

Market Monitor Report

MAF | GDS | WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis

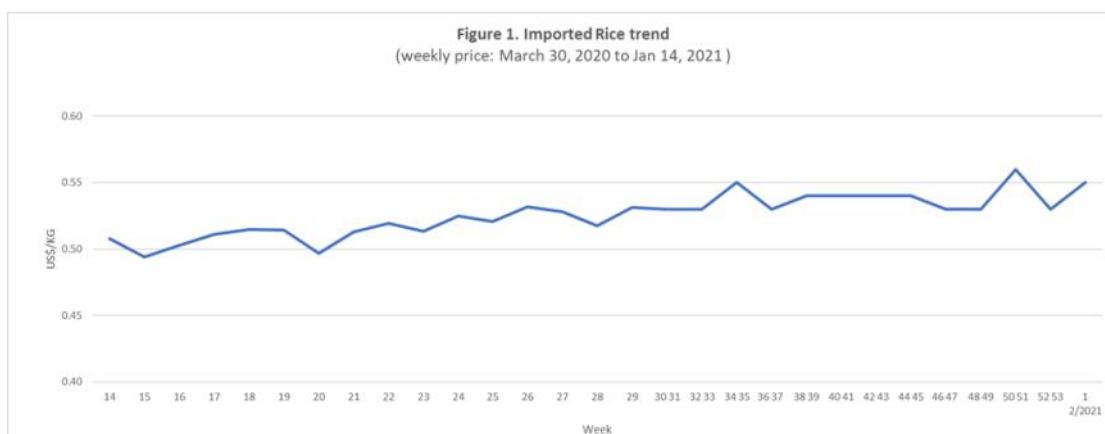
Timor-Leste | Week 1/2 2021 (4th - 17th January)

HIGHLIGHTS

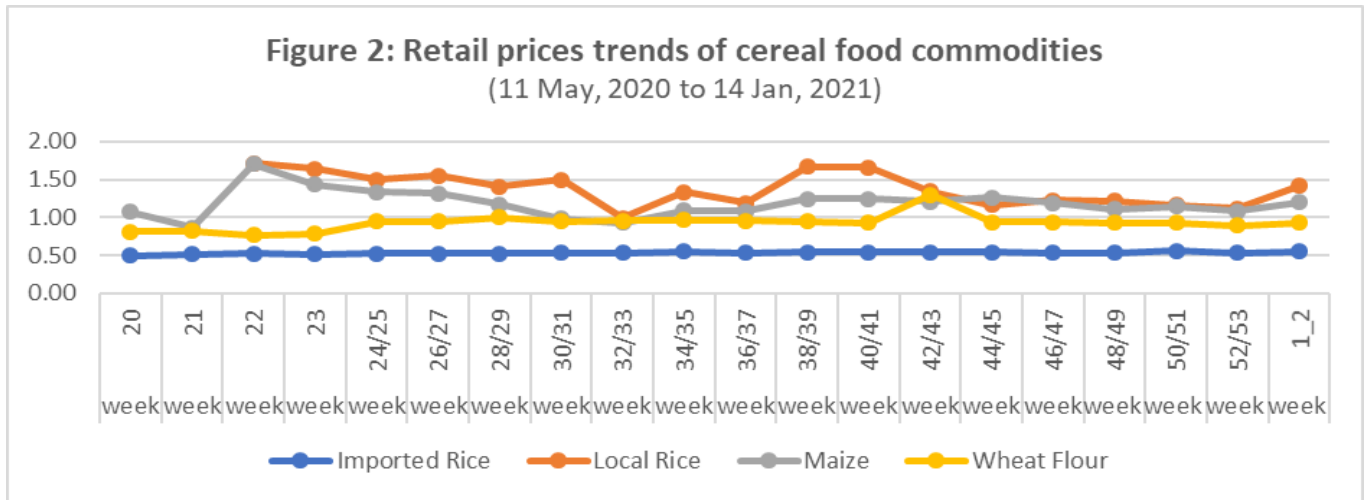
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the General Directorate of Statistics collected data on the week of 1/2 2021. Monitoring has been conducted on the prices of commodities from 53 retailers in ten municipalities (Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Covalima, Dili, Ermera, Liquica, Manatuto, and Oecusse)
- **Cereals (imported rice, local rice, maize, wheat flour):** Overall imported rice prices increased at an average range between 0.52 US\$/KG to 0.65 US\$/KG. In particular, the price spike observed in the Oecusse region was affected by the shipping schedule and higher shipping costs at the time of monitoring. Local rice, maize, and wheat flour all show an upward curve compared to Dec 2020.
- **Non-Cereal Food:** Overall prices have increased compared to Dec 2020. In particular, prices of local products including bean, tomatoes, and chili prices increased. Imported products including cooking oil, and frozen chicken remained within the range.
- Among 100 responses from retailers, 42% replied that prices of overall commodities increased. For the top 5 food items sold in the shop, making a vast difference compared to the 3rd quarter of 2020 when 94% responded with stable prices. Retailers also addressed few concerns regarding the sudden price increase in Dili, which is largely due to road during the rainy season, and the lean season resulted in the price fluctuation.
- **Cesta Bazika:** In coordination with MCAE, line ministries continue to distribute basic baskets with the Cesta Basica program. WFP is supporting training of beneficiary registrations and progress monitoring.

RETAIL PRICE TREND OF IMPORTED RICE (30 March 2020 to 14 Jan 2021)

Average imported rice price range at 0.52 USD/kg to 0.65 USD/kg in particular at Oecusse, Aileu, and Bobonaro. Besides, retailers in Dili, Liquisa, Lautem, Covalima, Ermera also observed price hikes. Retailers even responded on sudden price increase from distributors in Dili. Grain price increased globally and in China, grain and oil prices leaped by 20%. According to the FAO report, Vietnamese rice price rose due to limited domestic supplies - one of the biggest rice exporter to Timor-Leste- which affected the price hikes in the country. In addition, road accessibility during the rainy season, and limited produce during the lean season became a challenge for service delivery to customers in municipality level (figure 1).

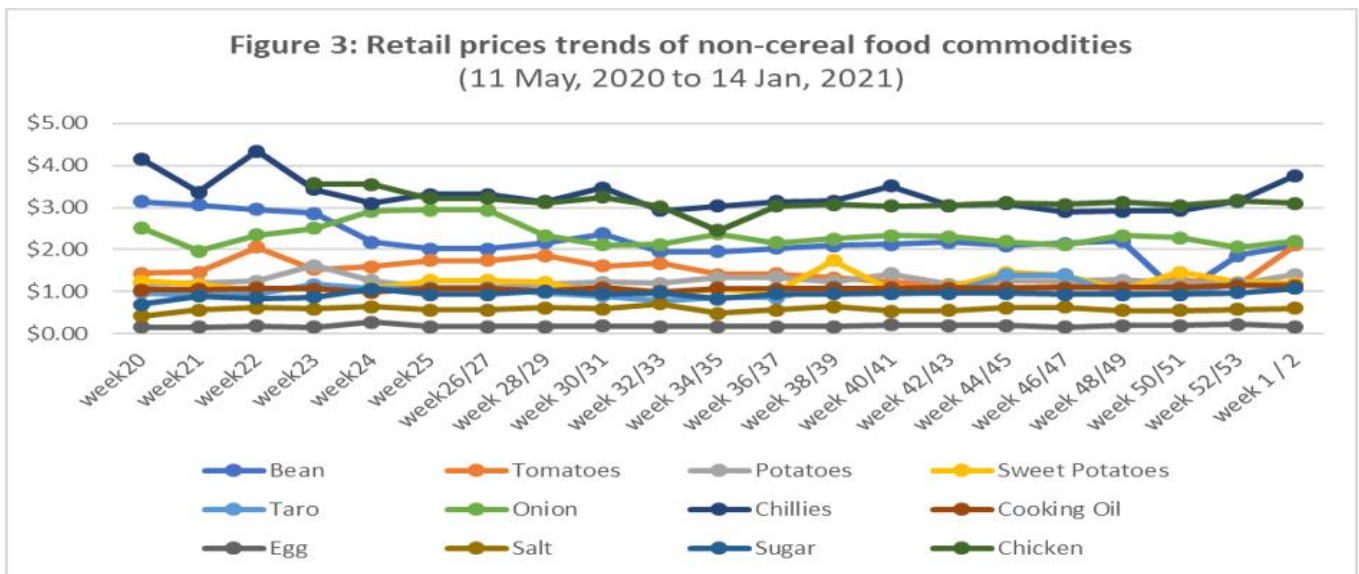


Compared to Dec 2020, local rice and maize prices increased by 22% and 5% during the first two weeks of the new year. In comparison, wheat flour price remained the same. Dili and Oecusse reported a decrease in local rice stock. (figure 2).



RETAIL PRICE TREND OF NON-CEREAL FOOD

Compared to the end 2020, in the week 1/2, prices of most of the commodities' increased. Bean(USD 1.17/kg), Tomatoes (USD 0.83/kg), Potatoes (USD 0.21/kg), Taro (USD 0.11/kg), Chili(USD 084/kg), Cooking Oil (USD 0.05/kg), Salt (USD 0.05/kg), Sugar(USD 0.13/kg), and whole frozen chicken(USD 0.05/kg). Egg and Sweet potatoes prices stayed within the stable range. In Oecusse, boat availability continuously impacts the stock and price changes in the area. Retailers also reported the impact of a sudden stock decrease in Dili (figure3).



Openmarket-Manufahi



Openmarket-Manufahi



Openmarket-Covalima



Openmarket-Aileu

To monitor the impact of COVID-19 on market prices, the average retail prices of cereals and non-cereals essential food commodities across the country's main markets in the municipal capital level were monitored and analyzed.

Imported rice price are based on the most consumed brand per retailers.

Report is accessible at <https://www.wfp.org/countries/timor-leste>