KEY MESSAGES

Export prices of wheat and maize generally declined in February amid well-supplied global markets and uncertainties about the impact of Coronavirus on global demand. By contrast, international prices of rice strengthened, on a combination of demand from Far Eastern and East African buyers and tight availabilities in some exporting countries.

In Southern Africa, maize price increases eased reflecting improved prospects for the 2020 harvest, large import volumes and the effects of policies aimed at stabilizing prices. Prices, however, remained broadly higher, year on year, amid tight regional supplies.

In East Africa, prices of coarse grains declined seasonally in most countries of the subregion in February as the recently completed second season harvests improved market supplies. By contrast, in the Sudan, prices continued to soar and reached record highs in February due to a below-average 2019 cereal output coupled with high production and transportation costs.

In East Asia, prices of wheat flour in Pakistan declined from the record or near-record highs reached in January following Government measures and favourable production prospects for the about-to-start 2020 main season harvest.

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Domestic price warnings

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

International prices of wheat and maize generally weaker in February

International prices of wheat broadly declined in February, weighed down by an overall positive 2020 global supply outlook and concerns over the impact of Coronavirus on global demand. However, strong trade activity limited the decline. In the United States of America, the benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) decreased for the first time in the past four months and averaged USD 230 per tonne, nearly 3 percent lower than in January and slightly down from the corresponding month in 2019. The notable exception to the general weaker tone was in Argentina, where prices rose for the third consecutive month in February amid tighter export availability.

Similarly, export prices of maize were generally lower in February, with the benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) averaging USD 170 per tonne, slightly down from January and unchanged on a yearly basis. The optimistic outlook for production in the Southern Hemisphere, on account of increased plantings and conducive weather, coupled with an expected fall in feed demand due to weakening global economic prospects, weighed on prices. Prices declined steeply in Argentina, pressured by the favourable production prospects, while in Ukraine, strong demand provided support and kept prices firm.

The FAO All Rice Price Index (2002-04=100) rose by 1.4 percent in February, mainly driven by increases in prices of higher and lower quality Indica rice. Among the major Asian origins, prices of Indica rice strengthened the most in Viet Nam on account of strong demand from Malaysian and Filipino buyers and tighter availabilities ahead of the 2020 winter-spring harvest. Interest from East African buyers also extended the upward streak of Pakistani offers into a third month, while a strong pace of local Government procurement continued to underpin prices in India. In Thailand, downward pressure from lower export demand and currency movements was mostly offset by expectations of a slump in off-season output. Prices remained firm also in the Americas, consistent with the generally poor outturn of 2019 crops in the continent.

**International wheat prices**

| Source(s): International Grains Council |

**International maize prices**

| Source(s): USDA; International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency |

**International rice prices**

| Source(s): Thai Rice Exporters Association; FAO rice price update |

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.

Argentina | Food Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 01/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Argentina, Greater Buenos Aires, Retail, Beef meat

High food prices amid inflation
Retail prices of wheat flour continued rising in January and reached levels over 35 percent higher than a year earlier despite good domestic availabilities. With the harvest recently completed, the 2019 wheat crop is officially estimated at a record level of 19.5 million tonnes, slightly higher than last year’s output. The elevated prices of wheat-derived products are in part supported by higher export quotations of wheat grain, underpinned by strong foreign and domestic demand. In general, however, prices of food items continued to increase amid strong inflation rates. While the general inflation rate slowed down in January, mostly driven by the prices of regulated goods and services, including transport and utility tariffs, the biggest contributor to the monthly increase remained the food component, which recorded a national monthly variation of nearly 5 percent. High food inflation was partly driven by the removal of the Value Added Tax (VAT) on basic food commodities on 31 December 2019. In lieu of the tax exemption, the Government froze the prices of various items, including foodstuffs, under the programme “Precios Cuidados” from January 2020 for a period of 12 months in an effort to curb prices.

Colombia | Rice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Colombia, Bogotá, Wholesale, Rice (first quality)

Prices of rice on the increase and high
Prices of rice increased for the fourth consecutive month in February, after a prolonged period of stability facilitated by successive bumper harvests. Prices were more than 30 percent above their year-earlier values and at their highest level since mid-2016. The upturn has been supported by strong local demand and rising costs of basic inputs, influenced by a weakening of the country’s currency, which depreciated by about 10 percent against the US dollar since February 2019. Recent price gains have been further exacerbated by seasonal tightness ahead of the 2020 first semester harvest, due to start in April, in addition to concerns over the impact of high temperatures on yields.

Haiti | Cereals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 01/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
<td>-1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms. Refers to: Haiti, Cap-Haitien, Retail, Maize meal (local)

Prices of maize and rice still above those a year earlier
Prices of locally produced maize meal held overall steady in January, mainly as a result of the improved socio-political situation in the country which allowed a revival of economic activities. However, prices remained generally well above those a year earlier, underpinned by lower production in the 2019 first and second season outputs as well as high production costs, supported by a weak currency. As of February, the country’s currency had lost nearly 20 percent of its value in a year, keeping inflationary pressure upwards. Prices of another stable food, rice, mostly imported, decreased further in January on account of improved market availabilities from higher imports during the last four months of 2019 and improved internal trade flows. However, prices remained above their year-earlier values, mainly due to the depreciation of the currency.

Price warning level: 🟢 High 🟡 Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

11 March 2020
DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS

Kenya | Maize

Prices of maize linger above those a year earlier
Prices of maize declined in February in Mombasa market, located on the coast, as secondary season “short-rains” crops, recently harvested in southeastern marginal and coastal areas, increased supplies, while they remained virtually unchanged or weakened elsewhere. Prices in February were up to 80 percent higher than a year earlier, following the sharp increases in the first half of 2019 on concerns over the performance of the main “long-rains” harvest, concluded in late 2019 in western key producing areas, due to severe early season dryness. Despite improved rains from May, the harvest is estimated to be reduced on a yearly basis, although at a near-average level. In central, southeastern and coastal agro-pastoral and marginal agricultural areas, where the rainy season is normally shorter, the early season drought caused a sharper decline in the “long-rains” maize production, with the harvest, completed in August, estimated to be about 50-60 percent below the average. Lower imports from Uganda and disruptions to transport infrastructure from the heavy rainfall in late 2019 contributed to sustain the high level of prices.

Kenya | Maize

Growth Rate (\%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Kenya, Eldoret, Wholesale, Maize

Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour

Prices of wheat flour stable but higher on a yearly basis
Retail prices of first grade wheat flour remained generally stable in the first two months of 2020, but were on average, more than 15 percent above those a year earlier, after atypical increases between October and December 2019. The country imports almost half of the domestic consumption needs and shipments are mainly sourced from Kazakhstan, where export price quotations were nearly 20 percent higher, year on year, in February, due to a sharp drop in the 2019 output. The upward pressure on prices was further supported by a reduced 2019 domestic wheat output compared to a year earlier and to the average of the previous five years.

Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (\%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Kyrgyzstan, National Average, Retail, Wheat (flour, first grade)

Malawi | Maize

Upward trend of maize prices continued in February
National average prices of maize grain continued to rise in February, although to a lesser extent than in the past few months, pushing up the national average price to nearly twice its year-earlier level. Despite an estimated increase in the 2019 harvest, market supplies were reported to be tight partly due to heightened demand from neighbouring countries, which underpinned the increase in domestic prices. Additionally, an upward revision in petrol and diesel prices in late 2019 exerted further upward pressure, particularly in structurally deficit areas. Localized shortfalls in production in southern districts led to relatively tighter supplies and resulted in prices that were above the national average in these areas. Prices are expected to come under downward pressure from April with the 2020 harvest, which is forecast to surpass the previous year’s above-average level, reflecting conducive weather conditions.

Malawi | Maize

Growth Rate (\%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>to 01/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Malawi, National Average, Retail, Maize

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Price increases picked up following small decreases in December
Following a brief decline in December 2019, prices of maize grain continued their long term increasing trend that began in mid-2019 and, by January, they were double their year-earlier levels. The elevated prices were mostly the result of reduced market supplies, due to the impact of two cyclones that caused widespread losses of the 2019 maize crop in some of the most productive agricultural regions. In addition, drought conditions in the south also led to localized shortages of grains in 2019 and current adverse weather conditions that have negatively affected the 2020 crop are likely to sustain pressure on prices in the coming months.

Prices of wheat flour decreased in February but still high
Prices of key staple, wheat flour, decreased in February following Government distribution programmes at subsidized prices and with the imminent onset of the new harvest. The 2020 wheat harvest will begin in the main producing provinces of Sindh in March and Punjab in April and is estimated at a near-average level on account of conducive weather conditions and adequate supplies of agricultural inputs. The positive supply outlook pushed the Government to shelve the decision made in late January to allow the private sector to import 300 000 tonnes of wheat. The recent decline in wheat prices contributed to a deceleration in the general inflation rate, which had reached a nine-year high in January 2020. However, prices of wheat and wheat flour remained high in most markets after the steady increases in the past months, underpinned by tighter market availabilities. In order to boost its strategic reserves of wheat, the Government announced the procurement of 8.25 million tonnes of wheat at higher support prices (FPMA Food Policies).

Prices of food at exceptionally high levels
In the capital, Juba, prices of maize declined slightly for the second consecutive month in February as the second season harvest, recently concluded in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, and imports increased market availabilities, while prices of sorghum and cassava remained unchanged. By contrast, prices of wheat flour and groundnuts increased. Food prices were overall at exceptionally high levels in February, with those of coarse grains 50 percent higher on a yearly basis and nearly 20 times above their values in July 2015, before the currency collapse. The high level of food prices is driven by an overall difficult macro-economic situation, coupled with inadequate domestic supplies, high transport costs and the lingering impact of prolonged conflict. Torrential rains triggered widespread flooding in several cropping areas in late 2019, resulting in significant crop losses and trade disruptions, which contributed to sustain the high level of prices. According to the preliminary findings of the 2019 FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission, 2019 aggregate cereal production is estimated at about 818 500 tonnes, 10 percent above the 2018 output but 4 percent below the average of the previous five years.
**DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS cont’d**

**Sudan | Staple foods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>14.4</td>
<td>-2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices of staple foods increase and at record highs

Prices of locally grown sorghum and millet continued to soar in February in spite of the recently concluded 2019 harvest. Prices of imported wheat also rose further in February, with the Government continuing to subsidise bread prices. Prices of cereals reached record highs, more than twice the already high levels of one year earlier. The high level of prices was mainly triggered by a poor 2019 cereal output and a weak currency, coupled with fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs. According to the findings of the Government-led 2019 Annual Crop and Food Supply Assessment Mission (GIEWS Special Report), 2019 coarse grains production is estimated at about 5.2 million tonnes, 36 percent below the bumper 2018 output and 18 percent below the average of the previous five years. The main driver of the production shortfall was a combination of prolonged dry spells in July followed by heavy late season rains, which triggered widespread floods. Severe pest infestations further affected yields.

**United Republic of Tanzania | Maize**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices of maize growing to significantly high levels

Prices of maize declined in February in Iringa and Dar es Salaam markets with the secondary “Vuli” harvest recently concluded in northeastern bi-modal rainfall areas. However, prices remained at high levels, up to twice their values a year earlier, mainly due to strong export demand from East and Southern African countries. In addition, a slightly below-average 2019 cereal production, following localized production shortfalls in northeastern and central areas affected by dry spells, contributed to the upward pressure. Further support to prices was also provided by trade disruptions caused by heavy rains in late 2019.

**Zambia | Maize**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 02/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prices of maize stable but still at record or near-record highs

Prices of maize grain and maize products remained stable in February, following persistent increases since mid-2019. At their February levels, however, prices were up to twice their year-earlier values and at, or close to, record highs. The broadly stable month-on-month prices partly reflect the effects of price controls introduced in 2019, which helped to contain upward pressure from the tight supply situation. Additionally, prospects for the 2020 maize crop, and consequently the supply outlook, have improved in recent months, reflecting conducive weather conditions, and further contributed to tempering price rises in February.

Price warning level: 🌟 High 🌟 Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Zimbabwe | Cereals

Prices of maize decreased in the past months but still well above year-earlier levels

Prices of maize meal declined in December and January, reflecting the impact of price subsidies introduced in late 2019 and increased volumes of imports, following the removal of import restrictions for Genetically Modified (GM) grains. Between December 2019 and February 2020, 155,000 tonnes of maize were imported from South Africa, compared to the negligible volumes since the start of the marketing year in May. Prices were, however, still up to 17 times above their year-earlier values, with the highest prices recorded in Masvingo Province that has some of the highest level of food insecurity in the country. The elevated levels were mainly the result of sustained currency weakness and overall tight national supplies. Production expectations for the 2020 crop have also been curbed by a continuation of poorly distributed rains. If the harvest remains at a well below-average level for a second consecutive year, prices of grains are expected to come under sustained upward pressure in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Growth Rate (%)</th>
<th>to 01/20</th>
<th>Same period average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Zimbabwe, Harare, Retail, Bread
WEST AFRICA

Prices of coarse grains generally stable in the subregion

In Sahelian countries, overall good market supplies from the 2019 harvests contributed to keep prices of coarse grains relatively stable in February, with the exception of the conflict-affected areas where markets are disrupted and availabilities remain limited. The closure of Nigeria’s land borders since late August 2019 continued to have a significant impact on regional marketing activities, causing upward pressure on prices in neighbouring markets. In Burkina Faso, prices of millet and sorghum remained broadly unchanged in February and down from a year earlier on account of good domestic availabilities. In Mali, prices of millet held steady, while those of sorghum mostly increased in line with historical patterns. Prices, however, remained lower than their year-earlier values. In Niger, prices of millet and sorghum increased seasonally in February, with upward pressure exacerbated by trade flow disruptions because of the closure of Nigeria’s land borders. In these countries, demand for institutional purchases and stock rebuilding provided some upward pressure on prices. In addition, while domestic availabilities are overall satisfactory, persisting high level of insecurity continued to hamper normal market functioning and affect produce availabilities in some areas. In Chad, prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in January; despite adequate cereal availabilities at the national level, the Libyan border closure and conflict continued to disrupt market activities and support prices in several markets. In Senegal, prices of millet began to decline in January in some markets with new supplies from the recent harvest and regular internal trade flows. Prices, however, remained higher than a year earlier mainly driven by the slight decline in the 2019 output. In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize in February increased seasonally in Ghana with demand for institutional purchases contributing to the upward pressure. Similarly, in Togo, prices increased seasonally in February. By contrast, prices of maize decreased in Benin in most markets in February, reflecting good domestic supplies from the recent second season harvest and reduced sales to Nigerian buyers following the border closure. In Nigeria, prices of locally produced cereals generally strengthened in January reflecting stronger demand for domestic produce after the decline in imports due to the land borders closure. By contrast, prices of imported rice showed signs of decline in January, after significant increases in the past months. Insecurity continued to hamper normal trade activities and affect market availabilities in the northeast.

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Niger

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niamey, Millet (local)</td>
<td>21 500.00</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niamey, Sorghum (local)</td>
<td>20 500.00</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Afrique verte

Retail prices of millet in Senegal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFA Franc BCEAO per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louga</td>
<td>266.00</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaolack</td>
<td>215.00</td>
<td>-6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diourbel</td>
<td>239.00</td>
<td>-2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatick</td>
<td>264.00</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Agence Nationale de la Statistique et la Démographie (ANSD)

Retail prices of maize in Togo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CFA Franc BCEAO per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lomé</td>
<td>155.00</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korbongou</td>
<td>148.00</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amegnran</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anie</td>
<td>130.00</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Ministère de l’Agriculture, de l’Élevage et de la Pêche

Wholesale prices of maize in Nigeria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Naira per 100 kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>9 290.00</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maiduguri</td>
<td>8 966.67</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>10 700.00</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaura Namoda</td>
<td>9 220.00</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): FEWSNET

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)
Prices of maize cease to rise sharply but remain high

Prices of maize ceased to rise sharply or declined in the past two months reflecting improved prospects for the 2020 harvest, increased imports that bolstered domestic supplies and the effects of policies aimed to stabilize prices. In Zimbabwe, prices of maize meal dropped in some markets in December and January. The recent decreases came amid a considerable increase in import quantities from South Africa following the removal of import restrictions for Genetically Modified (GM) grain. The Government’s price subsidy scheme for maize meal products, introduced at the end of 2019, also prevented larger increases in prices. However, prices of maize meal were still at near or record high levels in January, reflecting the impact of sustained currency weakness and overall tight domestic cereal supplies. Prices of maize in Zambia remained broadly stable in February, as the effects of price controls introduced in 2019 helped to contain the upward pressure from the tight supply situation. Prospects for the 2020 maize crop have improved in recent months thanks to conducive weather conditions, an additional factor that contributed to tempering further the price rises. In Mozambique, high prices prevailed across the country, mainly reflecting lower supplies due to shortfalls in production from the 2019 season. Prices are likely to come under continued supply pressure this year after adverse weather conditions affected the 2020 crops and diminished harvest expectations. Similarly, in Malawi, prices of maize grain were higher, year on year, with the national average price of maize grain almost double its value in January last year. In South Africa, improved seasonal rains since January, combined with an increase in the area planted to maize, are expected to result in a strong production increase, with the 2020 output foreseen at a well above-average level. This led to a dip in maize prices in February, although they remained slightly higher on a yearly basis due to comparatively tighter supplies. Prices of maize in import dependent, Eswatini, and Namibia, remained mostly stable in the preceding months, mostly on account of domestic market regulations. In Madagascar, retail prices of rice fell moderately, due to improved market availabilities, as the minor first season harvest is underway. Compared to the previous year, reflecting the recovery in crop production in 2019 and increased domestic supplies, prices were lower.
Retail prices of maize in Malawi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kwacha per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mzuzu</td>
<td>298.40</td>
<td>23.9 58.7 78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nsanje</td>
<td>360.00</td>
<td>10.8 46.3 83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>339.20</td>
<td>7.4 33.5 98.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security/IFPRI

Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rand per tonne</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Randfontein, Maize (white)</td>
<td>2 830.50</td>
<td>-3.3 3.9 3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randfontein, Maize (yellow)</td>
<td>2 668.25</td>
<td>-4.6 0.1 2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lilangeni per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National average</td>
<td>9.32</td>
<td>2.2 2.2 10.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hhohho</td>
<td>10.40</td>
<td>8.3 8.3 8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lubombo</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>0.0 0.0 8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shiselweni</td>
<td>10.40</td>
<td>0.0 0.0 8.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Central Statistical Office (CSO)

Retail prices of maize meal in Namibia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Namibia Dollar per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Windhoek</td>
<td>12.41</td>
<td>-0.3 -3.7 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swakopmund</td>
<td>12.94</td>
<td>3.5 -0.5 -1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otjiwarongo</td>
<td>12.72</td>
<td>0.0 -1.3 3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gobabis</td>
<td>11.40</td>
<td>0.0 0.0 -5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Namibia Statistics Agency

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Prices of coarse grains generally declined in February but still relatively high

In most countries of the subregion, prices of coarse grains declined seasonally in February as the recently completed second season harvests increased market supplies. Prices remained, however, well above those a year earlier across the subregion due to reduced first/main season harvests and to the difficult macro-economic situation in the Sudan and South Sudan. In addition, heavy rains in late 2019, which disrupted agricultural and marketing activities, contributed to sustain the high level of prices in several countries. In Uganda, prices of maize declined seasonally for the second consecutive month in February as newly harvested second season crops increased market availabilities. However, prices remained above their year-earlier levels, mainly due to a reduced first season harvest and strong exports to Kenya and South Sudan. Similarly, in Rwanda and Burundi, prices of maize declined further in February, and at a steep rate, as “2020A” season crops continued to boost market supplies. Prices remained higher than a year earlier, supported in Rwanda by the impact of the closure of border custom posts with Uganda. In Kenya, prices of maize declined in February in Mombasa market, located on the coast, where the secondary season “short-rains” crops were recently harvested, while they remained virtually unchanged or weakened elsewhere. Prices in February were significantly higher than a year earlier, mainly due to substantial shortfalls in production from the main “long-rains” harvest, concluded in late 2019. In South Sudan, prices of maize weakened for the second consecutive month in February as the second season harvest, recently completed in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, increased market availabilities, while prices of sorghum remained stable. Overall, prices of coarse grains in February lingered at exceptionally high levels, mainly due to a difficult macro-economic situation and the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict. In Somalia, prices of sorghum continued to decline in January with the secondary “Deyr” harvest, recently completed and estimated at an above-average level. By contrast, prices of maize increased in the main producing area of the Lower Shabelle Region, where floods resulted in substantial production shortfalls. Overall, prices of sorghum and maize were higher than in the same month last year due to a tight supply situation following a poor 2019 main “Gu” harvest. In the United Republic of Tanzania, prices of maize declined in February with the secondary “Vuli” harvest but remained well above their year-earlier values, mainly due to strong export demand. In Ethiopia, prices of maize declined in December and in January as the recently completed “Meher” harvest increased market supplies. Despite the recent declines, however, prices were still higher, on a yearly basis, mainly due to the depreciation of the country’s currency, which resulted in increased transport and production costs. The notable exception to the general decline in cereal prices is the Sudan, where values of sorghum and millet surged in February, in spite of the recently concluded 2019 harvest, and were at exceptionally high levels, due to a poor output and a weak currency, coupled with fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs.

Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Uganda Shilling per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price Feb-20</th>
<th>Percent Change 1M</th>
<th>Percent Change 3M</th>
<th>Percent Change 1Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kampala</td>
<td>920.34</td>
<td>-16.9</td>
<td>-19.3</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lira</td>
<td>814.26</td>
<td>-14.5</td>
<td>-27.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabale</td>
<td>991.86</td>
<td>-5.6</td>
<td>-10.1</td>
<td>33.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masindi</td>
<td>821.18</td>
<td>-13.8</td>
<td>-23.8</td>
<td>37.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Burundi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burundi Franc per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price Feb-20</th>
<th>Percent Change 1M</th>
<th>Percent Change 3M</th>
<th>Percent Change 1Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bujumbura</td>
<td>1 025.05</td>
<td>-13.6</td>
<td>-13.1</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gitega</td>
<td>958.34</td>
<td>-19.8</td>
<td>-6.9</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ngozi</td>
<td>852.62</td>
<td>-25.9</td>
<td>-28.1</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)
Kenyan Shilling per tonne

- Nakuru: 31,019.00, 0.0, -0.2, 70.0
- Eldore: 34,334.00, -0.5, -1.2, 80.2
- Nairobi: 36,643.00, -0.6, -8.2, 35.3
- Mombasa: 34,946.00, -5.8, 37.8

Source: Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

South Sudanese Pound per 3.5 kg

- Juba, Maize (white): 460.00, -2.7, -5.5, 44.7
- Juba, Sorghum (Feterita): 497.00, 0.4, 0.6, 54.8

Source: Crop & Livestock Market Information System (CLIMIS)

Somali Shilling per kg

- Mogadishu, Sorghum (red): 8,650.00, 1.5, -7.0, 0.0
- Mogadishu, Maize (white): 8,650.00, -4.3, -3.6, 31.1
- Marka, Maize (white): 7,825.00, 2.3, -2.2, 23.6
- Baidoa, Sorghum (red): 5,975.00, -8.1, -14.0, 18.3

Source: Food Security Analysis Unit

Sudanese Pound per tonne

- Khartoum, Millet: 45,650.00, 12.2, 28.2, 124.3
- Khartoum, Sorghum (Feterita): 29,012.50, 13.7, 49.6, 146.8
- El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita): 29,278.37, 12.4, 68.3, 134.5
- Nyala, Millet: 41,662.50, 10.3, 68.3, 96.8

Source: Food Security information for Action (SIFSIA)

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Prices of rice show mixed trends, while those of wheat remain stable

With a few exceptions, prices of rice generally followed seasonal trends in February, strengthening in countries where new harvests are about to start and remaining stable or declining in others on account of good market supplies from the recent harvests. In Viet Nam, prices of rice firm up in February ahead of the 2020 main "winter/spring" harvest, about to start. Seasonal upward pressure in Myanmar was compounded by large exports in recent months. In Thailand, a reduced main crop and unfavourable prospects for the soon-to-be harvested 2019/20 secondary crops underpinned a third consecutive monthly price increase in February, and kept values above their year-earlier levels. Prices were relatively stable in India despite the bumper main "Kharif" outturn, due to large ongoing Government procurement purchases, while in Cambodia, good market availabilities from the 2019 main season harvest led to a decline in prices. In China (Mainland), prices of rice lingered at levels below those a year earlier, weighed by adequate market availabilities. Good domestic supplies contributed to keep prices under downward pressure and lower than a year earlier in the Philippines. Similarly, in Sri Lanka, the onset of the 2020 main "Maha" season crop, estimated at an above-average level, led to a significant price decline in February. Prices, however, remained more than 15 percent higher, year on year, after consecutive increases in the past months, underpinned by lower imports and a reduced secondary "Yala" crop. By contrast, prices increased in Bangladesh, but remained well below their year-earlier levels, following the record production last year. As for wheat and wheat flour, prices were mostly stable in February, while they declined in Pakistan, following Government distribution programmes at subsidised prices and favourable production prospects for the 2020 wheat harvest, about to start. Prices, however, remained higher, year on year, after steady increases in the past months. In India, the national average wheat price moved slightly up in February, ahead of the 2020 harvest, which is about to start and is officially estimated at a record level. Prices were generally stable in China (Mainland), reflecting adequate market availabilities from the near-record harvest last year. In Bangladesh, large imports, coupled with the Government’s Open Market Sales (OMS) at subsidised prices and favourable prospects for the 2020 wheat crop, to be harvested from late March, weighed on prices and kept them slightly below their levels a year earlier. Adequate imports contributed to keep prices under downward pressure also in Sri Lanka. Prices of wheat flour were generally stable, although higher than in February last year, also in Afghanistan, which relies on imports from Kazakhstan and Pakistan.
Wholesale prices of rice in China

Yuan Renminbi per tonne

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangzhou, Rice (Indica)</td>
<td>4 000.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubei, Rice (Indica)</td>
<td>3 840.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiujiang, Rice (Indica)</td>
<td>3 750.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Rice</td>
<td>3 783.75</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): CnAgri - China Agriculture Consultant

Retail prices of rice in the Philippines

Philippine Peso per kg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Rice</td>
<td>36.32</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(regular milled)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Rice</td>
<td>41.23</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(well milled)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Rupee per kg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo, Rice (white)</td>
<td>101.82</td>
<td>-4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombo, Wheat (flour)</td>
<td>92.55</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Department of Census and Statistics

Retail prices of wheat flour in Pakistan

Pakistan Rupee per kg

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karachi</td>
<td>55.81</td>
<td>-7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lahore</td>
<td>40.25</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peshawar</td>
<td>45.10</td>
<td>-12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multan</td>
<td>40.25</td>
<td>-4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)
Domestic prices of wheat generally stable across the subregion

After increasing in the previous four months, export prices of milling wheat decreased in the Russian Federation and in Ukraine in February following trends in the international market and a general slowdown in export sales. In both countries, prices were nearly 10 percent below those a year earlier amid good domestic availabilities from the 2019 above-average outputs. By contrast, in Kazakhstan, export prices of milling wheat increased by about 6 percent in February, reaching the highest levels since August 2015. The recent increase was underpinned by an uptick in demand from neighbouring countries amid reduced exportable availabilities, following the below-average output last year. In the domestic markets, prices of wheat grain and wheat flour remained stable or increased slightly in all exporting countries. However, while they were generally below their values a year earlier, in the Russian Federation and in Ukraine, retail prices of wheat flour averaged some 30 percent higher than in February last year in Kazakhstan, mainly due to the reduced wheat output last year. In the importing countries of the subregion, retail prices of wheat flour also remained generally stable in February and were higher than a year earlier. In Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, although prices held steady or weakened in February, they were well above their values in February last year, mainly due to higher export quotations from Kazakhstan, the countries’ main wheat supplier. Prices continued strengthening in Georgia and were higher than in February last year, sustained by the past months’ increase in export prices from the Russian Federation and currency depreciation. Similarly, prices of wheat flour strengthened seasonally in Belarus in January and were more than 10 percent above those a year earlier. Prices remained virtually unchanged in Armenia, while they decreased in Azerbaijan amid good supplies from the 2019 harvest (GIEWS Country Brief) and imports, which in 2019 were officially reported to be about 47 percent higher than in 2018. With regard to potatoes, another key staple in the subregion, prices generally increased in February, rising significantly above their year-earlier values in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, but remaining lower year on year in Armenia and the Russian Federation. Prices of potatoes stayed unchanged in Georgia, but at levels above those in February last year due to a reduced volume and lower quality of the crop produced in the past season. In January, prices of potatoes rose seasonally in Belarus, while they decreased in Azerbaijan.

Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries

Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan

Source(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

For more information visit the FPMA website here.
CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE cont’d

Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somoni per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M 3M 1Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khujand</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>-1.8 -5.3 9.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kurgonteppa</td>
<td>4.10</td>
<td>-2.1 -2.4 11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khorugh</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>0.7 0.7 18.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Retail prices of wheat flour in Armenia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Armenian Dram per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M 3M 1Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Wheat (flour, high grade)</td>
<td>393.09</td>
<td>0.1 0.1 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Wheat (flour, first grade)</td>
<td>215.06</td>
<td>0.0 -0.2 4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia

Retail prices of potatoes in Kyrgyzstan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Som per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M 3M 1Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average</td>
<td>22.03</td>
<td>5.7 16.7 46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishkek</td>
<td>21.54</td>
<td>6.0 18.4 52.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jalal-Abad</td>
<td>26.56</td>
<td>5.4 12.4 28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batken</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>0.0 5.2 29.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

Retail prices of potatoes in the Russian Federation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian Rouble per kg</th>
<th>Latest Price</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>1M 3M 1Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Average, Potatoes</td>
<td>22.42</td>
<td>1.7 9.3 -14.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source(s): Federal State Statistics Service

For more information visit the FPMA website here
Prices of white maize and beans mostly stable in February

In most countries of the subregion, prices of white maize were broadly stable in February and down from a year earlier on account of overall adequate domestic availabilities. In Guatemala, prices remained virtually unchanged in February and were slightly below their year-earlier levels as a result of satisfactory market availabilities stemming from the central and northern producing regions and imports from Mexico. Similarly, in El Salvador, prices remained relatively stable and were some 20 percent below those a year earlier, reflecting the year-on-year higher maize output in 2019. After the significant upturn in prices of January, the start of the “apante” season harvest led to a weakening in prices of maize in Honduras and prevented further sharp increases in Nicaragua. In Mexico, a reduced output from the main season harvest, recently completed, offset the seasonal downward pressure on prices, which remained unchanged in February. In Haiti, prices of locally produced maize meal remained relatively stable in January, but above their year-earlier levels after the sharp increases in the first half of 2019, driven by the reduced crop last year. With regard to beans, prices of red beans declined significantly in Nicaragua, as a result of new supplies from the “apante” main harvest, accounting for about 40 percent of the aggregate national output. Prices decreased further or remained relatively stable in El Salvador and Honduras, reflecting good availabilities from the recent harvests. Prices of black beans were stable in Guatemala, with markets well supplied by the good crop gathered in late 2019. Similarly, in Costa Rica, prices of black beans held relatively steady in February with availabilities from the recent second season harvest supplying markets. In the Caribbean, in Haiti, prices of black beans decreased in January in the main producing North and Grand-Anse departments, with new supplies from the third “autumn” season crop. However, prices remained above the corresponding month in 2019 due to the reduced first and second season outputs. In the Dominican Republic, prices of black beans were stable in February but higher than a year earlier after the increases in late 2019.
Prices of wheat and maize on the increase

In several countries of the subregion, prices of wheat and maize rose in February and were above their values in the corresponding month last year. In Argentina, the main producer of the subregion, wholesale prices of wheat increased for the second consecutive month and were higher than in February last year due to sustained demand from exporters and from the domestic industry. Retail prices of wheat-derived products also continued to increase and were higher, year on year, amid high general inflation and strong wheat grain values. After a seasonal decline in January, in Uruguay and Chile, prices increased in February and were higher, year on year, supported by the depreciation of the currencies in both countries. In Brazil, a net importer of wheat, prices continued to rise and were higher than a year earlier due to higher export quotations from Argentina, a weaker currency and the reduced 2019 output. In other importing countries, prices held relatively stable in February and were below or around their year-earlier levels in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador and Peru. Prices of imported wheat flour remained steady also in Colombia but were higher on a yearly basis, partly due to the depreciation of the country’s currency. Regarding yellow maize, in Argentina, prices weakened in February, pressured by the favourable 2020 production prospects, with reported good yields from early-harvested crops. By contrast, in Brazil, despite the ongoing first season harvest, prices generally increased, particularly in the key producing state of Rio Grande do Sul, where crop yields were adversely affected by hot and dry weather. In Bolivia (Plurinational State of), prices of maize increased further in February, with the seasonal upward pressure exacerbated by excessive rainfall in early February that affected crops. This, together with a decline in maize production in 2019, kept prices above their year-earlier levels. Similarly, in Uruguay and Chile, prices of maize increased slightly in the past month in line with seasonal trends, while they declined in Colombia and Ecuador. With regard to rice, in Brazil, the subregion’s main producer, prices declined in February in the key producing state of Rio Grande do Sul following the start of the harvest. In Colombia, prices rose for the fourth consecutive month, with seasonal upward pressure recently exacerbated by concerns over the impact of high temperatures on crops in key producing areas. Prices were over 30 percent higher, year on year, mainly due to strong local demand and rising costs of basic inputs. Prices of rice were up from a year earlier also in Peru and Uruguay mostly as a result of reduced outputs in 2019.
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 March 2020.

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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00153 Rome, Italy
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