

Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **September 2017** (Reported in October 2017)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 23.3/kg) is negligibly lower by 1.4% compared to the same time last year (September 2016), but slightly higher by 4.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016).
- **Wheat flour (High Price):** The current retail price (AFN 27.3/kg) is slightly lower by 8.2% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and slightly lower by 7.6% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- **Rice** is considered as the 2nd main staple food in Afghanistan. The current average retail price of Low Quality Rice (AFN 45.2/kg) is slightly higher by 7.3% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and slightly higher by 7.0% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 84.0/kg) is significantly higher by 10.2% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and slightly higher by 4.2% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- **Pulses:** The current retail price (AFN 87.6/kg) is significantly higher by 15.0% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and significantly higher by 36.6% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

Terms of Trade (ToT)

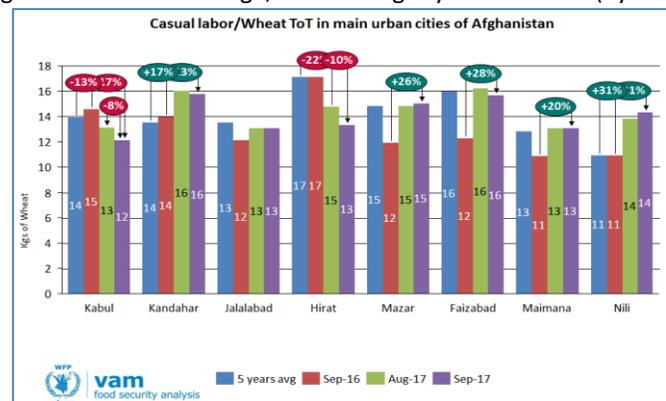
Casual Labor and Wheat (ToT): *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and wheat is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with one- day casual unskilled labor wage, but does not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.* Labor wage/Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 14.0 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly deteriorated (by 2.2%)

from August to September 2017, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 2.3%. The highest deterioration occurred only in Hirat (by 9.8%) and Kabul (7.5%) due to increase of wheat price by 5.6% in Hirat and decrease in labor wage by 11.1% in Kabul. The variations in all other remaining main city markets were within normal range (-1.6% to 3.6%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in;

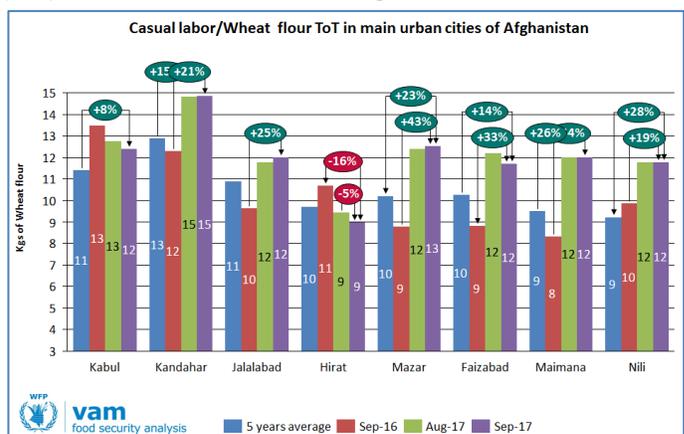
- August to September 2016 (by 0.4%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.9%)

While improved in;

- August to September 2014 (by 0.7%)
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (September 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 8.2%, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 8.4%) as well slightly decreased of wheat price (by 1.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 10.8%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012-2016), this ToT negligibly deteriorated 0.2%.



Casual Labor and High Price Wheat flour (ToT): *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of Wheat Flour in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of Wheat Flour (HP) can be purchased with one-day casual unskilled labor wage, but does not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.*



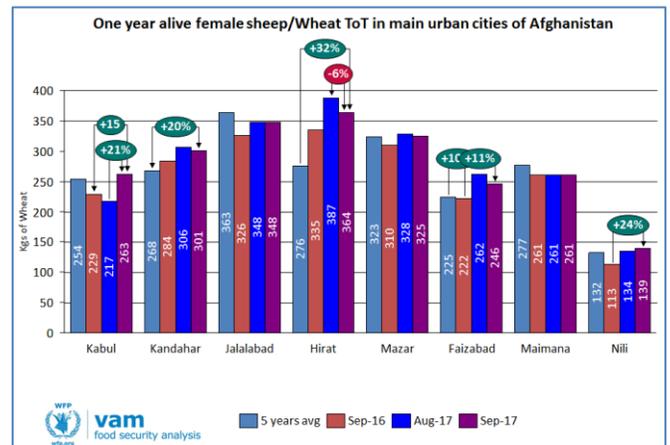
Labor wage/Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 12.0 Kgs of Wheat flour which negligibly deteriorated (by 1.0%) from August to September 2017, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 2.3%. The variations in all main city markets were within normal range (-4.9% to 2.0%).

In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in;

- August to September 2016 and 2014 (by 2.8%)
- August to September 2015 (by 2.5 %)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 17.4%, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 8.4%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 8.2%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 27.7%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 14.5%.

Sheep and Wheat (ToT): *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and Wheat is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households mainly relying on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

Sheep/Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 280.8Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 0.1% from August to September 2017, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 0.7%) and decreased wheat price (by 0.5%). The highest improvement only occurred in Kabul (20.8%) due to increase in sheep price and decreased of wheat price. While this ToT has deteriorated for the reporting month for Hirat (6.0%) and Faizabad (5.8%) mainly due to decrease of sheep price after Eid. The variation all other main cities markets was within normal range (-1.7% to 3.6%).



In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was experienced in;

- August to September 2016 (by 4.1%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.4%)
- August to September 2014 (by 2.9%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 8.1%, which is mainly due to increased sheep price (by 8.6%) and decreased wheat price by 1.4%.
- On the two-year comparison (September 2015) this ToT significantly improved by 13.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 6.0%.

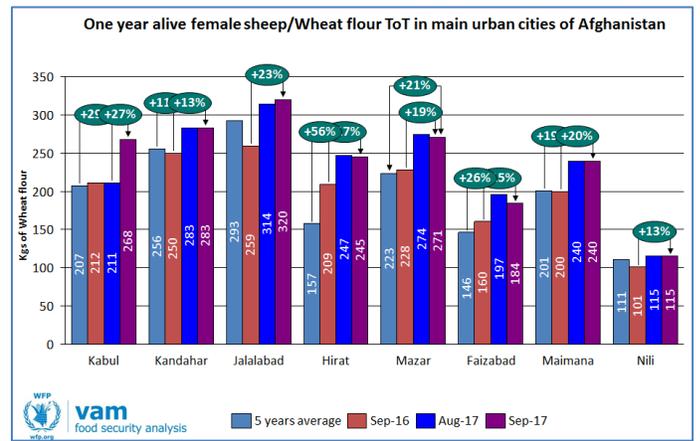
Sheep and High Price Wheat flour (ToT): *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households mainly relying on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat Flour (HP) can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

Sheep-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 240.7Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly improved by 2.4% from August to September 2017, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 0.7%) and decreased

wheat flour price (by 1.3%). The highest improvement only occurred in Kabul (by 26.8%) due to increase of sheep price and decrease in wheat flour prices. While this ToT has deteriorated for the reporting month only for Faizabad (6.5%) mainly due to decrease of sheep price after Eid. The variation in all other markets was within normal range (-1.2% to 2.0%).

In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was experienced in;

- August to September 2016 (by 1.4%)
- August to September 2015 (by 0.7%)
- August to September 2014 (by 0.4%)



- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 18.9%, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 8.6%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 8.2%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 29.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 20.7%.

Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN **23.3/Kg** in September 2017. Compared to the past month (August 2017), the average price negligibly decreased by 0.5%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.9 % to 1.6%), except the largest increased only occurred in Hirat (by 5.6%), mainly due to decrease of supply from the source points as well as more demands by the traders who buy in bulk and transport to the neighbouring provinces. In the last three proceeding years this decrease was only experienced in;

- August to September 2014 (by 1.4%)

While the price increased during;

- August to September 2016 (by 0.3%)
- August to September 2015 (by 2.0%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), the average wheat price negligibly decreased by 1.4%. The highest decrease occurred only in Nili (by 12.5%) due to increased supply of wheat. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-5.6% to 7.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2015), the average price slightly increased by 2.4%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly increased by 4.7%.

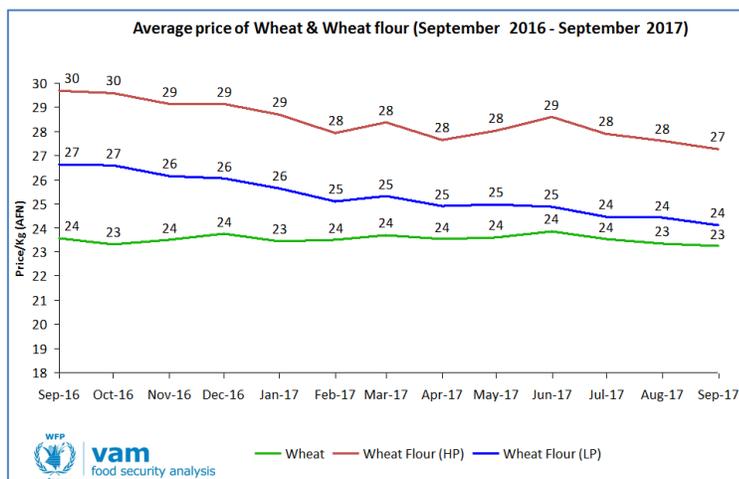
Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

Wheat flour (High Price):

The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN **27.3/Kg** in the reporting month (September 2017). The average price negligibly decreased by 1.3% compared to the previous month (August 2017). The highest decreased only occurred in Kabul (by 8.5%), which was mainly due to increased supply. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-2.0% to 0.7 %). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was not experienced, while increased in;

- August to September 2016 (by 3.0%)
- August to September 2015 (by 3.1%)
- August to September 2014 (by 2.6%)

- Compared to the same month last year (September 2016), the current average price slightly decreased by 8.2%. The highest decrease occurred in Maimana (by 16.7%) and Mazar (15.8%) due to increased supply of wheat flour. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-0.7% to -8.8%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average price of wheat flour significantly decreased by 10.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 7.6%.



Wheat flour (Low Price):

The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in

main cities' markets was AFN **24.1/Kg** in the reporting month (September 2017). The average price negligibly decreased 1.3% compared to previous month (August 2017). The highest decrease only occurred in Kabul (by 6.4%), which was mainly due to increased supply. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-1.8 % to 0.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was not experienced, while increased in;

- August to September 2016 (by 2.9%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.1%)
- August to September 2014 (by 0.6%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), the current average price slightly decreased by 9.4%. The highest decrease occurred in Maimana (by 18.5%), Mazar (by 17.6%) and Nili (by 14.3%) due to increased supply of wheat flour, the variation in all other remaining main cities was within a normal range (-8.3% to 0.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 9.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 6.7%.

Retail Price of Rice in Main Urban Cities:

Rice (High Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN **84.0/Kg** in the reporting month (September 2017) which negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to the previous month (August 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.9% to 0.9%). In the last three proceeding years this decrease was only experienced in;
 - August to September 2015 (by 1.2%) and remained the same in August to September 2016

While the price increased during;

- August to September 2014 (by 0.4%)

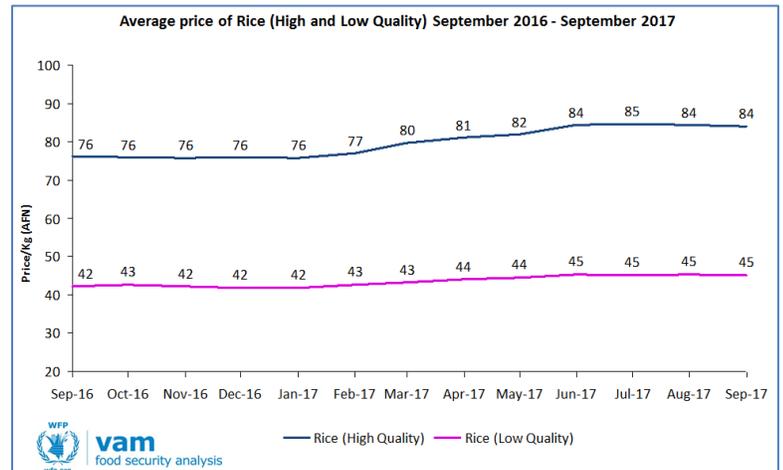
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), the average price significantly increased by 10.2%. The largest increase occurred in Hirat (25.0%), Kandahar (22.2%), Maimana (12.7%), Mazar (10.5%) and Kabul (10.3%), mainly due to decrease of supply. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (1.5% to 5.1%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average price slightly increased by 6.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly increased by 4.2%.

Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN **45.2**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2017), which negligibly decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous month (August 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-1.7% to 0.6%). In the last three preceding years this decrease was experienced in;
 - August to September 2015 (by 0.5%)
 - August to September 2014 (by 0.7%)

While the price increased during;

- August to September 2016 (by 0.7%)



- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), the average price slightly increased by 7.3%. The largest increase occurred in Faizabad (by 25.6%) and Mazar (13.9%), mainly due to decreased supply of low quality rice from Pakistan this year. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-9.3% to 8.1%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average price significantly increased by 13.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly increased by 7.0%.

Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of cooking oil in main cities' markets was AFN **82.3**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2017), being negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to previous month (August 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-4.5% to 1.1%). In the last three preceding years, this decrease was experienced only in;

- August to September 2015 and 2014 (by 1.0%)

While the price increased during;

- August to September 2016 (by 0.8%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 1.2%. The largest increase only occurred in Kandahar (by 12.0%), main reason for the increase was increased price of oil by the traders and decreased supply of oil from source points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-2.7% to 1.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average price slightly increased by 8.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 1.4%.

Retail Price of Pulses, Salt, Sugar and No. of days averagely worked by a labourer:

Pulses: The monthly average price of Pulses in September 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **87.6**/Kg negligibly decreased by 0.8% from last month (August 2017). The variation in all main cities markets was within a normal range (-2.9% to 0.0%).

- Compared to the same time last year (September 2016), the price of pulses significantly increased by 15.0%, the highest increase occurred in Jalalabad (23.2%), followed by Kabul (20.6%), Maimana (20.0%), Kandahar (18.9%), Nili (17.6%) and Mazar (13.2%), mainly due to decreased supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (4.5% to 6.0%).

- Compared to the same time two year ago (September 2015), the price of pulses significantly increased by 42.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2012 - 2016), the prices of pulses increased significantly by 36.6%.

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in September 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **13.9/Kg** negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to the previous month (August 2017). The current average price of salt negligibly decreased by 0.2% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and slightly increased by 5.1% compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015).

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in September 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **50.7/Kg**, being slightly decreased by 2.6% compared to the previous month (August 2017). The highest decrease occurred in Mazar (6.8%) and Maimana (6.0%), mainly due to increase of supply. The current average price of Sugar is slightly decreased by 7.2% compared to the same month last year (September 2016), and increased by 24.2% compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015) due to increased price in source points.

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during August 2017 was reported at 13.4 days. The highest number of working days were in Kandahar and Nili (16 days) followed by Kabul (15 days), Jalalabad (14 days), Hirat, Mazar and Maimana (12 days) and Faizabad (10.0 days). Compared to the previous month (August 2017), the significant decrease occurred in Faizabad by 9.1% (1 day) and Kabul 6.3% (1 day) and the variation in other main cities remain unchanged.

- Compared to the same month last year (September 2016), the average number of working days in a month increased by 0.9% (0.1day). Increased in Kandahar by 33.3 % (4 days) and Faizabad by 25.0% (2.0 days). Decrease in Kabul by 25% (5 days), and the variation in other main cities was zero.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2015), the average number of working days for main cities slightly decreased by 0.9% (0.1 day).

