



MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

KEY MESSAGES

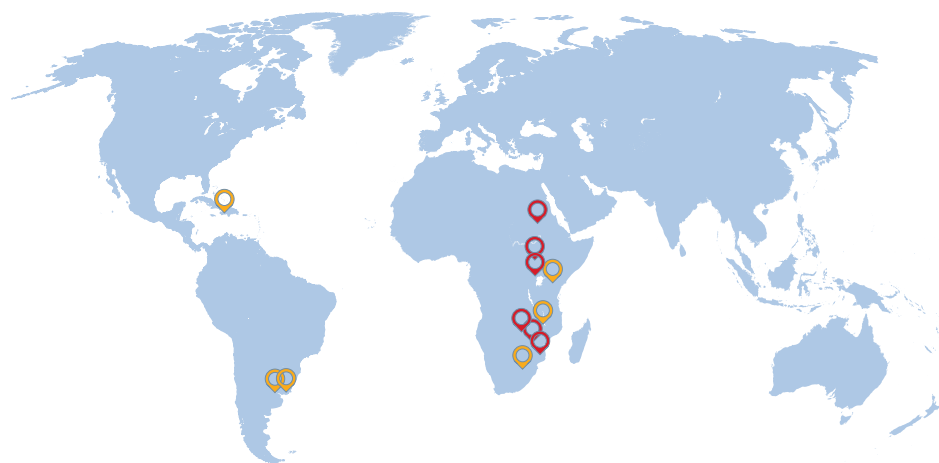
- International prices of wheat and maize declined further in April, mostly on account of abundant exportable supplies and the good 2019 global production prospects. International prices of rice remained generally stable.
- In East Africa, concerns over the impact of severe dry and hot weather conditions on the 2019 crops underpinned the sharp increases of maize prices registered in several countries in April. In the Sudan and South Sudan, prices of coarse grains continued to rise, mainly supported by the depreciation of the countries' currencies.
- In Southern Africa, sharply diminished 2019 crop prospects and tight supplies continued to sustain increases in the prices of maize, which were at levels well above those a year earlier in most countries of the subregion.

CONTENTS

- INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES..... 2
- DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS..... 3
- WEST AFRICA..... 7
- SOUTHERN AFRICA..... 9
- EAST AFRICA..... 11
- EAST ASIA..... 14
- CIS - ASIA AND EUROPE..... 16
- CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN..... 18
- SOUTH AMERICA..... 19

Domestic price warnings

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



Argentina Grains
Haiti Cereals
Kenya Maize
Malawi Maize
Mozambique Maize
South Africa Maize
South Sudan Staple foods
Sudan Staple foods
Uganda Maize
Uruguay Wheat
Zambia Maize
Zimbabwe Cereals

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

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

Export prices of wheat and maize dropped further in April, while those of rice unchanged

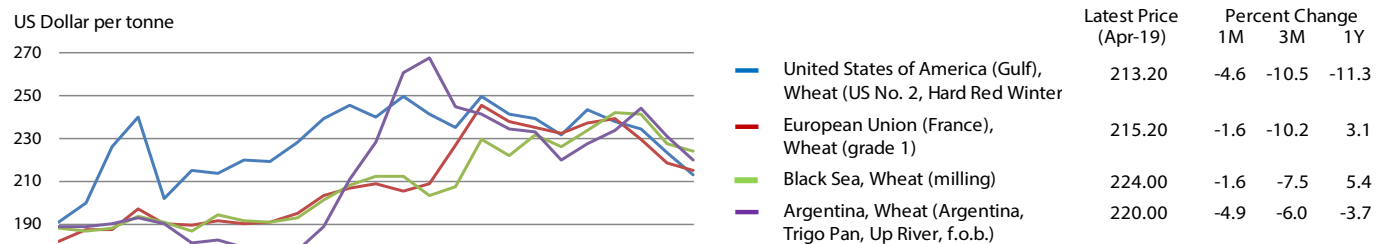
Export prices of **wheat** continued to decline in April, with the benchmark US wheat (No.2 Hard Red Winter, f.o.b.) averaging USD 223 per tonne, nearly 5 percent down from its level in March and more than 11 percent lower than its value in April last year. The general decline is the result of ample exportable supplies and the favourable outlook for the 2019 output, reflecting the overall good crop conditions in the Northern Hemisphere countries and expectations of increased plantings in Australia and Argentina. In the United States of America and in the Black Sea region, a slow pace of exports also weighed on prices, while in the European Union, stronger exports provided some upward pressure.

Export prices of **maize** decreased for the second consecutive month in April. The benchmark US maize (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) averaged USD 161 per tonne, down by more than 3 percent from the previous month and nearly 8 percent below its level in April last year. In the United States of America, prices fell on account of a slow pace in sales and export competition from South American countries. However, continued concerns over planting delays

and a reduction in area due to excessively wet conditions limited the decline in prices. In Argentina and Brazil, prices decreased significantly in April to levels well below those a year earlier as a result of harvest pressure and good production prospects, while in Ukraine, the general month-on-month downward pressure was more than offset by strong exports.

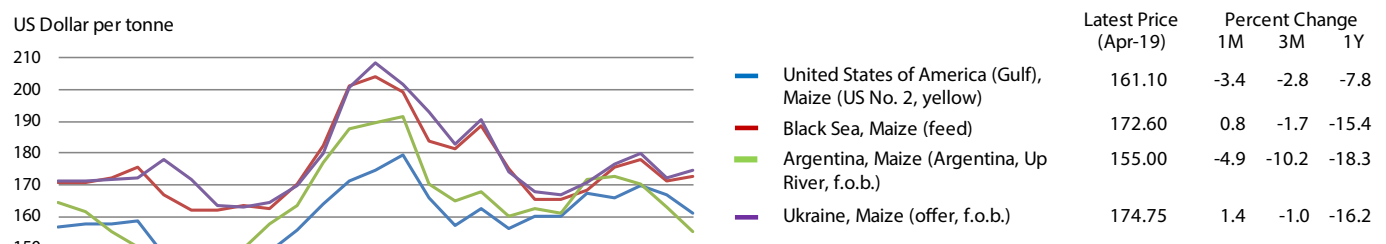
The FAO All Rice Price Index (2002-04=100) averaged 222.2 points in April, virtually unchanged from its value a month earlier. In Asia, quotations of Indica rice tended to increase in most countries, except in India and Myanmar, where prices dipped on poor buying interest and pressure from offseason harvests. In Thailand, concerns over water supplies for irrigation lent support to export prices, whereas gains in Pakistan came in the wake of increases to fuel costs and sales to East Africa and China (Mainland). With the end of the winter-spring harvest in sight, demand from the Philippines also prolonged the recovery of Vietnamese export values. In the United States of America, prices of long-grain rice edged down, while they strengthened in Brazil and Argentina due to stronger demand.

International wheat prices



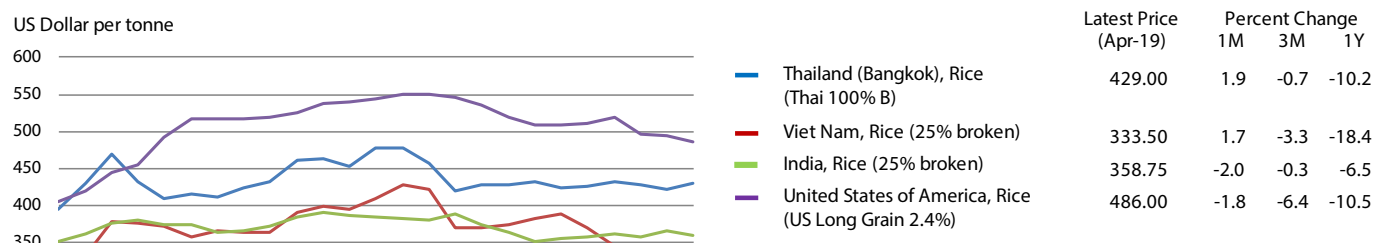
Source(s): International Grains Council

International maize prices



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

International rice prices




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

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

DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS

Countries where prices of one or more basic food commodity are at abnormal high levels which could negatively impact access to food

Argentina | Grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	-1.9	2.5
12 months	 1.3	0.7



Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Argentina, Buenos Aires, Wholesale, Wheat

Prices of grains up in April and well above those a year earlier

Wholesale prices of **wheat grain** continued to increase in April and were more than 80 percent above their levels a year earlier, in nominal terms. The increase mainly reflects seasonal trends compounded by strong demand for exports, sustained by the significant depreciation of the country's currency, which has increased competitiveness of Argentinean products in the international market. The volume of wheat sold for exports in the period from December 2018 to late April reached an historic high of 13.5 million tonnes. As a result, the volume of grain for domestic use is anticipated to be reduced, putting additional upward pressure on domestic prices. The high level of wheat grain prices, amidst high inflation, contributed to a further increase in retail prices of **wheat flour** and **bread**, which were more than 160 percent and 80 percent higher year on year, respectively, in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area. Wholesale prices of **yellow maize** continued to strengthen in April despite the ongoing harvest of the 2019 crop on account of large farmers' sales for export and were about 55 percent above their year-earlier values. In an effort to curb soaring inflation, the Government fixed the price of 60 food products on 17 April ([FPMA Food Policies](#)).

Haiti | Cereals

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 10.2	2.2
12 months	 3.3	-0.5


Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Haiti, Les Cayes, Retail, Maize meal (local)

Prices of maize meal and imported rice remain well above year-earlier levels

Retail prices of locally-produced **maize meal** increased in some markets in line with seasonal trends, as planting of the main 2019 "spring" crop was ongoing in April. The seasonal upward pressure was compounded by a weak currency, which coupled with shortages and rising costs of fuel, resulted in higher production costs. Prices were well above their year-earlier levels, mainly due to the below-average output in 2018 following dry weather conditions. The weak currency also made food imports costlier and sustained prices of **rice**, which is mostly imported, at levels above those a year earlier. In addition, production of the 2018 crop was affected by reduced rains in the main producing Artibonite Department. However, prices weakened in April following the Government's decision, in February, to suspend taxes on imported rice ([FPMA Food Policies](#)) amid socio-political turmoil, triggered by the generally weak macroeconomic conditions. As of early May, the 2019 main season cereal crops were reported in above-average condition in key growing areas.

Kenya | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 16.9	2.3
12 months	1.2	-0.7

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Kenya, Nakuru, Wholesale, Maize



Prices of maize increased sharply in April

Prices of **maize** surged in all monitored markets in April by 20 to 45 percent, with seasonal upward trends compounded by concerns over the impact of severe dry and hot weather conditions on the main "long-rains" crops. The sharpest increases were recorded in Nakuru market, in the key-growing area of the southwestern "maize basket" and in Mombasa. In these two markets, prices of maize, in April, were 20 percent and 23 percent above their year-earlier levels, respectively. Similarly, prices of **beans**, another staple in the country's diet, rose significantly in April. The March-to-May rainy season has been so far very poor throughout the country. In the key southwestern growing areas, cumulative rainfall between late February and mid-April was 55-80 percent below average. In southeastern and coastal marginal agriculture areas, rainfall deficits were more severe. The severe dryness, coupled with higher-than-normal land surface temperatures, resulted in delayed planting and affected crop germination and vegetation conditions. In addition, dryness usually results in higher Fall Armyworm infestation levels, which may further affect crops. Although rains improved in late April and forecasts point to above-average precipitation between May and July, overall prospects remain unfavourable, inferring a reduced output for the second consecutive season, after poor performance of the 2018/19 "short-rains" minor harvest, gathered last February, which is estimated to have been more than 60 percent below average due to inadequate precipitation.

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

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

Malawi | Maize


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 03-19	Same period average
3 months	 6.9	-0.7
12 months	 4.0	-0.6

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Malawi, Nsanje, Retail, Maize

Price hikes in southern markets due to the impact of floods

Prices of **maize** climbed further in March supported by dwindling market availabilities that intensified normal seasonal price movements. A tighter-than-normal supply situation, stemming from a weather-reduced harvest in 2018, contributed to keep prices of maize at levels well above those a year earlier. In addition, the impact of Cyclone Idai in March, which caused flood damage in the south of the country, disrupted market functions, supporting localized sharp price hikes in the affected areas. In the southern town of Nsanje, prices of maize grain reached MWK 212 per kg in March, nearly 20 percent above the levels in the capital, Lilongwe, where prices also spiked in March. The onset of the harvest period, however, and expectations of a larger output in 2019 are likely to result in price declines in the next months.

Mozambique | Maize


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	6.3	-0.7
12 months	 2.5	0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Mozambique, Chokwe, Retail, Maize (white)

Cyclone Idai instigated price spikes

Cyclone Idai and, more recently, Cyclone Kenneth, which struck the northern province of Cabo Delgado in April, disrupted the transport networks and subsequently curtailed the movement of food products, causing price hikes in the affected areas. Prior to the extreme weather events, prices of **maize grain** were already higher year on year, more than double in some markets in the north, mostly reflecting the weakness of the national currency and an unfavourable production outlook for the 2019 crops due to floods in central provinces and dry weather conditions in southern provinces. Higher grain prices in South Africa, which is a key supplier of maize for southern provinces, also exerted upward pressure on prices.

South Africa | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	-2.8	-4.2
12 months	 1.5	-0.1

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: South Africa, Randfontein, Wholesale, Maize (yellow)


Prices of maize remained higher year on year

Prices of white and yellow **maize** varieties dipped in April, following a moderate strengthening of the country's currency and a weakening of prices in the international market. However, compared to their year-earlier levels, prices of maize were considerably higher due to the impact of rainfall deficits this season, which lowered production expectations for the 2019 maize crop. Current forecasts peg this year's maize output at about 11 million tonnes, about 12 percent lower than the previous year's near-average production. While the harvest is still forecast to be in excess of the national consumption requirements, total supplies in the 2019/20 marketing year would be about 2.5 million tonnes below the previous year's volume, a factor that has underpinned the higher prices this year.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

South Sudan | Staple foods


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	-3.4	-1.2
12 months	 -1.5	-1.0

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

Prices of cereals on the increase and relatively high

In the capital, Juba, prices of **maize** and **sorghum** rose seasonally by 10 and 6 percent in April, respectively. Prices of **cassava** also increased by 10 percent, those of **wheat flour** levelled off, while prices of **groundnuts** declined by about 10 percent. Prices were generally down from a year earlier but still relatively high, with those of maize and sorghum about 20 percent above the already exceptional highs of the corresponding month two years earlier, and prices of groundnuts and cassava about 15 and 55 percent higher, respectively, than in April 2017. Prices of wheat flour were about 20 percent higher year on year and almost twice the high values in the corresponding month two years earlier. The high level of prices is the result of widespread insecurity hindering marketing and agricultural activities, high production and transport costs and a sustained depreciation of the country's currency. Tight supplies were also a main driver of the high food prices, with the 2018 aggregate cereal production estimated at about 745 000 tonnes, the smallest output since the start of the conflict in 2013 ([GIEWS Special Report](#)).

Sudan | Staple foods


Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 15.9	1.3
12 months	3.7	0.2

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

Prices of millet and sorghum rose to record or near-record levels in April

Prices of locally-grown **sorghum** and **millet** increased in most markets in April. By contrast, prices of **wheat grain** declined by 10-15 percent in several markets, including the capital, Khartoum, following the recent harvest. Overall, prices of grains were at record or near-record levels in March despite an above-average 2018 harvest, which is estimated at 8.2 million tonnes, 57 percent up from 2017 and 47 percent above the average of the previous five years ([GIEWS Special Report](#)). The exceptionally high level of prices is the result of the significant depreciation of the local currency, which continues to lose value in the parallel market, fuel shortages and soaring prices of agricultural inputs, which inflated production and transport costs. In addition, in spite of the good output last year, market availability is low, with traders reported to hoard their agricultural produce, regarded as a more reliable form of savings compared to the fast weakening currency. Political uncertainty and heightened social unrest since March exerted further inflationary pressure on prices.

Uganda | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 14.0	6.0
12 months	3.3	-0.3

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Uganda, Kampala, Wholesale, Maize



Prices of maize surged in April to higher year-on-year levels

The seasonal increases in the prices of **maize**, already compounded by the reduced 2018 second season harvest in the past months, accelerated sharply in April due to concerns over the impact of dry and hot conditions on the first season crops. Prices of maize surged by more than 30 percent in April and reached levels between 38 and 54 percent higher than those a year earlier. Similarly, prices of **beans** rose significantly and were well above their values in April last year. In bi-modal key growing areas, the March-to-May rainy season has been so far very poor, with cumulative precipitation between early March and mid-April at 25-85 percent below average. The severe dryness, coupled by higher-than-normal land surface temperatures, delayed planting by more than one month, affected germination and caused wilting of early-planted crops. In addition, dry conditions usually result in higher Fall Armyworm infestation levels, which may further affect crops. Despite improved rains in late April and forecasts for above-average precipitation in May, it is already too late for significant crop recovery. As a result, the first season harvest, to be gathered from July with about one month delay, is expected to be well below average. The country is a key cereal exporter in the subregion and the expected production shortfall is likely to result in lower exports to neighbouring countries.

Price warning level:  High  Moderate

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

Uruguay | Wheat

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 4.0	0.7
12 months	 2.1	-0.6



Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Uruguay, National Average, Wholesale, Wheat

Prices of wheat more than 40 percent up on April last year

Wholesale prices of **wheat grain** strengthened further in April, after steady increases since early 2019. Prices were 40 percent above those a year earlier, underpinned by strong exports in the past months and a sharp depreciation of the country's currency, which has come under pressure in the past year. The 2018 output is estimated to have rebounded from the poor 2017 output on account of improved yields, however, it remained at a below-average level, mainly due to a contraction in plantings. Despite the below-average production, exports between December 2018 and March 2019 were 58 percent above the average volume exported in the same period in the past three years. Planting of the 2019 crop will start in mid-May and it is expected that the high level of prices would instigate larger plantings.

Zambia | Maize

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04-19	Same period average
3 months	 6.2	0.6
12 months	 4.2	-0.5



Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Zambia, National Average, Retail, Maize (white)

Maize prices continued to rise steeply to record or near-record highs

Increases in the prices of **maize** accelerated in April and resulted in record to near-record highs. Tight domestic supplies from last year's lower cereal output and reduced production prospects for this year's maize crop, on account of substantial rainfall deficits in southern and western areas ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)), were key in triggering the extremely elevated price levels. To stem further increases and ease inflationary pressure, the Government instructed the state Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to increase the sale of subsidized maize and imposed a temporary ban on maize exports in an effort to bolster domestic availabilities ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). However, the depreciation of the country's currency in the past months, which has raised fuel and transportation costs, is expected to continue to exert upward pressure on prices. The annual food inflation stood at 8.3 percent in April, up from 8.2 percent in March and 7.7 percent in February, contributing to the uptick of the general inflation rate in the past month.

Zimbabwe | Cereals

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 03-19	Same period average
3 months	 8.8	0.5
12 months	 2.4	0.0

Compound growth rate in real terms.

Refers to: Zimbabwe, Harare, Retail, Wheat (flour)

Cereal prices remain at elevated levels

Prices of **cereals** remained well above their year-earlier levels in March, although increases slowed down compared to the preceding months. In the capital, Harare, prices of **bread, rice and wheat flour** in March had more than doubled on a yearly basis, while prices of **maize meal** were up by 40 percent. The general increase in food prices is attributed to the enduring economic instability, mostly related to a sharp depreciation of the country's currency that has raised production and transportation costs. In line with the overall high level of food prices, the general year-on-year inflation rose to 66 percent year on year in March from 58 percent in February. In an effort to curb prices, the Government removed a fuel tax in February, a month after it was implemented. However, the weak currency and forecasts of a significant reduction in this year's agricultural output are expected to sustain inflationary pressure on food prices.

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

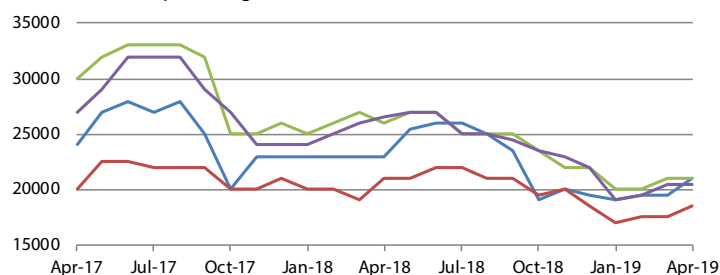
Prices of coarse grains generally stable or increasing seasonally but down from a year earlier

In most countries of the subregion, prices of coarse grains remained stable or began to increase in April in line with seasonal trends. However, good domestic availabilities across the subregion contributed to keep prices generally below their year-earlier levels. Atypical trends due to insecurity persisted in the Great Lake Chad Basin, the Tibesti Region of Chad, northern and central Mali as well as the Liptako-Gourma Region. In **Niger** and **Mali**, prices of sorghum and millet were stable or began to increase in April due to the seasonal tightening of supplies and stronger household demand with the approach of the lean season. However, good domestic availabilities from the 2018 harvests and imports contributed to maintain prices below their year-earlier levels. In **Burkina Faso**, prices of millet and sorghum remained stable or continued to decline in April and were generally well below their year-earlier levels as a result of good domestic availabilities and relatively low household demand. Similarly, in **Chad**, prices of coarse grains declined in several markets in March and were well below their year-earlier levels as a result of the good output in 2018. However, the civil conflict and the total closure of the borders with Libya continued to

disrupt markets and lead to unusual price rises in northern Tibesti. In **Senegal**, prices of rice held relatively steady in March as a result of adequate market supplies and average prices of coarse grains remained stable or began to rise seasonally. In coastal countries along the Gulf of Guinea, prices of coarse grains generally increased, reflecting seasonal trends, with stronger demand for seeds for the 2019 cropping season. In **Ghana**, prices of coarse grains increased in April due to tightening supplies and increasing demand for human consumption and seeds. Similarly, in **Benin**, prices of maize generally strengthened in April, supported by seasonal demand for human consumption and seeds as well as by export sales to neighbouring Sahelian countries, while they remained stable in **Togo** in March. In **Nigeria**, prices of coarse grains generally strengthened in March in line with seasonal trends. Prices were well below the high levels of one and two years earlier reflecting the good level of market availabilities from the 2018 harvests, completed earlier in the year. In the northeast of the country, however, food prices were relatively higher due to the negative impact of the Boko Haram conflict on market and livelihood activities.

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Niger

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg

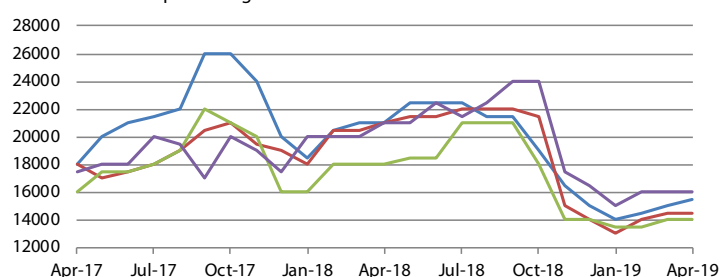


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Niamey, Millet (local)	21 000.0	7.7	10.5	-8.7
Niamey, Sorghum (local)	18 500.0	5.7	8.8	-11.9
Agadez, Millet (local)	21 000.0	0.0	5.0	-19.2
Agadez, Sorghum (local)	20 500.0	0.0	7.9	-22.6

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg



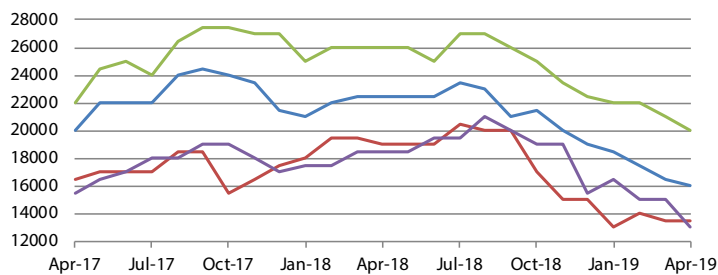
Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Bamako, Millet (local)	15 500.0	3.3	10.7	-26.2
Bamako, Sorghum (local)	14 500.0	0.0	11.5	-31.0
Ségou, Millet (local)	14 000.0	0.0	3.7	-22.2
Mopti, Sorghum (local)	16 000.0	0.0	6.7	-23.8

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

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg

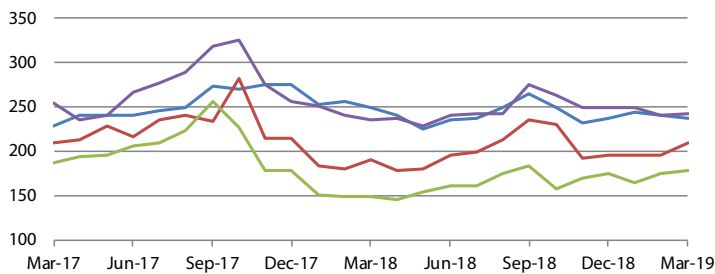


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Ouagadougou, Millet (local)	16 000.0	-3.0	-13.5	-28.9
Ouagadougou, Sorghum (local)	13 500.0	0.0	3.8	-28.9
Dori, Millet (local)	20 000.0	-4.8	-9.1	-23.1
Fada N'gourma, Sorghum (local)	13 000.0	-13.3	-21.2	-29.7

Retail prices of millet in Senegal

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

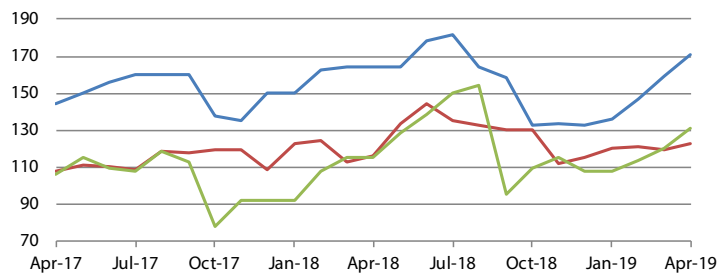


Source(s): Agence Nationale de la Statistique et la Démographie (ANSD)

	Latest Price (Mar-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Dakar	238.00	-0.8	0	-4.8
Diourbel	210.00	7.7	7.7	9.9
Kaolack	178.00	1.7	1.7	19.5
SaintLouis	242.00	0.8	-3.2	2.5

Wholesale prices of maize in Ghana

Ghana Cedi per 100 kg

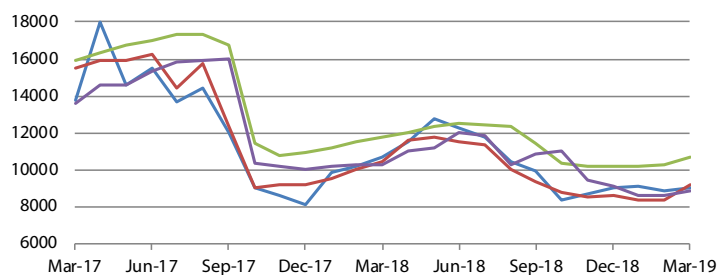


Source(s): Marketing Services Unit, SRID (MOFA)

	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Accra	171.00	7.5	25.7	4.0
Bolgatanga	122.74	3.0	1.8	6.1
Techiman	130.77	8.7	21.1	13.7

Wholesale prices of maize in Nigeria

Naira per 100 kg



Source(s): FEWSNET

	Latest Price (Mar-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Kano	9 022.00	1.8	0.5	-15.7
Kaura Namoda	9 155.00	9.6	6.8	-12.1
Lagos	10 650.00	4.2	4.7	-9.7
Maiduguri	8 875.00	2.9	-2.7	-13.4

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

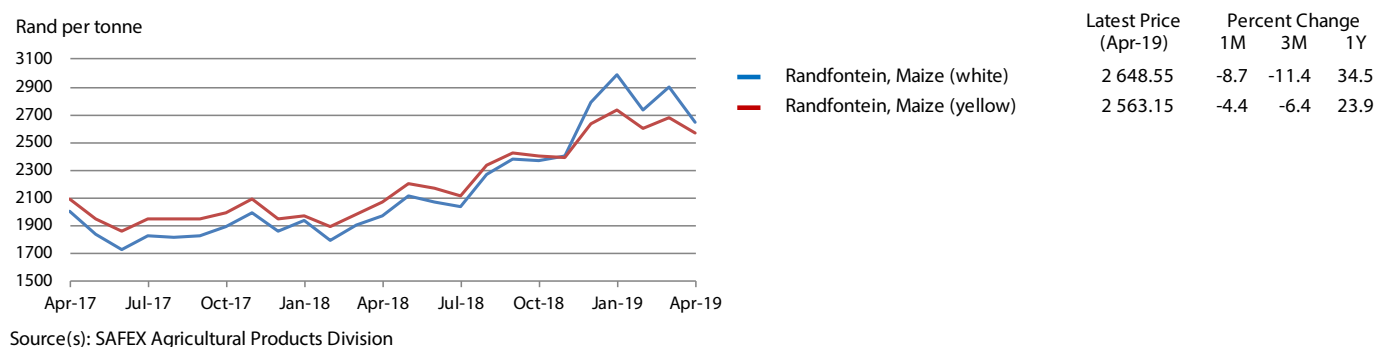
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Prices of maize generally continued to increase in April

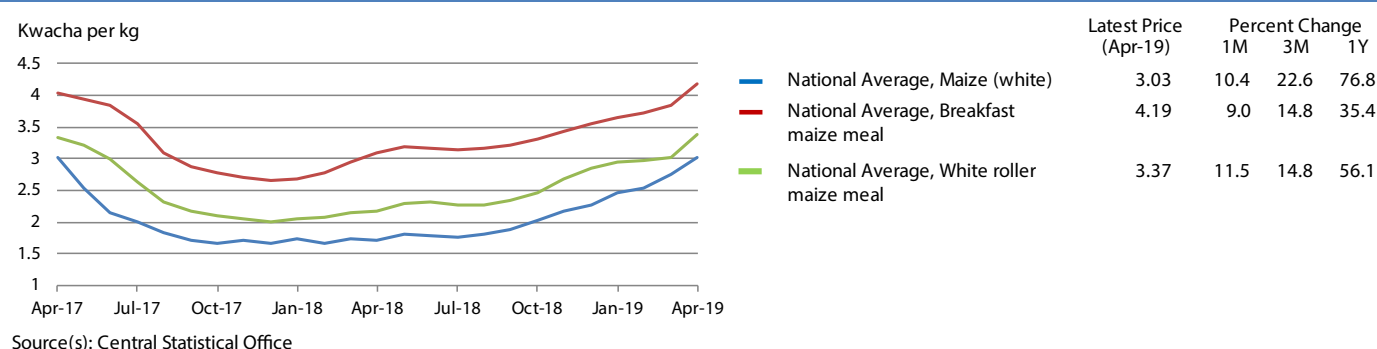
In most countries of the subregion, tight supplies and unfavourable weather conditions, which have severely dented production prospects, exacerbated the seasonal price increases of maize and kept them significantly higher on a yearly basis. However, in the largest subregional maize-producing country, **South Africa**, prices of maize declined in the past month on account of a small uptick in the value of the national currency and a softening of international quotations. Compared to their year-earlier levels, prices remained higher on account of the likely reduction in maize production this year. In **Zambia**, reduced domestic availabilities continued to intensify the seasonal price increases of maize grain and meal products, resulting in record or near-record levels in April. Significant seasonal rainfall deficits in some of the main cereal-producing regions, which have sharply cut production expectations for the 2019 maize crop ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)), also added further upward pressure on prices. In **Malawi**, prices of maize grain continued to rise, notably in the south, where the impact of floods triggered by Cyclone Idai impeded the distribution of food supplies, causing price spikes in March. In **Mozambique**, Cyclone Idai and, more recently, Cyclone Kenneth

had large-scale impacts and reportedly caused steep hikes in food prices in the most affected central provinces, as supplies were sharply curtailed. In **Zimbabwe**, despite a slowdown in price increases and in some cases declines, prices of most food products were considerably higher year on year, predominantly driven by currency weakness. Furthermore, the expected decline in cereal production in 2019 is likely to put further upward pressure on prices. In an effort to temper the high inflation rates, the Government annulled an increase in fuel duties introduced at the start of the year. In **Namibia**, prices of maize and wheat rose in March, as drought conditions have significantly dampened the agricultural production outlook ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)). Domestic prices are expected to come under further pressure from the higher prices in South Africa, the country's main source of grains. By contrast, prices of maize in **Eswatini** remained relatively unchanged in March and were generally down from a year earlier as a result of market controls. Prices of rice in **Madagascar** remained generally under downward pressure in April from the overall good prospects for the main harvest and an estimated increase in the minor rice harvest, completed earlier in the year.

Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa

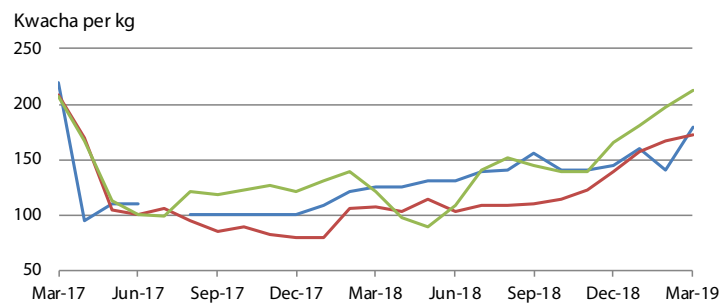


Retail prices of maize in Zambia



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

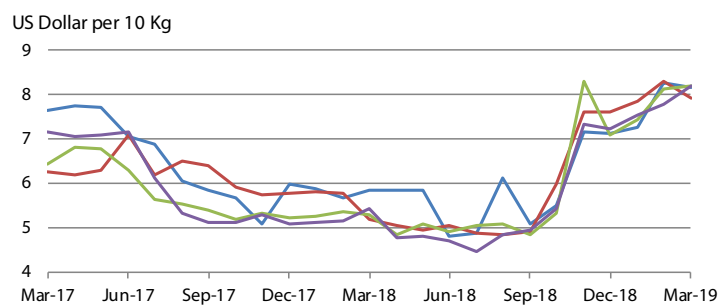
Retail prices of maize in Malawi



Source(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Latest Price (Mar-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
180.00	28.6	24.1	43.2
172.50	3	24.3	60.5
212.20	7.9	28.6	74.5

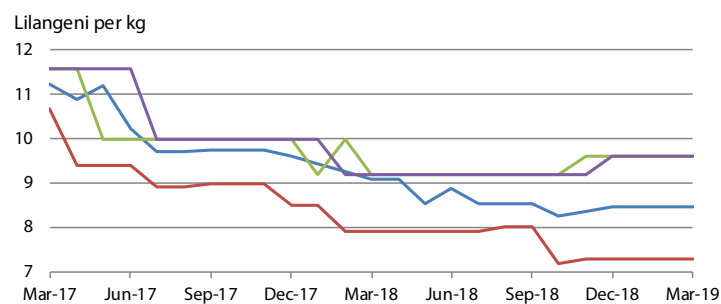
Retail prices of maize meal in Zimbabwe



Source(s): ZIMSTAT

Latest Price (Mar-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
8.17	-1.1	14.6	39.9
7.91	-4.8	4.1	52.7
8.19	0.9	15.2	55.1
8.20	5.1	13.3	51

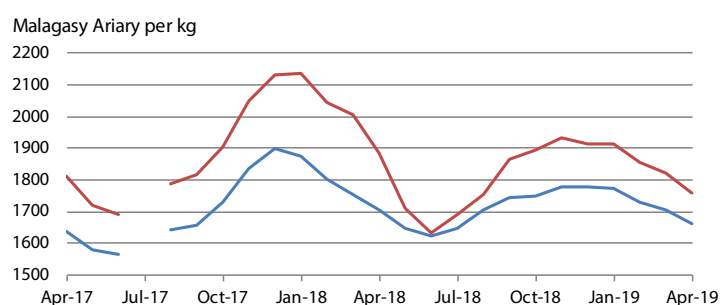
Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini



Source(s): Central Statistical Office (CSO)

Latest Price (Mar-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
8.47	0	0	-6.6
7.30	0	0	-7.6
9.60	0	0	4.3
9.60	0	0	4.3

Retail prices of rice in Madagascar



Source(s): Observatoire du Riz

Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
1663.06	-2.5	-6.2	-2.5
1756.86	-3.5	-8.1	-6.8

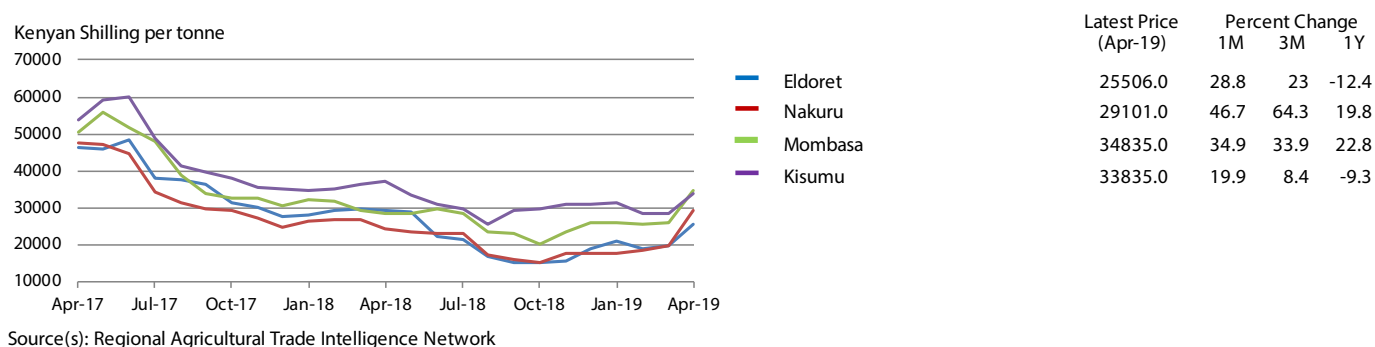
For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

Prices of maize increased sharply due to unfavourable crop prospects

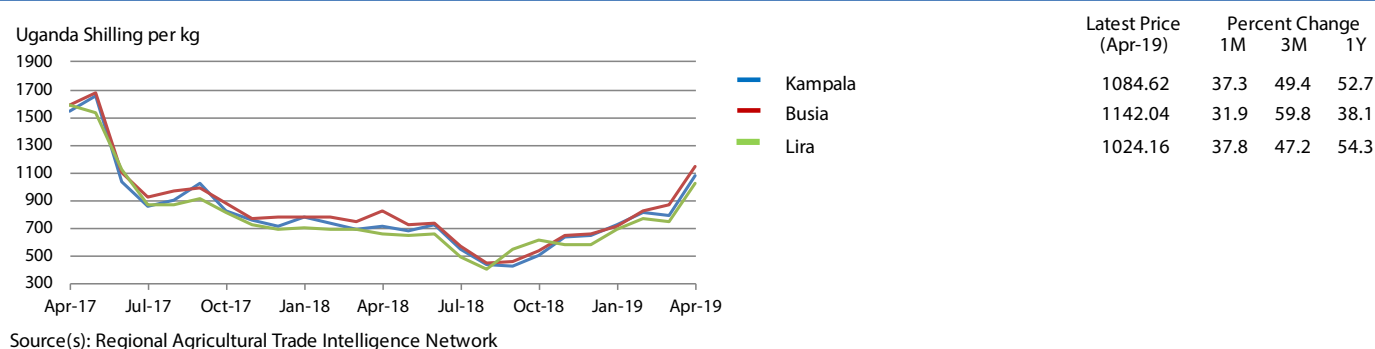
In several countries of the subregion, prices of maize increased sharply in April after severe dry and hot weather conditions reduced production prospects for the 2019 harvests ([GIEWS Special Alert](#)). In **Kenya**, prices of maize surged in all monitored markets with seasonal upward pressure compounded by the prolonged dry and hot weather conditions affecting planting and crop germination of the main 2019 “long-rains” crop. Similarly, in **Uganda**, prices of maize increased by more than 30 percent in April and reached levels well above those a year earlier as the first season harvest, which will be gathered from July with about one month of delay, is expected at well below-average levels due to poor precipitation. In **the United Republic of Tanzania**, where dry conditions affected mostly the northeast of the country, prices of maize also increased significantly in some markets. In **the Sudan**, prices of sorghum and millet continued to increase in April and reached record highs in several markets. Despite an above-average 2018 harvest, the strong depreciation of the currency on the parallel market, coupled with fuel shortages affecting production and transport costs, more than offset the downward supply pressure on prices. Political uncertainty and heightened social unrest since March

contributed to further underpin the price increases. In **South Sudan**, prices of coarse grains continued to increase seasonally in April in the capital, Juba, and, although down from a year earlier, prices were about 20 percent above the already exceptionally high levels of the corresponding month in 2017. The high prices mainly reflect the sustained depreciation of the country’s currency on the parallel market, tight supplies and the impact of insecurity. In **Somalia**, prices of locally-produced maize and sorghum generally strengthened in April on weather-driven concerns over the next main “gu” crop. However, stable supply from neighbouring Ethiopia limited the upward pressure. By contrast, in **Burundi**, prices of maize continued to decline in April following the above-average “2019A” season harvest and favourable prospects for the “2019B” crops, and were more than 30 percent lower than a year earlier. In **Rwanda**, prices increased slightly in April, but remained close to their year-earlier levels on account of adequate domestic supplies. In **Ethiopia**, prices of maize changed little in March and were only slightly above their year-earlier levels, reflecting good availabilities from the 2018 main “meher” harvest, completed earlier in the year.

Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

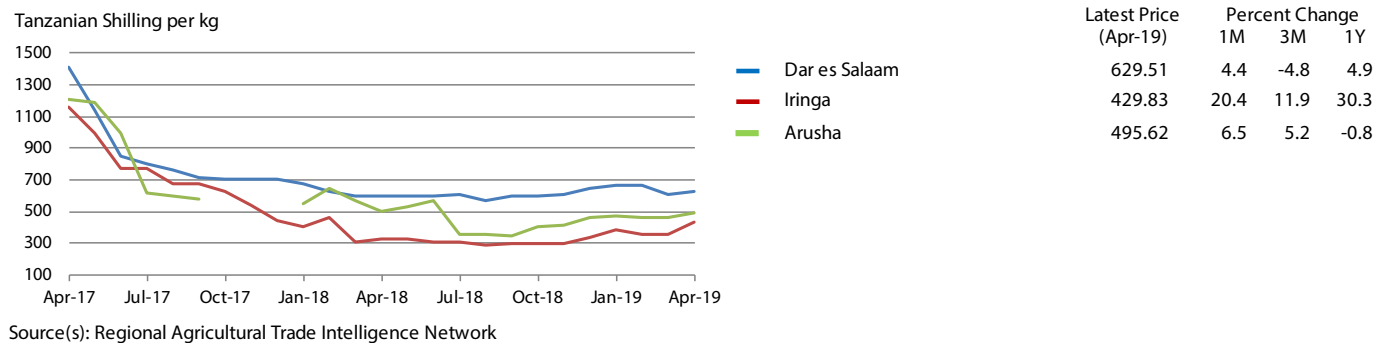


Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

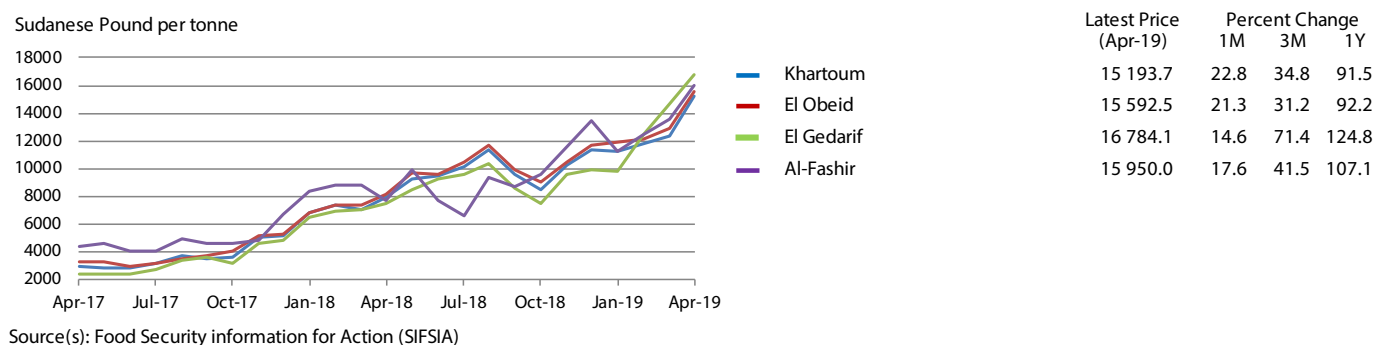


For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

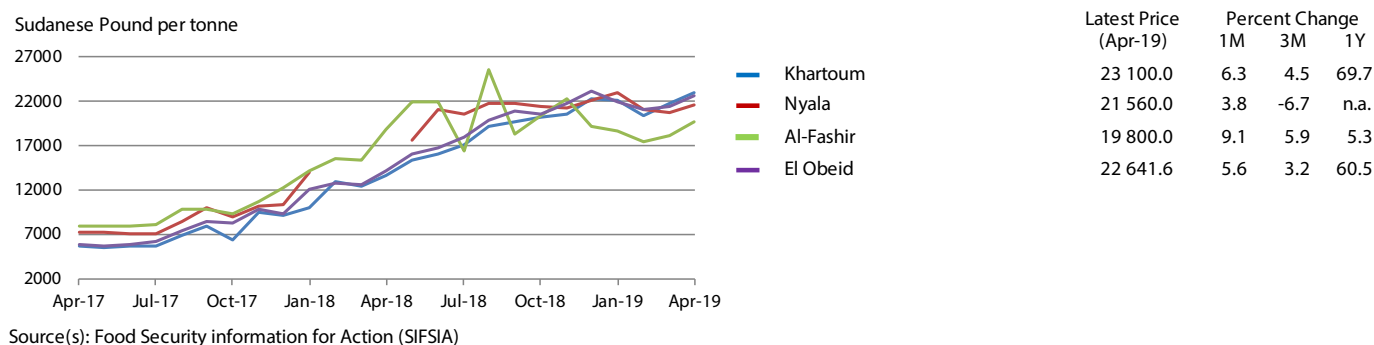
Wholesale prices of maize in the United Republic of Tanzania



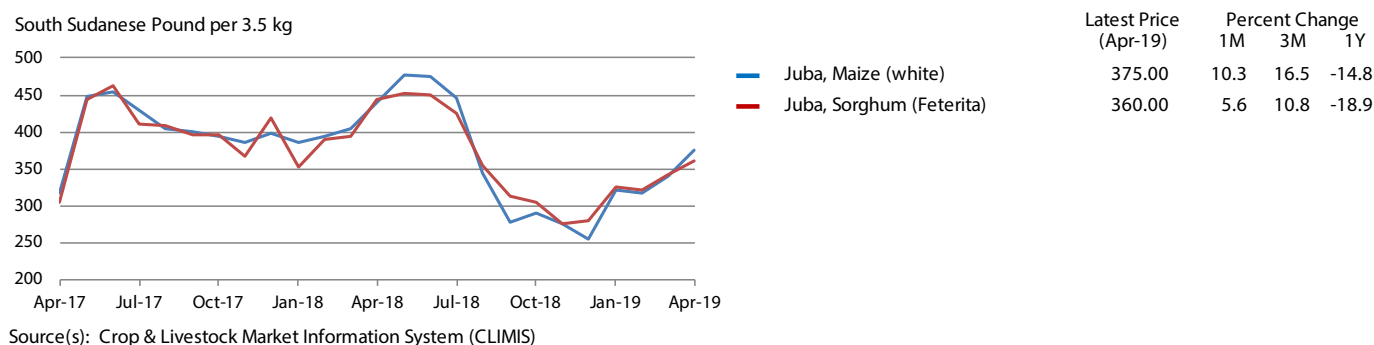
Wholesale prices of sorghum in the Sudan



Wholesale prices of millet in the Sudan

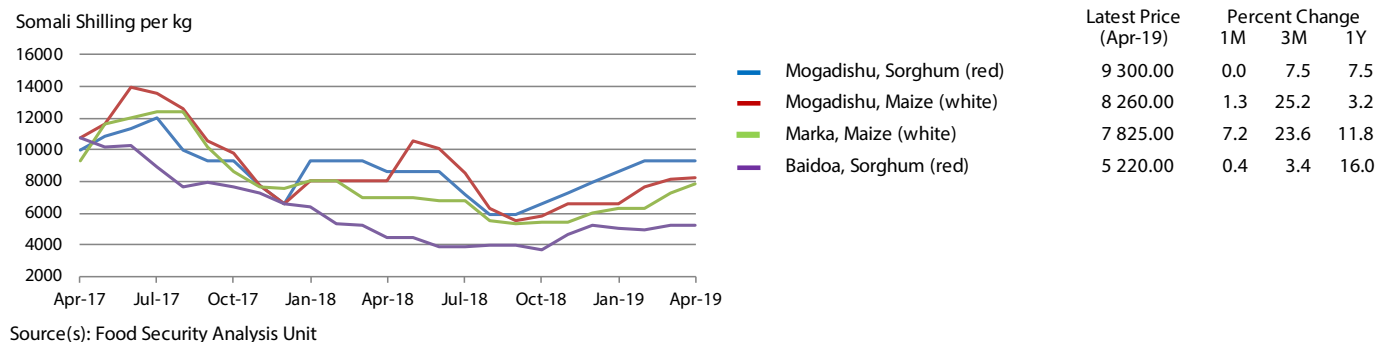


Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

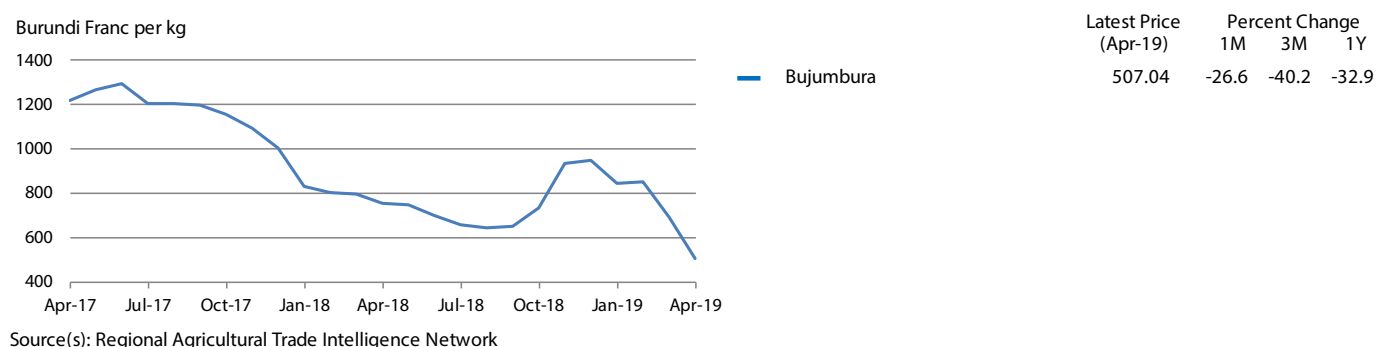


For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

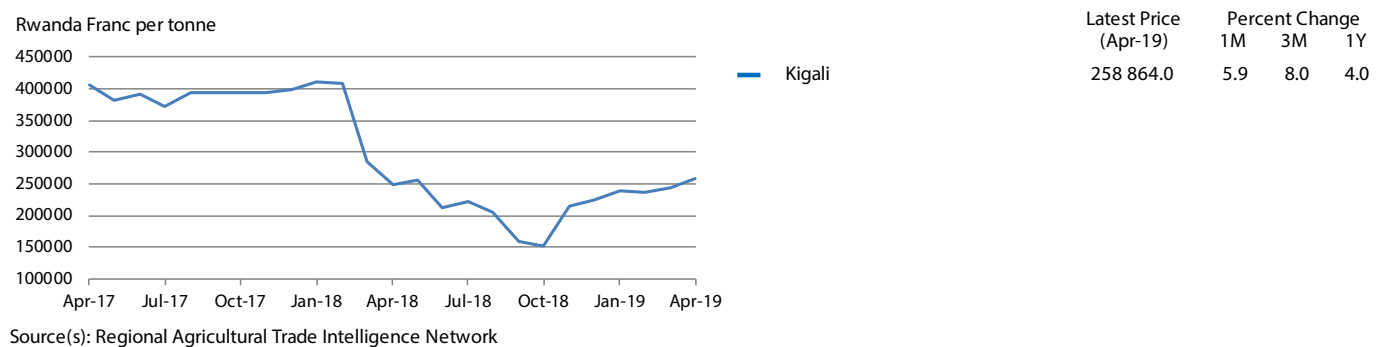
Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia



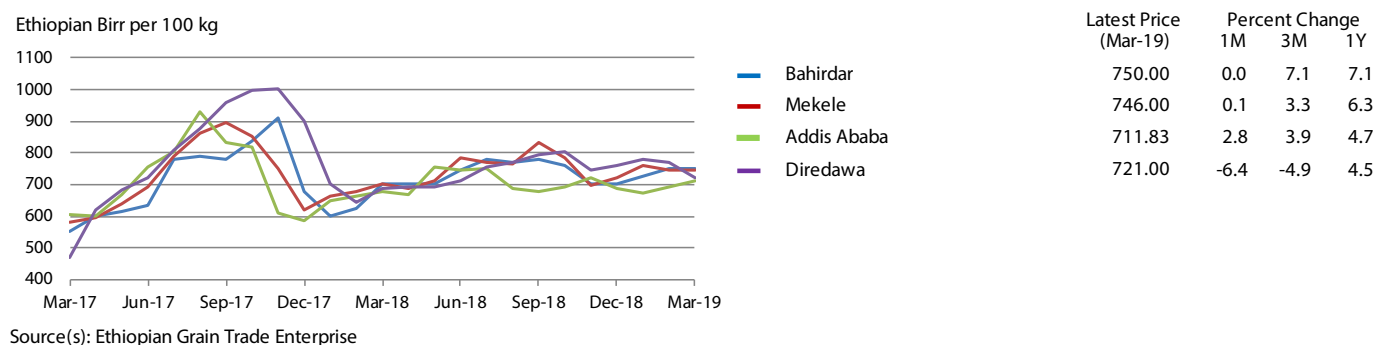
Wholesale prices of maize in Burundi



Wholesale prices of maize in Rwanda



Wholesale prices of maize in Ethiopia



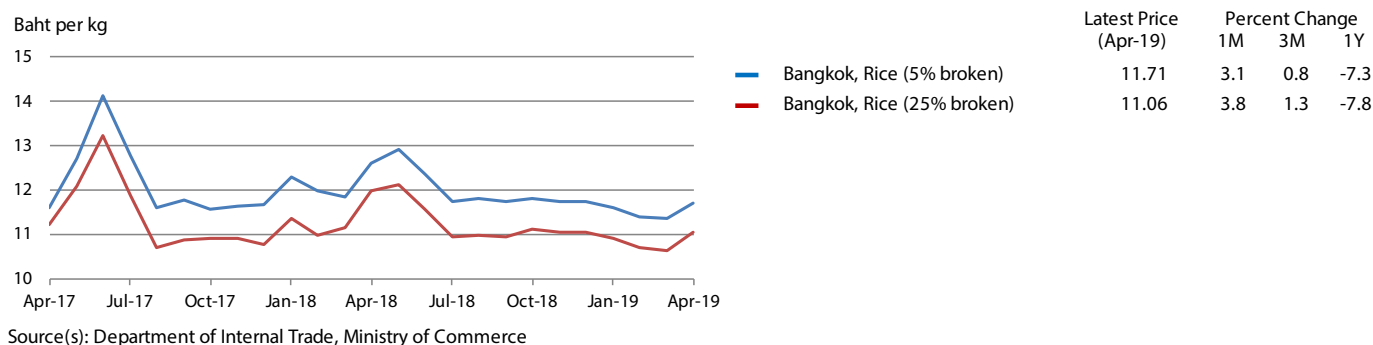
For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

Prices of rice and wheat generally decreased or remained stable in April

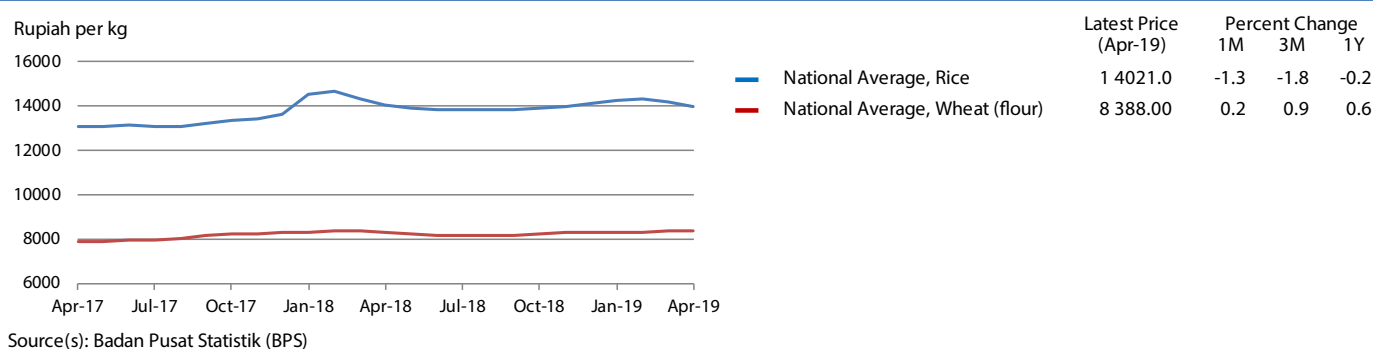
In most countries of the subregion, prices of rice weakened or remained stable in April on account of good domestic availabilities. Prices strengthened only in exporter, **Viet Nam**, despite the ongoing 2019 main “winter/spring” harvest, due to a pick-up in demand for exports, and in **Thailand**, where the seasonal upward pressure was compounded by concerns over the 2018/19 secondary season harvest, affected by limited water supplies. By contrast, prices declined in **Myanmar**, pressured by improved supplies from the 2018/19 secondary paddy harvest and a general slowdown in export sales. In other exporters, prices of rice remained stable in **India** where large government procurement purchases offset downward pressure from good domestic supplies and in **Cambodia** on account of large exports. In the subregion’s major rice producer, **China (Mainland)**, prices of rice were also overall stable in April, reflecting large domestic availabilities. In importing countries, **Indonesia** and **the Philippines**, prices of rice weakened in April, reflecting good market supplies from the ongoing or recently-concluded 2018/19 harvests and imports. The decline in prices was more pronounced in **Bangladesh**, where prices reached levels more than 20 percent lower than a year earlier, on

expectations of a bumper 2019 main “boro” output, currently being harvested, which follows a record 2018 output. Similarly, prices of rice continued to decline in **Sri Lanka** reflecting improved supplies from the recently-harvested main “maha” crop, estimated at an above-average level. With regard to wheat, prices generally declined in April. In **China (Mainland)**, the subregion’s main producer, prices of wheat generally weakened and were down from their year earlier levels, on account of ample supplies and favourable prospects for the 2019 output. Similarly, in **India**, prices declined with the 2019 “rabi” harvest, about to be concluded and forecast at a near-record level. However, large government procurement, which as of 3 May accounted for 24.3 million tonnes or 25 percent of the country’s annual output, limited the decline in prices. To protect farmers from low prices, the Government raised wheat import duties in late April ([FPMA Food Policies](#)). In **Pakistan**, prices of wheat were stable or declined in some markets with the onset of the 2019 main wheat harvest, forecast at a bumper level. Among the wheat importing countries, prices of wheat flour remained stable in **Indonesia** and **Sri Lanka**, while they declined in **Bangladesh**, reflecting the high level of imports in recent months.

Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand

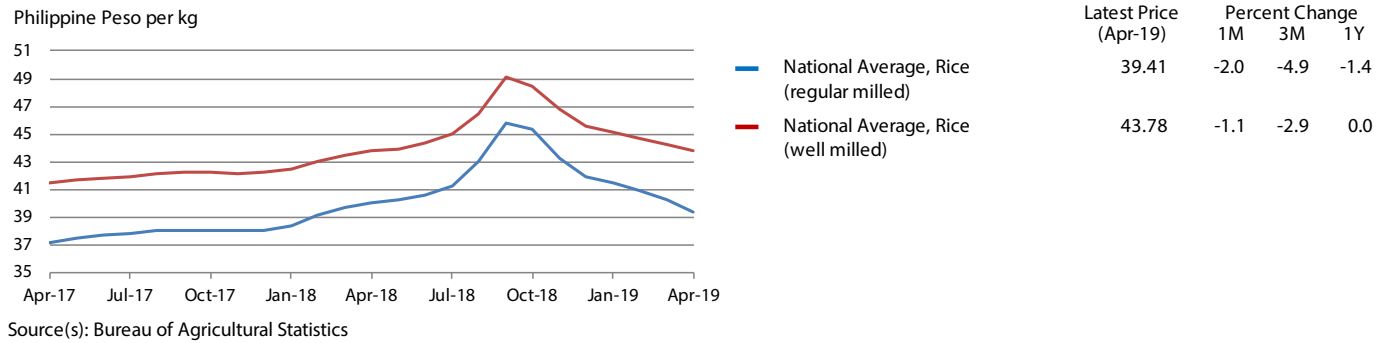


Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Indonesia

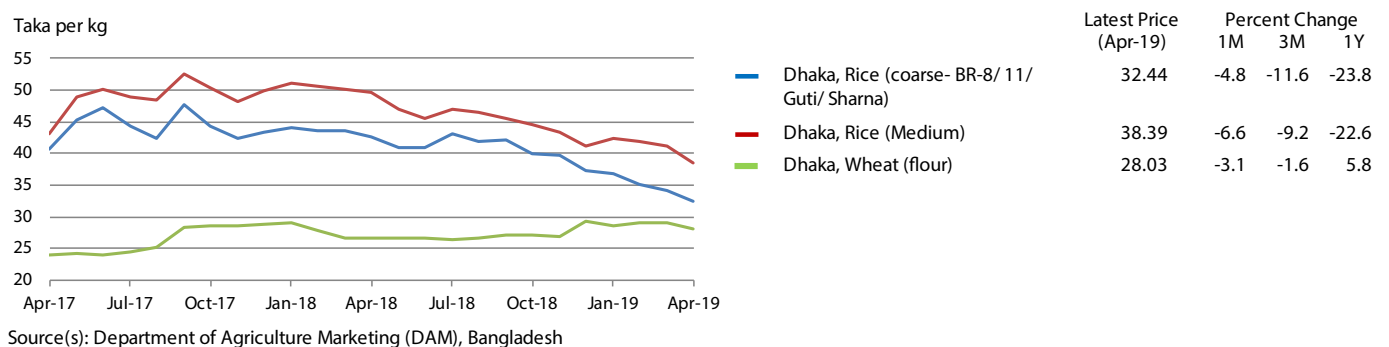


For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

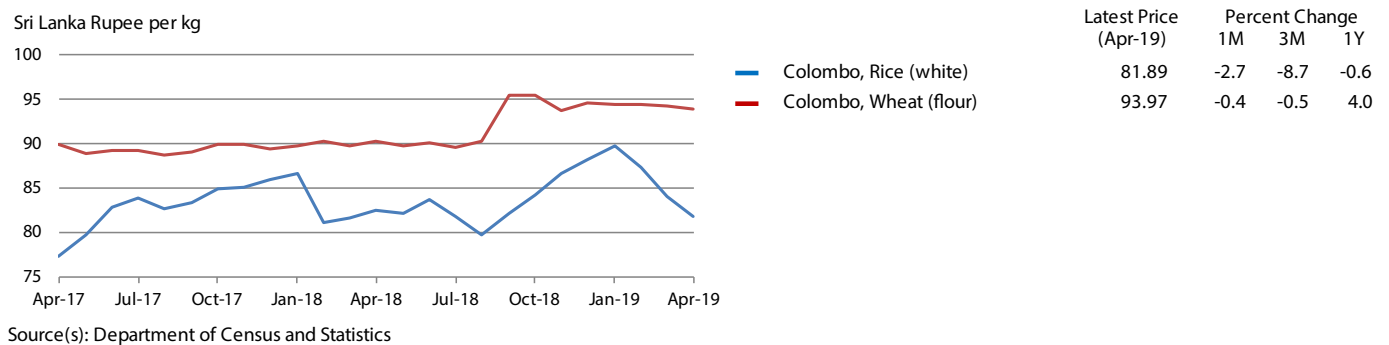
Retail prices of rice in the Philippines



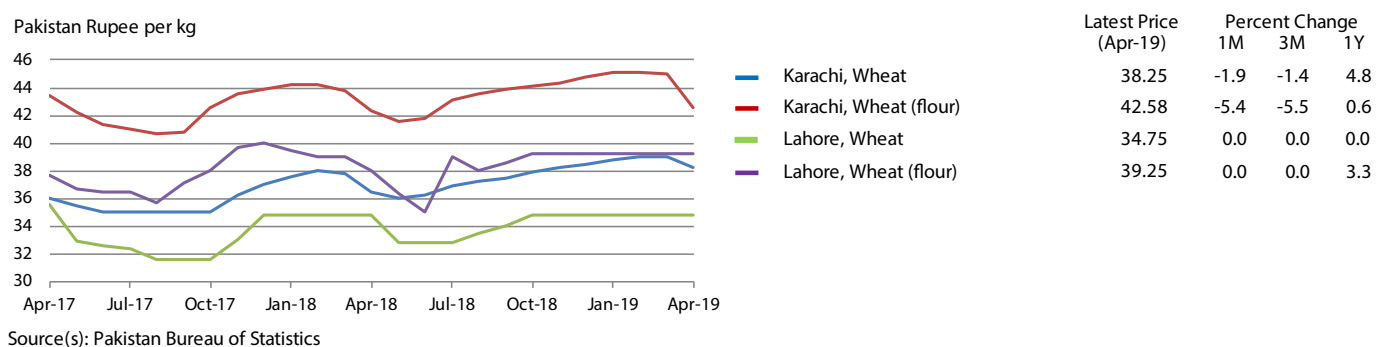
Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Bangladesh



Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka



Retail prices of wheat and wheat flour in Pakistan



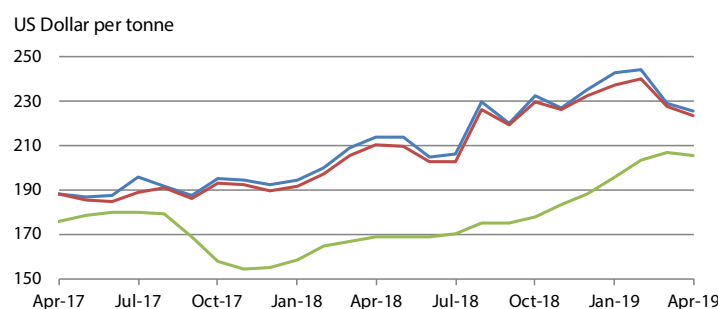
For more information visit the FPMA website [here](#)

Export prices of wheat declined in April

In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat declined in April following trends in the international markets and because of weak trade activity and the good outlook for the 2019 crops. Prices, however, remained higher than a year earlier particularly in **Kazakhstan** after sustained increases since late 2018 underpinned by large export sales. In the domestic market, prices of wheat weakened in **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, while they increased seasonally in **Kazakhstan** and were overall higher than in April last year, supported by reduced domestic availabilities. In importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour weakened in **Tajikistan** but remained higher than a year earlier due to the reduced 2018 crop and higher prices from its main supplier, Kazakhstan. Increased taxes for wheat processing and sale of final products also contributed to the higher prices. In **Georgia**, prices of wheat flour and bread weakened in April but remained more than 10 percent above their values in April last year underpinned by higher export prices of wheat flour from the Russian Federation. In **Kyrgyzstan**,

average prices of wheat flour remained relatively stable and around their year-earlier levels reflecting the good 2018 output, which offset the upward pressure from higher export prices in the subregion. Prices of wheat flour held steady in **Armenia** and **Azerbaijan** in March, but were around 4 percent and 9 percent higher than a year earlier, respectively, while seasonal increases in **Belarus** were compounded by higher processing costs. With regard to potatoes, another basic staple food in the subregion, prices strengthened seasonally in **the Russian Federation** and **Kazakhstan** in April although remaining more than 10 percent and 20 percent lower year on year, respectively. Similarly, in **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan**, prices of potatoes were well below their levels in April last year. In **Georgia**, seasonal increases in April were compounded by reduced domestic supplies, which pushed prices to levels nearly 20 percent up on a year earlier. Prices were significantly higher than a year earlier also in **Armenia** in March despite some weakening on a monthly basis, while in **Belarus** and **Azerbaijan** prices were lower year on year.

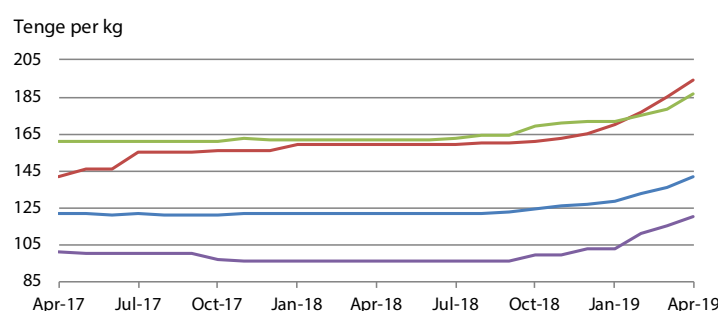
Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries



Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	226.00	-1.3	-6.9	5.5
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	224.00	-1.8	-5.8	6.4
Kazakhstan, Wheat (milling, d.a.p. Saryagash station)	205.67	-0.5	5.1	21.7

Retail prices of wheat flour in Kazakhstan

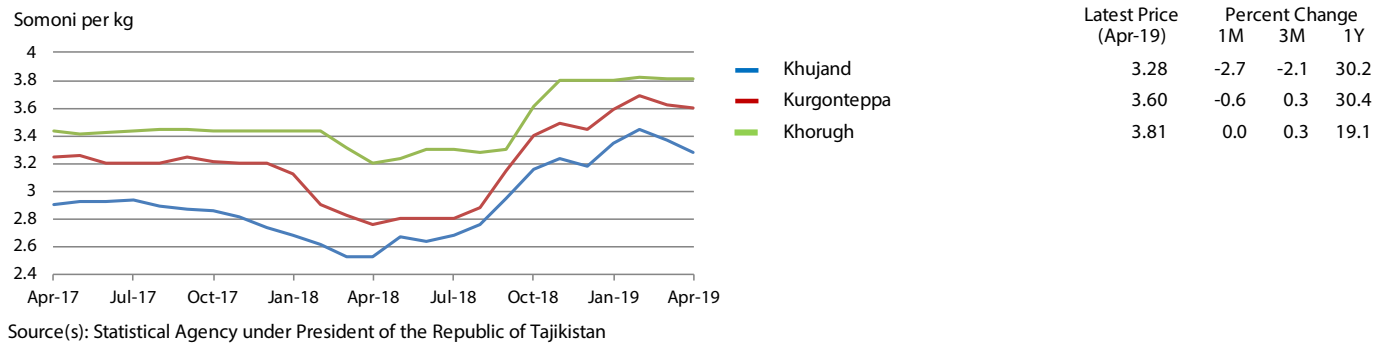


Source(s): Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Committee on Statistics

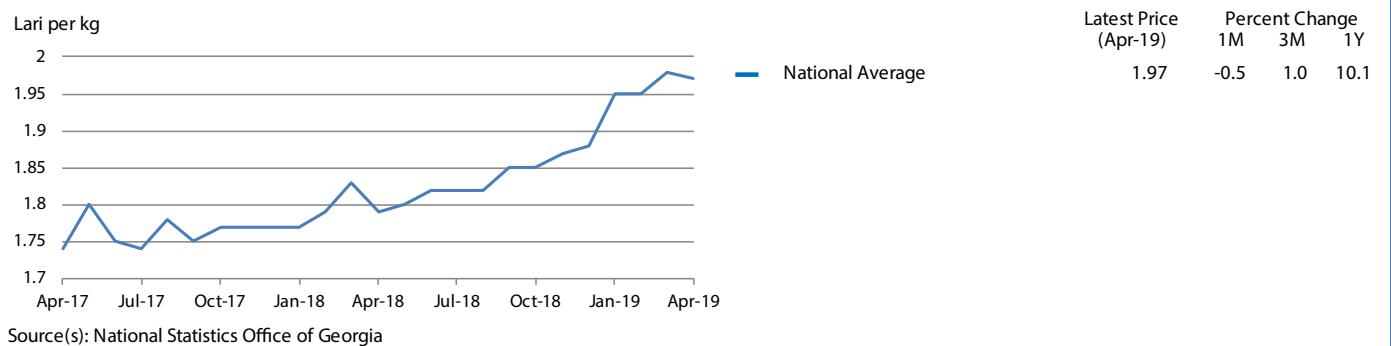
	Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
		1M	3M	1Y
National Average	141.75	4.2	10.6	16.2
Nur-Sultan	194.00	4.9	14.1	22.0
Almaty	187.00	5.1	8.7	15.4
Kostanay	120.00	4.3	16.5	25.0

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

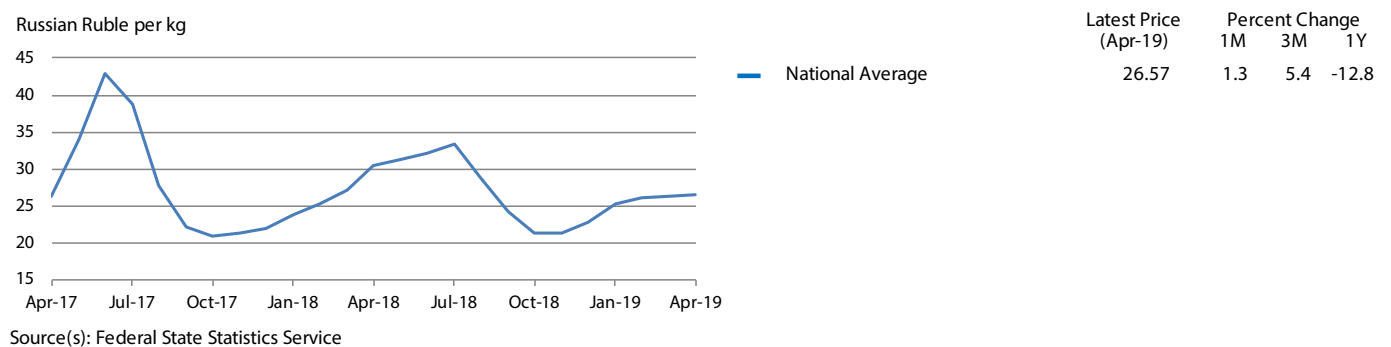
Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan



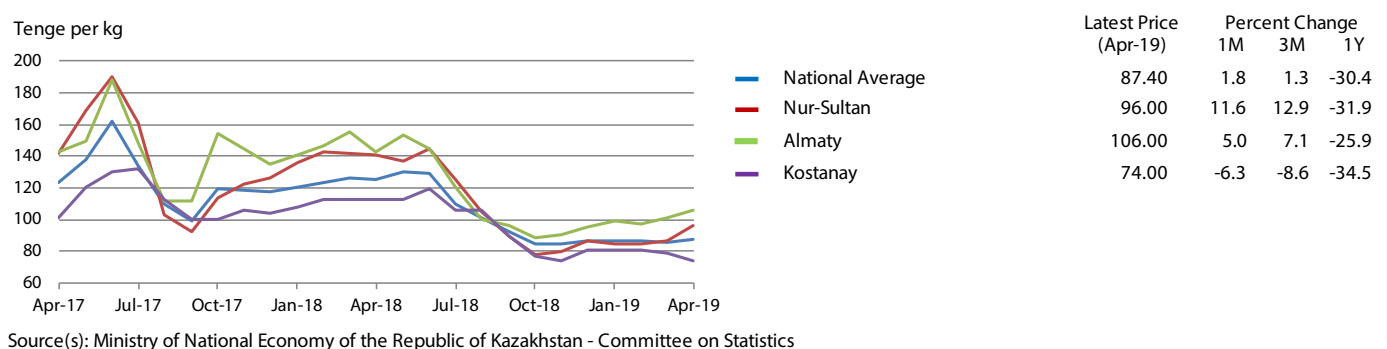
Retail prices of wheat flour in Georgia



Retail prices of potatoes in the Russian Federation



Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan



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

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

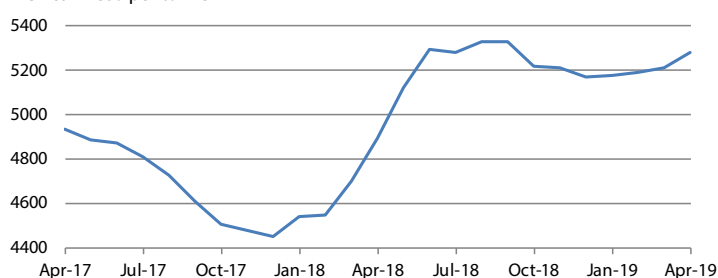
Prices of maize under seasonal upward pressure

Prices of white maize remained under upward pressure in April in line with seasonal trends, although increases were limited by near-average domestic supplies from the 2018/19 main and second season harvests. In **Guatemala**, prices of white maize increased slightly in April and were only 8 percent above their levels a year earlier as imports from Mexico and supplies from northern producing areas contributed to limit seasonal upward pressure. In **Honduras**, prices also strengthened somewhat but were lower than in April last year. By contrast, in **El Salvador**, prices were still more than 30 percent higher than a year earlier despite some recent weakening, underpinned by last year's localized crop losses and increased fuel prices. In **Nicaragua**, prices declined sharply in April, more than reversing the significant increase of the previous two months, mainly as a result of the new supplies from the recent third "apante" season harvest ([GIEWS Country Brief](#)). In **Mexico**, prices of white maize strengthened in April despite the ongoing minor "autumn/winter" harvest, and were above their year-earlier levels supported by a contraction in the 2018 output. Prices of locally-produced maize increased seasonally also in **Haiti**, with planting activities of the 2019 main "spring" season currently ongoing. With regard to beans, prices were generally lower than a year earlier reflecting good subregional supplies from the recent

harvests. In **Nicaragua**, prices of red beans decreased in April with good supplies from the "apante" harvest and were down from a year earlier on account of good domestic availabilities. Similarly, in **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, prices of red beans were lower than in April last year. In **Guatemala**, prices of black beans declined slightly in April as a result of the new supplies from northern producing areas and were down from a year earlier. Prices of black beans declined also in **Mexico** and **Costa Rica**. In the Caribbean, prices of black beans in the **Dominican Republic** remained stable, while they increased seasonally in **Haiti**. With regard to rice, in several countries of the subregion the main crop has been planted or is entering the early development stage. In **Costa Rica**, prices of rice remained generally stable and near their year-earlier levels, mainly reflecting imports. Prices remained overall stable and around their year-earlier values in **El Salvador** and **Honduras**, also on account of steady flows of imports and in **Nicaragua** as a result of the good 2018/19 harvests. In the Caribbean, prices of rice were slightly higher year on year in the **Dominican Republic**, while in **Haiti**, despite some recent declines, prices of mostly imported rice were well above their year-earlier levels, mainly due to the significant depreciation of the country's currency in recent months.

Wholesale prices of maize in Mexico

Mexican Peso per tonne



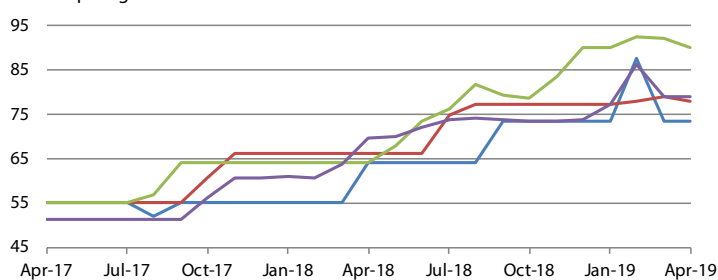
— Mexico City, Maize (white, sifted, packed, at mill)

Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
5 282.40	1.4	2.0	7.9

Source(s): Agencia de Servicios a la Comercialización y Desarrollo de Mercados Agropecuarios (ASERCA)

Retail prices of imported rice in Haiti

Gourde per kg



— Port-au-Prince
— Jacmel
— Hinche
— Jeremie

Latest Price (Apr-19)	Percent Change		
	1M	3M	1Y
73.49	0.0	0.0	14.3
78.10	-1.1	1.2	18.1
90.03	-2.3	0.0	40.0
79.01	0.0	2.4	13.1

Source(s): Coordination nationale de la sécurité alimentaire

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

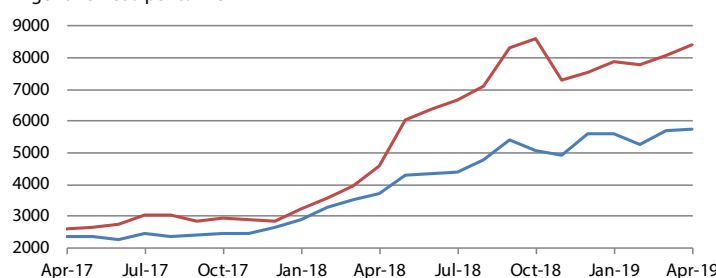
Prices of maize generally declined, those of wheat and rice followed mixed trends

In most countries of the subregion, prices of yellow maize declined seasonally in April, with the notable exception of **Argentina**, where, despite the ongoing harvest anticipated at a record level, prices strengthened. The increase was mainly due to large sales for export, spurred by currency weakness, which sustained higher prices on a yearly basis. In **Brazil**, prices declined in April and were lower than their values a year earlier, as harvesting of the main season crops is underway and production prospects are favourable. In **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, prices of yellow maize also decreased in most markets on account of the improved prospects for the 2019 main "summer" crop, being harvested. Prices declined significantly in **Ecuador** and **Uruguay** with the ongoing main harvests. In **Chile**, prices remained stable in April despite the ongoing harvest as the output is anticipated to decline mainly due to a contraction in plantings. However, large imports in the past months limited the upward pressure and kept prices only slightly above their values a year earlier. By contrast, in **Colombia** and **Peru**, where the main harvests will occur later this year, prices of yellow maize strengthened seasonally and were above their year-earlier values. With regard to wheat, prices were generally higher than a year earlier. In **Argentina**, despite the 2018 bumper harvest, prices of wheat grain continued to increase in April and were well above their year-earlier values due to the large volumes of exports, sustained by a weak currency. In **Brazil**, prices of wheat grain weakened in April mainly reflecting trends in the international market, with imports accounting for 60 percent of its consumption needs. Prices, however, were higher than a year earlier mostly due to the depreciation of the country's currency. Similarly,

in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, prices of wheat flour, mostly imported from Argentina, weakened but were generally higher than in April last year. In **Chile**, prices of wheat grain increased in April after the decline of the past months with the 2018 crop harvest and were some 20 percent higher year on year on account of a decline in the output. In **Uruguay**, prices of wheat grain firmed up in April and were 40 percent higher year on year mainly due to large exports in the first quarter of 2019, sustained by the significant depreciation of the country's currency. In importing countries, **Colombia** and **Ecuador**, prices of wheat flour remained stable and below or around their year-earlier values reflecting adequate domestic supplies mainly consisting in shipments from Canada. With regard to rice, despite the recent completion of the 2019 harvests, prices strengthened in **Brazil**, underpinned by export sales, and in **Uruguay**. In these countries, the reduced outputs, mostly resting on a contraction in plantings, contributed to provide upward pressure on prices, keeping them above their levels a year earlier. By contrast, in **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)**, where the main harvest was also recently completed, prices of rice remained relatively stable in April and were around or below their year-earlier levels reflecting the good output gathered. In **Peru**, prices of rice weakened or remained stable in April and were down from a year earlier pressured by good supplies from the 2018 harvest and favourable prospects for this year's harvest, about to start. In **Ecuador**, prices of rice firmed in April with the bulk of the main harvest yet to occur but were down from a year earlier on account of the good production last year. Similarly, in **Colombia**, prices held steady in April in line with seasonal trends.

Wholesale prices of yellow maize and wheat in Argentina

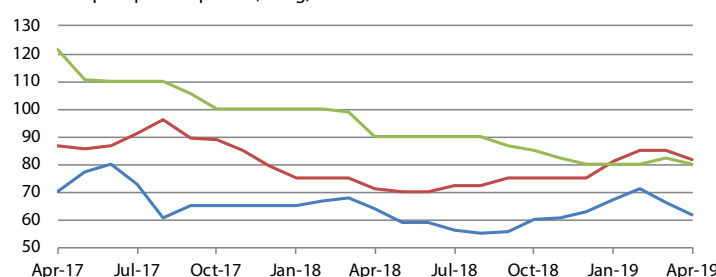
Argentine Peso per tonne



Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

Wholesale prices of yellow maize in Bolivia

Boliviano per Spanish quintal (46 kg)



Source(s): Observatorio Agroambiental y Productivo - OAP/MDRyT

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

This bulletin is 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 Trade and Markets 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 May 2019.

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

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

Trade and Markets Division (EST)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla

00153 Rome, Italy

E-mail: GIEWS1@fao.org

The **Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS)** has set up a mailing list to disseminate its reports. To subscribe, submit the Registration Form on the following link: http://newsletters.fao.org/k/Fao/trade_and_markets_english_giews_world.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2019



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO licence (CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/igo/legalcode>).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted for non-commercial purposes, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If the work is adapted, then it must be licensed under the same or equivalent Creative Commons license. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original [Language] edition shall be the authoritative edition.

Disputes arising under the licence that cannot be settled amicably will be resolved by mediation and arbitration as described in Article 8 of the licence except as otherwise provided herein. The applicable mediation rules will be the mediation rules of the World Intellectual Property Organization <http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/mediation/rules> and any arbitration will be in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

Third-party materials. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org. Requests for commercial use should be submitted via: www.fao.org/contact-us/licence-request. Queries regarding rights and licensing should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.