MALAWI

STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM

IFPRI Monthly Maize Market Report **August 2017**

The Monthly Maize Market Report was developed by researchers at IFPRI-Malawi, with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the variation of daily maize prices in selected markets throughout Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in maize markets in Malawi, namely producers, sellers, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

- The average maize retail price remained unchanged at MK132/kg during August.
- Prices continue to be highest in the Northern region.
- Retail prices in Malawi are considerably lower than in other markets in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Prices remain steady in August 2017

Retail maize prices generally remained steady throughout the month of August. (Table 1). Although prices in the Northern region are higher than in the South and Centre, price decreases were registered in all four markets in the North. In contrast, both the Centre and South registered price decreases in only one market, with the highest decrease of 7% reported in Mponela. Of the four markets that reported price increases, two were in the South. Mulanje reported the highest price increase of 14% since July.

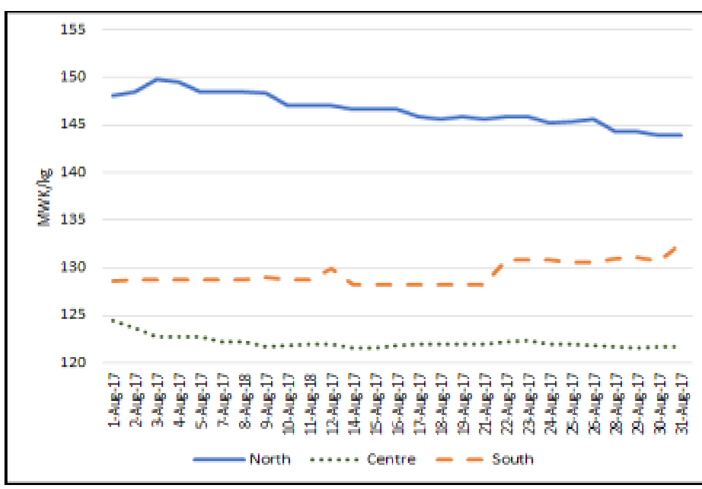
Table 1. Maize retail prices (MK/kg) by market

Market	31-Jul-17	5-Aug-17	19-Aug-17	31-Aug-17	Monthly change
Karonga	162	158	153	153	-5%
Rumphi	160	163	165	159	-1%
Mzimba	131	131	130	129	-1%
Mzuzu	138	143	136	134	-3%
Nkhamenya	113	118	114	115	2%
Mponela	122	122	118	113	-7%
Mchinji	138	135	137	137	0%
Mitundu	130	130	130	130	0%
Chimbiya	106	105	106	108	2%
Liwonde	125	125	125	125	0%
Lunzu	150	150	150	150	0%
Mulanje	133	133	133	152	14%
Mwanza	123	123	123	128	4%
Chikwawa	131	133	128	129	-2%
Nsanje	110	110	110	110	0%
All markets	**132**	**132**	**131**	**132**	**0%**

Prices increase slightly in the South

While there was no overall change in the average retail maize price over the month of August, prices in the North and Center indicated slight decreases, while prices in the South increased slightly during the last week of August 2017 (Figure 1). Average maize prices were MK144/kg, MK122/kg, and MK133/kg for the North, Center, and South, respectively.

Figure 1. Daily average maize prices since 1st August 2017



ADMARC buying maize at MK170/kg and selling at MK250/kg

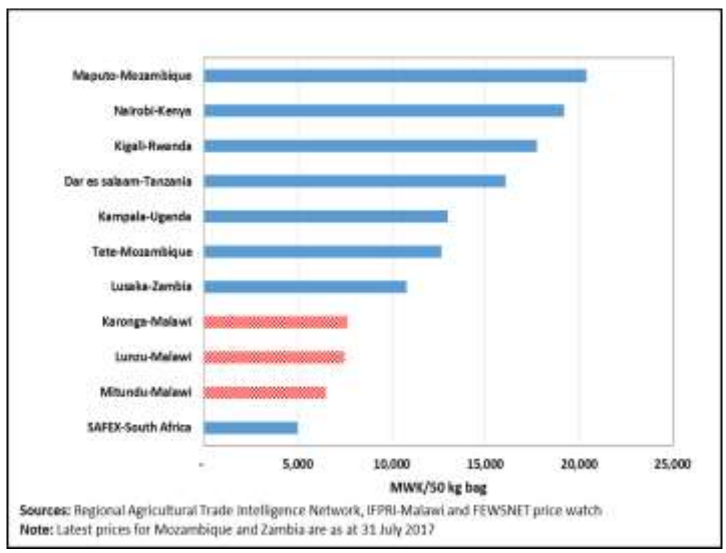
ADMARC continues to buy maize at MK170/kg and sell at MK250/kg. Twelve out of 15 markets reported that ADMARC was buying maize in August 2017. ADMARC was reported not to be buying in three markets in the South (Liwonde, Lunzu, and Chikwawa). The average price in the three markets in the South where ADMARC was buying was MK129/kg, compared to MK130/kg in markets where ADMARC was not buying during the month of August. ADMARC was reported to be selling maize in all markets except Chikwawa.

Figure 2. Location of markets where ADMARC was buying maize in August 2017

Regional prices in August 2017

Figure 3 shows the retail prices of maize in selected markets in Malawi and six countries in the Southern and Eastern African region, namely Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, and Zambia. Retail maize markets in Malawi (Karonga, Lunzu, and Mitundu markets) were considerably lower than markets elsewhere in the region. Mozambique, particularly Maputo, reported the highest retail maize prices, followed by Nairobi-Kenya and Kigali-Rwanda. These markets represent opportunities for export by countries, such as Malawi and Zambia, where maize harvests were good during the 2016/17 agricultural season.

Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in Eastern and Southern Africa, 31st August 2017



How data was collected

IFPRI has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets since November 2016. Currently, the data is collected from 15 markets across the country. The monitoring covers six days in a week, excluding Sundays. At least three monitors report in each of the markets. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone if necessary. The regional prices reported in Figure 3 are collected from the Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN) and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

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