

# Price Monitoring for Food Security in the Kyrgyz Republic

This issue of the Price Monitoring Bulletin is prepared based on the operational daily food price data collected by the National Statistics Committee from 18 markets across the country and disaggregated at province level as the average value (Chuy province - Tokmok, Kara-Balta; Osh province - Osh, Uzgen, Kara-Suu and Nookat; Talas province - Talas and Manas; Naryn province - Naryn and Chaeik; Batken province - Batken and Isfana; Jalal-Abad province - Jalal-Abad, Toktogul and Kerben; Yssyk-Kul province - Karakol and Balykchy; and Bishkek city). This is a secondary data analysis.

## Highlights

**SITUATION UPDATE:** Since March 2020, the COVID-19 global pandemic and its resulting negative impacts on the global economy have led to a recession in the economies of many countries, including the Kyrgyz Republic. In addition, the recent political instability is likely to further contribute to the deterioration of the economy. At the same time, the situation in regard to COVID-19 worsened in the country in October 2020 (rising to 549 COVID-19 cases on 21 October). Compared to the same period last year, the Kyrgyz Republic's GDP decreased by 6 percent totaling 400 billion Kyrgyz soms. Negative trends were observed in construction, wholesale and retail trade economic sectors. Compared to the same period of the last year, the largest share (44.8 percent) of GDP fell within the goods production sectors, including processing industries (22.3 percent), agriculture (15.4 percent) and construction (7.1 percent). Compared to the same period last year, the Consumer Price Index (inflation) increased by 5.6 percent for all goods and services and by 11 percent for staple foods (cereals, meat, fish, milk and dairy products, fruits and vegetables). The Government continues to monitor and stabilize food markets across the country through establishing price controls on 11 essential food items and regulating imports and exports volumes.

The following section discusses the average prices for the four weeks from 23 September to 20 October 2020 in comparison to the previous two weeks, the monthly average of February 2020 (before the COVID-19 outbreak began in the country), the previous month's average (September 2020) and the monthly average in October 2019. The weekly monitoring of food prices reveals the increase of market prices of several commodities:

- **WHEAT:** During the weeks from 23 September to 20 October 2020, the national retail prices of wheat increased by 4 percent from the previous two week's levels reaching an average price of 22.46 KGS/Kg. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price of wheat was observed in Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces (24 KGS/Kg) and the lowest price was in Talas province (17 KGS/Kg). The rise in average national prices was in line with an increase of the wheat export prices in the Russian Federation. Compared to September 2020 and February 2020, prices were 5 percent and 18 percent higher, respectively. The prices were 25 percent higher compared to October 2019, which were above the normal annual price fluctuations.
- **WHEAT FLOUR (1st grade):** The national retail prices of wheat flour have stood at a national price average of 39.51 KGS/Kg and continued to remain stable from the previous two week's levels. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price was in Talas province (41 KGS/Kg) and the lowest was in Naryn province (34 KGS/Kg). Compared to September, the price remained unchanged and was 18 percent higher than February 2020 levels. However, the prices were 28 percent higher compared to October 2019, significantly higher than normal price fluctuations. The stability of wheat and wheat flour price is critical as it remains one of the most consumed staples in the country.
- **POTATOES:** The national retail prices of potatoes have grown by 7 percent from the previous two week's levels, reaching a national average of 22.55 KGS/Kg. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price was observed in Jalal-Abad and Batken provinces (25 KGS/Kg), while the lowest price was in Naryn province (19 KGS/Kg). Compared to September 2020 and February 2020, prices were 7 percent and 2 percent lower, respectively. The prices were 14 percent higher compared to October 2019 following the normal seasonal price fluctuations.
- **OIL (COOKING):** In the weeks from 23 September to 7 October, the national retail prices of vegetable oil increased by 7 percent from the previous week's levels (107.88 KGS/Kg) and rose by an additional 15 percent in the last two weeks (7-20 October), reaching 123.54 KGS/Kg, the highest value of all time. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price was in Batken province (129 KGS/Kg) and the lowest in Bishkek city (107 KGS/Kg). The Kyrgyz Republic has a high import dependency of vegetable oil due to its low internal production. The increasing trend of vegetable oil prices is caused by growing export prices in the Russian Federation, attributed to unfavorable weather conditions and a consequently lower harvest and the depreciation of the Russian ruble against the US dollar. Compared to September 2020 and February 2020, the prices were 18 percent and 29 percent higher, respectively. The prices were 31 percent higher compared to October 2019, significantly higher than normal yearly fluctuations.
- **SUGAR:** In the weeks from 23 September to 7 October, the national retail prices of sugar grew by 8 percent from the previous week's levels (49.99 KGS/Kg) and rose by an additional 5 percent in the last two weeks (7-20 October), reaching an average price of 52.37 KGS/Kg. The increase in sugar prices was in line with global trends and a historic global and national price correlation was observed. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price was observed in Batken province (55 KGS/Kg), while the lowest price was in Chuy province (49 KGS/Kg). The prices of sugar were 3 percent and 27 percent higher than September and February 2020 levels, respectively. The sugar prices increased by 21 percent compared to October 2019, an increase above normal price fluctuations.
- **MEAT (BEEF and MUTTON):** During the weeks from 23 September to 20 October 2020, the national retail prices of meat increased by 7 percent for beef and by 5 percent for mutton compared to the previous two week's levels, leading to an average price of 396.55 KGS/Kg for beef and 385.78 KGS/Kg for mutton. As of 20 October 2020, the highest price for beef was observed in Bishkek city (403 KGS/Kg) while the highest price for mutton was in Osh province (411 KGS/Kg). Prices for beef and mutton both increased by 7 percent compared to September levels and by 13 percent and 20 percent, respectively, compared to February 2020. The prices of beef and mutton were 16 percent and 23 percent higher compared to October 2019, above normal annual price fluctuations.

**EXCHANGE RATE:** During the two weeks from 23 September to 7 October 2020, the Kyrgyz som slightly depreciated from 79.26 KGS to 79.62 KGS per 1 USD, the Russian ruble depreciated from 76.27 RUB to 78.51 RUB per 1 USD and the Kazakh tenge depreciated from 425 KZT to 429 KZT per 1 USD. From 7 to 21 October 2020, the Kyrgyz som depreciated by 3 percent from the beginning of the month due to the political instability affecting the investment climate, reaching 81.2 KGS per 1 USD; the Russian ruble slightly improved its positions and appreciated from 78.51 RUB to 77.78 RUB per 1 USD and the Kazakh tenge remained stable and reached 429 KZT per 1 USD. However, these currencies depreciated by 16 percent, 16 percent and 12 percent, respectively, against the US dollar since the beginning of March 2020, according to the exchange rate of the National Bank. Lower remittances levels were among the factors affecting the weakening of the external position of the Kyrgyz som. During the February-July 2020 period, remittances decreased by 9 percent compared to the same period in 2019. Currency movements are one of the main driving forces of the retail prices of imported basic food commodities including wheat, vegetable oil and sugar.

**GLOBAL OIL PRICES:** Since the beginning of 2020, crude oil prices have slumped dramatically following lockdowns, travel restrictions and the decline of consumer demand with the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak, further impacting the global economy. Despite the coronavirus pandemic and the global oil forecast, the demand side of oil still remained low due to the lower consumption of oil. According to global forecasts, the full recovery of oil demand levels may not take place until 2022. New daily COVID-19 infections hitting records in U.S. states and Europe, new lockdowns in some countries around the world, and China's clamp-down on outbound travel to help stem the spread of the disease will altogether impact global fuel demand. During the weeks from 5 to 19 October 2020, WTI prices increased from 39.12 USD per barrel to 40.69 USD per barrel, while Brent prices decreased from 39.78 USD per barrel to 41.29 USD per barrel. As of 19 October, both WTI and Brent prices remained 13 percent and 21 percent lower, respectively, than March 2020 levels.

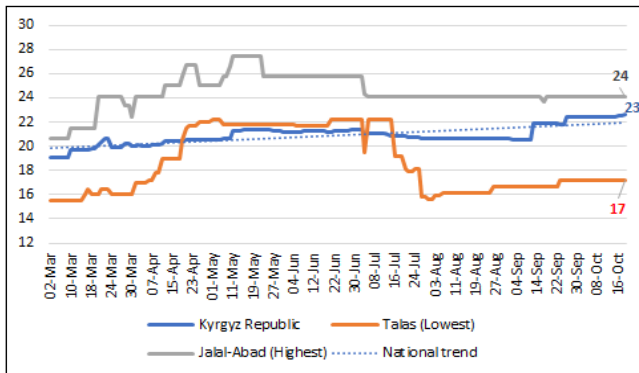
**AVAILABILITY:** Since the last price monitoring issue, the overall availability of wheat and wheat flour improved. Thirty-four districts showed good levels of availability though the situation was critical in some districts in Chuy, Talas, Jalal-Abad and Osh provinces. Considering the poverty rate, particular attention should be devoted to districts in Jalal-Abad province. In the past two weeks, the availability of vegetable oil improved in Jalal-Abad, Talas and Batken provinces while it worsened in Yssyk-Kul province and decreased most severely in Chuy province. Seventeen districts showed sufficient levels while in most districts in Osh and Chuy provinces the levels were insufficient. The most dramatic availability levels were observed in Jalal-Abad and Naryn provinces and in Leilek district due to the highest incidence of poverty in Batken province. The overall availability of sugar slightly increased although it slightly decreased in Osh and Naryn provinces. Thirty provinces recorded 'insufficient' or 'severely insufficient' stock levels. Considering the poverty rates, particular attention should be devoted to the 'severely insufficient' levels in Naryn and Jalal-Abad provinces and 'insufficient' levels in Batken province.

## Trends of Retail Prices of 12 Staple Foods (Weekly Trends) - Kyrgyz Republic

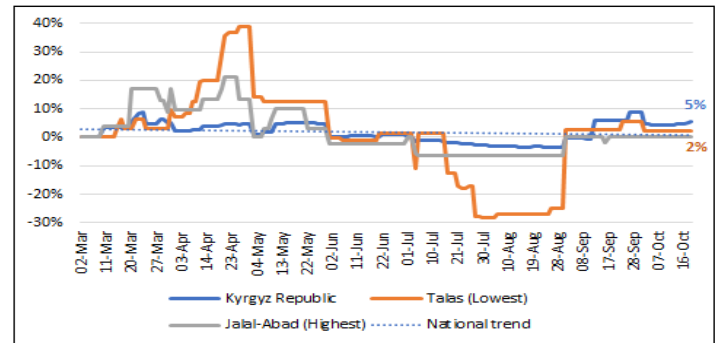
	7-20 Oct 2020 (KGS/kg)	23 Sep-7 Oct 2020 (KGS/kg)	Trend		7-20 Oct 2020 (KGS/kg)	23 Sep-7 Oct 2020 (KGS/kg)	Trend
Bread (1st grade)	47.96	47.48	1%	Rice (medium)	79.83	80.04	0%
Milk	35.90	34.92	3%	Sugar	52.37	49.99	5%
Meat (beef)	396.55	381.50	4%	Wheat	22.46	22.32	1%
Meat (mutton)	385.78	376.19	3%	Wheat flour (1st grade)	39.51	39.40	0%
Oil (cooking)	123.54	107.88	15%	Wheat flour (high-grade)	47.44	47.03	1%
Potatoes	22.55	21.20	6%	Eggs	79.49	76.94	3%

## WHEAT

Pic 1. Retail wheat prices (KGS/Kg)

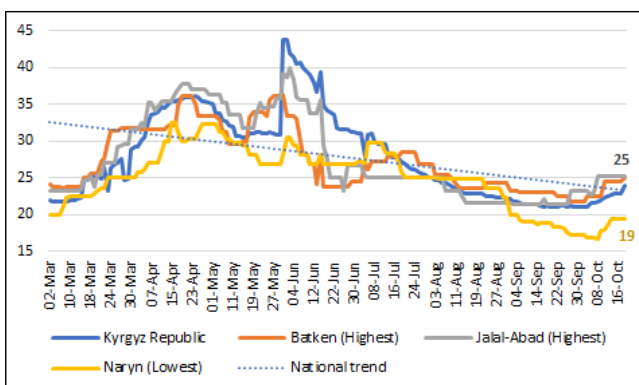


Pic 2. Growth rate of wheat, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

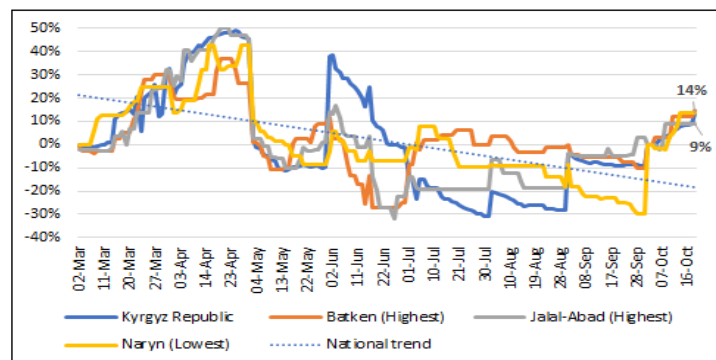


## POTATO

Pic 3. Retail potato prices (KGS/Kg)

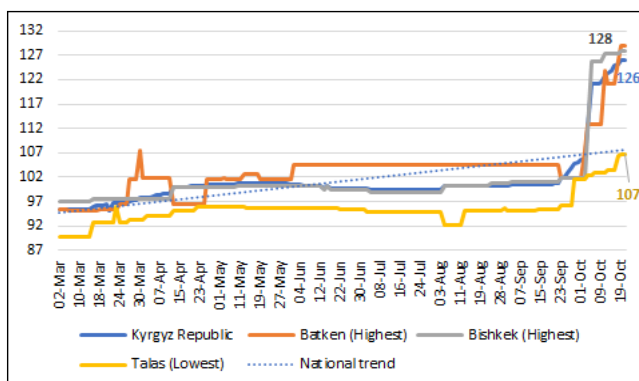


Pic 4. Growth rate of potato, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

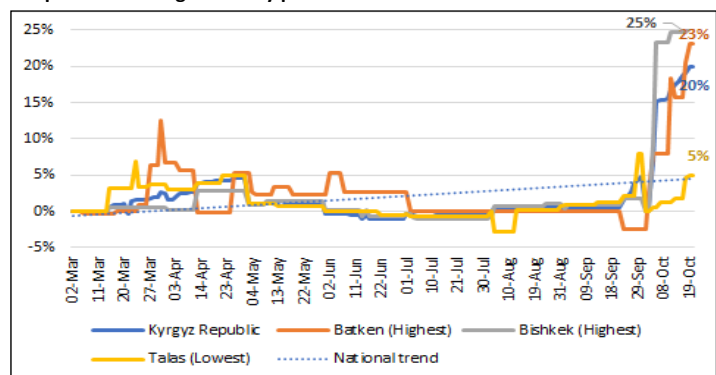


## OIL (COOKING)

Pic 5. Retail vegetable oil prices (KGS/Kg)

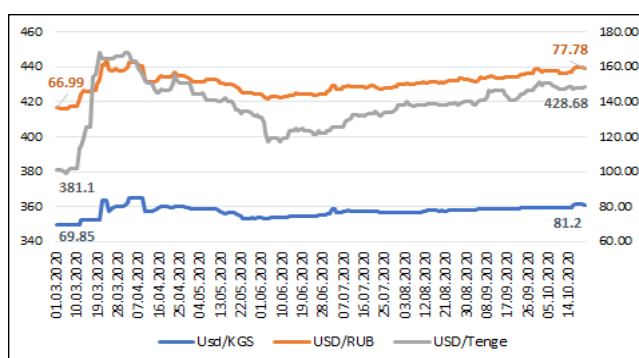


Pic 6. Growth rate of vegetable oil, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price



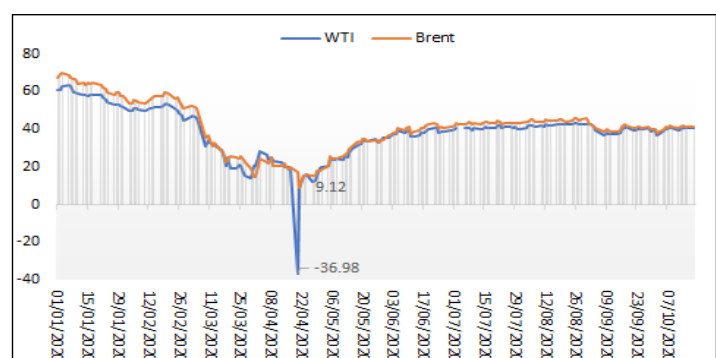
## EXCHANGE RATE

Pic 7. Exchange rates of Ruble, Kyrgyz Som and Kazakh Tenge against US Dollar












## GLOBAL OIL PRICES

Pic 8. Daily WTI, Brent prices (Jan 2020 to 19 Oct 2020)



## Annex: Prices of 13 Food Commodities

The table shows the changes of the average retail prices of the current day, current week and current month compared to the average prices of the previous month.

Province	Commodity	Oct 20 Price (KGS)	Change in Price (%)				Level of Fluctuation				Commodity	Oct 20 Price (KGS)	Change in Price (%)				Level of Fluctuation			
			07 - 20 Oct/ 23 Sep - 07 Oct	WEEKLY PRICE / Sep 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / b 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / Oct 2019	07 - 20 Oct/ 23 Sep - 07 Oct	WEEKLY PRICE / Sep 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / b 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / Oct 2019			07 - 20 Oct/ 23 Sep - 07 Oct	WEEKLY PRICE / Sep 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / Feb 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / Oct 1 2019	07 - 20 Oct/ 23 Sep - 07 Oct	WEEKLY PRICE / Sep 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / b 2020	WEEKLY PRICE / Oct 2019
BATKEN																				
	Bread (1st grade)	25	5%	11%	12%	17%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	25	8%	10%	-2%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	78	3%	5%	5%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	78	-3%	-6%	2%	-4%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	55	11%	13%	5%	18%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	55	5%	2%	27%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	24	1%	3%	10%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	24	0%	-5%	10%	34%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	40	1%	3%	11%	14%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	40	1%	1%	16%	28%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	48	2%	0%	7%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	48	5%	9%	10%	27%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	25	15%	19%	27%	23%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
BISHKEK CITY																				
	Bread (1st grade)	46	1%	2%	4%	9%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	23	7%	8%	0%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	63	0%	0%	0%	4%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	74	0%	0%	1%	1%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	76	2%	2%	-1%	10%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	52	5%	4%	31%	24%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	403	7%	9%	13%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	23	1%	8%	24%	24%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	384	4%	9%	23%	27%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	40	0%	0%	24%	34%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	38	4%	4%	-5%	9%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	46	0%	0%	17%	27%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	128	18%	24%	31%	34%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
CHUY																				
	Bread (1st grade)	42	0%	0%	8%	11%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	22	9%	10%	3%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	65	2%	4%	2%	2%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	85	0%	0%	10%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	83	3%	4%	4%	11%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	49	3%	2%	28%	18%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	372	1%	4%	14%	18%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	18	2%	2%	-7%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	365	2%	4%	16%	20%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	39	1%	1%	13%	23%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	34	7%	8%	-5%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	46	0%	0%	5%	14%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	116	7%	6%	27%	28%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
JALALABAD																				
	Bread (1st grade)	54	0%	0%	4%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	25	11%	8%	5%	10%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	75	0%	1%	2%	11%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	88	-1%	-3%	4%	1%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	88	1%	1%	7%	12%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	54	5%	2%	32%	20%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	390	0%	3%	14%	21%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	24	0%	0%	17%	26%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	388	0%	3%	13%	20%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	38	0%	0%	8%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	31	-1%	-1%	-16%	6%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	45	0%	1%	8%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	121	8%	7%	31%	31%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
NARYN																				
	Bread (1st grade)	54	0%	0%	4%	9%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	19	7%	8%	-7%	2%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	63	0%	0%	6%	10%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	73	1%	2%	3%	9%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	87	7%	8%	1%	17%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	50	2%	3%	31%	21%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	370	1%	3%	11%	14%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	18	-1%	-9%	-1%	19%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	365	0%	2%	11%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	34	0%	-1%	7%	18%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	25	1%	1%	-22%	-9%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	40	0%	0%	3%	10%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	115	8%	6%	22%	22%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
OSH																				
	Bread (1st grade)	62	0%	0%	2%	3%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	23	-1%	0%	-4%	3%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	76	0%	0%	-6%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	99	0%	0%	7%	11%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	93	2%	1%	22%	6%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	54	6%	4%	11%	8%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	400	0%	4%	3%	18%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	22	0%	0%	16%	36%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	411	0%	15%	17%	19%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	40	0%	1%	5%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	33	-1%	1%	-6%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	50	1%	3%	5%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	119	9%	13%	22%	21%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
TALAS																				
	Bread (1st grade)	50	0%	0%	9%	20%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	22	3%	3%	-5%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	67	0%	0%	11%	17%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	63	-6%	-8%	17%	8%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	85	2%	3%	2%	3%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	51	7%	6%	25%	12%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	372	1%	2%	20%	25%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	17	0%	2%	11%	35%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	363	1%	2%	17%	21%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	41	-2%	-1%	40%	53%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	28	1%	1%	-2%	3%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	44	1%	0%	12%	28%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	107	4%	2%	16%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
YSSYK-KUL																				
	Bread (1st grade)	44	-1%	-4%	1%	9%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	20	2%	2%	0%	29%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	61	0%	-1%	3%	6%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	85	1%	5%	11%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	81	4%	5%	3%	13%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	51	5%	2%	39%	31%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	371	0%	2%	10%	14%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	19	0%	0%	5%	23%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	360	1%	2%	17%	20%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	39	0%	1%	9%	19%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	33	1%	2%	17%	15%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	49	0%	-1%	3%	17%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	118	9%	1%	-12%	24%	▲	▲	▲	▲										
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC																				
	Bread (1st grade)	48	1%	1%	5%	8%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	24	6%	7%	2%	14%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Bread (lepeska)	65	0%	1%	1%	5%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	80	0%	0%	3%	4%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Eggs	81	3%	3%	4%	12%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Sugar	53	5%	3%	27%	21%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	399	4%	7%	13%	16%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat	23	1%	5%	18%	25%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (mutton)	386	3%	7%	20%	23%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (1st quality)	39	0%	0%	18%	28%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Milk	36	3%	3%	-7%	7%	▲	▲	▲	▲	Wheat four (high grade)	48	1%	2%	13%	23%	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	126	15%	18%	29%	31%	▲	▲	▲	▲										

▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation  
 ► Normal price fluctuation  
 ▼ Price decrease below normal fluctuation

Price fluctuation is considered normal if change within:  
 5% for 1 month, 10% for 3 months, 15% for 1 year

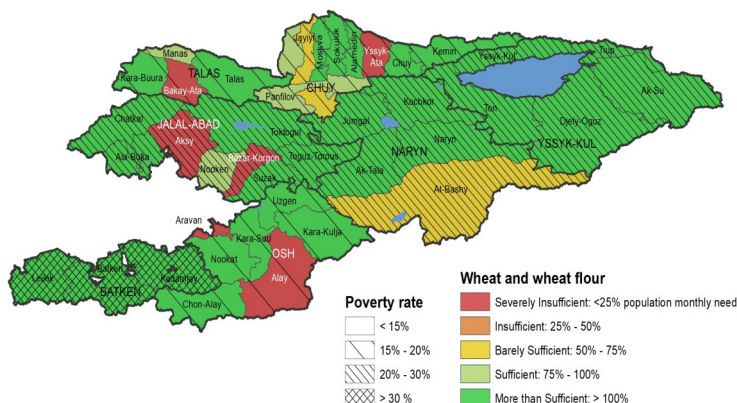


## Annex 2: Availability of three main food commodities

The maps below show the level of availability and sufficiency of three main staple foods at district level — wheat and wheat flour, vegetable oil and sugar during the period from 23 September to 20 October. Given their high import dependency, these commodities are being monitored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration and reflect an average person's physiological needs of the commodities under consideration. The overlapping of poverty rates provides useful information on the geographical areas to which particular attention should be devoted. It should also be noted that poverty rates are pre-COVID-19 estimates, which are likely to have worsened as a result of the pandemic.

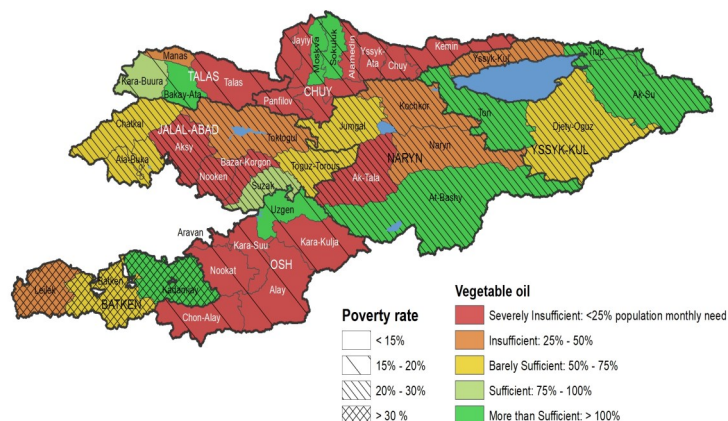
### WHEAT AND WHEAT FLOUR

Since the last price monitoring issue, the availability of wheat and wheat flour improved in Naryn, Osh and Chuy provinces. During the past four weeks, 34 districts reached 'sufficient' wheat and wheat flour stock levels to cover over 50 percent of their population's monthly needs. Among these 34 districts, 29 districts were able to satisfy the needs of their entire population for more than one month. Although the availability may have been 'sufficient', the incidence of poverty may have affected the ability of the most vulnerable to access wheat and wheat flour. For example, according to pre-COVID-19 estimates, 33 percent of the population were living below the national poverty line in Batken province, with the poorest quintile spending 57 percent of their income on food. Six districts experienced 'severely insufficient' levels of wheat and wheat flour stock: Aksy and Bazar-Korgon districts in Jalal-Abad province, Alay and Aravan districts in Osh province, Bakay-Ata in Talas province and Yssyk-Ata and Chuy districts in Chuy province. Considering the poverty rate, particular attention should be devoted to districts showing 'severely insufficient' levels in Jalal-Abad province, where 27 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty spending 59 percent of their income on food.



### OIL (COOKING)

In the past two weeks, the availability of vegetable oil improved in Jalal-Abad, Talas and Batken provinces while it decreased in Yssyk-Kul and most severely in Chuy province. Seventeen districts showed 'sufficient' levels to satisfy more than half of their population's monthly needs, with nine districts being able to satisfy their population needs for over a month. Nevertheless, the incidence of poverty in Batken (33 percent), Naryn (28 percent), Jalal-Abad (27 percent) and Issyk-Kul (24 percent) provinces could have hindered the capacity of the most poor to access cooking oil. The availability of vegetable oil was 'insufficient' in six districts (Leilek, Toktogul, Manas, Naryn, Kochkor and Yssyk-Kul) and 'severely insufficient' in all districts in Chuy (except for Moskva and Sokuluk) and Osh (except Uzgen), Talas district in Talas province, Ask, Nookan and Bazar-Korgon districts in Jalal-Abad province, and Ak-Tala district in Naryn province. In light of the poverty rates, the most dramatic situation was observed in Jalal-Abad and Naryn provinces and in Leilek district due to the greatest incidences of poverty in Batken province.



### SUGAR

Compared to the previous two weeks, the availability of sugar slightly increased in Chuy, Jalal-Abad and Yssyk-Kul provinces, remained unvaried in Talas and worsened in Osh and Naryn provinces. Overall, the availability of sugar was critical. Only six districts had 'more than sufficient' sugar stock levels to satisfy their population's needs for more than one month and two districts — Kara-Buura and Djety-Ogtuz — had 'sufficient' levels to satisfy over 75 percent of the population's monthly needs. The high poverty rates in Naryn (28 percent) and Yssyk-Kul (24 percent) may have affected the ability of the poorest households to access sugar although it was available. All districts in Osh, Jalal-Abad (apart from Chatkal), Chuy (except Panfilov, Moskva and Sokuluk) and Naryn provinces (with the exception of At-Bashy) faced a status of 'severely insufficient' levels of sugar stocks that satisfied less than a quarter of their population's monthly needs. In addition, also Talas and Manas districts in Talas province and Yssyk-Kul district in Yssyk-Kul province had 'severely insufficient' levels of sugar stocks. Taking into account the poverty rate, apart from Batken province, the status of 'severely insufficient' was particularly critical in Naryn and Jalal-Abad provinces, as 28 percent and 27 percent of their respective populations were living below the national poverty line and spending 51 percent and 59 percent, respectively, of their income on food.

