

Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of January 2018 (Reported in February 2018)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wheat: The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 23.9/Kg) is slightly higher by 2.0% compared to the same time last year (January 2017) and negligibly higher by 1.0% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017).
- Wheat flour (High Price): The current retail price (AFN 27.8/kg) is slightly lower by 3.0% compared to the same month last year (January 2017), and slightly lower by 5.9% 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 45.5kg) is slightly higher by 8.9% compared to the same month last year (January 2017), and slightly higher by 5.6 compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 90.6/kg) is significantly higher by 19.7% compared to the same month last year (January 2017), and significantly higher by 11.9% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- **Pulses:** The current retail price (AFN 86.3kg) is significantly higher by 11.0% compared to the same month last year (January 2017), and significantly higher by 31.3% 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 11.9 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly deteriorated (by 1.8%) from December 2017 to January 2018, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 1.1% and increased wheat price by 0.8%. The variations in all main city markets were within normal range (-4.9% to 2.2%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in;

- December 2014 to January 2015 (by 9.0%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 3.9%)

While improved in;

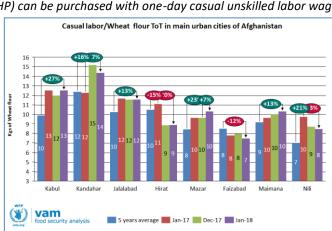
- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 1.0%)
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (January 2017),
- this ToT slightly deteriorated by 7.7%, mainly due to decreased labor wage (by 4.7%) and increased wheat price by 2.0%.
- On the two-year comparison (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 15.7%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013-2017), this ToT negligibly deteriorated 0.3%.

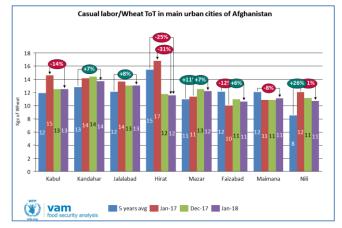
<u>Casual Labor and High Price Wheat flour (ToT)</u>: The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of Wheat Flour in the market. This ToT reveals how many 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 10.5 Kgs of Wheat flour which remained the same from December 2017 to January 2018 but there is a deterioration occurred in Faizabad (by 6.0%) and Kandahar (5.5%) due to decreased labor wage and increased of wheat flour price and largest improvement only occurred in Mazar (by 7.2%) mainly due to decreased of wheat flour price. The variations in all other







remaining main city markets were within normal range (-2.6% to 4.2%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced **in**;

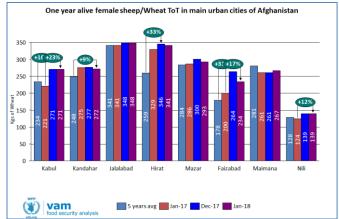
- December 2014 to January 2015 (by 6.2%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.3%)

While improved in;

- o December 2016 to January 2017 (by 1.7%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), this ToT negligibly deteriorated by 0.5%, mainly due to decreased wage labor by 4.7% and wheat flour price (by 3.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 22.4%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), this ToT significantly improved by 10.3%.

<u>Sheep and Wheat (ToT)</u>: 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 270.5Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 1.9% from December 2017 to January 2018, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 1.0%) and increased wheat price by 0.8%. The largest deterioration occurred in Faizabad (11.3%) due to decreased sheep price and increase of wheat price. The variation all other main cities markets was within normal range (-2.4% to 2.2%).



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

- December 2014 to January 2015 (by 0.1%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.2%)

While improved in;

- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 0.6%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), this ToT slightly improved by 6.2%, which is mainly due to increased sheep price (by 9.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2016) this ToT significantly improved by 18.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), this ToT significantly improved by 10.7%.

<u>Sheep and High Price Wheat flour (ToT)</u>: 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.

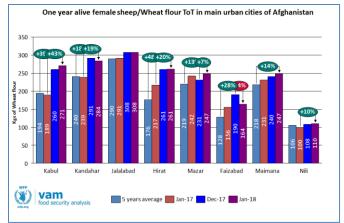
Sheep-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 236.6Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 0.2% from December 2017 to January 2018, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 0.6%). The largest deterioration occurred in Faizabad (13.8%) due to decreased sheep price and increased wheat flour price and highest improvement occurred in Mazar by 7.2% due to decreased wheat flour price. The variation in all other markets was within normal range (-2.4% to 3.1%).



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

- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 2.3%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 2.6%)
- o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 3.2%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), this ToT significantly improved by 13.7%, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 9.8%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 3.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 24.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), this ToT significantly improved by 20.5%.

Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:



- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN **23.9**/Kg in January 2018. Compared to the past month (December 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 0.8%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-2.2% to 3.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced in;
 - December 2014 to January 2015 (by 0.2%)
 December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.9%)

While decrease only in;

- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 1.3%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), the average wheat price negligibly increased by 2.0%. The largest increase occurred Hirat (by 21.0%) and Kandahar (14.4%) due to decrease of supply from the source points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-6.8% to 4.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 4.8%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 1.0%.

Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

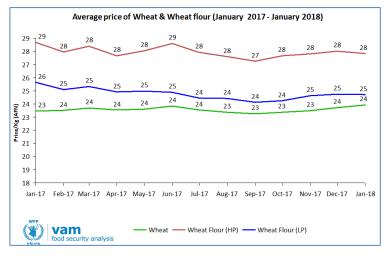
Wheat flour (High Price):

The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN **27.8**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2018). The average price negligibly decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous month (December 2017). The largest decrease occurred only in Mazar (by 6.7%) due to increase of supply from the source point(Kazakhstan) and increase occurred in Faizabad (by 6.3%) due to decrease of supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-4.0% to 2.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was experienced,

- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 1.6%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.1%)
- December 2014 to January 2015 (by 2.8%)



- Compared to the same month last year (January 2017), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.0%. The highest decrease only occurred in Kabul (by 14.3%) due to increased supply of wheat flour. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-6.7% to 4.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average price of wheat flour slightly decreased by 7.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2013 - 2017), the average price slightly decreased by 5.9%.



Wheat flour (Low Price):

The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN **24.7**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2018). The average price negligibly decreased 0.1% compared to previous month (December 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-4.3 % to 3.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was experienced in;

- December 2016 to January 2017 (by 1.6%)
- December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
- December 2014 to January 2015 (by 2.4%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.6%. The highest decrease only occurred in Maimana (by 13.0%) due to increased supply of wheat flour, the variation in all other remaining main cities was within a normal range (-8.3% to 3.4%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 8.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), the average price slightly decreased by 5.6%.

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 90.6/Kg in the reporting month (January 2018) which slightly increased by 4.2% compared to the previous month (December 2017). The highest increase occurred in Mazar (by 10.8%), Maimana (7.6%) and Hirat (5.3%) due to decreased supply of from source of point (Pakistan and India). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (0.3% to 4.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was not experienced, while decrease during;
 - December 2016 to January 2017 (by 0.4%)
 - December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
 - \circ $\,$ December 2014 to January 2015 (by 1.4%) $\,$
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), the average price significantly increased by 19.7%. The largest increase occurred in Hirat (38.8%), Mazar (28.7%), Maimana (27.0%), Kandahar (26.3%), Kabul (19.3%) and Jalalabad (12.9%), mainly due to decrease of supply and increase in prices in the source point (Pakistan). The variation in remaining main cities was within a normal range (5.7% to 7.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average price significantly increased by 16.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of some months (Januarys 2013 2017), the average price significantly increased by 11.9%.

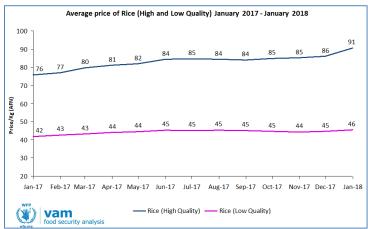


Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN **45.5**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2018), which slightly increased by 1.6% compared to
 - 2018), which slightly increased by 1.6% compared to the previous month (December 2017). The largest increase only occurred in Hirat (by 9.0%) due to decrease of supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (0.0% to 2.4%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced only in;
 - December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.9%)

While decrease only in;

 December 2014 to January 2015 (by 1.2%), and remained the same in December 2016 to January 2017



- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), the average price slightly increased by 8.9 %. The largest increase occurred in Mazar (by 19.4%), Hirat (18.1 %) and Maimana (13.5%) 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 (0.0% to 9.7%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average price significantly increased by 12.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Januarys 2013- 2017), the average price slightly increased by 5.6%.

Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of cooking oil in main cities' markets was AFN **81.8**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2018), remained the same compared to previous month (December 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.2% to 3.1%). In the last three proceeding years, it was not experienced, while decreased;
 - December 2016 to January 2017(by 0.2%)
 - December 2014 to January 2015(by 1.5%) and increased in;
 - o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 1.5%. The largest increase only occurred in Kandahar (by 21.4%), 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 (-5.8% to 2.5%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average price slightly increased by 5.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 2.0%.

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

Pulses: The monthly average price of Pulses in January 2018 in main cities' markets was AFN **86.3**/Kg negligibly decreased by 0.1% from last month (December 2017). The variation in all main cities markets was within a normal range (-2.6% to 1.9%).

- Compared to the same time last year (January 2017), the price of pulses significantly increased by 11.0%, the highest increase occurred in Maimana (25.0%), followed by Jalalabad (19.0%), Nili (17.6%), Kabul (12.2%) and Kandahar (10.5%) mainly due to decreased supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (1.1% to 8.1%).
 - Compared to the same time two year ago (January 2016), the price of pulses significantly increased by 26.8%.



• Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2013 - 2017), the prices of pulses increased significantly by 31.3%.

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in January 2018 in main cities' markets was AFN **14.1**/Kg negligibly decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous month (December 2017). The current average price of salt negligibly increased by 0.7% compared to the same month last year (January 2017), and slightly increased by 1.3% compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016).

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in January 2018 in main cities' markets was AFN **44.9**/Kg, being slightly decreased by 1.8% compared to the previous month (December 2017). The current average price of Sugar is significantly decreased by 17.0% compared to the same month last year (January 2017) due to increase of supply, and remained unchanged compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016).

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during January 2018 was reported at 8.4 days. The highest number of working days were in Kandahar (13 days) followed by Kabul and Hirat (12 days), Mazar and Maimana and Jalalabad (8 days), Nili (4 days) and Faizabad (2 days). Compared to the previous month (December 2017), the significant decrease occurred in Faizabad by 50.0% (2 days) Nili by 20.0% (1 day), and Kandahar 18.8% (3 days) and the variation in other main cities remain unchanged.

- Compared to the same month last year (January 2017), the average number of working days slightly increased by 1.5% (0.1 day).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2016), the average number of working days for main cities significantly increased by 11.7% (0.9 day).



Market Watch:

Markets	Major Comm	Current	Price change (%)				Average						Current Price in	Price change			Average			
		Price per Kg	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1.7	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	Markets	Major Comm	Price in AFN	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1.1		5Y Ave 2	Y 11	r 11
	Wheat	24.0	0.0	-11.1	0.0	0.0			•	•	Livestock-One year	live Sheep (Female)								_
KABUL	Wheat flour (HP)	24.0	-16.7	-20.0	-14.3	-4.0	¥	•	¥	•	KABUL	Sheep	6,500	16.8	18.2	22.6	0.0	A A		
	Rice High Quality	89.5	3.6	11.9	19.3	4.1	►			►	KANDAHAR	Sheep	7,673	20.1	37.0	12.8	0.0	A A		•
	Rice Low Qaulity	58.0	12.4	0.0	0.0	0.0		•	•	•	JALALABAD	Sheep	8,000	6.1	14.3	6.7	0.0	▶ ▲	•	• •
	Cooking Oil	77.0	-4.9	-2.5	-5.8	0.7	►	•	•	•	HIBAT	Sheep	7,360	46.7	35.5	25.3	0.0	A A		•
KANDAHAR	Wheat	28.3	8.8	-0.3	14.4	1.9		•		•	MAZAB	Sheep	6,000	1.2	0.0	-4.8	0.0	• •	• •	• •
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.0	0.7	-5.7	-5.4	2.5	•	•	•	•	FAIZABAD	Sheep	5,500	29.6	22.2	10.0	-8.3	A A		•
	Rice High Quality	81.8	15.1	19.6	26.3	0.3		-		•	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	-2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	• •	•	
	Rice Low Qaulity	32.1	13.7	9.6	4.8	0.2		•	•	•	NILI	Sheep	3,900	-1.8	-2.5	8.3	0.0	• •	•	•
	Cooking Oil	90.5	32.3	20.3	21.4	0.5				•	Terms of Trade		f Wheat/Wheat fl	our						
JALALABAD	Wheat	23.0	4.3	10.8	4.5	0.0			•	•	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.5	5.2	35.0	-14.3	0.0			
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.0	-0.3	5.1	1.0	0.0	•		•		KANDAHAB	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.7	7.2		•••••	-4.9	· /		• •
	Rice High Quality	85.3	10.3		12.9	2.1	<u> </u>	<u> </u>		•	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.0	7.8			0.0	•		
	Rice Low Qaulity	34.0	-14.5	15.3	9.7	0.0	•		•	•	HIBAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.6	-25.1	-22.6		-1.4	v 1		
	Cooking Oil	76.8	0.1	4.4	1.3	-0.6	•		•		MAZAR-	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.2	11.4	34.1	7.3	-2.4	A		• •
HIBAT	Wheat	21.6	10.7	7.6	21.0	1.4		•	-	Ť.	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.6	-11.9			-3.2		>	
	Wheat flour (HP)	21.0	-1.9	1.2	4.2	-0.2	•	5			MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.1	-7.9			-3.2	<u> </u>		
	Rice High Quality	86.3	31.1	44.7	38.8	-0.2	-				NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.7	26.1	41.4		-4.0			
		34.0	27.7	26.9	18.1	9.0	-	-		- <u>-</u>	KABUL		270.8		33.0	22.6	0.0			-
	Rice Low Qaulity	76.2	4.6	13.2	-0.1	9.0 0.1	5	-			KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	270.8	15.9 9.4	37.3	-1.3	-1.8	F I	-	
MAZAB	Cooking Oil							÷	<u>_</u>	÷	1	Sheep /Wheat	-					•	5	
	Wheat	20.5	-2.1	-6.8	-6.8	2.5	-	÷			JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	347.8	1.9	3.1	2.0	0.0			
	Wheat flour (HP)	24.3		-11.8	-6.7	-6.7				· · ·	HIBAT	Sheep /Wheat	345.5	31.5	25.9	3.5	-1.4	<u> </u>	5	
	Rice High Quality	95.3	16.9		28.7	10.8	<u>^</u>			-	MAZAB	Sheep /Wheat	300.0	3.1	7.3	2.2	-2.4	<u> </u>		
	Rice Low Qaulity	43.0	10.3	13.2	19.4	2.4		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	263.7	31.1	39.1	17.0	-11.3			
	Cooking Oil	82.0	3.7	5.8	2.5	3.1			<u>+</u>		MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	260.9	-5.0	2.2	2.2	2.2		<u> </u>	•
FAIZABAD	Wheat	23.5		-12.1	-6.0	3.3		V	<u> </u>	>	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	139.3	8.7	14.9	12.2	0.0	> 4	_	
	Wheat flour (HP)	33.5		-10.7	4.3	6.3					KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	12.5	26.8	50.0	0.0	4.2	<u> </u>		>
	Rice High Quality	88.8	3.1	-1.4	5.7	0.9		>		.	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	14.4	16.1	36.9	17.0	-5.5	<u> </u>		
	Rice Low Qaulity	52.0	3.9		8.3	0.0	+- <u>-</u>				JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.5	12.9	9.8	-1.0	0.0	<u> </u>		
	Cooking Oil	90.0	-7.6	-2.2	0.0	0.0			•		HIBAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.9	-15.3	-17.6		0.2	V 1		·····
MAIMANA	Wheat	22.5	1.8	-2.2	-2.2	-2.2		•			MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.3	22.6	41.8	7.2	7.2	A		. 🔺
	Wheat flour (HP)	24.3		-11.8	-6.7	-3.0			>		FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	7.5	-12.0	6.6	-4.1	-6.0	Y		
	Rice High Quality	95.3 42.0	14.5 -3.3	27.0	27.0	7.6 2.4		.	<u>.</u>		MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.3	12.5 20.8	41.8	7.2	3.1 -2.6	1		
	Rice Low Qaulity Cooking Oil	42.0	-5.2	13.5 -1.8	-2.4	2.4		-			KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour Sheep /Wheat flour	270.8	39.4	47.7	43.1	4.2	.		
NILI	Wheat	28.0	-10.2		-3.4	0.0		÷	÷	÷	KANDAHAB	Sheep /Wheat flour	270.0	18.4	45.3	19.2	-2.4	1		
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.5	-10.2	-15.2	-3.4	-1.4					JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	307.7	6.2	45.5	5.6	-2.4	<u> </u>		
	Rice High Quality	102.5	6.8	9.0	7.9	2.5	•	Þ	•	5	HIBAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	261.0	48.4	34.0	20.3	0.2	Á Á		
	Rice Low Qaulity	69.0	4.3	15.0	6.2	1.5	5	4	•	>	MAZAB	Sheep /Wheat flour	247.4	12.8	13.4	2.1	7.2	A		
	Cooking Oil	82.3	0.3	9.7	-3.2	-3.2		•	>	Þ	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	164.2	28.4	36.8	5.5	-13.8	A A		Ţ
											MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	247.4	13.5	13.4	7.2	3.1	A		•
											NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	109.9	4.0	0.2	9.9	1.4			
emark	Price increase above considered normal if the p			1 month, d		ormal Pr 10% for 3				two yea		ease below normal price fluctuati 1M= Compared to month ago		o January	2017 an	<u>12Y=</u> Co	npared to	o Januari	1 2016	

