

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 decreased by 1 percent during the month of October.
- Prices declined in the North but rose marginally in the South.
- Government announced the lifting of the export ban on maize on 30th October 2017.

Prices decreased slightly in October 2017

Average retail maize prices decreased by 1 percent in October 2017 (Table 1). Although prices in the North remained higher than in the South and Centre, all the markets in the North registered price decreases during the month. The largest price decrease was recorded in Mzimba at 6 percent, followed by Rumphu at 3 percent. In Central Malawi, two (Mchinji and Mitundu) out of the five markets recorded decreases while the rest registered no price changes. In the South, two markets (Mulanje and Chikwawa) recorded price increases of 1 percent and 2 percent respectively.

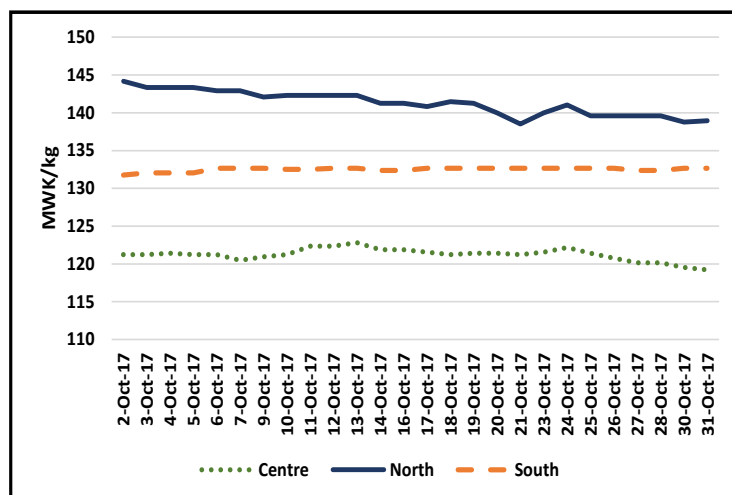
Table 1. Maize retail prices (MK/kg) by market

Market	30-Sep-17	7-Oct-17	14-Oct-17	21-Oct-17	28-Oct-17	Monthly change
Karonga	155	155	155	155	154	↓ -1%
Rumphu	156	156	153	151	152	↓ -3%
Mzimba	131	131	128	125	123	↓ -6%
Mzuzu	133	130	130	133	130	↓ -2%
Nkhamenya	113	113	116	116	111	↓ -2%
Mponela	115	114	114	114	115	↔ 0%
Mchinji	136	134	134	134	134	↓ -1%
Mitundu	132	130	133	130	130	↓ -1%
Chimbiya	106	106	108	108	106	↔ 0%
Liwonde	127	127	127	127	127	↔ 0%
Lunzu	153	153	153	153	153	↔ 0%
Mulanje	143	145	145	145	145	↑ 1%
Mwanza	125	128	127	127	125	↔ 0%
Chikwawa	128	128	128	130	130	↑ 2%
Nsanje	113	113	113	113	113	↔ 0%
All markets	131	131	131	130	130	↓ -1%

Prices marginally increase in the South

Prices in the North showed a declining trend throughout the month of October but there was a slight increase in prices in the South (Figure 1). Prices in the Centre remain the lowest in Malawi, with slight increases recorded during the second and third weeks of the month, followed by a corresponding decrease at the end of the month.

Figure 1. Daily average maize prices since 2nd October 2017



ADMARC prices remain unchanged

ADMARC continues to buy maize at MK170/kg and sell at MK250/kg. ADMARC was reported to be buying maize in 11 out of the 15 markets during the month of October 2017. No buying activity was reported in four markets in the South (Liwonde, Lunzu, Chikwawa, and Nsanje). ADMARC was reported to be selling maize in all markets except Chikwawa. Average retail maize prices were equal in markets where ADMARC was reported to be buying maize, and in those markets where it was not buying.

Regional prices in October 2017

Figure 3 shows retail maize prices in selected markets in Malawi and six countries in the Southern and Eastern African region. Retail maize prices in Malawi (Karonga, Lunzu, and Mitundu) remain lower than in most markets elsewhere in the region. As was the case in September, the highest prices were reported in Kigali-Rwanda, followed by Dar es salaam-Tanzania and Nairobi-Kenya during the month of October 2017. The lifting of the maize export ban on 30th October 2017 may therefore be expected to result in maize exports to the North until the maize harvest in eastern Africa begins in December/January.

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).

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

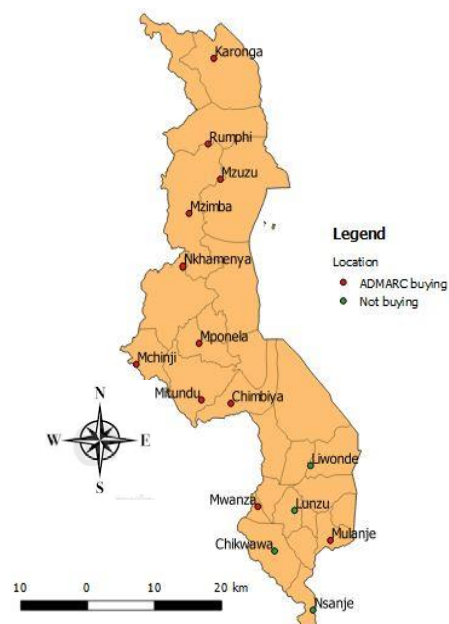


Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in Eastern and Southern Africa, 31st October 2017

