



Asia Pacific Weekly Price Monitor
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

18 January 2013



Policy

National

- In **India**, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved export of processed and/or value added agricultural products even in the event of restriction/ban on export of the related food staples (Press Information Bureau, 17 January 2013).
- The **Vietnamese Government** agreed to purchase one MMT of rice for temporary stock during the 2012/2013 winter-spring crop under a mechanism where the state budget supports 100 percent of interest rate for buying and storing paddy over a maximum period of three months. The applicable prices will be announced by the Ministry of Finance later (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 18 January 2013).

Prices

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

- In **Lao PDR**, ordinary rice prices increased by 14 percent.
- Rice prices in **Myanmar** increased by 6 percent.
- In **Pakistan**, wheat prices increased by 6 percent.
- Rice prices in **Viet Nam** fell by 11 percent.

Weather conditions

- Tropical Cyclone Freda passed over the **Solomon Islands** on 29 December 2012. As of 14 January, assessments reveal damage to agriculture, infrastructure and shelter. Makira and Guadalcanal are the worst affected areas (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 14 January 2013).
- A severe cold wave is sweeping over the region of Srimangal in northeast of **Bangladesh**. According to the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) it has caused crop and other natural resource losses, which can have a longer term negative impact on Bangladesh's economy. Winter crop failures can result in greater poverty and seasonal unemployment (especially agricultural or farming sectors) (Government of Bangladesh and IFRC, 14 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 $[(W_x/\text{average}(W_{x-49}, W_{x-50}, W_{x-51}, W_{x-52}))-1]$. 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

18 January 2013





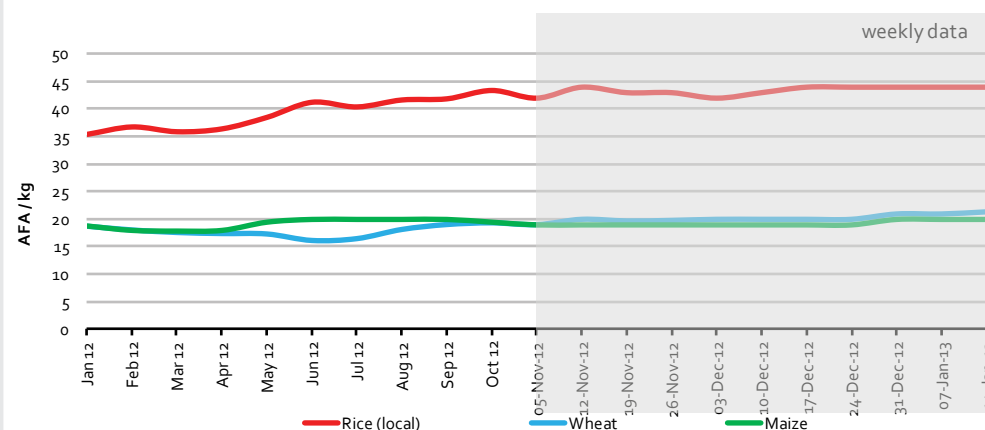
AFGHANISTAN, Kabul (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Kabul market have remained relatively stable over the previous week.

- Wheat prices were 10 percent higher than the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (AFA/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice local	Kabul	44.0	0.0%	0.0%	1.7%	23.1%
Wheat	Kabul	21.4	1.9%	4.4%	10.0%	16.5%
Maize	Kabul	20.0	0.0%	2.6%	5.3%	7.4%
Chicken	Kabul	125.0	0.0%	3.1%	2.0%	-9.1%
Cooking oil (AFA/Lt)	Kabul	88.0	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%	3.2%

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

Policy+

NA



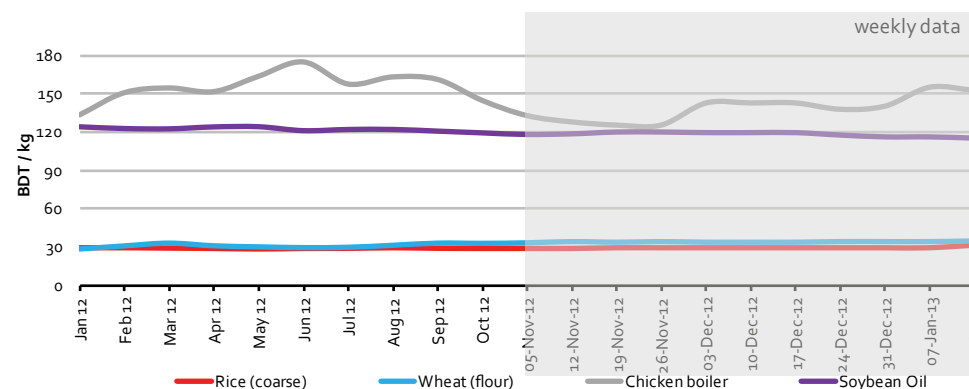
BANGLADESH, Dhaka (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Chicken broiler prices were 14 percent above the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 14-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%	2.2%	0.0%
Wheat flour	Dhaka	34.0	0.0%	0.4%	2.3%	19.3%
Chicken broiler	Dhaka	155.0	0.0%	7.8%	14.3%	9.7%
Soybean oil (BDT/lt)	Dhaka	116.0	0.0%	-1.1%	-1.9%	-5.8%

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

Policy+

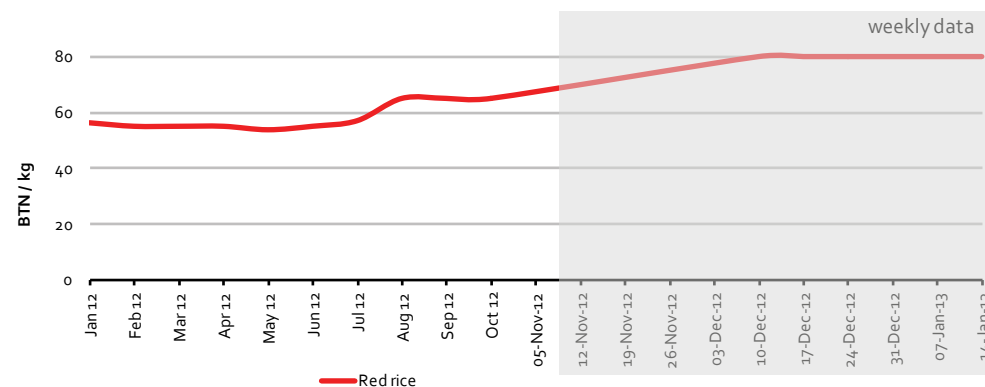
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BHUTAN, National Average (14 January 2013)
Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Red rice prices in Bhutan markets remained relatively stable over the past week but were 23 and 43 percent above the prices registered three months and a year earlier, respectively.



Week of 14-Jan-13

Food item	Market	Price (BTN/ kg)	% change			
			1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Red Rice	National av	80.0	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	43.3%

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

*Most recent price data available from 31-Dec-2012

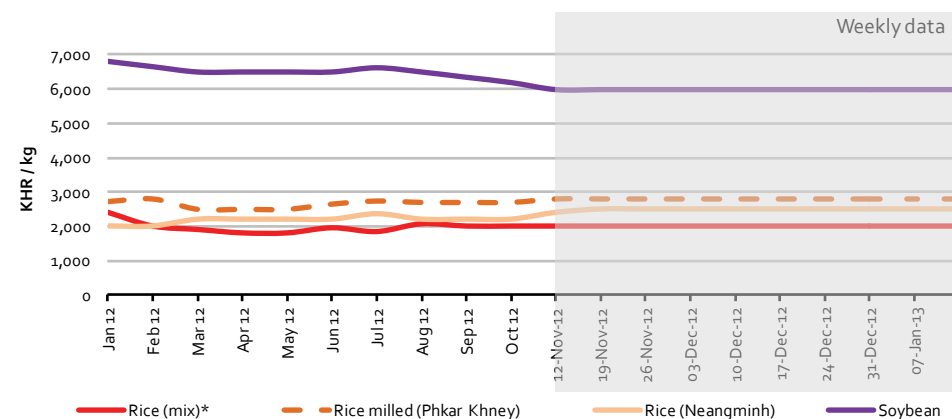
Policy+
NA



CAMBODIA, Phnom Penh (14 January 2013)
Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

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



Week of 14-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%	-14.9%
Rice (Phkar Khney)	Phnom Pehn	2,800	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	1.8%
Rice (Neangminh)	Phnom Pehn	2,500	0.0%	0.0%	8.7%	25.0%
Chicken	Phnom Pehn	21,000	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	-11.1%
Soybean oil	Phnom Pehn	6,000	0.0%	0.0%	-1.6%	-11.8%

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

Policy+

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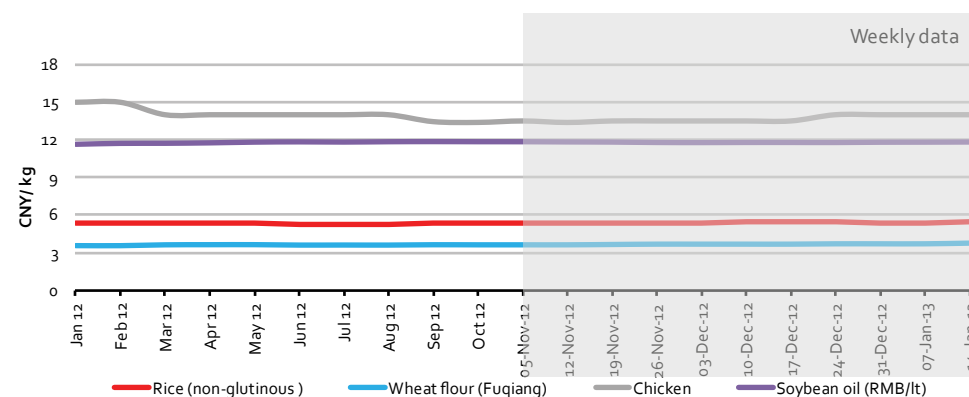


CHINA, Beijing (14 January 2013)

Retail and wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

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



Week of 14-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%	-0.2%	0.1%	0.4%
Fuqiang Wheat Flour	Beijing	3.7	0.0%	0.1%	1.7%	3.4%
Chicken (w)	Beijing	14.0	0.0%	0.9%	3.9%	-6.7%
Soybean oil RMB/lt	Beijing	11.7	0.1%	0.1%	-0.3%	1.4%

↑increase ↓decrease → stable (+/-5%inaweekly basis), (+/-10%inamonthly basis), and (+/-25%inannual basis)

*Most recent price data available from 31-Dec-2012

Policy+

In response to food price inflation the following measures will be implemented from mid 2013 onwards (i) A new pricing system for electricity and water usage (for agriculture production and distribution); (ii) reduced administrative fees at markets; (iii) facilitating the production transportation; and (iv) reduced taxes on major products (Xinhua News, 15 January 2012).

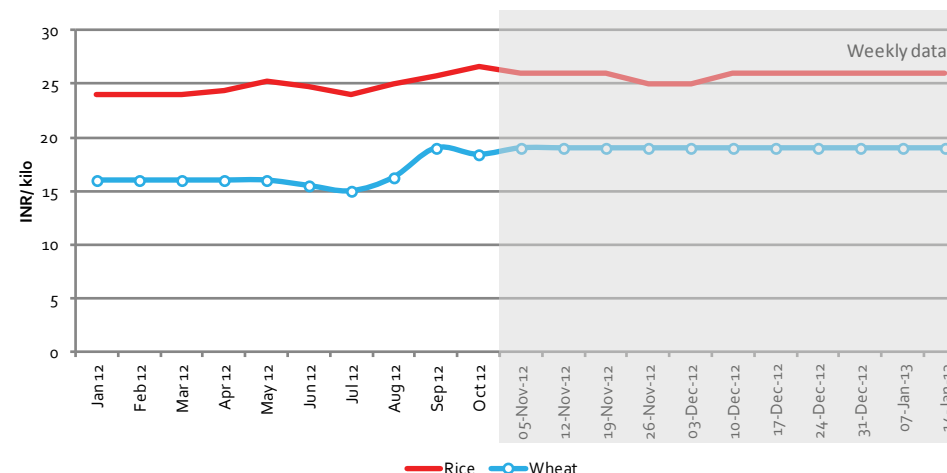


INDIA, Delhi (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (INR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice	New Delhi	26.0	0.0%	0.0%	-1.9%	8.3%
Wheat	New Delhi	19.0	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	18.8%

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

Policy+

- The Department of Fertilizers has notified a New Investment Policy - 2012 to encourage investment in the urea sector and accomplish self-sufficiency in urea by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) (Press Information Bureau, 08 January 2013).
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved export of processed and/or value added agricultural products even in the event of restriction/ban on export of the related food staples (Press Information Bureau, 17 January 2013).



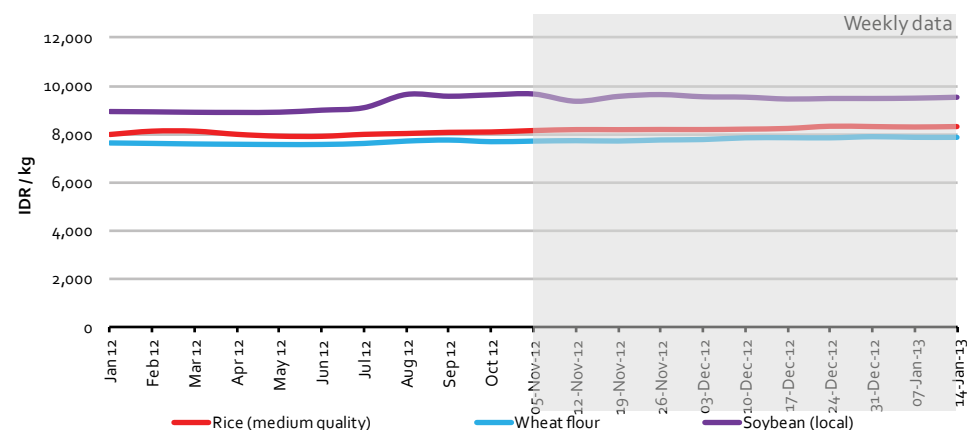
INDONESIA, National Average (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Chicken prices were 14 percent above the prices observed three months ago.



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (IDR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (medium quality)	National av	8,330	0.2%	0.3%	2.3%	3.6%
Wheat flour	National av	7,847	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	3.3%
Chicken	National av	27,898	0.9%	3.6%	13.5%	2.9%
Soybean (local)	National av	9,537	0.4%	0.6%	-0.6%	6.6%

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

Policy+

In response to the floods in Jakarta and South Sulawesi the Ministry of Health is providing food assistance to mothers and children under the program "Exclusive breast feeding and complementary food" (MP-ASI) (Ministry of Health, 15 January 2013).



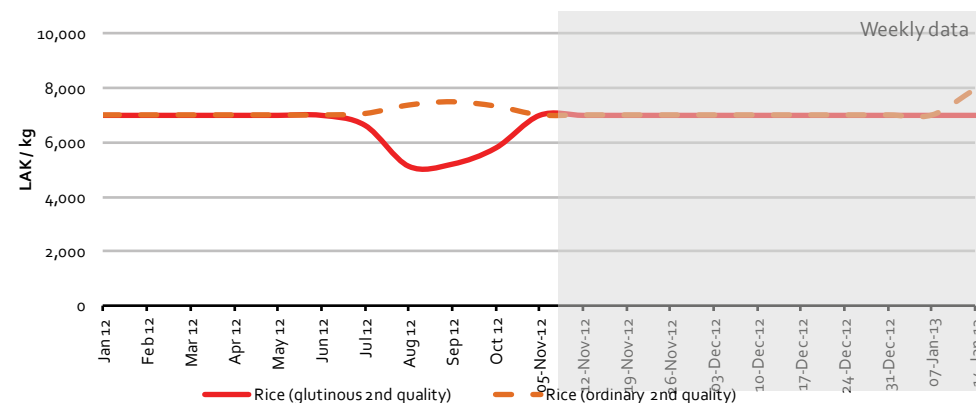
LAO PDR, Vientiane (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Ordinary rice prices increased by 14 percent over the past week and were 12 percent above the prices registered three months ago.



Week of 14-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%	6.9%	0.0%
Rice ordinary	Vientiane	8,000	14.3%	14.3%	12.3%	14.3%
Beef (2nd quality)	Vientiane	55,000	0.0%	4.3%	9.0%	32.5%
Pork (2nd quality)	Vientiane	32,000	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%	-3.0%
Chicken	Vientiane	37,000	0.0%	-0.3%	-3.8%	-17.8%

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

Policy+

NA



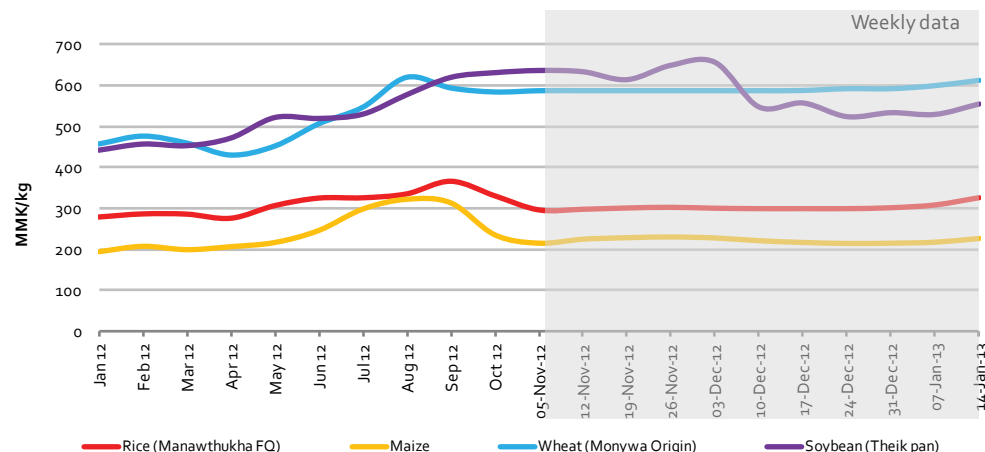
MYANMAR, Yangon and Mandalay (14 January 2013)

Wholesale nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple food prices in Yangon and Mandalay markets were largely stable over the past week.

- Rice prices increased by 6 percent during the previous week.
- Wheat prices were 30 percent above those observed a year ago.
- Soy bean prices were 17 percent below the prices registered three months ago but 31 percent above those observed a year ago.



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (MMK/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (Manawthukha FQ)	Yangon	327	5.7%	7.9%	8.7%	16.1%
Wheat (Monywa Origin)	Mandalay	612	2.1%	3.3%	4.3%	30.9%
Maize	Mandalay	225	4.0%	5.0%	4.7%	14.4%
Groundnut oil (Special)	Yangon	2,368	0.4%	0.5%	-3.8%	14.4%
Soybean (Theik pan)	Yangon	554	5.0%	3.6%	-12.6%	30.5%
Palm oil	Mandalay	845	1.0%	1.8%	-4.1%	-19.2%

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

Policy+

NA



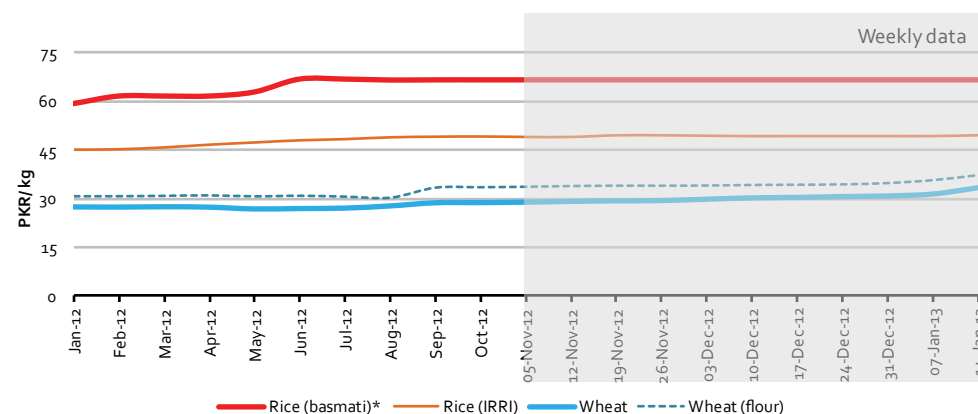
PAKISTAN, Karachi (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Wheat prices increased by 6 percent over the past week and were 15 percent higher than those prices observed three months ago.
- Wheat flour prices were 10 percent above the levels observed three months ago.



Week of 14-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%	10.2%
Rice (IRRI)	Karachi	49.4	0.5%	0.5%	0.9%	9.0%
Wheat	Karachi	33.4	6.2%	8.2%	15.2%	21.5%
Wheat flour	Karachi	37.1	4.2%	6.9%	10.4%	20.7%

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

Policy+

NA

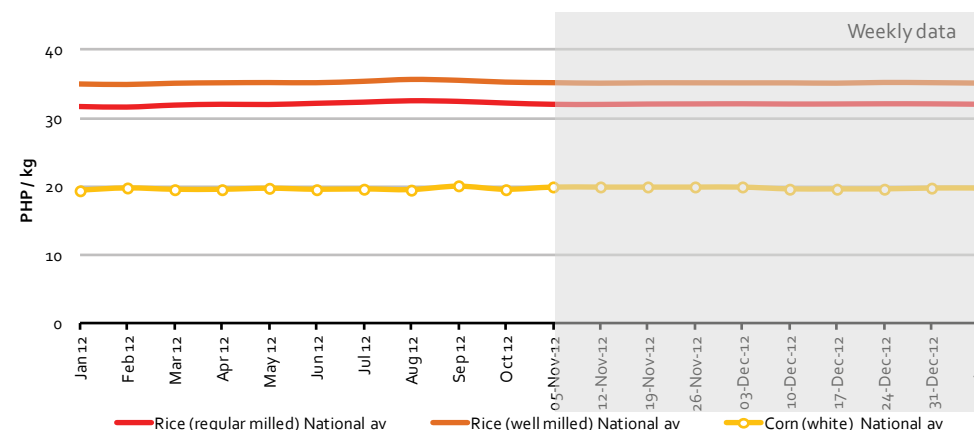


PHILIPPINES, National average and Metro Manila (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (PHP/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (regular milled)	National av	32.0	0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	1.4%
Rice (well milled)	National av	35.3	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.6%
Corn (white)	National av	19.8	-0.8%	0.2%	0.2%	2.0%
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), (+/- 0% in a monthly basis), and (+/- 25% in an annual basis)

Policy+

The Central Bank, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, (BSP) implemented a set of "relief measures" to facilitate loans from commercial banks to farmers adversely affected by tropical depression Quinta which devastated several areas on December 2012. The relief measures (effective on 3 January 2013) include, among others: (i) Exclusion of existing loans of borrowers in affected areas from the computation of past due ratios; (ii) Reduced general loan loss provision from 5 to 1 percent for restructured loans of borrowers in the affected areas; (iii) Moratorium on monthly payments due to BSP for banks with ongoing rehabilitation programs; (iv) Permission for banks to provide financial assistance to their officers and employees affected by the calamity. (Official Gazette, 11 January 2013).

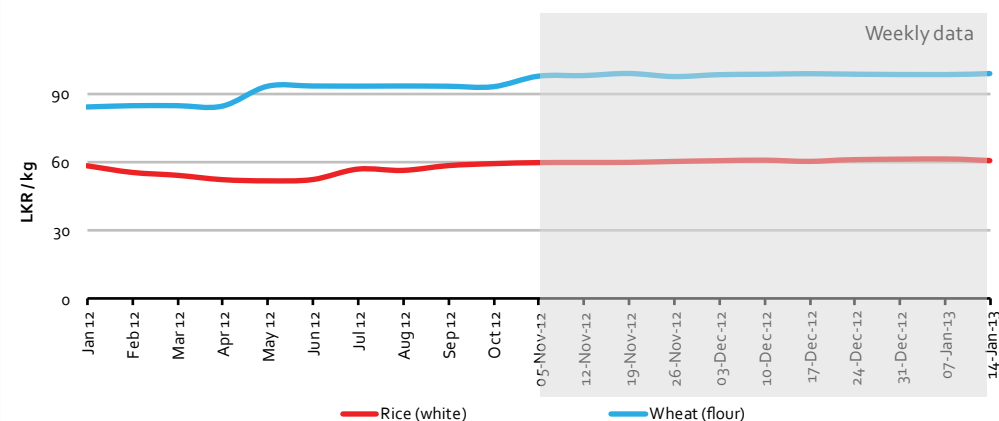


SRI-LANKA, Colombo (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

Staple prices in Colombo were relatively stable over the past week.



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (LKR/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice (white)	Colombo	60.5	-1.1%	-0.5%	1.8%	5.1%
Wheat flour	Colombo	98.7	0.4%	0.3%	3.6%	16.9%

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

Policy+

NA

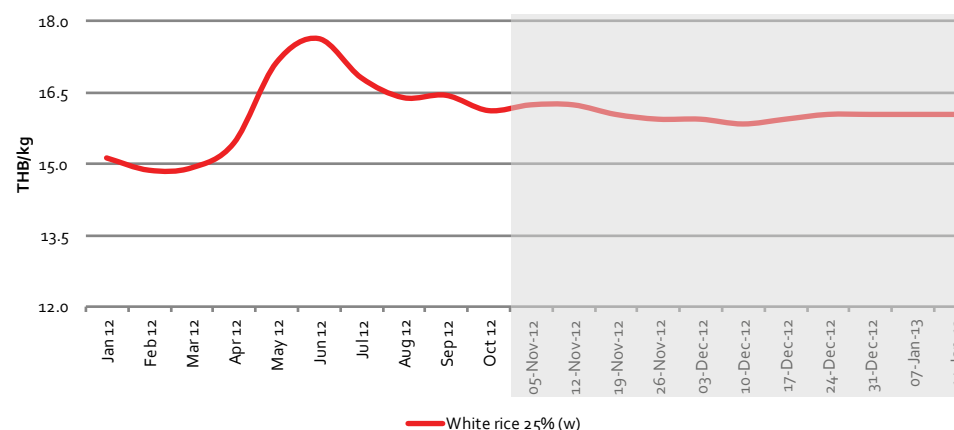


THAILAND, Bangkok (14 January 2013)

Nominal prices

Country Highlights

Overall, staple food prices in Bangkok have remained largely stable during the previous week.



Week of 14-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%	0.2%	-1.5%	6.5%
Chicken	Bangkok	63.5	0.0%	0.0%	3.9%	-21.8%
Pork tenderloin	Bangkok	132.5	3.9%	8.2%	9.8%	1.9%
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)

Policy+

NA



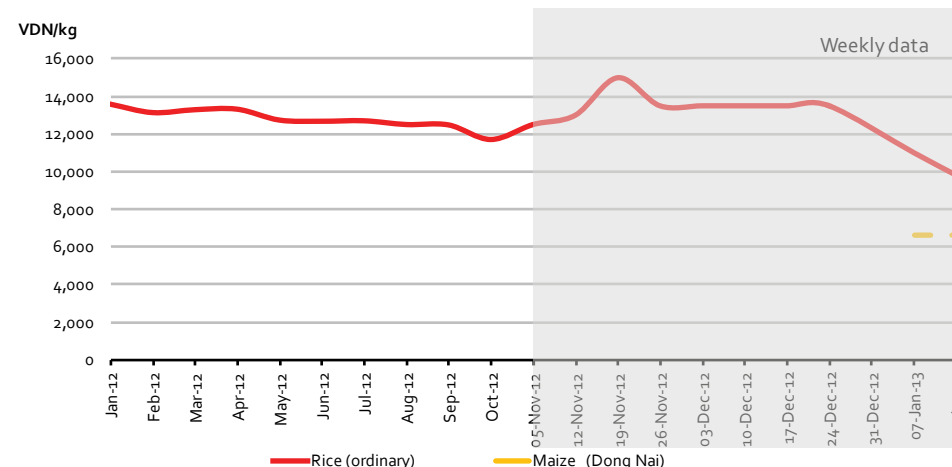
VIET NAM, Hanoi and Dong Nai (14 January 2013)

Retail nominal prices

Country Highlights

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

- Rice prices fell by 11 percent over the past week and were 23 and 30 percent below the prices observed a month and a year earlier.
- Pork prices were 30 percent lower than those observed a year earlier.



Week of 14-Jan-13

% change

Food item	Market	Price (VND/kg)	1 week	1 month	3 months	1 year
Rice ordinary	Hanoi	9,800	-10.9%	-22.6%	-20.0%	-30.0%
Maize	Dong Nai	6,600	0.0%	NA	NA	NA
Pork	Hanoi	46,000	2.2%	-16.4%	-3.7%	-30.1%

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

Policy+

The Vietnamese Government agreed to purchase one MMT of rice for temporary stock during the 2012/2013 winter-spring crop under a mechanism where the state budget supports 100 percent of interest rate for buying and storing paddy over a maximum period of three months. The applicable prices will be announced by the Ministry of Finance later (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 18 January 2013).

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).

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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