

IFPRI Monthly Maize Market Report

December 2016

Maize Market Activity - Highlights

- During the month of December, average maize retail prices decreased slightly from **MK230** to **MK227** per kg.
- Monitors reported the widest range of maize prices in Mchinji, and narrowest in Mitundu and Lunzu.
- All main ADMARC depots were open during the entire month.

In December, average retail prices remain steady.

During the month of December, average prices decreased slightly from MK230/kg as at the beginning of the month on December 3rd to MK227/kg on December 31st (Table 1). The decline was largely influenced by stock disposal by traders in Mwanza, which registered a price drop of 20% during the second half of the month. In five of the 15 markets monitored, prices decreased while in five they increased, with the most significant increase of 8% registered in Rumphi. Five markets had unchanged price levels.

End of the month prices were highest in the South

Figure 1 shows the range (maximum-minimum) of retail maize prices on December 31st sorted by markets and regions. Prices are generally higher in the South and lowest in the Centre. The lowest minimum price of MK180/kg was reported in Mchinji while the highest maximum price of MK250/kg was reported in Mulanje. In some markets, such as Mitundu and Lunzu, all monitors reported the same daily price, so there is no price variation.

Chimbiya has the lowest prices while Mulanje has the highest.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of average daily maize prices in each market during December. The lower and upper lines indicate the minimum and maximum prices during the month, while the box shows the first quartile and third quartiles of the price distribution. The widest range of prices was observed in Mwanza, while almost uniform pricing was observed in Liwonde and Mulanje.

ADMARC continues to sell maize only, no buying.

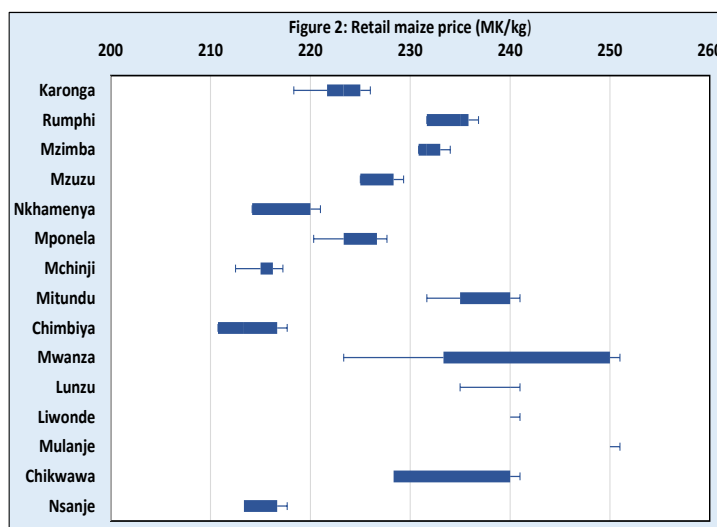
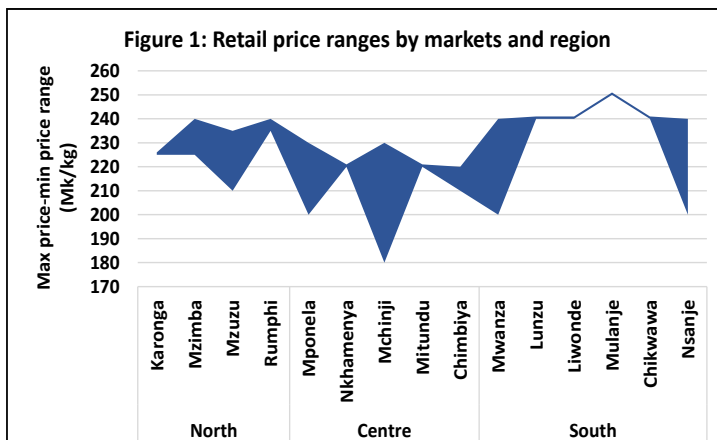
Since opening its markets across the country on 21st October 2016, the main ADMARC depots in these markets have been reported to be selling maize only. No buying activity was recorded in either November or December. ADMARC selling price has remained unchanged at MK250/kg in all markets.

How data was collected

IFPRI has been monitoring retail maize prices in selected markets since November 1, 2016. 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 via telephone where necessary. Price monitoring started with eight markets on 1st November, followed by Mzuzu and Rumphi on November 22nd. Monitoring at Nkhamenya, Mwanza, Chikwawa and Chitakale began on 1st December 2016.

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

Market	3-Dec-16	17-Dec-16	change	31-Dec-16	Dec. change
Karonga	227	223	↓ -1%	225	↓ -1%
Rumphi	220	235	↑ 7%	237	↑ 8%
Mzimba	230	234	↑ 2%	232	↑ 1%
Mzuzu	223	228	↑ 3%	223	↔ 0%
Nkhamenya	210	220	↑ 5%	220	↑ 5%
Mponela	227	227	↔ 0%	220	↓ -3%
Mchinji	220	216	↓ -2%	215	↓ -2%
Mitundu	240	240	↔ 0%	220	↓ -8%
Chimbiya	217	210	↓ -3%	217	↔ 0%
Mwanza	267	250	↓ -6%	213	↓ -20%
Lunzu	240	240	↔ 0%	240	↔ 0%
Liwonde	240	240	↔ 0%	240	↔ 0%
Mulanje	250	250	↔ 0%	250	↔ 0%
Chikwawa	230	240	↑ 4%	240	↑ 4%
Nsanje	205	213	↑ 4%	217	↑ 6%
All markets	230	231	↔ 0%	227	↓ -1%



Note: This report is not directly comparable to November because December includes four new markets.