



Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) - Afghanistan

Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **September 2018** (Reported in October 2018)

HIGHLIGHTS:

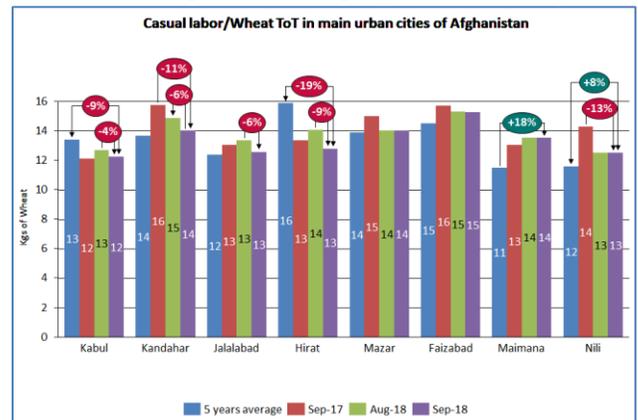
- **Wheat:** The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 23.0/Kg) is negligibly lower by 1.1% compared to the same time last year (September 2017) and negligibly higher by 0.1% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017).
- **Wheat flour (High Price):** The current retail price (AFN 28.4/kg) is slightly higher by 4.1% compared to the same month last year (September 2017), and slightly lower by 3.7% 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 46.9/kg) is negligibly higher by 0.3% compared to the same month last year (September 2017), and slightly higher by 8.9 compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 94.7/kg) is significantly higher by 12.8% compared to the same month last year (September 2017), and significantly higher by 14.3% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- **Pulses:** The current retail price (AFN 78.4/kg) is significantly lower by 10.6% compared to the same month last year (September 2017), and significantly higher by 12.6% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

Terms of Trade (ToT)

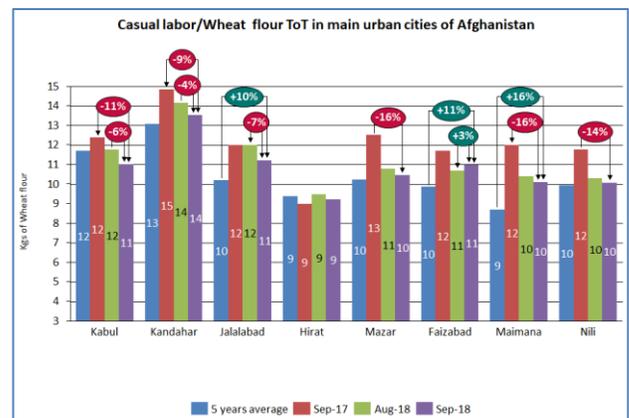
Casual Labor and Wheat (ToT): *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and wheat is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with one-day 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 13.4 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly deteriorated by 3.1% from August to September 2018, mainly due to increased wheat price (by 3.1%). The largest deterioration occurred in Hirat by (9.0%), Kandahar (5.9%) and Jalalabad (5.8%) due to increase of wheat price. The variation in all other main cities markets was within normal range (-0.3% to 0.0% in the last three preceding years, this deterioration was experienced in:

- August to September 2017 (by 2.2%)
- August to September 2016 (by 0.4%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.9%)
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (September 2017), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 4.8%, mainly due to decreased labor wage (by 6.2%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 3.0%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013-2017), this ToT negligibly improved 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.*

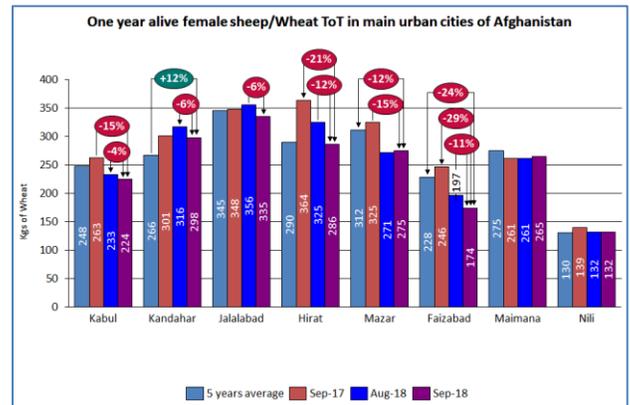


Labor wage/Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 10.8Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly deteriorated by 3.3% from August to September 2018, mainly due to increase wheat flour price by (3.0%). The largest deterioration occurred in Jalalabad by (6.5%) and Kabul (6.4%) due to increase of wheat flour price. The variation in all main cities markets was within normal range (-4.5% to 2.7%) In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in:

- August to September 2017 (by 1.0%)
 - August to September 2016 (by 2.8%)
 - August to September 2015 (by 2.5%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 9.9%, mainly due to decreased labor wage by 6.2%.
 - On the two-year comparison (September 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 5.8%.
 - Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), this ToT slightly improved by 5.5%.

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 248.8Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 4.8% from August to September 2018, mainly due to decreased sheep price by (1.1%) and increased wheat price by (3.1%). The largest deterioration occurred in Hirat by (11.8%), Faizabad (11.4%), Jalalabad and Kandahar (5.8%), due to decrease of sheep price and increase wheat price. The variation in other main cities markets was within normal range (-3.6% to 1.4%).

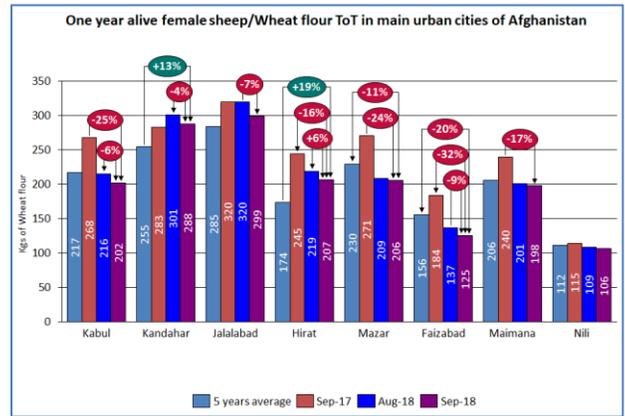


In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was not experienced, while improved in:

- August to September 2017 (by 0.1%)
 - August to September 2016 (by 4.1%)
 - August to September 2015 (by 1.4%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 11.4%, which is mainly due to decreased sheep price by 11.7%.
 - On the two-year comparison (September 2016) this ToT slightly deteriorated by 4.2%.
 - Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 5.0%.

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 203.9 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 4.7% from August to September 2018, mainly due to decrease of sheep price by 1.1% and increase of wheat flour price by 3.0%. The largest deterioration occurred in Faizabad by (8.7%), Jalalabad (6.5%), Kabul (6.4%) and Hirat 5.5%) due to decreased sheep price and increase of wheat flour price. The variation in all other markets was within normal range (-1.4% to -4.4%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was not experienced, while improved in:



- August to September 2017 (by 2.4%)
- August to September 2016 (by 1.4%)
- August to September 2015 (by 0.7%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 15.3%, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 11.7%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 0.7%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), this ToT negligibly improved by 1.12%.

Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN **23.0**/Kg in September 2018. The average price slightly increased by 3.1% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The largest increase occurred in Hirat (by 9.8%), Kandahar (6.3%) and Jalalabad (6.1%) due to decrease of supply in source of points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (0.0% to 3.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced in;
 - August to September 2016 (by 0.3%)
 - August to September 2015 (by 2.0%)

While decreased in;

- August to September 2017 (by 0.5%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), the average wheat price slightly decreased by 1.1%. The largest decrease occurred only Maimana (13.0%) due to increase of supply from the source points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-1.5% to 4.3%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 2.5%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the average price negligibly increased by 0.1%.

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 **28.4**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2018). The average price slightly increased by 3.0% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The largest increase occurred in Jalalabad by (7.0%) and Kabul (6.9%) due to decrease of supply in source of points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-2.7% to 4.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced in;
 - August to September 2016 (by 3.1%)
 - August to September 2015 (by 3.0%)

While decreased in;

- August to September 2017 (by 1.3%)

- Compared to the same month last year (September 2017), the current average price slightly increased by 4.1%. The largest increase occurred in Kabul by (12.4%) and Mazar (11.5%) due to decrease of supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-4.1% to 7.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average price of wheat flour slightly decreased by 4.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the average price slightly decreased by 3.7%.

Wheat flour (Low Price):

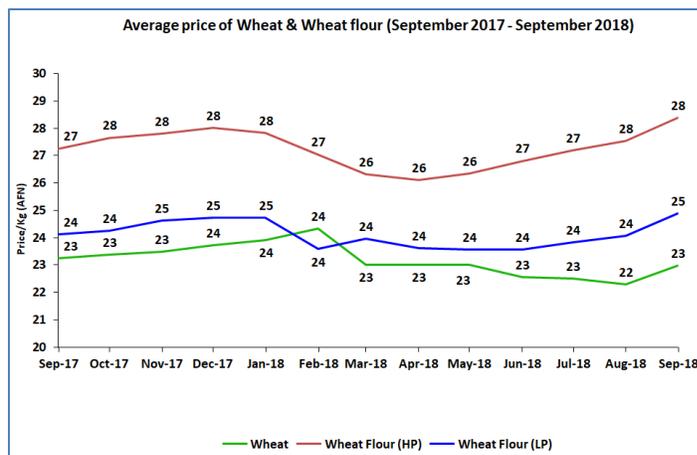
- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN **24.9**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2018). The average price slightly increased by 3.4% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The largest increase occurred in Jalalabad by (7.3%) and Kandahar (5.5%) due to decrease of supply in source of points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-1.9% to 4.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was experienced in;

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

While decreased in;

- August to September 2017 (by 1.3%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.1%. the largest increase only occurred in Kabul by (10.2%) due decrease of supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-3.7% to 8.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average price slightly decreased by 6.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the average price slightly decreased by 4.3%.



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 **94.7**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2018) which negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-0.4% to 3.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was not experienced but decreased in,

- August to September 2017 (by 0.5%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.2%)

While remained unchanged in;

- August to September 2016

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), the average price significantly increased by 12.8%. The largest increase occurred in Kabul (20.8%), Faizabad (17.5%), Mazar (13.8%), Hirat (12.5%), Kandahar 10.2% and Nili (10.0%), mainly due to decrease of supply and increase in prices in the source point (Pakistan). The variation in other remaining main cities was within a normal range (8.8% to 8.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average price significantly increased by 24.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of some months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the average price significantly increased by 14.3%.

Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN **46.9**/Kg in the reporting month (September 2018), which negligibly increased by 0.3% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-2.0% to 2.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was only experienced in;

- August to September 2016 (by 0.8%)

While decreased in;

- August to September 2017 (by 0.2%)
- August to September 2015 (by 0.5%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), the average price slightly increased by 3.9%. The largest increase only occurred in Hirat (by 13.6%), mainly due to decrease of low quality rice price in Pakistan and Kabul. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-3.3% to 6.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average price significantly increased by 11.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Septembers 2013- 2017), the average price slightly increased by 8.9%.



Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of cooking oil in main cities’ markets was AFN **80.5/Kg** in the reporting month (September 2018), the average price negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to previous month (August2018). The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-0.3% to 3.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was only experienced in;

- August to September 2016 (by 0.8%)

While decreased in;

- August to September 2017 (by 0.5%)
- August to September 2015 (by 1.0%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2017), the average price slightly decreased by 2.2%. The highest decrease occurred only in Kabul by (10.6%) due to increase of supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-7.1% to 9.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.0%
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the average price slightly increased by 0.2%.

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

Pulses: The monthly average price of pulses in September 2018 in main cities’ markets was AFN 78.4/Kg which slightly decreased by 2.8% compared to the previous month (August 2018).

- Compared to the same time last year (September 2017), the price of pulses significantly decreased by 10.6%, the highest decrease occurred in Nili (23.3%), Hirat (20.5%) and Kandahar (17.2%), mainly due to increased supply. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-8.8% to 4.2%).
- Compared to the same time two years ago (September 2016), the price of pulses slightly increased by 2.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2013 - 2017), the prices of pulses increased significantly by 12.6%.

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in September 2018 in main cities' markets was AFN 14.4/Kg negligibly increased by 0.1% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The current average price of salt slightly increased by 3.5% compared to the same month last year (September 2017), and slightly increased by 3.2% compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016).

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in September 2018 in main cities' markets was AFN 41.4/Kg, negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to the previous month (August 2018). The current average price of sugar significantly decreased by 18.4% compared to the same month last year (September 2017) due to increase of supply, and significantly decreased by 24.3% compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016).

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during September 2018 was reported at 10.5 days. The highest number of working days were in Nili, Kabul, Hirat, Maimana and Kandahar (12 days), followed by Faizabad, Mazar and Jalalabad (8 days). Compared to the previous month (August 2018), the significant decrease only occurred in Faizabad 27.3% (3 days), the variation in all other main cities remain unchanged.

- Compared to the same month last year (September 2017), the average number of working days significantly decreased by 21.5% (2.9 days).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2016), the average number of working days for main cities significantly decreased by 20.8% (2.8 days).

Market Watch:

Markets	Major Comm	Current Price per Kg	Price change (%)				Average				Markets	Major Comm	Current Price in AFN	Price change				Average			
			5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M				5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M
KABUL	Wheat	24.5	5.2	2.1	-1.0	3.7	▶▶▶▶▶	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-4.3	0.0	-15.4	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶					
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.3	2.3	4.8	12.4	6.9	▶▶▶▶▶		KANDAHAR	Sheep	7,460	9.3	5.1	-2.3	0.1	▶▶▶▶▶					
	Rice High Quality	100.0	15.2	33.3	20.8	2.3	▶▶▶▶▶		JALALABAD	Sheep	8,000	7.0	14.3	0.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶					
	Rice Low Quality	58.0	6.6	0.0	-3.3	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶		HIRAT	Sheep	5,600	5.7	-4.7	-17.9	-3.1	▶▶▶▶▶					
	Cooking Oil	71.5	-11.6	-10.6	-10.6	-0.3	▶▶▶▶▶		MAZAR	Sheep	5,500	-13.4	-15.4	-15.4	1.4	▶▶▶▶▶					
KANDAHAR	Wheat	25.0	-2.5	0.0	-1.5	6.3	▶▶▶▶▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,000	-21.3	-26.6	-29.8	-11.1	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.9	-3.3	-9.1	-4.1	4.7	▶▶▶▶▶	MAIMANA	Sheep	5,300	-11.7	-11.7	-11.7	1.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	88.3	19.3	34.7	10.2	0.2	▶▶▶▶▶	NILI	Sheep	3,700	-5.1	2.8	-5.1	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	34.2	12.9	-3.1	6.9	2.7	▶▶▶▶▶	Terms of Trade													
	Cooking Oil	96.2	29.5	23.0	9.9	0.7	▶▶▶▶▶	Kgs of Wheat/Wheat flour													
JALALABAD	Wheat	23.9	10.0	11.0	3.8	6.1	▶▶▶▶▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.2	-8.5	-16.0	1.0	-3.6	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.8	0.9	-0.9	7.0	7.0	▶▶▶▶▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	14.0	2.5	0.0	-11.2	-5.9	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	87.0	11.5	14.3	8.8	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.6	1.7	3.9	-3.7	-5.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	34.0	-8.2	10.6	3.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.8	-19.3	-25.2	-4.1	-9.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	77.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.9	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	14.0	1.0	17.6	-6.7	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
HIRAT	Wheat	19.6	6.2	11.4	4.3	9.8	▶▶▶▶▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	15.2	5.1	24.5	-2.8	-0.3	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.1	-13.4	-3.4	-2.7	2.6	▶▶▶▶▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.5	17.7	24.2	3.5	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	87.1	23.0	40.6	12.5	-0.4	▶▶▶▶▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.5	8.2	14.3	-12.5	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	36.4	27.6	21.3	13.6	-2.0	▶▶▶▶▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	224.5	-9.5	-2.0	-14.5	-3.6	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	75.0	2.8	-4.0	-1.7	2.1	▶▶▶▶▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	298.1	11.9	5.1	-0.9	-5.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
MAZAR	Wheat	20.0	-2.2	-4.8	0.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	335.1	-3.0	2.9	-3.7	-5.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.8	-3.8	-6.1	11.5	2.9	▶▶▶▶▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	286.4	-1.1	-14.4	-21.2	-11.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	93.0	12.8	25.7	13.8	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	275.0	-11.8	-11.2	-15.4	1.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	43.0	8.9	19.4	4.9	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	174.2	-23.7	-21.7	-29.3	-11.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	77.8	-0.3	-2.8	-4.0	3.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	265.0	-3.7	1.6	1.6	1.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
FAIZABAD	Wheat	23.0	2.9	-6.3	-0.7	0.3	▶▶▶▶▶	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	132.1	1.4	17.5	-5.1	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	31.9	-2.4	-6.3	2.8	-2.7	▶▶▶▶▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.0	-6.1	-18.2	-11.0	-6.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	100.5	13.7	19.3	17.5	0.5	▶▶▶▶▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	13.5	4.0	10.0	-8.8	-4.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	56.9	16.8	26.4	0.7	1.6	▶▶▶▶▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.2	10.3	16.5	-6.5	-6.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	90.0	-5.2	0.0	-0.3	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.2	-4.2	-13.7	2.8	-2.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
MAIMANA	Wheat	20.0	-8.5	-13.0	-13.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.5	9.7	19.3	-16.3	-2.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.8	-9.0	-10.8	7.0	2.9	▶▶▶▶▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.0	21.3	24.4	-6.1	2.7	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	92.0	8.2	22.7	8.9	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.1	15.6	21.1	-15.9	-2.8	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	42.0	2.4	13.5	5.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.1	-1.8	2.2	-14.4	-2.2	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	77.8	-4.6	-5.2	-2.5	1.0	▶▶▶▶▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	201.8	-6.3	-4.6	-24.7	-6.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
NILI	Wheat	28.0	-6.7	-12.5	0.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	288.3	13.4	15.5	1.8	-4.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Wheat flour (HP)	34.8	-0.4	-2.1	2.2	2.2	▶▶▶▶▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	299.1	7.2	15.4	-6.5	-6.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice High Quality	110.0	12.7	12.2	10.0	3.5	▶▶▶▶▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	206.7	15.9	-1.3	-15.6	-5.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Rice Low Quality	71.0	8.6	9.2	6.0	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	205.6	-9.0	-9.8	-24.1	-1.5	▶▶▶▶▶						
	Cooking Oil	79.0	-4.5	-6.5	-7.1	0.0	▶▶▶▶▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	125.5	-12.6	-21.7	-31.8	-8.7	▶▶▶▶▶						
								MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	198.1	-4.7	-0.9	-17.4	-1.4	▶▶▶▶▶						
								NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	106.5	-2.5	5.0	-7.2	-2.2	▶▶▶▶▶						

Remark ▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation ▶ Normal Price fluctuation ▼ Price decrease below normal price fluctuation
 Price fluctuation is considered normal if the price change is within 5% for 1 month, or within 10% for 3 months, one year, two year and 5 years. 1M= Compared to month ago 1Y= Compared to September 2017 and 2Y= Compared to September 2016