

# Price Monitoring for Food Security in the Kyrgyz Republic

## Situation Update

In October 2023, the consequences of drought conditions and domestic food price inflation remained the main burden on food security in the Kyrgyz Republic. The recent mobile food security monitoring found that **10 percent of population were acutely food insecure**, while **56 percent of population were only marginally food secure** and continues to apply the asset depleting coping mechanisms. Some of these strategies have long-term negative consequences, not only for household wellbeing, but also for the long-term development.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of the Kyrgyz Republic continued to grow and **increased by 4.2 percent**, adding KGS 808 billion (US \$9.1 billion) to the economy in January-September 2023 compared to the same period last year. This growth was primarily driven by the improvements in the services sector (+5.1 percent), industry (+2.4 percent) and newly monitored sector — [food taxes](#) (+5.5 percent). The IMF forecasts a slowdown in annual GDP growth to 3.5 percent as the impacts of the global crisis begin to affect the Kyrgyz economy in 2023.

In September 2023, **inflation reached 9.6 percent compared to September 2022 (NBKR)**. The seasonal decline in prices of fruits and vegetables, oils and fats contributed to the decline in food inflation. Nevertheless, in January – September 2023, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by **11 percent for staple foods**, compared to same period of 2022. The country still retains the second place in the EAEU region. Rising prices are one of the main factors contributing to food insecurity.


Remittances accounted for 30 percent of GDP in 2022, with 80 percent of remittances coming from the Russian Federation. Compared to the same period of 2022, **remittances decreased by 28 percent in January–August 2023**, which can affect household incomes and overall economic performance, as well as contribute to further increase in poverty.


According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Kyrgyz Republic remained self-sufficient in terms of sugar by 88 percent, meat by 88 percent, potatoes by 190 percent, sugar beet by 187 percent and milk and dairy products by 111 percent in January-September 2023. In this regards, market continues to **be exposed to instability risks, especially for wheat and wheat flour**. In September export prices for wheat in Kazakhstan increased by 21 percent compared to August 2023, mainly due to the drought related lower production. In the Russian Federation wheat export prices declined by 3 percent compared to August 2023 but remains 5 percent higher compared to June 2023 before the cancellation of Black Sea Grain Initiative.


Meanwhile, drought and irrigation issues pose a risk for the food security of the Kyrgyz Republic and neighbouring countries. Due to abnormally high temperatures during the growing season this summer, **the gross harvest of wheat decreased by 26.5 percent, barley by 32.6% as of 23 September 2023** (NSC). Temperature fluctuations in the spring period impacted the ripening dates of grain legumes and oilseed crops. According to International Research Institute Climate Forecasts, in November 2023 - January 2024, rainfall across the country is likely to be light to moderate and above the national average (60-90 percent possibility of exceeding the median rainfall), and temperatures are likely to be above normal (WFP Seasonal Monitor).

At the same time, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, the **fodder crops production decreased by 30 percent**, while prices went up by 20-25 percent compared to the previous year. The Ministry took the following anti-crisis measures to ensure the availability of fodder: I) the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers "On introduction of a temporary ban on export (export) from the Kyrgyz Republic of certain types of agricultural goods outside the Kyrgyz Republic" dated September 4, 2023 № 443 was adopted; II) encourage farmers to maximize the use of pastures given the shortage of forage units.


**The following section discusses average national retail prices for the four weeks from 15 September to 13 October 2023, in comparison to the previous month, the annual average in October 2022 and the monthly average in February 2020 (before the COVID-19 outbreak began in the country).**


 • **Wheat:** The price of wheat remained stable compared to the previous month, with an average price of 30 KGS/kg. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price for wheat was observed in Bishkek city (32 KGS/kg) and the lowest price in Talas province (20 KGS/kg). Prices were 5 percent lower compared to October 2022 and **55 percent higher** compared to February 2020.


 • **Wheat flour (first grade):** The price for wheat flour **increased by 5 percent** compared to the previous month with an average of 53 KGS/kg. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price was in Bishkek town (56 KGS/kg) and lowest in Yssyk-Kul province (44 KGS/kg). Prices were 3 percent and **60 percent higher** compared to October 2022 and February 2020.


 • **Oil (Cooking):** The price of vegetable oil decreased by 1 percent compared to the previous month, with an average price of 153 KGS/L. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price was in Batken and Jalal-Abad provinces (166 KGS/L) and the lowest price was in Yssyk-Kul province (139 KGS/L). The prices were 19 percent lower compared to October 2022 and **60 percent higher** compared to February 2020. The country has a high import dependency on vegetable oil due to its low internal production and capacity for processing oil seeds.


## Situation Update

 • **Eggs:** The price of eggs increased by 3 percent compared to the previous month, leading to an average price of 117 KGS/10 pcs. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price was observed in Osh and Jalal-Abad provinces (124 KGS/10 pcs) and the lowest price in Yssyk-Kul province (111 KGS/10 pcs). The price of eggs was **20 percent** and **52 percent** higher compared to October 2022 and February 2020.

 • **Potatoes:** Due to seasonal fluctuations, the price of potatoes decreased by 16 percent compared to last month, with an average of 36 KGS/kg. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price was in Jalal-Abad province (38 KGS/l) and the lowest in Naryn province (27 KGS/l). The price of potatoes was **21 percent** and **66 percent** higher compared to October 2022 and February 2020 respectively, which is above normal annual price fluctuations.

 • **Rice (medium size):** The price of rice increased by 2 percent compared to last month, with an average price of 143 KGS/kg. As of 13 October 2023, the highest price was observed in Jalal-Abad province (156 KGS/kg) and the lowest in Chuy province (119 KGS/kg). The price of rice was **67 percent** and **85 percent** higher, compared to October 2022 and February 2020 levels respectively, which represents a significant increase above normal annual price fluctuations.

 • **Exchange Rate:** Recently, the domestic foreign exchange market has witnessed some demand for foreign currency exceeding its supply, which has led to short-term volatility of the exchange rate. During the period from 15 September to 13 October 2023, the Kyrgyz Som slightly depreciated from 88.67 KGS to 89.17 KGS against the US Dollar, the Russian Ruble depreciated from 96 RUB to 97 RUB against the US Dollar, and the Kazakh Tenge depreciated from 466 KZT to 476 KZT against the US Dollar. **Compared to October 2022, the Kyrgyz Som and Russian Ruble depreciated by 9 percent and 59 percent** respectively, while the Kazakh Tenge appreciated by 1 percent against the US Dollar. Currency movements are one of the main driving forces of retail prices of imported basic food commodities, including wheat, vegetable oil and sugar. The National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic indicates that it continues to constantly monitor the situation and, if necessary, would use additional tools and take appropriate measures to stabilize the exchange rate.

 • **Global oil and retail prices:** Fuel prices in the Kyrgyz Republic have been decreasing since the beginning of the year. As of 13 October 2023, retail prices of both diesel and fuel (AI-92) increased by 3 percent compared to September 2023. Furthermore, compared to October 2022, prices for AI-92 remained 6 percent higher, while prices for diesel remained 9 percent lower, reaching almost 65 KGS/l for fuel (AI-92) and 68 KGS/l for diesel. The Kyrgyz Association of Oil Traders will continue to prevent sharp price changes in the fuel market of the Kyrgyz Republic by applying mechanisms to equalize prices to a break-even level, ensuring the necessary reserves of petroleum, oil and lubricants to saturate the market and avert shortages.

• Oil demand around the world is scaling record highs, boosted by strong summer air travel, increased oil use in power generation. Oil price forecast for 2023: rising global demand and declining production will continue to reduce global oil inventories. From 15 September to 13 October 2023, WTI price decreased from USD 91 per barrel to USD 88 per barrel and Brent price decreased from USD 96 per barrel to USD 91 per barrel. The WTI prices remained 1 percent higher, while Brent prices remained 2 percent lower respectively, compared to October 2022 levels, and 87 percent and 73 percent higher respectively compared to March 2020.

## Trends of Retail Prices for 12 Staple Foods (Monthly Trends) in the Kyrgyz Republic

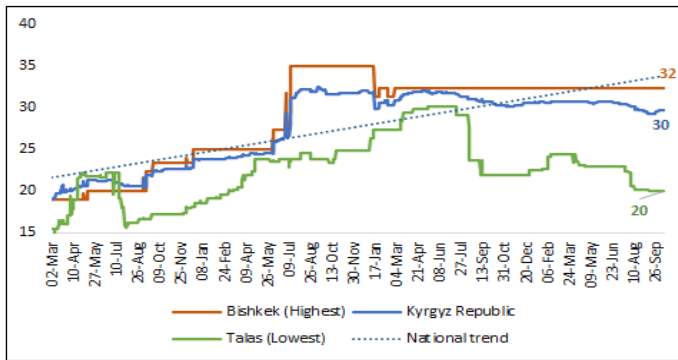
	15 Sep—13 Oct 2023 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend		15 Sep—13 Oct 2023 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend
<b>Bread (1st grade)</b>	66.87	65	3%	<b>Rice (medium)</b>	143	140	2%
<b>Milk</b>	56.15	55	3%	<b>Sugar</b>	87	90	-4%
<b>Meat (beef)</b>	550	550	0%	<b>Wheat</b>	30	30	0%
<b>Meat (mutton)</b>	575	581	-1%	<b>Wheat flour (1st grade)</b>	53	51	5%
<b>Oil (cooking)</b>	153	155	-1%	<b>Wheat flour (high-grade)</b>	66	63	5%
<b>Potatoes</b>	36	43	-16%	<b>Eggs</b>	117	114	3%

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 Chaek; 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.

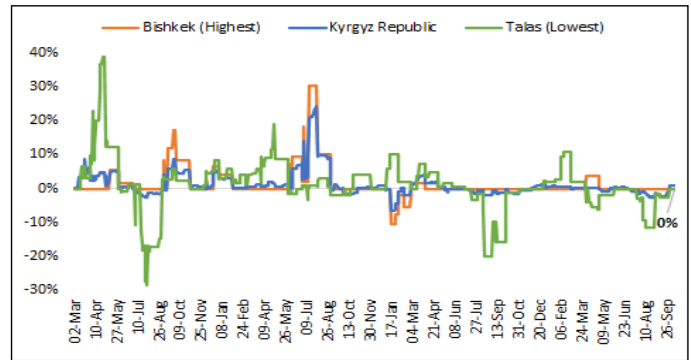
For additional information on the Price Monitoring Bulletins, please contact [WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org)

WHEAT

Pic 1. Retail wheat prices (KGS/kg)

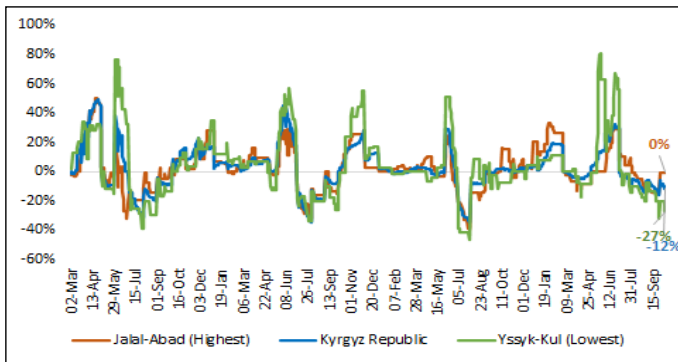


Pic 2. Growth rate of wheat prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

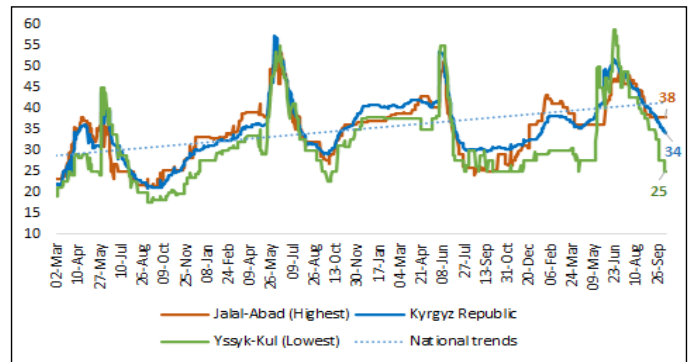


POTATO

Pic 3. Retail potatoes prices (KGS/kg)

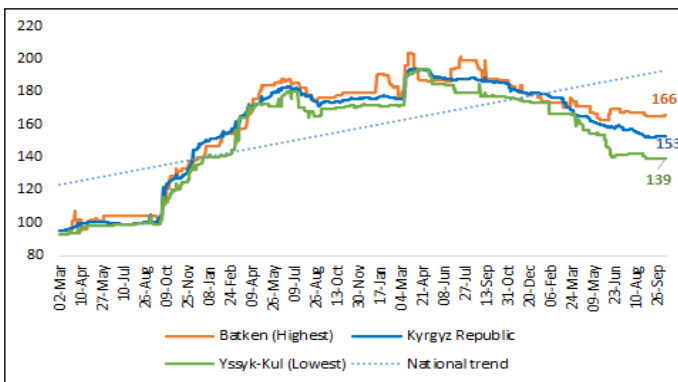


Pic 4. Growth rate of potatoes prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

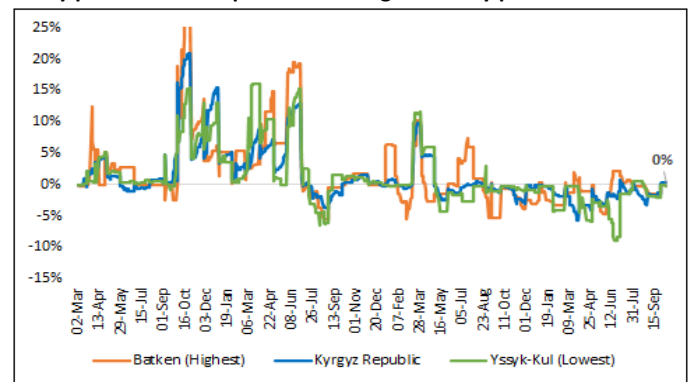


OIL (COOKING)

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

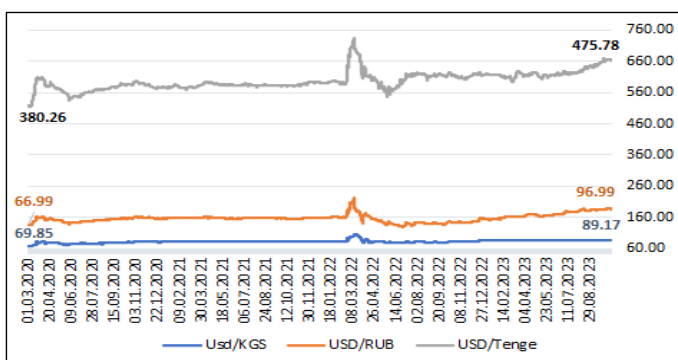


Pic 6. Growth rate of vegetable oil prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price



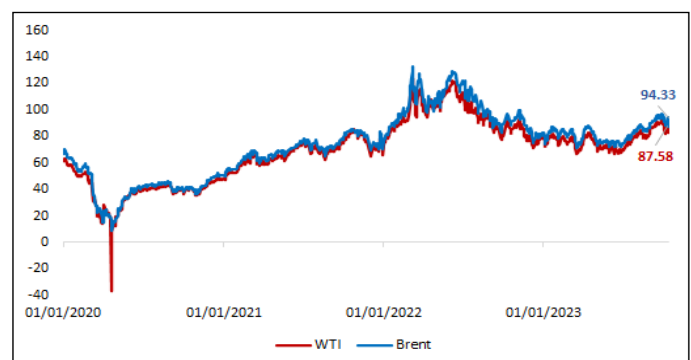
EXCHANGE RATE

Pic 7. Exchange rates of the Russian ruble, Kyrgyz som and Kazakh tenge against the US dollar (source: National Banks of Russia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)



GLOBAL OIL PRICES

Pic 8. Daily WTI, Brent prices (Jan 2020 to 13 Oct 2023, source: US Energy Information Administration)





## Annex: Prices of 13 Food Commodities

The table shows the changes of the average retail prices of the current day, past four weeks compared to the average prices of the previous month.

Province	Commodity	October 13 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / October 2022	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / October 2022	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	Commodity	October 13 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / October 2022	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / October 2022	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020
<b>BATKEN</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	87	6%	24%	64%	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	34	-12%	28%	56%	▼	▲	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	104	11%	16%	70%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	141	-3%	53%	87%	▶	▲	▲
	Eggs	121	4%	11%	44%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	90	-2%	-11%	104%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	505	0%	6%	47%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	29	-3%	-6%	45%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	4%	71%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	52	1%	-3%	49%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	60	0%	20%	71%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	3%	-3%	50%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	166	-1%	-17%	73%	▶	▼	▶								
	<b>BISHKEK CITY</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	68	3%	6%	51%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	36	-14%	16%	0%	▼	▲	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	98	9%	13%	50%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	143	0%	74%	93%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	116	3%	24%	53%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	84	-6%	-13%	111%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	570	0%	5%	60%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	32	0%	0%	71%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	567	-2%	9%	85%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	56	3%	6%	70%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	62	3%	11%	55%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	65	3%	0%	62%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	147	-1%	-21%	51%	▶	▼	▶								
	<b>CHUY</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	62	4%	6%	55%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	29	-11%	11%	47%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	100	8%	8%	54%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	119	1%	30%	57%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	123	2%	1%	54%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	88	0%	-6%	133%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	525	0%	0%	63%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	24	-11%	-15%	27%	▼	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	544	-1%	-1%	73%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	53	6%	5%	53%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	55	8%	16%	55%	▲	▲	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	64	7%	6%	47%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	164	-4%	-9%	82%	▶	▶	▶								
	<b>JALALABAD</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	77	3%	4%	47%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	38	-15%	57%	59%	▼	▲	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	90	1%	5%	23%	▶	▶	▶	Rice (medium)	157	5%	57%	86%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	124	0%	22%	51%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	88	-3%	-11%	118%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	505	-1%	5%	47%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	30	1%	-12%	45%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	557	-1%	5%	62%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	50	1%	-3%	36%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	51	3%	1%	35%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	66	3%	8%	53%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	166	-1%	-14%	83%	▶	▶	▶								
	<b>NARYN</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	76	6%	22%	48%	▲	▲	▲	Potatoes	27	-25%	17%	51%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	101	8%	21%	67%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	136	0%	57%	92%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	118	2%	24%	43%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	83	-4%	-12%	116%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	550	-2%	6%	65%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	23	-5%	-20%	29%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	550	-1%	2%	68%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	54	16%	1%	63%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	45	11%	11%	33%	▲	▲	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	63	11%	2%	59%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	161	0%	-19%	69%	▶	▼	▶								
	<b>OSH</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	71	1%	5%	17%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	34	-16%	36%	63%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	117	5%	13%	35%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	149	9%	53%	61%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	124	3%	9%	73%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	92	-2%	-9%	94%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	530	0%	4%	3%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	31	1%	-3%	56%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	6%	71%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	54	6%	3%	38%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	48	0%	13%	35%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	8%	9%	40%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	163	6%	-13%	73%	▲	▶	▶								
	<b>TALAS</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	73	3%	-4%	58%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	35	-6%	27%	68%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	97	6%	9%	54%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	139	0%	71%	71%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	122	-4%	21%	46%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	86	0%	-11%	115%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	501	0%	10%	63%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	20	-3%	-24%	29%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	545	0%	11%	76%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	51	9%	-3%	50%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	46	1%	24%	61%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	72	8%	9%	87%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	166	7%	-4%	83%	▲	▶	▶								
	<b>YSSYK-KUL</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	63	2%	3%	42%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	25	-26%	7%	62%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	91	6%	12%	51%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	156	7%	79%	97%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	111	1%	22%	48%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	82	-4%	-12%	125%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	516	-3%	-1%	52%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	21	-11%	-19%	20%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	545	-3%	3%	78%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	44	2%	-9%	24%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	49	-3%	0%	78%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	5%	7%	40%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	139	2%	-22%	27%	▶	▼	▶								
	<b>KYRGYZ REPUBLIC</b>															
	Bread (1st grade)	68	3%	7%	46%	▶	▶	▶	Potatoes	34	-16%	21%	66%	▼	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	100	8%	12%	53%	▲	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	143	2%	67%	85%	▶	▶	▶
	Eggs	118	3%	20%	52%	▶	▶	▶	Sugar	86	-4%	-12%	111%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (beef)	551	0%	5%	58%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	30	-1%	-5%	55%	▶	▶	▶
	Meat (mutton)	571	-1%	7%	79%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (1st quality)	54	5%	3%	60%	▶	▶	▶
	Milk	57	3%	8%	45%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat flour (high grade)	67	4%	3%	56%	▶	▶	▶
	Oil (cooking)	153	-1%	-19%	60%	▶	▼	▶								

▲ 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