



MONTHLY UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY AND PRICES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

ISSUE #27, October 2014, World Food Programme

Monthly Update on Food Security and Prices is produced by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of the World Food Programme Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic as a contribution to periodic food security monitoring in the country. This is the 27th issue of the update.

Highlights

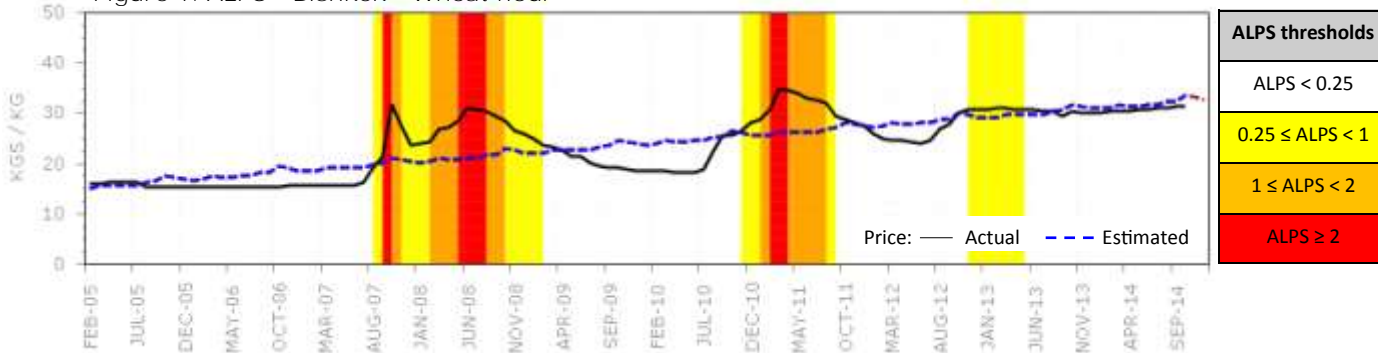
- ◆ The national average retail price of wheat flour increased 2% on a month-on-month basis in October 2014. The price was around 15% higher than the same period last year when prices were at their lowest level in the last two years (Figure 2).
- ◆ The export price of wheat in Kazakhstan increased 1% in October 2014 but the price was still 12% lower than in the same period last year (Figure 3).
- ◆ Depreciation of the national currency (Figure 4), high fuel prices for transportation (Figure 5) and the lower wheat harvest resulting from dry weather earlier this year are potential factors that may have contributed to the price increase.
- ◆ The Kyrgyz Som depreciated against the US dollar by 6% during the last three months (August-October) and by 14% compared to the same month last year (Figure 4).
- ◆ Fuel prices (Petrol 92) have increased by 31% from May to October 2014.
- ◆ Prices of potatoes increased by around 20% in October. Prices of cabbage, carrot and onion also increased by 8%, 7% and 16% respectively on a month on month basis (Figure 7).

Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) for early detection of price hike

The Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS) provides early warning of rising food prices by detecting abnormally high levels of local food prices. The ALPS calculates the difference between the latest observed price available and the corresponding seasonal price trend. Colour-shaded bars indicate the periods where the actual price (black line) was above/below the estimated trend (blue dotted line). The ALPS attributes colour codes according to the severity of the gap between the two lines. The ALPS is updated each month using the latest price data available for the main staples in more than 30 countries.

WFP has conducted ALPS analysis for wheat prices in Bishkek using long-term price data from the National Statistics Committee. The analysis in Figure 1 illustrates that wheat flour prices experienced an alarmingly higher than normal seasonal trend from mid-2007 to mid-2008 and from late 2010 to mid 2011. The price level in October 2014 was within the normal pattern of the price series. The intensity of price abnormalities are classified using standard deviations (STD).

Figure 1. ALPS - Bishkek - Wheat flour

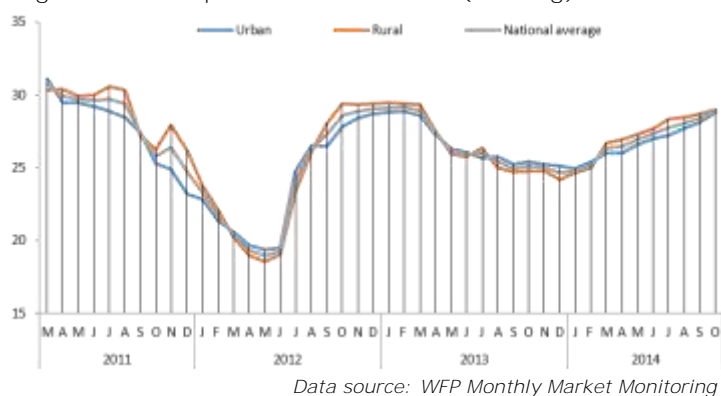


Data source: National Statistics Committee, Analysis provided by WFP



Wheat flour prices in urban and rural areas (October 2014)

Figure 2. Retail prices of wheat flour (KGS/kg)



Data source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

The national average retail price of wheat flour increased by 2% on a month-on-month basis in October 2014 (Figure 2). The price was around 15% higher than the same period last year when the prices were at their lowest level in the last two years.

The National Statistics Committee's (NSC) price monitoring, which covers the main urban markets, also showed a similar increase in wheat flour prices on a month-on-month basis.

Depreciation of the national currency (Figure 4), high fuel prices for transportation (Figure 5) and the lower wheat harvest resulting from dry weather earlier this year especially in the main wheat producing areas in the north, are potential factors that may have contributed to the price increase.

International prices (October 2014)

Figure 3. Wholesale price of wheat, USD/ton

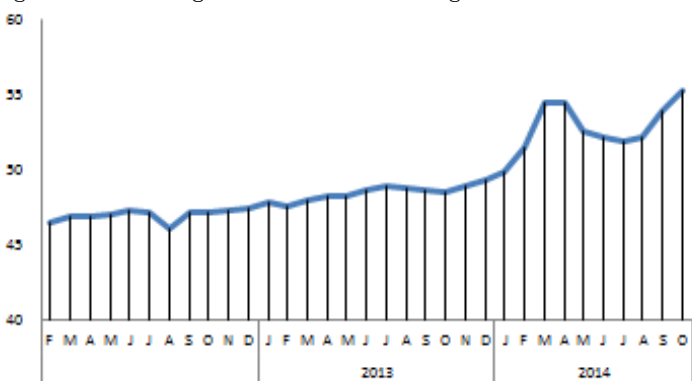


Data source: FAO Global Information and Early Warning System (Kazakhstan FOB); Wheat, No. 1 Hard Red Winter, FOB Gulf of Mexico (US FOB)

The export price of wheat in Kazakhstan (Free on Board [FOB] rate) increased 1% in October 2014 but the price was 12% lower than in the same period last year (Figure 3). The US FOB price showed similar tendency and increased 1% in October 2014.

Currency Exchange Rate (October 2014)

Figure 4. Exchange rate of US Dollar against the KGS



Source: National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

The Kyrgyz Som depreciated against the US dollar by 6% during the last three months (August-October) and by 14% compared to the same month last year (Figure 4). The sharp depreciation likely affected fuel prices and retail prices of the main imported food commodities, including wheat flour. A close monitoring of the situation in currency exchange markets and the impact on domestic retail prices is required.

Fuel Prices (October 2014)

Figure 5. Retail prices of fuel (Petrol 92 and diesel, KGS/litre)



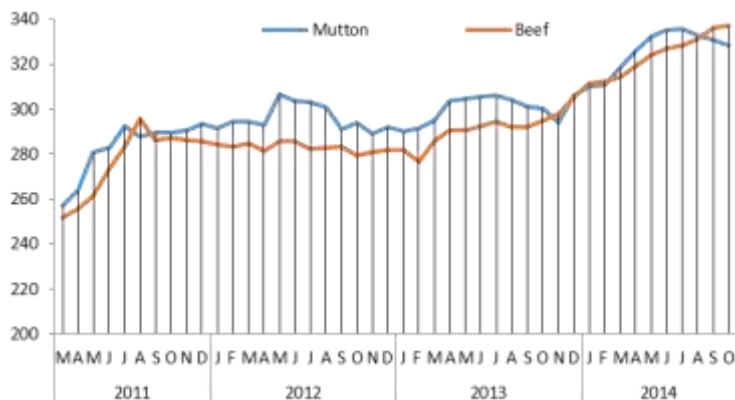
Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

Fuel prices (Petrol 92) have increased by 31% during May - October 2014. On a year-on-year basis, the price in October 2014 was 28% higher than in October 2013 (Figure 5).

Fuel prices have been consistently higher in rural areas since WFP started price monitoring in rural areas in April 2012. Close monitoring of prices in rural areas will be required as high fuel prices and transportation costs may continue to be transmitted to consumers.

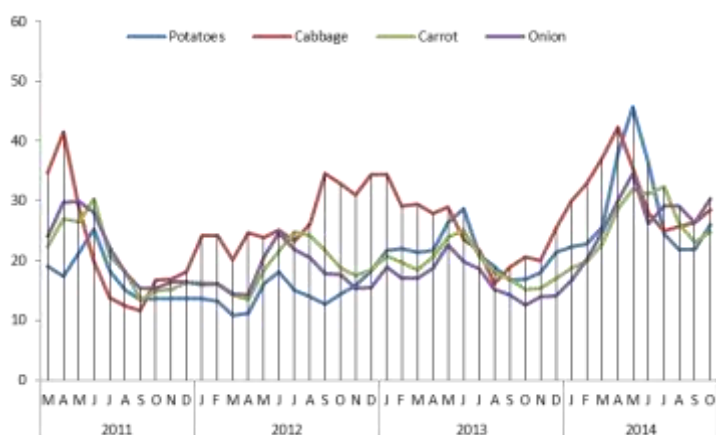
PRICES OF OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES (OCTOBER 2014)

Figure 6. Retail prices of meat (KGS/kg)



Meat: Meat prices did not show major fluctuations in October 2014 and remained near the record high level - the prices were 9% and 14% higher for mutton and beef respectively than in October 2013 (Figure 6).

Figure 7. Retail prices of potato, cabbage, carrot and onion (KGS/kg)










Potatoes and vegetables: Prices of potatoes increased by around 20% in October and were 54% higher than in the same period last year. Prices of cabbage, carrot and onion also increased by 8%, 7% and 16% respectively on a month on month basis (Figure 7).

OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- ◆ Despite stabilized and relatively lower export prices in Kazakhstan, domestic retail prices of wheat flour remain high, likely due to depreciation of the local currency, high fuel prices and reduced domestic production. Depreciation of the local currency may further increase transport costs and prices of imported foods. It is unlikely that basic food prices will go down significantly during the next few months. Close attention should be paid to volatile and higher prices for some basic food items.
- ◆ The alarming increase in prices for some of the basic commodities such as meat, potatoes and vegetables might strengthen the pressure on already limited food access among the most vulnerable households, potentially worsening the diets of these households. These effects could be further exacerbated before and during upcoming winter months, when additional resources for heating are required.
- ◆ In the months ahead, WFP will pay close attention to food prices in local markets to detect whether the price change is seasonal or abnormal. The alert will be shared with stakeholders when the observed price is above the normal seasonal trend.

ANNEX 1—PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES IN RURAL AND URBAN MARKETS (OCTOBER 2014)

The retail prices of basic commodities are monitored on a monthly basis in selected rural and urban markets in all oblasts (provinces) of the country. The latest retail prices are compared against prices in the previous month, three months ago, and one year ago.

Area	Commodity	Current Price (KGS)	Change in Price (%)			Level of Fluctuation			Commodity	Current Price (KGS)	Change in Price (%)			Level of Fluctuation		
			1 m	3 m	1 yr	1 m	3 m	1 yr			1 m	3 m	1 yr			
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	31	3%	5%	17%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	31	3%	9%	23%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	330	0%	0%	18%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	320	0%	0%	7%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	350	3%	6%	17%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	330	3%	10%	10%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	37	1%	7%	14%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	27	8%	8%		▶	▶	▶
	Potato	27	13%	-7%	17%	▶	▼	▶	Potato	26	13%	-13%	18%	▶	▼	▶
	Cooking oil	96	1%	-1%	1%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	98	1%	4%	-6%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	52	0%	-2%	8%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	52	0%	-3%	-1%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	50	8%	16%	28%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	50	9%	16%	29%	▶	▶	▶	
Diesel	44	-2%	-3%	9%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	44	-1%	-3%	9%	▶	▶	▶	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	24	0%	3%	1%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	24	0%	1%	3%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	305	-2%	-6%	14%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	320	0%	-3%	14%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	322	-1%	1%	18%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	320	0%	-3%		▶	▶	▶
	Milk	21	3%	3%	3%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	23	13%	0%	13%	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	23	7%	30%	27%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	23	0%	0%	36%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	93	0%	3%	-2%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	92	0%	0%	-8%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	54	-3%	-3%	16%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	58	0%	5%	21%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	46	-1%	21%	26%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	46	-3%	21%	25%	▶	▶	▶	
Diesel	42	-1%	7%	9%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	42	-2%	8%	9%	▶	▶	▶	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	29	0%	4%	16%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	29	0%	4%	16%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	317	0%	0%	9%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	305	0%	0%	5%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	330	0%	2%	3%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	330	0%	3%	3%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	20	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	25	0%	0%	25%	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	20	33%	-8%	100%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	20	33%	0%	100%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	100	0%	0%	-2%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	105	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	55	0%	0%	10%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	60	0%	0%	13%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	50	14%	25%	32%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diesel	46	4%	0%	15%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	30	0%	7%	14%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	33	0%	-6%		▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	280	-7%	-20%	6%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Meat (beef)	313	-2%	-10%	4%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Milk	25	0%	67%	25%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	25	25%	25%		▶	▶	▶
	Potato	25	47%	-21%	67%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	25	-7%	-29%	150%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	95	6%	6%	4%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	120	4%	-1%	0%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	51	0%	1%	12%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	59	0%	1%	8%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	50	4%	29%	29%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diesel	43	-3%	-2%	10%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	31	10%	10%	15%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	29	0%	2%	16%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	350	-3%	0%	13%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	9%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	360	0%	3%	20%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	360	0%	3%	20%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	37	9%	0%	59%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	30	0%	0%	50%	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	33	43%	67%	67%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	35	50%	75%	75%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	90	2%	4%	-5%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	88	2%	2%	-7%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	55	0%	10%	10%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	55	0%	9%	10%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	53	0%	18%	32%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	53	0%	18%	27%	▶	▶	▶	
Diesel	45	0%	-5%	8%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	45	-1%	-5%	7%	▶	▶	▶	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	27	0%	6%	6%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	27	0%	3%	7%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	17%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	340	0%	0%	13%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	340	0%	3%	17%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	330	0%	0%	18%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	30	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶	Milk	30	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	30	27%	20%	50%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	30	20%	20%	50%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	82	-2%	-4%	-8%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	83	-4%	-2%	-7%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	50	0%	0%	1%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	50	0%	-1%	0%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	53	3%	18%	28%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	53	3%	16%	27%	▶	▶	▶	
Diesel	46	1%	-3%	8%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	46	1%	-2%	9%	▶	▶	▶	
	Urban						Rural									
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	30	4%	4%	22%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	30	4%	6%	18%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	0%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	350	0%	9%	25%	▶	▶	▶	Meat (beef)	350	0%	9%	25%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	28	0%	-29%		▶	▶	▶	Milk	28	6%	-18%		▶	▶	▶
	Potato	23	0%	0%	46%	▶	▶	▶	Potato	25	15%	10%	44%	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking oil	110	0%	0%	6%	▶	▶	▶	Cooking oil	108	0%	0%	7%	▶	▶	▶
	Sugar	55	0%	0%	6%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	57	0%	0%	6%	▶	▶	▶
Petrol (Octane rating 92)	54	2%	19%	26%	▶	▶	▶	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	54	4%	21%	28%	▶	▶	▶	
Diesel	48	0%	-2%	9%	▶	▶	▶	Diesel	47	0%	-3%	9%	▶	▶	▶	

- ▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation
- ▶ Normal price fluctuation
- ▼ Price decrease below normal fluctuation

Price fluctuation is considered normal if change within:
5% for 1 month, 10% for 3 months, 15% for 1 year

ANNEX 2 – MARKET LOCATIONS MONITORED BY WFP AND NSC

Retail prices of basic food commodities are monitored and reported by the NSC in selected province and rayon capitals (coloured in red).

WFP monitors prices of basic food commodities in seven markets in urban areas and thirteen markets in rural areas, where **more than two thirds of people classified as 'poor' live**.

Increased and volatile food prices will affect food insecure and vulnerable families the most because they spend the largest proportion of their household budgets on food.



Administrative boundaries Monitored markets



The price data of this report reflects WFP's actual monthly recording of prices in seven urban and thirteen rural markets around the country, as well as in urban settlements monitored by the NSC. Should any recipient of this bulletin require information from previous monitoring conducted by WFP since June 2009, please contact the WFP Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic at WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org

Monthly bulletins and more food security analysis publications are available on:

www.wfp.org/countries/kyrgyzstan/publications