

IFPRI Monthly Maize Market Report

February 2018

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 increased by 18 percent during the month of February 2018.
- The average retail price of MWK114/kg, almost MWK100 lower than in February 2017.
- Prices were highest in the Southern region.
- Maize retail prices in Malawi were lower than most markets in Eastern and Southern Africa.

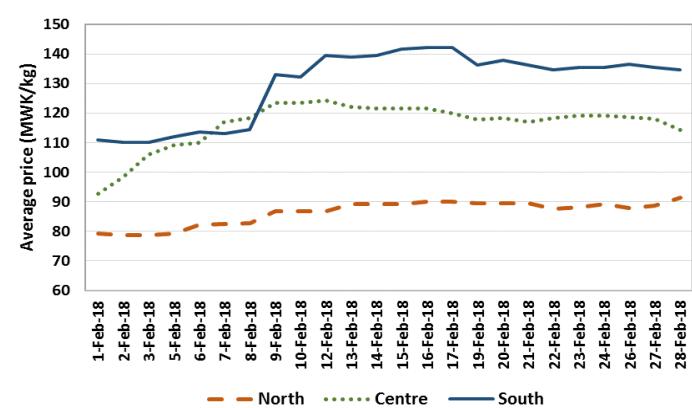
Prices continue to increase in February 2018

Average retail maize prices increased by about 18 percent from the beginning of February 2018 to the end of February 2018 (Table 1). Price increases were registered in almost all of the markets except Chimbanya which reported no price change during the month. The largest price increase was reported in Mulanje (45 percent) followed by Mzuzu (32 percent). Two markets in the North (Karonga and Rumphi) recorded the smallest price increases. The average maize retail price was MWK114/kg in February 2018. Despite price rises recorded over the last two months, retail maize prices are almost MWK100/kg lower than in February 2017 (when the average maize price recorded by IFPRI was MWK213/kg).

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

Market	3-Feb-18	10-Feb-18	17-Feb-18	24-Feb-18	Monthly change
Karonga	90	90	93	95	6%
Rumphi	80	85	87	83	4%
Mzuzu	73	93	100	97	32%
Mzimba	72	78	75	82	14%
Salima	122	140	140	140	15%
Mchinji	103	118	115	115	11%
Mitundu	95	127	130	123	30%
Chimbanya	100	112	103	100	0%
Lunzu	110	150	143	143	30%
Mwanza	130	160	160	147	13%
Liwonde	97	103	130	110	14%
Luchenza	130	150	150	140	8%
Mulanje	103	150	150	150	45%
Chikwawa	100	105	115	120	20%
Nsanje	103	103	137	133	29%
All markets	100	117	122	118	18%

Figure 1. Daily average maize prices since 1st February 2018



ADMARC buying maize at MWK170/kg

ADMARC was reported to be buying maize at MWK170/kg in 12 of the 15 markets during the month of February 2018. No buying activity was reported in two markets in the South (Liwonde and Nsanje), plus Chimbiya in the Centre. Average maize retail prices were slightly higher in the 12 markets (MWK114/kg) where ADMARC was buying maize than in the 3 markets where no ADMARC purchases were reported MWK111/kg).

Regional prices in February 2018

Figure 3 compares retail maize prices in selected markets in Malawi and six other countries in the Southern and Eastern Africa. In contrast to the last 5 months, when maize prices were highest in Rwanda, the highest prices were reported in Nairobi-Kenya, followed by Dar es Salaam-Tanzania. The lowest prices in the region were reported in two Malawian markets of Karonga and Mzuzu. In February 2018. However, in contrast to last month, Lunzu and Mitundu were reported to have higher maize retail prices than in Tete-Mozambique and SAFEX-South Africa.

How data was collected

IFPRI has been monitoring retail maize prices and ADMARC activities in selected markets across Malawi since November 2016. Currently, the data is collected from 15 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring six days per week, excluding Sundays. At least three traders report data from each of the markets. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone if necessary. From March 2018, maize price monitoring will include 1 additional market in the North (Chitipa), to complement the markets monitored weekly by mVAM. The regional prices reported in Figure 3 are 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 February 2018



Figure 3. Retail maize prices in selected markets in Eastern and Southern Africa, 28th February 2018

