



# **Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor**

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

**11 January 2013**



## Policy

### National

In order to improve access to safe and nutritional meals for all primary and junior high school students, local governments in **China** will build additional school soup-kitchens in poor rural regions (Ministry of Agriculture, 06 January 2013).

The **Government of Lao PDR** officially ratified its membership in the World Trade Organisation, after implementing a series of market reforms to encourage foreign investment and qualify the country for the membership (WTO, 03 January 2013).

## Prices

During the first week of 2013 staple food commodity prices remained relatively stable in all reporting countries, except for:

- In **Bangladesh**, chicken prices increased by 11 percent.
- Beef price prices in **Lao PDR** increased by 6 percent.
- In **Samoa**, taro palagi, coconut and banana prices increased by 39, 11 and 27 percent respectively, from November to December 2012. In turn, ta'amu prices fell by 39 percent during the same period of time.
- Rice prices in **Viet Nam** fell by 19 percent and pork prices dropped by 25 percent.

## Weather conditions

Tropical Cyclone Evan has caused widespread damage across areas in western **Fiji**. The State of Natural Disaster for the Western Division ended on 8 January. While numbers in evacuation centres have fallen to fewer than 200 individuals in four centres reconstruction of the estimated 8,175 damaged and destroyed homes is a priority as well as ensuring food security in affected communities. The government will complete a Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP) this week with a three month planning horizon (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 07 January 2013).

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  $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-49}, W_{x-50}, W_{x-51}, W_{x-52}))]$ . The criteria to flag unusual price movements are 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."



## Price and policy information at country level

11 January 2013



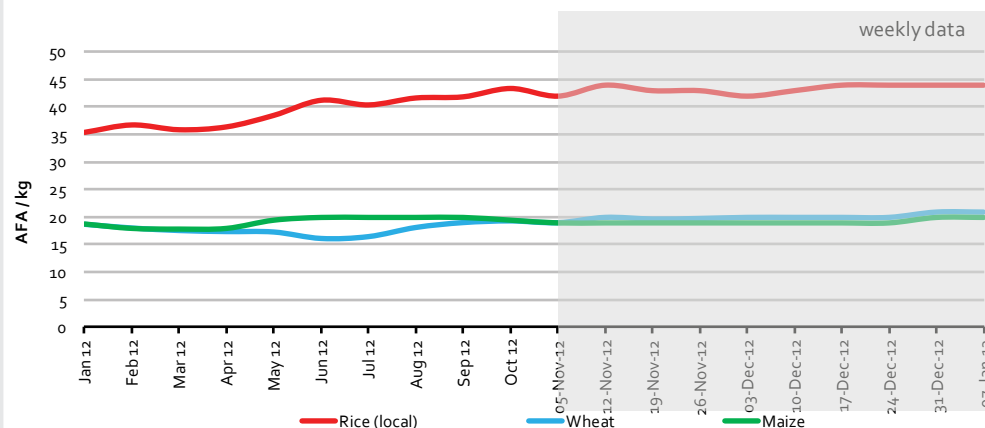


## AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Kabul market have remained relatively stable during the first week of 2013 and in comparison to those prices observed a month, three months and a year ago.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	44.0	0.0%	0.6%	1.7%	23.9%
Wheat	Kabul	21.0	0.0%	3.7%	9.0%	13.5%
Maize	Kabul	20.0	0.0%	3.9%	4.6%	6.0%
Chicken	Kabul	125.0	4.2%	4.2%	2.0%	-6.5%
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	88.0	0.0%	0.7%	0.3%	2.3%

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

### Policy+

NA



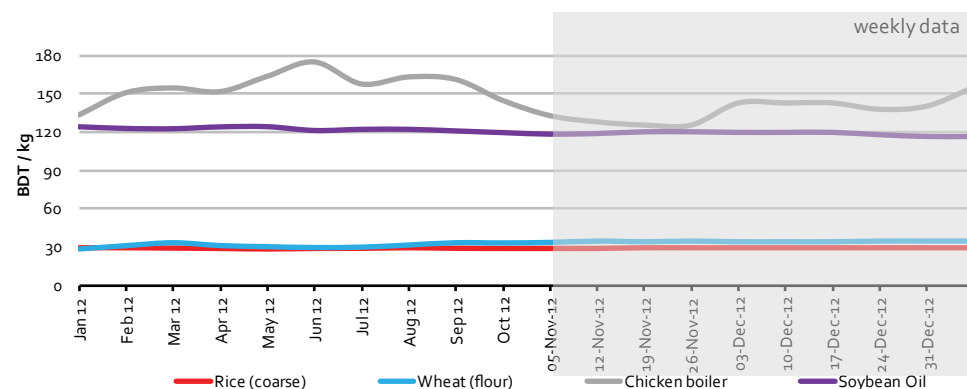
## BANGLADESH, Dhaka (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Dhaka market remained relatively stable during the first week of 2013, except for:

- Chicken broiler prices increased by 11 percent over the past week and were 10 and 12 percent above the prices observed a month and three months ago, respectively.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (BDT/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Coarse rice	Dhaka	29.0	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.0%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	34.0	0.0%	0.7%	3.8%	20.9%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	155.0	10.7%	10.2%	11.7%	14.3%
Soybean oil (BDT/ltr)	Dhaka	116.0	0.0%	-1.8%	-2.2%	-6.5%

### Policy+

NA

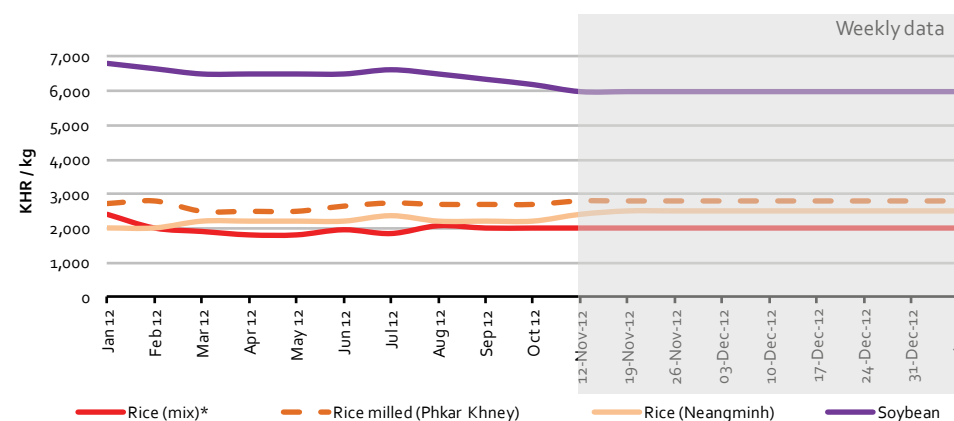


**CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (7 January 2013)**  
Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Phnom Penh markets have remained relatively stable during the first week of 2013.

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



Week of 7-Jan-13

% 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%	2.8%
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	0.0%	0.0%	13.6%	25.0%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	21,000	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	-10.6%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	0.0%	-3.2%	-11.8%

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

### Policy+

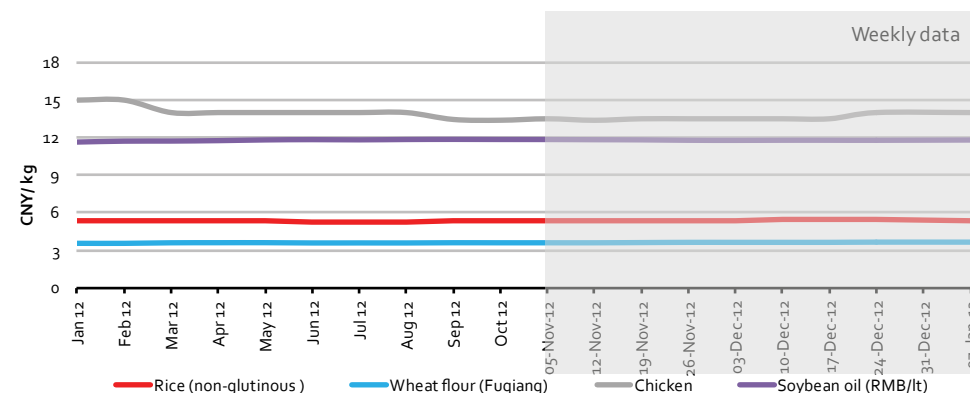
NA



**CHINA, Beijing (7 January 2013)**  
Retail and wholesale nominal prices

**Country Highlights**

Staple food prices in Beijing market remained relatively stable since 2012.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (RMB/kg)	1 week*	1 month	3 months	1 year
Non-Glutinous Rice	Beijing	5.4	0.0%	-0.3%	0.2%	0.3%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.7	0.0%	0.3%	1.7%	3.1%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	14.0	0.0%	1.8%	4.2%	-6.7%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.7	0.0%	0.1%	-0.3%	1.4%

\*Most recent price data available from 24-Dec-2012

**Policy+**

In order to improve access to safe and nutritional meals for all primary and junior high school students, local governments will build additional school soup-kitchens in poor rural regions (Ministry of Agriculture, 06 January 2013).

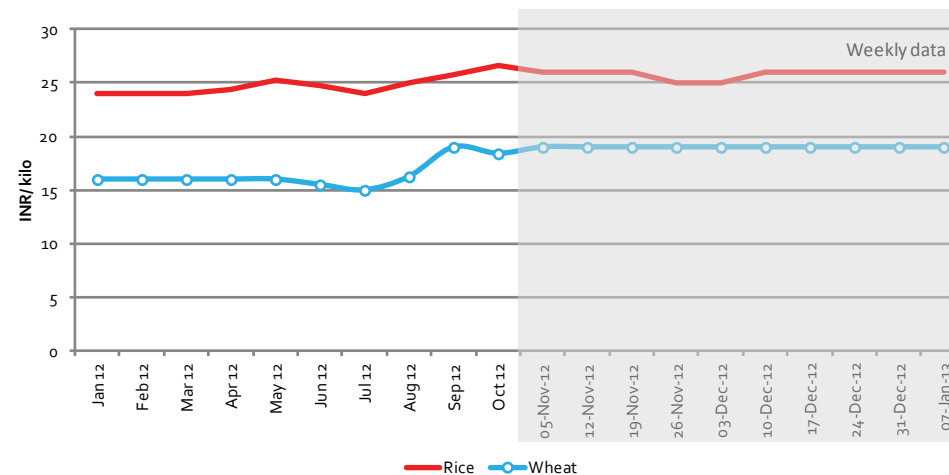


## INDIA, Delhi (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Delhi markets have remained relatively stable during the first week of 2013.



Week of 7-Jan-13

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	26.0	0.0%	0.0%	-2.8%	8.3%
Wheat	New Delhi	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	4.1%	18.8%

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

Policy+  
NA



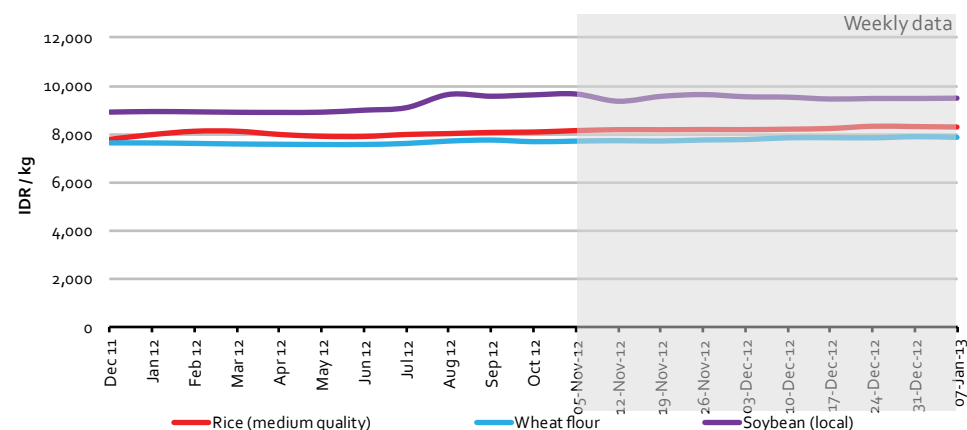


**INDONESIA, National Average (7 January 2013)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Indonesian markets have remained relatively stable during the first week of 2013.

- Chicken prices were 11 percent above the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (IDR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	8,311	-0.2%	0.3%	2.3%	3.8%
Wheat flour	National av	7,847	-0.3%	0.1%	2.2%	3.1%
Chicken	National av	27,650	0.9%	5.8%	11.3%	-0.1%
Soybean (local)	National av	9,498	0.1%	0.1%	-2.0%	6.3%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 0% in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

NA

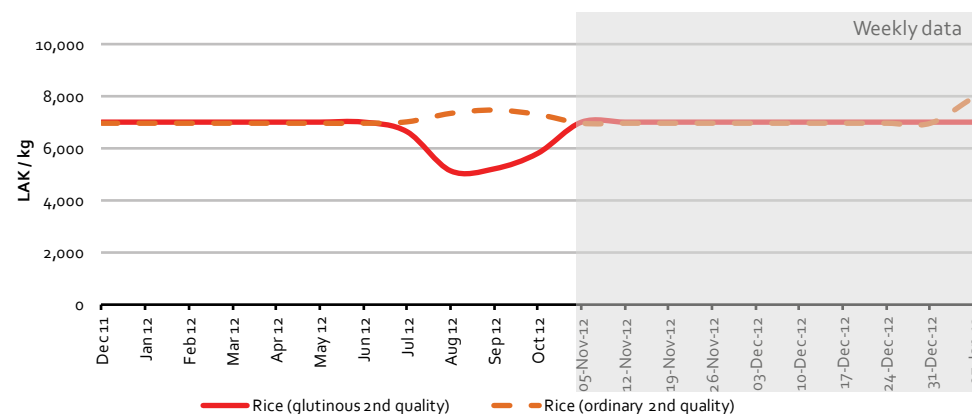


**LAO PDR, Vientiane (7 January 2013)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Vientiane markets were relatively stable during the first week 2013, except for:

- Beef price prices increased by 6 percent during the first week of 2013 and were 10 and 38 percent above the prices observed three months and a year ago, respectively.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LAK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice glutinous	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	9.4%	0.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	7,000	0.0%	0.0%	-2.3%	0.0%
Beef (2nd quality)	Vientiane	55,000	5.8%	5.8%	10.1%	38.4%
Pork (2nd quality)	Vientiane	32,000	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%	-4.5%
Chicken	Vientiane	37,000	0.0%	-0.7%	-4.6%	-17.8%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/- 5% in a weekly basis), (+/- 0% in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

### Policy+

The Government of Lao PDR officially ratified its membership in the World Trade Organisation, after implementing a series of market reforms to encourage foreign investment and qualify the country for the membership (WTO, 03 January 2013).



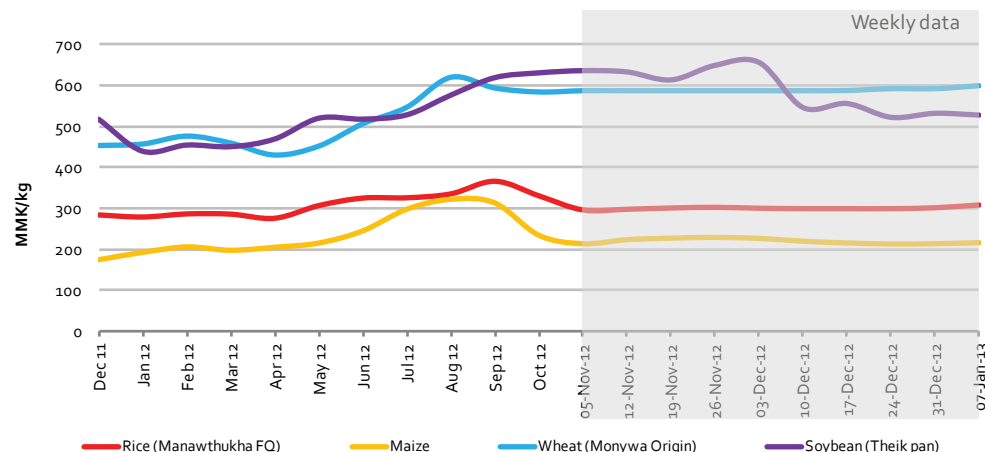
## MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (7 January 2013)

Wholesale nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Yagon and Madalay markets were largely stable during the first week of 2013.

- Wheat prices were 30 percent above those observed a year ago.
- Soy bean prices were 17 percent lower than those prices registered three months ago.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	309	2.3%	2.8%	1.8%	10.9%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	600	1.3%	1.7%	2.2%	30.3%
Maize	Mandalay	216	1.4%	0.5%	-1.6%	12.5%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,358	1.3%	-0.3%	-5.8%	12.9%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	528	-0.9%	-2.2%	-16.7%	22.9%
Palm oil	Mandalay	837	-0.4%	2.1%	-4.8%	-19.8%

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

### Policy+

NA

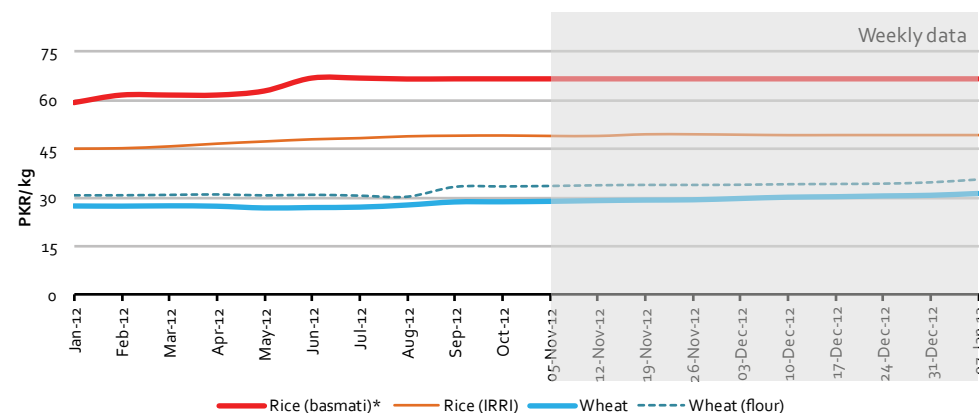


## PAKISTAN, Karachi (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Karachi market remained stable over the first week of 2013.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% 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%	11.5%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	49.2	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	8.4%
Wheat	Karachi	31.5	1.9%	2.9%	8.9%	14.4%
Wheat flour	Karachi	35.6	2.5%	3.6%	6.2%	15.8%

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

### Policy+

NA

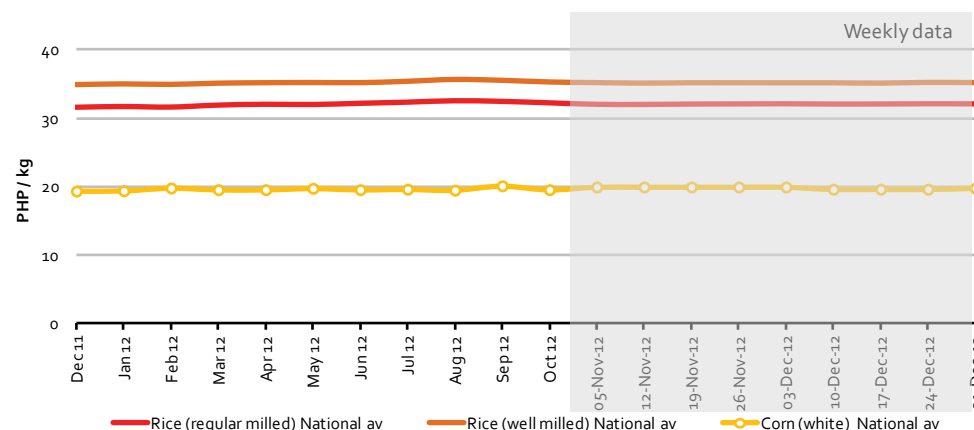


## PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in the Philippines have remained largely stable since early 2012.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)*	National av	32.0	0.0%	0.0%	-0.1%	1.0%
Rice (well milled)*	National av	35.3	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	1.1%
Corn (white)*	National av	19.8	1.7%	0.8%	0.0%	-0.1%
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 31-Dec-2012

### Policy+

NA



## SAMOA, National Average (December 2012)

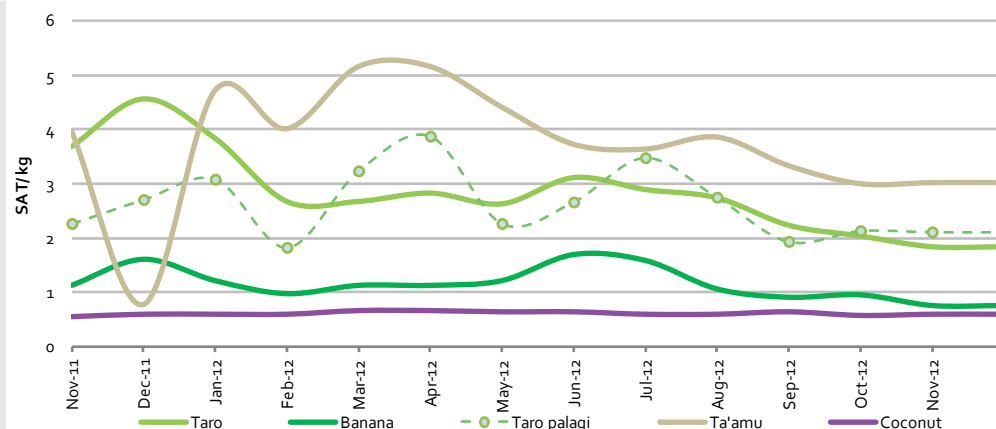
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Food staple prices present diverging trends for December 2012.

- Taro palagi, coconut and banana prices increased by 39, 11 and 27 percent respectively, from November to December 2012. In the particular case of taro palagi, prices increased (+40%) in spite of an improved supply (+25%).

- Ta'amu prices fell by 39 percent from November to December 2012.



Month of Dec-12

% change

Food item	Market	Price (SAT/kg)	1 month	3 months	1 year	3 years
Taro	Fugalei	2.0	9.8%	-9.7%	-56.0%	-27.1%
Taro palagi	Fugalei	3.0	39.4%	52.1%	8.8%	143.3%
Ta'amu	Fugalei	1.9	-38.7%	-44.4%	139.8%	-26.4%
Coconut	Fugalei	0.7	10.9%	3.2%	10.9%	3.2%
Banana	Fugalei	1.0	26.7%	5.1%	-41.0%	2.6%

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

### Policy+

NA

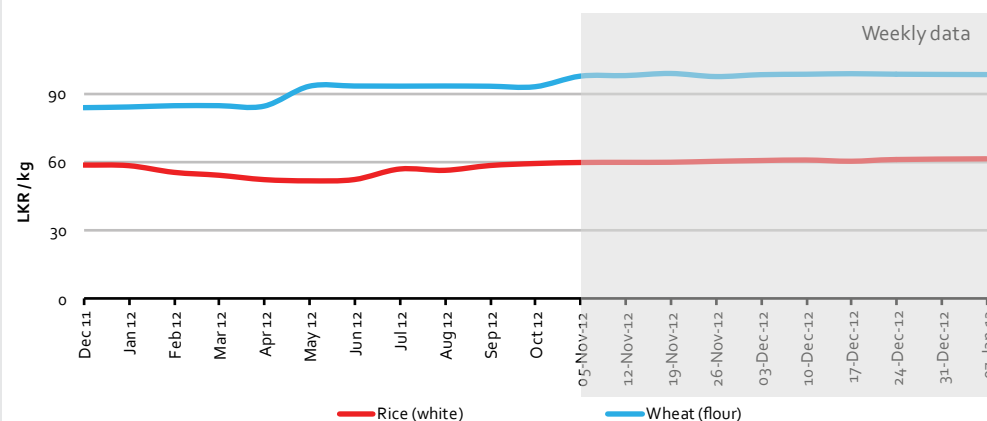


## SRI-LANKA, Colombo (7 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple prices in Colombo were relatively stable during the first week of 2013.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week*	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (white)	Colombo	61.2	0.5%	0.9%	3.1%	5.6%
Wheat flour	Colombo	98.3	-0.2%	-0.2%	4.3%	16.6%

↑ 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 24-Dec-2012

### Policy+

The Government of Sri Lanka allocated LKR 1.2 billion (USD 9,500) to repair over 900 small water reservoirs recently damaged by excessive rains during the last weeks (Government of Sri Lanka, 07 January 2013).

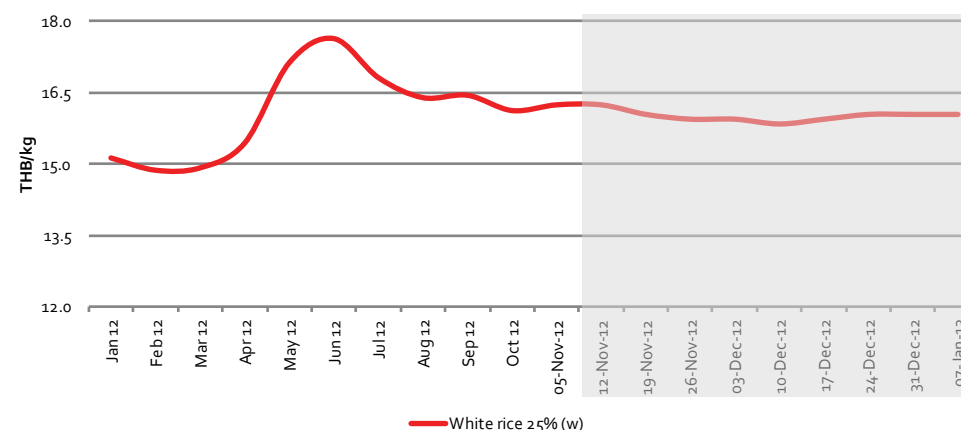


## THAILAND, Bangkok (7 January 2013)

Nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable over the first week of 2013.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (THB/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
White rice 25% (w)	Bangkok	16.1	0.0%	0.5%	-1.1%	6.0%
Chicken	Bangkok	63.5	0.0%	0.0%	5.8%	-23.0%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	127.5	4.1%	6.3%	7.4%	-2.9%
Soybean oil (Baht/ltr)	Bangkok	55.0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%

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

Retail nominal prices, except for (w), which means wholesale nominal prices.

### Policy+

In order to meet international food safety standards to boost exports, as well as improving safety of domestic consumers, the Royal Thai Government formalized a multi-sector collaboration between the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Commerce to accelerate the detection, analysis and control of agricultural products (Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, 04 January 2012).



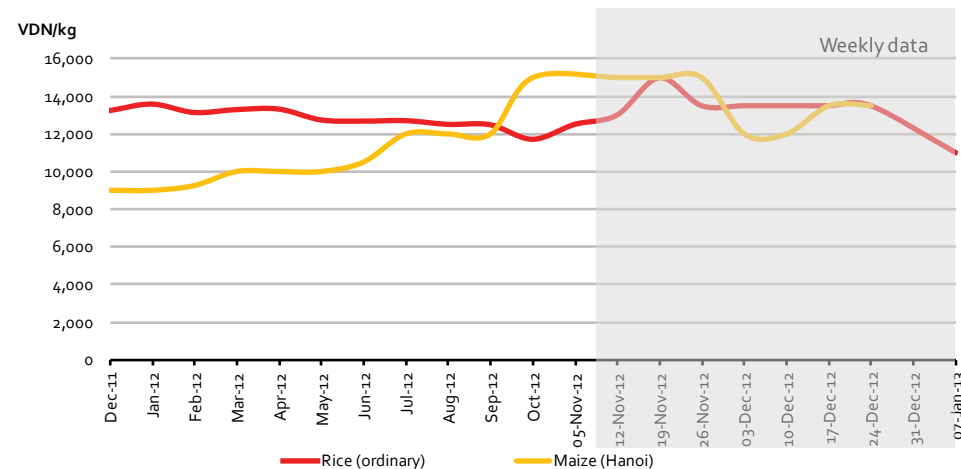


**VIET NAM, Hanoi (7 January 2013)**  
Retail nominal prices

### Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Hanoi markets present significant drops in the prices of rice and pork:

- Rice prices fell by 19 percent during the first week of 2013 and were 19 percent below the prices observed a month earlier.
- Pork prices dropped by 25 percent during the first week of 2012 and were 30 percent lower than those observed a year earlier.



Week of 7-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (VND/kg)	1 week*	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	11,000	-18.5%	-18.5%	-8.3%	-20.2%
Maize	Dong Nai	6,600	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pork	Hanoi	45,000	-25.0%	-25.3%	-1.6%	-29.9%

↑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 24-Dec-2012

### Policy+

NA

## 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