



# **Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor**

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

7 December 2012



## Policy

### National

As of 5 December, Bulog, [Indonesian Bureau of Logistics Agency](#) announced the annual uptake of rice at 3.6 MMT. Actual stocks reached 2.2 MMT (from which 0.3 MMT is imported rice from Vietnam) and are generally used for a rice distribution program, Raskin.

According to the [Vietnam Food Association](#) (VFA), during the first 11 months of 2012, Vietnam exported 7.1 MMT of rice, 5.5 percent above the same period in 2011 and equivalent to the figure of 2011. The USDA has revised its paddy production estimates slightly upward mainly due to favourable weather conditions for the spring and autumn crops in the Mekong River Delta (MRD) region.

## Prices

Over the past week, staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable in the majority of reporting countries, except:

- In [Samoa](#), banana prices fell by 21 percent below the prices from October to November, and were 30 and 29 percent below those prices observed three months and three years ago, respectively.
- Maize prices in [Viet Nam](#) dropped by 20 percent over the past week but were 33 percent above those observed a year earlier.

## Weather conditions

- In the [Philippines](#), the typhoon Bopha, locally known as Pablo, made landfall three times as it passed through northern Mindanao, central Visayas, and Palawan on 4 December, affecting over 5 million people. The damage cost in the agriculture sector amounted PHP 10.5 million (USD 256,000) (National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, 6 December 2012).

Technical note: Price changes are calculated from  $W_x$ , where  $W$ =week and  $x$  indicates the most recent week. The **one week** change is calculated as  $[(W_x/W_{x-1})-1]$ ; the **one month** change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-1}, W_{x-2}, W_{x-3}, W_{x-4})) - 1]$ ; the **three months** change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-9}, W_{x-10}, W_{x-11}, W_{x-12})) - 1]$ ; and the **one year** change is calculated as  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-49}, W_{x-50}, W_{x-51}, W_{x-52})) - 1]$ . The criteria to flag unusual price movements is the following: **on a weekly basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 5 percent are considered "stable." **On a monthly basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 10 percent are considered "stable." **On an annual basis**, nominal price variations below plus or minus 25 percent are considered "stable."



### Rice

	↑	↓	→ (+/-10%)
Afghanistan			→
Bangladesh			→
Cambodia*			→
China			→
India			→ (-5%)
Indonesia			→
Lao PDR**			→
Myanmar			→
Pakistan***			→
Philippines			→
Sri Lanka			→
Thailand****			→ (-2%)
Viet Nam			→ (+3%)

\*Rice mix, \*\*glutinous rice, \*\*\*basmati variety, \*\*\*\* 25% broken

World export prices remained firm during November. The FAO cereal price index points to a slight decline from October to November, also reflecting weakening wheat prices partially attributed to receded fears of an imminent export restriction by Ukraine. FAO production estimates point to a 5.7 reduction. So far, early indications for the winter wheat crops to be harvested in 2013 are mixed. Yet, recent information suggests that farmers responded positively to the incentive of high prices by increasing their winter wheat plantings. In Asia and the Pacific Region, **nominal wheat prices remained largely stable** (+/-10%) in all reporting countries.

During November, according to the FAO Rice Price Index, international prices of rice weakened somewhat in November, reflecting abundant exportable supplies, as rice traded lower during this period of time. FAO rice production estimates point to a 0.9 percent growth in the global rice crop. Global rice inventories are expected to increase by 6.6 percent (10.5 MMT) to a record of nearly 170 MMT, resulting from three consecutive years of record world rice production. In Asia and the Pacific Region, **nominal rice prices remained largely stable** (+/-10%) in all reporting countries.

### Wheat (grain/ flour)

	↑	↓	→ (+/-10%)
Afghanistan			→ (+2%)
Bangladesh			→ (+2%)
China			→
India			→
Indonesia			→
Myanmar			→
Pakistan			→
Sri Lanka			→

### Maize

	↑	↓	→ (+/-10%)
Afghanistan			→
Myanmar			→ (+4%)
Philippines			→
Viet Nam			→

international prices\*. Over the past month, **nominal maize prices** in Asia and the Pacific Region **remained relatively stable** in all reporting countries.

\*\*\*

Overall **nominal chicken prices** in Asia and the Pacific Region remained largely stable (+/-10%) in six reporting countries.

World export prices moved higher during November. Maize production for 2012 is expected to be lower from 2011, resulting from a sharp reduction in the US output. In this context, maize trade has been falling below the previous season's level, driven by shrinking exportable supplies and elevated

### Chicken

	↑	↓	→ (+/-10%)
Afghanistan			→ (-2%)
Bangladesh			→ (-7%)
Cambodia			→
China			→
Indonesia			→
Lao			→
Thailand			→ (+2%)

The FAO (vegetable) oil prices index shows a third consecutive monthly decline reaching again its lowest level in two years. According to the Grain Market Report, global soybean imports are set to expand by 5 percent (year-on-year) mainly due to a strong import demand from China. In Asia and the Pacific region, **vegetable oils/ cooking oil prices** remained largely stable (+/-10%).

### Vegetable oils

	↑	↓	→ (+/-10%)
Afghanistan (cooking oil)			→
Bangladesh (soybean oil)			→
Cambodia (soybean oil)			→
China (soybean oil)			→
Indonesia (soybean)			→
Myanmar (palm oil)			→ (-3%)
Myanmar (soybean oil)			→



## Price and policy information at country level

7 December 2012



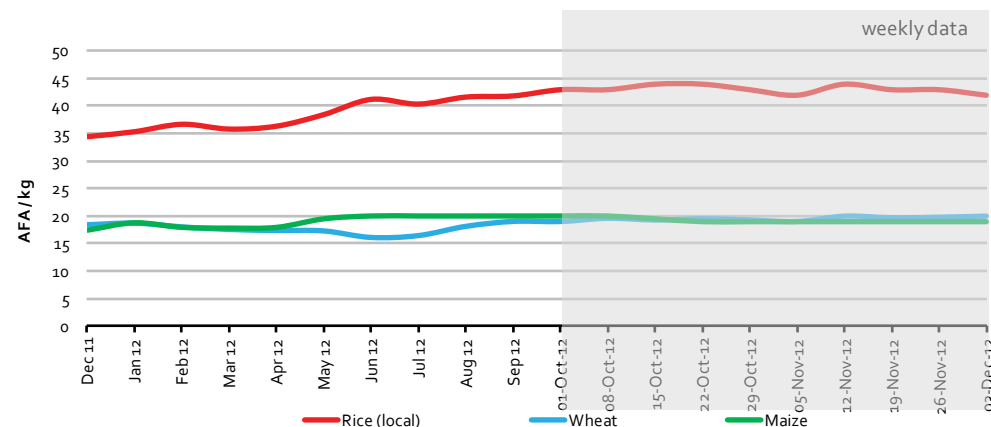


## AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Kabul market have remained relatively stable over the past week and to the levels of one month, three months and a year ago.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	42.0	-2.3%	-2.3%	-0.3%	21.7%
Wheat	Kabul	20.0	1.0%	1.9%	4.6%	8.7%
Maize	Kabul	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	-5.0%	8.6%
Chicken	Kabul	120.0	0.0%	-2.0%	-4.0%	-1.0%
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	87.0	-1.1%	-1.1%	-0.9%	2.7%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA



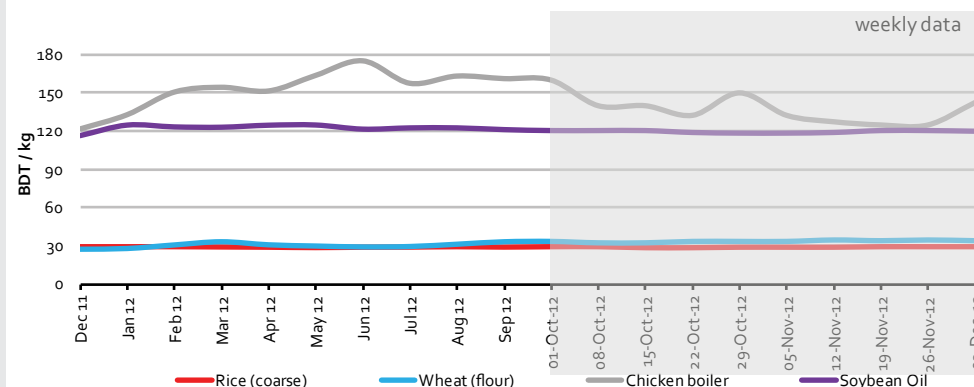
## BANGLADESH, Dhaka (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Dhaka markets have remained relatively stable during the previous week.

- Chicken prices have been fluctuating between BDT 120 -180 (USD 1.5 -2) during 2012. This week, they increased by 14 percent from the past week but were 11 percent below the levels registered three months ago.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (BDT/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Coarse rice	Dhaka	29.0	0.0%	0.9%	1.3%	0.0%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	33.5	-1.5%	-0.4%	0.8%	21.8%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	142.5	14.0%	11.8%	-10.9%	16.9%
Soybean oil (BDT/ltr)	Dhaka	119.5	-0.4%	0.3%	-0.7%	3.0%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%in a weekly basis),(+/-10 %in a monthly basis), and (+/-25%in an annual basis)

### Policy+

From 5 December 2012 to 28 February 2013, the government set the *Aman* procurement target at 0.3 MMT rice at BDT 26 per kg for boiled rice and at BDT 25 per kg for non-boiled rice. *Aman* is the second largest harvest in Bangladesh, occurring in November and December and accounting for 38 percent of the annual production. For 2012, FAO tentatively forecasts the aggregate paddy output at 51.8 MMT -around 2 percent above the 2011 estimate- (Fortnightly Foodgrain Outlook and GIEWS, 5 December 2012).



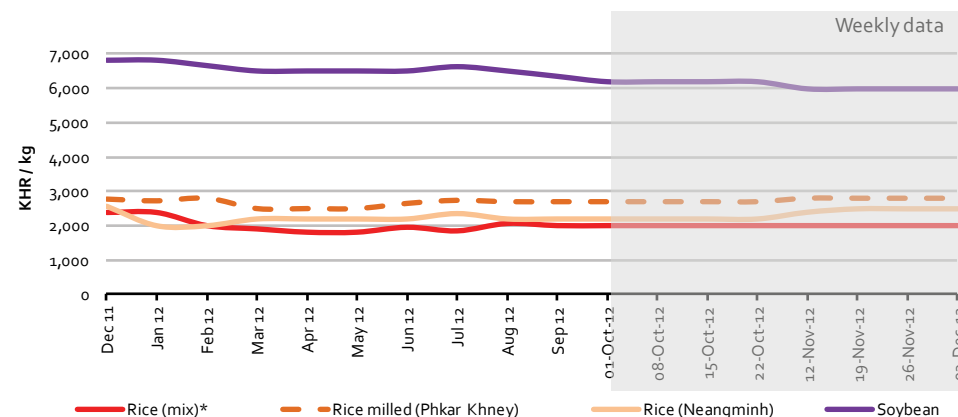
## CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (3 December 2012)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Phnom Penh markets have remained relatively stable over the past week.

- Rice prices (Neangminh, *high quality*) were 14 percent above the prices observed three months earlier.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (KHR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (mix)	Phnom Pehn	2,000	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-16.7%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,800	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	0.9%
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	0.0%	1.4%	13.6%	-2.9%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	20,000	0.0%	0.0%	-2.4%	-9.1%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	0.0%	-4.4%	-11.8%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

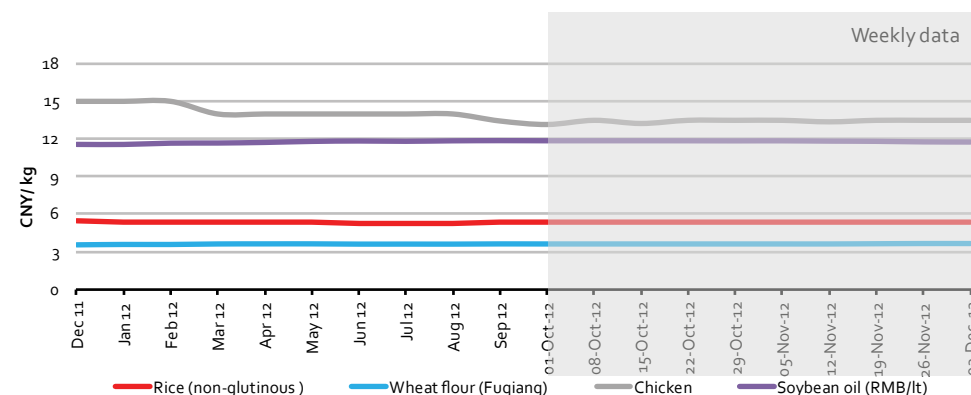


## CHINA, Beijing (3 December 2012)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Beijing market have remained relatively stable over the past year.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.4	0.4%	0.1%	0.8%	-1.1%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.7	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	3.7%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	13.5	0.0%	0.2%	1.7%	-10.0%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.7	-0.1%	-0.4%	-0.6%	1.1%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

During 2012, China allocated CNY 29 billion (USD 4.6 billion) from its central budget to improve the quality of farmland and boost grain production (Ministry of Agriculture, 5 December 2012).





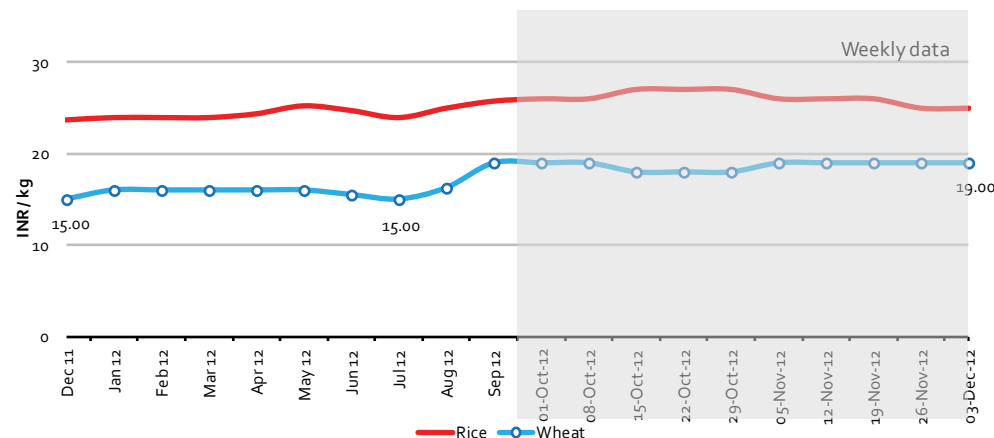
## INDIA, Delhi (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Delhi market have remained relatively stable over the past week, except:

-Wheat prices were 27 percent higher than the prices observed in July 2012 and December 2011.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	25.0	0.0%	-2.9%	-3.8%	5.3%
Wheat	New Delhi	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	26.7%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

The Government of India proposed to create an Innovation Fund for inclusive economic growth. The fund is to be targeted at the bottom of socio-economic pyramid. The fund will help innovative Indian enterprises in developing innovative solutions to meet the development challenges. The fund shall have minimum size of INR 50 million (USD 920,000) which can be scaled up to INR 50 billion (USD 920 million). The Government of India would contribute INR 1 million initially (USD 18.4 million). The balance is expected to be covered by scheduled banks, insurance companies, financial institutions, corporate, High Net-worth Individuals (HNIs) as well as bilateral/multilateral institutions (Press

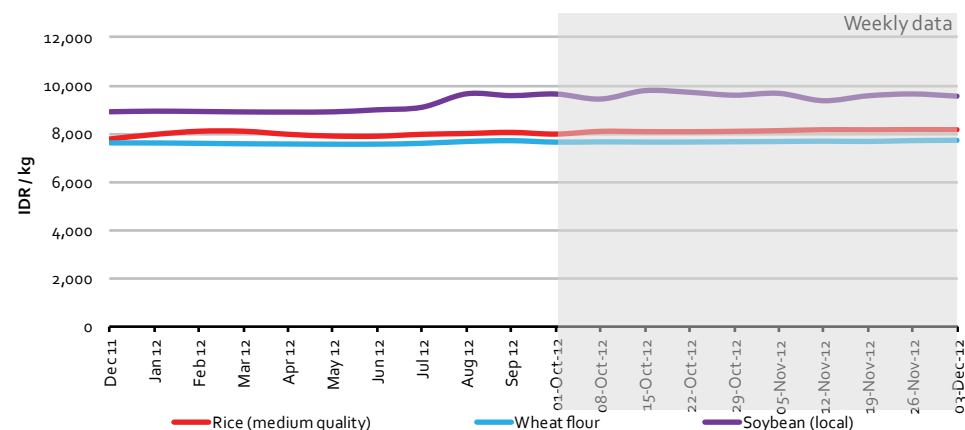


## INDONESIA, National Average (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Indonesia have remained relatively stable since mid-2011.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (IDR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	8,198	0.0%	0.1%	1.5%	5.4%
Wheat flour	National av	7,759	0.2%	0.6%	0.7%	1.7%
Chicken	National av	23,840	-1.4%	-1.3%	-4.7%	-1.1%
Soybean (local)	National av	9,558	-1.0%	-0.1%	-0.8%	7.4%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

As of 5 December, Bulog announced the annual uptake of rice at 3.6 MMT. Actual stocks reached 2.2 MMT (from which 0.3 MMT is imported rice from Vietnam) and are generally used for a rice distribution program, Raskin (Bulog, 5 December 2012).

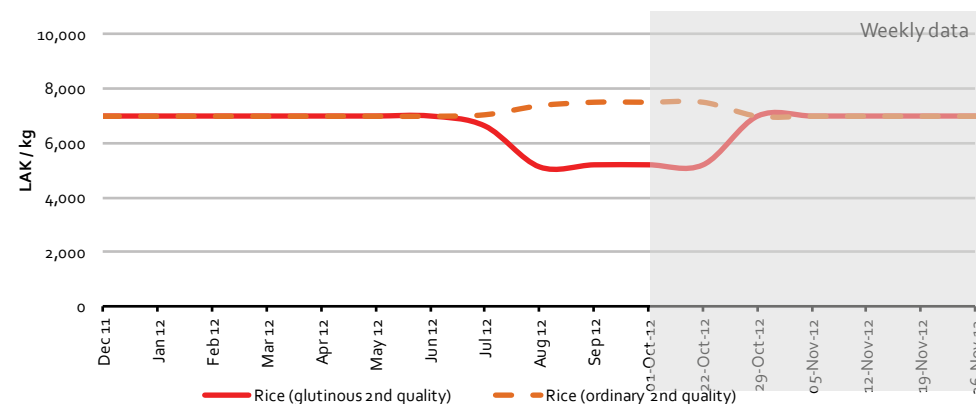


**LAO PDR, Vientiane (26 November 2012)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Vientiane markets were relatively stable during the last week of November.

- Glutinous rice prices were 35 percent higher than the levels observed three months ago. However, prices are back to the levels (LAK 7,000) observed during the first semester of 2012.



Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LAK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice glutinous	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	34.6%	0.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	-6.7%	0.0%
Beef (2nd quality)	Vientiane	52,000	0.0%	0.0%	13.5%	36.8%
Pork (2nd quality)	Vientiane	32,000	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	-5.9%
Chicken	Vientiane	37,500	0.0%	0.0%	-9.2%	-16.7%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA



## MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (3 December 2012)

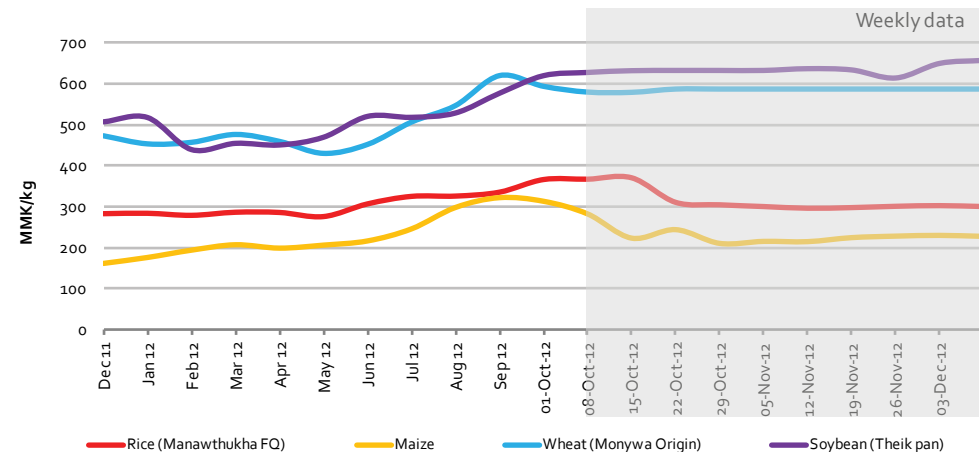
Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Myanmar have remained relatively stable over the past week.

- Prices for rice, maize, groundnut oil and palm oil were 18, 25, 13 and 16 percent below those observed three months earlier, respectively.

- Prices for wheat, maize and soybean were 30, 30 and 27 percent above those registered a year ago, respectively.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	301	-0.8%	0.3%	-18.0%	5.7%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	587	0.0%	0.0%	-0.4%	29.2%
Maize	Mandalay	226	-1.1%	1.5%	-24.9%	29.7%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,470	3.4%	2.4%	-13.1%	21.6%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	657	1.1%	3.7%	5.0%	26.8%
Palm oil	Mandalay	842	-1.5%	-3.6%	-16.1%	-17.5%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10% in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

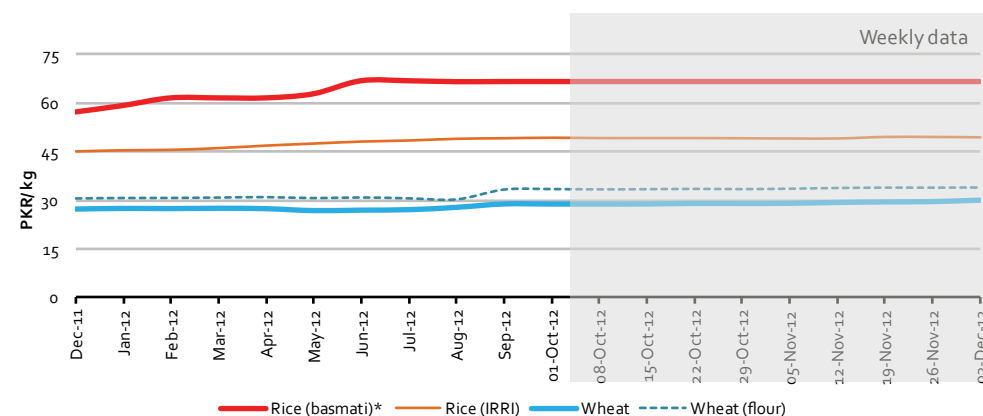


# PAKISTAN, Karachi (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

## Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Karachi market remained stable over the past week.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (basmati)	Karachi	66.5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.3%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	49.3	-0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	9.6%
Wheat	Karachi	29.9	1.4%	2.1%	3.7%	9.4%
Wheat flour	Karachi	34.0	0.2%	0.5%	1.6%	11.0%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10% in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

## Policy+

NA

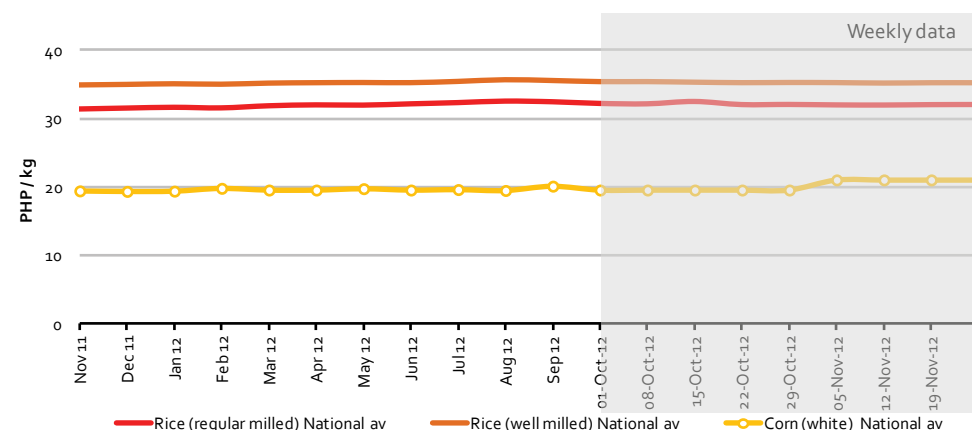


## PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in the Philippines have remained largely stable since early 2011.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/ kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)*	National av	32.1	0.1%	0.1%	-1.3%	1.8%
Rice (well milled)*	National av	35.2	0.0%	0.0%	-1.0%	0.8%
Corn (white)*	National av	21.1	0.0%	1.8%	4.5%	8.5%
Rice (regular milled)	Metro Manila	30.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Rice (well milled)	Metro Manila	35.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

\*Most recent price data available from 26- Nov-2012

### Policy+

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the International Rice Research Institution (IRRI) announced a joint research initiative to achieve food staple sufficiency by developing cutting-edge rice technology, producing and distributing climate change resistant seeds, and expanding current production areas. It is expected that farm families simultaneously increase their income and contribute to improve Pinoy rice varieties competitiveness in global markets (Official Gazette, 3 December 2012).



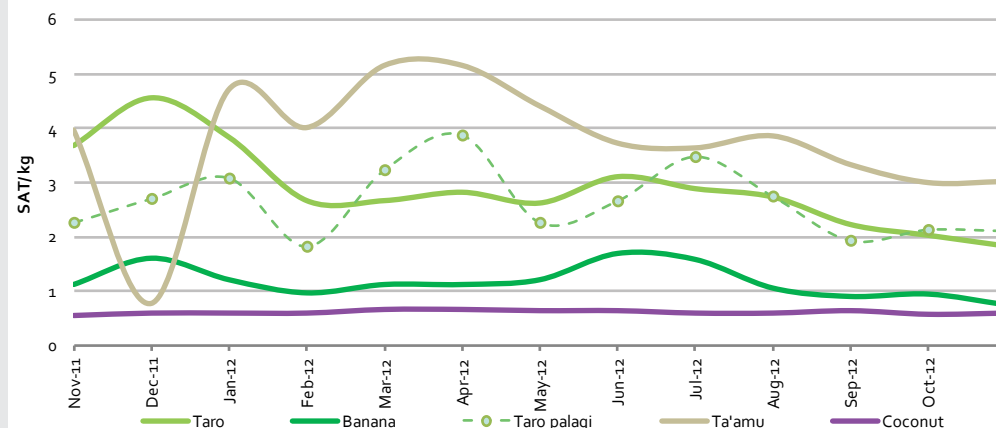
## SAMOA, National Average (November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Samoan markets show a downward trend since three months ago (August 2012). Food prices continue to show high volatility for root crops.

- Banana prices fell by 21 percent below the prices from October to November, but were 30 percent below a year ago.
- Taro palagi and ta'amu were 23 and 22 percent below the levels observed a three months ago, respectively.



Month of Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (SAT/kg)	1 month	3 months	1 year	3 years
Taro	Fugalei	1.8	-9.8%	-33.1%	-50.3%	-21.7%
Taro palagi	Fugalei	2.1	-1.0%	-23.2%	-6.8%	20.0%
Ta'amu	Fugalei	3.0	0.7%	-21.7%	-23.9%	20.2%
Coconut	Fugalei	0.6	3.8%	0.0%	8.0%	8.0%
Banana	Fugalei	0.7	-20.9%	-29.2%	-33.3%	-29.2%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%in a weekly basis), (+/-10 %in a monthly basis), and (+/-25%in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

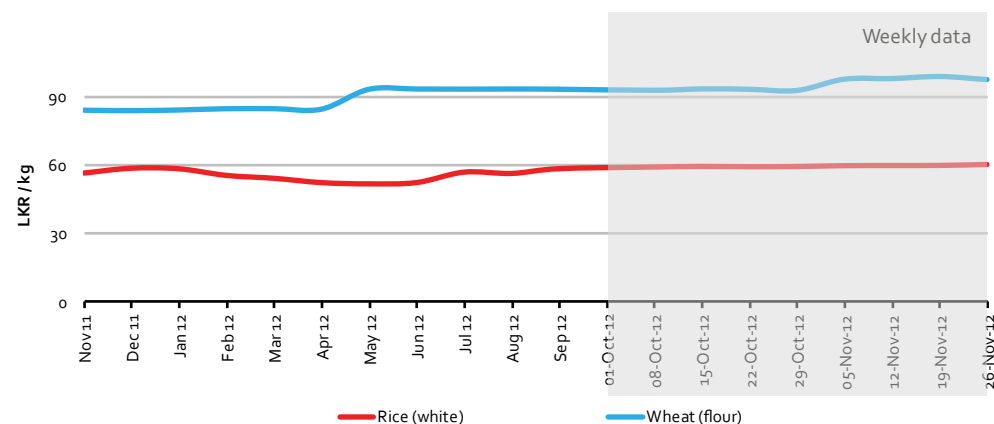


## SRI-LANKA, Colombo (26 November 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Colombo markets were relatively stable in mid-November.



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Week of 26-Nov-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (white)	Colombo	60.2	0.7%	0.9%	3.1%	3.0%
Wheat flour	Colombo	97.4	-1.4%	0.7%	4.5%	16.1%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5% in a weekly basis), (+/-10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/-25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

The government allocated LKR 370 million (USD 2.8 million) to distribute free seeds to farmers affected by the severe drought during the *Yala* season (dry season) in 2012. Plantations are expected to cover a total area of 58,000 hectares and to harvest over 0.25 MMT of paddy, with a production value of LKR 8.4 billion (USD 65 million) (Government of Sri Lanka, 6 December 2012).



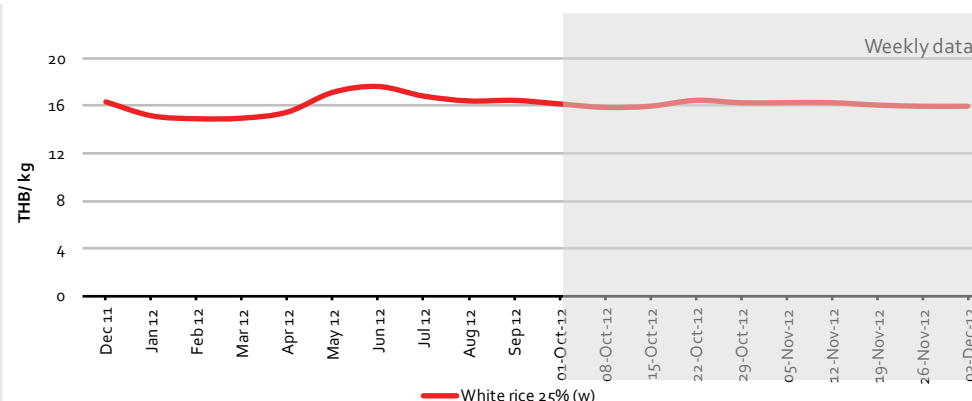


## THAILAND, Bangkok (3 December 2012)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable over the past week.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 25% (w)	Bangkok	16.0	0.0%	-1.1%	-2.0%	-2.3%
Chicken	Bangkok	63.5	0.0%	1.0%	7.6%	-23.0%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	117.5	-4.1%	-4.1%	-6.0%	-14.2%
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

According to a media report, the Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) discussed with the Finance Ministry with the possibility of approving a loan of THB 150 billion (USD 4.8 billion) for the 2012/13 harvest season, claiming that it has run out of funds to operate the pledging project (The Nation, 7 December 2012).

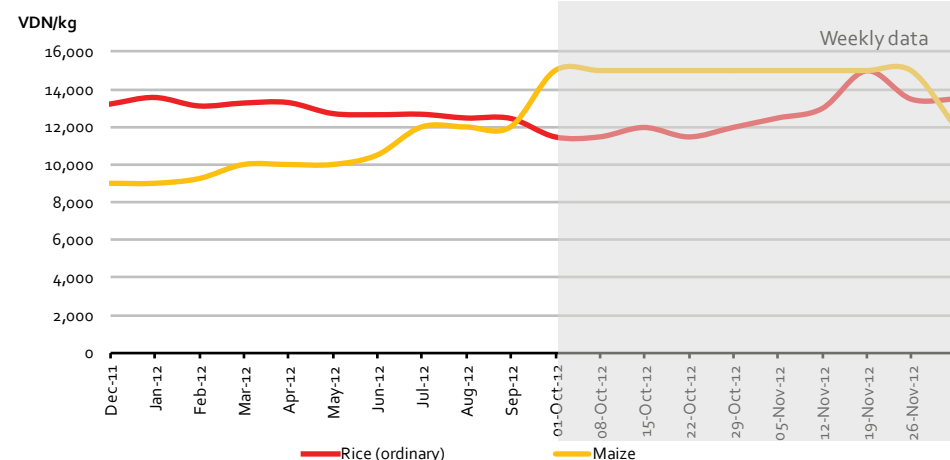


**VIET NAM, Hanoi (3 December 2012)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Hanoi markets were relatively stable during the previous week, except for maize prices that dropped by 20 percent over the past week but were 33 percent above those observed a year earlier.

- Rice prices were 12 percent above the levels observed three months ago.
- Pork prices were 10 and 25 percent from those observed a month three months ago, respectively.



Week of 3-Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (VND/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	13,500	0.0%	0.0%	11.5%	2.0%
Maize	Hanoi	12,000	-20.0%	-20.0%	-7.7%	33.3%
Pork	Hanoi	60,000	0.0%	10.1%	25.0%	0.0%

↑ increase ↓ decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 10 % in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

According to the Vietnam Food Association (VFA), during the first 11 months of 2012, Vietnam exported 7.1 MMT of rice, 5.5 percent above the same period in 2011 and almost equivalent to the figure of 2011 (7.128 MMT). According to USDA, paddy production estimates are revised from 42.99 MMT (2010/11) to 43.32 MMT (2011/12) mainly due to favourable weather conditions for the spring and autumn crops in the Mekong River Delta (MRD) region (Ministry of Planning and Investment and Gain Report 6 December 2012).

## Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

The Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor is prepared with information from official and non-official sources by the Economic, Social and Policy Assistance Group (ESP).

Conditions can change rapidly and information may not always represent the current food price situation as of the present date. As policy information is based on official and non-official sources, not all of them should be taken as official government position. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this report do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The support of FAO Country Offices and FAO's Food and Agriculture Policy Decision Analysis (FAPDA) are gratefully acknowledged for their contributions.

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*I sincerely hope this weekly report is useful and meets your expectations.*

*Yours sincerely,  
Hiroyuki Konuma  
Assistant Director-General and  
Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific*