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MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

- **International wheat prices were generally stable in recent weeks but those of coarse grains continued to increase amid strong import demand. International rice prices also firmed, driven by demand for lower quality Indica and Japonica varieties.**

- **In East Africa, prices of coarse grains generally followed mixed trends in February. In most countries, prices were around or below their year-earlier levels, except in the Sudan and South Sudan, where they were at near-record to record levels, underpinned by insufficient supplies and severe macro-economic difficulties, including continuous and sustained depreciation of the local currencies.**

- **In Central America, prices of beans mostly decreased in February with the start of the "Apante" season harvest, but remained well above their year-earlier values because of the significant increases in the past two months due to crop losses caused by two consecutive hurricanes in November 2020.**

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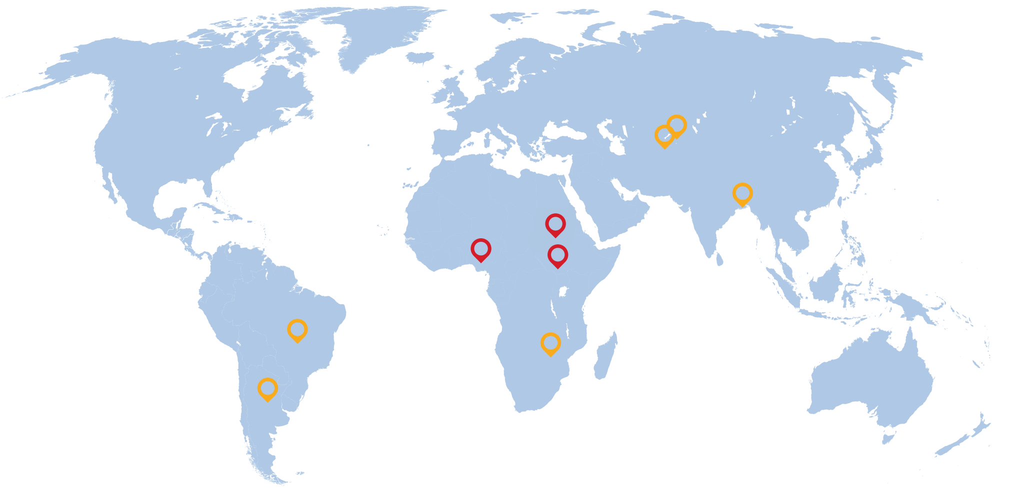
Domestic price warnings

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



- **Argentina** | Food items
- **Bangladesh** | Rice
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- **Kyrgyzstan** | Wheat flour
- **Nigeria** | Coarse grains
- **South Sudan** | Staple foods
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Warnings are only included if latest available price data is not older than two months.

Source: GIEWS, modified to comply with UN map, 2021.

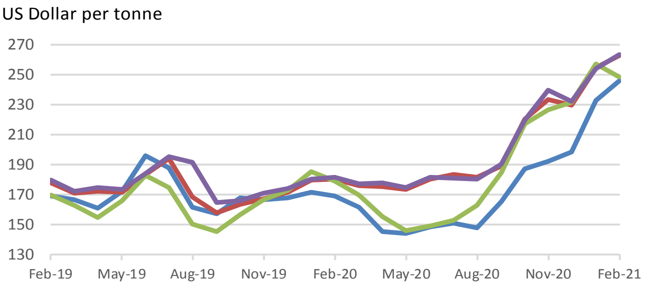
Prices of maize, sorghum, barley and rice mostly continued to increase, while those of wheat were generally stable

In February, international prices of **maize** continued their eight-month rising streak, albeit at a slightly slower pace. Leading the upward trend for a third month among major export origins, the benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) increased 5.8 percent month on month, averaging around 45 percent above its year-earlier value, supported by continued strong demand, especially from China (mainland), amid tightening supplies in the United States of America. Export price quotations from Ukraine also firmed in February, with the average price for maize rising by 3.6 percent from January, to 45 percent above its February 2020 value. By contrast, an uptick in farmer selling ahead of the imminent harvest, which is forecast to be above average, weighed on maize export quotations from Argentina, with the Argentina (Up River, f.o.b.) value dropping over 3 percent month on month. International prices of sorghum increased sharply, by almost 18 percent, in February due to strong demand from China (mainland), while international prices of barley moved higher too, by 3.5 percent, mostly reflecting tightening supplies.

International prices of **wheat** were generally stable in February but still well above a year earlier. Export prices from most origins remained near their January values, as well-supplied markets dampened the upward pressure from suboptimal growing conditions for 2021 crops in parts of the United States of America and the Russian Federation. Continued uncertainty regarding the impact of the Russian Federation's increased wheat export tax and the strengthening of the US dollar also moderated any upward pressure on international prices of wheat.

The FAO All **Rice** Price Index (2014-2016=100) averaged 116.0 points in February 2021, up 1.5 percent from January and 11.4 percent above its year-earlier level. In Asian Indica markets, tight availabilities continued to underpin prices in Thailand and Viet Nam during February, despite a slow pace of offshore sales. In both countries, the price increases were most pronounced for fully broken supplies, which drew additional support from strong domestic demand. Buyers' interest also kept Indian and Pakistani export offers on the rise. In Pakistan, currency movements provided further support, as did expectations of easing port congestion in India, following an official decision permitting the use of the Kakinada deep-water port for rice exports. In the United States of America, disappointment over a lack of awards in an Iraqi tender steadied Indica quotations, despite some upward pressure from expectations of lower plantings in 2021 due to competition with maize and soybeans.

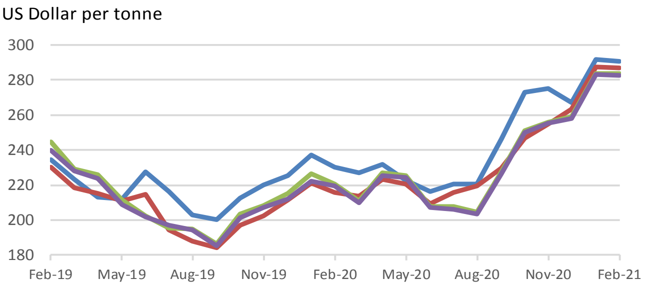
International maize prices



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	246.08	5.8	27.8	45.1
Black Sea, Maize (feed)	262.75	3.2	12.5	45.4
Argentina, Maize (Argentina, Up River, f.o.b.)	248.25	-3.4	9.6	38.3
Ukraine, Maize (offer, f.o.b.)	263.25	3.6	9.9	45.0

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

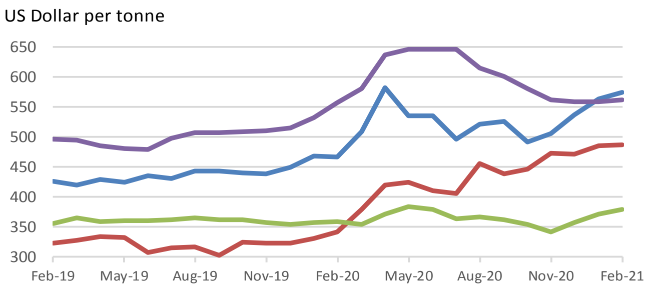
International wheat prices



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	290.75	-0.3	5.6	26.3
European Union (France), Wheat (grade 1)	287.00	-0.1	12.7	33.0
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	284.00	0.1	10.9	28.7
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	282.75	-0.2	10.8	28.7

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

International rice prices



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai 100% B)	574.50	2.0	13.7	23.1
Viet Nam, Rice (25% broken)	487.50	0.4	3.2	42.5
India, Rice (25% broken)	378.75	1.8	10.5	5.5
United States of America, Rice (US Long Grain 2.4%)	561.50	0.4	-0.2	0.6

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

For more information visit the FPMA website here

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 01/21	Same period average
3 months	3.3	0.6
12 months	0.9	0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Argentina, Greater Buenos Aires, Retail, Beef meat

Retail food prices continued to increase in January 2021

In January, the inflation rate for **food items** and non-alcoholic beverages increased by nearly 5 percent month on month, despite the price ceiling programme put in place by the Government. The programme, first introduced in March 2020 to curb rising prices amid the COVID-19 pandemic, has had its maximum price levels revised upwards twice since then in view of the increasing inflation and was extended until end-March 2021. The continuous price increases are associated with the sustained weakening of the country's currency, which lost about 43 percent of its value over the last 12 months. Among food items, prices of meat, fruits and cooking oil recorded the highest monthly increases, while those of sugar, vegetables, tubers and beans increased marginally or declined in some regions.

Bangladesh | Rice

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	0.7	0.6
12 months	1.8	-0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Bangladesh, Dhaka, Retail, Rice (Medium)

Price of rice held steady in February and were well above their year-earlier levels

In Dhaka market, domestic prices of **rice** held steady in February and were 40 percent higher than a year earlier, after continuous increases in the previous 11 months reflecting tight market availabilities following stagnant production for three consecutive years, limited imports and strong demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the Government decision in December 2020 to lower custom duties on rice in an attempt to bolster private imports and the issuance of several international tenders, the pace of imports in the first two months of the year has been reportedly slow relative to official expectations. FAO forecasts rice imports in calendar year 2021 at a high level of 1.8 million tonnes (milled basis). Prices of atta (loose **wheat flour**), another important staple, continued to increase reflecting seasonal patterns and increased domestic consumption as a substitute to rice. Further support was added by lower imports year on year and an increase in prices in the international market.

Brazil | Cereals

	Growth Rate (%)	
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	-0.3	2.2
12 months	4.3	0.8

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Brazil, Mato Grosso, Wholesale, Maize (yellow)

Prices of maize and wheat increased in February and at high levels

Prices of **yellow maize** increased in February underpinned by concerns over the slow progress of the current main season crop sowing, despite sluggish foreign demand. Low yields of the minor season crop, currently being harvested, exerted additional upward pressure on prices, which were on average 70 percent higher than their values a year earlier reflecting near-record exports during the second half of 2020. Similarly, prices of **wheat** increased on account of reduced domestic availabilities due to lower imports during the last four months. As a net wheat importer, the depreciation of the local currency made imports costlier, keeping the prices on average 55 percent above their year-earlier levels. By contrast, prices of **rice** declined for the second consecutive month as the ongoing harvest improved market supplies. However, prices remained higher year on year following sustained increases in the previous months, which resulted from strong domestic and foreign demand. The high level of prices is also associated with the depreciation of the local currency, which lost 25 percent of its value compared to February 2020.

Price warning level: High Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Kyrgyzstan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	-1.8	-1.1
12 months	0.8	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek, Retail, Wheat (flour, first grade)

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

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

Nigeria | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/21	Same period average
3 months	1.5	-0.4
12 months	3.3	-0.5

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Nigeria, Lagos, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Price of coarse grains continued to surge in January

Prices of domestically produced **coarse grains** continued to surge in several markets in January, despite the above-average harvest completed in December 2020-January 2021. The difficult macro-economic situation and conflicts in some areas continued to affect market activities and underpin food prices, which reached atypically highs levels in January of about 50 to 100 percent above their levels a year earlier. The annual inflation rate (national average) increased for the 16th consecutive month, rising from 14.89 percent in November to 15.75 percent in December 2020. In addition, the weak local currency led to increased fuel prices, which were 14 percent higher in January 2021 than the same time last year, elevating transportation costs. In the northern part of the country, continued civil insecurity resulted in widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities, causing upward pressure on prices. The heavy rains in the 2020 cropping season (August-September) also caused localized but substantial crop production shortfalls in some areas, contributing to tight supplies and high levels of prices.

South Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	4.8	5.4
12 months	8.6	-1.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: South Sudan, Juba, Retail, Maize (white)

Food prices continued to moderately decline in February, but remained at exceptionally high levels

Prices of **maize**, **sorghum**, **groundnuts**, **cassava** and imported **wheat** declined moderately by 2-4 percent in February in the capital, Juba, for the second consecutive month after having peaked in December, as the second season harvest, concluded in January in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, increased market availabilities. Food prices were at exceptionally high levels in February, with those of sorghum and maize about three times the already high year-earlier values and more than 50 times those in July 2015, before the currency collapse. Underlying the high food prices is the continuously difficult macro-economic situation, related to low foreign currency reserves and the continued depreciation of the country's currency. More recently, COVID-19-related disruptions to the local markets and trade, already adversely affected by the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict, provided further support.

Price warning level: High Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	-10.7	3.1
12 months	-4.2	0.6

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Sudan, El Gedarif, Wholesale, Sorghum (Feterita)

Prices of staple foods resumed their upward trend in February and linger at very high levels

Prices of locally grown **sorghum** and **millet**, after declining in January from the record highs reached in December, resumed their upward trend in February, increasing by 8-11 percent in most monitored markets, despite the recent completion of the 2020 harvest in early 2021. Prices in February were exceptionally high, up to three times the already elevated year-earlier levels, mainly due to the continuous depreciation of the local currency. Cereal 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, 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 on prices.

Tajikistan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/21	Same period average
3 months	0.3	-0.2
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 were stable in February at levels well above those a year earlier

Retail prices of first grade **wheat flour**, after declining in December 2020 and January 2021, remained overall stable in February at levels well above those 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 2020, amid adequate market availabilities and Government price stabilization measures, including a temporary export ban on wheat grain and wheat flour and the release of produce from the strategic reserves, and increased again between September and November 2020, in line with seasonal trends. The depreciation of the local currency, which lost 18 percent of its value against the US dollar since February 2020, also contributed to the year-on-year higher prices.

Zimbabwe | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/21	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 prices remained elevated but increases continued to slow

The official monthly food inflation rate declined to 4 percent in February compared to 8 percent in the previous month and was well below the high levels recorded in mid-2020, when the monthly food inflation peaked at 38 percent. The continued relative stability of the official exchange rate since the last quarter of 2020 and an increase in the pace of maize imports from South Africa since the start of 2021 contributed to the slower price increase. Despite the reduced rates, prices of **food** were more than 350 percent higher on a yearly basis as of February 2021. These elevated year-on-year levels mostly result from the effects of a weak currency, rapid growth in money supply and poor harvests in the previous two years that caused a tight supply situation. Harvesting of the 2021 cereal crops is expected to begin in April with production prospects pointing to an output recovery. The improved domestic supplies are likely to help lessen pressure on food prices in subsequent months. The Government also raised the interest rates in February to help temper inflationary pressure.

Price warning level: High Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

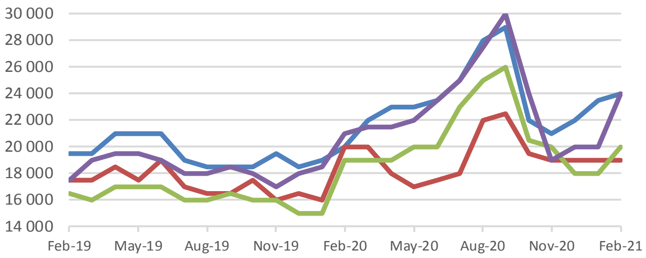
Prices of coarse grains generally strengthened in the subregion

In most countries of the subregion, prices of domestically produced coarse grains strengthened in February and were generally higher than a year earlier. The most significant increases continued to be recorded in Lake Chad Basin, Liptako-Gourma Region, Tibesti Region, northeastern, northwestern and central Nigeria where persistent insecurity and conflict have hampered marketing activities. The reintroduction of the restrictions on movement to flatten the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2020 continued to constrain economic activities and added further support to prices. Localized production shortfalls and strong demand from the large institutional and commercial bodies replenishing their low carryover stocks, provided additional upward pressure across much of the subregion.

In **the Niger** and **Burkina Faso**, prices of coarse grains mostly increased in February in line with seasonal patterns. Supplies in markets were tighter due to the disruption of supply flows linked to localized production declines in some areas, the persistence of conflict-related market disruptions, steady domestic demand as well as some stock retention by traders in Burkina Faso. In both countries, prices of imported rice remained generally stable. In **Mali**, prices of coarse grains followed seasonal trends in February, strengthening in areas where conflicts continued to disturb market activities and remaining stable or declining in others on account of good market supplies from the harvests concluded in November 2020. However, prices lingered well above their year-earlier levels. In **Senegal**, prices of coarse grains declined seasonally in February as the recently completed harvests increased market supplies. However, the impacts of COVID-19 restrictive measures on trade flows and the heavy rains in August-September 2020, which disrupted agricultural activities and constrained production, contributed to sustain the high levels of prices well above those a year earlier across the country. In **Chad**, supply tightness due to insecurity, high transportation costs and strong export demand in border areas with the Sudan through informal corridors, underpinned prices in February, which remained above their year-earlier values.

In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of maize in **Ghana** were relatively stable in January, reflecting adequate availabilities from the 2020 above-average harvests and regular internal marketing activities. Similarly, in **Benin** and **Togo**, prices of maize remained relatively stable in February for the third consecutive month on account of adequate supplies from the recently concluded harvests. However, prices remained higher year on year, following flood-related production losses in 2020 and the impacts of COVID-19 containment measures on the supply chain. In these countries, in the coming weeks, expected above-average purchases by institutional and commercial bodies to rebuild their stocks are likely to provide additional support to prices. In **Nigeria**, prices of domestically produced coarse grains continued to surge in January. The continuing steep depreciation of the local currency and overall difficult macro-economic situation, civil insecurity in parts of the country, reduced output in some areas as a result of poor weather and atypically high market demand caused by large purchases from institutional bodies and local factories, were the main drivers behind the persistent increase in prices. Overall, food prices in January were about 50 to 100 percent above their levels a year earlier.

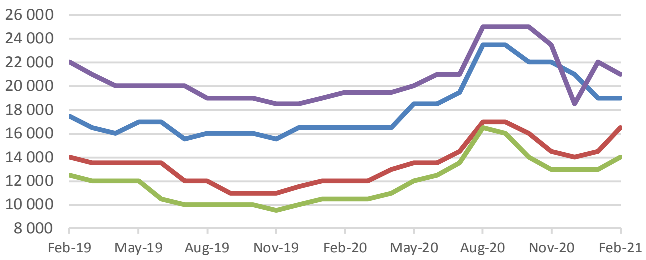
Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Niger



Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Niamey, Millet (local)	24 000.00	2.1	14.3	20.0
Niamey, Sorghum (local)	19 000.00	0.0	0.0	-5.0
Zinder, Sorghum (local)	20 000.00	11.1	0.0	5.3
Zinder, Millet (local)	24 000.00	20.0	26.3	14.3

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso

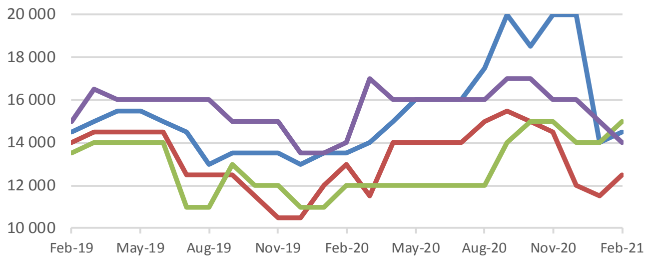


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Ouagadougou, Millet (local)	19 000.00	0.0	-13.6	15.2
Ouagadougou, Sorghum (local)	16 500.00	13.8	13.8	37.5
Dédougou, Sorghum (local)	14 000.00	7.7	7.7	33.3
Dori, Millet (local)	21 000.00	-4.5	-10.6	7.7

For more information visit the FPMA website here

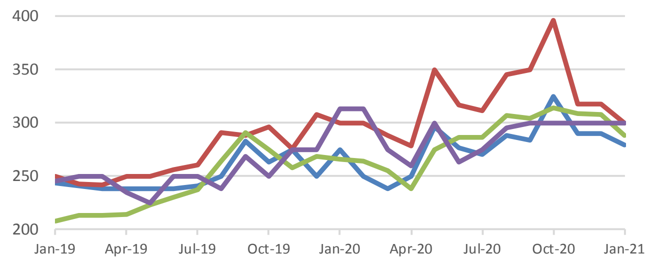
Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali



Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bamako, Millet (local)	14 500.00	3.6	-27.5	7.4
Bamako, Sorghum (local)	12 500.00	8.7	-13.8	-3.8
Ségou, Millet (local)	15 000.00	7.1	0.0	25.0
Kayes, Sorghum (local)	14 000.00	-6.7	-12.5	0.0

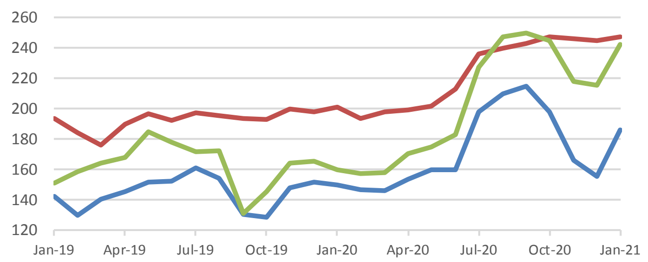
Retail prices of millet in Senegal



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

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Dakar, Millet	279.00	-3.8	-14.2	1.5
Saint Louis, Millet	300.00	-5.7	-24.2	0.0
Louga, Millet	288.00	-6.5	-8.3	8.3
Matam, Millet	300.00	0.0	0.0	-4.2

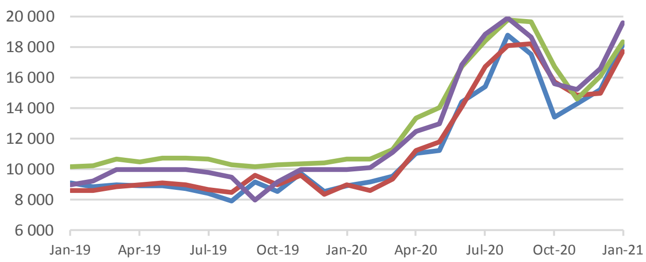
Retail prices of maize in Benin



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

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Natitingou, Maize	186.00	19.6	-6.1	24.0
Cotonou, Maize	247.00	0.8	0.0	22.9
Parakou, Maize	242.00	12.3	-1.1	51.3

Wholesale prices of white maize in Nigeria



Source(s): FEWSNET

	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Kano, Maize (white)	18 185.00	19.4	35.3	103.0
Maiduguri, Maize (white)	17 750.00	18.3	12.7	97.8
Lagos, Maize (white)	18 325.00	14.0	9.7	71.7
Ibadan, Maize (white)	19 625.00	18.2	25.8	96.3

For more information visit the FPMA website here

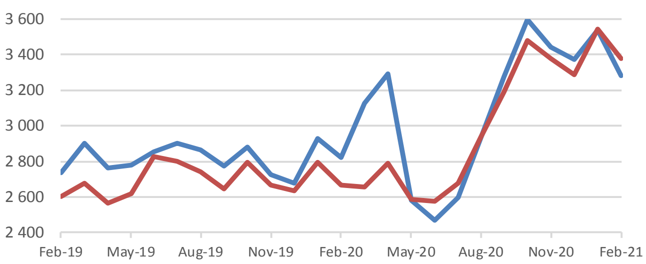
Prices of maize remained mostly steady, supported by ample supplies

Prices of the main food staple, maize, have remained mostly stable in the first months of 2021 as ample supplies from the above-average 2020 harvests weighed on prices and abated some of the upward pressure resulting from weak currencies in several countries. Production prospects for the 2021 cereal crops, to be harvested from March/April, are mostly favourable, and a second consecutive above-average annual output is likely to help contain seasonal price increases in the second semester of 2021. In **South Africa**, wholesale prices of maize declined month on month in February although they were still up to 27 percent higher on a yearly basis. The recent fall reflects an easing of international benchmark prices and a moderate strengthening of the national currency. The release of the first official production forecast for the 2021 maize crop provided further downward support to prices, as it affirmed earlier expectations that the country could harvest the second largest crop on record, bolstering this year's supply outlook. Prices of wheat also decreased in February but at a lesser rate and were near their values of a year earlier.

In **Zimbabwe**, there was an uptick in the monthly food inflation rate in January but price increases eased again in February, when the official month-on-month food inflation rate was estimated at 4 percent, down from 8 percent in the previous month. The continued relative stability of the official exchange rate since the last quarter of 2020 and the increased pace of maize imports from South Africa since the start of 2021 are key factors contributing to the slowdown in price increases. On a yearly basis, however, prices of food were 360 percent higher, underpinned by the effects of a weak currency, a rapid growth in money supply and poor harvests in the previous two years.

In **Zambia**, prices of maize grain continued to increase seasonally in February but at moderate rates and remained at lower year-on-year levels, reflecting the production recovery in 2020. Similarly, in **Malawi**, the ample supplies from the 2020 harvest kept prices mostly stable in the first two months of 2021 and some declines were reported in February. Production prospects for the 2021 cereal crops in both countries are also favourable and a second consecutive above-average harvest is expected to temper inflationary pressure. However, these effects could be more muted in Zambia on account of the continued deprecation of the national currency and the inflationary pressure that it has exerted. In the import-dependent countries, **Botswana** and **Namibia**, prices of maize meal were also mostly stable in January, but higher than the previous year amid the increasing import costs in South Africa, which is the main source of grain supplies for both countries.

Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa



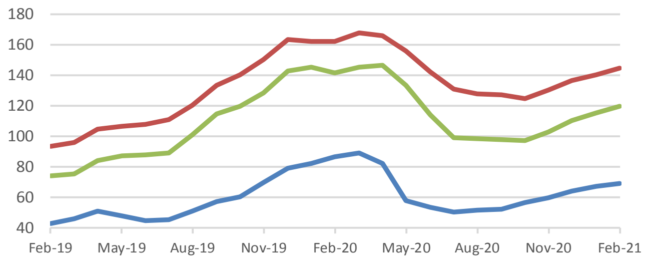
	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Randfontein, Maize (white)	3 280.47	-7.3	-4.6	16.1
Randfontein, Maize (yellow)	3 378.23	-4.6	-0.1	26.6

Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Retail prices of maize in Zambia

Kwacha per 17 kg

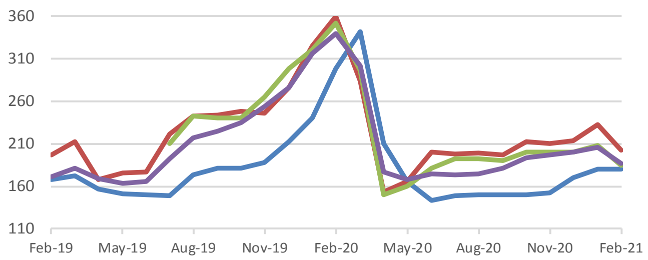


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Maize (white)	69.23	2.3	15.5	-20.4
National Average, Breakfast maize meal	144.84	2.9	11.1	-10.8
National Average, White roller maize meal	119.80	3.7	16.1	-15.6

Source(s): Central Statistical Office

Retail prices of maize in Malawi

Kwacha per kg

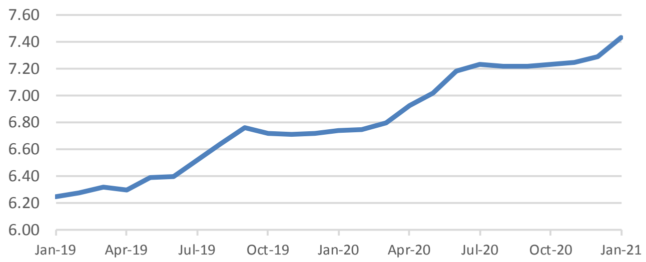


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Mzuzu, Maize	180.00	0.0	18.0	-39.7
Nsanje, Maize	202.75	-12.8	-3.6	-43.7
Liwonde, Maize	185.00	-11.1	-7.5	-47.4
National Average, Maize	187.00	-9.0	-5.2	-44.9

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

Retail prices of maize meal in Botswana

Pula per kg

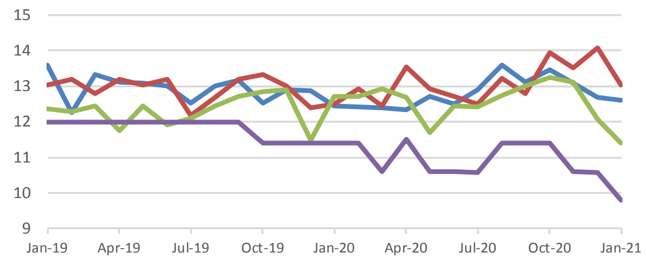


	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National average, Maize meal	7.43	1.9	2.8	10.2

Source(s): Statistics Botswana

Retail prices of maize meal in Namibia

Namibia Dollar per kg



	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Windhoek, Maize meal	12.62	-0.5	-6.2	1.4
Swakopmund, Maize meal	13.05	-7.2	-6.5	4.4
Otjiwarongo, Maize meal	11.40	-5.6	-14.0	-10.4
Gobabis, Maize meal	9.80	-7.4	-14.0	-14.0

Source(s): Namibia Statistics Agency

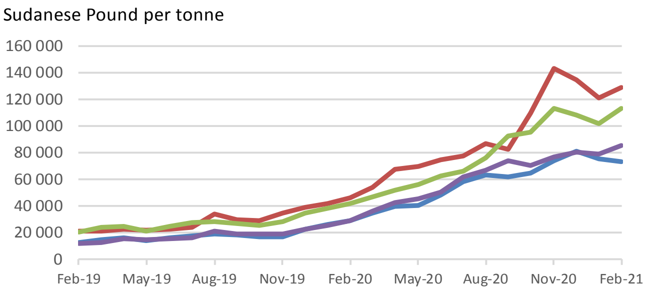
For more information visit the FPMA website here

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

Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in February. In most countries, prices were below their year-earlier levels, reflecting above-average 2020 cereal outputs. A slowdown in economic activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a deterioration of households' purchasing power contributed to depressing domestic demand. Despite the phasing out in recent months of a number of the restrictive measures introduced to contain the spread of COVID-19 in some countries, economic recovery is slow and demand remains stagnant, continuing to exert a downward pressure on prices. By contrast, prices were at exceptionally high levels in South Sudan and in the Sudan, 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 resumed their upward trend in February in most monitored markets, after having declined in January from the record highs reached in December, despite the completion of the 2020 harvest. The exceptionally high prices are a result of various factors: a weak currency, 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 moderately declined in February in the capital, Juba, for the second consecutive month after having peaked in December 2020, as the second season harvest, concluded in January in southern bi-modal rainfall areas, increased market availabilities. Despite the recent limited declines, February prices were exceptionally high due to the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict and a weak currency. In **Uganda**, prices of maize began to seasonally increase in February, but remained well below their year-earlier levels, mainly due to the measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19, which constrained livelihood opportunities and resulted in declining purchasing power depressing domestic demand since early 2020. Similarly, in **the United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize increased in February following seasonal patterns but were well below their levels a year earlier. In **Kenya**, prices of maize remained stable in February despite the secondary "short-rains" harvest, currently underway, 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 **Ethiopia**, prices of locally produced maize, sorghum and teff, declined in January in the capital, Addis Ababa, for the second consecutive month as the main "Meher" harvest increased supplies, while prices of wheat, partly imported, increased. Overall, cereal prices in January 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. Similarly, in **Rwanda**, prices of maize declined in February for the second consecutive month as the "2021A" season harvest increased market availabilities and were slightly higher than 12 months earlier. In **Somalia**, prices of sorghum and maize followed mixed trends in January and were generally higher than a year earlier on account of a below-average 2020 cereal output due to erratic weather and pest outbreaks.

Wholesale prices of sorghum and millet in the Sudan



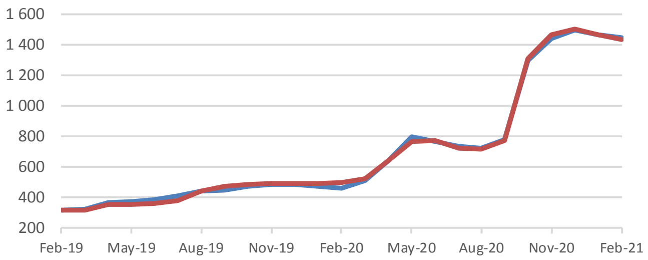
	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita)	73 700.00	-2.2	-0.2	151.7
El Obeid, Millet	129 250.00	6.8	-9.6	179.8
El Gedarif, Millet	113 080.00	10.8	-0.6	171.0
El Obeid, Sorghum (Feterita)	85 250.00	7.5	11.2	190.4

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

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

South Sudanese Pound per 3.5 kg

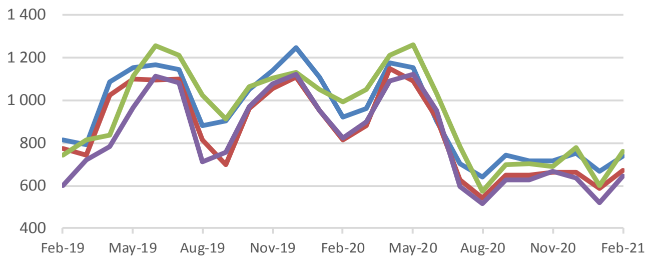


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Juba, Maize (white)	1 449.00	-1.4	0.7	215.0
Juba, Sorghum (Feterita)	1 434.00	-2.0	-2.3	188.5

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

Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

Uganda Shilling per kg

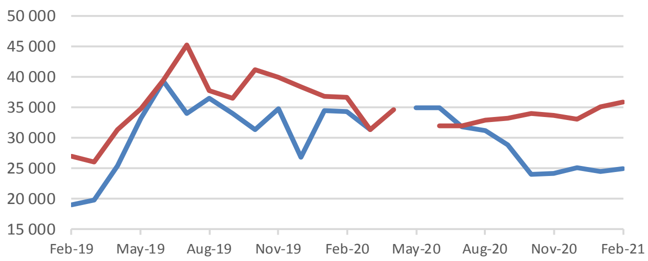


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Kampala, Maize	739.58	11.1	3.3	-19.6
Lira, Maize	671.48	14.3	1.1	-17.5
Kabale, Maize	762.16	27.3	10.3	-23.2
Masindi, Maize	645.03	24.0	-3.5	-21.5

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

Kenyan Shilling per tonne

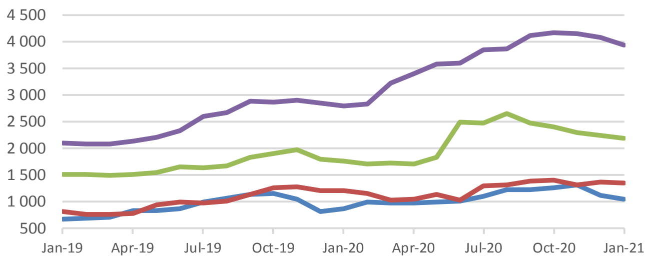


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Eldoret, Maize	25 012.00	1.9	3.6	-27.2
Nairobi, Maize	35 923.00	2.5	6.4	-2.0

Source(s)

Wholesale prices of grains in Ethiopia

Ethiopian Birr per 100 kg



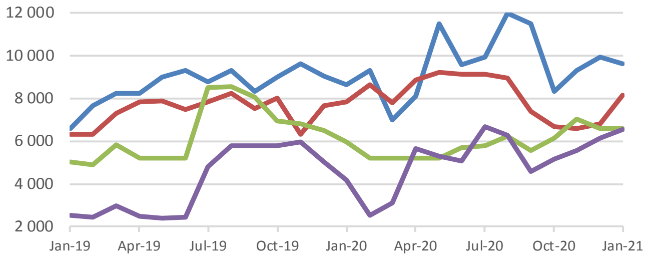
	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Addis Ababa, Maize	1 050.00	-6.0	-16.7	20.9
Addis Ababa, Sorghum (red)	1 360.00	-0.7	-3.0	12.2
Addis Ababa, Sorghum (white)	2 195.00	-2.5	-8.9	24.2
Addis Ababa, Teff (mixed)	3 936.50	-3.5	-5.7	40.8

Source(s): Ethiopian Grain Trade Enterprise

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia

Somali Shilling per kg



	Latest Price Jan-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Mogadishu, Maize (white)	9 625.00	-3.3	15.6	11.3
Marka, Maize (white)	8 150.00	19.9	21.6	4.2
Baidoa, Sorghum (red)	6 600.00	0.0	7.3	10.5
Dinsoor, Sorghum (red)	6 550.00	6.9	27.2	56.0

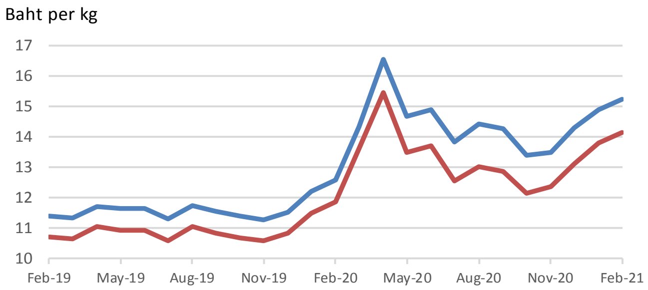
Source(s): Food Security Analysis Unit

Domestic prices of rice were stable or increased in February and were well above their year-earlier levels; those of wheat generally stable with a few exceptions

Domestic prices of rice were stable or increased in February and were generally well above their year-earlier levels in most countries of the subregion. In **Thailand**, prices increased in February for the fourth consecutive month and were well above their year-earlier levels, supported by unfavourable prospects for the soon-to-be harvested 2020/21 secondary crop, affected by low irrigation water supplies. Similarly, in **Myanmar**, prices strengthened, mostly on strong domestic demand amid the political crisis, following the military takeover on 1 February 2021. In **Viet Nam**, after steady increases since October 2020, domestic prices of rice stabilized or began to decline in some markets, reflecting subdued foreign demand and the onset of the 2021 main "winter-spring" harvest in southern parts of the country. Prices in February were about 50 percent above their year-earlier levels, after the recurrent increases throughout 2020, mostly due to a generally tight supply situation following below-average harvests in 2019 and 2020. In **India**, prices were mostly stable, despite record supplies from the recently completed 2020 main harvest, reflecting large Government purchases and demand for export. Adequate market availabilities kept prices stable in **Cambodia** and **China (mainland)**. In **Bangladesh**, prices of rice held steady and were 40 percent higher than a year ago, after continuous increases in the previous 11 months, reflecting tight market availabilities, following stagnant production for three consecutive years, limited imports and strong demand amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Prices of rice declined slightly in **Sri Lanka** in February, after the steady increases in previous months, with the onset of the 2021 main "Maha" crop, estimated at an above-average level.

As for wheat and wheat flour, prices remained generally stable with a few exceptions. They were stable in **India**, reflecting good market availabilities after a bumper output harvested in 2020. Although official forecasts indicate a record output is expected from the soon-to-be harvested 2021 crop, an increase in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) and plans for large-scale official procurement, offset price decreases. Similarly, in **Pakistan**, wheat grain prices changed little, with the exception of some markets reflecting improved market availabilities from large imports and favourable prospects for the soon-to-be-harvested 2021 crop. In **China (mainland)**, prices of wheat grain continued to increase in February supported by the growing demand for food consumption and from the feed industry, as wheat is used as a substitute for maize, the domestic demand of which has increased sharply since the second part of 2020. Prices of imported wheat flour were stable in **Sri Lanka** reflecting adequate market availabilities, while they increased in **Bangladesh**, on a combination of seasonal tightness, lower imports year on year and an increase in prices in the international market.

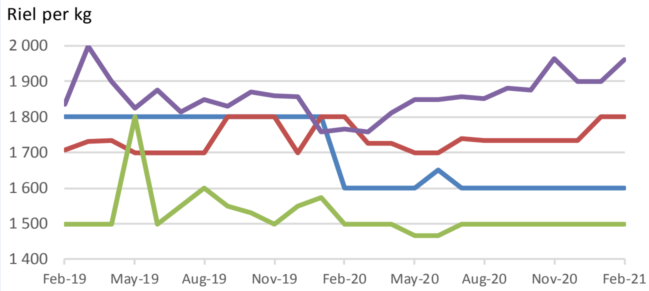
Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bangkok, Rice (5% broken)	15.24	2.3	12.9	21.1
Bangkok, Rice (25% broken)	14.14	2.5	14.2	19.0

Source(s): Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce

Wholesale prices of rice in Cambodia



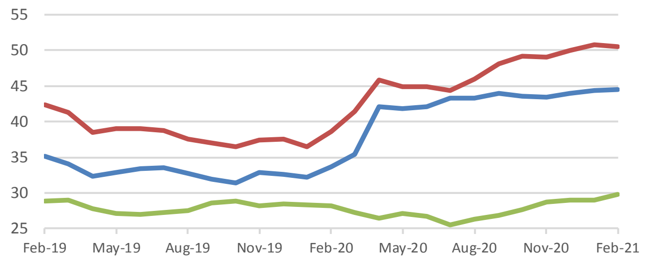
	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Phnom Penh, Rice (Mix)	1 600.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Banteay Meanchey, Rice (Mix)	1 800.00	0.0	3.7	0.0
Battambang, Rice (Mix)	1 500.00	0.0	0.0	0.0
Kampong Chhnang, Rice (Mix)	1 962.00	3.3	-0.1	11.0

Source(s): Cambodia Agricultural Market Information System

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Bangladesh

Taka per kg

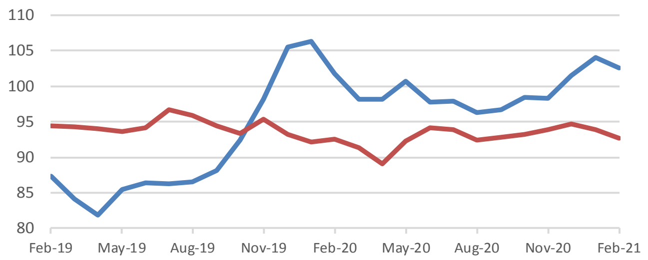


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Dhaka, Rice (coarse- BR-8/ 11/ Guti/ Sharna)	44.58	0.4	2.5	32.5
Dhaka, Rice (Medium)	50.53	-0.6	3.1	30.9
Dhaka, Wheat (flour)	29.79	2.7	3.8	5.6

Source(s): Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM), Bangladesh

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Rupee per kg

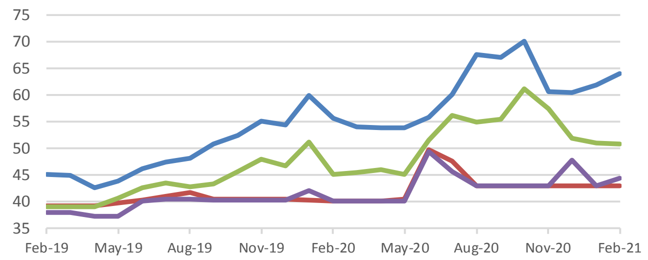


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Colombo, Rice (white)	102.61	-1.4	4.3	0.8
Colombo, Wheat (flour)	92.76	-1.2	-1.2	0.2

Source(s): Department of Census and Statistics

Retail prices of wheat flour in Pakistan

Pakistan Rupee per kg

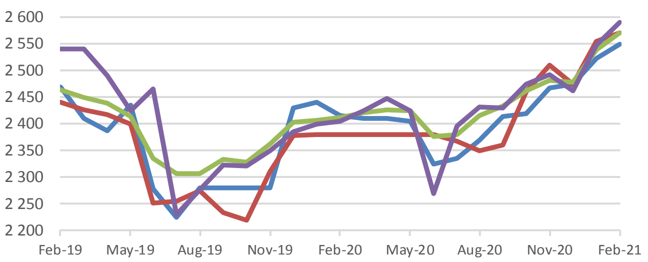


	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Karachi, Wheat (flour)	64.00	3.4	5.6	14.8
Lahore, Wheat (flour)	43.00	0.0	0.0	6.8
Peshawar, Wheat (flour)	50.91	-0.2	-11.4	12.9
Multan, Wheat (flour)	44.36	3.2	3.2	10.2

Source(s): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

Wholesale prices of wheat in China (mainland)

Yuan Renminbi per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Zhengzhou, Wheat	2 550.00	1.1	3.3	5.6
Linyi, Wheat	2 570.00	0.6	2.4	8.0
National Average, Wheat	2 570.00	1.2	3.6	6.6
Sijiazhuang, Wheat	2 590.00	1.7	3.9	7.7

Source(s): CnAgri - China Agriculture Consultant

For more information visit the FPMA website here

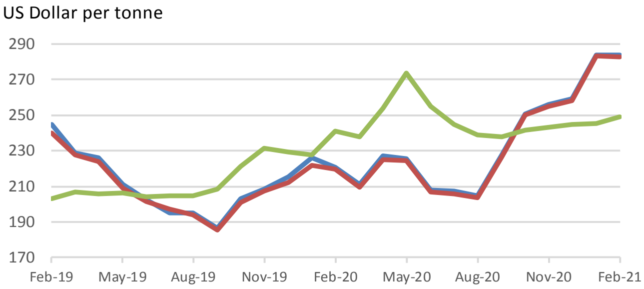
Export and domestic prices of wheat in February were higher than a year earlier, amid weaker currencies

In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat in February were higher than a year before, amid the depreciation of the domestic currencies, particularly in the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In these two countries, prices remained overall stable in February, in line with international markets trends, at levels 30 percent above those a year earlier. In **the Russian Federation**, the upward pressure on prices provided by the announcement of the introduction of a floating tax on wheat exports from 2 June 2021 ([FPMA Food Policy]) was outweighed by strong competition in the export market. In **Ukraine**, shrinking supplies of milling quality wheat offset the downward pressure from weak demand by importing countries. In **Kazakhstan**, export prices increased in February, but only slightly, due to moderate trade activity, and reached values just above those a year before. In the domestic markets, wholesale prices of milling wheat in February continued to rise in **Ukraine**, due to tightening availabilities, and to decline in **the Russian Federation**, following the introduction of taxes on wheat exports aimed at halting the sustained upward trend of domestic prices in the past months ([FPMA Food Policy]). Prices were well above their year-earlier levels in both countries, amid weaker domestic currencies, particularly in Ukraine, due to a below-average harvest in 2020. In **Kazakhstan**, domestic retail prices showed mixed trends but were mostly above their values in February a year before.

In the importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour were broadly above their year-earlier levels amid currency movements. In **Kyrgyzstan** and **Tajikistan** they remained overall stable at year-on-year higher levels, following the steep increases recorded in late March and April 2020, and supported by the strong depreciation of the local currencies over the last twelve months. Prices increased in February in **Armenia** and **Georgia**, to levels above those a year before, reflecting high export quotations from the Russian Federation, the main wheat supplier to the two countries. In January, prices seasonally increased in **Azerbaijan** and **Belarus**, to levels slightly above those a year earlier.

With regard to potatoes, another staple food in the subregion, prices seasonally increased in most countries. Prices increased in February in **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Tajikistan** and **the Russian Federation**, and also in January in **Belarus**, to year-on-year higher levels. In February, prices also seasonally increased in **Armenia**, while they declined in **Georgia** and were lower than a year before. Prices of potatoes remained stable in **Azerbaijan** in January, at levels below those a year earlier.

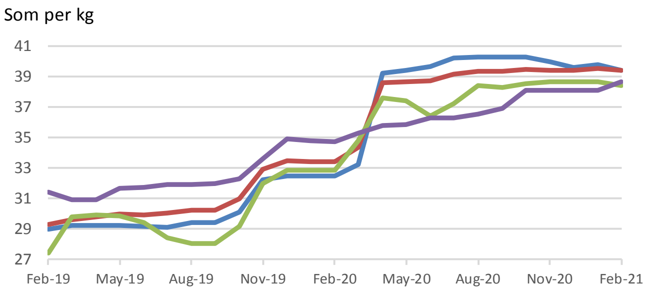
Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	284.00	0.1	10.9	28.7
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	282.75	-0.2	10.8	28.7
Kazakhstan, Wheat (milling, d.a.p. Saryagash station)	249.25	1.7	2.6	3.4

Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan



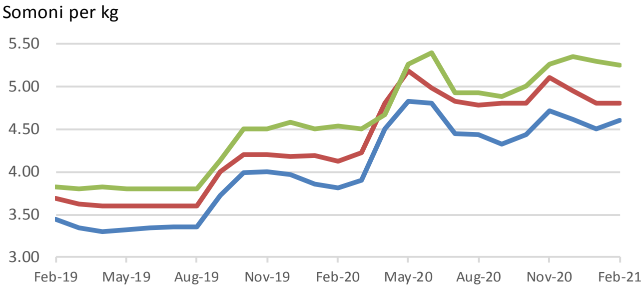
	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bishkek, Wheat (flour, first grade)	39.41	-0.9	-1.5	21.2
National Average, Wheat (flour, first grade)	39.40	-0.4	-0.1	17.9
Batken, Wheat (flour, first grade)	38.41	-0.6	-0.6	16.9
Osh, Wheat (flour, first grade)	38.66	1.4	1.4	11.4

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

For more information visit the FPMA website here

CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE cont'd

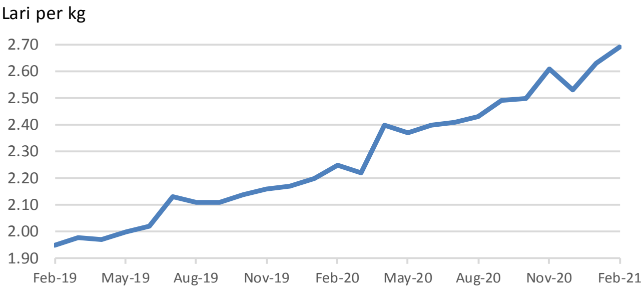
Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Khujand, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.60	2.2	-2.5	20.7
Kurgonteppa, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.80	0.0	-6.1	16.2
Khorugh, Wheat (flour, first grade)	5.25	-0.9	-0.2	15.6

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

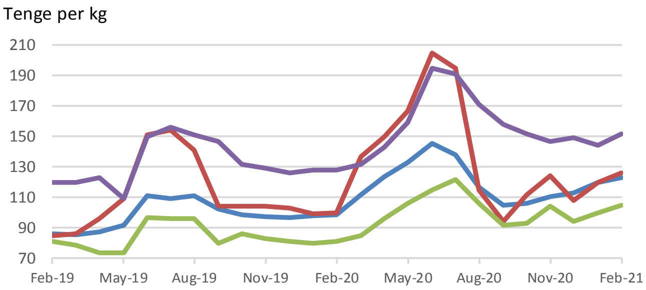
Retail prices of wheat flour in Georgia



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Wheat (flour)	2.69	2.3	3.1	19.6

Source(s)

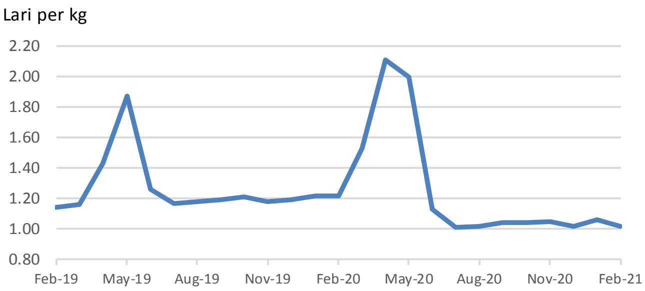
Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Potatoes	123.00	2.5	11.0	24.4
Nur-Sultan, Potatoes	126.00	5.0	1.6	26.0
Kostanay, Potatoes	105.00	5.0	1.0	29.6
Aktau, Potatoes	152.00	5.6	3.4	18.8

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

Retail prices of potatoes in Georgia



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Potatoes	1.02	-3.8	-2.9	-16.4

Source(s): National Statistics Office of Georgia

For more information visit the FPMA website here

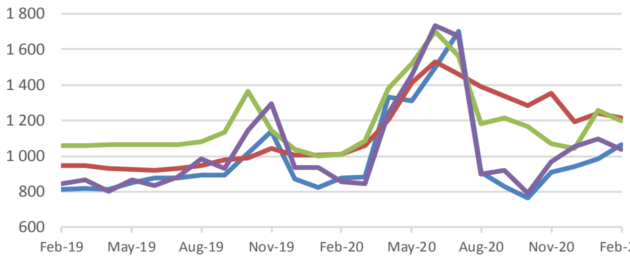
Prices of beans generally weakened but remained higher than a year earlier

In most countries of the subregion, prices of beans generally decreased in February with the start of the 2020 third season harvest but remained well above their year-earlier levels reflecting the adverse impact of two hurricanes in November 2020 on the second season crop. In **Nicaragua**, the major producer and exporter of red beans, prices declined in February as the "Apante" season harvest has increased market supplies. Similarly, in **El Salvador**, prices decreased following larger imports in December 2020 and January 2021 compared to the same period a year earlier. The weakening of prices of its major supplier, Nicaragua, exerted additional downward pressure. By contrast, in **Honduras**, prices continued to strengthen for the fourth consecutive month reflecting crop losses caused by the hurricanes in November. However, some declines were reported towards the end of the month as downward pressure from the new harvest began in mid-February. Regarding black beans, prices declined in **Guatemala** reflecting adequate market supplies from the main season crop harvested in northern and eastern producing areas. In **Mexico**, prices of black beans were stable or weakened as markets are well supplied with the main season harvest gathered in the last months of 2020. Overall, prices of beans in the subregion were at least 15 percent higher year on year.

With regards to maize, prices decreased in February in **El Salvador**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua** and were more than 10 percent below their year-earlier levels. The low price levels reflect ample supplies from the above-average main season output, harvested in the August-October 2020 period. By contrast, prices increased in **Guatemala** as market availabilities declined following seasonal trends. Similarly, prices increased in most markets in **Mexico** despite the recently completed main season harvest and were higher year on year on account of elevated production costs due to a weakening of the local currency during the cropping season.

In the Caribbean, retail prices of black and red beans held steady 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 strengthen, albeit to a lesser extent than in previous months, mainly reflecting the below-average output gathered in the October 2020-January 2021 period. In **Haiti**, prices of maize meal and black beans were stable or increased seasonally in January 2021, with the exception of the capital city market, where prices of maize declined and remained lower year on year. Prices of rice, mostly imported, held steady and were more than 10 percent below their year-earlier levels, reflecting large imports in the last quarter of 2020 and the stronger local currency. The ongoing civil unrest has reportedly disrupted market activities, with negative effects on access to food.

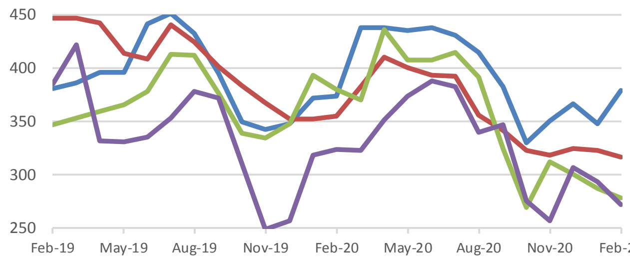
Wholesale prices of beans in Central America



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Beans (red)	1 067.00	8.3	17.0	21.5
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Beans (black)	1 216.38	-2.0	-10.3	20.1
El Salvador, San Salvador, Beans (red)	1 197.68	-4.7	11.7	18.4
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Beans (red)	1 038.84	-5.3	7.1	20.9

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

Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Maize (white)	379.50	9.2	8.2	1.5
El Salvador, San Salvador, Maize (white)	317.02	-1.9	-0.6	-10.8
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Maize (white)	278.74	-2.9	-10.8	-26.6
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Maize (white)	272.36	-7.2	5.8	-15.9

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

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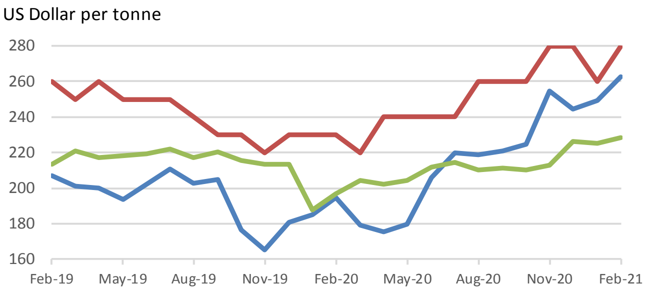
Prices of wheat and maize generally increased in February with some exceptions

In most countries, prices of wheat increased in February, with the notable exception of Argentina, the major wheat producer of the subregion. In **Argentina**, after increasing monthly throughout 2020 and in January 2021, prices declined in February due to improved market availabilities from the recently completed 2020 harvest. However, they remained about 45 percent higher than a year earlier on account of the reduced output, affected by dry weather conditions in central northern producing regions. In **Chile**, prices rebounded in February despite the ongoing harvest, mainly reflecting higher import costs due to the increase in international prices of the grain. Prices continued to increase in **Uruguay** reaching all-time highs, supported by strong export demand of the 2020 crops harvested between November 2020 and January 2021. In **Brazil**, a net importer of wheat, prices increased in February on account of reduced domestic availabilities due to lower imports during the previous four months. In importing countries, **Colombia**, **Ecuador** and **Peru**, prices held relatively steady and were generally around their year-earlier levels.

With regards to maize, prices generally increased in February following seasonal trends. In **Argentina**, where planting of the 2021 crop was completed in mid-February, prices continued to increase supported by growing concerns over the impact of dry weather conditions on crop yields. Prices were nearly twice their values a year earlier in nominal terms, mainly reflecting trends in the international market and the robust export demand for the record 2020 harvest. In **Brazil**, prices increased in February underpinned by concerns over the slow progress of the main season crop sowing, and were well above their levels a year earlier. The low yields of the minor season crop, currently being harvested, and sluggish foreign demand exerted additional upward pressure on prices. In **Uruguay**, ahead of the harvest of the 2021 crop, prices increase by more than 10 percent month on month as seasonally low availabilities were exacerbated by reduced imports during the previous four months. Similarly, in **Ecuador**, where the 2021 main season planting was completed, prices of yellow maize increased seasonally in February. In **Peru**, prices continued to increase and reached levels more than 30 percent higher year on year, reflecting lower market supplies due to the reduced harvest last year and smaller imports in the October 2020-January 2021 period compared to the same period last year. By contrast, prices declined in **Colombia** on account of the ongoing 2021 first harvest as well as large imports in the fourth quarter of 2020.

Regarding rice, in **Brazil**, prices declined for the second consecutive month in February as the ongoing harvest has improved market supplies. However, prices remained more than 50 percent higher year on year following sustained increases in the previous months, which resulted from the strong domestic and foreign demand. Similarly, prices continued to decrease in **Colombia** and were on average more than 10 percent below their levels in February last year reflecting good 2020 harvests. Prices were also stable or weakened in February and lower year on year in **Ecuador**, with markets adequately supplied with the 2020 minor season output harvested in the last months of 2020. In **Uruguay**, where the 2021 harvest has recently started, prices were stable and higher year on year.

Wholesale prices of wheat in South America



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul, Wheat	262.89	5.4	3.3	34.9
Chile, National Average, Wheat	280.00	7.7	0.0	21.7
Uruguay, National Average, Wheat	228.51	1.4	7.3	16.0

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

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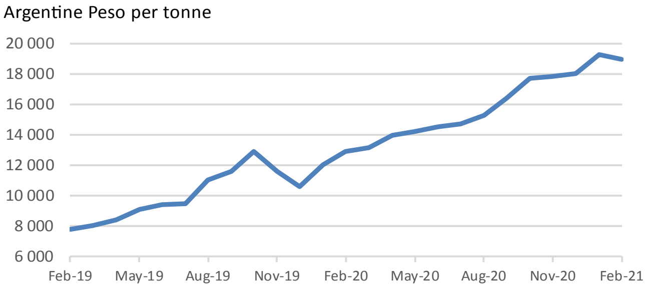
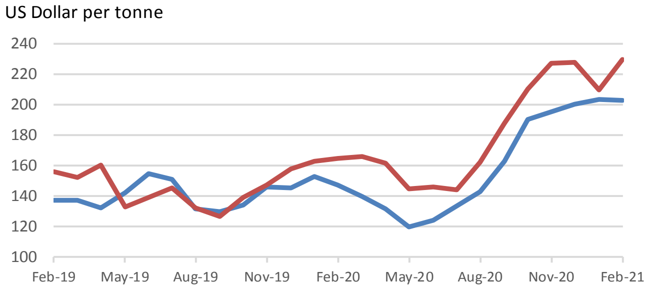
Wholesale prices of wheat in Argentina



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Buenos Aires, Wheat	18 978.59	-1.7	6.4	47.2

Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

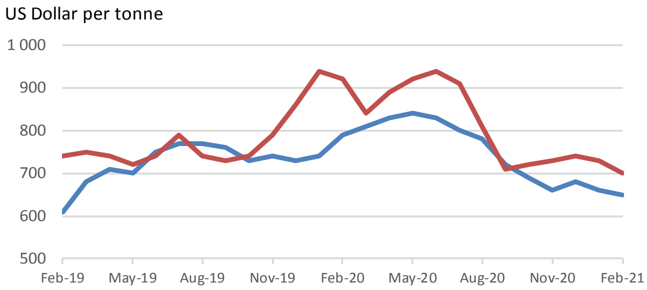
Wholesale prices of yellow maize in South America



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Argentina, Rosario, Maize (yellow)	202.95	-0.4	3.7	38.0
Brazil, Mato Grosso, Maize (yellow)	229.88	9.6	1.2	39.4

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

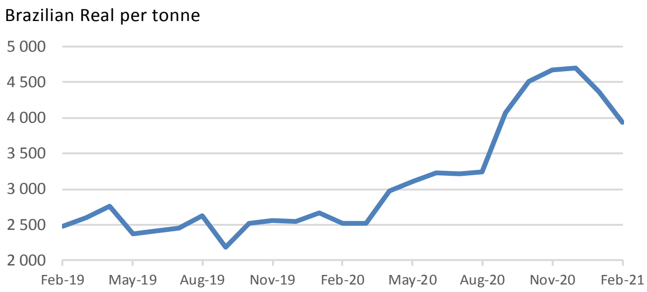
Wholesale prices of rice in South America



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Ecuador, Guayaquil, Rice (long grain)	650.00	-1.5	-1.5	-17.7
Colombia, Bogotá, Rice (first quality)	700.00	-4.1	-4.1	-23.9

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

Wholesale prices of rice in Brazil



	Latest Price Feb-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Federal District, Rice (milled, fine long-grain, type 1)	3 938.00	-9.9	-15.6	55.9

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

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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 March 2021, collected from various sources.

All the data used in the analysis can be found in the **FPMA Tool** at: https://fpma.apps.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/#/home.

For more information visit the **FPMA Website** at: www.fao.org/giews/food-prices.

Enquiries may be directed to:
GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Team
Markets and Trade - Economic and Social Development
GIEWS1@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Rome, Italy

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