

## General Overview

Turkey started a military operation in North East Syria (NES) on 9 October 2019 affecting the Syrian governorates of Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa. As a result of intensified fighting, approximately 180,000 households from Ras Al-Ain and Tell Abiad have been displaced across NES. The main markets in Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli districts have been adversely impacted by the conflict due to disrupted supply routes for some commodities causing volatility in prices. Ar-Raqqa city also saw volatility even though at reduced levels while information from Tel-Abiad market was unavailable as it is currently under Turkish military control.

## Market situation

### Qamishli city:

- Main shops in Qamishli were closed for three days from 10 till 12 October due to the worsening security situation at the Syrian-Turkish border and the shelling on Qamishli city. Shops were open again on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Bread availability has been affected because of the closure of private bakeries and consumers over-buying and stocking bread in large quantities. However, bread prices have not increased.
- The informal market exchange rate increased from SYP 665/USD on 9 October to SYP 700/USD on the 10 October (an increase of 5.3%) over a single day but was at SYP 660/USD by the third week of October.

### Al-Hasakeh city:

- Markets in Al-Hasakeh city remained operational during October and commodities were reported to always be available. Price volatility was reported for some commodities prices while the exchange rate was not affected by the conflict.
- The main reasons for prices volatility is related to the increased demand due to large numbers of displacement.

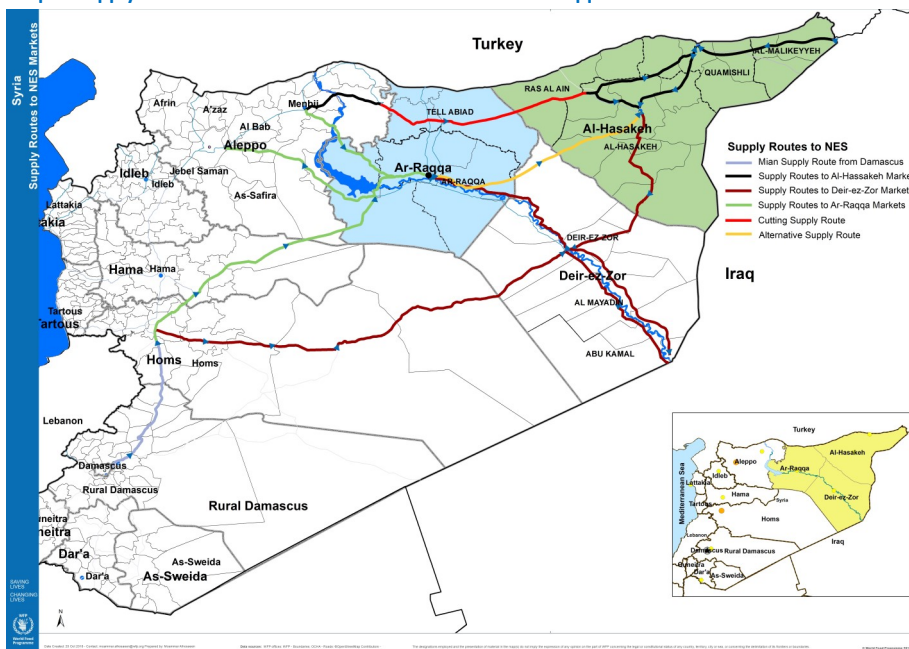
### Ar-Raqqa city:

- Commodities in Ar-Raqqa city were largely available in October due to existing stock and functioning supply routes from Damascus and Aleppo. However, diesel and butane gas are brought from Al-Hasakeh governorate through M4 which caused the prices of fuel to increase.
- Tel Abiad market which is located in Ar-Raqqa governorate on the border with Turkey, is now controlled by Turkish military forces. No information about the market situation was able to be collected.

## Supply routes:

- Al-Hasakeh has two main supply routes, one from northern Iraq and the other from Aleppo governorate. During October, the volume and type of commodities coming into Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli markets slightly decreased as traders were afraid to transport goods. Supply routes from Aleppo were also informally blocked due to the conflict near the M4 road. However, the availability of commodities in both Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli was not affected due to existing stock levels in the markets and supplies are now coming from other supply routes (Map 1).
- There are three main supply routes to Ar-Raqqa city; from Aleppo, Damascus and Menbij. The route from Menbij has been blocked while the routes from Aleppo and Damascus are still viable (red highlighted road, Map 1).

Map 1: Supply routes to main markets of Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa



## Market prices

### Food price evolution 1st—3rd week of October 2019

A general increase in food-items prices was recorded in Qamishli, Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa in October as a result of the increased fighting. In Al-Hasakeh, the price of bulgur went up by 25%, lentils price went up by 33% and the price of wheat flour went up by 20% between the first and third week of October (Chart 1). In Qamishli, between the first and thirds weeks of October, pasta price increased by 25%, while the price of vegetable cooking oil increased by 8% (Chart 2). In Ar-Raqqa, the price of bulgur went up by 7%, vegetable cooking oil increased by 5% and white rice by 3%, wheat flour went up by 8% and sugar went up by 33%.

Between the second and third weeks of October prices continued to see a volatile trend. In Al-Hasakeh, bulgur and vegetable cooking oil prices increased by 7% and 1% respectively, while the price of sugar decreased by 3%. In Qamishli, prices of pasta, oil and bulgur increased by 18%, 4% and 8% respectively. In Ar-Raqqa, the price of rice fell by 2%, while the other prices remained the same.

Chart 1: Food-items price changes in Al-Hasakeh (SYP/Kg or Lt)

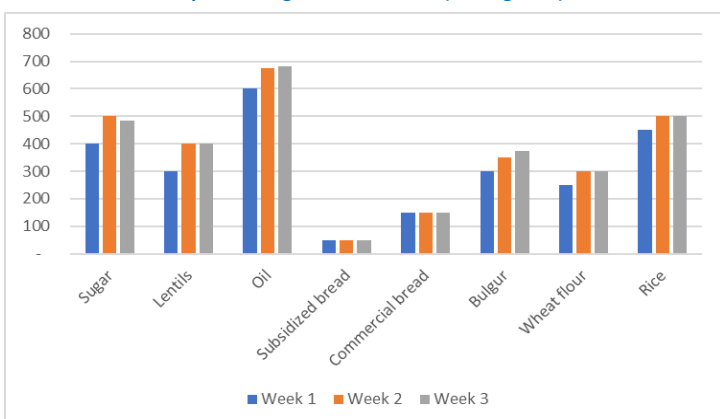
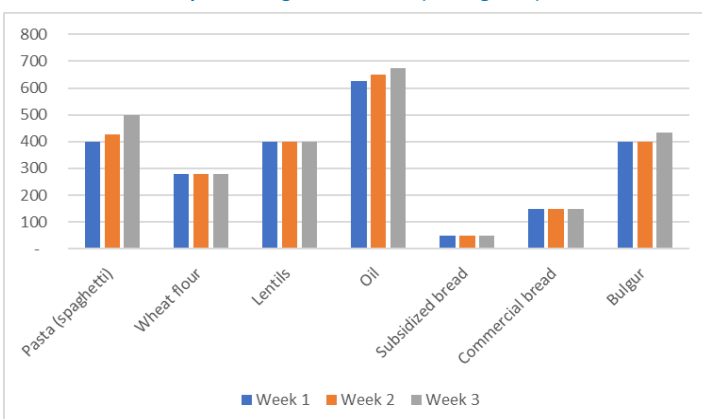


Chart 2: Food-items price changes in Qamishli (SYP/Kg or Lt)



## Fuel prices and informal exchange rate

Source: WFP

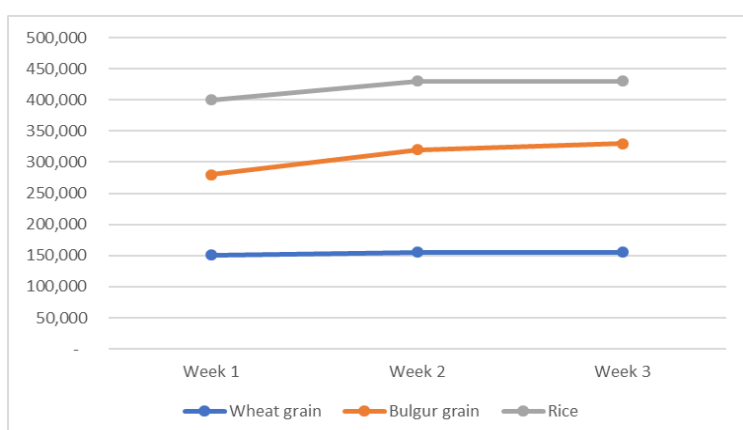
Source: WFP

In both Al-Hasakeh and Qamishli, the informal exchange rate fell by 3% between the first and third week of October. No increase in fuel prices (diesel and butane gas) was reported between the first two weeks. However, the refill price of one butane gas cylinder rose by 20% in Al-Hasakeh between the second and third week of October. Ar-Raqqa recorded a significant increase of 38% for diesel and of 15% for one butane gas cylinder refill between the first and third week of October

## Wholesale prices

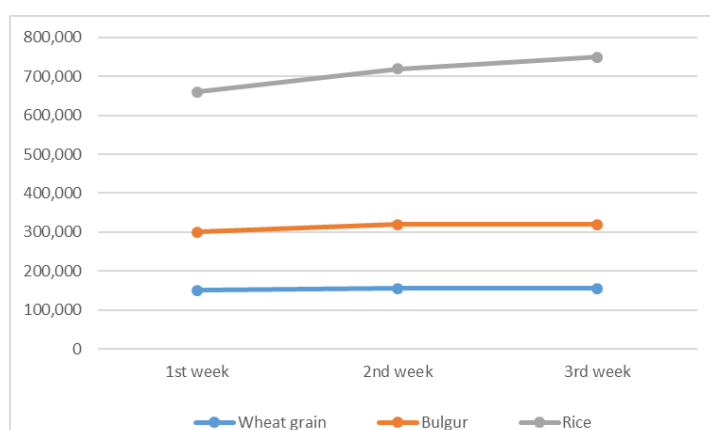
Similar to retail prices, an increase in wholesale prices was reported between the first three weeks of October. In Qamishli, wholesale wheat grain, bulgur and rice prices rose by 3%, 7%, and 14% respectively. In Al-Hasakeh, wheat flour, bulgur, and rice wholesale prices rose by 3%, 18%, and 8% respectively. For the third week, prices remained the same as in second week in Qamishli. In Ar-Raqqa bulgur saw an increase by 8% between the first and third weeks of October while the prices of wheat flour and rice remained the same.

Chart 3: Wholesale prices in Al-Hasakeh (SYP/MT)



Source: WFP

Chart 4: Wholesale prices in Qamishli SYP/MT



Source: WFP

List of commodity prices in NES comparing price levels between the 1st three weeks of October 2019

Qamishli	Week 1 prices	Week 2 prices	Week 3 prices	Price changes between 1st and 3rd weeks
Apple	450	450	500	11%
Banana	700	750	700	0%
Bread (bakery)	50	50	50	0%
Bread (shop)	150	150	150	0%
Bulgur	400	400	433	8%
Bulgur grain-Wholesale	300,000	320,000	320,000	7%
Chicken (whole, cleaned)	1,300	1,300	1,333	3%
Chickpeas	550	550	583	6%
Dates	1,000	1,000	1,000	0%
Eggplant	200	200	233	17%
Eggs (fresh)	1,350	1,350	1,417	5%
Informal exchange rate	665	645	647	-3%
Canned tuna	500	525	533	7%
Fuel (diesel)	75	75	75	0%
Fuel (gas)	2,700	2,700	2,733	1%
Lentils	400	400	400	0%
Livestock	100,000	110,000	110,000	10%
Meat (beef, minced)	5,000	5,000	5,433	9%
Oil	625	650	675	8%
Parsley	100	100	100	0%
Peanut	1,200	1,200	1,200	0%
Pumpkin	300	300	300	0%
Rice-Wholesale	660,000	720,000	750,000	14%
Salt (iodised)	100	100	100	0%
Spinach	200	200	200	0%
Daily wage	1,900	1,900	1,900	0%
Wheat flour	280	280	280	0%
Wheat grain-wholesale	150,000	155,000	155,000	3%
Yogurt	400	400	400	0%
Pasta (Spaghetti)	400	425	500	25%

Al-Hasakeh	Week 1 prices	Week 2 prices	Week 3 prices	Price changes between 1st and 3rd weeks
Apple	425	450	600	41%
Banana	700	750	750	7%
Beans (white)	600	650	600	0%
Bread (bakery)	50	50	50	0%
Bread (shop)	150	150	150	0%
Bulgur	300	350	375	25%
Bulgur grain-Wholesale	280,000	320,000	330,000	18%
Carrot	325	400	350	8%
Cheese	1,450	1,600	1,600	10%
Chicken (whole, cleaned)	1,200	1,250	1,267	6%
Chickpeas	450	500	500	11%
Dates	700	800	1,000	43%
Eggplant	150	200	225	50%
Eggs (fresh)	1,300	1,400	1,417	9%
Informal exchange rate	665	645	647	-3%
Canned tuna	400	500	550	38%
Fuel (diesel)	125	125	125	0%
Fuel (gas)	2,500	2,500	3,000	20%
Lentils	300	400	400	33%
Livestock	90,000	90,000	91,667	2%
Meat (beef, minced)	4,800	5,000	5,500	15%
Raw milk	300	350	350	17%
Oil	600	675	682	14%
Parsley	75	100	100	33%
Peanut	1,200	1,200	1,200	0%
Potato	250	350	350	40%
Rice	750	850	383	-49%
Rice-Wholesale	400,000	430,000	430,000	8%
Salt (iodised)	100	100	100	0%
Sugar	400	450	483	21%
Tomatoes	200	250	267	33%
Daily wage	1,000	1,000	1,000	0%
Wheat flour	250	300	300	20%
Wheat grain-Wholesale	151,000	155,000	155,000	3%
Yogurt	325	350	350	8%
Pasta (Spaghetti)	500	500	600	20%

Ar-Raqqa	Week 1 prices	Week 2 prices	Week 3 prices	Price changes between 1st and 3rd weeks
Apple	450	400	400	-11%
Banana	750	750	750	0%
Beans (white)	1,200	1,200	1,200	0%
Bread (bakery)	85	85	85	0%
Bread (shop)	100	100	100	0%
Bulgur	350	375	375	7%
Bulgur grain-Wholesale	325,000	350,000	350,000	8%
Carrot	300	300	300	0%
Cheese	1,800	2,000	2,067	15%
Chicken (whole, cleaned)	1,250	1,250	1,250	0%
Chickpeas	500	600	600	20%
Dates	700	700	750	7%
Eggplant	167	167	175	5%
Eggs (fresh)	1,200	1,200	1,333	11%
Informal exchange rate	630	630	630	0%
Canned tuna	500	500	517	3%
Fuel (diesel)	130	175	180	38%
Fuel (gas)	6,500	7,000	7,500	15%
Lentils	450	450	450	0%
Livestock	133,333	133,333	133,333	0%
Meat (beef, minced)	2,567	2,567	2,817	10%
Raw milk	200	250	250	25%
Oil	475	500	500	5%
Parsley	108	108	108	0%
Peanut	1,200	1,200	1,233	3%
Potato	250	250	250	0%
Rice	508	533	525	3%
Rice-Wholesale	475,000	480,000	475,000	0%
Salt (iodised)	100	100	100	0%
Sugar	375	500	500	33%
Tomatoes	220	220	225	2%
Daily wage	3,000	3,000	3,000	0%
Wheat flour	300	325	325	8%
Wheat grain-Wholesale	146,000	146,000	146,000	0%
Yogurt	350	400	400	14%
Pasta (Spaghetti)	500	600	600	20%

NES	Week 1 prices	Week 2 prices	Week 3 prices	Price changes between 1st and 3rd weeks
Apple	442	433	500	13%
Banana	717	750	733	2%
Beans (white)	617	633	617	0%
Bread (bakery)	95	95	95	0%
Bread (shop)	217	217	228	5%
Bulgur	100,217	106,908	106,917	7%
Bulgur grain-Wholesale	202,100	223,767	227,111	12%
Carrot	392	417	411	5%
Cheese	1,417	1,533	1,556	10%
Chicken (whole, cleaned)	883	900	917	4%
Chickpeas	767	817	839	9%
Dates	688	715	799	16%
Eggplant	272	297	311	14%
Eggs (fresh)	858	892	942	10%
Informal exchange rate	1,332	1,325	1,337	0%
Canned tuna	433	467	489	13%
Fuel (diesel)	33,418	36,767	36,768	10%
Fuel (gas)	4,667	4,833	5,311	14%
Lentils	458	500	508	11%
Livestock	74,478	74,478	75,033	1%
Meat (beef, minced)	2,856	2,922	3,172	11%
Raw milk	267	300	300	13%
Oil	220,358	240,392	250,394	14%
Parsley	94	103	103	9%
Peanut	867	867	878	1%
Potato	800	833	833	4%
Rice	513	554	396	-23%
Rice-Wholesale	341,667	355,000	353,333	3%
Salt (iodised)	200	200	200	0%
Sugar	392	458	494	26%
Tomatoes	210	235	246	17%
Daily wage	2,000	2,000	2,000	0%
Wheat flour	275	313	313	14%
Wheat grain-Wholesale	148,500	150,500	150,500	1%
Yogurt	338	375	375	11%
Pasta (Spaghetti)	500	550	600	20%