

This price bulletin was developed by researchers at IFPRI Malawi with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on the weekly variation of retail prices for selected agricultural commodities that are important for food security and nutrition in Malawi. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural markets in Malawi.

## Highlights

- Average retail prices of common bean, soybeans and groundnuts increased by 3 to 8 percent while pigeon peas decreased marginally by 1 percent.
- Average retail prices of cassava, sweet potatoes and irish potatoes increased by 9 and 48 percent.
- Average retail prices of rice increased by 7 percent while sorghum decreased by 7 percent.

## Legumes

**Table 1.** Retail prices (MWK/kg) of common beans and pigeon pea by region during January 2021

Market	Common bean					Pigeon pea					Change since Dec 25	
	Dec	Jan				Dec	Jan				Bean	P. pea
	Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
<b>North</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>447</b>	-	<b>500</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>526</b>	↑ 17%	↑ 18%
Jenda	1000	1150	1150	1100	1200	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 20%	-
Karonga-boma	1000	-	-	1100	-	447	-	500	526	526	↑ 10%	↑ 18%
Mzuzu	1100	1000	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -9%	-
<b>Center</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>1263</b>	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -2%	-
Chimbiya	1300	1175	1200	1300	1133	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -13%	-
Mchinji	1200	1433	1433	1650	1450	-	-	-	-	-	↑ 1%	-
Mitundu	1350	1361	1361	1500	1267	-	-	-	-	-	↓ -6%	-
<b>South</b>	<b>1360</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1450</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>1392</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>678</b>	↑ 2%	↓ -3%
Balaka	1600	1450	1450	1650	1350	700	850	800	783	800	↓ -16%	↑ 14%
Bangula	1000	1200	1200	1400	1200	-	-	-	-	-	↔ 0%	-
Lunzu	1300	1267	1533	1200	1483	750	650	567	700	550	↑ 14%	↓ -27%
Mangochi	-	-	-	-	-	800	700	600	800	700	-	↓ -13%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	600	600	600	600	600	-	↔ 0%
<b>All markets</b>	<b>1206</b>	<b>1264</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1342</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>663</b>	↑ 8%	↓ -1%

**Note:** - = commodity not monitored or prices not reported in this market.

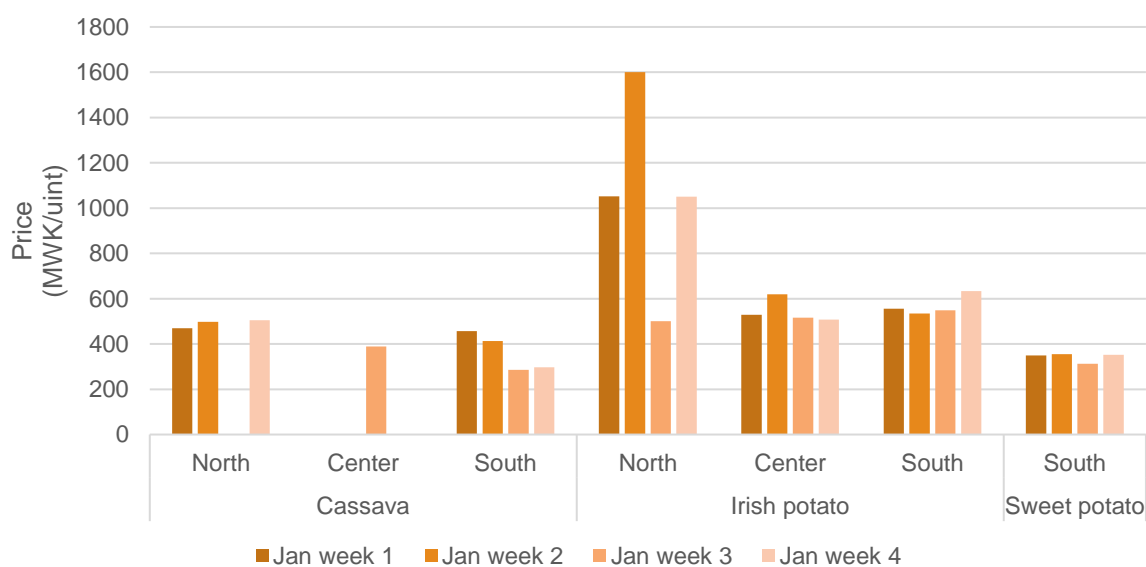
**Table 2.** Retail prices (MWK/kg) of soybean and groundnut by region during January 2021

Market	Soyabean					Groundnut					Change since Dec 25	
	Dec	Jan				Dec	Jan				Soybean	Groundnut
	Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
<b>North</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1350</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>1070</b>	<b>1100</b>	<b>1079</b>	↑ 7%	↑ 4%
Jenda	-	-	-	-	-	950	1050	983	900	1117	-	↑ 18%
Karonga-boma	1200	1200	1200	1350	1350	1200	1200	1200	1350	1000	↑ 13%	↓ -17%
Mzuzu	-	1000	1000	-	1150	800	-	-	1200	1200	↑ 15%	↑ 50%
<b>Center</b>	<b>1025</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1120</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1058</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>1092</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1092</b>	↑ 6%	↑ 3%
Chimbiya	1017	1033	1033	1067	1067	917	983	983	1000	917	↑ 3%	→ 0%
Mchinji	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1200	1200	1200	1200	1250	→ 0%	↑ 4%
Mitundu	1100	1200	1200	1200	1150	1200	1200	1200	1150	1300	↑ 5%	↑ 8%
<b>South</b>	<b>1288</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1270</b>	<b>1438</b>	<b>1246</b>	<b>1280</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>1375</b>	<b>1370</b>	<b>1271</b>	↓ -3%	↓ -1%
Balaka	1275	1400	1400	1675	1440	1350	1675	1675	1475	1367	↑ 13%	↑ 1%
Bangula	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunzu	1000	750	750	800	800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mangochi	1600	1400	1400	1600	1400	1500	1250	1250	1500	1200	↓ -13%	↓ -20%
Ngabu	-	-	-	-	-	1100	1200	1200	1200	1200	-	↑ 9%
<b>All markets</b>	<b>1142</b>	<b>1158</b>	<b>1158</b>	<b>1277</b>	<b>1192</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>1197</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1150</b>	↑ 4%	↑ 3%

**Note:** - = prices not reported from this market; soybean and groundnut are priced per kilogram

## Roots and Tubers

**Figure 1.** Regional average retail prices (MWK/unit) of cassava, Irish potato, and sweet potato during January 2021



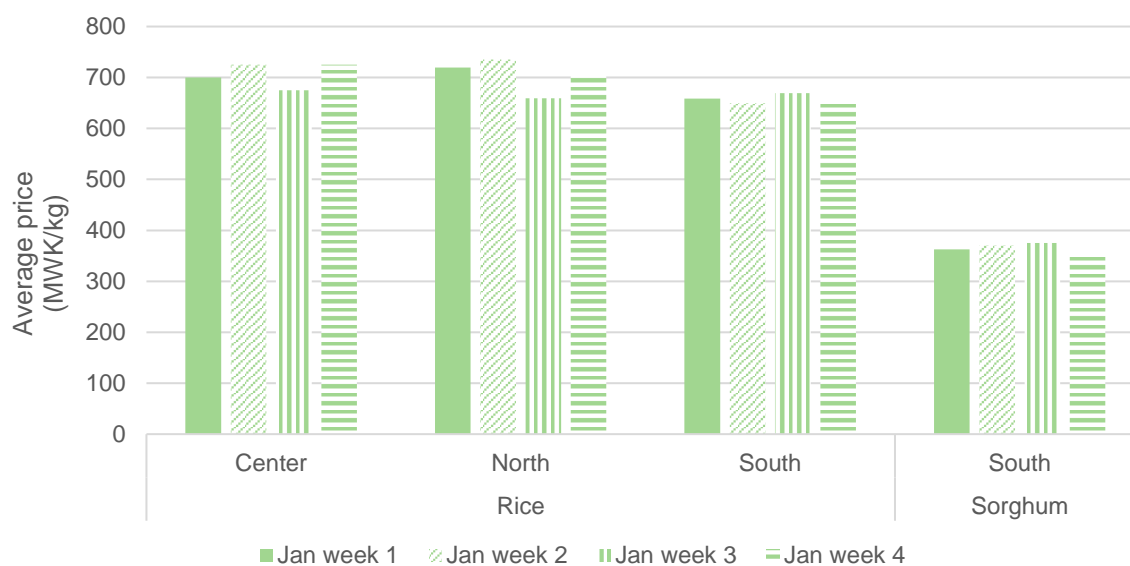
**Table 3.** Retail prices of roots and tubers (MWK/unit) during January 2021

Commodity	Market	Dec	Jan				Change since Dec 25	
		Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Cassava	<b>North</b>	-	<b>469</b>	<b>498</b>	-	<b>504</b>	↑	7%
	Mpamba	-	469	480	-	480	↑	2%
	Mzuzu	-	469	517	-	517	↑	10%
	Nkhatabay-boma	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>Center</b>	<b>366</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Chinkhoma	366	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Kaw amba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Mitundu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<b>South</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>413</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>297</b>	→	0%
	Limbe	280	160	340	160	286	↑	2%
	Namw era turn-of	315	606	486	411	320	↑	2%
	<b>All markets</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>401</b>	↑	<b>32%</b>
	Sweet potato	<b>South</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>352</b>	↑
Bangw e		221	-	250	225	333	↑	51%
Chilobw e		333	333	333	306	333	→	0%
Chinakanaka		467	400	450	400	400	↓	-14%
Ndirande		333	333	333	333	333	↑	0%
Zingw anga		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>All markets</b>		<b>339</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>502</b>	↑	<b>48%</b>
Irish potato		<b>North</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1050</b>	↑
	Jenda	1000	1052	1600	500	1050	↑	5%
	<b>Center</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>507</b>	↑	11%
	Lizulu-Lilongw e	500	600	500	550	475	↓	-5%
	Lizulu	450	467	533	467	533	↑	19%
	Tsangano turn-of	400	550	925	600	500	↑	25%
	<b>South</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>556</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>633</b>	↑	<b>37%</b>
	Blantyre market	437	511	561	513	617	↑	41%
	Limbe	500	600	517	583	650	↑	30%
	<b>All markets</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>629</b>	↑	<b>9%</b>

**Note:** - = prices not reported from this market; cassava and Irish potatoes are priced per kilogram; sweet potatoes are priced per heap.

## Other Cereals

**Figure 2.** Regional average retail prices (MWK/kg) of rice during January 2021



**Table 4.** Retail prices of other cereals (MWK/kg) during January 2021

Commodity	Market	Dec	Jan				Change since Dec 25	
		Dec 25	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Rice	<b>North</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>705</b>	↑	<b>13%</b>
	Karonga-boma	700	692	775	750	775	↑	11%
	Mzimba-boma	800	800	763	800	900	↑	13%
	Nkhatabay-boma	600	725	775	600	700	↑	17%
	Pusi	725	800	800	625	800	↑	10%
	Wovwe	483	550	563	567	533	↓	-5%
	<b>Center</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>725</b>	↑	<b>4%</b>
	Nkhotakota-boma	700	650	700	600	700	→	0%
	Salima-kamuzu road	700	750	750	750	750	↑	7%
	<b>South</b>	<b>644</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>651</b>	↑	<b>1%</b>
	Chiringa	633	650	617	667	617	↓	-3%
	Phalombe	683	733	733	775	750	↑	10%
	Songani	600	550	597	602	620	↑	3%
<b>All markets</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>689</b>	↑	<b>7%</b>	
Sorghum	<b>South</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>350</b>	↓	<b>-7%</b>
	Chikwawa	350	325	350	350	350	→	0%
	Ngabu	-	400	400	400	-	→	0%
	Nsanje	400	400	400	400	-	→	0%
	<b>All markets</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>350</b>	↓	<b>-7%</b>

**Note:** - = prices not reported from this market; rice and sorghum are priced per kilogram

### How data were collected

With financial support from the European Union, IFPRI Malawi began monitoring retail prices of selected legumes, roots and tubers, and non-maize cereals\* in selected markets in January 2020. Currently, prices are collected from 44 markets across the country, with monitoring occurring once per week. Three monitors report prices from each market. Data is collected by means of automated short message service (SMS) with follow-ups made by telephone the next day if needed. The commodities monitored are being phased-in, starting with legumes, root crops and other cereals, and then expanding to include livestock products and fish by the end of March 2021. Note that the number of markets monitored vary by commodity because major markets are targeted in areas where these commodities are widely produced.

\* daily retail prices for maize are available from our [monthly maize market reports](#)



For further information contact

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