



MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

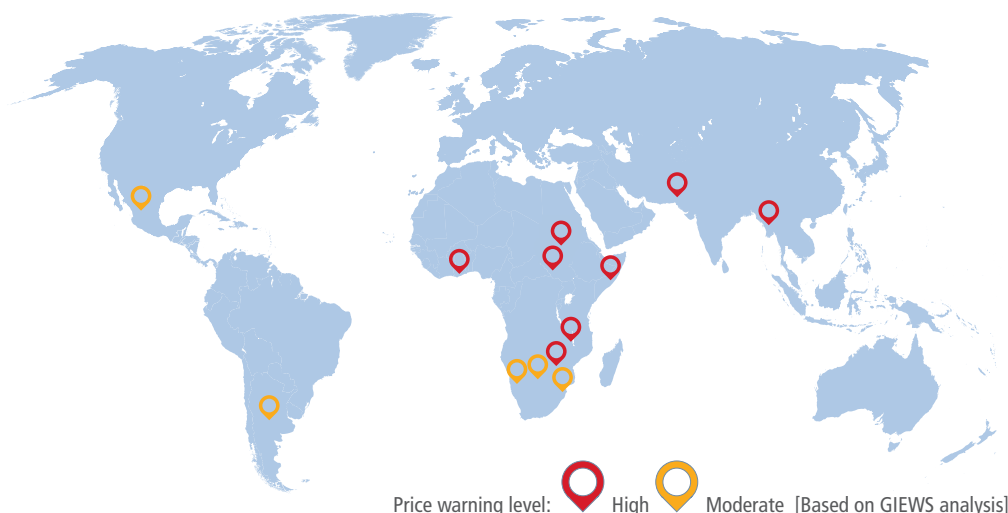
KEY MESSAGES

- After edging down for the past three months, international prices of wheat increased marginally in February, mostly reflecting strong import demand and concerns over dry weather conditions in some major exporters. World maize prices were nearly unchanged in February, with mixed price trends amongst the major exporters. International rice prices eased in February following appreciation of the US dollar and a slowdown in trading activities in most major Asian exporters.
- Latest analysis by FAO shows that domestic staple food prices generally remained at elevated levels in February 2023. Seasonal factors and price transmission from the recent declines in international grain prices supported month-on-month declines in some staple food prices in parts of East Asia, South America, Southern Africa and West Africa. However, in many countries, conflict, adverse weather events and macroeconomic difficulties, particularly currency weakness, continue to keep domestic prices at elevated levels.

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Domestic price warnings



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

Source: GIEWS, modified to comply with UN map, 2023.

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

Argentina | Wheat flour
Botswana | Maize
Eswatini | Maize
Ghana | Coarse grains
Malawi | Maize
Mexico | Maize
Myanmar | Rice
Namibia | Maize
Pakistan | Wheat flour
Somalia | Coarse grains
South Sudan | Staple foods
Sudan | Staple foods
Zimbabwe | Food items

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

International cereal prices followed mixed trends in February; wheat prices firmed marginally, maize prices were stable and rice prices eased somewhat

After edging down for the past three months, international **wheat** prices firmed marginally in February. Strong demand for wheat from Australia, where a recent record harvest boosted supplies, supported a 4 percent month-on-month increase in the Australia (eastern states) quotations. The benchmark United States of America (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter) values also rose, by 5 percent, in February as concerns continued over dry conditions in key Hard Red Wheat producing areas. By contrast, European Union (France, grade 1) prices remained stable with continued strong competition from the Russian Federation, where large supplies supported a 2 percent decline in the Russian Federation (milling, offer, f.o.b. deep-sea ports) prices.

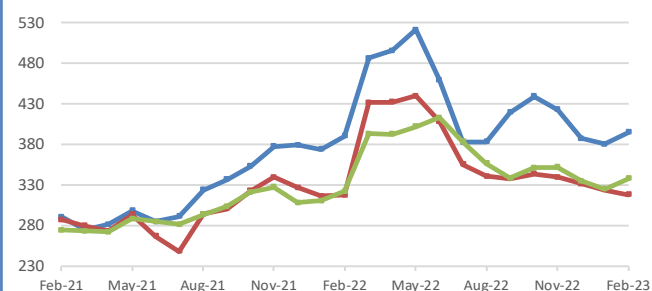
International **maize** export prices were nearly stable in February, with increases in export prices for Brazil and Argentina weighing against marginally lower prices for exports from the United States of America. The Brazil (Paranagua, feed) price increased again in February, up 1.2 percent, supported by the continued strong pace in exports, which are on track to reach a record in 2022/23 and double their export level last season.

The Argentina (Up River, f.o.b.) quotations also rose by 1.1 percent month-on-month, as concerns over dry conditions continued to provide upward pressure. By contrast, lagging demand for United States of America supplies led to a marginal fall, 0.5 percent, in the benchmark United States of America (US No. 2, Yellow, f.o.b.) maize price.

The FAO All Rice Price Index averaged 125.1 points in February 2023, down 1 percent from January, but still 22 percent above its year-earlier level. A general slowdown in import demand curbed the upward momentum of Asian Indica quotations in February. This was especially the case in Thailand, where prices slid 5 percent below January levels, further influenced by the depreciation of the baht against the United States dollar. A somewhat weaker dong also slowed export price increases in Viet Nam, partly offsetting support provided by a slow start of the 2023 winter-spring harvest. Quotations were firmer in India as public domestic procurement remained strong and the pace of trade was still robust. Although fresh demand remained weak, tight supplies kept prices on the rise in the United States of America.

International wheat prices

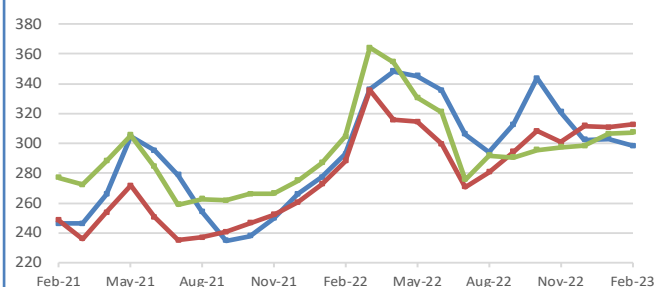
United States dollar per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	394.75	3.8	-6.6	1.1
European Union (France), Wheat (grade 1)	318.40	-1.7	-6.3	0.3
Australia (eastern states), Wheat (ASW)	338.15	4.0	-3.9	4.9

International maize prices

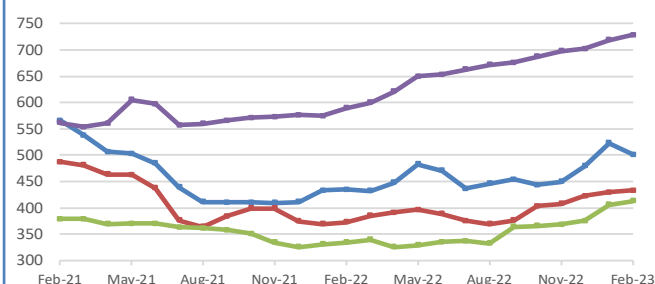
United States dollar per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	298.24	-1.6	-7.1	1.8
Argentina, Maize (Argentina, Up River, f.o.b.)	312.65	0.6	3.9	8.5
Brazil (Paranagua), Maize (feed)	307.50	0.3	3.4	1.0

International rice prices

United States dollar per tonne




	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Parboiled 100%)	501.00	-4.2	11.4	15.3
Viet Nam, Rice (25% broken)	433.25	0.9	6.2	16.2
India, Rice (25% broken)	413.00	1.7	12.2	23.4
United States of America, Rice (US Long Grain 2.4%)	728.25	1.3	4.4	23.6

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 | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	 1.1	-2.1
12 months	2.1	-0.2


Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Argentina, Greater Buenos Aires, Retail, Wheat (flour).

Prices of wheat flour were at new record highs in January 2023

Retail prices of **wheat flour** continued to rise, due to higher year-on-year prices of wheat grain, compounded by elevated milling and transportation costs. After the seventh consecutive monthly increase, prices set new record highs. In general, prices of food items continued to rise in 2022 amid difficult macroeconomic conditions and, as of January 2023, the annual food inflation rate was 98 percent at the national level. To contain price increases, the *Precios Justos* Programme, relaunched in November 2022, was extended through June 2023, fixing the prices of 1 500 basic commodities in supermarkets, including staple food items. In February, the programme was revised to allow for a 3.2 percent month-on-month increase in prices.

Botswana | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	 3.0	-0.4
12 months	 2.2	-0.1


Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Botswana, National average, Retail, Maize meal.

Maize meal price rises eased but levels were still at all-time highs

Following the sharp increases at the end of 2022, prices of **maize meal** increased only moderately in January 2023, as declining prices in South Africa, the main source of cereals, began to filter into the Botswana domestic market. Prices were still at all-time highs at the start of 2023. Along with a forecast deceleration in economic growth in 2023, with adverse implications for employment and incomes, the high food prices are likely to diminish vulnerable households' purchasing power, stressing food insecurity conditions.

Eswatini | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	 9.0	-0.2
12 months	 3.0	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Eswatini, National average, Retail, Maize meal.

Maize meal price rises eased but levels were still at all-time highs

Following the sharp increases at the end of 2022, prices of **maize meal** increased only moderately in January 2023, as declining prices in South Africa, the main source of cereals, began to filter into the Eswatini domestic market. Prices were still at all-time highs at the start of 2023. Along with a forecast deceleration in economic growth in 2023, with adverse implications for employment and incomes, the high food prices are likely to diminish vulnerable households' purchasing power, stressing food insecurity conditions.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Ghana | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	 7.3	1.7
12 months	1.7	0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Ghana, Accra, Wholesale, Maize.

Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends and were at near-record to record levels in February

Prices of locally produced **coarse grains** followed mixed trends in February. In spite of the above-average cereal outputs in 2021 and 2022, prices of **sorghum** were up to 130 percent higher, while those of **maize** and **millet** were up to 140 percent above their year-earlier values. Food inflation reached a new record high of 61 percent year-on-year in January following sustained increases since June 2021, amid strong export demand for cereals from neighbouring countries and a weak national currency. The depreciation of the Ghanaian cedi, that was equivalent to GHS 12.47/USD 1 in February 2023 compared to GHS 6.31/USD 1 in February 2022, has increased the cost of imported goods. In addition, high international prices of food, fuel and fertilizers, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine, have also added upward pressure on domestic food prices.

Malawi | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	 10.0	3.0
12 months	 8.0	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Malawi, National Average, Retail, Maize.

Prices of maize reach all-time highs

The nominal national average price of **maize grain** increased at a quicker pace in the last quarter of 2022 and in January 2023 was at a new record high. Currency weakness that exacerbated the spill over effects of high global commodity prices and tighter domestic supplies are the two principal factors that have driven maize prices upwards. Prices are the highest in southern districts, where acute food insecurity is most prevalent compared to the districts in Central and Northern regions.

Mexico | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	-1.8	-0.9
12 months	 7.6	0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Mexico, Puebla, Wholesale, Maize (white, Sinaloa).



Prices of white maize rose to well above their year-earlier levels in Puebla

In Puebla state, prices of **white maize** rose in February, after a short-lived seasonal weakening during December 2022 and January 2023. However, prices remained more than double their year-earlier levels, following sharp increases in the previous months, driven by unfavourable production prospects. As of end-January 2023, official estimates point to a 25-percent reduction in the main season maize output in Puebla state. At the national level, production of the 2022 main season crop is estimated at an average level due to better-than-expected yields offsetting a contraction in sowings. Elsewhere in the country, prices weakened or were stable with the recently completed 2022 main harvest.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Myanmar | Rice

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	 2.8	-1.3
12 months	 3.1	0.0



Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Myanmar, Yangon, Retail, Rice (Emata, Medium).

Domestic prices of rice skyrocketed in February and were at new record highs

Domestic prices of “Emata” rice, a widely consumed variety, surged by 20 percent month-on-month in February and were 125 percent higher year-on-year, supported by tighter market availabilities following a reduced production in 2021 and 2022. High agricultural input and transportation costs, together with sustained demand from neighbouring countries also supported prices. The output of the 2022 main paddy crop is forecast at a below-average level, mostly due to low yield expectations that reflect the limited use of critical agricultural inputs because of their high prices.

Namibia | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	 7.2	-1.0
12 months	 2.0	-0.1



Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Namibia, Windhoek, Retail, Maize meal.

Maize meal price rises eased but levels were still at all-time highs

Following the sharp increases at the end of 2022, prices of **maize meal** increased only moderately in January 2023, as declining prices in South Africa, the main source of cereals, began to filter into the Namibia domestic market. Prices were still at all-time highs at the start of 2023. Along with a forecast deceleration in economic growth in 2023, with adverse implications for employment and incomes, the high food prices are likely to diminish vulnerable households' purchasing power, stressing food insecurity conditions.

Pakistan | Wheat flour

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	 4.0	-0.8
12 months	 4.0	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Pakistan, Karachi, Retail, Wheat (flour).

Prices of wheat flour remain at high levels in February

Prices of **wheat flour**, a key staple food, were generally stable or declined in February, reflecting favourable production prospects for the 2023 main winter crop that will be harvested between April and June 2023. According to official information, wheat crop conditions are currently favourable and the area planted is officially estimated at a near-average level. Overall, prices in February remained well above their year-earlier levels, as market availabilities remain tight following a stagnant a production since 2018 and stock losses due to the June to August 2022 floods. Elevated agricultural input and transportation costs, and inflationary pressure also kept prices at high levels.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Somalia | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 01/23	Same period average
3 months	-10.9	0.8
12 months	 -3.6	-0.4

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Somalia, Baldoa, Retail, Sorghum (red).

Prices of coarse grains seasonally declined in January to values below the high year-earlier levels

Prices of **maize** declined by 2–6 percent and prices of **sorghum** decreased by 5–24 percent in January with the secondary “Deyr” harvest, estimated at about 30 percent below average due to unfavourable weather conditions. Prices in January were up to about 30 percent below their very high year-earlier levels in several markets except in the capital, Mogadishu. Here, prices of maize and sorghum in January remained 24 and 29 percent, respectively, higher than one year earlier as the presence of drought-displaced communities resulted in an increased local demand.

South Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	4.6	1.4
12 months	 6.9	0.4

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

Staple food prices on the increase in February and at exceptionally high levels, mainly due to insufficient supplies and severe macroeconomic difficulties

In the capital, Juba, prices of **maize** and **sorghum** began to seasonally increase in February, rising by 4 and 7 percent, respectively, supported by a further depreciation of the national currency. Prices of **cassava**, imported **wheat** and **groundnuts**, other important staples in the local diet, also increased in February by 8–15 percent. Nominal food prices in January were at exceptionally high levels, with those of maize and sorghum around twice their already high year-earlier values and more than 100 times those in July 2015, before the currency collapse. Underlying the high food prices are insufficient supplies and the continuously difficult macroeconomic situation due to low foreign currency reserves and a weak national currency.

Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 02/23	Same period average
3 months	-5.4	2.0
12 months	 -3.5	-0.5

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


Prices of main staple sorghum continue to increase in February to very high levels

Prices of locally grown **sorghum** seasonally increased for the second consecutive month in February by 7–31 percent in several markets after having declined between October and December 2022 on account of the above-average 2022 harvest. By contrast, prices of **millet** followed mixed trends. Despite the favourable outcome of the 2022 cropping season, prices remained up to twice their already elevated year-earlier values. Prices of **wheat**, mostly imported and mainly consumed in urban areas, remained firm in February in most markets owing to the improved availability of other cereals, except in the capital, Khartoum, where they increased by 8 percent due to sustained demand. Overall, prices of wheat in February were around the very high levels of one year earlier. **Cereal** prices began to follow a sustained increasing trend in late 2017 due to the difficult macroeconomic situation, coupled with high prices of fuel and agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs. Heightened political instability and intercommunal clashes exerted further upward pressure on prices.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Zimbabwe | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 12/22	Same period average
3 months	7.4	3.9
12 months	 5.1	0.7

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Zimbabwe, Harare, Mbare, Retail, Maize (white).

Currency weakness underpins high inflation rates

The annual **food inflation** rate was estimated to be just below 140 percent in February, down from 153 percent in the previous month. The disinflation comes amid a relative stabilization of the exchange rate in recent months and some softening of international prices that have helped to limit imported inflationary pressure. However, the annual inflation rate was still at a significantly high level, owing to the deep-rooted national currency weakness that has amplified the transmission of elevated global prices to the domestic market. At the commodity level, **maize** grain prices were more than six times higher on a yearly basis in December 2022, but monthly rates of increase in the last quarter of 2022 were below the levels in the first half of the year.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends and remained significantly higher year-on-year across most of the subregion

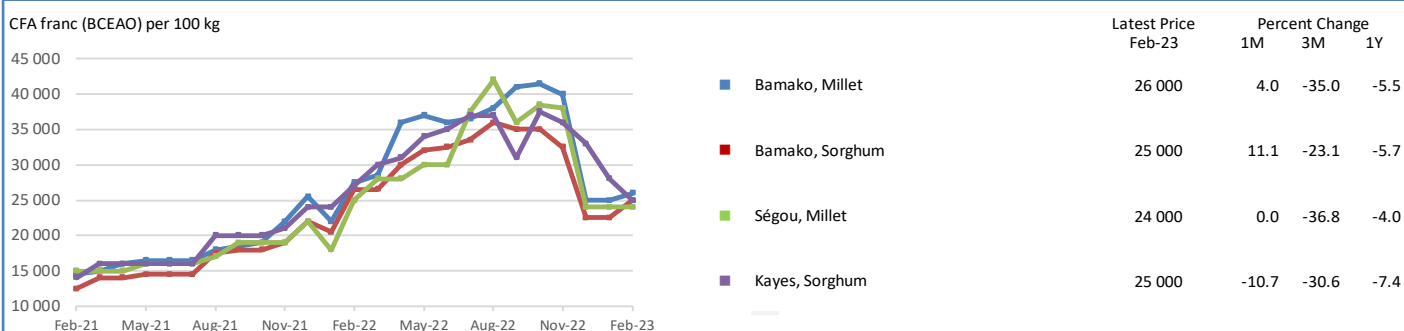
Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in January and February 2023, and remained above their year-earlier levels in most countries of the subregion. In Sahelian countries, high prices are mostly supported by low carryover stocks, reduced trade flows and conflict-related market disruptions in Liptako-Gourma and Lake Chad regions. In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, high prices are mostly supported by strong demand and currency depreciation. Furthermore, elevated production costs and high international commodity prices continued to contribute to the relatively high domestic cereal prices across the subregion.

In **Mali**, prices of locally produced sorghum and millet followed mixed trends in February 2023. In several markets, prices of coarse grains were near or below their year-earlier levels, underpinned by the recent above-average harvest. However, in some other markets, prices were about 10–20 percent higher on a yearly basis, mostly reflecting localized production shortfalls and market disruptions due to insecurity in Liptako-Gourma Region, amid strong export and domestic demand. In **Burkina Faso**, prices of millet followed mixed trends, while those of sorghum generally strengthened in February. In most markets, prices of coarse grains were about 5–20 percent above their year-earlier values, supported by conflict-related market disruptions and strong demand for food in northern and eastern areas due to the high concentration of internally displaced persons. In **the Niger**, prices of sorghum remained stable or declined, while prices of millet remained stable or increased in February. Prices of coarse grains were well below their year-earlier values, reflecting the sharp production upturn in 2022. In **Chad**, prices of sorghum, millet and maize increased in February and were generally 10–30 percent higher on a yearly basis, reflecting high transportation costs and reduced trade flows due to conflict and

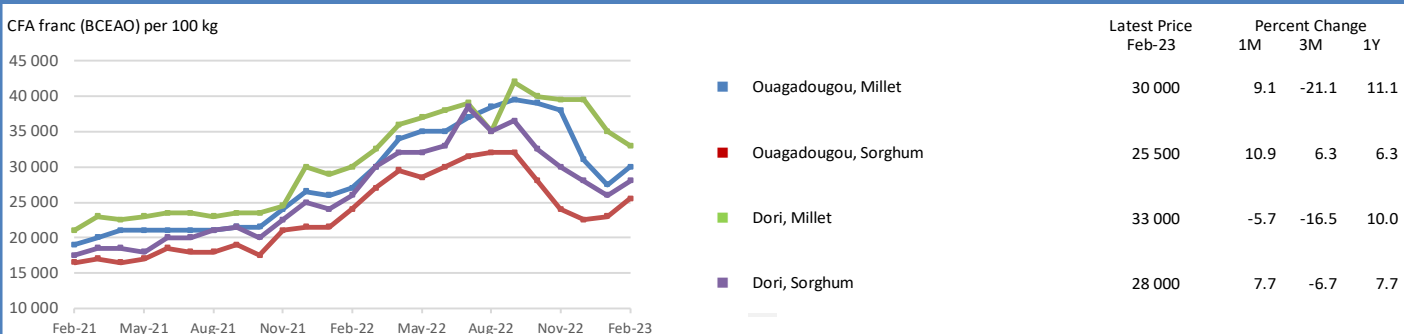
flood-related market disruptions. Furthermore, a slowdown in imports of wheat flour and rice associated with the war in Ukraine has added pressure on prices of local cereals. In **Senegal**, national average prices of millet and sorghum remained stable, while the average price of maize decreased in January. Despite the year-on-year increase in the 2022 cereal output, average prices of maize, sorghum and millet were 30, 45 and 70 percent, respectively, higher year-on-year, mostly underpinned by elevated production and transportation costs as well as currency depreciation.

In several countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in January and February 2023. In **Ghana**, prices of millet and sorghum followed mixed trends, while prices of maize increased in most markets in February. Prices of sorghum were up to 130 percent higher, while those of maize and millet were to up 140 percent higher on a yearly basis, mostly supported by persistent inflationary pressures from the continuous depreciation of the national currency, elevated international commodity prices and strong export demand. In **Togo**, prices of maize and sorghum were generally stable and were near or below their elevated year-earlier levels in February. In **Benin**, prices of maize were stable, while prices of sorghum followed mixed trends in January, and they were generally near or below their year-earlier values. In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains generally increased in January, and were 5–15 percent higher year-on-year in some urban markets and in northcentral markets, mostly supported by poor security conditions and increased transportation costs, compounded by flood-related market disruptions. Furthermore, macroeconomic difficulties, including weakness of the national currency, added upward pressure on prices. The annual food inflation rate in Nigeria reached a record level of 24.3 percent in January.

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali



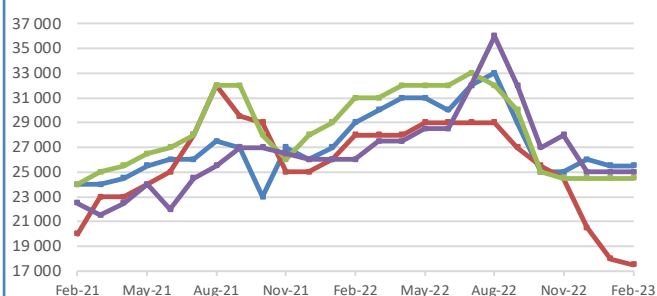
Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso



For more information visit the FPMA website [here](https://www.fpma.org)

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Niger

CFA franc (BCEAO) per 100 kg

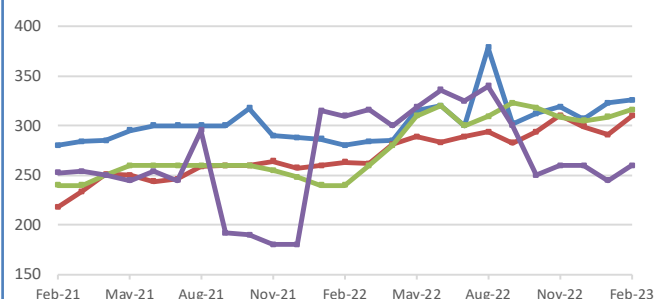


- Niamey, Millet
- Zinder, Sorghum
- Zinder, Millet
- Tillaberi, Sorghum

Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
25 500	0.0	2.0	-12.1
17 500	-2.8	-28.6	-37.5
24 500	0.0	0.0	-21.0
25 000	0.0	-10.7	-3.8

Retail prices of millet and millet in Chad

CFA franc per kg

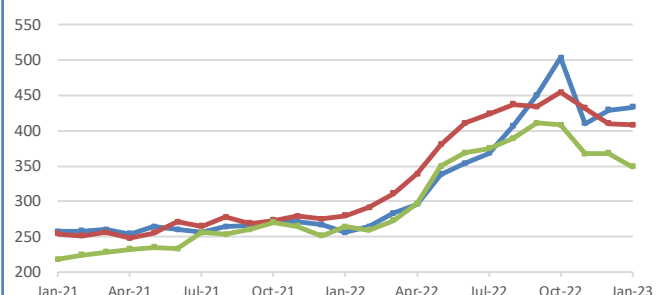


- N'Djamena, Millet
- Sarh, Millet
- N'Djamena, Maize
- Bol, Maize

Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
326.00	0.9	2.1	16.4
310.00	6.5	-0.1	17.9
316.00	2.3	2.3	31.7
260.00	6.1	0.0	-16.1

Retail prices of cereals in Senegal

CFA franc (BCEAO) per kg

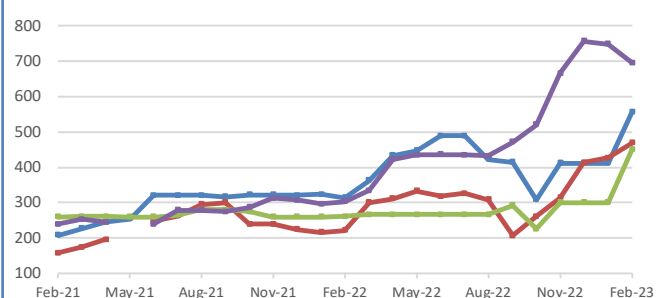


- National Average, Millet
- National Average, Sorghum
- National Average, Maize

Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
433.00	0.9	-13.9	69.1
408.00	-0.5	-10.1	45.7
349.00	-5.2	-14.5	32.2

Wholesale prices of maize and sorghum in Ghana

Ghanaian cedi per 100 kg



- Accra, Maize
- Techiman, Maize
- Accra, Sorghum
- Techiman, Sorghum

Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
555.56	35.1	35.1	77.4
468.85	9.9	49.6	112.1
450.00	50.0	50.0	73.0
695.34	-7.2	4.4	129.9

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

SOUTHERN AFRICA

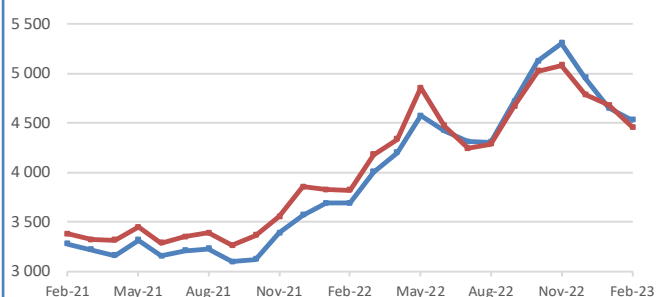
Price increases eased in several countries, but in others record levels were reinforced

Food price increases eased in several countries, amid softening global commodity prices, while in others staple maize grain prices reached new record highs, severely stressing acute food insecurity. In **South Africa**, linked to softening international benchmark prices, wholesale prices of maize fell for the third consecutive month in February. In addition, an overall favourable domestic supply outlook, resting on good production prospects for the 2023 maize crop and ample national stocks, added further downward pressure on prices. The recent decreases were, however, limited by a moderate depreciation of the national currency that negated some of the weakening effects of softening global prices. Regarding wholesale wheat prices, there was a small uptick in February, but prices were still about 20 percent below the all-time highs of May 2022. In **Botswana**, **Eswatini** and **Namibia**, following sharp increases at the end of 2022, prices of maize meal increased only moderately in January, as the declining maize prices in South Africa, the main source of cereals for these countries, began to filter into the domestic markets. Prices were still at all-time highs at the start of 2023. In **Angola**, following a continuous decline over the course of 2022, the food inflation rate remained unchanged in

January compared to the preceding month, in part attributed to the effect of a moderate depreciation of the national currency between October and December 2022 that raised food import costs. In **Zambia**, the nominal national average price of maize grain continued to climb in February, reaching new records, mainly driven by a weaker currency and tighter domestic supplies. In response to overall inflationary pressures in the country, the Zambian government raised the policy interest rate in February. In **Zimbabwe**, the annual food inflation rate, measured by the blended consumer price index (incorporating prices of goods denominated in the United States dollars), eased further in February, but the rate remained in triple-digit figures. The slowdown reflects a moderate stabilization of the exchange rate and some softening of prices at the international level. In **Mozambique**, moderate increases in the price of maize grain were recorded in January, in line with seasonal trends. The expected landfall of tropical cyclone Freddy in March and the impact on transportation routes could lead to temporary price spikes in the affected areas, if markets supplies become depleted. In **Malawi**, tight supplies and a weaker year-on-year national currency have driven up the price of maize grain, which were at record levels in early 2023.

Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa

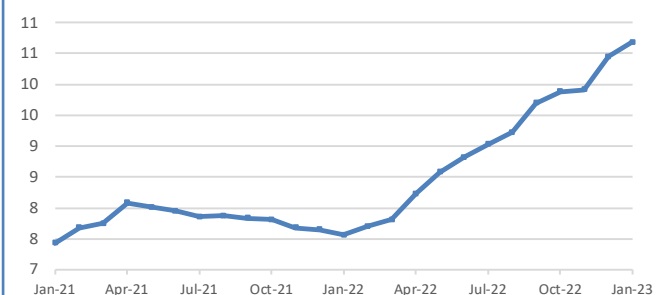
South African rand per tonne



Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
Randfontein, Maize (white)	-2.6	-14.6	22.7
Randfontein, Maize (yellow)	-4.8	-12.3	16.6

Retail prices of maize meal in Botswana

Pula per kg



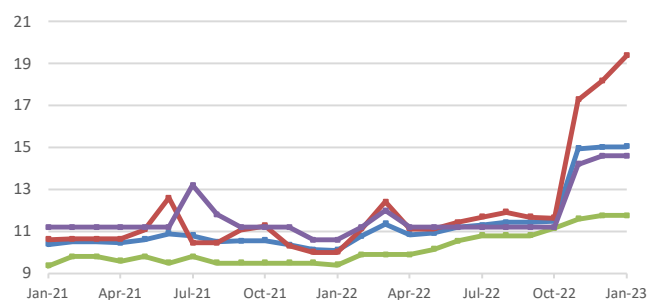
Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
National average	2.2	8.1	41.3

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

SOUTHERN AFRICA cont'd

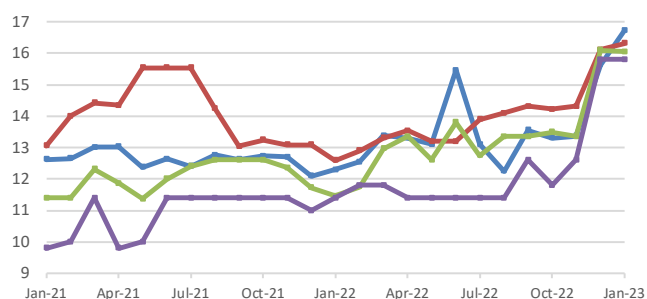
Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini

Lilangeni per kg



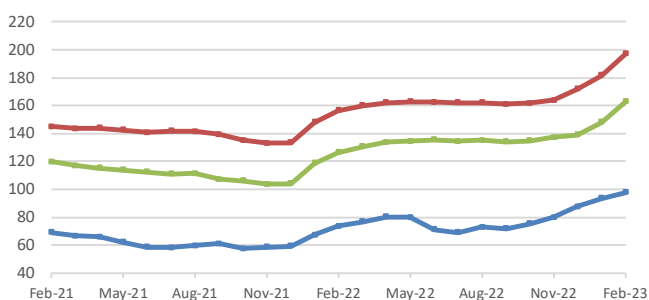
Retail prices of maize meal in Namibia

Namibia dollar per kg



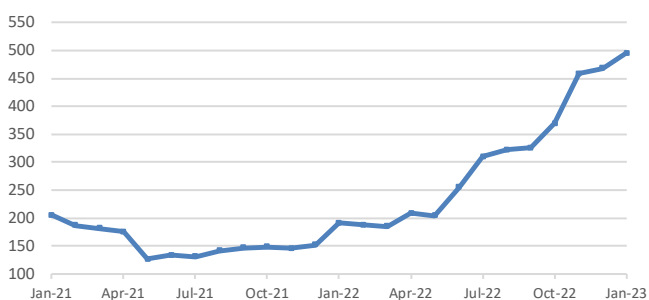
Retail prices of maize in Zambia

Zambian kwacha per 20 kg



Retail prices of maize in Malawi

Malawi kwacha per kg



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

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

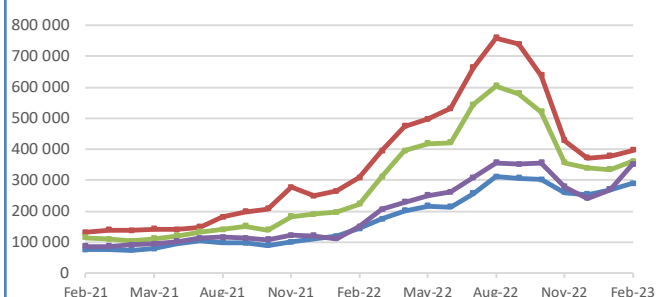
Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in February 2023. Overall, exceptionally high levels continued to be recorded in **South Sudan** and **the Sudan**, underpinned by insufficient supplies and severe macroeconomic difficulties, including currency weakness. Across the subregion, the upward pressure on prices continues to be exacerbated by the impact of the war in Ukraine on international food, fuel and fertilizer markets.

In **the Sudan**, prices of domestically produced sorghum seasonally increased in several markets for the second consecutive month in February 2023 after having declined between October and December 2022 with the 2022 harvest, estimated at above-average levels owing to favourable weather conditions. By contrast, prices of millet followed mixed trends. Overall, prices of coarse grains in February remained up to twice their already elevated year-earlier values, despite the favourable outcome of the 2022 cropping season, due to high prices of fuel and agricultural inputs inflating production costs, political instability, intercommunal clashes and a weak national currency. Prices of wheat, mostly imported and mainly consumed in urban areas, remained firm in February in most

markets owing to the improved availability of other cereals, except in the capital, Khartoum, where prices increased due to sustained demand. Overall, prices of wheat in February were around the very high levels of a year earlier. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize and sorghum began to seasonally increase in February in the capital, Juba, reaching new record highs, after having firmed up in January with the second season harvest. A further depreciation of the national currency provided support to prices. The exceptionally high price levels are due to tight supplies, the lingering impact of prolonged conflict and macroeconomic difficulties. In **Somalia**, prices of maize and sorghum seasonally declined in several markets in January with the arrival of the secondary "Deyr" harvest, estimated at below-average levels due to unfavourable weather conditions. Prices in January were below the very high levels of a year earlier, except in the capital, Mogadishu, where prices remained above their year-earlier levels due to sustained demand, supported by the presence of drought-displaced communities. In **Burundi**, prices of maize began to seasonally increase in January, when they were well above their year-earlier levels due to a tight supply situation coupled with insufficient and costly fuel supplies inflating transportation costs.

Wholesale prices of sorghum and millet in the Sudan

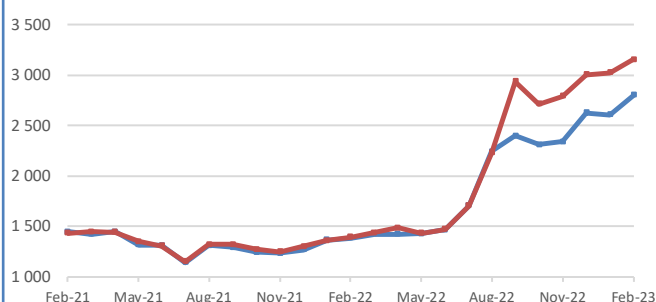
Sudanese pound per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita)	288 750.00	7.4	11.5	101.4
El Obeid, Millet	396 000.00	4.7	-7.5	28.6
El Gedarif, Millet	360 250.00	7.6	1.2	61.7
El Obeid, Sorghum (Feterita)	352 000.00	30.9	26.5	134.9

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

South Sudanese pound per 3.5 kg

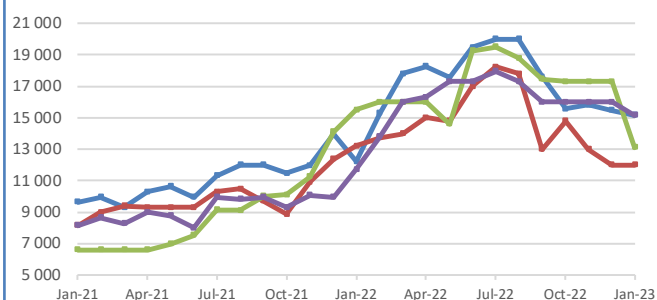


	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Juba, Maize (white)	2 800.00	7.4	19.6	102.0
Juba, Sorghum (Feterita)	3 157.00	4.4	13.1	126.6

For more information visit the FPMA website [here](https://www.farma.org)

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia

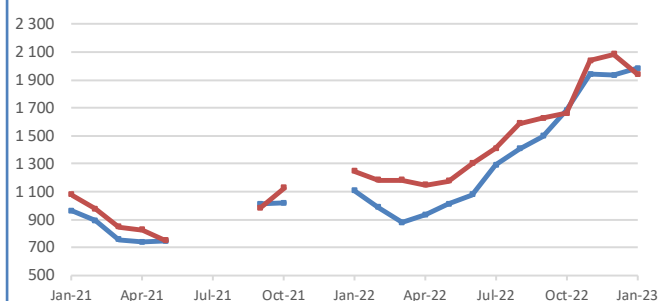
Somali shilling per kg



	Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Mogadishu, Maize (white)	15 160	-2.0	-2.6	24.3
Marka, Maize (white)	12 000	0.0	-18.9	-9.1
Baidoa, Sorghum (red)	13 120	-24.2	-24.2	-15.4
Mogadishu, Sorghum (red)	15 160	-5.3	-5.3	29.4

Wholesale prices of maize in Burundi

Burundi franc per kg



	Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Maize (white)	1 982.58	2.6	17.9	79.5
Bujumbura Rural, Maize (white)	1 941.67	-6.9	16.8	56.0

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

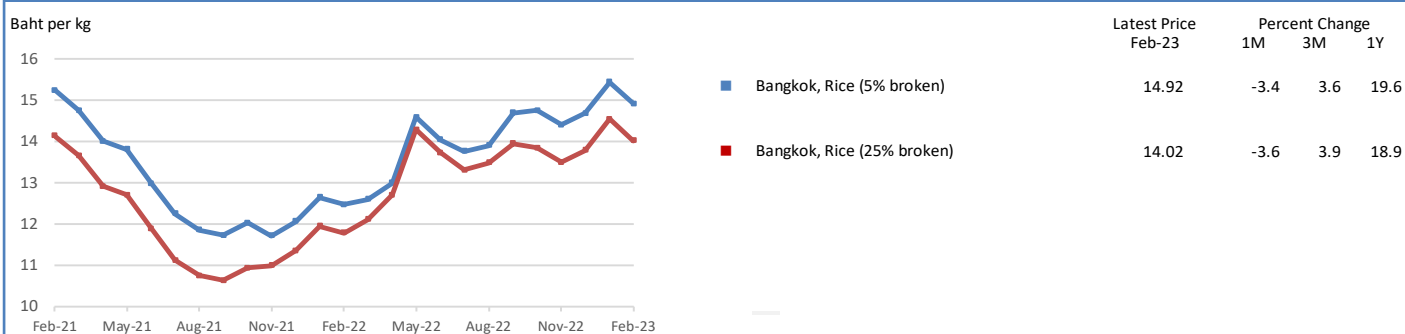
Domestic prices of rice followed mixed trends, while wheat flour prices generally softened in February

Domestic prices of rice followed mixed trends in February 2023 and were well above their year-earlier levels in most countries of the subregion. In **Myanmar**, domestic prices of “Emata” rice, a widely consumed variety, continued to increase sharply, reaching record highs in February and were 125 percent higher year-on-year, reflecting tight market availabilities following below-average outputs in 2021 and 2022, as well as elevated agricultural input and transportation costs. Sustained demand from neighbouring countries also continue to support prices. Moderate price increases were registered in **Viet Nam**, due to seasonally tight supplies ahead of the 2023 “winter-spring” harvest, which begins in March 2023. By contrast, prices declined slightly in **Thailand**, weighed by expectations for an above-average 2022/23 secondary crop, currently being harvested, and a slowdown in demand for export. In **India**, domestic rice prices were generally stable or increased in some markets, mostly supported by large government purchases and robust local demand. According to official estimates, as of 16 February 2023, some 46.6 million tonnes of paddy has been procured in the current 2022/23 marketing year (October/September), representing nearly 25 percent of the 2022/23 production forecast. In **China (mainland)**, domestic rice prices remained generally stable, reflecting adequate market availabilities. In **Sri Lanka**, rice prices continued their downward trend that began in August 2022, weighed by improved market availability from imports and the start of the 2023 main “Maha” crop harvest, which is expected to increase from last year’s low level, but may remain below average. In **Bangladesh**,

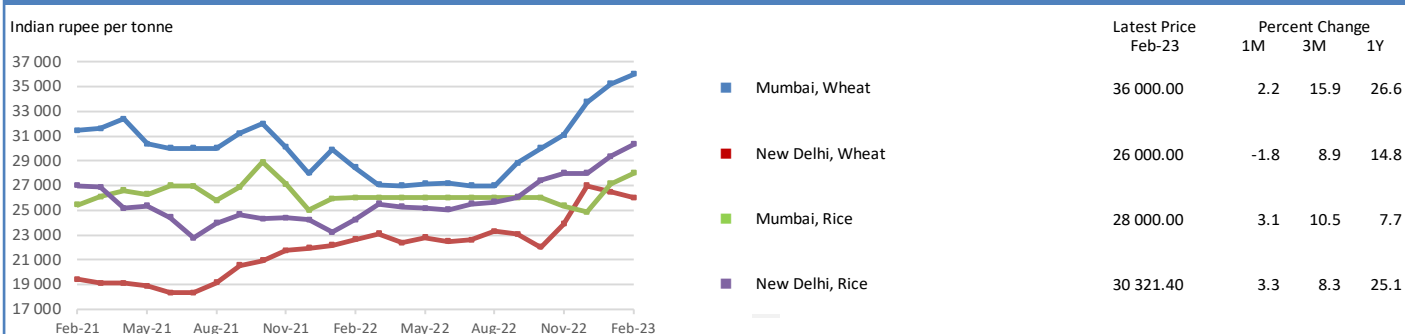
domestic rice prices in the Dhaka market increased marginally, despite adequate market availabilities from the just-completed 2023 “Boro” harvest, estimated at an above-average level, mostly reflecting a recent increase in electricity and gas prices that led to higher processing and transportation costs.

Wheat flour prices generally softened owing to favourable production prospects for the 2023 main wheat crop, to be harvested from March/April in most countries. However, February prices remained well above their year-earlier levels following steady increases throughout 2022. Wheat flour prices declined marginally in **China (mainland)** and **India**, reflecting generally adequate market availabilities. Similarly, wheat flour prices declined in **Bangladesh**, which imports about 85 percent of its domestic needs, but remained at least 70 percent above their year-earlier levels, due to a decline in imported volumes in 2022, high international wheat prices as well as elevated transportation costs. In **Sri Lanka**, wheat flour prices decreased for the fifth consecutive month in February, owing to improved market availabilities from increased imports. In **Pakistan**, domestic wheat flour prices were generally stable or declined in February, reflecting favourable production prospects for the 2023 main winter crop, which will be gathered from March onwards. However, February prices remained at elevated levels, as market availabilities remain tight following stagnant outputs since 2018, high agricultural input costs, elevated transportation costs and general inflationary pressure.

Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand



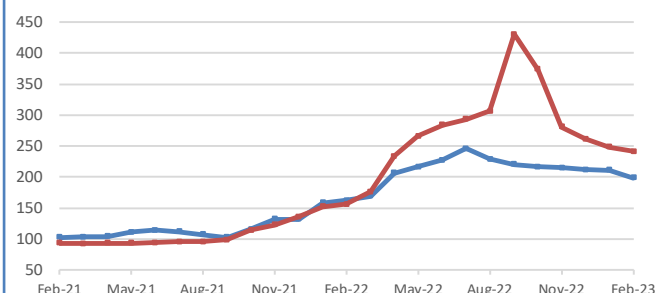
Wholesale prices of rice and wheat in India



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

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka

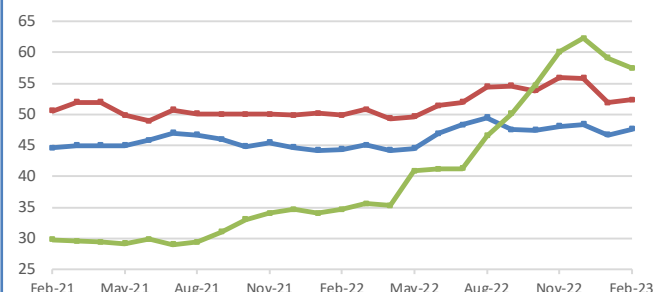
Sri Lanka rupee per kg



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Colombo, Rice (white)	198.81	-5.8	-7.4	22.7
Colombo, Wheat (flour)	241.11	-2.7	-14.1	54.5

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Bangladesh

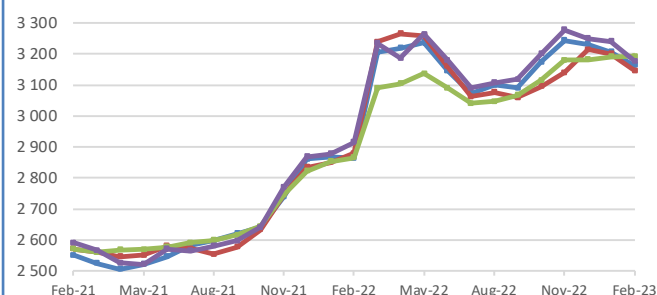
Taka per kg



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Dhaka, Rice (coarse- BR-8/ 11/ Gutti/ Sharna)	47.63	2.1	-1.0	7.3
Dhaka, Rice (Medium)	52.34	0.9	-6.4	5.0
Dhaka, Wheat (flour)	57.50	-2.7	-4.3	66.0

Wholesale prices of wheat in China (mainland)

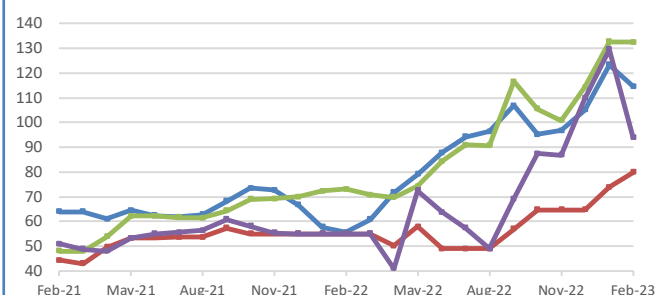
Yuan or yuan renminbi per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Zhengzhou	3 163.33	-1.4	-2.5	10.5
Linyi	3 146.67	-1.7	0.2	9.3
National Average	3 192.33	0.0	0.4	11.4
Sijiazhuang	3 178.00	-2.0	-3.1	9.0

Retail prices of wheat flour in Pakistan

Pakistan rupee per kg



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Karachi	114.67	-7.1	18.6	106.3
Multan	79.76	7.9	23.2	45.0
Quetta	132.50	-0.2	31.3	81.5
Peshawar	93.99	-27.4	8.2	70.9

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

Wheat export prices declined in the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, while domestic prices of wheat exhibited mixed trends and potato prices seasonally increased in the subregion

In the **Russian Federation**, export prices of milling wheat slightly declined in February 2023, in line with trends of other origins. Prices remained under downward pressure from the large domestic availabilities and fell to levels around 4 percent below those of February 2022. In **Kazakhstan**, export prices of milling wheat also declined slightly amid weak demand from importing countries and were about 5 percent below their February 2022 levels.

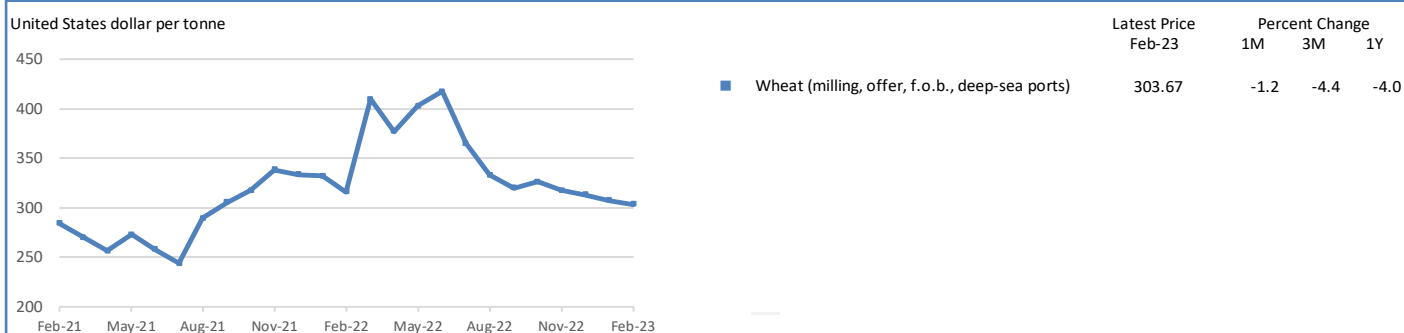
Wholesale prices of milling wheat rose in February 2023, in **Ukraine**, in line with seasonal trends, but remained about 5 percent lower than a year earlier. By contrast, in **Kazakhstan**, average retail prices of wheat flour fell moderately in January but were about 30 percent above their year-earlier levels following sustained increases in 2022.

In importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour exhibited mixed trends and were above their year-earlier levels, amid higher

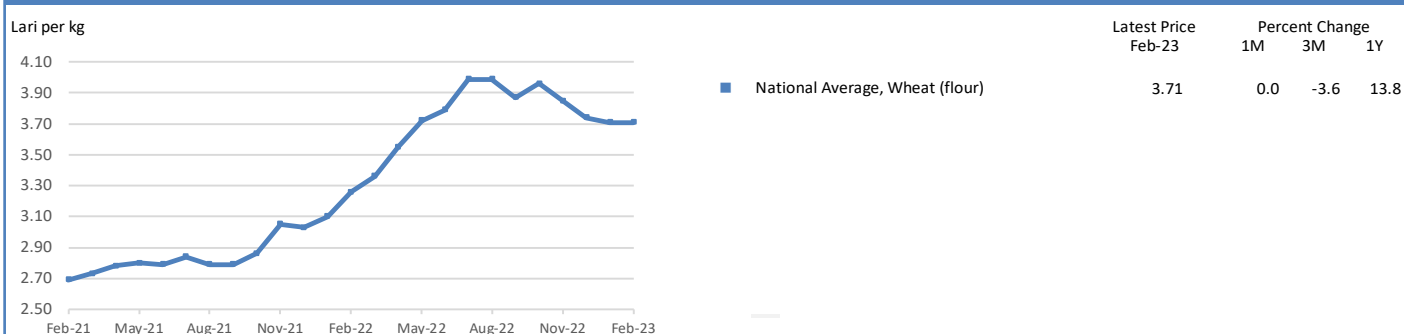
production and transportation costs. In **Georgia**, prices remained stable in February 2023, but at levels over 13 percent higher than those a year earlier. In **Belarus** and **Kyrgyzstan**, prices remained stable in January at 15 percent and 26 percent, respectively, above those in January 2022. Prices declined slightly, in the **Republic of Moldova**, in January but were 17 percent above year-earlier levels. In **Azerbaijan** and **Uzbekistan**, prices rose marginally in January, in line with seasonal trends.

Retail prices of potatoes, another staple food in the subregion, seasonally increased in most countries. Prices rose in February in **Georgia** to year-on-year higher levels and in the **Russian Federation** to values below those a year earlier. Prices also increased in January in **Azerbaijan**, **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan**, the **Republic of Moldova** and **Uzbekistan**.

Export prices of milling wheat in the Russian Federation



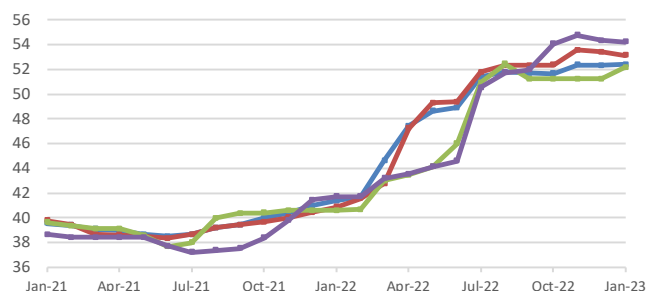
Retail prices of wheat flour in Georgia



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

Retail prices of wheat flour in Kyrgyzstan

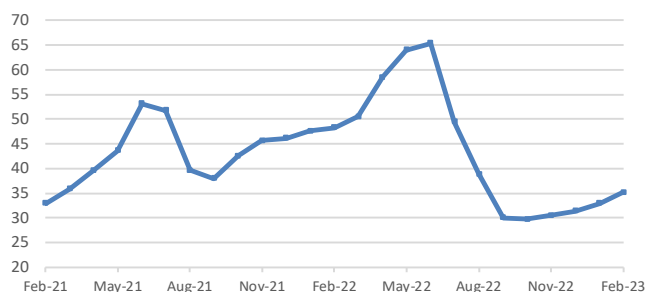
Som per kg



	Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Wheat (flour, first grade)	52.41	0.2	1.4	26.7
Bishkek, Wheat (flour, first grade)	53.15	-0.5	1.5	30.0
Jalal-Abad, Wheat (flour, first grade)	52.15	1.8	1.8	28.4
Batken, Wheat (flour, first grade)	54.22	-0.2	0.3	30.0

Retail prices of potatoes in the Russian Federation

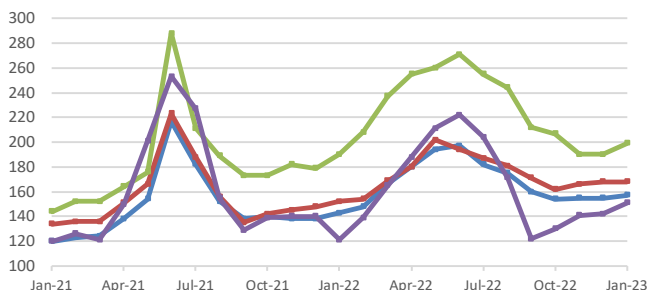
Russian rouble per kg



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average	35.17	6.9	15.3	-27.1

Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan

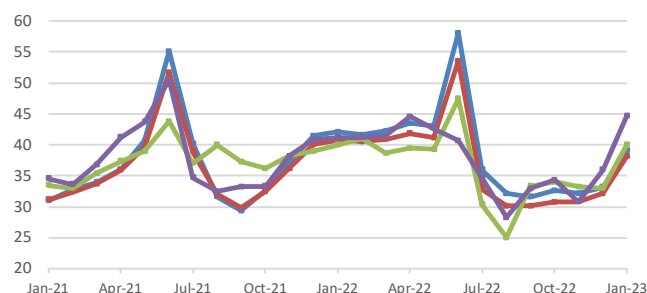
Tenge per kg



	Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average	157.00	1.3	1.9	9.8
Almaty	168.00	0.0	3.7	10.5
Aktau	199.00	4.7	-3.9	4.7
Astana	151.00	6.3	16.2	24.8

Retail prices of potatoes in Kyrgyzstan

Som per kg



	Latest Price Jan-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Bishkek	39.13	17.9	19.9	-7.0
National Average	38.13	18.7	24.2	-6.3
Batken	40.00	21.2	17.7	0.0
Jalal-Abad	44.60	24.1	30.0	8.3

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

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Prices of maize and beans rose in most countries and remained above their February 2022 levels

Across the subregion, wholesale prices of white maize continued to rise in February, with the notable exception of **Mexico**, where prices were stable or declined with the recently completed 2022 main harvest. However, in **Puebla**, where dry conditions in mid-2022 caused a 25 percent drop in production, prices increased in February and remained more than double their year-earlier levels. In other key markets, prices were also higher year-on-year, following sustained increases in 2022. In February, prices of white maize rose for the third consecutive month in **Guatemala** and **Nicaragua**, and for the second consecutive month in **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, reflecting reduced supplies, in line with seasonal trends. In the aforementioned countries, prices were at least 20 percent above their levels a year earlier, reflecting elevated production and transportation costs. The year-on-year price difference was largest (45 percent) in El Salvador.

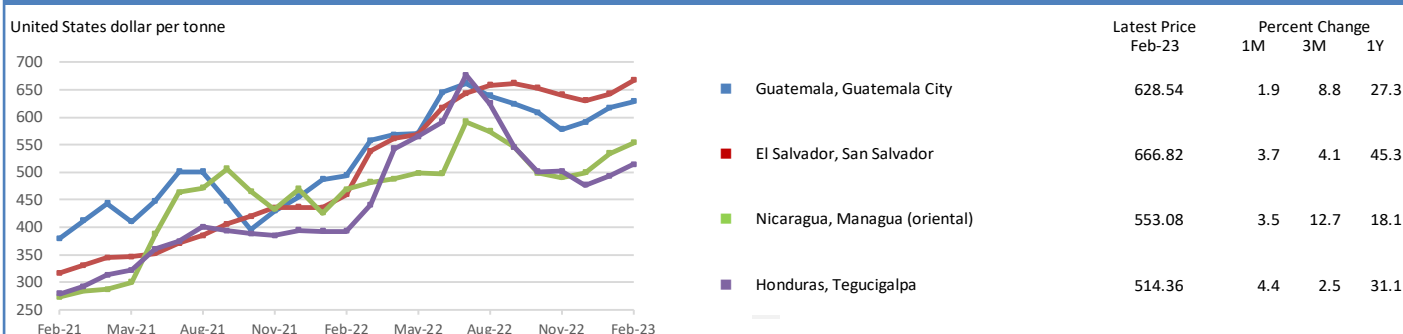
Wholesale prices of beans were also higher than their February 2022 levels, on account of elevated costs of agricultural inputs and fuel. In the case of red beans, the higher year-on-year prices in Nicaragua, the key exporter of the subregion, added upward pressure on prices. In February, prices of red beans declined in **Nicaragua**, with the start of the "apante" harvest, which accounts for about 35 percent of the annual production and is officially forecast to increase by 5 percent year-on-year. Prices in February remained nearly 50 percent above their year-earlier levels, reflecting large exports in 2022, more than 10 percent above the five-year average. Prices rose further in the capital cities of **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, reaching levels 70 and 40 percent, respectively, higher than a year earlier. Regarding black beans, after the short-lived declines in the past two months, prices in **Guatemala** rose in February and were 10 percent higher year-on-year. In **Mexico**, prices declined overall

as markets are well supplied with the main harvest completed in December 2022, together with the recently started 2023 minor harvest. However, prices remained higher year-on-year in most markets, reflecting the reduced production in 2022 on account of a contraction in plantings.

In **Costa Rica**, retail prices of rice and black beans decreased in February, reflecting above-average imports during the last quarter of 2022. The temporary suspension of tariffs on imports of beans between October 2022 and January 2023 prompted an increase in imports of black beans. By contrast, prices of red beans continued to increase in February, as they are imported from countries where zero duties are already applied under the Free Trade Agreements. Prices of both beans were at least 17 percent above their year-earlier levels in retail markets, following overall sustained increases since mid-2021.

In the Caribbean, retail prices of domestically produced black beans and maize meal were stable or increased in January in **Haiti** and remained at high levels, reflecting the 2022 below-average harvest and high transportation costs. Deterioration of security conditions exerted additional upward pressure on prices in January. Prices of imported food items showed mixed trends and were above their year-earlier levels due to the continuous depreciation of the national currency. As of January 2023, the Haitian gourde had lost 47 percent of its value against United States dollar over the past 12 months. In the **Dominican Republic**, retail prices of rice were stable for the third consecutive month in February, as the downward pressure from the recently completed minor harvest was offset by elevated production and transportation costs. The latter kept rice prices slightly up from a year earlier, despite the above-average 2022 harvest.

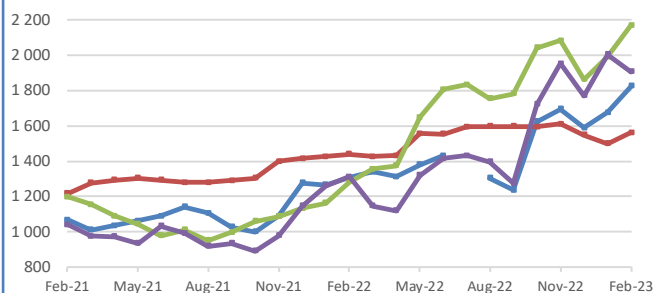
Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America



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

Wholesale prices of beans in Central America

United States dollar per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Beans (red)	1 825.78	9.0	7.8	39.8
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Beans (black)	1 560.46	4.1	-3.1	8.5
El Salvador, San Salvador, Beans (red)	2 169.20	8.9	4.2	69.2
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Beans (red)	1 905.86	-4.9	-2.4	45.3

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

In most countries of the subregion, prices of wheat and rice declined in February

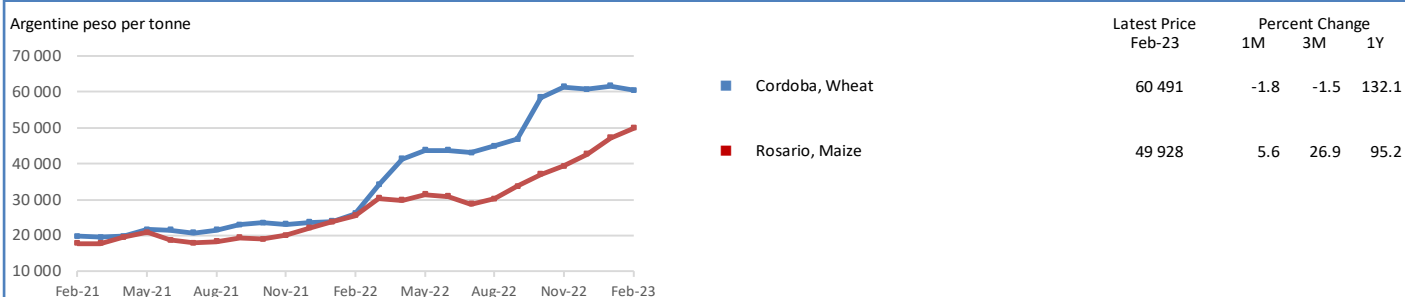
Across the subregion, prices of wheat or wheat flour weakened in February, in line with recent downward trends of international quotations. In **Argentina**, the subregion's major wheat producer, improved supplies from the recently completed 2022 harvest provided additional downward pressure on prices. However, prices remained more than double their year-earlier levels, due to strong international demand during the first half of 2022 and, in recent months, to expectations of a below-average output in 2023, affected by drought conditions. Prices also decreased in **Uruguay** and were down from a year earlier, reflecting ample market availabilities from a well above-average 2022 harvest, completed in late 2022. Prices continued to decline in **Brazil**, where markets are well supplied with the 2022 record output and in **Chile**, where new crop supplies are available from the harvest nearing completion. In the aforementioned countries, prices were below their year-earlier levels. In importing countries where prices of wheat flour remained up from a year earlier, prices weakened in some markets of **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Colombia**, and held steady in **Ecuador** and **Peru**.

Regarding rice, the start of the 2023 harvest exerted downward pressure on prices in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, **Brazil**, the key producing state of Rio Grande do Sul, and **Uruguay**. In Brazil, a slower pace of exports in February intensified the downward pressure on prices, although they remained more than 10 percent higher year-on-year, reflecting the expected decline in paddy output in 2023. Despite the recently completed

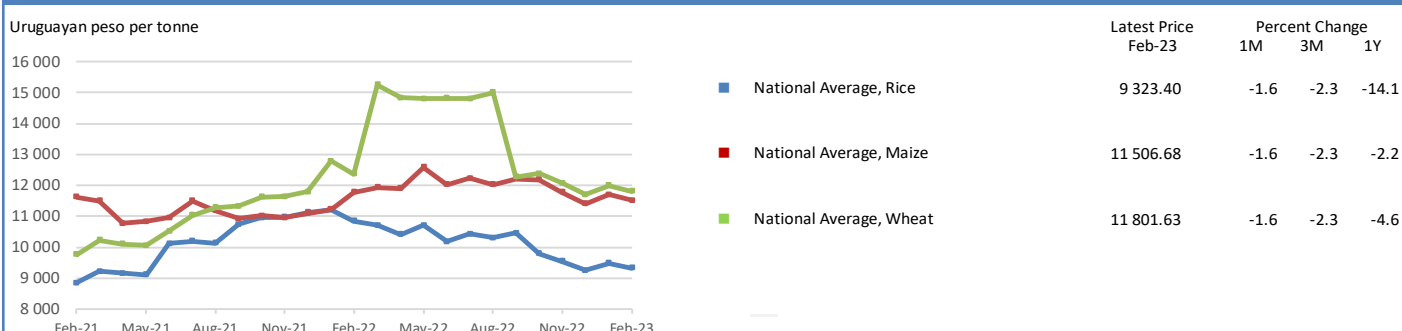
minor harvest, prices rose slightly in **Peru**, due to a below-average output gathered in the second half of 2022. In **Colombia**, after sustained increases since July 2022, prices stabilized ahead of the minor season harvest, which is anticipated to rebound to an average level. In the aforementioned countries, prices remained above their levels a year earlier, when bumper harvests in 2020 and 2021 kept prices at low levels.

Prices of yellow maize showed mixed trends in February and remained mostly above their year-earlier levels, underpinned by elevated production costs and higher year-on-year international quotations. The exception was Brazil and Uruguay, where the well above-average 2022 harvest kept prices down from a year earlier. In **Brazil**, prices declined in February with the ongoing minor harvest, which accounts for about 20 percent of the annual production. Additional downward pressure was provided by generally favourable production prospects for the main crop, currently being planted. Prices of maize weakened in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Uruguay** ahead of the start of the 2023 harvest, and in **Colombia** and **Peru**, on account of the ongoing minor harvest. In **Argentina**, prices continued to rise, reflecting tight seasonal availabilities and concerns over the impact of dryness on the current crop, due to be harvested from March 2023. After the seventh consecutive monthly increase, prices were nearly twice their levels a year earlier. Prices also rose in **Ecuador**, supported by concerns over the impact of limited rains in February on ongoing planting operations of the 2023 main crop.

Wholesale prices of wheat and maize in Argentina



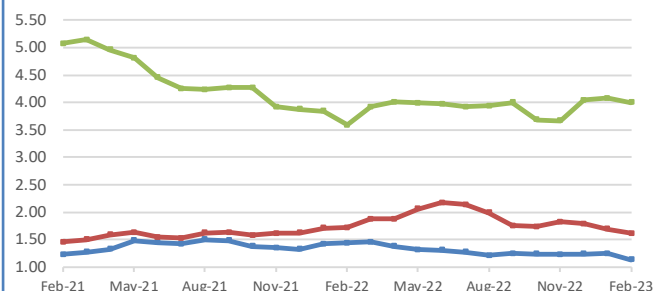
Wholesale prices of cereals in Uruguay



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

Wholesale prices of cereals in Brazil

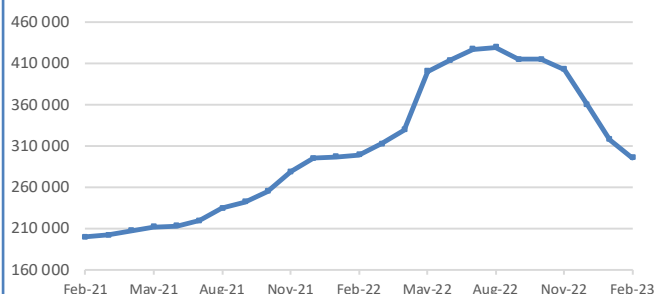
Brazilian real per kg



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Federal District, Maize (yellow)	1.13	-9.6	-8.1	-21.5
Paraná, Wheat	1.61	-4.7	-11.5	-6.4
Rio Grande do Sul, Rice (milled, fine long-grain, type 1)	4.00	-2.0	9.0	11.4

Wholesale prices of wheat in Chile

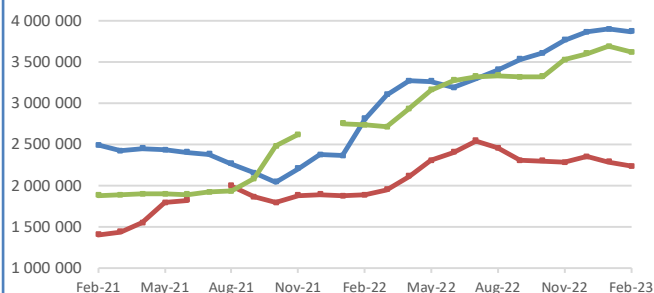
Chilean peso per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Wheat	295 830	-7.0	-26.6	-1.1

Wholesale prices of cereals in Colombia

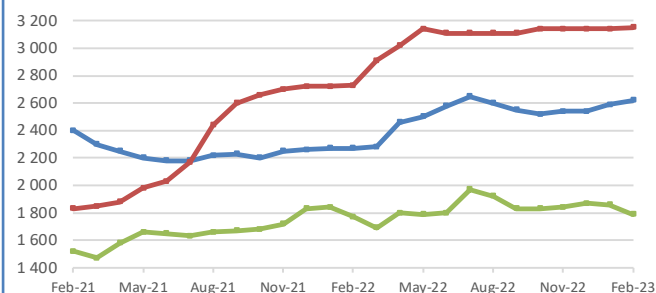
Colombian peso per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Bogotá, Rice (first quality)	3 871 000	-0.8	2.7	37.6
Bogotá, Maize (yellow)	2 237 670	-2.3	-1.9	18.7
Cartagena, Wheat (flour)	3 624 000	-1.8	2.6	32.3

Wholesale prices of cereals in Peru

Nuevo sol per tonne



	Latest Price Feb-23	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Lima, Rice (milled, superior)	2 620	1.2	3.1	15.4
Lima, Wheat (flour)	3 150	0.3	0.3	15.4
Lima, Maize (yellow)	1 790	-3.8	-2.7	1.1

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.

The source of the data from which charts and tables included in this report are elaborated is the **FAO/GIEWS Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Tool**. The FPMA Tool database includes monthly retail and/or wholesale price series of major foods consumed in over 95 countries and weekly/monthly prices for over 80 internationally traded foodstuffs and feedstuffs. Visit the tool on the GIEWS website here: <https://fpma.fao.org/>

This report is based on information available up to early March 2023.

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

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Rome, Italy

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