Highlights

• During the week under review, the value of the Afghani (AFN) depreciated slightly against the United States Dollar (USD) from 89.2 to 88.3. Liquidity challenges continue to constrain economic activity within the country.

• The price of diesel increased by a record-breaking 23 percent this week. On average, diesel currently costs 120 AFN/L.

• The Terms of Trade (TOT) for livestock improved by four percent this week. The average price of livestock increased by six percent, while the price of wheat grain decreased by one percent.

• The average number of working days available remained stable compared to the previous week. The average casual labour wage improved marginally by one percent.
Significant price fluctuations for basic food commodities were reported in Daikundi, Kabul, and Laghman provinces this week. In Laghman, the price of livestock increased by 47 percent due to increased demand surrounding Eid ul Azha. In Daikundi, the price of wheat flour and rice increased by one percent and 13 percent, respectively, compared to the previous week. In Ghor, the price of rice and diesel increased significantly by 4 percent and 32 percent, respectively, compared to last week. In Laghman, Sar-e-Pul, and Nangarhar, the price of livestock increased by 47 percent, 42 percent, and 41 percent, respectively, due to increased demand. Hilmand, Bamyian, and Kandahar provinces reported price increases for both food and non-food items, regional market export restrictions. The price of wheat flour, cooking oil, and sugar increased by 67 percent, 55 percent, and 29 percent, respectively, compared to the same time last year. The price of cooking oil continues to gradually increase due to the Ukraine crisis, while further price hikes are expected in near future.

Weekly Food Basket Prices:
Nationally, the average price of the standard food basket marginally increased compared to last week, but remained significantly higher by 15 percent compared to the same time last year. Price increases were recorded in Farah (USD 112), Uruzgan (USD 105), Helmand (USD 102), and Kandahar (USD 101).

Diesel Prices:
High fuel prices have decreased supply on local markets, particularly wheat flour from Kazakhstan. During the week under review diesel prices increased by 23 percent compared to last week, subsequently increased transportation costs.