



## MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

### KEY MESSAGES

- International prices of maize surged in January amid shrinking global export supplies and large purchases by China (mainland). Prices of wheat and barley also increased significantly, supported by strong import demand. Export prices of rice increased for a second successive month reflecting robust demand from Asian and African buyers, combined with tight supplies in Thailand and Viet Nam, two major exporting countries.
- In East Africa, prices of coarse grains generally followed mixed trends in January. In most countries, prices were around or below their year-earlier levels, except in the Sudan and South Sudan, where despite some seasonal declines, they were still at near-record highs, underpinned by insufficient supplies and severe macro-economic difficulties, including continuous and sustained depreciation of the local currencies.
- In Central America, despite the ongoing second season harvest, prices of beans increased further in January and were well above their year-earlier levels, especially in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, reflecting crop losses caused by the two consecutive hurricanes in November 2020.

### CONTENTS

- INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES..... 2
- DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS..... 3
- WEST AFRICA..... 6
- SOUTHERN AFRICA..... 8
- EAST AFRICA..... 10
- EAST ASIA..... 12
- CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE..... 15
- CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN..... 17
- SOUTH AMERICA..... 18

### Domestic price warnings

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



- Argentina** | Food items
- Bangladesh** | Rice
- Brazil** | Cereals
- Kyrgyzstan** | Wheat flour
- Nigeria** | Coarse grains
- South Sudan** | Staple foods
- Sudan** | Staple foods
- Tajikistan** | Wheat flour
- Zimbabwe** | Food items

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

Source: GIEWS, modified to comply with UN, 2020.

# INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

## Maize prices surge, while those of wheat, barley and rice also increased in January

International prices of **maize** surged in January, reflecting dwindling supplies. The benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) increased by 17 percent, averaging 36 percent higher than in January 2020, as large sales to China (mainland) continued, while export supply tightened in the United States of America with downward revisions to production and stock estimates. A temporary suspension of export registrations in Argentina and concerns over dry crop conditions, further lifted maize export quotations from Argentina (Up River, f.o.b.) and Brazil (Paranaguá, feed), by 11 and 13 percent, respectively. Firm demand and price increases for maize, wheat and soybeans also spilled over to barley markets, while sorghum prices remained stable.

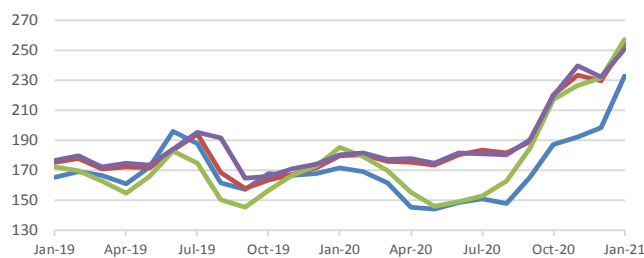
International prices of **wheat** also increased sharply in January. The benchmark US wheat (No. 2, HRW) increased by 9 percent on robust international demand and spill over from the strong rises in maize markets. The doubling of the Russian export taxes from 1 March 2020 and uncertainty regarding measures to be applied to the country's exports in the 2021/22 season (July/June) lifted Russian

wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports) values by 8 percent. More export opportunities on top of tightening supplies boosted both France (grade 1) and Ukraine (milling, offer, f.o.b.) origin prices by 9 percent month on month.

The FAO All Rice Price Index (2014-2016=100) averaged 114.3 points in January 2021, up 2.6 percent from December 2020 and 10.6 percent above its year-earlier level. Export prices of Indica rice firmed across all Asian origins on the backdrop of tight supply prospects in Thailand and concerns over salt-water intrusion and irrigation supplies in Viet Nam. The bullish undertone in both markets amplified interest in more competitively priced rice from India and Pakistan at a time of heightened logistical bottlenecks and a sprint to meet demand from China (mainland) and the Philippines. In the parboiled segment, sentiment was also influenced by a series of Government purchases by Bangladesh, its approval of lower duties on private sector imports as well as December news of Nigeria re-opening its land borders to trade. Amid quieter trading activities, long grain quotations moved little in the Americas.

### International maize prices

US Dollar per tonne

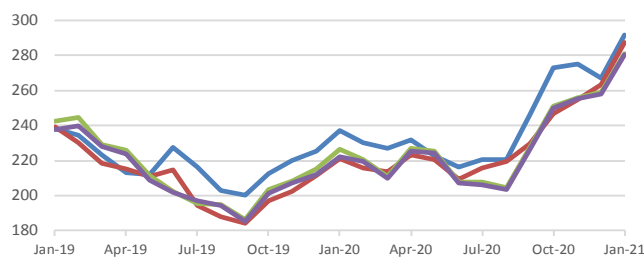


Source(s): USDA; International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	232.66	17.1	24.2	35.5
Black Sea, Maize (feed)	254.50	10.7	15.4	41.4
Argentina, Maize (Argentina, Up River, f.o.b.)	257.00	10.9	18.2	38.7
Ukraine, Maize (offer, f.o.b.)	251.00	8.2	14.3	39.1

### International wheat prices

US Dollar per tonne

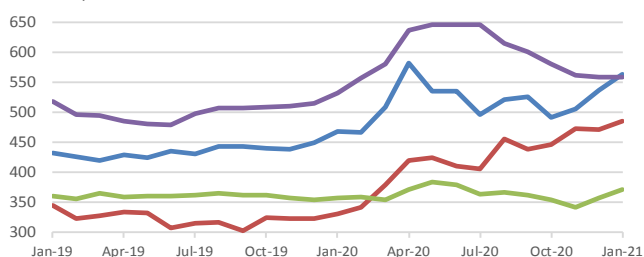


Source(s): International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	291.50	9.0	6.7	23.0
European Union (France), Wheat (grade 1)	287.25	9.1	16.3	29.8
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	281.00	8.4	12.0	24.1
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	280.50	8.7	12.2	26.4

### International rice prices

US Dollar per tonne



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


	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai 100% B)	563.00	4.8	14.4	20.3
Viet Nam, Rice (25% broken)	485.60	3.0	8.8	46.7
India, Rice (25% broken)	372.00	4.1	4.8	4.2
United States of America, Rice (US Long Grain 2.4%)	559.00	0.0	-3.7	5.0

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](https://www.fpma.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 12/20	Same period average
3 months	 2.8	-1.1
12 months	 1.8	0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

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

### Retail food prices continued to increase in December 2020

In December, the monthly inflation rate for **food items** and non-alcoholic beverages continued to increase sharply, despite the price ceiling programme put in place. The programme, first introduced in March 2020 to curb rising prices amid the COVID-19 pandemic, has been extended until end-March 2021. The continuous price increases are associated with the sustained weakening of the country's currency, which lost more than 38 percent of its value over the last 12 months. Among food items, prices of meat and fruits recorded the highest monthly increases, while those of vegetables, tubers and beans showed slight declines.

## Bangladesh | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	1.2	-0.3
12 months	 2.4	-0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Bangladesh, Dhaka, Retail, Rice (Medium)

### Prices of rice increased further in January and well above their year-earlier levels

In Dhaka market, domestic prices of **rice** continued their 11-month upward streak in January and were more than 35 percent above their year-earlier values and the highest level since October 2017. The persistent upward trend is attributed to stagnant production, limited imports and an upsurge in domestic demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a bid to curtail further price increases, the Government lowered the custom duties on rice from 65.5 percent to 25 percent in December 2020 to encourage private sector imports. In addition, the Government has been actively purchasing from the international market to boost State reserves and secure supplies to meet public distribution needs. Overall, rice imports in calendar year 2021 are forecast at a high level of 1.8 million tonnes (milled basis).

## Brazil | Cereals

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	4.8	2.3
12 months	 4.3	0.7

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Brazil, Paraná, Wholesale, Maize (yellow)


### Prices of maize and wheat increased in January and were well above their year-earlier levels

Prices of **yellow maize**, after declining in the previous month, rebounded in January despite the ongoing first minor season harvest, due to reduced crop yields in some producing areas. Moreover, concerns over the slow progress of the ongoing main season crop plantings, exerted additional upward pressure on prices, which were on average more than 65 percent higher than their values a year earlier. Similarly, prices of **wheat** increased with reduced domestic availabilities due to lower imports in the last quarter of 2020, reflecting disrupted trade flows due to the strikes in Argentina. Although the prices of **rice** declined reflecting better production prospects due to improved weather conditions in the major producing state of Rio Grande do Sul, they remained higher year on year following the sustained increases in previous months.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

## **Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour**

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	 0.4	-0.9
12 months	0.8	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Kyrgyzstan, Jalal-Abad, Retail, Wheat (flour, first grade)

### Prices of wheat flour remained stable in January and well above their year-earlier levels

Retail prices of first grade **wheat flour** continued to hold relatively steady in January, amid the harvest of a large domestic wheat output in 2020 ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)), stable export quotations from Kazakhstan, the main wheat supplier to the country and the introduction, on 19 November 2020, of a new six-month ban on the exports of some agricultural products, including wheat grain and flour ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). However, prices in January were 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 depreciation of the local currency, which lost over 20 percent of its value against the US dollar since January 2020 also supported the significantly higher year-on-year level of prices.

## **Nigeria | Coarse grains**

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 12/20	Same period average
3 months	-7.9	-4.9
12 months	 2.4	-0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Nigeria, Lagos, Wholesale, Maize (white)

### Price of coarse grains resumed their unseasonal increases in December

Despite good domestic availabilities from the 2020 harvest, prices of **coarse grains** resumed their unseasonal increases in December after a two-month decline and lingered at levels higher than a year earlier although below the peaks reached in September 2020. The increase is attributed to the disruption of the supply chain by measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and continuing difficult macro-economic conditions, including high inflation and reduced value of the local currency against the US dollar throughout 2020 and early 2021. In addition, localized production shortfalls in some areas and strong demand from large institutional and commercial bodies replenishing their low carryover stocks provided further upward pressure on prices. In northeastern parts of the country, where the ongoing conflict continues to hinder food production activities and disrupt markets, prices remain relatively higher.

## **South Sudan | Staple foods**

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	4.5	2.4
12 months	 5.6	-0.4

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: South Sudan, Juba, Retail, Maize (white)

### Food prices declined slightly in January but remained at exceptionally high levels

In the capital, Juba, prices of **maize, sorghum, groundnuts** and **cassava** declined by 2-4 percent in January from the peaks reached in December, as the second season harvest, currently underway in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, increased market availabilities. Prices of imported **wheat**, by contrast, remained firm. Despite the recent declines, prices were at exceptionally high levels in January, with those of sorghum and maize more than three times the already high year-earlier values and more than 50 times those in July 2015, before the currency collapsed. Underlying the high food prices is the continuously difficult macro-economic situation, related to the 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 adversely affected 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.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

## Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	 -5.4	1.4
12 months	-2.7	0.6

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Sudan, El Gedarif, Wholesale, Sorghum (Feterita)

### Prices of staple foods seasonally declined in January from record highs in December

Prices of locally grown **sorghum** and **millet** declined in January by 5-10 percent from the record highs reached in December with the commercialization of the 2020 crops. Despite the recent declines, prices in January remained exceptionally high, up to three times the already elevated year-earlier levels, mainly due to the continuous depreciation of the local currency. Prices began to follow a sustained increasing trend 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 reduced 2019 cereal output and disruptions to marketing and trading activities related to the measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to widespread floods, provided further upward pressure to prices.

## Tajikistan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	 1.9	0.0
12 months	 1.2	0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

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

### Prices of wheat flour decreased in January but remained well above their levels a year earlier

Retail prices of first grade **wheat flour**, declined for the second consecutive month in most markets in January but remained well above their levels a year earlier. Prices had steeply increased between March and May 2020, due to an upsurge in consumer demand amid concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic, market disruptions and export restrictions in Kazakhstan, the country's key supplier. Prices decreased from June to August, amid adequate market availabilities and government price stabilization measures, including a temporary export ban on wheat grain and flour and the release of strategic reserves, and rose again between September and November, in line with seasonal trends. The depreciation of the local currency, which lost 17 percent of its value against the US dollar since January 2020, also contributed to the year on year higher prices.

## Zimbabwe | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	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, Food items

### Food price increases continued but at significantly slower rates than in 2020

**Food** prices continued to increase at the start of the year but at significantly slower rates than those registered in mid-2020 when the monthly price increases peaked at 38 percent in August. The slowdown mostly reflects a more stable official exchange rate, which had helped to keep the month-on-month food inflation rate below 10 percent in January 2021. On a yearly basis, however, food prices were still 370 percent higher. These extremely elevated prices, which have eroded incomes and constrained the economic access to food for many households, are primarily on account of the effects of a sustained weakness of the national currency, shortages of foreign currency that undermine import capacities and tight domestic food supplies due to the poor harvests in 2019 and 2020. Looking ahead, additional pressure on food prices may come from the recent imposition of lockdown measures in January 2021, in response to a surge in COVID-19 infections in December. Disruptions to trade activities due to the introduction of movement restrictions, particularly among traders in the informal sector, could lead to localized supply shortfalls and pressure prices upwards.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

## Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends but generally above year-earlier levels

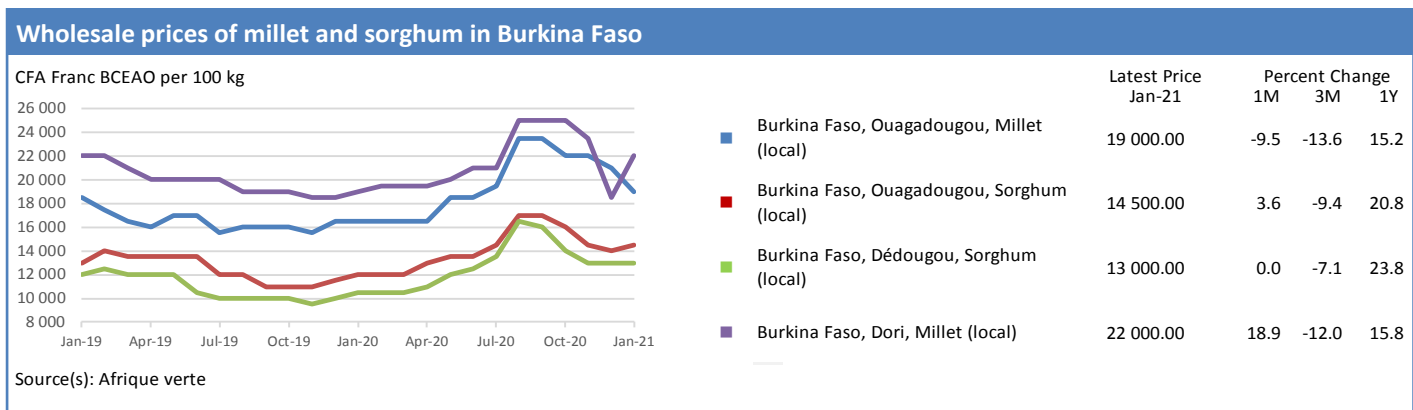
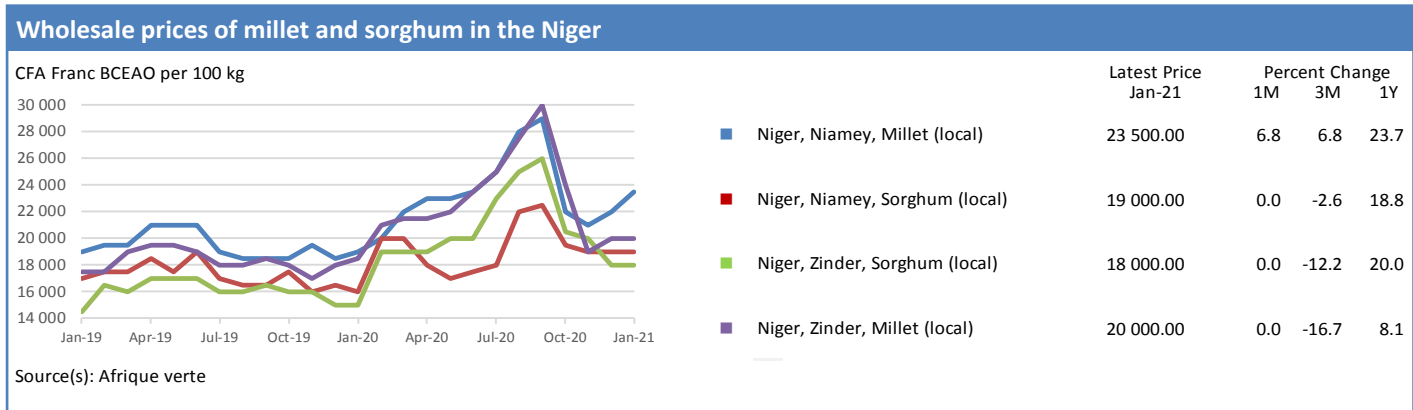
In the Sahel belt, prices of domestically produced coarse grains followed mixed trends in January, easing in countries with good supplies from the 2020 harvests and strengthening elsewhere. In the areas affected by civil insecurity and conflict where marketing activities remain significantly constrained, prices increased and are generally higher than a year earlier. The reintroduction of the restrictions on movement to flatten the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the subregion since November, has significantly constrained economic activities and added further support to prices. In addition, strong demand from institutional and commercial buyers, who started replenishing their depleted stocks, is likely to maintain the upward price pressure.

In the Niger, prices of millet and maize strengthened for the second consecutive month in January in many markets, further increasing the year-on-year gains, driven by the impacts of the COVID-19 restrictive measures on the supply chain and the persistent insecurity in some localities in the regions of Diffa, Maradi, Tahoua and Tillabery. Prices of sorghum and imported rice remained generally stable. In Burkina Faso and Mali, prices of sorghum and millet continued to decline slightly in January, as favourable supply conditions and continued delivery of humanitarian assistance to insecure areas contained seasonal increases. Prices, however, remained at relatively high levels in central and northern parts of Mali and northern Burkina Faso and above their year-earlier values due to localized production shortfalls and persistent conflict, which disrupted the traditional supply routes. Prices of rice were generally stable in almost all markets. In Senegal, prices of grains remained stable in December over the past three months as the main season harvest supplied

the markets. However, compared to their values in December 2020, prices were still at moderately high levels due to the impacts of the COVID-19 restrictive measures on marketing activities. Prices of rice remained stable compared to last month. In Chad, prices of cereals increased sharply for the third consecutive month in December, despite the recently completed main season harvest. The increase in prices was driven by the tight supply as a result of increasing transportation costs and strong demand from cross border markets in the Sudan. The effects of the COVID-19 restrictive measures provided further support to prices.

In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize in Ghana remained generally unchanged in December 2020 and were higher than a year earlier mostly supported by the impacts of the COVID-19 containment measures on the supply chain and trade flows. Similarly, in Benin and Togo, prices of maize remained stable in December reflecting adequate market supplies from the recent harvests. However, in these countries, prices will likely increase in the coming weeks as the demand by local traders and neighbouring Sahelian countries is expected to strengthen.

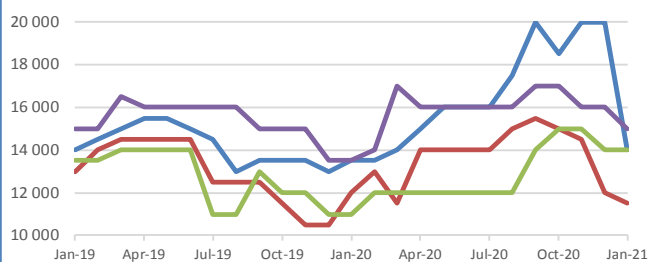
In Nigeria, difficult macro-economic conditions, the weak market supply in some conflict-related areas and the effects of the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 on the supply chain, continued to keep prices at relatively high levels in December and significantly above those a year earlier across many markets of the country. Localized but substantial crop production shortfalls in some areas and strong domestic demand for the production of animal feed and beverages provided further support to prices.



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

## Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg

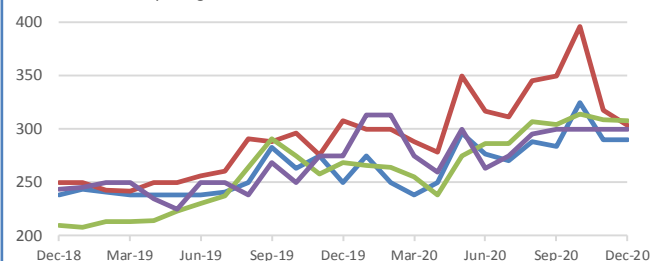


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Mali, Bamako, Millet (local)	14 000.00	-30.0	-24.3	3.7
■ Mali, Bamako, Sorghum (local)	11 500.00	-4.2	-23.3	-4.2
■ Mali, Ségou, Millet (local)	14 000.00	0.0	-6.7	27.3
■ Mali, Kayes, Sorghum (local)	15 000.00	-6.3	-11.8	11.1

## Retail prices of millet in Senegal

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

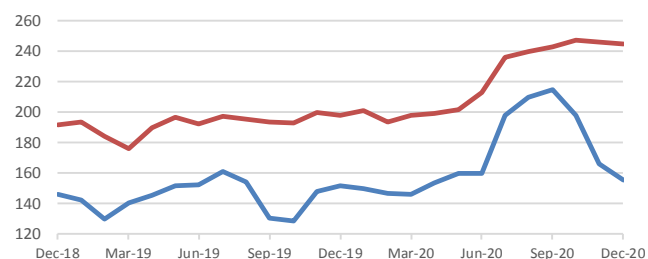


Source(s): Agence Nationale de la Statistique et la Démographie (ANSD)

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Senegal, Dakar, Millet	290.00	0.0	2.1	16.0
■ Senegal, SaintLouis, Millet	303.00	-4.7	-13.4	-1.6
■ Senegal, Louga, Millet	308.00	-0.3	1.3	14.5
■ Senegal, Matam, Millet	300.00	0.0	0.0	9.1

## Retail prices of maize in Benin

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg

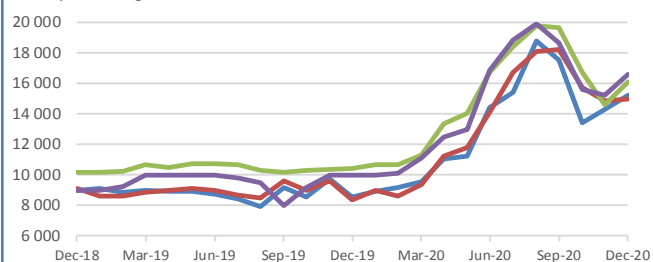


Source(s): Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE)

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Natitingou, Maize	155.50	-6.3	-27.7	2.3
■ Cotonou, Maize	245.00	-0.4	0.8	23.7

## Wholesale prices of white maize in Nigeria

Naira per 100 kg



Source(s): FEWSNET

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Nigeria, Kano, Maize (white)	15 230.00	6.5	-13.3	78.3
■ Nigeria, Maiduguri, Maize (white)	15 000.00	0.8	-17.6	79.1
■ Nigeria, Lagos, Maize (white)	16 080.00	10.1	-18.2	53.9
■ Nigeria, Ibadan, Maize (white)	16 600.00	9.0	-10.9	66.0

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

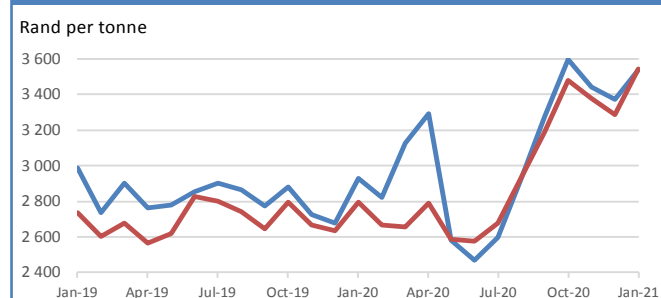
# SOUTHERN AFRICA

## Prices rise seasonally, but increases tempered by ample subregional supplies

Prices of the main food staple, maize, continued to increase seasonally at the start of the year. Although the ample national supplies, following production upturns in 2020, limited the monthly gains, prices came under upward pressure from weaker currencies partly owing to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In **South Africa**, wholesale prices of maize increased in January 2021 following two months of declines and were more than 20 percent above their year-earlier levels. The recent uptick was underpinned by spillover effects from the international market, where prices have risen sharply reflecting increasingly tight global supplies, and a depreciation of the national currency. Some of this upward pressure was, however, curtailed by recent planting estimates that pointed to a 6 percent expansion in the maize acreage and, combined with conducive weather conditions, affirmed a favourable production outlook in 2021. Driven by similar factors, prices of wheat also increased in January. In **Zimbabwe**, prices of foods continued to increase in January albeit at a significantly slower pace compared to the steep rates registered in mid-2020, partly owing to a more stable exchange rate since the last quarter of 2020. Despite the slowdown, food prices had increased by 370 percent over the

preceding 12 months on account of an overall weak currency and poor harvests in the previous two years that reduced domestic supplies. In **Zambia**, the steep depreciation of the national currency resulted in inflationary pressure and exacerbated the seasonal price increases of maize, with notable price increased for maize meal in January. On a yearly basis, however, prices remained lower reflecting the production recovery in 2020 and consequently an adequate domestic supply situation. Similarly, in **Mozambique**, prices of maize increased at comparatively steeper rates in the last months, partly driven by a weakening currency, which had lost about 20 percent of its value against the US dollar in the 12 months to January 2021. The recent cyclones that struck central areas could cause temporary price spikes, due to the disruption to trade routes that may result in localized supply shortfalls. Prices of maize grain in **Malawi** remained generally firm in January and were well below their year-earlier levels, reflecting larger domestic supplies following the production upturn in 2020. In the import-dependent countries, **Botswana** and **Eswatini**, which source the bulk of their grain supplies from South Africa, prices of maize meal were also stable in December, but higher than the previous year amid increasing import costs.

### Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa



Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

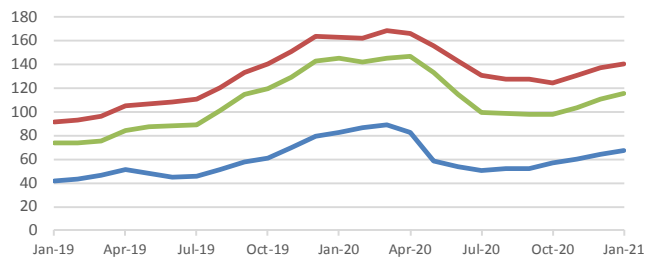
	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ South Africa, Randfontein, Maize (white)	3 538.18	4.9	-1.7	20.9
■ South Africa, Randfontein, Maize (yellow)	3 542.47	7.8	1.8	26.7

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



## Retail prices of maize in Zambia

Kwacha per 17 kg

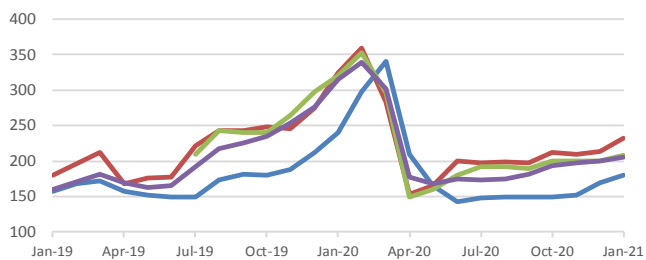


Source(s): Central Statistical Office

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Zambia, National Average, Maize (white)	67.66	5.3	19.2	-18.1
Zambia, National Average, Breakfast maize meal	140.69	2.9	12.9	-13.4
Zambia, National Average, White roller maize meal	115.56	4.8	18.4	-20.4

## Retail prices of maize in Malawi

Kwacha per kg

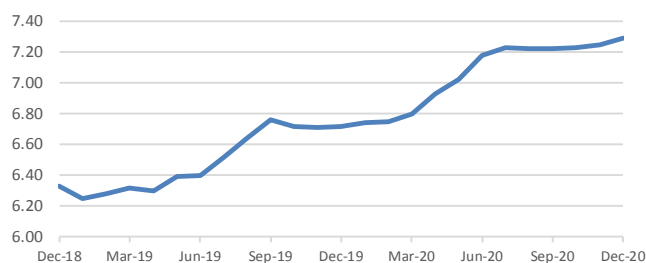


Source(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security/IFPRI

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Mzuzu, Maize	180.00	5.9	20.0	-25.2
Nsanje, Maize	232.40	8.9	9.5	-28.5
Liwonde, Maize	208.00	4.0	4.0	-35.0
National Average, Maize	205.40	2.4	6.0	-34.9

## Retail prices of maize meal in Botswana

Pula per kg

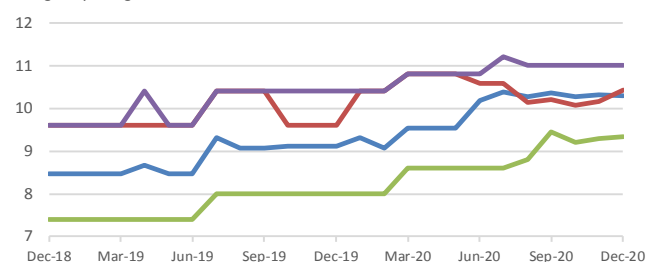


Source(s): Statistics Botswana

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National average, Maize meal	7.29	0.6	1.0	8.5

## Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini

Lilangeni per kg



Source(s): Central Statistical Office (CSO)

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National average, Maize meal	10.29	-0.2	-0.7	12.8
Hhohho, Maize meal	10.44	2.8	2.4	8.7
Lubombo, Maize meal	9.35	0.5	-1.1	16.9
Shiselweni, Maize meal	11.00	0.0	0.0	5.8

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

## Prices of coarse grains at exceptionally high levels in the Sudan and South Sudan

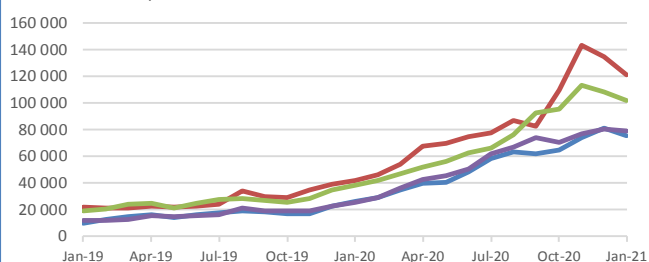
Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in January. In most countries, prices were below their year-earlier levels reflecting above-average first season harvests which concluded in July-August 2020. A slowdown in economic activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a deterioration of households' purchasing power, contributed to depress domestic demand. Despite the phasing out in recent months of a number of restrictive measures introduced to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in some countries, economic recovery is slow and demand remains stagnant, continuing to exert downward pressure on prices. By contrast, despite some seasonal declines, prices were at exceptionally high levels in South Sudan and in the Sudan, where prices are underpinned by insufficient supplies and severe macro-economic difficulties, including the continuous depreciation of the local currencies.

In the Sudan, prices of sorghum and millet declined in January from the peak reached in December with the commercialization of 2020 crops but remained at near-record levels. The exceptionally high prices are a result of various factors: the tight supply following reduced carryover stocks from the 2019 harvest, a weak currency, insufficient market supplies due to COVID-19-related restrictive measures resulting in transportation bottlenecks, fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating the already elevated production and transportation costs. In South Sudan, prices of maize and sorghum slightly declined in January in the capital, Juba, from the peaks reached in December as the second season harvest, currently underway in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, increased market availabilities. Despite the recent limited declines, prices in January were exceptionally high due to the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict, a weak currency and, in the first half of 2020, COVID-19 screening measures at border points in Uganda, the country's

main source for cereal imports, which slowed down trade flows. In Uganda, prices of maize declined seasonally in January as the newly harvested second season crops increased market availabilities. Prices in January were well below their year-earlier levels, mainly due to the measures implemented to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, which constrained livelihood opportunities and resulted in declining purchasing power, depressing domestic demand since early 2020. Similarly, prices of maize declined in January in Rwanda with the "2021A" season harvest and were lower than 12 months earlier due to adequate availabilities coupled to depressed demand following COVID-19-related restrictions. In the United Republic of Tanzania, prices of maize followed mixed trends in January but were well below their levels a year earlier. In Kenya, prices of maize remained stable or increased in January despite the imminent start of the secondary "short-rains" harvest, as cereal production is expected at below-average levels due to unfavourable weather conditions. However, prices remained below their year-earlier values due to adequate domestic availabilities and sustained imports from Uganda. In Somalia, prices of sorghum and maize seasonally increased in December 2020 in key southern producing areas and in the capital, Mogadishu, but remained around their year-earlier values. In Ethiopia, prices of wheat and sorghum declined in the capital, Addis Ababa, with the main "Meher" harvest increasing supplies, while prices of "Teff" remained firm and those of maize increased due to sustained local demand. Cereal prices in November 2020 were well above their year-earlier levels, mainly due to the continuous depreciation of the country's currency, which has resulted in increased transportation and production costs. In Tigray Region, the ongoing conflict has resulted in widespread shortages of food commodities and in sharp price increases. In the regional capital, Mekele, between November and December, prices of several key staples increased by 50-100 percent.

### Wholesale prices of sorghum and millet in the Sudan

Sudanese Pound per tonne



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

Latest Price  
Jan-21

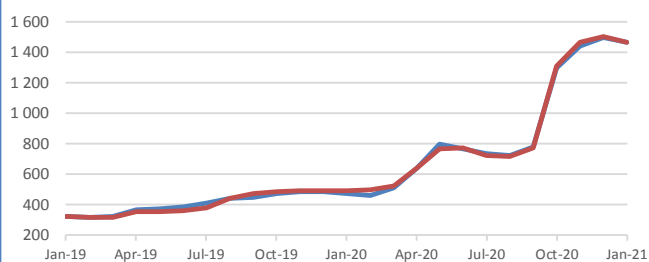
Percent Change  
1M 3M 1Y

■ El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita)	75 335.70	-6.9	16.7	189.1
■ El Obeid, Millet	121 000.00	-10.2	10.0	189.0
■ El Gedarif, Millet	102 093.20	-6.0	6.5	167.7
■ El Obeid, Sorghum (Feterita)	79 062.50	-2.0	12.3	206.7

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

## Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

South Sudanese Pound per 3.5 kg

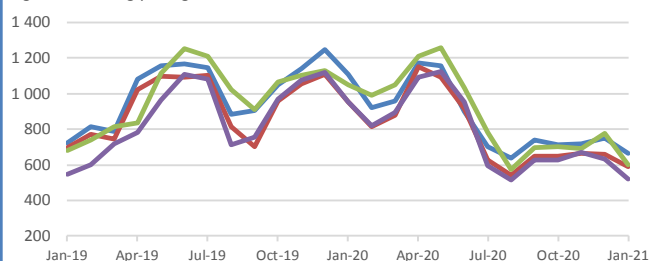


Source(s): Crop & Livestock Market Information System (CLIMIS)

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Juba, Maize (white)	1 469.00	-1.9	13.1	210.6
Juba, Sorghum (Feterita)	1 464.00	-2.5	11.8	195.8

## Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

Uganda Shilling per kg

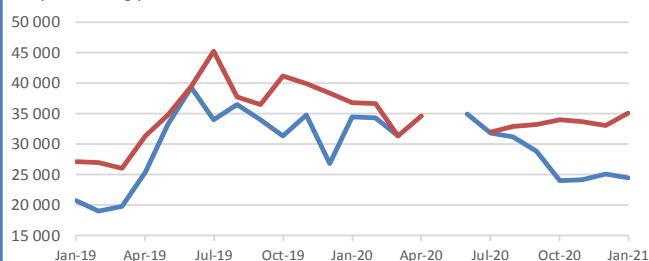


Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Kampala, Maize	665.40	-11.4	-6.8	-39.9
Lira, Maize	587.67	-11.2	-9.7	-38.3
Kabale, Maize	598.67	-23.2	-14.9	-43.0
Masindi, Maize	520.13	-18.1	-16.8	-45.4

## Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

Kenyan Shilling per tonne

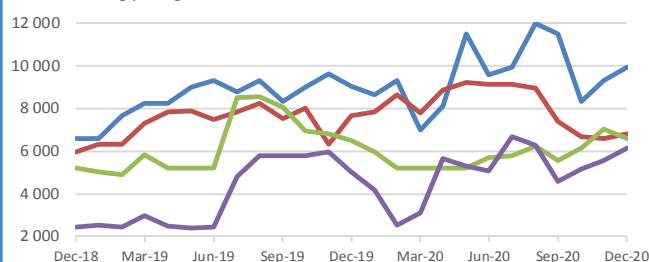


Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Eldoret, Maize	24 538.00	-2.4	2.1	-28.9
Nairobi, Maize	35 054.00	5.9	3.0	-4.9

## Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia

Somali Shilling per kg



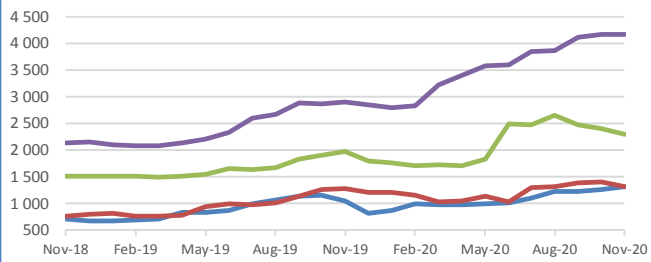
Source(s): Food Security Analysis Unit

	Latest Price Dec-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Mogadishu, Maize (white)	9 950.00	7.0	-13.3	10.1
Marka, Maize (white)	6 800.00	3.0	-8.1	-11.1
Baidoa, Sorghum (red)	6 600.00	-6.4	18.9	1.5
Dinsoor, Sorghum (red)	6 125.00	10.5	33.2	21.3

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

## Wholesale prices of grains in Ethiopia

Ethiopian Birr per 100 kg



Source(s): Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise

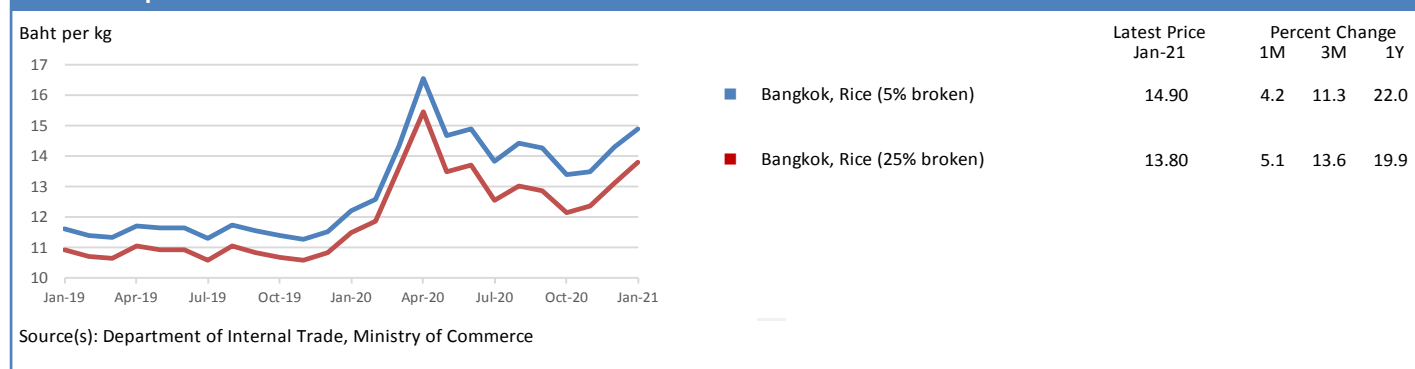
	Latest Price Nov-20	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Addis Ababa, Maize	1 325.50	5.2	8.2	25.0
■ Addis Ababa, Sorghum (red)	1 313.00	-6.3	-0.8	1.7
■ Addis Ababa, Sorghum (white)	2 300.00	-4.5	-13.4	15.8
■ Addis Ababa, Teff (mixed)	4 178.67	0.1	8.2	44.0

## Domestic prices of rice were stable or increased in January and well above a year earlier; those of wheat generally stable

Domestic prices of rice were stable or increased in January and were generally well above their year-earlier levels in most countries of the subregion. The price increases mostly concerned some traditional rice exporters. The strongest month-on-month price increases were registered in **Thailand**, on prospects of a smaller secondary 2020 crop. In **Viet Nam**, prices of rice strengthened in January for the fourth consecutive month, reflecting seasonally tight availabilities exacerbated by concerns over the impact of low irrigation supplies and salt-water intrusion on the soon to be harvested main 2021 “winter/spring” crop. Overall, January quotations were about 50 percent above their year-earlier levels, after recurrent increases throughout 2020, mostly reflecting the below-average harvest in 2020 for the second year in succession. Similarly, prices of rice increased and were considerably above their year earlier levels in **Myanmar**, on strong domestic demand. By contrast, in **India**, domestic rice prices were stable, despite the progressive arrival of a record 2020 main crop into the markets, reflecting large government procurement and a good pace of exports. According to official estimates, as of 4 February 2020, some 60 million tonnes of paddy rice had been procured, representing almost 40 percent of the main rice season production. Similarly, prices changed little in **Cambodia** and **China (mainland)**, reflecting

adequate market availabilities, although prices increased in some markets where crops were affected by unfavourable weather conditions. Regarding importing countries, in **Bangladesh**, prices of rice in Dhaka market continued their 11-month upward streak and in January were more than 35 percent above their year-earlier values and at their highest level since October 2017. The persistent upward trend is attributed to stagnant production, limited imports, and an upsurge in domestic demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Sri Lanka**, prices increased for the second consecutive month, supported by seasonal tightness ahead of the 2021 main “Maha” crop, while they changed little in **the Philippines** and **Indonesia** and were only slightly above their year-earlier values. As for wheat and wheat flour, prices held relatively stable in most countries in January, with a few exceptions. In **Pakistan**, prices of wheat flour continued to decrease in most markets from the record levels reached in November 2020, reflecting improved market availabilities from sizeable imports. Favourable prospects for the 2021 “Rabi” crop, for harvest from April onward, also added to the downward pressure on prices. Prices of wheat flour were generally stable in **China (mainland)** in January, as well as in **India** due to adequate market availabilities. Prices changed little also in **Bangladesh** and **Sri Lanka**, on account of adequate imports.

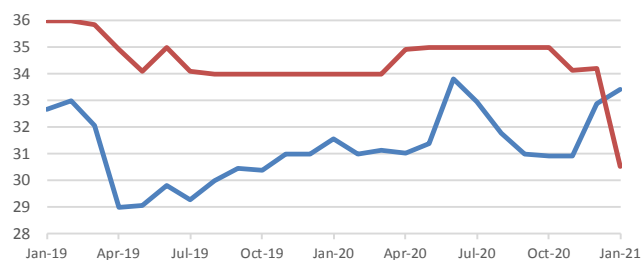
### Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand



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

## Retail prices of rice in India

Indian Rupee per kg

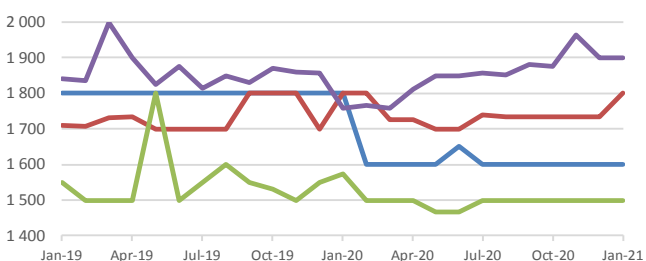


Source(s): Ministry of Consumer Affairs

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Mumbai, Rice	33.43	1.6	8.1	5.9
■ New Delhi, Rice	30.53	-10.7	-12.8	-10.2

## Wholesale prices of rice in Cambodia

Riel per kg

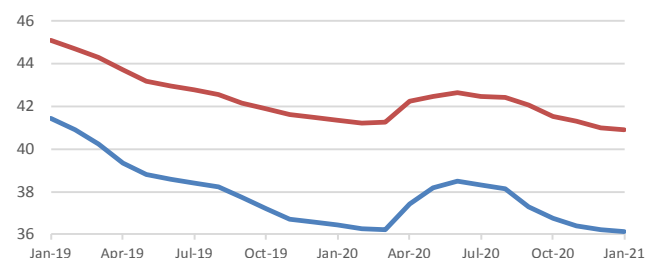


Source(s): Cambodia Agricultural Market Information System

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Phnom Penh, Rice (Mix)	1 600.00	0.0	0.0	-11.1
■ Banteay Meanchey, Rice (Mix)	1 800.00	3.7	3.7	0.0
■ Battambang, Rice (Mix)	1 500.00	0.0	0.0	-4.8
■ Kampong Chhnang, Rice (Mix)	1 900.00	0.0	1.2	8.1

## Retail prices of rice in the Philippines

Philippine Peso per kg

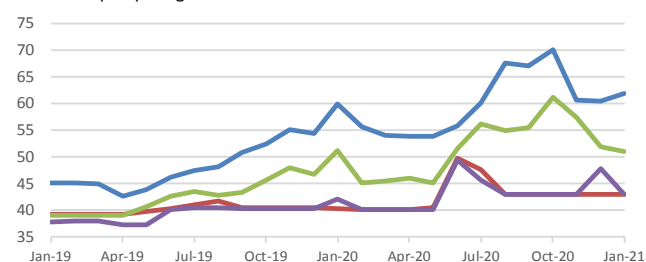


Source(s): Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ National Average, Rice (regular milled)	36.15	-0.1	-1.6	-0.9
■ National Average, Rice (well milled)	40.89	-0.3	-1.5	-1.1

## Retail prices of wheat flour in Pakistan

Pakistan Rupee per kg



Source(s): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Karachi, Wheat (flour)	61.91	2.3	-11.7	3.4
■ Lahore, Wheat (flour)	43.00	0.0	0.0	6.4
■ Peshawar, Wheat (flour)	51.03	-1.7	-16.5	-0.4
■ Multan, Wheat (flour)	43.00	-10.0	0.0	2.1

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

## Export prices of wheat increased in January in the Russian Federation and Ukraine and were stable in Kazakhstan; domestic prices showed mixed trends but remained generally higher year on year

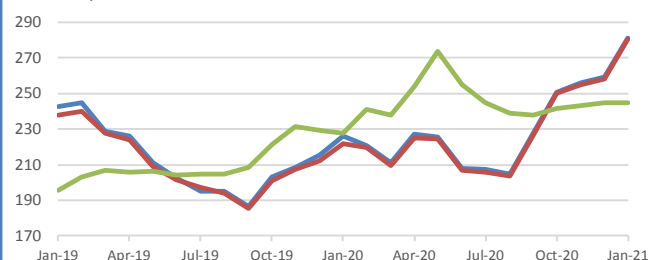
In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat in January were higher than a year earlier amid weaker local currencies. In the **Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, prices increased by about 8 percent in January, in line with trends in the international market, reaching the highest levels since June 2014. In the Russian Federation, the announcement of the introduction of a grain export quota and taxes on wheat exports for the period from 15 February to 30 June 2021 ([FPMA Food Policy](#)) provided upward pressure on prices. In Ukraine, the price increase was mainly a result of strong demand from importing countries, tightening availabilities of milling quality wheat and the approaching of the wheat export volume to the 17.5 million tonnes limit set for the 2020/21 (July/June) marketing year ([FPMA Food Policy](#)). In the domestic markets, wholesale prices of milling wheat increased in **Ukraine** and slightly declined in the **Russian Federation** in January, however, prices were well above their year-earlier levels in both countries amid weaker domestic currencies. Prices were higher year on year particularly in Ukraine, following the harvest of a smaller output in 2020. In **Kazakhstan**, export prices of milling wheat remained steady in January due to weak demand, while domestic retail prices decreased or remained unchanged and were at values above those in January a year before in most markets.

In the importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour showed mixed trends but were broadly above their year-earlier levels amid currency movements. In **Tajikistan**, prices slightly declined in January, while in **Kyrgyzstan** they remained overall stable, but in both countries prices were higher on a yearly basis following the steep increases recorded in late March and April 2020, and supported by the strong depreciation of the local currencies over the last 12 months. Prices increased in January in **Georgia**, to year-on-year higher levels, with seasonal trends exacerbated by higher export quotations from the Russian Federation, the main wheat supplier to the country. Prices increased slightly also in December 2020 in **Armenia**, to levels above those a year before, while they held steady or seasonally moderately increased in **Azerbaijan** and remained unchanged in **Belarus**, at levels around those a year earlier.

With regard to potatoes, another staple food in the subregion, prices seasonally increased in most countries, except in **Tajikistan** where they remained overall stable, and were higher year on year. Prices increased in **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan** and the **Russian Federation** in January, and also in **Belarus** in December, to levels above those 12 months before. Prices of potatoes also increased in **Georgia** in January and in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** in December, although remaining lower than a year earlier.

### Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries

US Dollar per tonne

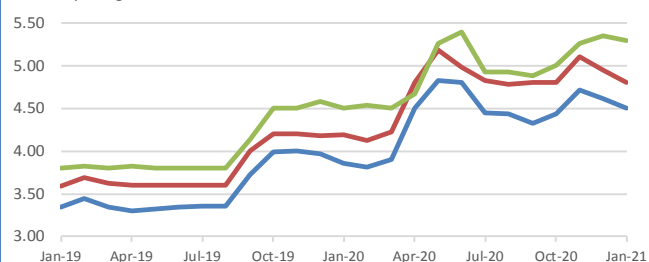


Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	281.00	8.4	12.0	24.1
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	280.50	8.7	12.2	26.4
Kazakhstan, Wheat (milling, d.a.p. Saryagash station)	245.00	0.0	1.4	7.6

### Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan

Somoni per kg



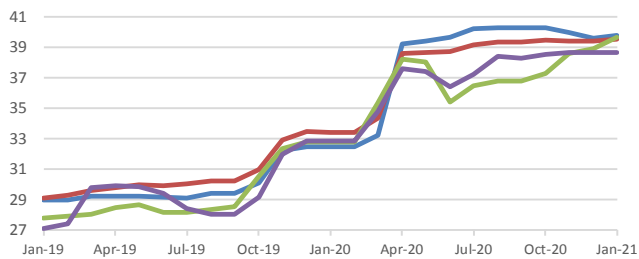
Source(s): Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Tajikistan, Khujand, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.50	-2.6	1.4	16.6
Tajikistan, Kurgonteppa, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.80	-3.0	0.0	14.6
Tajikistan, Khorugh, Wheat (flour, first grade)	5.30	-0.9	6.0	17.8

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

## Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan

Som per kg

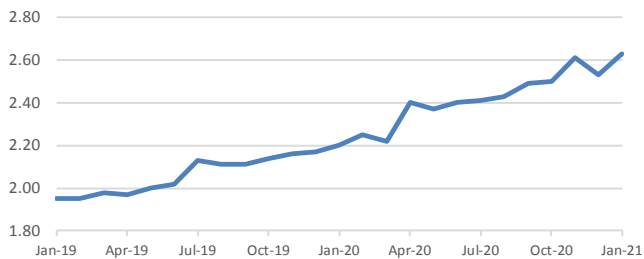


Source(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, Wheat (flour, first grade)	39.77	0.4	-1.2	22.5
Kyrgyzstan, National Average, Wheat (flour, first grade)	39.54	0.3	0.1	18.4
Kyrgyzstan, Jalal-Abad, Wheat (flour, first grade)	39.64	1.9	6.3	20.9
Kyrgyzstan, Batken, Wheat (flour, first grade)	38.65	0.0	0.3	17.6

## Retail prices of wheat flour in Georgia

Lari per kg

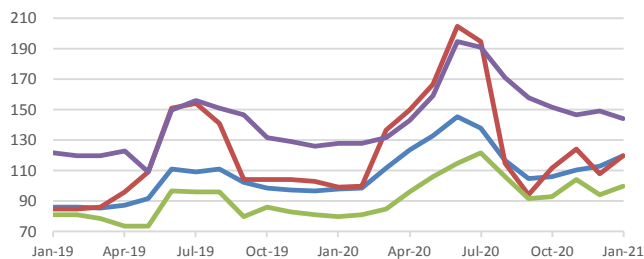


Source(s): National Statistics Office of Georgia

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Georgia, National Average, Wheat (flour)	2.63	4.0	5.2	19.5

## Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan

Tenge per kg

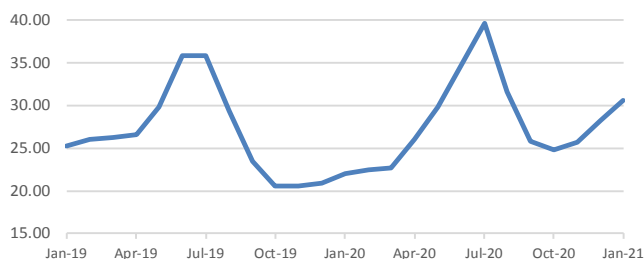


Source(s): Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Committee on Statistics

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Kazakhstan, National Average, Potatoes	120.00	6.1	12.8	22.7
Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, Potatoes	120.00	11.1	7.1	21.2
Kazakhstan, Kostanay, Potatoes	100.00	6.4	7.5	25.0
Kazakhstan, Aktau, Potatoes	144.00	-3.4	-5.3	12.5

## Retail prices of potatoes in the Russian Federation

Russian Ruble per kg



Source(s): Federal State Statistics Service

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Russian Federation, National Average, Potatoes	30.57	8.3	23.3	38.7

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



# CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Prices of beans increased and were higher year on year in January

In most countries of the subregion, prices of beans increased in January, despite the ongoing second season harvest, and were well above their year-earlier levels reflecting crop losses caused by the two consecutive hurricanes in November 2020. In **Nicaragua**, the major producer and exporter of red beans, prices increased for the third consecutive month on account of the reduced second season harvest and strong export demand from neighbouring countries. In **Honduras**, prices also strengthened in January, although to a lesser extent than in the previous two months. In **El Salvador**, where the hurricanes did not affect crops, prices nevertheless soared in January following the increase in export prices of its major supplier, Nicaragua. Regarding black beans, prices increased in **Guatemala** and remained high compared to the corresponding month last year. Overall, prices of beans in the subregion were at least 15 percent higher year on year.

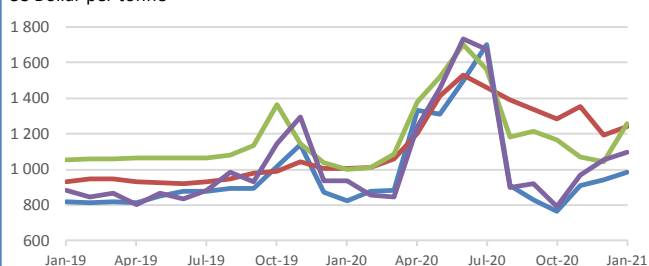
With regard to maize, prices generally decreased in January and were lower year on year due to ample availabilities. The November hurricanes had a less severe impact on maize crops than on beans, and markets are reportedly well supplied with maize on account of the above-average main season output, harvested in the August-October 2020 period. In **Guatemala** and **Nicaragua**, prices of

white maize, after increasing in recent months supported by concerns over the impact of the hurricanes, declined and were about 5 percent below their year-earlier levels. In **Honduras**, prices decreased for the second consecutive month in Tegucigalpa market and were more than 25 percent lower year on year reflecting adequate supplies. In **El Salvador**, prices remained stable since November and kept below their values a year earlier, reflecting the official record output in 2020. By contrast, prices increased in most of the markets in **Mexico** despite the ongoing main season harvest, expected to be larger than last year's on account of expanded sowings.

In the Caribbean, retail prices of black and red beans slightly weakened in **the Dominican Republic**, although they remained higher year on year due to the reduced 2020 harvest, affected by dry weather conditions. Prices of rice continued to increase for the fourth consecutive month in January, mainly reflecting the below-average output gathered in the last quarter of 2020. In **Haiti**, prices of domestically produced maize meal were stable or weakened in December 2020 with the minor "autumn" harvest. Prices of mostly imported rice, after declining in the previous three months, rebounded following the weakening of the local currency in December.

### Wholesale prices of beans in Central America

US Dollar per tonne

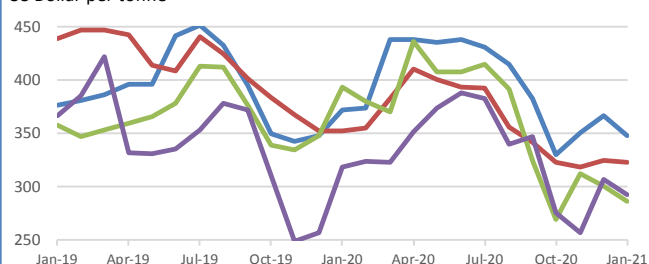


Source(s): SIMPAH; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Beans (red)	982.74	4.4	28.6	19.3
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Beans (black)	1 239.92	3.8	-3.6	23.3
El Salvador, San Salvador, Beans (red)	1 257.30	20.2	7.9	25.3
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Beans (red)	1 094.94	4.1	37.8	17.1

### Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America

US Dollar per tonne



Source(s): Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG; SIMPAH

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Maize (white)	347.60	-5.2	5.3	-6.5
El Salvador, San Salvador, Maize (white)	323.18	-0.5	0.1	-8.3
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Maize (white)	286.22	-4.8	6.2	-27.3
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Maize (white)	292.82	-4.7	6.3	-8.1

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

## Prices of wheat and maize generally on the rise in January

In most countries in the subregion, prices of wheat increased in January, with the notable exception of **Chile**, where prices declined for the second consecutive month on account of improved domestic availabilities from the ongoing harvest as well as large imports in the last quarter of 2020. By contrast, in **Argentina**, the major wheat producer of the subregion, prices continued to increase despite the ongoing harvest and were about 60 percent higher year on year. The sustained increases largely reflect the reduced 2020 output, affected by dry weather conditions in central-northern producing regions. Strikes by port workers in December 2020 as well as by transport workers in January, which disrupted market activities, put additional upward pressure on prices. In **Brazil**, a net importer of wheat, prices increased in January with reduced domestic availabilities due to lower imports in the last quarter of 2020, reflecting disrupted trade flows due to the strikes in Argentina. Prices also increased in **Uruguay**, reaching record highs, supported by strong export demand during the last months of 2020. In importing countries, **Ecuador** and **Peru**, prices held relatively steady in January and were in general around their year-earlier levels. Prices were also stable in **Colombia** but remained higher year on year mainly reflecting the weakening of the local currency in 2020.

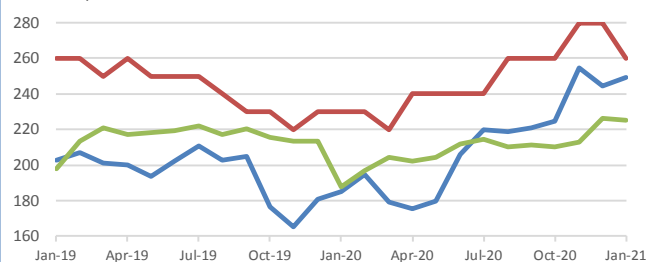
With regard to maize, prices overall increased in January in line with seasonal trends. In **Argentina**, where planting of the 2021 crop is nearly completed, prices increased in January, supported by strong overseas buying following the lifting of short-lived export restrictions. Prices were well above their values a year earlier, mainly reflecting

trends in the international market and the robust export demand for the record 2020 harvest. In **Brazil**, after declining in the previous month, prices rebounded in January despite the ongoing first minor season harvest due to reduced crop yields in some producing area. Concerns over the slow progress of the current main season crop sowing exerted additional upward pressure on prices, which were on average more than 65 percent higher than their values a year earlier. In **Uruguay**, prices increased sharply for the second consecutive month on account of concerns over the impact of dryness on the 2021 crop yields to be harvested from March. Similarly, in **Ecuador**, prices of yellow maize increased seasonally in January. In **Peru**, prices continued to increase and reached levels nearly 30 percent higher year on year, on account of lower domestic availabilities due to the reduced harvest last year and smaller imports in the last quarter of 2020. By contrast, prices declined in **Colombia** on account of the ongoing 2021 first harvest as well as large imports during the previous three months.

Regarding rice, in **Brazil**, prices declined in January prior to the start of the 2021 harvest, reflecting better production prospects due to improved weather conditions in the major producing state of Rio Grande do Sul. Prices remained higher year on year following sustained increases in the previous months. Similarly, prices continued to decline in **Colombia** and were on average more than 10 percent below their levels in January last year reflecting the good 2020 harvests. Prices were also stable or weakened in January and were lower year on year in **Ecuador**, with markets adequately supplied with the 2020 minor season output harvested during the last months of 2020.

### Wholesale prices of wheat in South America

US Dollar per tonne



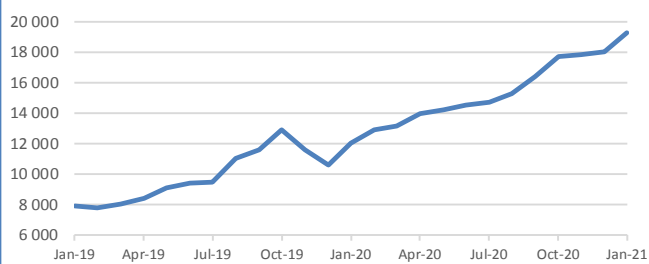
Source(s): Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab); Cotrisa; Instituto Nacional de Estadística, División Estadísticas Económicas, Departamento de Encuestas de Actividad Económica, Sección Encuestas Estructurales de Actividad Económica

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Wheat	249.38	1.9	11.1	34.8
■ Chile, National Average, Wheat	260.00	-7.1	0.0	13.0
■ Uruguay, National Average, Wheat	225.37	-0.5	7.1	19.9

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## Wholesale prices of wheat in Argentina

Argentine Peso per tonne

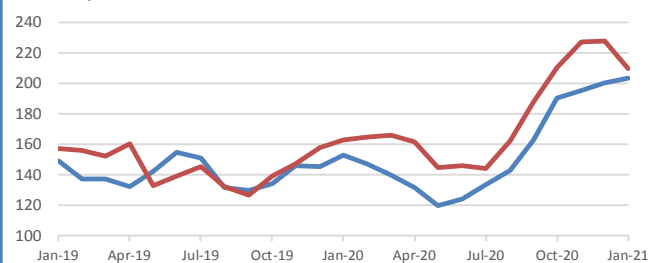


Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Argentina, Buenos Aires, Wheat	19 298.41	6.9	8.8	59.9

## Wholesale prices of yellow maize in South America

US Dollar per tonne

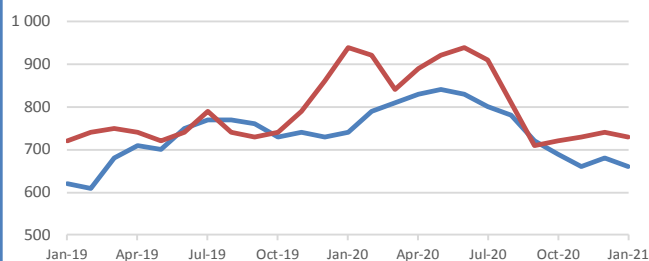


Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales; Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab)

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Argentina, Rosario, Maize (yellow)	203.70	1.6	7.1	33.0
■ Brazil, Mato Grosso, Maize (yellow)	209.71	-7.9	-0.3	28.8

## Wholesale prices of rice in South America

US Dollar per tonne

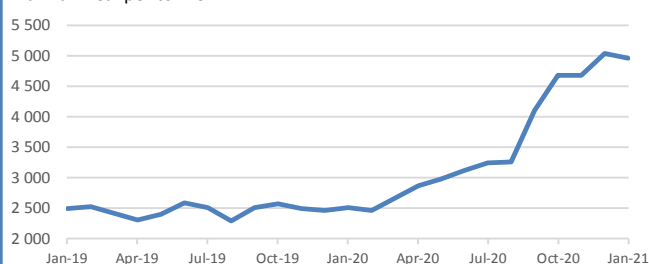


Source(s): Sistema de Información Pública Agropecuaria (SIPA) - MAG; Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (DANE)

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Ecuador, Guayaquil, Rice (long grain)	660.00	-2.9	-4.3	-10.8
■ Colombia, Bogotá, Rice (first quality)	730.00	-1.4	1.4	-22.3

## Wholesale prices of rice in Brazil

Brazilian Real per tonne



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

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
■ Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Rice (milled, fine long-grain, type 1)	4 966.83	-1.3	6.1	97.5

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

This bulletin was 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 February 2021, 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](http://www.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/index.html#/home).

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