Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of November 2017 (Reported in December 2017)

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Wheat:** The current average wheat price in main cities’ markets of Afghanistan (AFN 23.5/Kg) is negligibly lower by 0.1% compared to the same time last year (November 2016) and negligibly higher by 1.1% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (November 2012 - 2016).

- **Wheat flour (High Price):** The current retail price (AFN 27.8/kg) is slightly lower by 4.6% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and slightly lower by 7.7% 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 44.2/kg) is slightly higher by 4.8% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and slightly higher by 3.3% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 85.2/kg) is significantly higher by 12.5% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and slightly higher by 4.4% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

- **Pulses:** The current retail price (AFN 86.8/kg) is significantly higher by 13.5% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and significantly higher by 33.7% 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 13.9 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly deteriorated (by 1.8%) from October to November 2017, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 1.4% and increased wheat price by 0.5%. The highest deterioration occurred in Faizabad (by 11.4%) and Nili (5.6%) due to decreased labor wage in both Faizabad and Nili and improved in Kabul by 12% due to increased labor wage. The variations in all other remaining main city markets were within normal range (-3.6% to 0.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in:

- October to November 2015 (by 5.3%)
- October to November 2014 (by 3.2%)

While improved only in:

- October to November 2016 (by 0.2%)

*In comparison to the same month one year ago (November 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 6.6%, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 8.8%) and negligibly decrease of wheat price (by 0.1%).

*On the two-year comparison (November 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 24.1%.

*Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (November 2012-2016), this ToT slightly improved 7.7%.*

**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 11.9 Kgs of Wheat flour which negligibly deteriorated (by 1.1%) from October to November 2017, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 1.4% and increased wheat flour by 0.5%. The largest deterioration occurred in Faizabad (by 14.3%) and Nili (5.6%) due to decreased labor wage in both Faizabad and Nili and improved in Kabul by 12% due to increased labor wage by 12%. The variations in other main city markets were within normal range (-3.8% to 4.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was only experienced in;

- October to November 2015 (by 0.9%)

While improved in;

- October to November 2016 (by 2.6%)
- October to November 2014 (by 1.0%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 14.3%, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 8.8%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 4.6%).

- On the two-year comparison (November 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 32.4%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2012 - 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 20.6%.

#### 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 274.5Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 1.0% from October to November 2017, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 0.4%) and increased wheat price (by 0.5%). The largest deterioration occurred in Maimana (6.3%) and Mazar (5.8%) due to decreased sheep price. The variation all other main cities markets was within normal range (-3.6% to 4.3%).

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

- October to November 2016 (by 0.7%)
- October to November 2014 (by 4.2%)

While improved only in;

- October to November 2015 (by 0.3%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 7.5%, which is mainly due to increased sheep price (by 10.0%) and decreased of wheat price (by 0.1%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2015) this ToT significantly improved by 18.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2012 - 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 9.7%.

#### 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.

In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was only experienced in;
Sheep-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 234.8Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 1.2% from October to November 2017, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 0.4%) and increased wheat flour price (by 0.5%). The largest deterioration occurred in Mazar (8.5%) and Maimana (5.3%) due to decreased sheep price in both Mazar and Maimana and increased wheat flour price. While it improved in Mazar by 3.0% and Hirat by 5.2% due to increased sheep price by 7.9%. The variation in all other markets was within normal range (-3.8% to 4.1%).

In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was only experienced in;
- October to November 2014 (by 0.7%)

While improved in;
- October to November 2016 (by 1.8%)
- October to November 2015 (by 3.7%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 15.7%, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 10.0%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 4.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 26.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (November 2012 - 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 21.9%.

**Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:**

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities’ markets of Afghanistan was AFN 23.5/Kg in November 2017. Compared to the past month (October 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 0.5%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-3.3% to 3.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced in;
  - October to November 2016 (by 0.9%)
  - October to November 2015 (by 2.8%)
  - October to November 2014 (by 2.5%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), the average wheat price negligibly decreased by 0.1%. The largest decrease only occurred only Nili (by 12.5%) due to more supply and increase occurred in Hirat (by 18.1%) and Kandahar (11.7%) due to decrease of supply from the source points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-9.3% to 4.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 3.4%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (November 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 1.1%.

**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 27.8/Kg in the reporting month (November 2017). The average price negligibly increased by 0.5% compared to the previous month (October 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-3.9% to 4.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was not experienced, while decreased;
- October to November 2016 and 2014 (by 1.5%)
- October to November 2015 (by 1.6%)
While the price decreased during;

- October to November 2015 (by 1.5%)
- November 2016 (by 0.4%)
- October to November 2014 (by 0.2%)

Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), the current average price significantly increased by 12.5%. The largest increase occurred in Kandahar (27.5%), Hirat (25.3%), Maimana (16.0%), Kabul and Mazar (13.3%), mainly due to decrease of supply. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (2.0% to 6.0%).

Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2015), the average price slightly increased by 7.8%.

Compared to 5-year average price of some months (November 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly increased by 4.4%.
Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities’ markets was AFN 44.2/Kg in the reporting month (November 2017), which slightly decreased by 1.2% compared to the previous month (October 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.6% to 0.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was experienced in;
  - October to November 2016 and 2014 (by 0.9%)

While increase only in;

  - October to November 2015 (by 0.6%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), the average price slightly increased by 4.8%. The largest increase occurred in Mazar (by 13.9%) and Faizabad (10.4%) mainly due to increase of low quality rice price in Pakistan and Kabul. The variation in all main other cities was within a normal range (2.5% to 8.1%).

- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2015), the average price slightly increased by 9.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Novembers 2012 - 2016), the average price slightly increased by 3.3%.

Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of cooking oil in main cities’ markets was AFN 81.4/Kg in the reporting month (November 2017), being negligibly increased by 0.2% compared to previous month (October 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-0.2% to 1.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was only experienced in;
  - October to November 2015 (by 1.0%)

While the price decreased during;

  - October to November 2016 (by 0.7%)
  - October to November 2014 (by 0.5%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 1.0%. The largest increase only occurred in Kandahar (by 17.1 %), 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 (-6.3% to 2.8%).

- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2015), the average price slightly increased by 5.2%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 0.3%.
**Retail Price of Pulses, Salt, Sugar and No. of days averagely worked by a labourer:**

**Pulses:** The monthly average price of Pulses in November 2017 in main cities’ markets was AFN 86.8/Kg negligibly decreased by 0.7% from last month (October 2017). The variation in all main cities markets was within a normal range (-2.1% to 3.4%).

- Compared to the same time last year (November 2016), the price of pulses significantly increased by 13.5%, the highest increase occurred in Maimana (25.0%), followed by Jalalabad and (21.1%), Nili (17.6%), Kandahar (16.6%), Kabul (16.0%) and Mazar (11.1%), mainly due to decreased supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-2.1% to 3.4%).
- Compared to the same time two year ago (November 2015), the price of pulses significantly increased by 35.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (November 2012 - 2016), the prices of pulses increased significantly by 33.7%.

**Salt:** The monthly average price of Salt in November 2017 in main cities’ markets was AFN 14.1/Kg and it remained unchanged compared to the previous month (October 2017). The current average price of salt negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and slightly increased by 2.5% compared to the same month two years ago (November 2015).

**Sugar:** The monthly average price of Sugar in November 2017 in main cities’ markets was AFN 46.6/Kg, being slightly decreased by 4.3% compared to the previous month (October 2017). The highest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (by 20.0%) due to coming winter (low consumption) as well as season for other alternatives such as Sugarcane and Faizabad (6.9%) mainly due to increase of supply. The current average price of Sugar is significantly decreased by 15.2% compared to the same month last year (November 2016), and increased by 8.6% compared to the same month two years ago (November 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 November 2017 was reported at 11.8 days. The highest number of working days were in Nili and Kandahar (16 days) followed by Kabul (13 days), Hirat, Mazar and Maimana (12 days), Jalalabad (8 days) and Faizabad (5 days). Compared to the previous month (October 2017), the significant decrease occurred in Nili by 33.3% (8 days), Faizabad by 23.1% (1.5 day) and Kabul 7.1% (1 day) and the variation in other main cities remain unchanged.

- Compared to the same month last year (November 2016), the average number of working days slightly increased by 2.2%(0.3 day).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2015), the average number of working days remained unchanged.
# Market Watch:

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<th>Markets</th>
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<th>Current Price per Kg</th>
<th>Price change [%]</th>
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**Source:** WFP/VAM market data from Afghanistan main cities (Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Faizabad, Herat, Maimana and Nili). Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) – World Food Programme (WFP), Afghanistan