



Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

Issue 33, 10 October 2011



Objective

The overall objective of the Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor is to closely track changes in food prices on a weekly basis to enable policymakers to take timely measures to minimize potentially negative consequences. This will be achieved particularly by: (i) supporting analysis and informed policy-making at national, subregional and regional levels through the dissemination of weekly updates on key staple food prices; (ii) promoting awareness and partnerships to monitor food price changes by disseminating information on selected commodity staples; and (iii) being consistent with other price monitoring exercises conducted by FAO.

Coverage

So far the Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor covers 17 countries and five commodity groups (food grains, meat, edible oils/cooking oil, fruits and root crops). The staple commodities reported for each country depend on the relative importance of different commodities in different countries, and the timely availability of relevant information.

Background

FAO's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) started monitoring food prices in the context of the soaring food prices in 2007-08 to keep track of the rapidly changing food price situation and share this information and analysis with member countries and other stakeholders including the media in the region. In May 2008, RAP started publishing the monthly newsletter Asia and Pacific Food Situation Update (APFSU) to communicate the latest price developments in the region. In July 2010, food prices started to rise again, and the FAO Food Price Index exceeded the 2008 peak, reaching its highest level in February 2011. In this context, in February 2011 RAP initiated collecting weekly food price information for selected commodities (rice, wheat, maize, chicken, edible oils/ cooking oil).

Sources

Weekly food price data have been compiled from inputs by the FAO Representatives in the region, the GIEWS database and other official sources on the web. Information is collected from official sources (Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and/or Statistics), except for the case of Afghanistan and Myanmar where information is coming from WFP and the private sector respectively. In general information sources are consistent with GIEWS data collection. Because GIEWS reports monthly data, while AP Weekly Price Monitor reports weekly data, some adjustments have been made in the selection of commodities monitored at regional level in order to maintain weekly updates.



Natural disasters and weather conditions

- A second wave of heavy flooding in Orissa, **India** has affected a further 2.2 million people in the past three weeks. Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), other agencies and the government have also been providing food assistance (International Federation of Red Cross, 5 October 2011).
- Estimated damage in **Philippines** due to typhoon 'Pedring' as of October 4, 2011 has reached 760,207 MT, which represents 7.7% of the 2nd semester projected harvest of 9.88 MMT (Department of Agriculture, 5 October 2011).
- In **Thailand**, at least 8.5 million rai (1,360,000 ha) of rice fields, which can produce 4 million to 5 million tonnes of paddy rice, have already been destroyed by flooding, according to the Commerce Ministry (Bangkok Post, 06 October 2011).

Prices

Overall, staple food prices monitored were largely stable during the past week.

- In **Afghanistan** prices continue to drop: rice, wheat, maize and chicken prices fell by 3, 2.6, 2.8 and 7.7 percent respectively. Chicken prices were 13 percent below the prices observed a month ago, while rice and maize prices are 11 and 25 percent below the prices observed three months ago.

- Wheat prices increased by 3.8 percent in **Bangladesh**, but were 10 percent below the prices recorded a month ago. However, chicken prices decreased by 3.6 percent and were 16.5 percent below the prices observed a year ago.

- Overall, staple food retail prices remained largely stable in **Indonesia** for the past 5 months. After chicken prices fell by 4 percent during the last week of September, they increased by 2.3 percent over the past week. They remain 3.7 percent below the prices observed 3 months ago.

- Prices of rice, maize and palm oil in **Myanmar** decreased by 2.3, 5.7 and 2.6 percent respectively. Maize prices were nearly 27 percent above the prices observed 3 months ago; while palm oil prices were nearly 7 percent below prices three months ago.

- According to the most recent update, retail price data from **Samoa** indicates that ta'amu prices increased significantly during August 2011 by nearly 42 percent. Taro prices increased by almost 6.4 percent, but taro palagi and coconut prices decreased by 2.3 and 8 percent respectively.

- Finally, in **Thailand**, pork prices decreased by 4.5 percent.

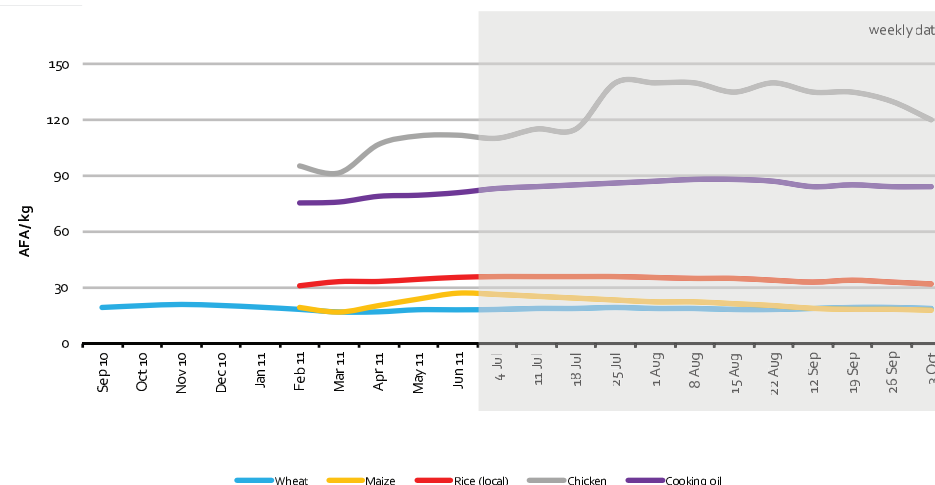


AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (03 October 2011 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Rice and wheat prices dropped over the past week by 3 and 2.6 percent respectively.
- Maize prices fell by nearly 3 percent during the past week and were 25.5 percent below the prices observed 3 months ago.
- Chicken prices had continued to gradually drop following a 21.7 percent surge in the last week of July. Over the past week, chicken prices fell by 7.7 percent.



Week of 3-Oct-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	32.0	-3.0%	-7.7%	-10.8%	na
Wheat	Kabul	18.5	-2.6%	1.8%	-0.7%	0.0%
Maize	Kabul	17.5	-2.8%	-16.7%	-25.5%	na
Chicken	Kabul	120.0	-7.7%	-13.3%	-5.9%	na
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	84.0	0.0%	-4.2%	-1.8%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

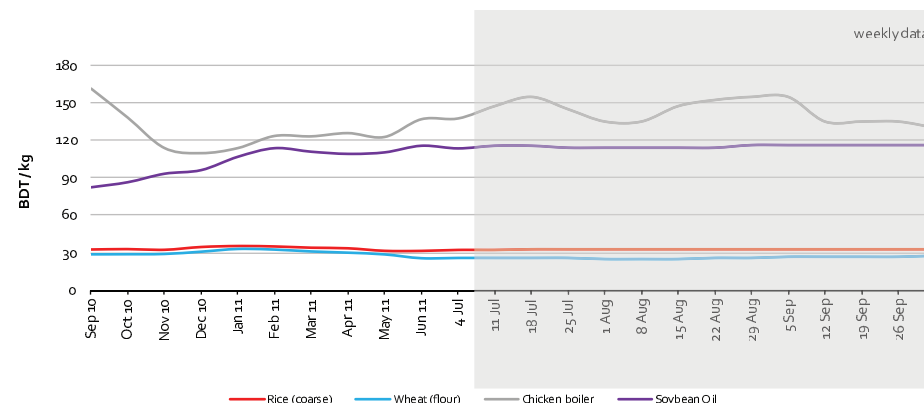
-An anticipated good Kazakhstan wheat harvest this year has provided some relief to high wheat prices in northern Afghanistan markets and mitigated the risk of wheat shortages. It is expected that wheat prices will continue to moderately decrease and food availability in the markets will remain normal into the early fall (Famine Early Warning System, 30 September 2011).



BANGLADESH, Dhaka (03 October 2011)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Wheat flour prices increased by 3.8 percent over the past week and were 10 percent above the prices observed a month ago.
- Chicken prices dropped steadily during September. They fell again by nearly 4 percent over the past week and are currently 16.5 percent less than a year ago.
- Soybean oil prices have been stable for the past three months but are up nearly 40% from a year ago.



Week of 3-Oct-11

Food item	Market	Price (BDT/ kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Coarse rice	Dhaka	33.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	2.4%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	27.5	3.8%	10.0%	8.9%	-7.6%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	130.0	-3.7%	-11.9%	-10.7%	-16.5%
Soybean oil (BDT/lit Dhaka)		111.5	0.0%	1.4%	1.1%	39.9%

Data sources: Ministry of Agriculture.

Policy+

- As of September 22, the public foodgrain stock stood at 1402.59 thousand MT: 1144.27 for rice and 258.32 for wheat (Fortnightly Food Grain Outlook, 26 September 2011).

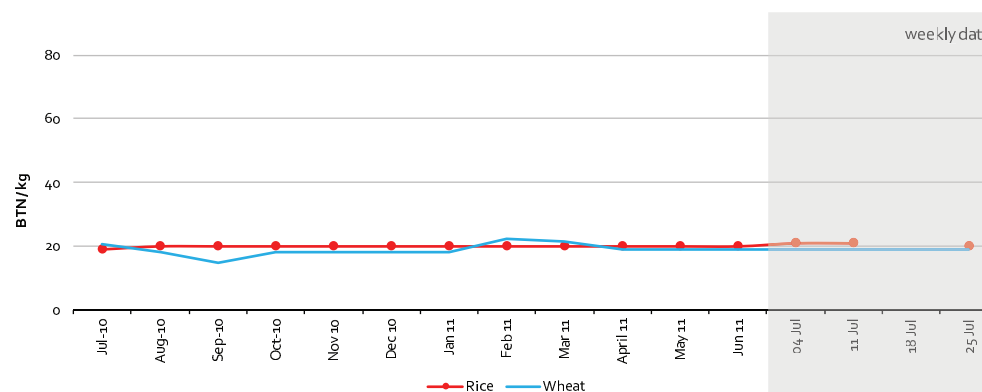


BHUTAN, National Average (11 July 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

NA



Week of 11-Jul-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (BTN/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	Trashigang	21.0	0.0%	5.0%	5.0%	7.7%
Wheat	National av	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-8.4%
Wheat flour	National av	45.0	50.0%	44.0%	28.6%	50.0%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- The Department of Agricultural Marketing and Cooperatives has carried out a comparative price analysis of the local and imported vegetables (cabbage, chillies, potatoes and beans) spanning over March to August, 2011. The comparative price analysis of the four vegetables shows that chilli was the most expensive for both local and imported vegetables (Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, 05 October 2011).

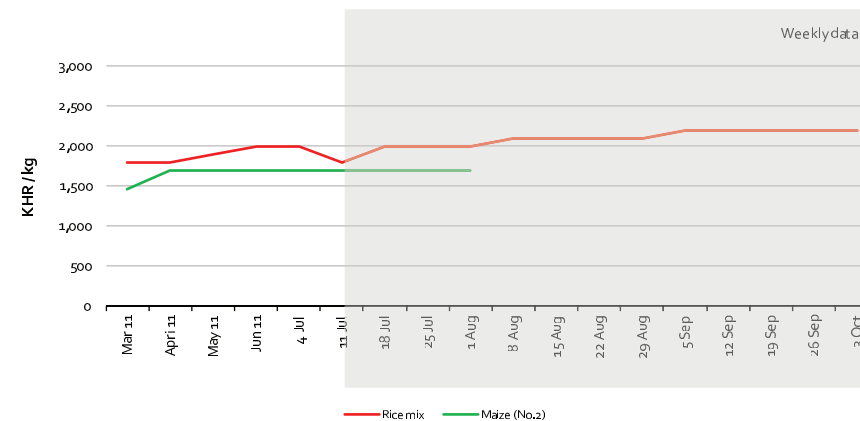


CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (19 September 2011)

Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Rice (mix) prices are up nearly 30 percent from a year earlier.



Week of 3-Oct-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (KHR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (mix)	Phnom Pehn	2,200	0.0%	4.8%	12.8%	29.0%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,700	na	8.0%	8.0%	na
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	na	8.7%	19.0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑increase ↓decrease

Policy+

NA

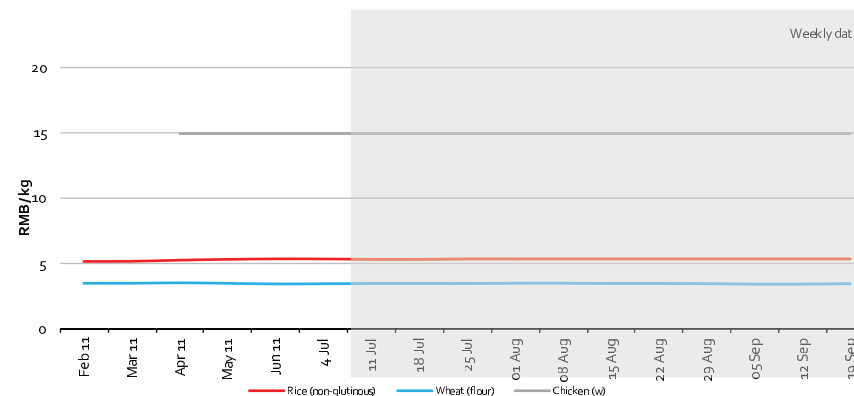


Country Highlights

- Prices of all staple commodities have remained stable over the past 3 months.

CHINA, Beijing (19 September 2011)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices



Week of 19-Sep-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Non-Glutinous)	Beijing	5.4	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	na
Wheat Flour (Fuqiang)	Beijing	3.5	0.6%	-0.8%	-0.3%	na
Chicken (w)	Beijing	15.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease (w) wholesale prices

Policy+

- China's top economic planning agency, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), announced a raise in the minimum purchase prices for wheat from farmers in 2012 to boost grain output. The minimum purchase price for white wheat in the country's major wheat-producing areas will be increased to RMB 102 (US 16 dollars) per 50 kg. The Ministry of Agriculture expects the output to reach a record high of 550 million tonnes this year (Xinhua, 29 September 2011).

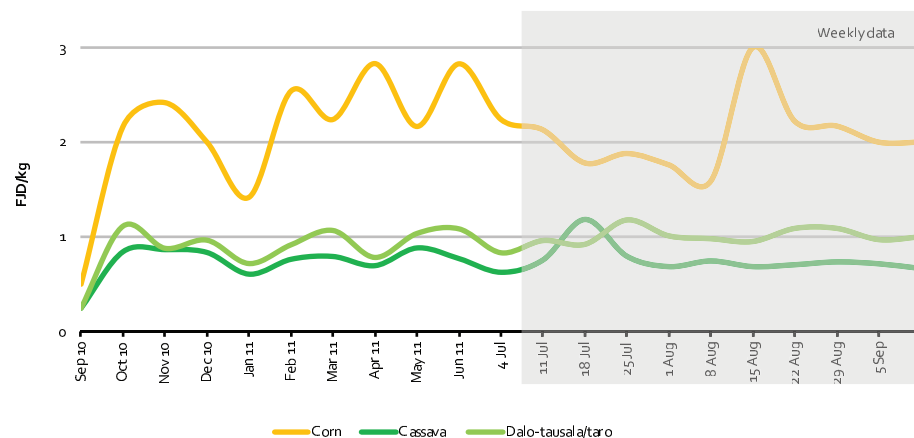


Fiji, National Averagea (12 September 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Corn prices remained unchanged over the past week; however current prices are quadruple the prices observed a year ago.
- Cassava prices dropped by 7 percent from last week, but were 188 percent above the prices observed last year (September 2010).
- Prices of Dalo tausala taro increased by 3.1 percent from the previous week, and were 292 percent above last year's price.



Week of 12-Sep-11		% change				
Food item	Market	Price (FJD/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Corn	National av	2.0	0.0%	14.1%	-26.4%	300%
Cassava	National av	0.7	-6.9%	-21.9%	-3.9%	188%
Dalo-tausala taro	National av	1.0	3.1%	-2.2%	2.5%	292%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- As part of Government's goal for a "Food Secure Fiji", a workshop was held on Navua to revive the rice industry and create awareness on the need to retain agricultural land for rice farming in the Navua Irrigation Scheme. More than 100 farmers from the rice farming areas of Fiji attended the workshop (The Government Online Portal, 6 October 2011).

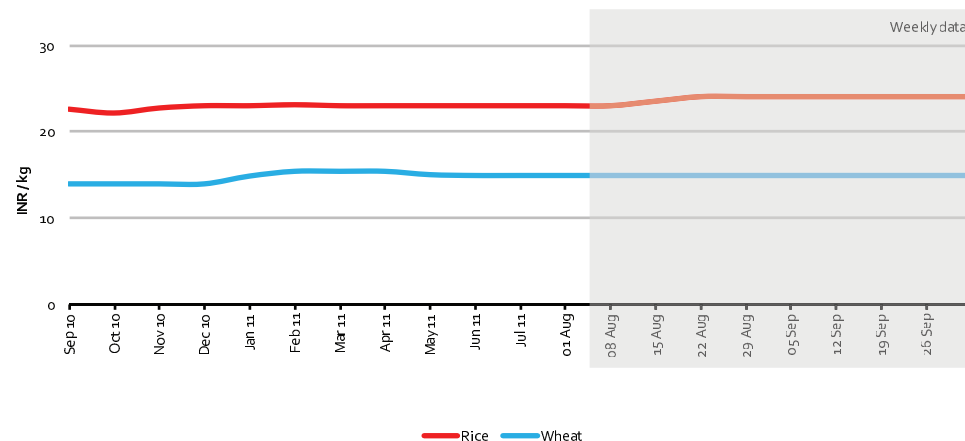


INDIA, Delhi (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Rice and wheat prices remained stable during the past week and were 6 and 7 percent respectively above the prices observed a year ago.



Week of		3-Oct-11				
		% change				
Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	24.0	0.0%	1.6%	4.3%	6.0%
Wheat	New Delhi	15.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	7.0%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- According to media reports, the Below Poverty Line (BPL) census is expected to finish collecting data on all rural households by January 2012. In 2009, the N C Saxena committee was formed by the rural development ministry to decide on fresh parameters for a new BPL census of rural households. It is expected that this committee would rank the households and adjust the outcome to match the final shape of the Food Security Bill (Business Standard, 07 October 2011).

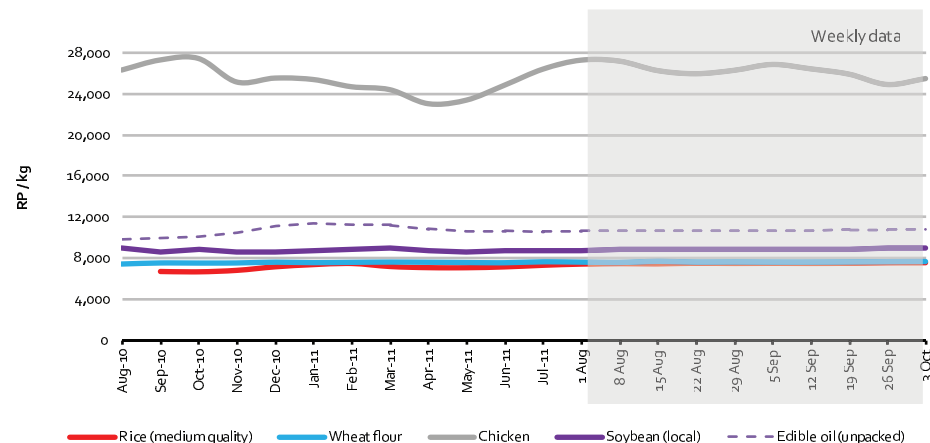


INDONESIA, National Average (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Overall, prices of staple commodities (rice, wheat flour, edible oil and soybean) remained stable over the past week. However rice and edible oil prices were 12 and 8 percent above prices last year respectively.
- Chicken prices increased by 2.3 percent, but were nearly 4 percent below the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 3-Oct-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RP/ kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National average	7,505	0.1%	1.0%	2.6%	12.2%
Wheat flour	National average	7,626	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	1.0%
Chicken	National average	25,489	2.3%	-3.6%	-3.7%	na
Edible oil (unpacked)	National average	10,774	-0.1%	1.0%	1.8%	8.0%
Soybean (local)	National average	8,946	0.0%	1.7%	2.2%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- The Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Ministry plans to increase Indonesia's fish production to 22.39 million tons by 2015, a significant increase on the 14.87 million tons projected for 2012 (Jakarta Post, 06 October 2011).
- Indonesia is targeting food self-sufficiency in 2014 and now the government continues to spur increased production of rice and corn each year to reach that target (National Portal, 04 October 2011).

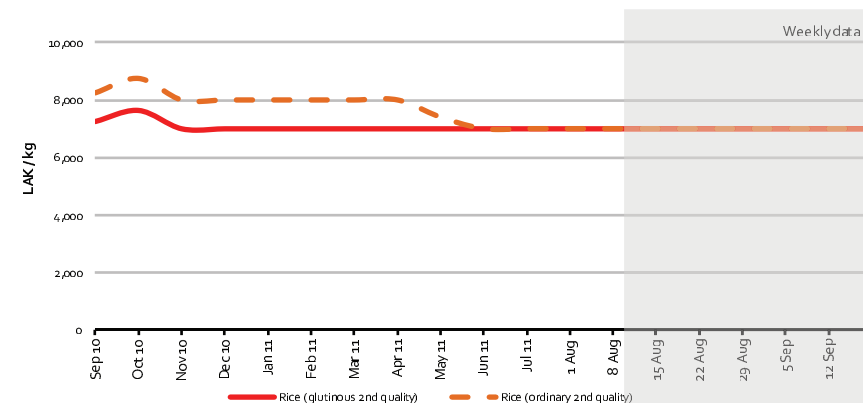


LAO PDR, Vientiane (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Prices of both second quality rice varieties (glutinous and ordinary) were stable over the past week. However they are 3 and 15 percent respectively below the prices recorded a year ago.



Policy+

NA

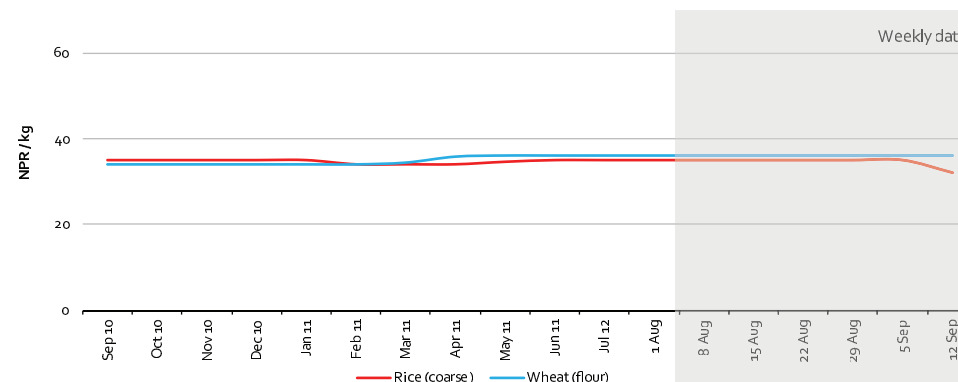
Week of 19-Sep-11		% change				
Food item	Market	Price (LAK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice glutinous	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-3.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-15.0%
→ (+/-2%) stable ↑increase ↓decrease						



NEPAL, Kathmandu (12 September 2011)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Since June 2011, wheat flour prices have been stable and were nearly 6 percent above the prices recorded a year ago.
- Coarse rice prices have decreased for the first time within a year, by nearly 9 percent over the past week.



Week of 12-Sep-11		% change				
Food item	Market	Price (NPR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (coarse)	Kathmandu	32.0	-8.6%	-8.6%	-8.6%	-8.6%
Wheat (flour)	Kathmandu	36.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.8%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- A cash grant programme to promote the purchase of nutritious food for children in the remote Karnali region of Mid-West Nepal increased birth registration by 300 percent in the past year, according to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). The child grant programme, implemented by the government in October 2009, offers about US\$2.75 each month to families with children under five (IRIN, 04 October 2011).

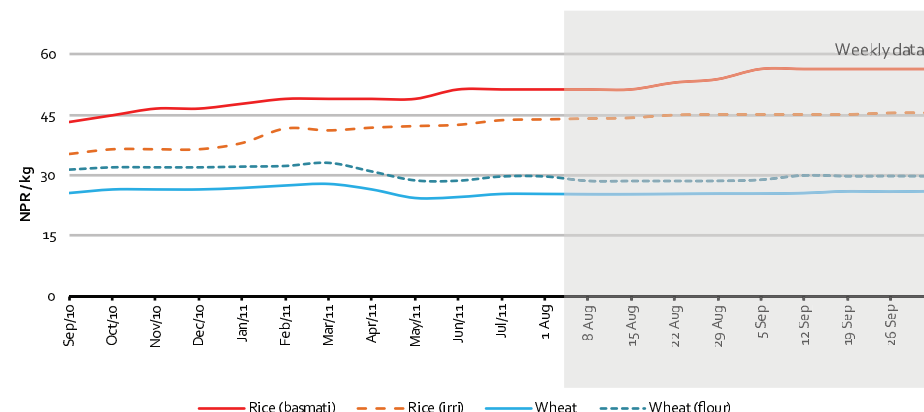


PAKISTAN, Karachi (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- The prices of main food staples remained largely stable over the past week.
- Rice prices for basmati and IRRI varieties were 30 and 28 percent respectively above prices last year.



Week of 3-Oct-11 % change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	56.2	0.0%	7.6%	9.8%	30.0%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	45.5	0.1%	2.1%	3.9%	28.0%
Wheat	Karachi	26.1	0.6%	2.9%	2.8%	1.0%
Wheat flour	Karachi	29.8	-0.1%	4.2%	0.2%	-5.0%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- According to media reports, the Federal Bureau of Statistics released a report where the inflation measured through consumer price index (CPI) rose 10.46 per cent from a year ago. Experts believe that the fall is primarily owing to the change in the base-year for inflation calculations from 2000-2001 to 2007-2008 (Dawn, 04 October 2011).

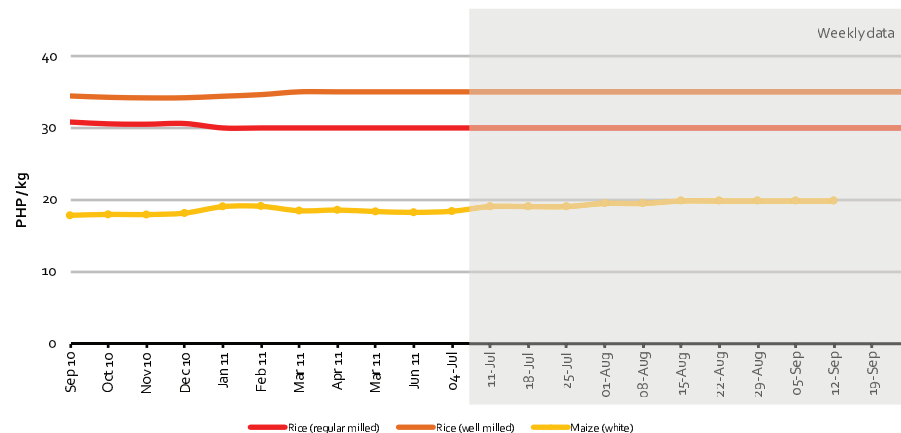


PHILIPPINES, Metro Manila (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Prices of rice and maize remained stable over the past week.



Week of		3-Oct-11				
		% change				
Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)	Metro Manila	30.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.6%
Rice (well milled)	Metro Manila	35.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%
Maize (white)	National av	19.8	0.0%	0.4%	3.6%	12.0%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- The Department of Agriculture will implement an initial set of interventions to help farm families recover from crop damage due to typhoon "Pedring", including seed distribution, public-private partnership on "plant-now, pay-later scheme", and crop production loans disbursed by rural banks (PHP 400 million have been allocated), among others (Department of Agriculture, 5 October 2011).

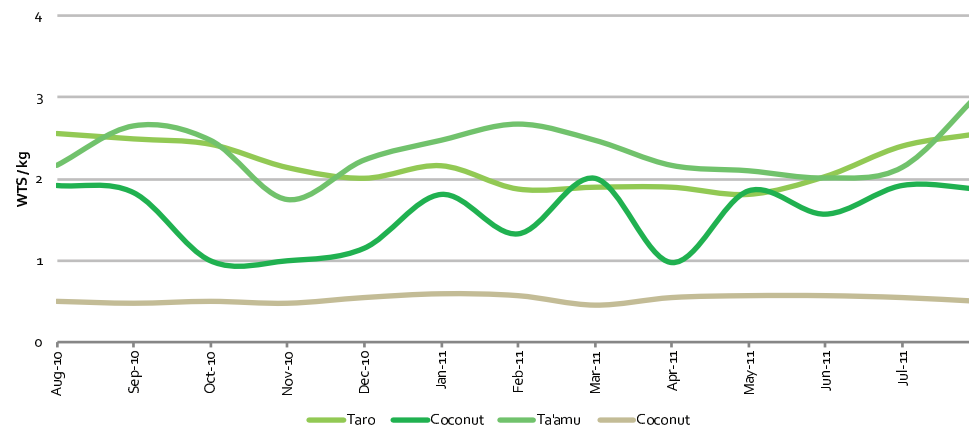


SAMOA, Fugalei (August 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Taro prices increased 6.4 percent from a month ago and were 42 percent above the prices observed 3 months ago.
- Taro palagi prices dropped by 2.3 percent from last month and are also 2.3 percent below prices observed a year ago.
- Ta'amu prices increased 42 percent from the prices last month and are 40 percent above the prices observed a year ago.
- Coconut prices dropped by 8 percent from the previous month and are at the same level as prices observed last year.



Month of Aug-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (WTS/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Taro	Fugalei	2.6	na	6.4%	41.5%	0.0%
Taro palagi	Fugalei	1.9	na	-2.3%	1.2%	-2.3%
Ta'amu	Fugalei	3.0	na	42.3%	45.3%	40.8%
Coconut	Fugalei	0.5	na	-8.0%	-11.5%	0.0%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

NA

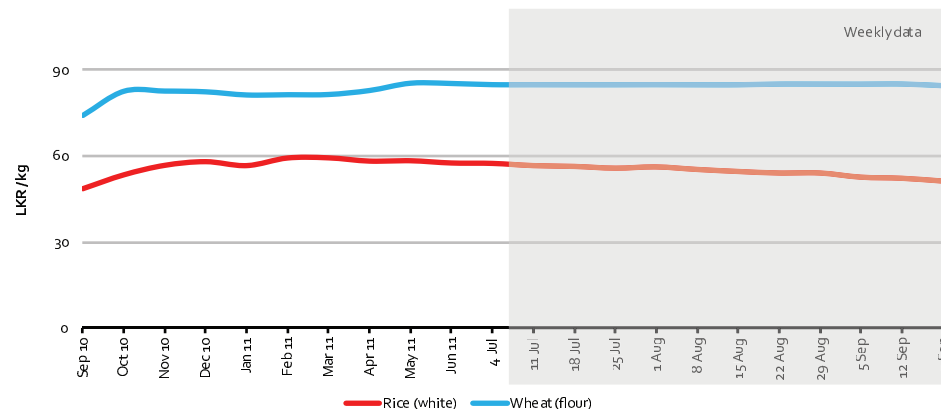


SRI-LANKA, Colombo (19 September 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Rice and wheat flour prices were relatively stable over the past week, and were 5 and 14 percent above the prices observed a year ago.



Week of		19-Sep-11		% change			
Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year	
Rice (white)	Colombo	51.1	-1.9%	-7.6%	-10.0%	5%	
Wheat flour	Colombo	84.6	-0.7%	-0.4%	-0.4%	14%	

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑increase ↓decrease

Policy+

- Annual average inflation moved up marginally to 7.2 per cent in September from 7.1 per cent in the previous month. The contribution to the monthly increase in the Index came mainly from price increases in the sub category of Food and non alcoholic beverages, where prices of most varieties of vegetables, fruits, onions, and chicken, among others increased (Central Bank, 04 October 2011).

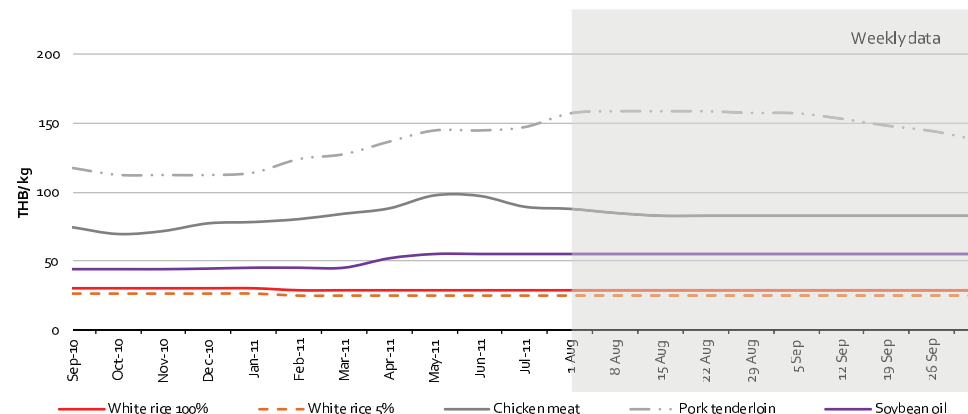


THAILAND, Bangkok (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Pork prices fell by 4.5 percent during the past week, but were 23 percent above the prices recorded last year.



Week of 3-Oct-11 % change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 100%	Bangkok	28.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-4%
White rice 5%	Bangkok	24.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-5%
Chicken	Bangkok	82.5	0.0%	-0.6%	-6.0%	11%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	138.0	-4.5%	-13.0%	-8.4%	23%
Soybean oil (Baht/lit)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23%

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- According to media reports, the Ministry of Commerce expects that the number of rice millers registered will exceed 1,000 (against 752 millers who took part 2008). So far, only 667 rice millers have signed up (Bangkok Post, 5 October 2011).

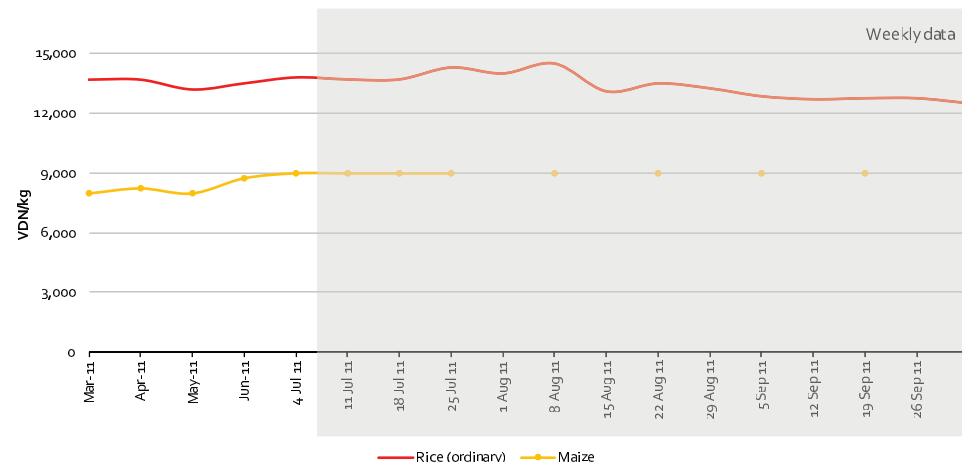


VIET NAM, Hanoi (03 October 2011)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

- Rice ordinary prices fell by 2 percent over the past week and were 10 percent below the prices 3 months ago.



Week of 3-Oct-11

% change

Food item	Market	Price (VND/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	12,500	-2.0%	-8.0%	-10.2%	na
Maize	Hanoi	9,000	na	0%	0%	na

→ (+/-2%) stable ↑ increase ↓ decrease

Policy+

- According to the Central Steering Committee for Flood and Storm Prevention in Viet Nam, floods have devastated nearly 5,000 ha of rice crops in An Giang, Dong Thap and Long An Provinces (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 06 October 2011).

Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

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