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	-2.5	7.0
12 months	 2.5	0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Burundi, Bujumbura, Wholesale, Maize

Prices of maize remain more than one-third above their year-earlier values

In the capital, Bujumbura, prices of **maize** declined in October as the newly-harvested crops from the minor *2017C* harvest improved market supplies. However, in spite of this and the good performance of the recent harvest as well as the main *2017B* crop, gathered in August, prices were 35 percent higher than their values in October last year. This reflects reduced imports from neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania and Rwanda, weak local currency, low foreign currency reserves hampering trade and fuel shortages leading to higher transport costs.

Ethiopia | Grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	-0.9	-1.5
12 months	 2.1	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Wholesale, Maize



Prices of grains at record or near-record levels but showing signs of seasonal declines

Prices of **maize**, **wheat**, **teff** and **sorghum** declined slightly or remained relatively stable in October with the start of the main *meher* harvest. However, they were still at record to near-record highs due to the poor performance of the secondary *belg* harvest and concerns over the impact of Fall Armyworm infestations on the current *meher* crops. The presence of Fall Armyworms 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. The Government, with the technical and financial support of FAO, is undertaking monitoring activities and applying appropriate control measures. Increased institutional purchases and exports to Kenya contributed to the high level of prices.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

Mali | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	 6.2	-0.4
12 months	 2.8	0.0


Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Mali, Bamako, Wholesale, Millet (local)

Prices of coarse grains in October were mixed but generally higher than last year

Prices of **sorghum** and **millet** showed mixed trends in October across the markets in the country. In general, the recently-started harvest is gradually improving the supply situation, which halted the increasing trend of the previous months but overall, prices of coarse grains remained well above their values a year earlier. The high level of prices reflects the 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, also put upward pressure on prices. However, humanitarian food distributions and favourable prospects for the ongoing harvest are expected to push prices further down in the coming months.

Nigeria | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/17	Same period average
3 months	0.5	1.3
12 months	 1.1	0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Nigeria, Maiduguri, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Prices of food declined or remained stable and up on a year earlier

Prices of **coarse grains** and other food staples, including **white gari** (a staple food made from cassava) and **rice**, declined or remained relatively stable in September. The ongoing main season harvest and a gradual improvement in the macro-economic situation, including some stability in the exchange rate, contributed to the downward pressure on food prices. Prices of **imported** and **local rice** fell below their year-earlier levels, as the relative stabilization in the currency contributed to increased imports, while the carryovers from the good harvest in 2016, combined with the good outlook of the 2017 harvest, put downward pressure on locally-produced rice prices. Similarly, prices of coarse grains, particularly maize, were lower or around their values in September last year in some markets. However, food prices were already high in September 2016, so although lower than a year earlier, they remained overall high, notably in the northeast of the country, where marketing disruptions and the ongoing conflict continued to exert upward pressure. The high level of prices is reflected in the annual food inflation, which, although unchanged from the rate recorded in August, was still high at 20.3 percent.

Somalia | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	-12.4	-8.9
12 months	 1.2	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

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

Prices of coarse grains generally above their year-earlier levels although declining

Prices of **sorghum** and **maize** continued to decline seasonally in October reflecting improved market availabilities from the 2017 *gu* harvest, despite the estimates of below average outputs due to poor rains. However, prices of coarse grains, particularly sorghum, remained well above their year-earlier values in several markets, underpinned by a tight supply situation due to three consecutive drought-reduced harvests. Prices of **livestock** in October 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 reduced supplies. In Galkayo, one of the main livestock market in the Horn of Africa in the Mudug Region, prices of **goats** and **camels** in October were 29 and 47 percent lower than a year earlier, respectively, while prices of **camel milk** were 27 percent higher.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

South Sudan | Staple foods


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	-11.0	-0.5
12 months	 1.3	0.4

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

Prices of some food items decreased but still exceptionally high

In the capital, Juba, prices of **maize**, **wheat flour** and **groundnuts** declined in October. Prices of **sorghum** remained relatively stable, while prices of **cassava** increased. In general, the ongoing or recently-completed 2017 harvests in uni-modal and bi-modal growing areas weighed on prices across the markets of the country. In addition, continued food aid distributions and Government subsidized sales of basic food commodities also pressured prices downward. The prices of these subsidized food items are 25-45 percent lower than the market prices. Overall, however, prices of staple foods in October were up to 80 percent higher than 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.

Sri Lanka | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 10/17	Same period average
3 months	0.1	1.1
12 months	 0.5	0.1

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

Prices of rice increased slightly in October and were well above their year-earlier values

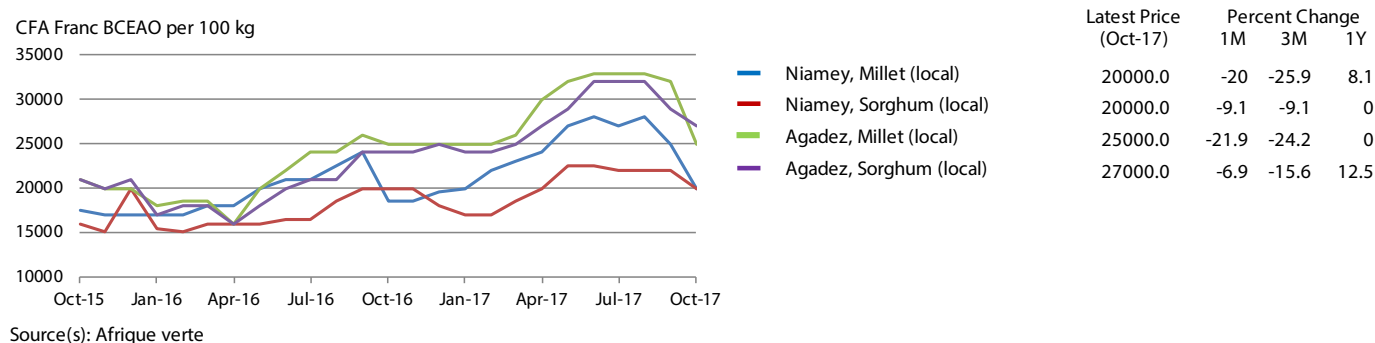
Prices of **rice** strengthened in October and were 14 percent above their year-earlier levels, underpinned by production shortfalls. Official estimates put the 2017 paddy aggregate output at 2.4 million tonnes, 45 percent below the 2016 level and the lowest since 1998, due to a prolonged drought. Planting of the 2018 crops are now beginning and concerns persist regarding the low water levels in the major reservoirs. In an attempt to contain further price increases, the Government has undertaken steps to facilitate imports by reducing import tariffs and lowering the prices of rice sold through State-owned Lak Sathosa outlets.

Prices of coarse grains declined throughout the subregion

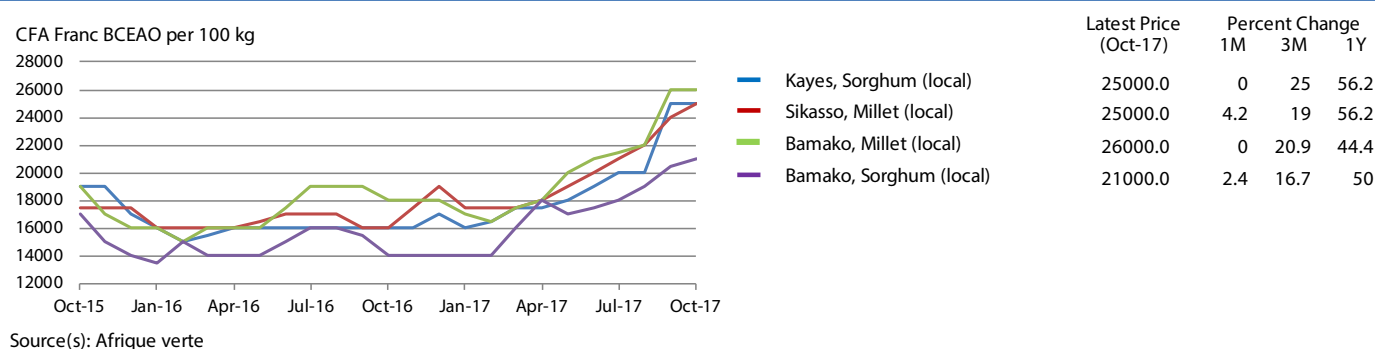
Prices of coarse grains declined in most countries of the subregion mainly as a result of the 2017 ongoing harvests, which are expected to be good. Prices, however, remained generally above their year-earlier levels. In **Niger**, prices of coarse grains declined further in October and at a steep rate as a result of increased imports from neighbouring countries and improved supplies from the ongoing harvest. Similarly in **Burkina Faso**, increased availabilities from the ongoing harvest halted the upward trends of millet and sorghum prices in the previous months. In **Mali**, prices were mixed across the markets, but were generally well above their year-earlier levels due to the civil insecurity situation in parts of the country as well as strong demand from the food deficit areas within and from neighbouring countries. In **Chad**, prices of coarse grains generally declined in September reflecting

the good prospects for the 2017 harvest, which has recently begun. However, the ongoing conflict in the northeast of Nigeria put some upward pressure on prices in the central and southwestern areas of the country. In coastal countries, prices of maize in **Ghana** remained unchanged or weakened in October reflecting increased supplies from the new harvest, which is expected to be good. Similarly, in **Togo**, increased supplies from the new 2017 harvest led to a decline in prices of maize, which generally declined in September with the exception of the main Lomé market. In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains declined in most markets or remained relatively stable in September, reflecting the start of the new harvest. In general, prices remained at high levels, particularly in the northeastern parts of the country due to marketing disruptions and persisting civil insecurity.

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Niger



Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali



For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

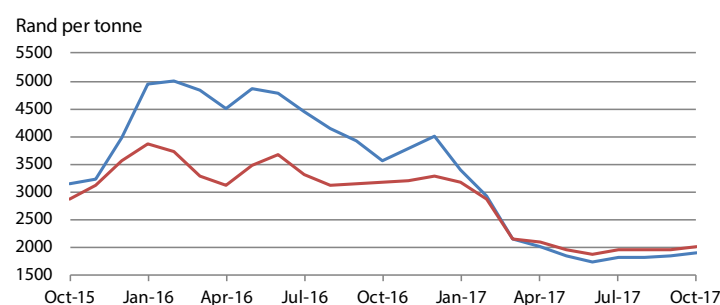
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Large maize supplies continued to exert downward pressure on prices

Prices of maize mostly remained stable in October or declined slightly, largely reflecting the prevailing favourable supply situation. By contrast, in **South Africa**, the key subregional producer and exporter, prices strengthened somewhat due to an expected contraction in plantings for the 2018 crop due to large local supplies and low prices. However, abundant availabilities from the record 2017 output kept price levels lower year-on-year. As for wheat, prices remained virtually unchanged compared to September, but were slightly up compared to their year-earlier values as dry conditions in the largest producing province are expected to result in a cut in this year's national output. A weakening of the national currency also put some upward pressure on the prices of cereals in October. In **Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia**, prices of maize grain continued to decline reflecting good domestic availabilities, with all countries recording maize surpluses in 2017/18 following increased harvests this year. The

improved supply situation prompted the governments of Malawi and Zambia to lift their export bans ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). In **Zimbabwe**, prices of maize meal declined further in September, while there was a small increase in those for maize grain, consistent with seasonal trends. However, prices of maize grain still remained well below their year-earlier values, pressured down by large supplies following the significant production rebound in 2017. In **Namibia and Swaziland**, prices followed mixed trends, but remained overall well down on a yearly basis, reflecting both lower import prices and well-supplied markets following the good domestic outputs in 2017. In **Madagascar**, prices of the main staple, rice, strengthened slightly, sustaining higher levels compared to the previous year. This reflects the impact of the dry weather-reduced harvest in 2017 and overall tight supplies, although large import volumes partially contained supply pressure, limiting the gains in prices.

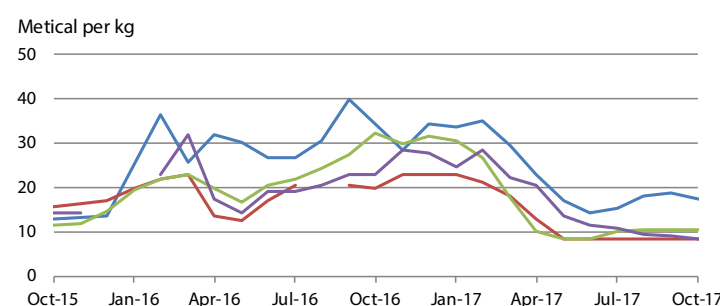
Wholesale prices of maize in Randfontein, South Africa



Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Latest Price (Oct-17)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
1892.05	3.4	3.7	-46.6
1994.67	2.4	2.6	-37.1

Retail prices of white maize in Mozambique

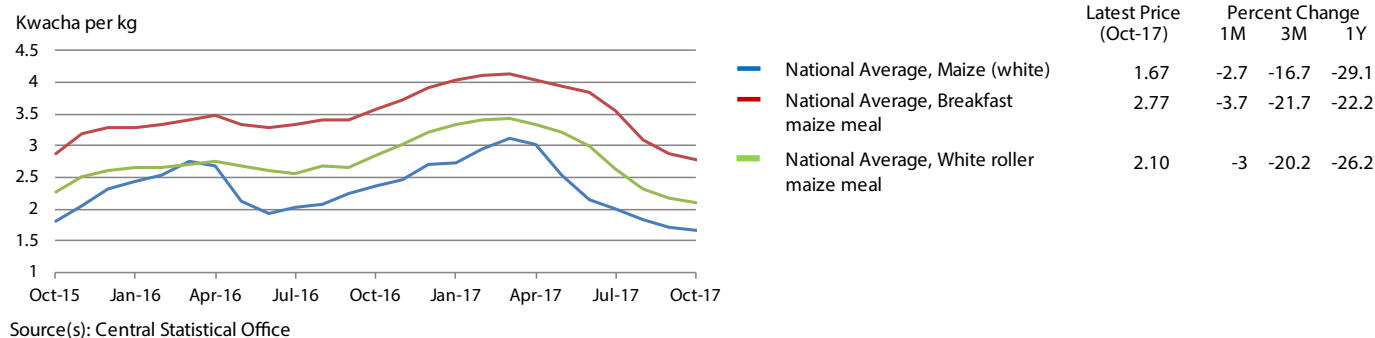


Source(s): Sistema De Informação De Mercados Agrícolas De Moçambique

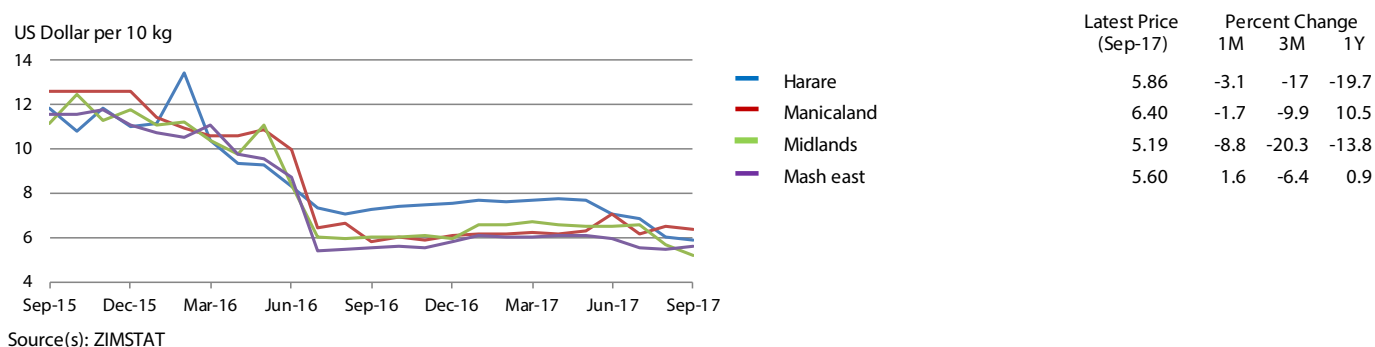
Latest Price (Oct-17)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
17.46	-7.2	14.6	-49.3
8.57	0	0	-57.2
10.39	0	1.7	-67.7
8.38	-6.9	-22.8	-63.3

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

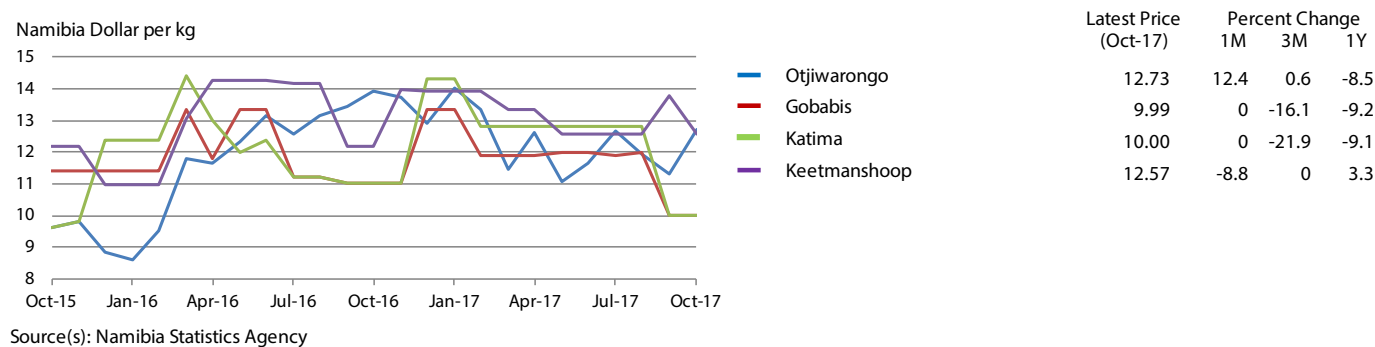
Retail prices of maize in Zambia



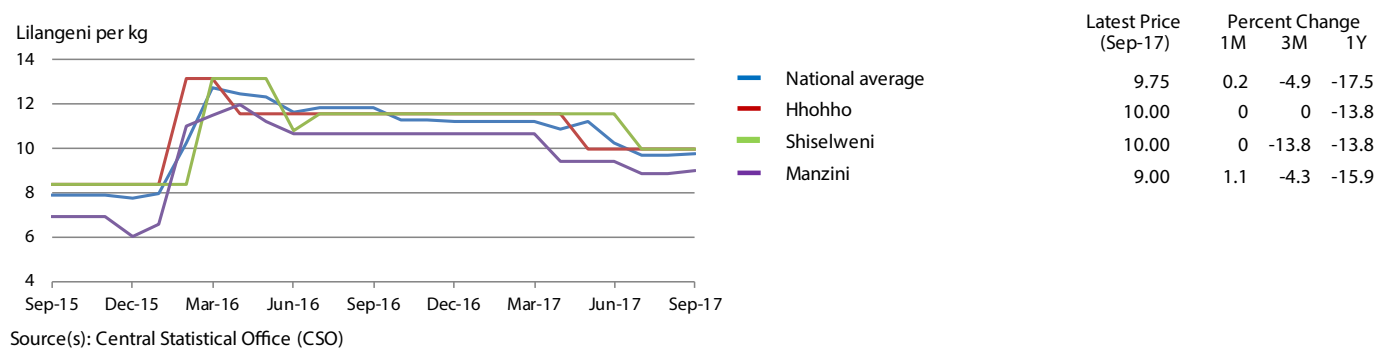
Retail prices of maize meal in Zimbabwe



Retail prices of maize meal in Namibia



Retail prices of maize meal in Swaziland



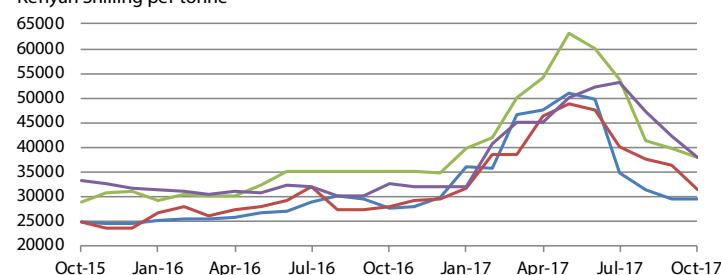
Prices of cereals generally declining but at high levels in Ethiopia and South Sudan

In several countries of the subregion, prices of cereals declined in October with the start of 2017 harvests. However, they remained generally above those a year earlier, particularly in Ethiopia and South Sudan. In **Kenya**, prices of maize continued to decrease in October after the start of the 2017 main *long-rains* harvest in the main producing areas of the Rift Valley and sustained imports which increased market supplies. With the beginning of the new harvest, the State subsidy on maize flour was suspended on 31 October ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). Despite the recent declines, however, an expected reduced season output kept prices above their levels a year earlier. In **Uganda**, prices of maize declined significantly in October and reached levels below those a year earlier with the early start of the second season harvest, which is forecast to be average. In **the United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize declined further in October reflecting adequate market supplies from a near-average main 2017 *msimu* harvest, despite localized production shortfalls coupled with a maize export ban introduced in June 2017. In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize, wheat, teff and sorghum continued to slightly decline or to remain relatively stable in October with the start of the main *meher* harvest. In general, prices of grains remained 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 and dry spells on current season crops. In **South Sudan**, prices of grains declined further or remained stable with the new supplies from the

2017 harvests. In the capital, Juba, however, prices in October were at exceptionally high levels due to tight supplies, fuel scarcity, a weak local currency and widespread insecurity. In **Burundi**, prices of maize decreased in October with the harvest of the minor 2017C season crop in the marshlands and irrigated areas. However, prices remained more than one-third above their levels a year earlier despite the good performance of current crops and of the main 2017B harvest, completed in August, due to reduced imports from neighbouring Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, a weak local currency and fuel shortages leading to high transportation costs. In **Rwanda**, prices of maize were stable in October and slightly higher than a year earlier. In **the Sudan**, prices of coarse grains began to decline in several markets in October with the beginning of the 2017 harvest, forecast at above-average levels despite localized production shortfalls due to erratic rainfall. Prices were still generally above their values in October last year, despite adequate domestic availabilities from the 2016 good output and overall favourable prospects for the new harvest, mainly due to high production and transportation costs and poor crop performance in some areas. In **Somalia**, prices of locally-produced maize and sorghum continued to generally decrease in October due to increased availabilities from the recently-gathered 2017 *gu* harvest which is, however, estimated to be below average. Despite the recent declines, prices remained above their year-earlier levels in several markets due to an overall tight supply situation.

Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

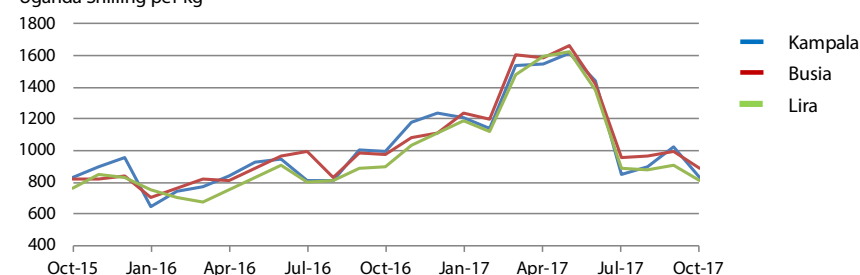
Kenyan Shilling per tonne



Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

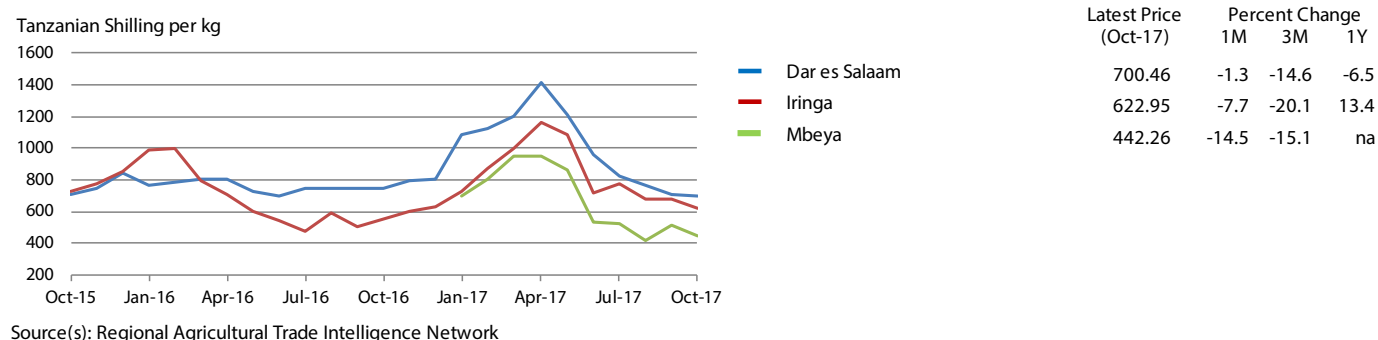
Uganda Shilling per kg



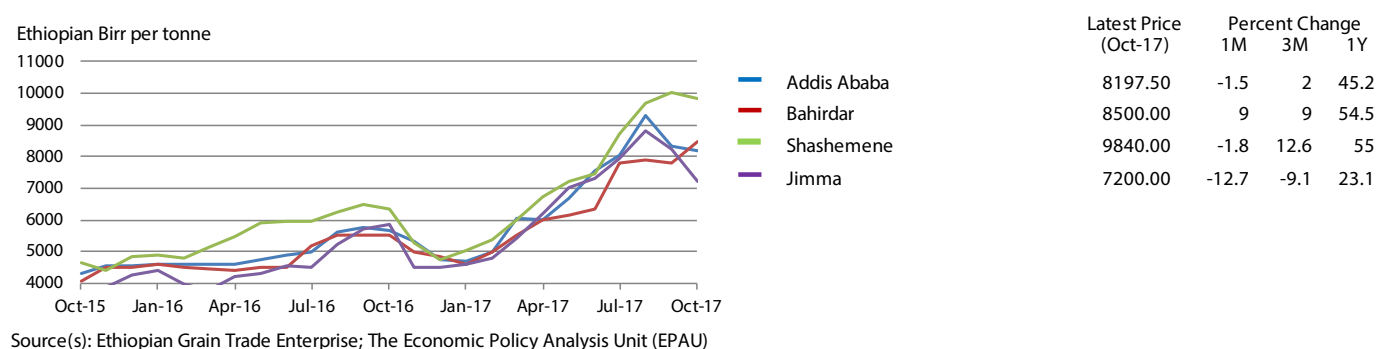
Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

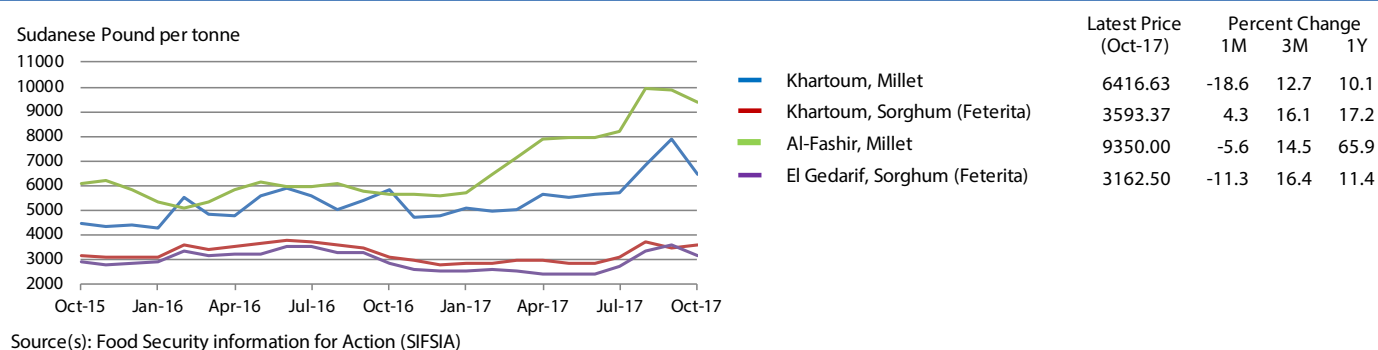
Wholesale prices of maize in the United Republic of Tanzania



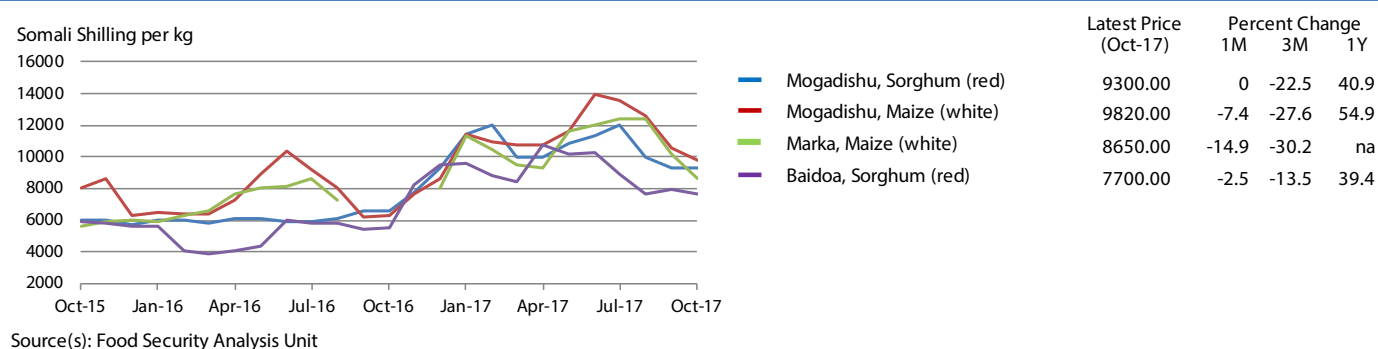
Wholesale prices of maize in Ethiopia



Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Sudan



Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia

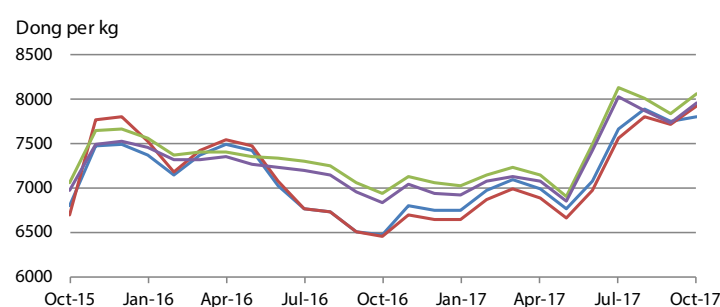


Trends of rice prices were mixed with moderate variations, while those of wheat generally stable

Domestic prices of rice in October changed little compared to the previous month and showed mixed trends across the subregion. In general, prices were above their levels in October last year. In **Viet Nam**, rice prices increased slightly following the completion of the 2017 *summer-autumn* harvest and concerns about the impact of heavy rains and floods on winter crops in northern-producing areas of the country. Rice prices strengthened also in **India** ahead of the arrival of the new supplies from the 2017 main *kharif* harvest, forecast to decrease slightly from last year's record level. In **Thailand**, prices decreased moderately on account of low demand, while expectations of a good 2017 crop, currently being harvested, also weighed on prices. In order to prevent a fall in prices during the harvest time, which extends until January in northern and northeastern areas, the Government announced it will refrain from releasing rice from its stocks. The trends in prices of rice were mixed in **Cambodia**, while in **Myanmar** tightening availabilities ahead of the 2017 main season harvest and steady sales put upward pressure on prices. In **China** and the **Philippines**, prices were generally stable as a result of adequate market supplies from the 2017 harvests. Rice quotations changed little also in **Indonesia** reflecting a satisfactory 2017 harvest. The Government also intervened to keep rice prices stable by setting price ceilings in August ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). In **Sri Lanka**, the upward trend of the previous months continued in October and prices were well above their year-earlier levels underpinned by production shortfalls. The only remarkable price variation in the subregion was recorded in **Bangladesh**, where rice prices decreased significantly from

the record levels reached in September, mostly reflecting increased import arrivals. In these two countries, the governments continued their efforts to ease prices by facilitating imports and sales at subsidized prices. As for wheat, prices remained relatively stable in October. In **China**, the bumper 2017 output and abundant imports since the beginning of the year ensured adequate market supplies and kept prices of wheat flour stable. Large domestic availabilities also pushed the Government to cut the minimum purchase prices for wheat in late October ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). In importer, **Indonesia**, prices of wheat flour weakened after the increase of the previous two months following the trends in the international market. In **Sri Lanka**, prices firmed in October despite the reduction in taxes on wheat flour introduced in August ([FPMA Food Policies](#)), but were only slightly higher than the corresponding month last year. In **Bangladesh**, prices of wheat flour strengthened somewhat and were 17 percent above their year-earlier levels due to higher consumption following the sharp increase in the prices of rice. Sustained domestic demand from flour mills was behind the upward pressure on domestic prices of wheat in **India**. Some support also came from the increase in the Minimum Support Prices for 2018 *rabi* wheat crop in October ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). Similarly, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour increased in **Pakistan**, in line with seasonal patterns, but remained below their year-earlier levels on account of good availabilities following a bumper 2017 crop. Prices of mostly-imported wheat flour remained overall lower than a year earlier also in **Afghanistan**.

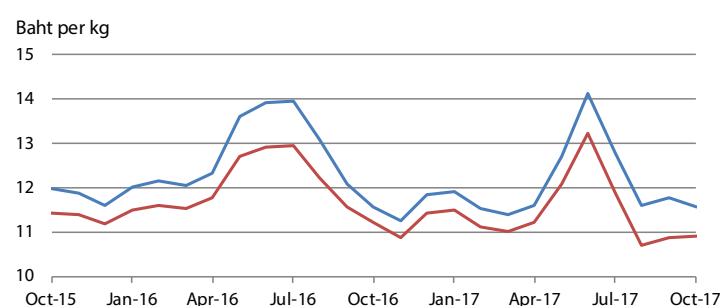
Wholesale prices of rice in Viet Nam



Source(s): Agroinfo

	Latest Price (Oct-17)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
An Giang, Rice (25% broken)	7800.00	0.6	1.8	20.4
An Giang, Rice (20% broken)	7920.00	2.5	4.8	22.6
Dong Thap, Rice (20% broken)	8066.67	2.9	-0.8	16.2
Dong Thap, Rice (25% broken)	7966.67	2.9	-0.8	16.5

Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand

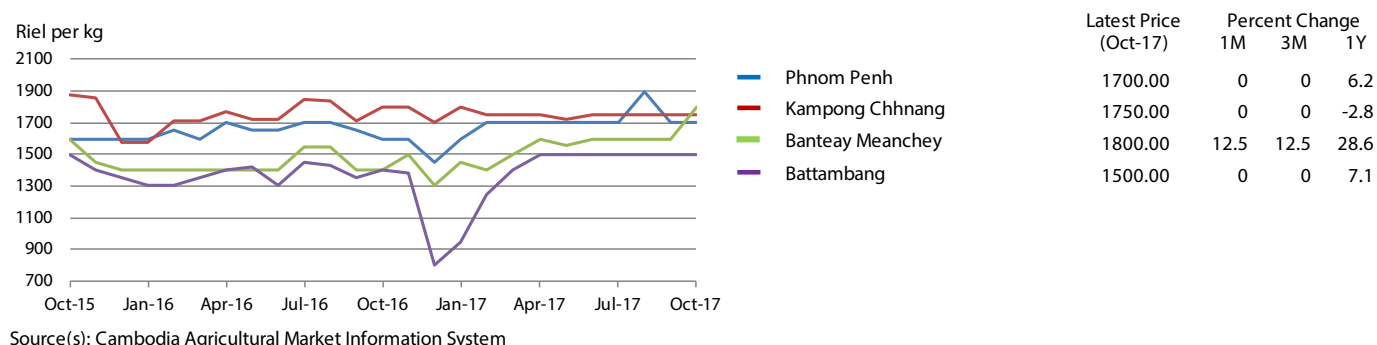


Source(s): Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce

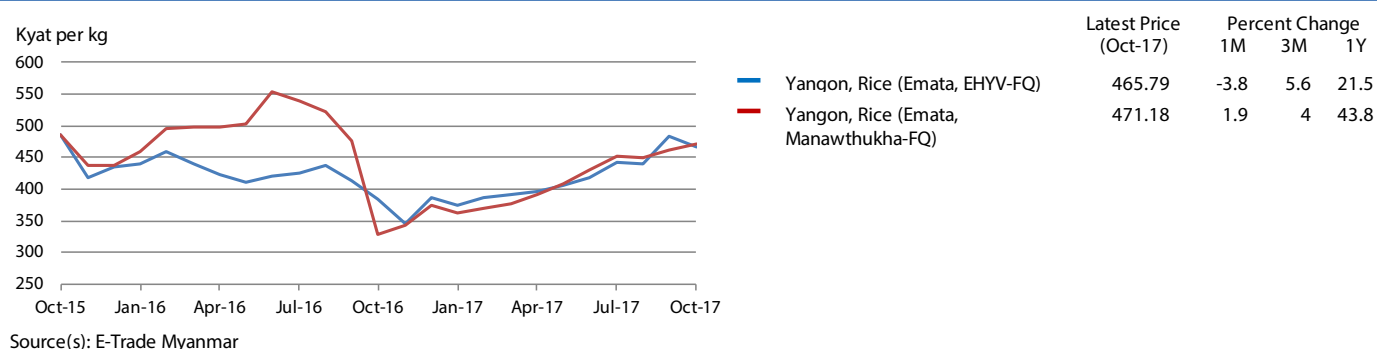
	Latest Price (Oct-17)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Rice (5% broken)	11.56	-1.8	-9.6	0
Rice (25% broken)	10.92	0.3	-8.1	-2.8

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

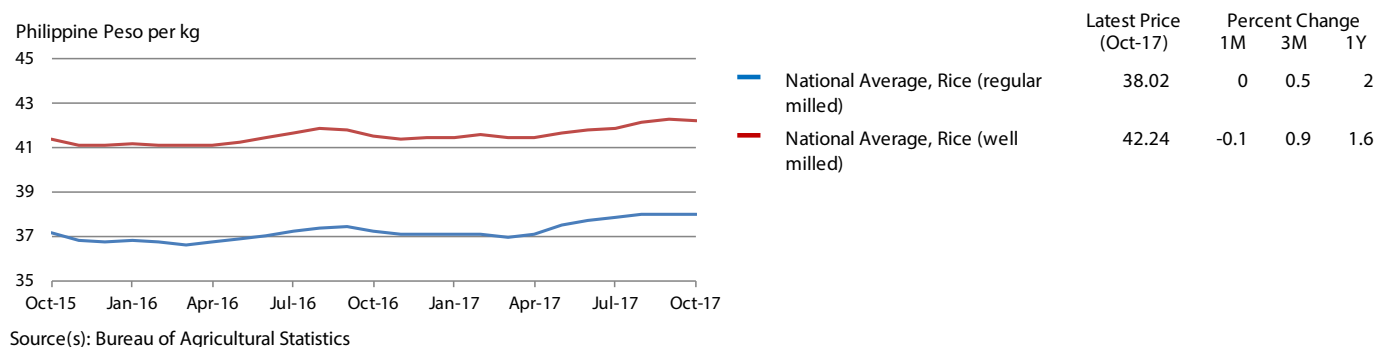
Wholesale prices of rice in Cambodia



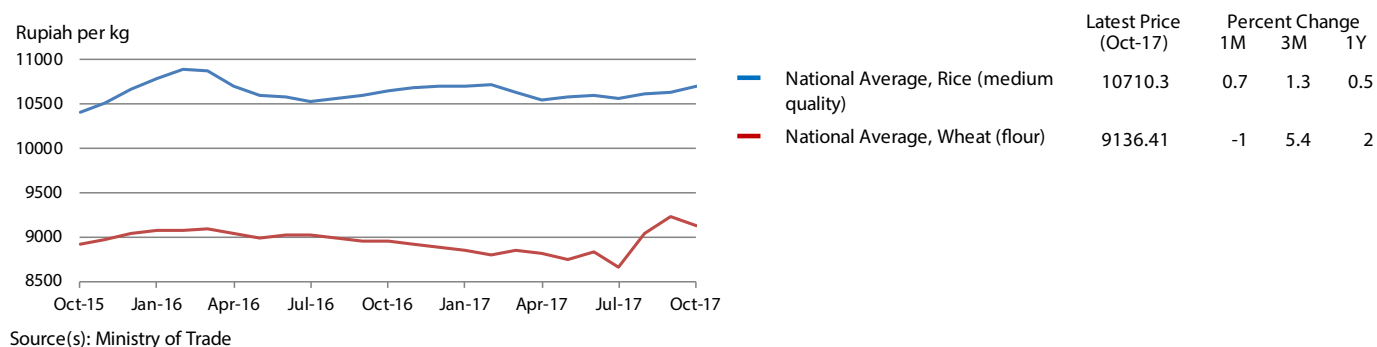
Wholesale prices of rice in Myanmar



Retail prices of rice in the Philippines

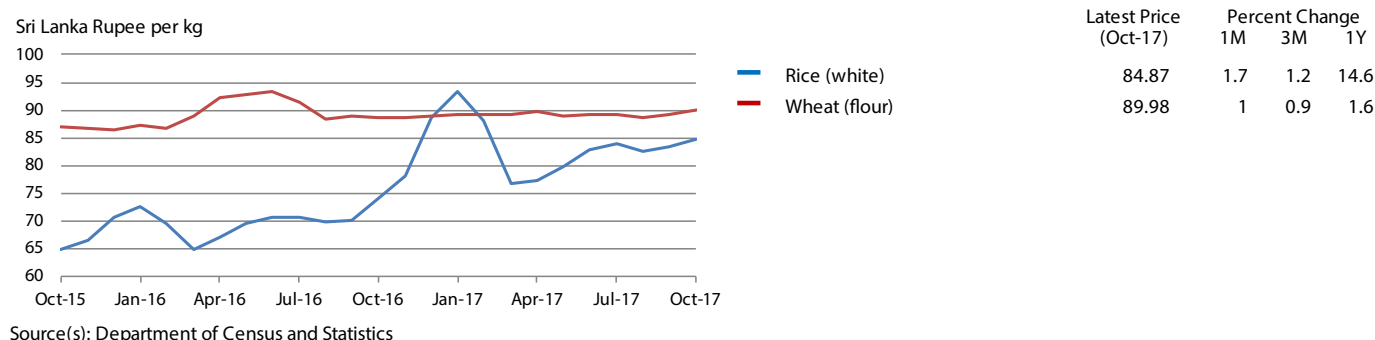


Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Indonesia

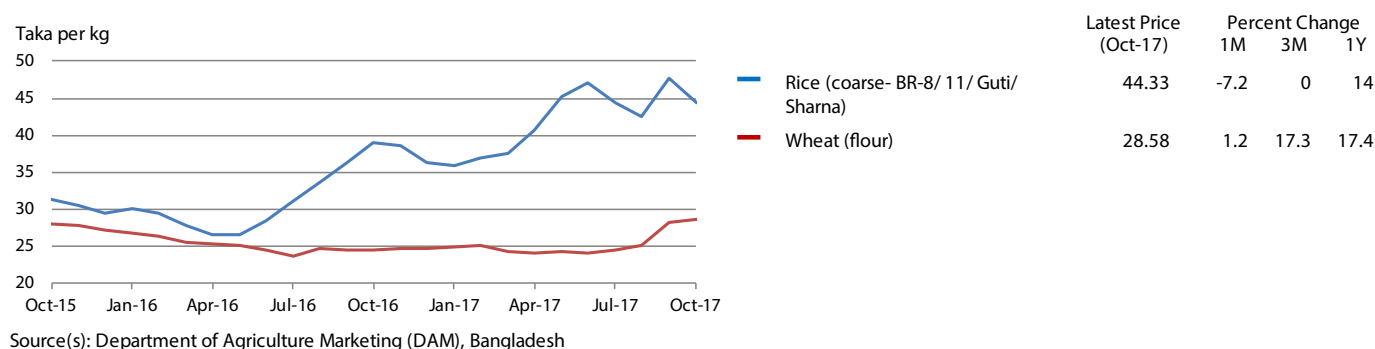


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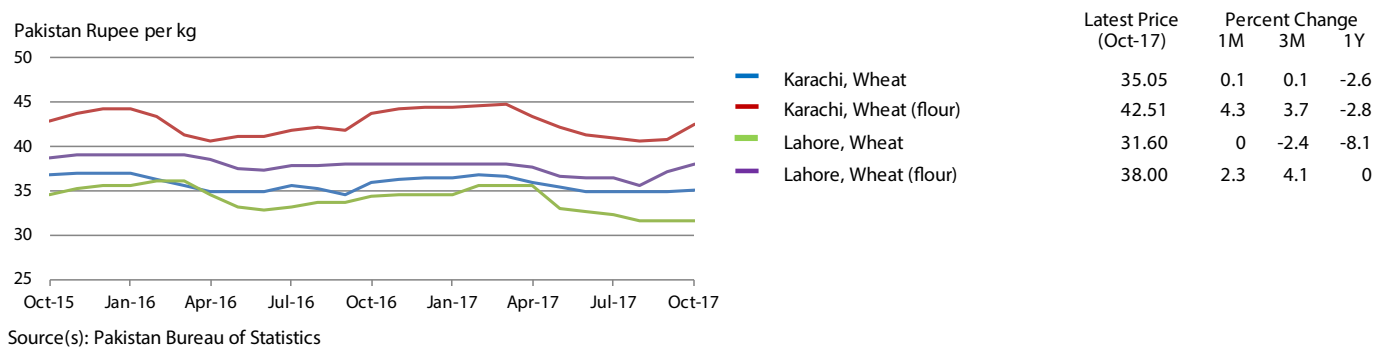
Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Colombo, Sri Lanka



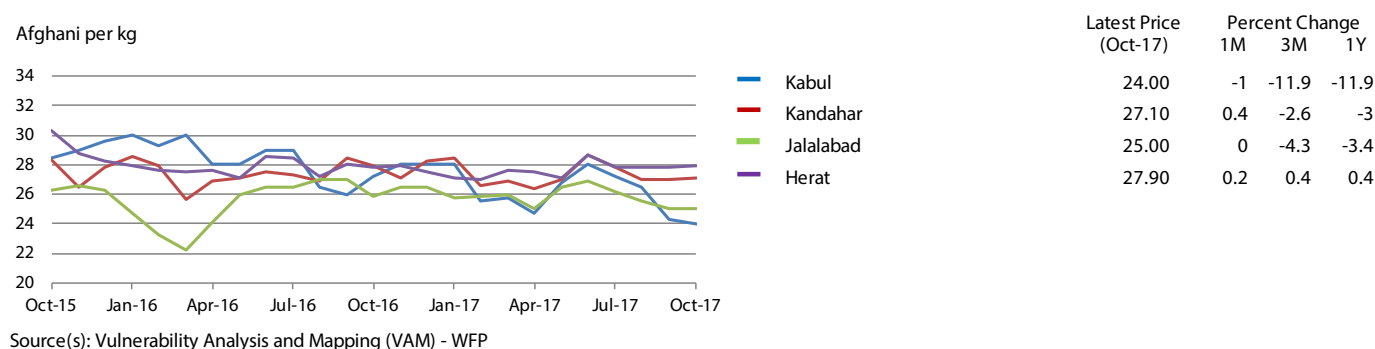
Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Retail prices of wheat and wheat flour in Pakistan



Retail prices of wheat flour in Afghanistan

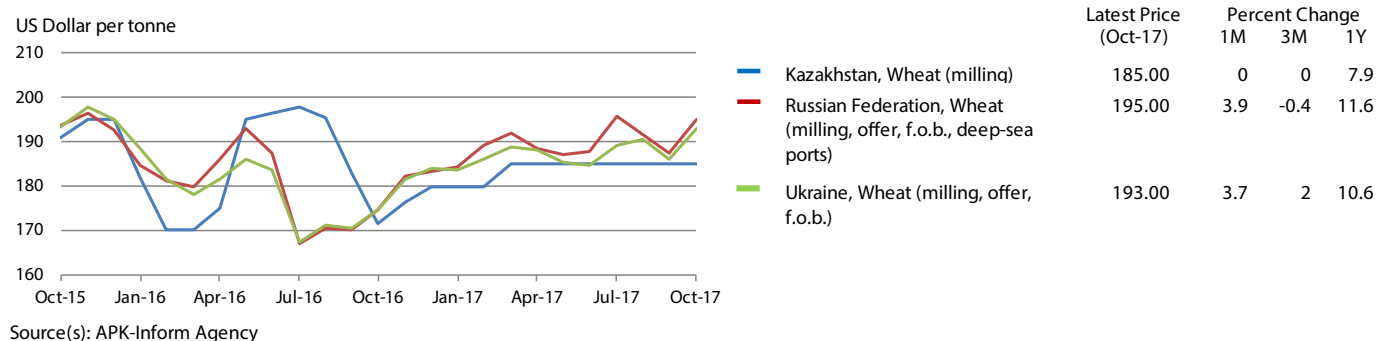


Export prices of wheat increased amid strong demand

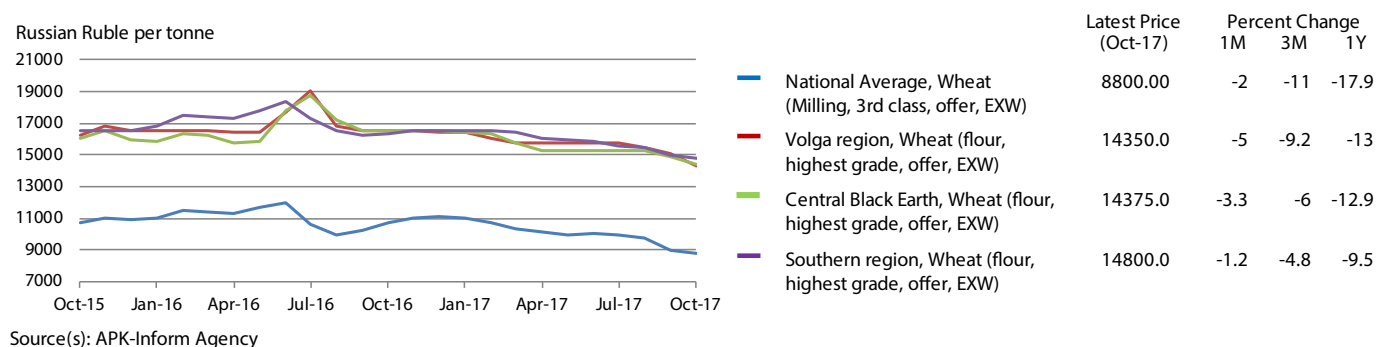
In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat increased by some 4 percent in Ukraine and the Russian Federation in October due to a solid pace of shipments. In **the Russian Federation**, strong demand, particularly from Egypt, underpinned prices and offset the downward pressure from the 2017 record crop, recently harvested. However, abundant local supplies continued to weigh on domestic prices of wheat grain and wheat flour. By contrast, in **Ukraine**, wholesale prices of wheat rose in October, supported by strong demand for high quality wheat from both traders and processors. In **Kazakhstan**, export prices of wheat remained unchanged mainly as a result of the minimal trade activity. In importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour were overall stable, reflecting adequate market supplies and stable prices in Kazakhstan, the main supplier of wheat grain and wheat flour in the subregion. In **Tajikistan**, prices of wheat flour in October remained close to their previous month's level, as a result of good domestic supplies and a more stable national currency, although still weak on an annual basis. Similarly, in **Kyrgyzstan**, prices of wheat flour remained virtually unchanged and at levels around or below their values a year earlier. In **Azerbaijan**, prices of locally-produced wheat flour were unchanged in September, but at levels well above those a year earlier mainly reflecting

high producing costs. In **Belarus**, prices declined moderately in September but were around 9 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices of another basic staple, potatoes, continued their seasonal decline in the main exporters, while they showed atypical increases in other countries of the subregion and were, in general, higher than a year earlier, due to the reduced subregional 2017 output. In **the Russian Federation**, the biggest producer of the subregion, prices continued to seasonally decline in October but remained 9 percent higher than at the same time last year, driven by a sharply-reduced output this year. In **Belarus**, the main exporter of the subregion, prices also declined seasonally in September, but remained more than one-third higher than their year-earlier values. By contrast, in **Kazakhstan**, average prices of potatoes increased unseasonally and at a steep rate in October and were more than 50 percent higher than a year earlier as a result of the poor 2017 harvest. In **Armenia**, prices rose atypically for the second consecutive month in October. Moderate unseasonal price increases were also reported in **Kyrgyzstan**. In **Tajikistan**, prices of potatoes showed mixed trends across the main markets in the country in October but lingered generally at levels well above those a year earlier, also supported by high fuel and transport costs.

Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries

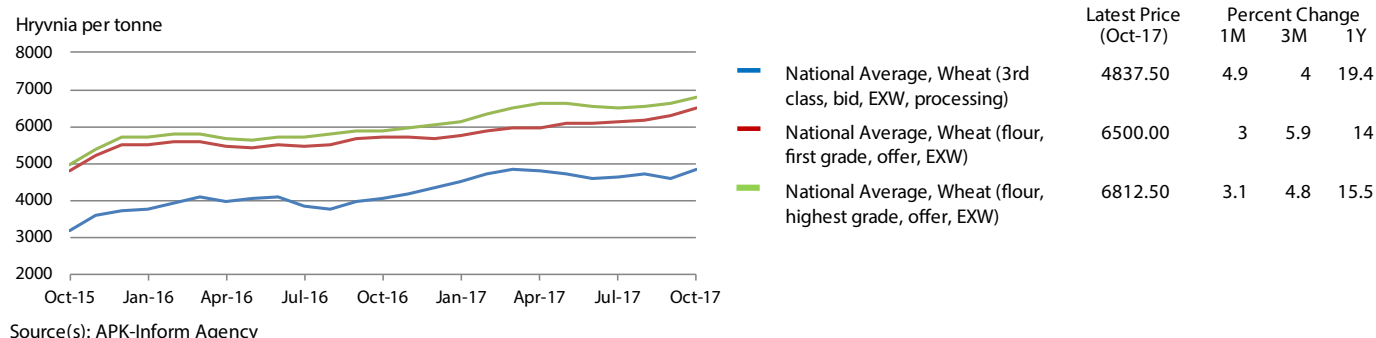


Wholesale prices of wheat and wheat flour in the Russian Federation

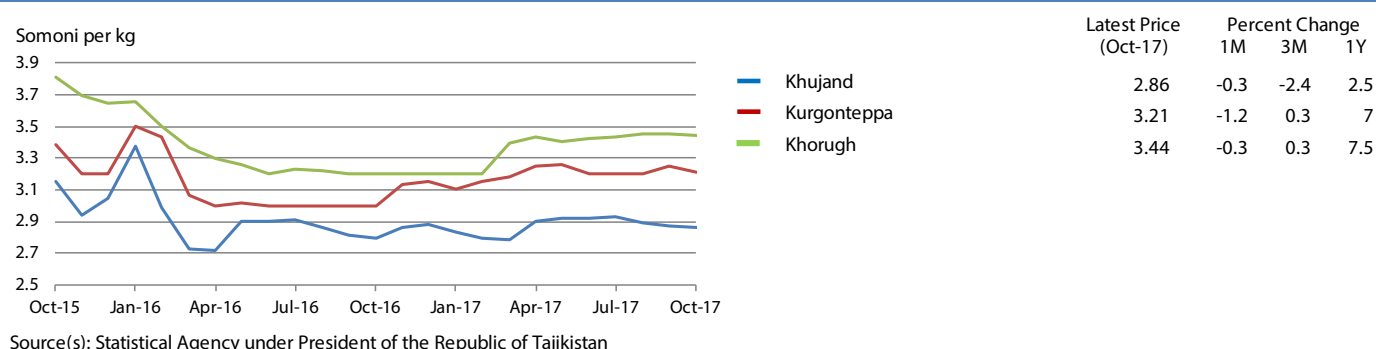


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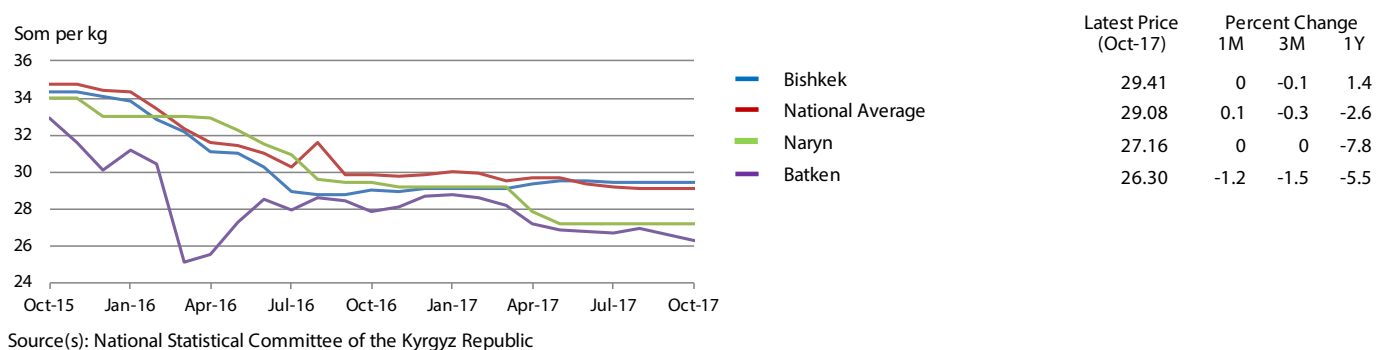
Wholesale prices of wheat and wheat flour in Ukraine



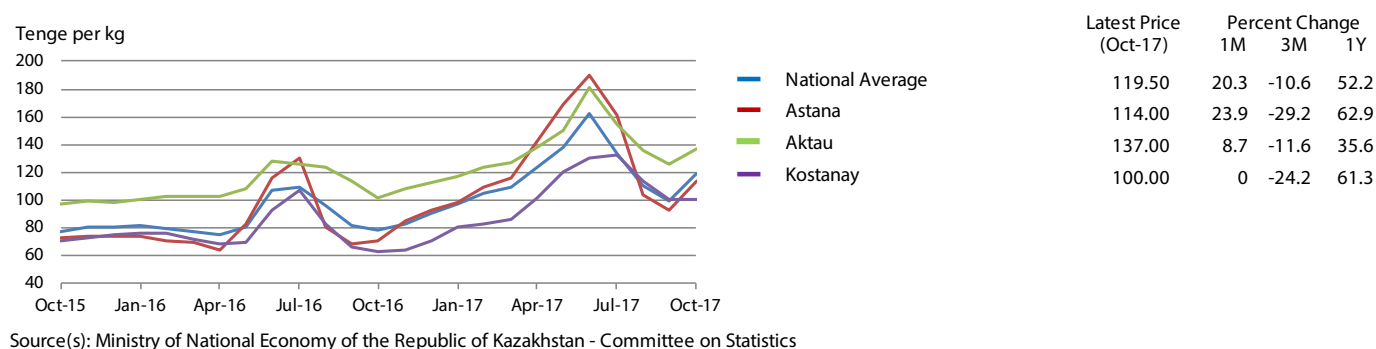
Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan



Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan



Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan



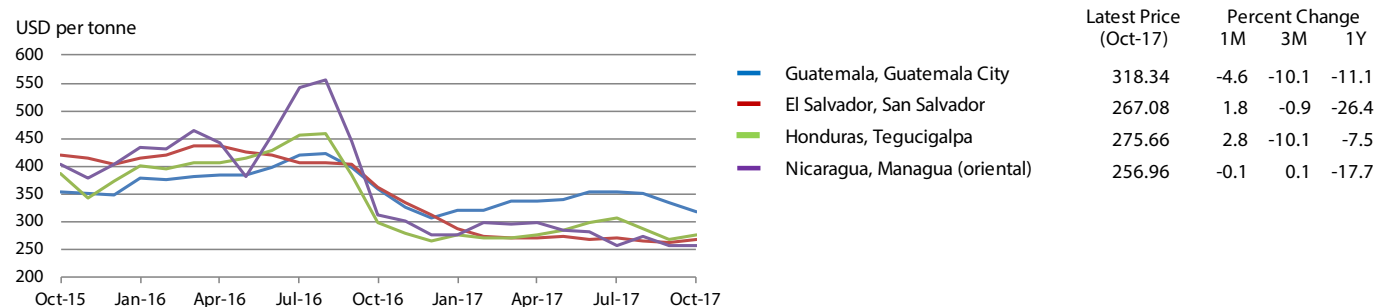
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Heavy rains in October underpinned prices of maize and beans

Prices of white maize strengthened in most countries of the subregion in October but remained below their year-earlier levels reflecting the overall good outputs in 2016 and the 2017 first season harvests. Heavy rains in the past month temporarily disrupted market flows and raised some concerns over the next harvest leading to unseasonal increases in prices. In **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, prices rose slightly but were still well below their levels a year earlier. Similarly, in **Nicaragua**, prices firmed unseasonably in October but were still some 13 percent lower than a year earlier. In these countries, the bulk of the 2017 main season harvests was completed in September. By contrast, in **Guatemala**, harvesting in the northern and southern growing areas and imports from Mexico pushed prices of maize 4 percent down from their values in September. In **Mexico**, the subregion's main producer, adequate supplies from the *spring-summer* crop kept prices relatively stable in October and generally below their

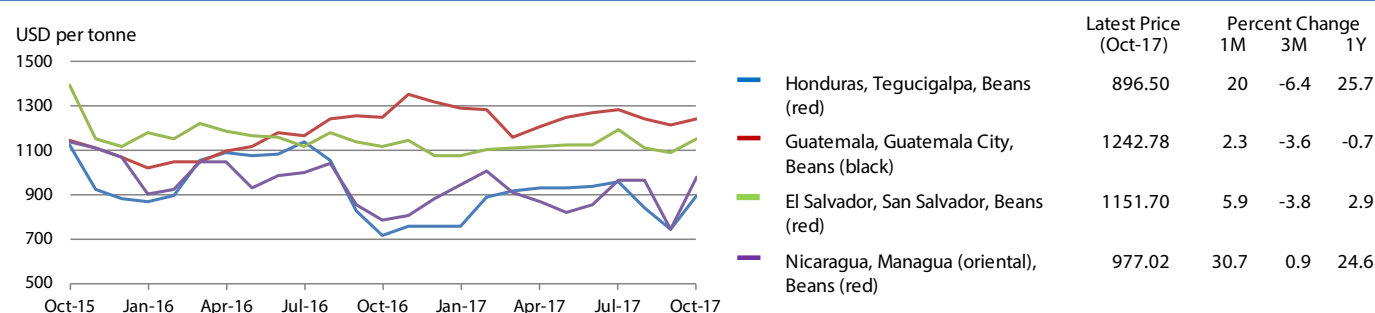
levels a year earlier. Prices of staple beans also increased in October, with seasonal pressure, ahead of the key second season harvest from late November, exacerbated by market flow disruptions and some concerns over crop damages due to heavy rains. In main producers and exporters, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, prices spiked in October and reached levels above those a year earlier. Strong demand from El Salvador also provided upward pressure. In **El Salvador**, prices of red beans also increased but to a lesser extent. In **Guatemala**, prices of black beans, the most consumed variety, rose in October with the completion of the first season harvest and lower imports from Mexico. Concerns over the impact of rains on crop yields also supported prices. In **Mexico** and in **the Dominican Republic**, prices of black beans increased in October and were higher than a year earlier. By contrast, in **Costa Rica**, prices of red and black beans declined mainly reflecting improved market supplies as a result of imports.

Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America



Source(s): Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG; SIMPAH

Wholesale prices of beans in Central America



Source(s): SIMPAH; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG

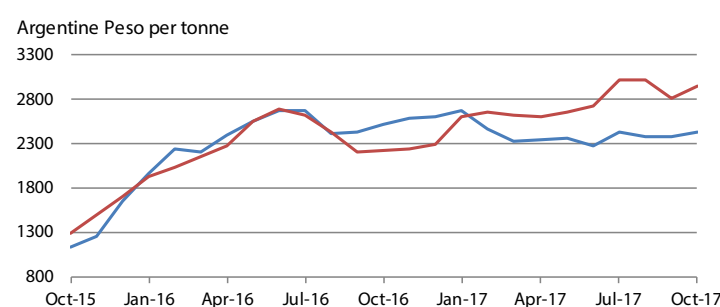
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Prices of wheat and rice weakened or stable in October, those of maize increased seasonally

In most countries of the subregion, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour remained relatively stable or eased further in October on account of adequate market supplies from last year's good outputs and imports. In **Argentina**, however, the subregion's main producer and exporter, prices of wheat grain increased in October and were more than 30 percent higher than a year earlier mainly underpinned by strong demand. Conditions of the new crop, to be harvested from November, are reported to be generally favourable, while the area planted is estimated at 7 percent down from a year earlier. In **Brazil**, prices of wheat grain declined further in October with the start of the new harvest and as a result of abundant imports in the past months, mostly from Argentina. The 2017 crop is expected to be sharply reduced due to a decline in plantings and adverse weather throughout the growing season. The lower prices of grains are expected to push down prices of wheat flour, which remained stable in October. In **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, quotations of imported and locally-produced wheat flour weakened or remained stable and were below their year-earlier values, pressured by continued import flows and a recovery in production from the 2016 drought-reduced level. In main importers, **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru**, prices of wheat flour also weakened somewhat or remained virtually unchanged in October. In **Paraguay**, prices of wheat flour continued to increase, reflecting expectations of a sharp contraction in the 2017 output, due to reduced plantings and adverse weather. With respect to maize, prices increased seasonally in October but remained lower than a year earlier in most countries of the subregion. In **Argentina**, yellow maize prices rose slightly

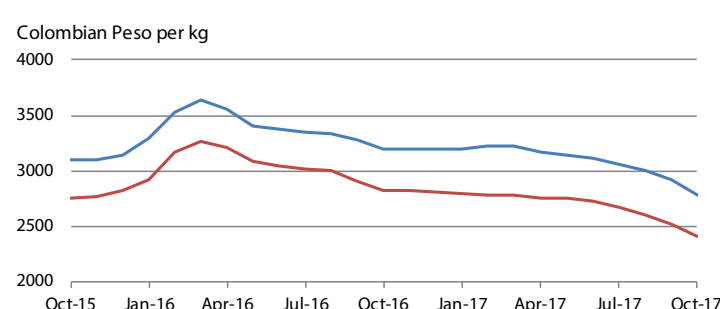
in October but ample availabilities from the 2017 bumper harvest and an anticipated increase in plantings of the new crop kept prices below their year-earlier levels. In **Brazil**, prices increased by nearly 10 percent in October, with seasonal trends exacerbated by an expected reduction in the area planted to the first season crop, due to the prevailing low prices and because of a shift to soybeans. Prices of yellow maize were more than 30 percent lower than in October last year. In **Peru**, prices increased after declining in the previous two months but remained 14 percent below their levels in October last year, mainly as a result of the significant volumes imported in the year, mostly from the United States of America. Prices of yellow maize rose also in **Colombia** and in **Ecuador**, while they remained relatively unchanged in **Chile** and **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**. Prices of staple rice remained overall lower than a year earlier, mainly as a result of the good 2017 outputs. In **Brazil**, prices of paddy strengthened in October in line with seasonal trends but remained sharply down from their year-earlier levels, as a result of the 16 percent recovery in the 2017 harvest from the poor output in 2016. As the harvest progressed in **Colombia**, prices continued to decline in October and were at levels well below those a year earlier, with the 2017 production anticipated at a record level. In **Peru**, prices declined slightly and were moderately down from a year earlier, reflecting an overall good output this year and imports. In **Ecuador**, prices of rice declined or remained unchanged in October and were lower year-on-year. In **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, where the 2017 output is estimated to be reduced, imports kept the prices of rice generally stable and below their levels a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of yellow maize and wheat in Argentina



Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

Retail prices of rice in Colombia



Source(s): Fedearroz

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

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 November 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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