MALAWI

STRATEGY SUPPORT PROGRAM

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 per kg declined slightly from **MK139** in late May to **MK137** in late June.
- The widest price range was recorded in Mponela.
- ADMARC announced the opening of the 2016/17 maize buying season at a price of MK170/kg.

Slight decline in prices in June 2017

During the month of June 2017, price decreases were reported in the majority of the markets (Table 1). An overall price decrease of 2% (MK2/kg) was recorded over the month. The highest price decrease was reported in Chimbiya for the second consecutive month. Only two markets (Rumphi and Mzuzu), both in the North, reported price increases, while prices remained steady in 4 out of the 15 markets. The start of ADMARC purchasing for the 2016/17 maize buying season on 23 June (see next page) may explain why maize prices have started to pick up in some of the markets.

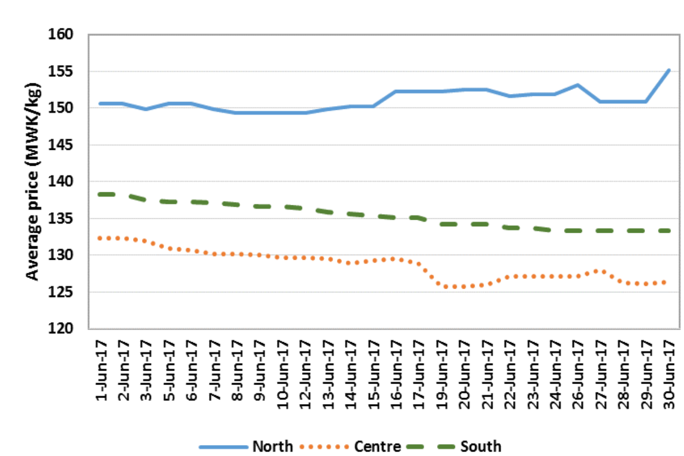
Table 1. Maize retail prices (MK/kg) by market

Market	2-Jun-17	9-Jun-17	16-Jun-17	23-Jun-17	30-Jun-17	Monthly change
Karonga	168	168	168	168	168	0%
Rumphi	153	151	153	154	178	16%
Mzimba	143	140	142	138	128	-10%
Mzuzu	139	139	148	148	148	6%
Nkhamenya	133	130	128	128	130	-3%
Mponela	135	135	135	122	122	-10%
Mchinji	136	133	134	134	135	-1%
Mitundu	133	132	130	130	133	0%
Chimbiya	123	120	119	119	109	-11%
Liwonde	133	133	133	133	133	0%
Lunzu	167	167	167	167	167	0%
Mulanje	142	142	142	133	133	-6%
Mwanza	123	122	120	120	120	-3%
Chikwawa	148	138	136	136	134	-9%
Nsanje	120	119	113	113	113	-6%
All markets	**139**	**138**	**138**	**136**	**137**	**-2%**

Marginal price increase in the North

Prices in the North remained consistently higher than in the Centre and the South. There was a stable price trend in the North during the first half of the month, after which a marginal increase was observed at the end of the month with prices peaking at MK155/kg (Figure 1). The Centre and the South both reported overall price declines, with the average prices in these regions at the end of month being MK126/kg and MK135/kg, respectively.

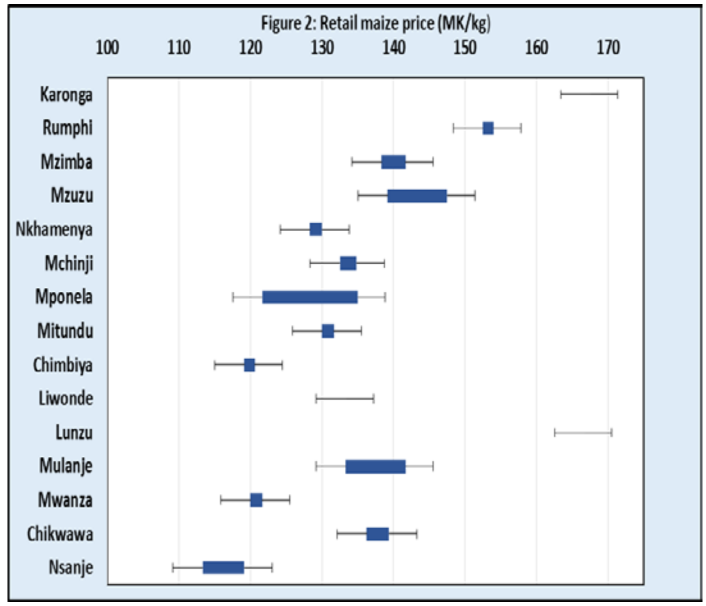
Figure 1. Daily average maize prices since 1st June 2017



Mponela had the widest price range

Figure 2 shows the distribution of average daily maize prices in each market during June 2017. The furthest-left and furthest-right points on each plot indicate the minimum and maximum prices during the month. The shaded box shows the first quartile and third quartiles of the price distribution for each market. In June 2017, Mponela registered the widest price ranges, while Karonga, Liwonde, and Lunzu reported no price variation.

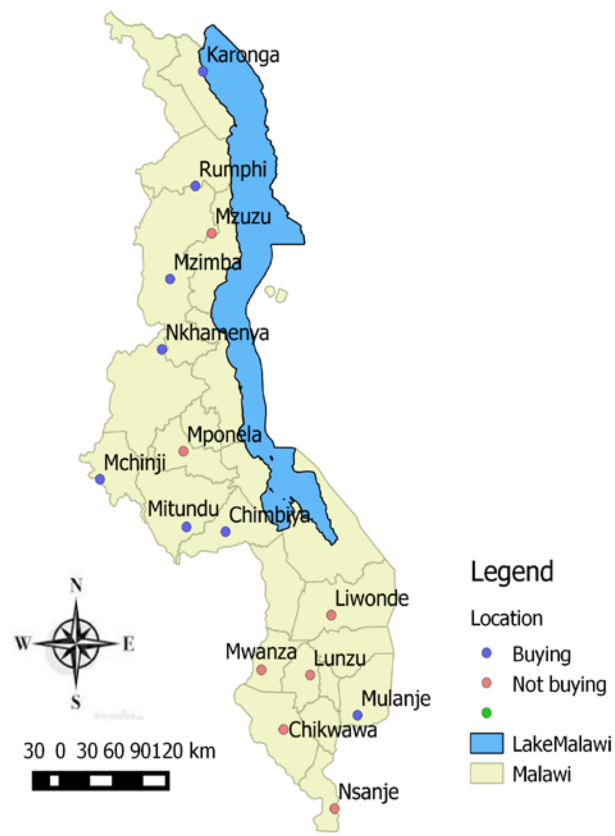
Figure 2. Distribution of average maize retail prices, June 2017



ADMARC starts buying maize at MK170/kg

On 23rd June 2017, ADMARC announced the opening of the 2016/17 maize buying season. ADMARC started buying maize at the price of MK170/kg in some markets. Figure 3 indicates the markets where ADMARC is reported, by our traders, to have started purchasing maize. Prices in half of these markets (Rumphi, Nkhamenya, Mchinji, and Mitundu) increased by up to 10% (MK17/kg) during the last week of the month. However, prices fell in two of the other four markets (Chimbiya and Mzimba) where ADMARC was buying, while in the other two (Karonga and Mulanje), they were stable. In the seven markets in which ADMARC was not buying, prices also remained stable on average during the last week of June.

Figure 3. Location of markets where ADMARC started buying maize in June 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.

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