



MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

- International grain prices registered strong increases in September on production concerns and diminishing inventories, while international rice prices fell across the board amid slowdown in export demand and sales as well as the approaching main harvests in the Northern Hemisphere.
- In East Africa, prices of coarse grains generally increased in September following seasonal patterns. In most countries, prices were around their year-earlier levels, except in the Sudan and South Sudan, where they reached new record highs in several markets, underpinned by currency weakness and flood-related trade disruptions.
- In West Africa, prices of coarse grains in Nigeria continued their marked upward surge of the past few months as a result of the macro-economic environment and disruption to the supply chains due to the restrictive measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Domestic price warnings

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



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

Conforms to the UN World map, February 2020

Argentina | Food items
Bangladesh | Rice
Brazil | Cereals
Haiti | Staple foods
Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour
Nigeria | Food items
Pakistan | Wheat flour
South Sudan | Staple foods
Sudan | Staple foods
Tajikistan | Wheat flour
Zimbabwe | Food items

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

International prices of wheat and maize rose sharply in September but those of rice edged down

International prices of **wheat** made solid gains in September underpinned by brisk trade activity amidst increased uncertainties over production prospects in Argentina and Australia, and dry conditions adversely affecting winter sowing in many parts of Europe. Continued strong export sales and a generally tighter domestic supply situation than earlier anticipated resulted in a sharp increase in the benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.), which averaged USD 246 per tonne in September, up 12 percent from August and 23 percent higher than the corresponding month last year. Driven by faster pace in sales, particularly to Egypt, export quotations in the Black Sea also registered notable gains, rising by more than 11 percent since August.

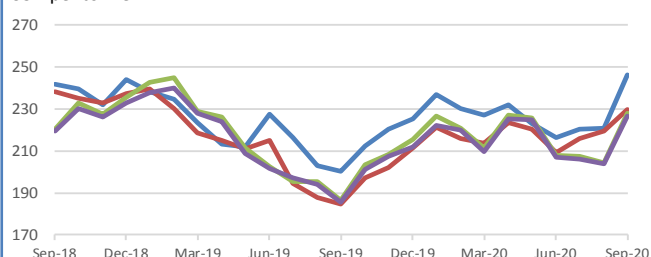
Export prices of all major coarse grains also increased significantly in September with the price of **maize**, the largest traded coarse grain, registering double-digit increases, in response to reduced production prospects, especially in the European Union, and lower inventories in the United States of America. Complimented with continued large sales to China (mainland), the benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) prices averaged USD 165 per tonne in September, up 12 percent from August and 5 percent from September 2019. In Argentina, concerns about

drier-than-normal weather conditions and recent currency control measures, which were expected to push up input costs, also lifted maize export prices by as much as 13 percent, month on month. Deteriorating production outlooks in the Russian Federation and Ukraine provided support to the Black Sea export values, which were up 4 percent from August.

By contrast, international prices of **rice** subsided in all the major market segments. This was reflected in the FAO All Rice Price Index (2014-2016=100), which averaged 111.6 points in September, down 1.4 percent from August. In Asia, September quotations of Indica rice fell the most in Pakistan and Viet Nam. In the former, declines coincided with the onset of the 2020 harvest, while in Viet Nam the partial relapse in export quotations was linked to concerns over the issuance of import licenses in the Philippines. By contrast, prices firmed in Thailand, as increasingly tighter exportable availabilities outweighed the downward pressure from low buying interest. Ahead of the launch of the "Kharif" harvest, African purchases also raised parboiled values in India, but prices of other grades either steadied or fell mildly as demand remained otherwise thin. In the United States of America, harvest progress lowered Indica quotations some more.

International wheat prices

USD per tonne

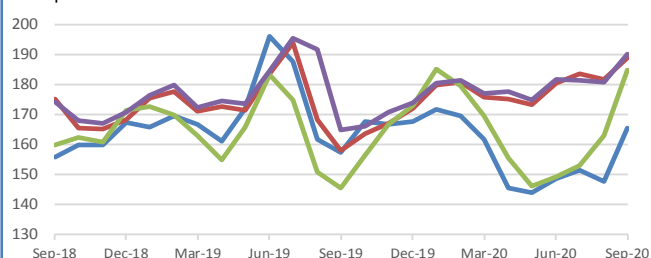


Source(s): International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	246.40	11.6	13.9	22.9
European Union (France), Wheat (grade 1)	229.80	4.7	9.8	24.6
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	227.75	11.4	9.5	22.1
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	226.75	11.3	9.5	22.2

International maize prices

USD per tonne

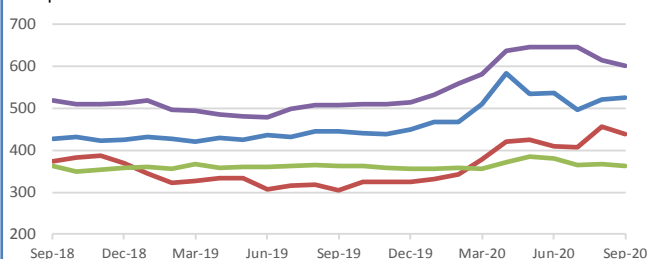


Source(s): USDA; International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	165.52	11.9	11.3	5.2
Black Sea, Maize (feed)	189.00	4.0	4.8	19.6
Argentina, Maize (Argentina, Up River, f.o.b.)	184.80	13.4	23.7	27.0
Ukraine, Maize (offer, f.o.b.)	190.25	5.3	4.7	15.3

International rice prices

USD per tonne



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


	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai 100% B)	526.00	1.0	-1.9	18.5
Viet Nam, Rice (25% broken)	438.75	-3.7	7.0	44.4
India, Rice (25% broken)	362.50	-1.4	-4.6	-0.1
United States of America, Rice (US Long Grain 2.4%)	600.25	-2.3	-7.1	18.2

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](https://www.fpmabulletin.com)

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

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 08/20	Same period average
3 months	0.3	-0.1
12 months	 1.5	-0.2


Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Argentina, Greater Buenos Aires, Retail, Beef meat

Retail prices of food items increased sharply in August and up on a year earlier

Retail prices of food items in August recorded the strongest increase in five months, mainly reflecting the upward revision of the price ceilings in mid-July, which were introduced in March 2020 as a response to rising prices amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the food items, retail prices of **meat** increased the most, while the prices of **vegetables, tubers, beans and fruits** also generally increased. By contrast, prices of **wheat products** weakened, though only moderately. In general, food prices remained well above those a year earlier amid overall strong inflationary pressure coupled with the sustained depreciation of the country's currency, which lost nearly 40 percent of its value against the United States dollar over the past 12 months.

Bangladesh | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	0.7	-0.1
12 months	 2.4	-0.5



Compound growth rate in real terms.

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

Rice prices well above those a year earlier

Prices of **rice** in the Dhaka market increased further in September, reflecting seasonal patterns exacerbated by concerns over the impact of unfavourable weather conditions on the 2020 "Aman" harvest, which accounts for about 35 percent of the total annual output. Yields from this season's crop are expected to be reduced due to a succession of adverse weather events, starting from excessive precipitation in March and April, followed by Tropical Cyclone Amphan in May and recurrent widespread and severe floods in July and August, which damaged the paddy crop throughout different development stages. Given the latest two months' successive increases, on top of the upward surge earlier in the year in response to strong demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic, by September, prices were more than 25 percent higher than a year earlier.

Brazil | Cereals

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	 9.3	1.2
12 months	 4.0	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Wholesale, Rice (milled, fine long-grain, type 1)


Prices of cereals at high levels due to large exports and a weak currency

Prices of **rice** rose sharply in September, although a slowdown in the increase was reported towards the end of the month, following the announcement of a temporary suspension of the tariff on rice imports from non-Mercosur countries. As of September, prices were more than 60 percent higher year on year, largely reflecting the upward pressure from a sharp increase in domestic demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic but, also driven by strong export sales in the March-August period. Prices of yellow **maize** also increased in September, despite the recent completion of the main harvest, estimated at a record high, due to slow farmer selling and high demand from the feed and ethanol industries. Prices were well above their year-earlier values reflecting strong exports, spurred by the weaker currency, which lost nearly 35 percent of its value against the United States dollar over the past year. With regard to **wheat**, prices weakened in September with the start of the 2020 harvest. However, they were some 35 percent higher than a year earlier reflecting uncertain production prospects due to frost and wet conditions during the critical period of grain-filling stages in some key cropping areas. The country's weak currency also contributed to higher year-on-year prices, as it made imports costlier.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Haiti | Staple foods


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 08/20	Same period average
3 months	3.5	0.3
12 months	 1.8	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Haiti, Port-au-Prince, Retail, Rice (imported)

Prices of staple food on a continuous rise amid low availabilities and a weak currency

Prices of **maize meal** increased in August despite the ongoing main “spring” harvest due to the reduced output and high production costs, associated with the depreciation of the local currency. With domestic supplies already tight after a poor output gathered in 2019, prices remained higher year on year. The resurgence of socio-political turmoil in recent months, exerted additional upward pressure on prices. Prices of **black beans**, which have been increasing since early 2020, continued to rise in August, due to low market availabilities exacerbated by the closure of the border with the Dominican Republic. Similarly, prices of **rice**, which is mostly imported, increased in August on account of a decline in imports in the April-July period compared to the same period last year. The depreciation of the country’s currency, which lost about 20 percent of its value against the United States dollar over the past year, kept prices of rice well above their year-earlier levels.

Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	0.4	0.6
12 months	 2.2	-0.2

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

Prices of wheat flour overall stable in September but at levels above those a year earlier

Retail prices of first grade **wheat flour** remained relatively stable in most markets in September amid adequate domestic supplies from the ongoing harvest, output of which is expected to recover from the low level of 2019 ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)). However, prices remained well above their values a year earlier, after sharply increasing in March and April 2020, following an upsurge in consumer demand due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic and export limitations in Kazakhstan, the country’s key supplier. The depreciation of the local currency, which lost over 10 percent of its value against the United States dollar since the beginning of 2020 and higher export quotations from Kazakhstan also supported the increase in prices. Government efforts to counter over-pricing during the COVID-19 pandemic, including temporary ceilings on the prices of food items, a halt on exports of wheat grain and flour as well as large funds allocated to replenish its reserves, contributed to the overall price stability of the past few months.

Nigeria | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 08/20	Same period average
3 months	 10.7	1.6
12 months	 4.5	-0.8

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


Steep growth in food prices continues in August

Prices of **food items** continued their marked upward surge of the past few months as a result of the macro-economic environment and disruptions to the supply chain due to the restrictive measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of food items in August in general reached levels well above those a year earlier in most markets, with peaks in the conflict-affected areas of the northeast where, in addition to economic factors, market activities are further hampered by persistent insecurity. The situation remains further aggravated by the border closure with neighbouring countries, introduced last year to curb the smuggling of imported rice and maize. The macro-economic environment is characterized by the continued depreciation of the local currency, the decline in foreign reserves and the high general inflation rate, which reached 13.22 percent in August, the highest rate since March 2018.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Pakistan | Wheat flour


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	 5.0	0.6
12 months	 1.7	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Pakistan, Karachi, Retail, Wheat (flour)

Prices of wheat flour increased further in September and at record or near-record highs

Prices of **wheat flour**, a key staple food, increased further in September, reflecting seasonal patterns exacerbated by tight market supplies, and reached record or near-record highs. The lower-than-anticipated production in 2020 failed to alleviate the tight market availabilities caused by a combination of below-average 2018 and 2019 outputs, as well as strong exports and low procurement in 2019. In addition, increases in the prices of gas and petroleum products in August 2020 provided further support to wheat flour prices. In an effort to curb further price increases, the Government has taken several measures to boost domestic availabilities, including the approval to purchase 180 000 tonnes of wheat flour from the Russian Federation on a government-to-government basis and the tendering for 1.5 million tonnes of wheat flour through the government-run Trading Corporation. In addition, private imports will also be allowed exempt from duties and taxes ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). As of early October 2020, the private sector had imported some 430 000 tonnes of wheat.

South Sudan | Staple foods



Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	-4.9	-8.8
12 months	 4.7	-1.1

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

Food prices further increasing and at exceptionally high levels

In the capital, Juba, prices of **maize** and **sorghum** resumed their upward trend in September after having declined in recent months, driven by a further sharp depreciation of the local currency on the parallel market. Prices of other food staples, including **cassava**, **groundnuts** and imported **wheat**, also increased. Food prices were at exceptionally high levels in September, with those of sorghum and maize about 60 and 70 percent, respectively, above their already high year-earlier values and 30 times above those in July 2015, before the currency collapse. Underlying the high food prices is the continuously difficult macro-economic situation, related to low foreign currency reserves and the continued depreciation of the country's currency. More recently, in the first half of 2020, COVID-19-related disruptions to the local markets and trade, already hampered by the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict, provided further support, as did the lower imports due to the border screening implemented by the Government of Uganda. In other monitored markets, prices sharply increased as widespread floods disrupted trade flows. For example, prices of sorghum surged in August and September in Wau (Western Bahr el Ghazal State) and Rumbek (Lakes State) by about 65 and 50 percent, respectively.

Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	 9.9	0.1
12 months	 6.7	0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Sudan, Nyala, Wholesale, Millet


Prices of staple foods continued to surge in September

Prices of locally grown **sorghum** and **millet** continued to surge in September and reached new record highs, as seasonal upward pressure was compounded by a further depreciation of the country's currency on the parallel market and by flood-related trade disruptions. Prices of **wheat**, mostly imported, also increased to record highs in all monitored markets, including the capital, Khartoum. Prices of grains were at exceptionally high levels in September, about three times above the already high values a year earlier. The sustained increasing trend started in late 2017 due to the difficult macro-economic situation, coupled with fuel shortages and the high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs. In 2020, tight supplies following a poor 2019 cereal output and disruptions to marketing and trading activities related to the measures implemented to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, provided further upward pressure on prices.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Tajikistan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 09/20	Same period average
3 months	-0.9	1.1
12 months	 2.9	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Tajikistan, National Average, Retail, Wheat (flour, first grade)

Prices of wheat flour generally stable in September but still up on a year earlier

Retail prices of first grade **wheat flour** remained relatively stable for the second consecutive month in September, after dropping in June and July with the start of the 2020 winter harvest and the easing of the COVID-19-related restrictive measures. Government price stabilization initiatives, including a temporary export ban on wheat grain and flour and the release of produce from its strategic reserves, contributed to the downward pressure on prices. Prices, however, remained well above their levels of September last year, following the steep increases recorded between March and May 2020 due to the upsurge in consumer demand amid concerns over the pandemic, market disruptions and export restrictions in the subregion. Increased export quotations from Kazakhstan, the country's key supplier, also contributed to the higher year-on-year prices.

Zimbabwe | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 08/20	Same period average
3 months	n.a.	n.a.
12 months	n.a.	n.a.

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Zimbabwe, Harare, Retail, Maize meal

Food inflation slowed but prices remained at high levels

Prices of **foods** continued to climb in August but at a substantially slower rate than in preceding months. On a yearly basis, prices remained significantly higher; the annual food inflation rate was estimated at 865 percent in August, but 111 percentage points less than in July. The key underlying factor behind the high prices has been the unstable and sharply weaker national currency, exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reduced domestic cereal harvests in 2019 and 2020 led to a reduction in domestic food supplies, which exerted additional upward pressure on prices and caused a substantial increase in import needs that accentuated the effects of imported inflation on domestic food prices. The Government introduced an auction exchange rate system in June to stymie further losses of the value of the currency and narrow the gap between the official and parallel market exchange rates. Statistics from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe indicate that the currency depreciation has decelerated from July, as evidenced by a slowdown in the monthly inflation rate. Notwithstanding the modest but positive impacts on food security of a slower increase in food prices, the effects of the COVID-19-related public health measures, have resulted in a widespread loss of livelihoods and income, and consequently these conditions have significantly eroded households' ability to afford foods and aggravated food insecurity.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

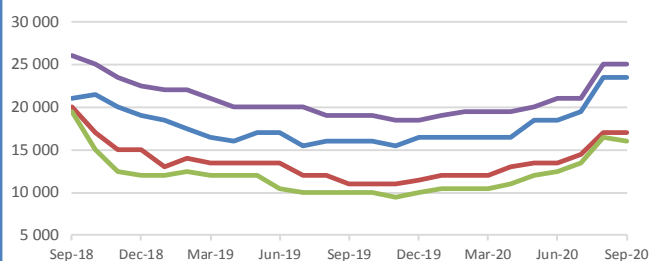
Prices of coarse grains, higher year on year, continued to increase seasonally in most countries

In most countries of the subregion, prices of coarse grains continued to increase seasonally in September, with rises amplified by persisting insecurity, high inflation rates and weakening currencies. As of early October, crop prospects remain generally favourable across the region and the harvest, to start from October, is expected to be above average and likely to put a downward pressure on prices. In **Burkina Faso**, prices of rice remained almost unchanged compared to the previous month, reflecting sufficient market supplies, while those of millet and sorghum strengthened supported by seasonally tight market availabilities ahead of the harvest scheduled to start from October. Additional upward pressure on prices was provided by institutional purchases to support the IDPs, the high import demand for millet and sorghum from the Niger and the increased transportation costs due to bad road conditions during the rainy season. Similarly, in **Mali** and **the Niger**, prices of coarse grains generally increased in September following the floods in August that reduced supplies and further hampered marketing activities and access to the markets, already disrupted by persisting insecurity. Furthermore, the closure of Nigeria's border since August 2019 continues to negatively impact cereal availability in the Niger, where prices have reached levels well above those a year earlier. In **Senegal**, prices of millet strengthened further in August and were higher year on year, mostly reflecting the seasonal reduction in market supplies and disruption to the supply chain due to the restrictive measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of rice remained stable due to the new supply from the off-season crops harvested from

the Senegal River Valley and Matam District in August and September. In **Chad**, prices of millet firmed up seasonally in most markets in August but persistent conflict and trade limitations stemming from restrictions aimed to contain the spread of the COVID19 pandemic pushed them to levels generally higher than a year earlier. By contrast, prices of sorghum remained stable since early 2020 due to the uninterrupted import flows from the Sudan and Cameroon. In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize in **Ghana** declined in September as fresh maize harvested from the main season improved availability on local markets. In **Benin** and **Togo**, prices of maize continued to generally increase in August, supported by strong domestic demand and increased exports to Sahelian countries in recent months, and were higher than their levels in August last year. In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains in August continued their marked upward surge of the past few months as a result of the macro-economic environment and disruptions to the supply chains due to the restrictive measures implemented to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The macro-economic environment is characterized by the continued depreciation of the local currency, the decline in foreign reserves and the high general inflation rate. Furthermore, a 20 percent increase in fuel prices, resulting in higher transportation costs has added to the upward pressure on prices. Prices of all cereal products were at least 50 percent higher than their year-earlier values, with peaks in the conflict-affected areas of the northeast due to the additional impact of persistent insecurity. Fresh supplies from the domestic harvest are expected to ease the upward pressure on prices from October.

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg

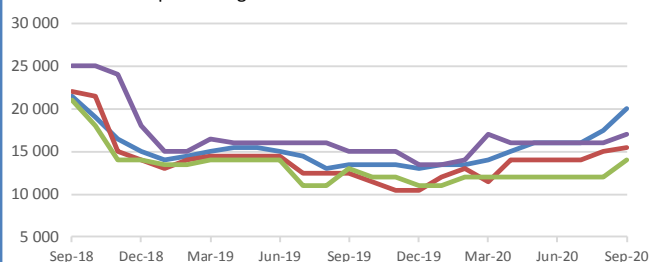


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Ouagadougou, Millet (local)	23 500.00	0.0	27.0	46.9
■ Ouagadougou, Sorghum (local)	17 000.00	0.0	25.9	54.5
■ Dédougou, Sorghum (local)	16 000.00	-3.0	28.0	60.0
■ Dori, Millet (local)	25 000.00	0.0	19.0	31.6

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg



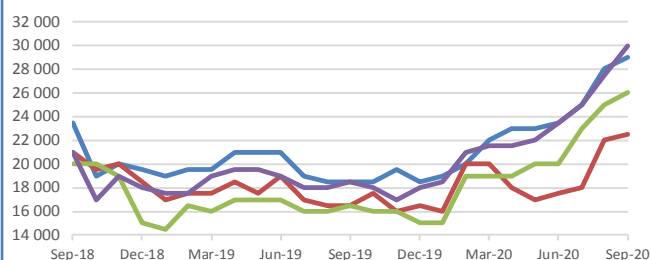
Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Bamako, Millet (local)	20 000.00	14.3	25.0	48.1
■ Bamako, Sorghum (local)	15 500.00	3.3	10.7	24.0
■ Ségou, Millet (local)	14 000.00	16.7	16.7	7.7
■ Kayes, Sorghum (local)	17 000.00	6.3	6.3	13.3

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

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Niger

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg



Source(s): Afrique verte

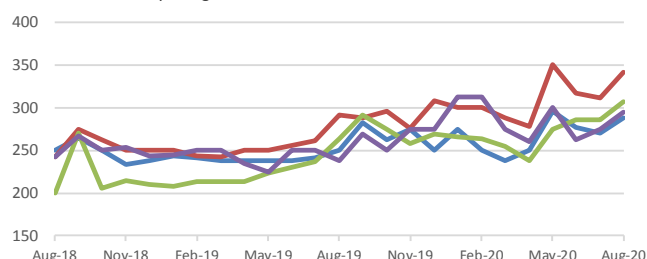
Latest Price
Sep-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

Niamey, Millet (local)	29 000.00	3.6	23.4	56.8
Niamey, Sorghum (local)	22 500.00	2.3	28.6	36.4
Zinder, Sorghum (local)	26 000.00	4.0	30.0	57.6
Zinder, Millet (local)	30 000.00	9.1	27.7	62.2

Retail prices of millet in Senegal

CFA Franc BCEAO per Kg



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

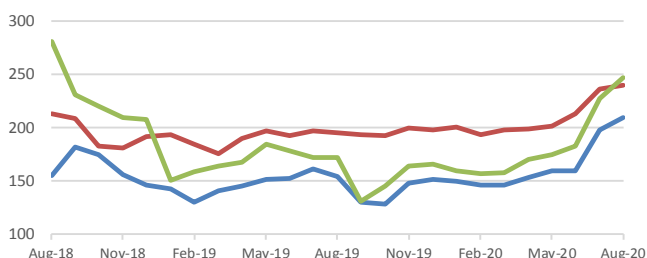
Latest Price
Aug-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

Dakar, Millet	288.00	6.7	-2.7	15.2
SaintLouis, Millet	342.00	10.0	-2.3	17.5
Louga, Millet	307.00	7.3	11.6	16.3
Matam, Millet	295.00	7.3	-1.7	23.9

Retail prices of white maize in Benin

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg



Source(s): Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE)

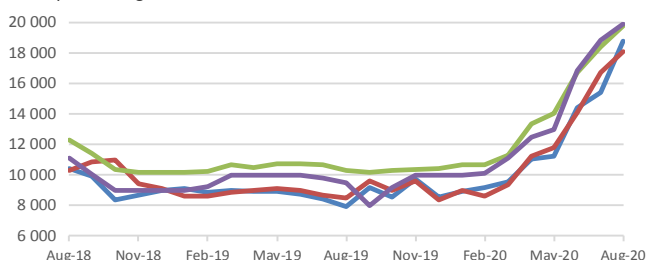
Latest Price
Aug-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

Natitingou, Maize	210.00	5.9	31.5	36.1
Cotonou, Maize	240.00	1.6	19.0	22.6
Parakou, Maize	247.00	8.8	41.4	43.2

Wholesale prices of maize in Nigeria

Naira per 100 kg



Source(s): FEWSNET

Latest Price
Aug-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

Kano, Maize (white)	18 762.50	21.9	66.5	136.2
Maiduguri, Maize (white)	18 125.00	8.5	53.6	113.2
Lagos, Maize (white)	19 800.00	7.5	41.0	92.7
Ibadan, Maize (white)	19 900.00	5.6	53.1	109.5

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

SOUTHERN AFRICA

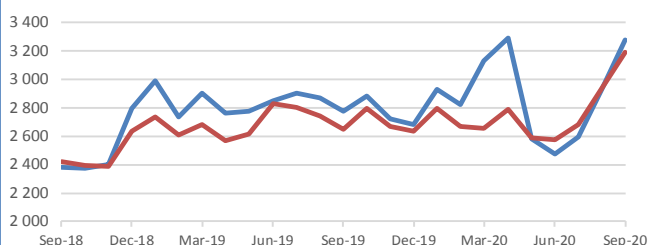
Prices of maize remained generally firm

Nominal prices of maize grain were generally stable in August and September (depending on the availability of the latest data), as supply pressure from the above-average 2020 harvests helped offset some inflationary effects stemming from the depreciation of currencies in most countries. Prices of maize grain in **South Africa** have, however, deviated from this general trend, despite harvesting the second largest maize crop on record this year. Wholesale prices of maize grain increased for a third consecutive month in September, largely driven by robust export demand led by East Asian countries. On a yearly basis, prices of maize were also above those in September 2019, with a weaker currency exerting additional upward pressure. Similarly, prices of maize and food products in general continued to rise in **Zimbabwe**, albeit at a slower monthly rate; the overall inflation rate was estimated at 761 percent in August, down from 840 percent recorded in July. The high rates were underpinned by severe macro-economic instability, particularly related to the weak value of the country's currency and further aggravated

by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The below-average harvest in 2020, which resulted in tighter domestic food supplies and larger import needs, has added to the upward pressure on food prices. In **Zambia** and **Malawi**, prices of maize remained stable in the three months to September and were down on a yearly basis. The lower prices predominantly reflect the impact of above-average harvests in 2020, most notably in Zambia where production recovered strongly, while more stable currencies in recent months have curbed imported inflation. Prices of maize were also broadly stable in **Mozambique**, but up on a yearly basis on account of tighter supplies due to a weather-reduced harvest in 2020 and a weaker currency. In the import-dependent countries, **Botswana**, **Eswatini** and **Namibia**, prices of maize meal were firm in August compared to the previous month. However, the rising maize prices in **South Africa**, the main source of grains of these countries, are expected to exert upward pressure on their domestic grain prices in the coming months.

Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa

Rand per tonne



Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Latest Price
Sep-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

■ Randfontein, Maize (white)

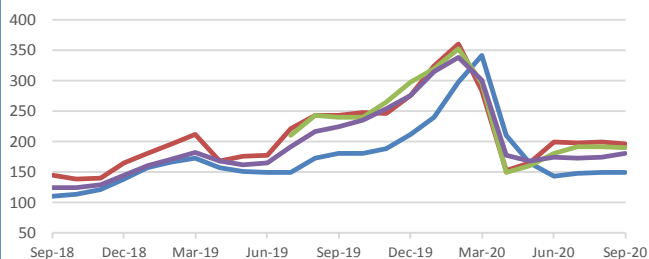
3 279.30 11.9 32.7 18.2

■ Randfontein, Maize (yellow)

3 190.07 8.6 23.8 20.5

Retail prices of maize in Malawi

Kwacha per kg



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

Latest Price
Sep-20

Percent Change
1M 3M 1Y

■ Mzuzu, Maize

150.00 0.3 4.9 -17.2

■ Nsanje, Maize

197.00 -1.2 -1.5 -19.0

■ Liwonde, Maize

190.00 -1.0 5.1 -20.8

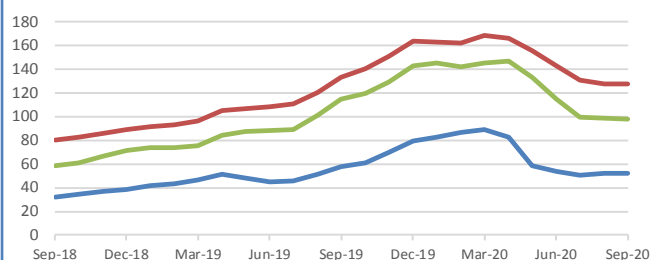
■ National Average, Maize

181.00 3.4 3.9 -19.6

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

Retail prices of maize in Zambia

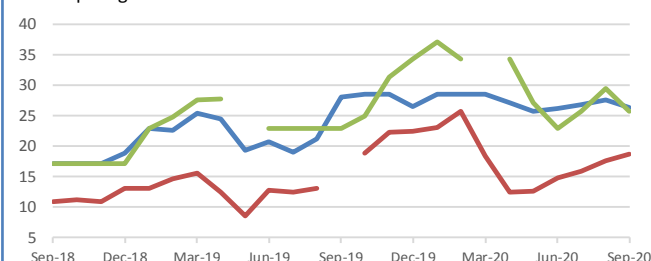
Kwacha per 17 kg



Source(s): Central Statistical Office

Retail prices of maize in Mozambique

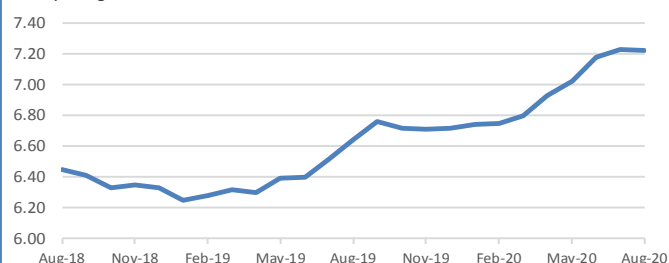
Metical per kg



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

Retail prices of maize meal in Botswana

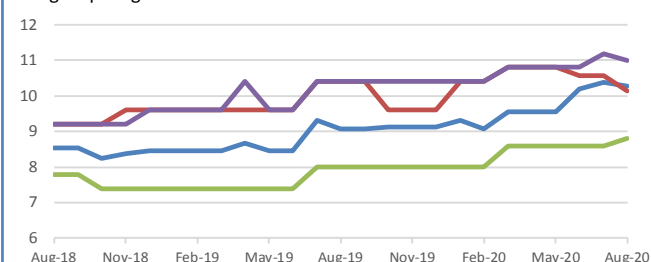
Pula per kg



Source(s): Statistics Botswana

Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini

Lilangeni per kg



Source(s): Central Statistical Office (CSO)

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

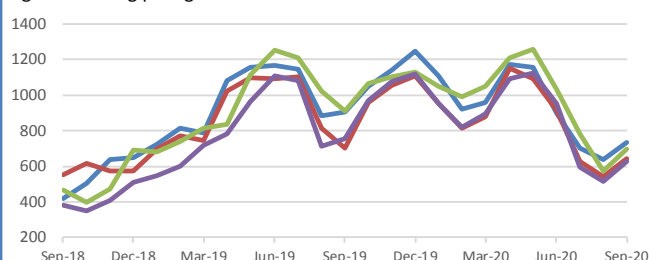
Prices of coarse grains began to seasonally increase in September in several countries

Prices of coarse grains began to increase in September following seasonal patterns in the countries where they had been declining in recent months with improved market availabilities from newly harvested first season crops and the easing of the COVID-19-related restrictive measures. In several countries, prices in September were around or below their year-earlier levels, reflecting above-average first season harvests as well as generally slack domestic demand amid a slowdown in economic activities because of the pandemic and households' deteriorating purchasing power. In **Uganda**, prices of maize began to seasonally increase in September in all monitored markets, including the capital, Kampala. However, prices of maize remained well below their year-earlier levels, mainly due to COVID-19-related restrictive measures, which resulted in declining domestic and export demand since early 2020. Similarly, in **Rwanda** and **Burundi**, prices of maize started to rise in September after the declines in recent months, but remained around their year-earlier values on account of adequate domestic availabilities following consecutive above-average harvests. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize in September were well below their year-earlier levels, as both the main "Msimu" harvest, concluded in July in central and southern uni-modal rainfall areas, and the "Masika" harvest, completed in August in northeastern bi-modal rainfall areas, were above-average and bolstered domestic supplies. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize

and sorghum in September resumed their upward trend after having declined in recent months, reaching again near-record to record highs, driven by a further depreciation of the local currency on the parallel market. Among the factors contributing to the soaring price level are a difficult macro-economic situation, the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict and, more recently, COVID-19 screening measures at border points in Uganda, the country's main source for cereal imports, which slowed down trade. In the **Sudan**, prices of sorghum and millet continued to surge in September reaching new record highs, with seasonal patterns compounded by a further depreciation of the local currency on the parallel market and by flood-related trade disruptions. The exceptionally high level of prices is a result of the tight supply situation following a well below-average 2019 harvest, a weak currency, reduced market supplies due to COVID-19-related restrictive measures, fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating the already elevated production and transportation costs. In **Kenya**, prices of maize continued to decline in September in Nakuru and Eldoret markets, located in western key-producing areas, as traders released stocks ahead of the upcoming "long-rains" harvest, expected at above-average levels. However, in the capital, Nairobi, persisting supply chain disruptions linked to the pandemic measures led to a further strengthening of prices. Overall, prices in September were down from a year earlier.

Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

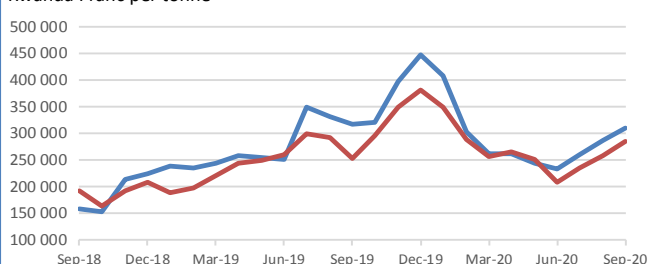
Uganda Shilling per kg



Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Rwanda

Rwanda Franc per tonne

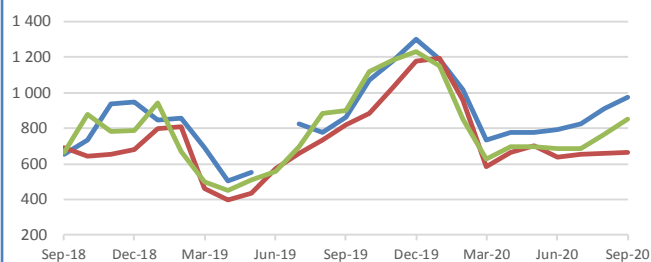


Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

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

Wholesale prices of maize in Burundi

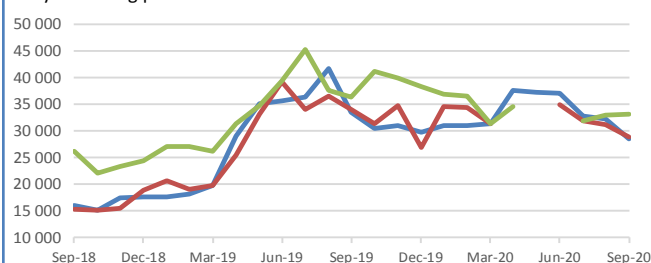
Burundi Franc per kg



Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

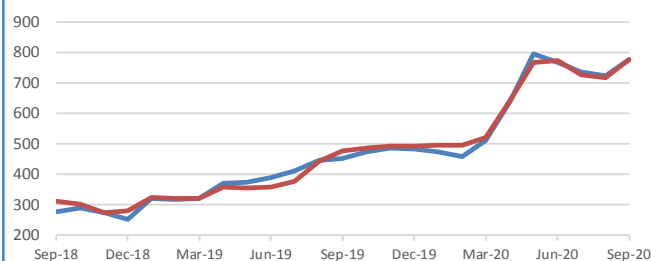
Kenyan Shilling per tonne



Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

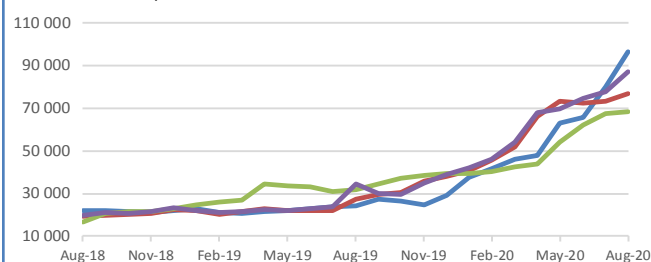
South Sudanese Pound per 3.5 kg



Source(s): Crop & Livestock Market Information System (CLIMIS)

Wholesale prices of millet in the Sudan

Sudanese Pound per tonne



Source(s): Food Security information for Action (SIFISA)

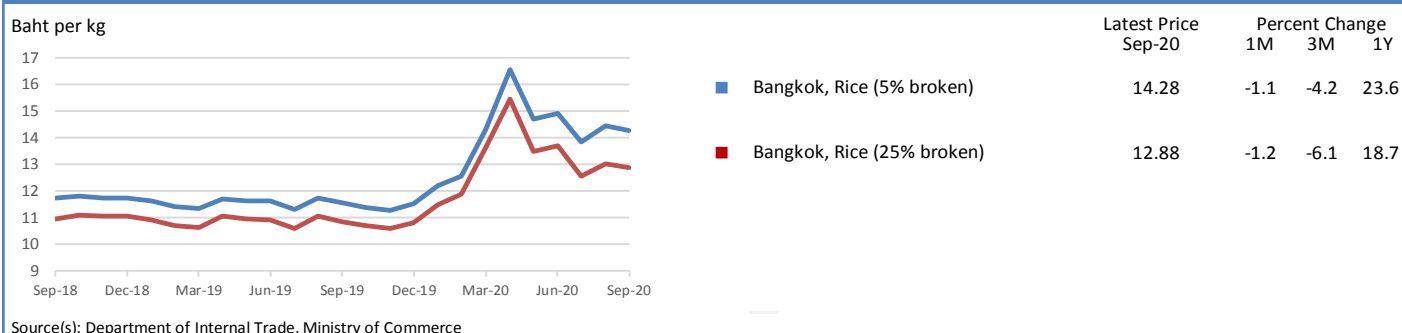
For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

Domestic prices of rice followed mixed trends in September, those of wheat stable or increased

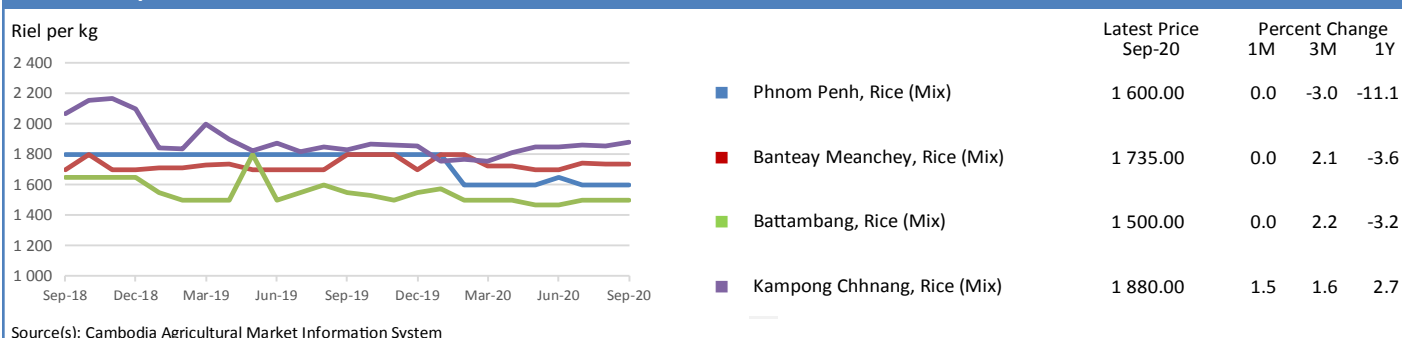
Domestic prices of rice followed mixed trends in September but generally remained above their year-earlier levels in most countries. In the main exporters, prices of rice showed signs of softening, such as in **Viet Nam**, where after strong increases in July and August, prices declined in September. Similarly, prices decreased marginally in **Thailand**, ahead of the 2020 main harvest, responding to slow export demand. In **India**, prices of rice remained overall stable, despite logistical constraints caused by COVID-19-related movement restrictions, reflecting adequate domestic supplies from the bumper 2019/20 secondary crop and forecasts of a record 2020 main crop. Adequate market availabilities from the 2020 harvests kept prices stable in **China (mainland)**, as well as in **Cambodia**, which is also expected to harvest an above-average 2020 main crop. By contrast, prices of rice increased sharply in **Myanmar** and were at high levels in September, supported by tightening supplies ahead of the 2020 main crop and steady exports in recent months. In the importing countries, prices changed little in **the Philippines**, amid adequate market availabilities from the 2020 harvest and imports. In **Sri Lanka**, adequate supplies from the 2020 secondary "Yala" harvest contributed to keep prices generally stable. The strongest rice price increases in the importing countries in September were recorded in **Bangladesh**, where quotations increased for the second consecutive month reflecting seasonal patterns exacerbated by

concern over the impact of adverse weather on the 2020 "Aman" crop, affected by a succession of heavy rains, a cyclone and floods between May and September. Given these latest increases, on top of the upward price surge earlier in the year in response to strong demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic, prices in September were 25 percent more than a year earlier. As for wheat and wheat flour, prices were generally stable or increased seasonally in some countries. Prices were stable in **India**, amid adequate market availabilities from the record 2020 harvest, while they recorded small seasonal increases in **China (mainland)**, with additional support added by concerns over damage inflicted by July/August heavy rains on spring wheat. In **Pakistan**, prices of wheat flour continued to increase in September and were at near-record or record levels, as lower-than-anticipated production in 2020 failed to alleviate the tight market availabilities caused by a combination of below-average 2018 and 2019 outputs, as well as strong exports and low procurement in 2019. In addition, increases in the prices of gas and petroleum products in August 2020 provided further support to wheat flour prices. In an effort to curb further increases in prices, the Government has taken several measures to boost domestic availabilities, including increasing government-to-government purchases from abroad and facilitating private sector imports. Prices of wheat flour increased seasonally in **Bangladesh** and were generally stable in **Sri Lanka**.

Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand



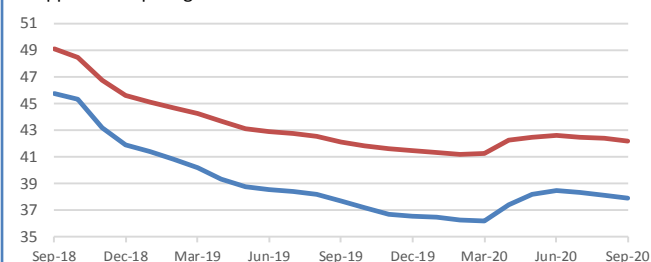
Wholesale prices of rice in Cambodia



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

Retail prices of rice in the Philippines

Philippine Peso per kg



Source(s): Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y

■ National Average, Rice (regular milled)

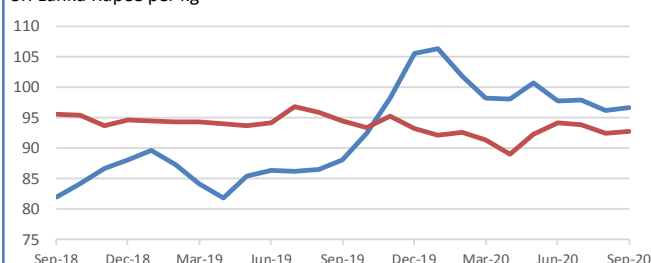
	37.91	-0.6	-1.5	0.5
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■ National Average, Rice (well milled)

	42.23	-0.4	-1.0	0.2
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Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Rupee per kg



Source(s): Department of Census and Statistics

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y

■ Colombo, Rice (white)

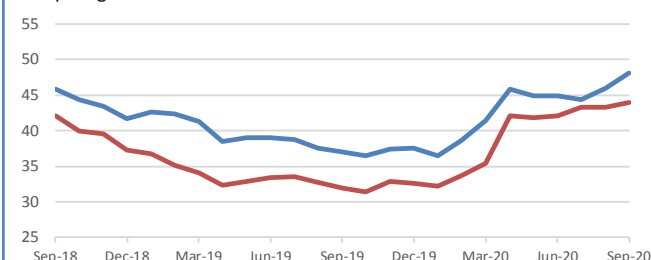
	96.75	0.5	-1.1	9.8
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■ Colombo, Wheat (flour)

	92.84	0.4	-1.5	-1.7
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Retail prices of rice in Bangladesh

Taka per kg



Source(s): Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM), Bangladesh

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y

■ Dhaka, Rice (Medium)

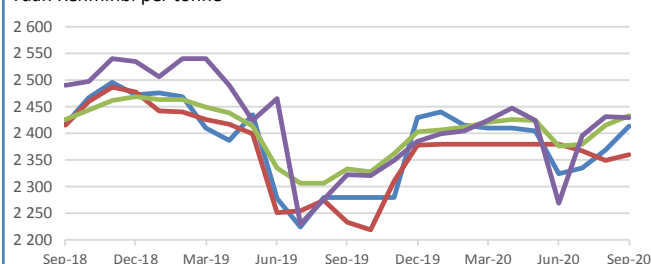
	48.19	4.9	7.4	30.2
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■ Dhaka, Rice (coarse- BR-8/ 11/ Guti/ Sharna)

	44.00	1.6	4.4	37.5
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Wholesale prices of wheat in China (mainland)

Yuan Renminbi per tonne



Source(s): CnAgri - China Agriculture Consultant

	Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y

■ Zhengzhou, Wheat

	2 413.33	1.8	3.8	5.8
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■ Linyi, Wheat

	2 360.00	0.4	-0.8	5.6
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■ National Average, Wheat

	2 434.33	0.8	2.5	4.3
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■ Sijiazhuang, Wheat

	2 430.00	-0.1	7.0	4.6
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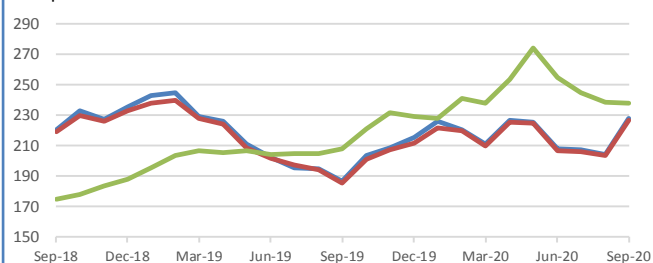
Export prices of wheat increase sharply in Russian Federation and Ukraine but stable in Kazakhstan; domestic prices strengthen or stable and remain higher year on year

In the exporting countries of the subregion, in September, export prices of milling wheat increased sharply in the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, in line with trends in the international market, and remained above year-earlier levels. The recent gains were mainly a reflection of strong demand from importing countries and concerns over the impact of adversely dry conditions on the 2021 winter wheat planting campaign in the subregion. In **Kazakhstan**, however, where export demand was weak, prices remained virtually unchanged, although still at levels above those a year earlier. In the domestic markets, wholesale prices of milling wheat increased in September in the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, while retail prices of wheat flour remained stable or increased moderately in **Kazakhstan**. In the importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour remained broadly stable or increased only slightly, reflecting overall adequate market availabilities from the ongoing spring harvests and the relaxation of restrictive measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In most markets of **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan**, prices held relatively stable in September, amid Government price stabilization measures and mirroring trends in Kazakhstan, the main wheat exporter to these countries. Prices, however, remained well above their levels

a year earlier, following the steep increases recorded between late March and May 2020, triggered by an upsurge in consumer demand amid concerns over the pandemic and export restrictions in some countries of the subregion. In **Armenia** and **Georgia**, prices increased slightly in September, to levels above those a year earlier, reflecting higher export quotations from the Russian Federation, the main wheat supplier to these countries. In August, prices held steady in **Belarus** and **Azerbaijan**, at values around or slightly below those a year earlier. With regard to potatoes, another staple food in the subregion, prices in September continued to generally decrease seasonally in the countries where the harvest is ongoing. Prices decreased significantly in the **Russian Federation** and **Tajikistan**, but remained generally above those a year earlier and followed a similar pattern in **Kazakhstan** and **Kyrgyzstan** but to a lesser extent. Prices declined also in **Armenia**, to year-on-year lower levels, while they slightly increased for the second consecutive month in **Georgia**, in line with seasonal trends. In August, prices strongly declined in **Belarus**, the main exporting country of the subregion, following seasonal trends, while they remained overall stable in **Azerbaijan**.

Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries

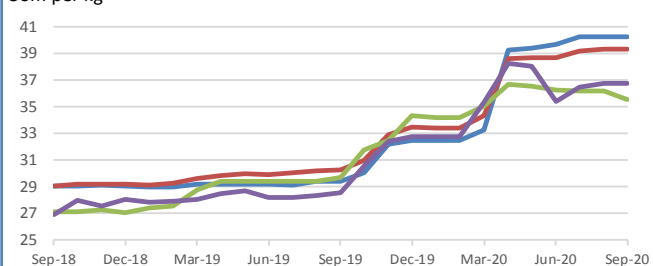
USD per tonne



Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan

Som per kg

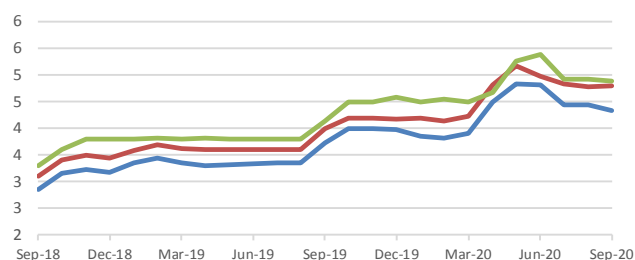


Source(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

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Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan

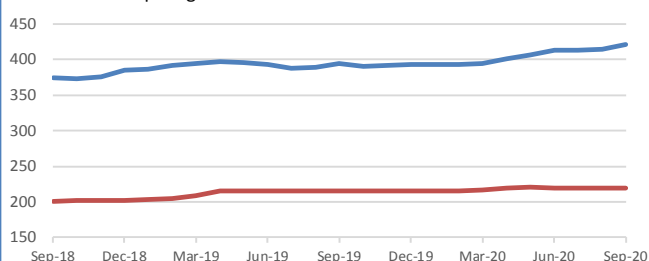
Somoni per kg



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

Retail prices of wheat flour in Armenia

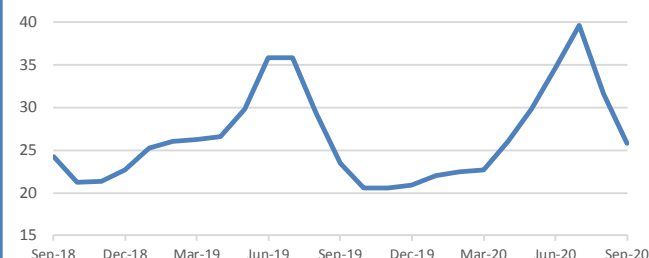
Armenian Dram per kg



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

Retail prices of potatoes in the Russian Federation

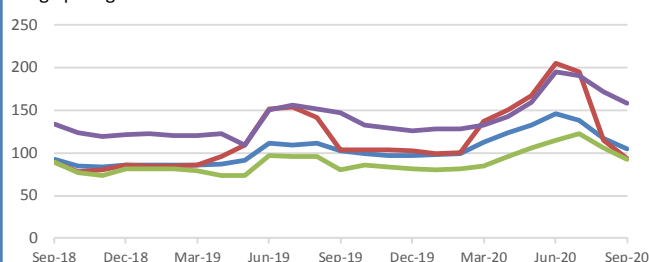
Russian Ruble per kg



Source(s): Federal State Statistics Service

Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan

Tenge per kg



Source(s): Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Committee on Statistics

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CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

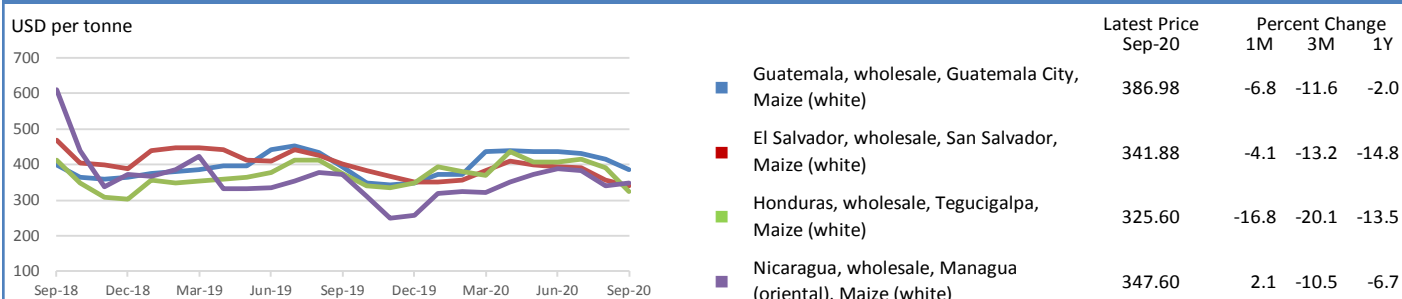
Prices of maize continued to decline seasonally in September

In most countries of the subregion, prices of white maize declined further in September with the ongoing 2020 main season harvest, and were overall lower year on year reflecting relatively larger domestic availabilities. In **Guatemala**, prices of white maize decreased for the third consecutive month in September as harvests from the southern and eastern producing areas, as well as imports from Mexico, maintained a downward price pressure. Similarly, in **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, the ongoing main season harvests led to a further decline in prices of maize in September, which were at levels more than 10 percent lower than a year earlier due to the prospect of increased outputs this year. Favourable production prospects also kept prices lower year on year in **Nicaragua**, although they strengthened in September despite the start of the main harvest. Prices are forecast to decline in October when markets are fully supplied by the 2020 harvest. In **Mexico**, prices strengthened seasonally ahead of the start of the main season harvest in November, which is expected to recover from last year's reduced level. With regard to beans, September prices in the subregion were well below their peaks of the March-June period, following seasonal trends and a weaker domestic demand, which has normalized after the high levels earlier during the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Honduras**, prices of red beans declined for the second consecutive month in September reflecting the improved market supplies from the ongoing minor harvests. In **El Salvador** and **Nicaragua**, prices of red beans increased moderately in September

and were slightly above their year-earlier levels. The recent increases followed sharp declines in the past three months with the minor harvests and a reduction in demand from the high levels at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Guatemala**, prices of black beans declined further in September with the downward pressure from the minor harvests in the southeastern producing areas of the country. However, prices remained more than 35 percent above their year-earlier values after the upsurge in the previous months when retail demand soared amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

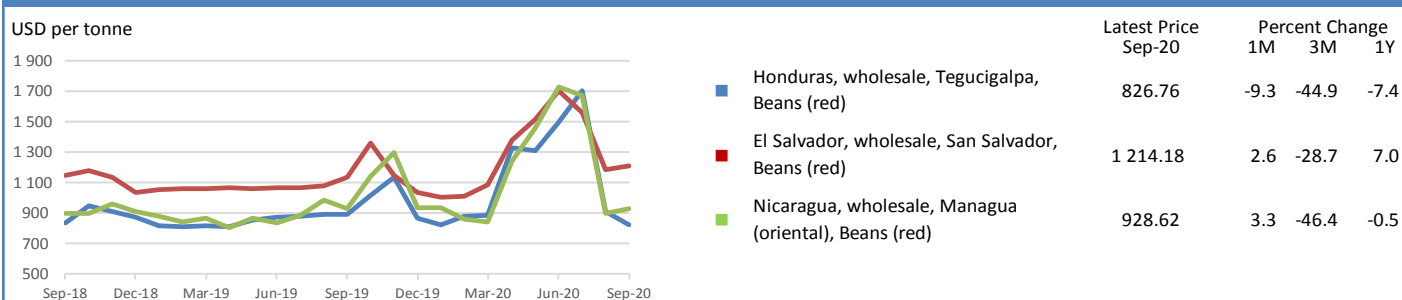
In the Caribbean, in **Haiti**, prices of maize meal and black beans generally increased in August despite the ongoing first season harvest, mainly reflecting the reduced output being gathered following adversely dry weather conditions. This season's further decline in output is maintaining prices above their year-earlier levels. Moreover, socio-political turmoil along with the further depreciation of the country's currency contributed to the overall higher year-on-year prices of staple food, including rice. In the **Dominican Republic**, retail prices of black beans weakened for the third consecutive month in September, as the minor season harvests improved market availabilities. Prices of rice declined in September after the moderate increases in the previous months due to the good production prospects for the remainder of the cropping season, which reflects an expectation of improved precipitation.

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 red beans in Central America



Source(s): SIMPAH; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG

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Prices of rice under sustained downward pressure, while those of wheat were overall stable

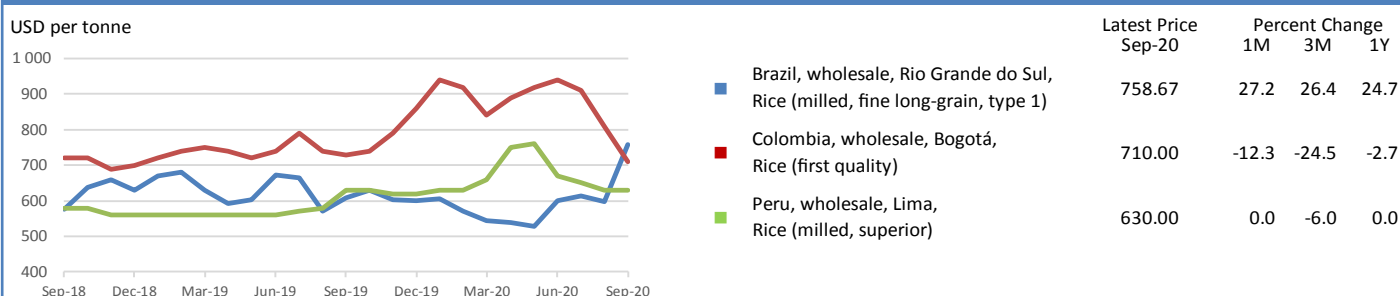
Prices of rice continued to decline in September, with the progress of the 2020 harvests but were still higher year on year after stronger demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic that underpinned the sharp increases in the March-April period. In some countries, the depreciation of the national currencies against the United States dollar also contributed to sustain the high level of prices. In **Colombia** and **Peru**, prices of rice declined for the fourth consecutive month in September but were higher than a year earlier. Prices also continued to decrease in **Ecuador** due to improved market availabilities from the ongoing minor season harvest. Prices held steady but remained more than 35 percent higher than a year earlier in **Uruguay** due to strong export sales in the January-August period. By contrast, in **Brazil**, prices of rice increased sharply by 25 percent month on month, driven by strong export sales in the March-August period. However, a slowdown in the price increase was reported towards the end of the month, following the announcement of a temporary suspension of the tariff on rice from non-Mercosur countries.

Prices of wheat were generally stable, with a notable exception of the major wheat producer of the subregion, Argentina. In **Argentina**, prices of wheat grain continued to increase seasonally, exacerbated by concerns over the impact of dry weather on crop yields in key producing central and northern areas. Large export sales, spurred by the strong depreciation of the country's currency, kept prices higher year on year. By contrast, in **Brazil**, prices of wheat weakened with the start of the 2020 harvest but remained well above their levels a year earlier due to uncertain production prospects as well as the weaker currency, which made imports costlier. In **Uruguay**, prices of wheat remained stable in September, as upward seasonal pressure

was limited by favourable production prospects for the 2020 crop, to be harvested in November. Similarly, in **Chile**, prices remain virtually unchanged but were about 20 percent above those a year earlier. The high level of prices is due to a reduced 2019 output coupled with lower imports in the first eight months of the year compared to the same period in 2019. Elsewhere in the subregion, prices of wheat flour were relatively stable in September and generally around their values a year earlier in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, **Ecuador** and **Peru** reflecting adequate imports. Prices of wheat flour remained stable also in **Colombia** but up on a year earlier mainly due to the depreciation of the country's currency.

With regard to maize, in **Argentina**, prices of yellow maize increased sharply in September due to slow farmer selling, compounded by concerns over the impact of dry weather on the ongoing planting of the 2021 crop. Large exports and a weak currency kept the prices well above their year-earlier values. Similarly, in **Brazil**, prices increased despite the recent completion of the main harvest, estimated at a record high, reflecting sustained demand from the feed and ethanol industries. In **Peru**, prices of yellow maize held steady in September, as the seasonal downward pressure was limited by the reduced output gathered in the June-August period owing to a contraction in plantings. In **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Colombia**, prices weakened or remained stable reflecting adequate supplies from the ongoing harvest. By contrast, in **Ecuador**, prices generally strengthened in line with seasonal trends, with the minor season harvest to start in October, and were slightly lower year on year on account of the good supplies from the main season output.

Wholesale prices of rice in South America

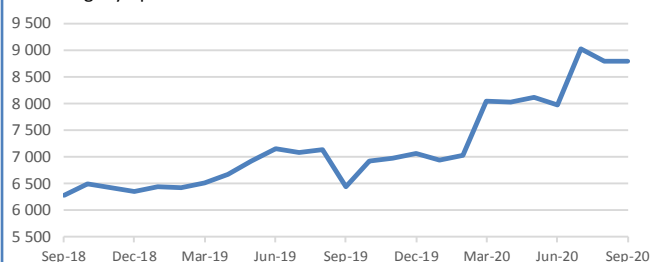


Source(s): Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab); Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE); Ministerio de Agricultura y Riego

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Wholesale prices of rice in Uruguay

Peso Uruguayo per tonne



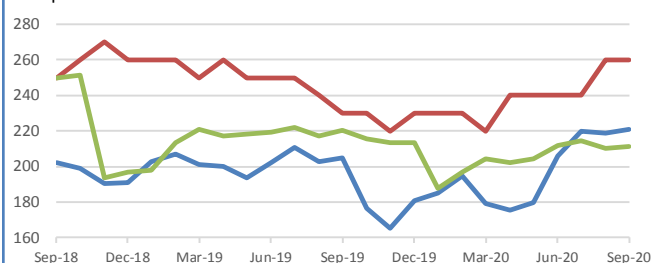
Uruguay, wholesale, National Average, Rice

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
8 804.00	0.2	10.5	36.8

Source(s): Instituto Nacional de Estadística, División Estadísticas Económicas, Departamento de Encuestas de Actividad Económica, Sección Encuestas Estructurales de Actividad Económica

Wholesale prices of wheat in South America

USD per tonne



Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
220.71	0.8	7.0	7.8

Chile, National Average

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
260.00	0.0	8.3	13.0

Uruguay, National Average

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
211.19	0.5	-0.4	-4.2

Source(s): Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab); Cotrisa; Instituto Nacional de Estadística, División Estadísticas Económicas, Departamento de Encuestas de Actividad Económica, Sección Encuestas Estructurales de Actividad Económica

Wholesale prices of wheat in Argentina

Argentine Peso per tonne



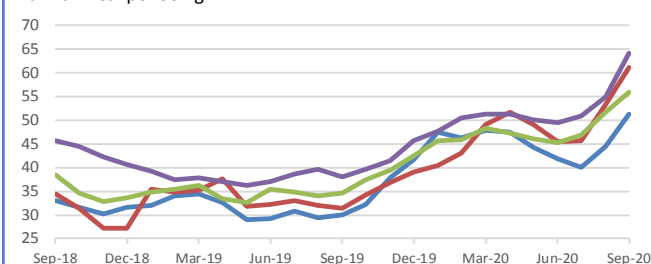
Argentina, wholesale, Buenos Aires, Wheat

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
16 422.62	7.5	13.1	41.4

Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

Wholesale prices of yellow maize in Brazil

Brazilian Real per 60 kg



Brazil, wholesale, Federal District, Maize (yellow)

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
51.26	15.2	22.8	71.2

Brazil, wholesale, Mato Grosso, Maize (yellow)

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
61.01	14.7	34.1	94.7

Brazil, wholesale, Paraná, Maize (yellow)

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
55.84	8.3	23.2	61.3

Brazil, wholesale, Rio Grande do Sul, Maize (yellow)

Latest Price Sep-20	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
64.07	16.9	29.8	68.3

Source(s): Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab)

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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 Markets and Trade Division of FAO. It contains latest information and analysis on domestic prices of basic foods mainly in developing countries, complementing FAO analysis on international markets. It provides early warning on high food prices at country level that may negatively affect food security.

This report is based on information available up to early October 2020, collected from various sources.

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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