

WFP Libya

Market Monitoring Report

November 2023



HIGHLIGHTS

- In November 2023, the cost of the national food minimum expenditure basket was LYD 765.77, which was 1 percent higher than that of the previous month.
- The commodities with the highest monthly price increase in November 2023 were Chicken Meat (+17 percent), Rice (+13 percent), Beans (+13 percent), and potatoes (+10 percent).
- In the flood-affected areas in the east, the cost of the food basket has increased since the floods, with the cost of the food basket increasing by 9 percent in Derna and 6 percent in Albayda.
- The cost of the complete minimum expenditure basket measured by food and non-food items was 861.60 LYD in November, 2 percent higher than in the previous month.

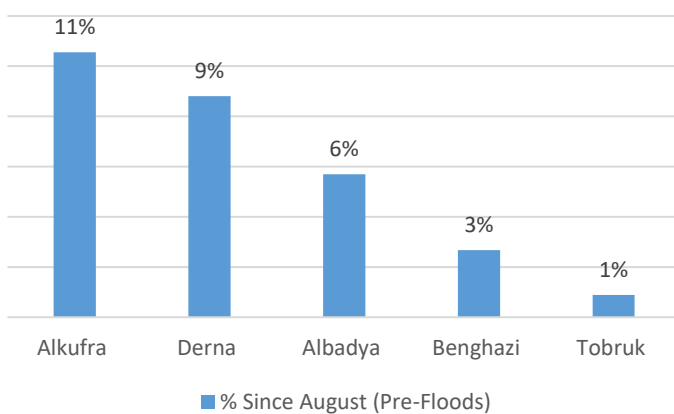


FLOOD IMPLICATIONS IN THE EASTREN REGION

Between 10 to 12 September 2023, the Eastern region of Libya, predominantly the city of **Derna** and districts in **Al Jabal Alakhdar**, experienced devastating flooding caused by the collapse of two upstream dams. This caused casualties and displacement, and negatively affecting access to and availability of food.

Cost of MEB

Figure 1: Minimum food basket price development, Nov-August (pre-floods)



The cost of the food minimum expenditure basket has witnessed a general increase in the monitored municipalities in the East. This is particularly the case in **Alkufra**, where the cost of a food basket has increased by 11 percent between August (prior to the floods) and November.

Alkufra is characterized with its desert borders with Egypt, Chad, and Sudan, making it a strategic location for official and parallel exchange and supply with many oil fields existing nearby. This price increase could be attributed to the increase in the parallel exchange rate which was recorded to be 5.96 USD/LYD and fuel shortage which could have led to increased prices due to higher imposed transportation costs.

Derna witnessed 9 percent increase in the cost of a food basket since the floods, and in the Joint Rapid Assessment of Markets (JRAM) conducted by REACH¹, 70 percent of retailers reported a reduction in storage capacity due to damage to storage facilities,

this correlates with the reduction in stocks by wholesalers, who also reported a reduction in storage capacity due to damage to storage facilities and an increase in the cost of renting storage space. This underlines the profound impact of the floods on critical infrastructure.

In **Albadya**, a community in Al Jabal Alakhdar, prices have risen by 6 per cent since the floods. The JRAM indicates that 42 percent of retailers surveyed reported an increase in demand for essential goods and services following the floods, while IOM DTM Displacement Matrix reported that Al Bayda hosted 785 displaced persons from areas severely affected by the floods. In addition, 60 percent of retailers reported that the floods had led to a reduction in storage capacity for goods due to damage to storage facilities; this stockpiling and increase in demand could be a contributing factor to the increase in prices in Albadya since the floods.

In **Benghazi**, the cost of the food basket increased by 3 per cent compared to pre-flood levels, mainly due to the sudden influx of IDPs from flood affected areas since September². This increase is mainly due to the increase in the price of vegetable oil, which has increased by 38 percent since August (before the floods), canned tuna (increased by 38 percent), rice (increased by 22 percent), and eggs (increased by 35 percent).

¹ [REACH- Joint Rapid Assessment of Markets \(JRAM\)- November 2023](#)

² [WFP Libya Markets Monitor- September 2023](#)

Price Development of Key Commodities

The average cost of the food basket in the East was 3 percent higher than before the floods (August 2023). Looking at the areas directly affected by the floods, the cost of key commodities that saw significant increases in **Albayda** were the price of wheat flour, (+91 percent), vegetable oil (+17 percent), canned tomatoes (+33 percent) since before the floods.

In **Derna**, according to WFP field staff interviews with retailers, it was reported that there was low demand for purchasing key commodities, such as wheat flour, vegetable oil, canned tuna, and canned tomatoes. This could be attributed to the fact that these commodities were provided through humanitarian and local assistance in Derna. The decrease in demand could potentially explain the decrease or lack of change in prices for these essential food items in Derna.

In **Benghazi**, a significant monthly increase in the price of vegetable oil (+55 percent) and (+38 percent) since the floods was associated with an increase in the prices of other key commodities including canned Tuna (+ 38 percent) rice (+22 percent), and eggs (+35 percent). Although the Benghazi area was not directly affected by the floods, the increase in demand for key commodities due to the influx of IDPs since the floods may have attributed to the price increase.

Alkufra was not directly affected by the floods, but it witnessed the largest monthly increase in the cost the food basket (+21 percent higher than the previous month) and (+11 percent higher since August 2023) where prices of all essential commodities increased except for wheat flour which remained unchanged.

		% Monthly Change(Nov-Oct)	% Since August (Pre-Floods)
Food Basket	National Average	3%↑	2%↑
	East Average	-1%↓	3%↑
	Albayda	-0%↓	6%↑
	Derna	N/A	9%↑
	Benghazi	-1%↓	3%↑
	Alkufra	21%↑	11%↑
Wheat Flour	National Average	0%↑	0%↑
	East Average	-1%↓	3%↑
	Albayda	0%↑	91%↑
	Derna	N/A	-17%↓
	Benghazi	-4%↓	-12%↓
	Alkufra	0%↑	0%↑
Veg Oil	National Average	1%↑	-2%↓
	East Average	-1%↓	48%↑
	Albayda	-3%↓	17%↑
	Derna	N/A	-7%↓
	Benghazi	55%↑	38%↑
	Alkufra	9%↑	9%↑
Canned Tuna	National Average	-5%↓	-7%↓
	East Average	-4%↓	-7%↓
	Albayda	-22%↓	0%↑
	Derna	N/A	-30%↓
	Benghazi	1%↑	38%↑
	Alkufra	5%↑	12%↑
Rice	National Average	13%↑	13%↑
	East Average	-3%↓	7%↑
	Albayda	3%↑	17%↑
	Derna	N/A	0%↑
	Benghazi	3%↑	22%↑
	Alkufra	0%↑	5%↑
Canned tomato	National Average	0%↑	17%↑
	East Average	-10%↓	19%↑
	Albayda	3%↑	33%↑
	Derna	N/A	-43%↓
	Benghazi	-9%↓	-11%↓
	Alkufra	5%↑	11%↑
Eggs	National Average	3%↑	17%↑
	East Average	0%↑	19%↑
	Albayda	10%↑	18%↑
	Derna	N/A	20%↑
	Benghazi	1%↑	35%↑
	Alkufra	-3%↓	1%↑



MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

Minimum Expenditure Basket Trends

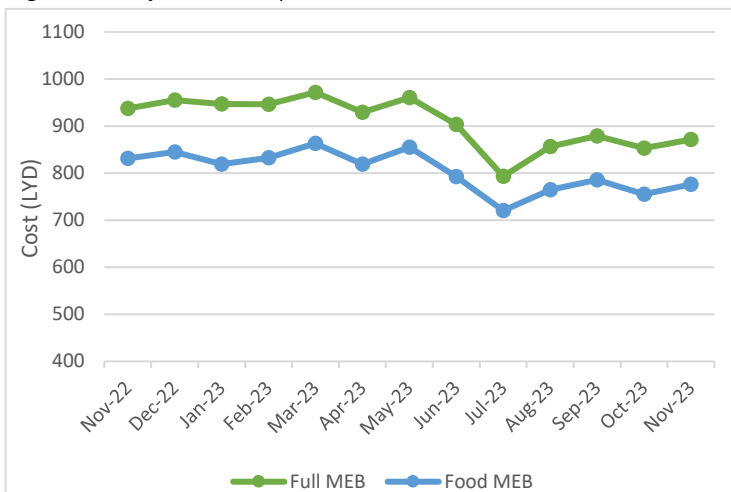
Both full MEB (food and non-food) and Food MEB experienced a general downward trend in prices compared to the same time last year with slight increases in prices between October and November. The cost of the full MEB decreased from LYD 937.5 in November 2022 to LYD 861,6 in November 2023, contributing to an annual decrease of 8 percent. Compared to the previous month, the cost of the full MEB increased from 853.4 in October to LYD 861,6 in November, contributing to a monthly increase of 2 percent.

Similarly, the cost of the food basket decreased from LYD 831.4 in November 2022 to LYD 765,8 in November 2023, contributing to an annual decrease of 8 percent. Compared to the previous month, the cost of the food basket increased from LYD 755.2 in October to LYD 765,8 in November, contributing to a monthly increase of 1.4 percent. The cost in November 2023 was 11.3 percent higher than before the Ukraine crisis food MEB cost (LYD 677 in January 2022) and 22.4 percent higher than the pre-COVID food MEB cost (LYD 625.40 in February 2020) in Libya.

Table 1: Minimum Expenditure Basket, November 2023

Commodity	Measure	Quantity	Price/unit	Total (LYD)
Food MEB				
Wheat bread	Loaf	32,0	1,46	46,72
Rice	Kg	10,0	4,50	45,00
Couscous	Kg	5,5	6,50	35,75
Pasta	500g	19,0	2,50	47,50
Potatoes	Kg	12,0	2,75	33,00
Beans	400g	15,0	2,82	42,23
Tomatoes	Kg	10,0	2,50	25,00
Pepper	Kg	4,5	4,00	18,00
Onions	Kg	7,0	2,88	20,13
Tomato paste	400g	15,0	4,00	60,00
Chicken	Kg	7,5	14,00	105,00
Eggs	30 pcs	4,0	17,50	70,00
Canned tuna	200g	20,0	4,50	90,00
Milk	Litre	8,5	4,50	38,25
Vegetable oil	Litre	5,0	7,04	35,20
Salt	Kg	1,0	1,00	1,00
Sugar	Kg	2,0	4,50	9,00
Black tea	250g	8,0	5,50	44,00
Total Food MEB				765,77
Non-Food MEB				
Soap	150g	9,0	2,13	19,13
Detergent	Litre	1,3	5,00	6,50
Dishwashing liquid	Litre	1,3	4,00	5,20
Toothpaste	Piece	5,0	5,00	25,00
Pads	10 pads	4,0	5,00	20,00
Total Non-Food MEB				75,83
Cooking fuel				20,00
Total full MEB (Nov)				861,60

Figure1: Cost of Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Over the Past 12 Months



Food Basket

In November 2023, the overall price of food, measured by the Minimum Food Expenditure Basket (MEB) increased by 1 percent compared to the previous month. When compared to the previous month, commodities that witnessed the highest monthly price increase were Chicken Meat (+17 percent), Rice (+13 percent), Beans (+13 percent), and potatoes (+10 percent). Since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, the prices of cereals have increased, such as couscous (+76 percent), pasta (+25 percent) and flour (+2 percent). Comparing current prices with those before the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, Libyan households need to spend 10 percent more to cover their monthly food needs.

Table 2: Food commodities price trends

Food Basket Components	Price (LYD)	Price change %		
	Nov-23	% Monthly Change (Oct-23)	% Annual Change (Nov-22)	% Change since pre-ukrainian conflict (Jan-22)
Flour (1kg)	3,00	0%↑	-15%↓	2%↑
Rice (1kg)	4,50	13%↑	-5%↓	-14%↓
Couscous (1kg)	6,50	-7%↓	-2%↓	76%↑
Pasta (500g)	2,50	0%↑	-17%↓	25%↑
Potatoes (1kg)	2,75	10%↑	-21%↓	10%↑
Beans (400g)	2,82	13%↑	2%↑	13%↑
Tomatoes (1kg)	2,50	0%↑	0%↑	25%↑
Pepper (1kg)	4,00	0%↑	-14%↓	-16%↓
Onions (1kg)	2,88	-4%↓	5%↑	15%↑
Tomato paste (400g)	4,00	0%↑	1%↑	33%↑
Chicken (1kg)	14,00	17%↑	12%↑	44%↑
Eggs (30 eggs)	17,50	3%↑	30%↑	23%↑
Tuna (200g)	4,50	-5%↓	-25%↓	-8%↓
Milk (1L)	4,50	0%↑	0%↑	6%↑
Vegetable oil (1L)	7,04	1%↑	-39%↓	-22%↓
Salt (1kg)	1,00	0%↑	-11%↓	0%↑
Sugar (1kg)	4,50	0%↑	13%↑	16%↑
Black tea (250g)	5,50	-8%↓	-18%↓	-15%↓
Food Basket (MEB)	765,77	1%↑	-8%↓	10%↑



COMMODITY PRICE TRENDS

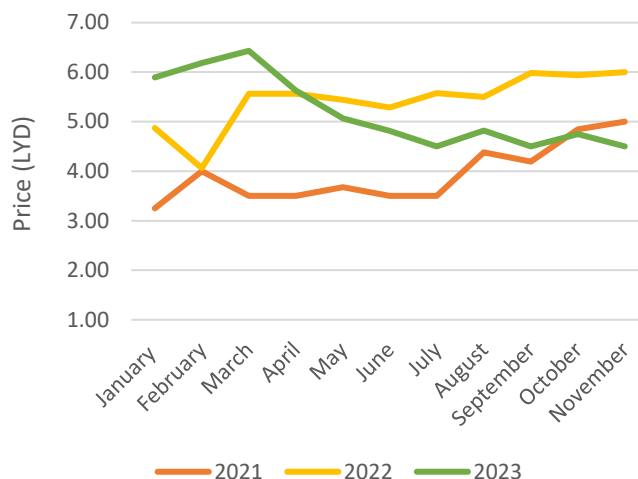
Price Trends for Key Food Items

The increase in the cost of the food basket between October and November is mainly due to an increase in prices of chicken, beans, potatoes, and rice (See Table 2). Compared to the previous month, the price of most of the main food items decreased or remained relatively stable.

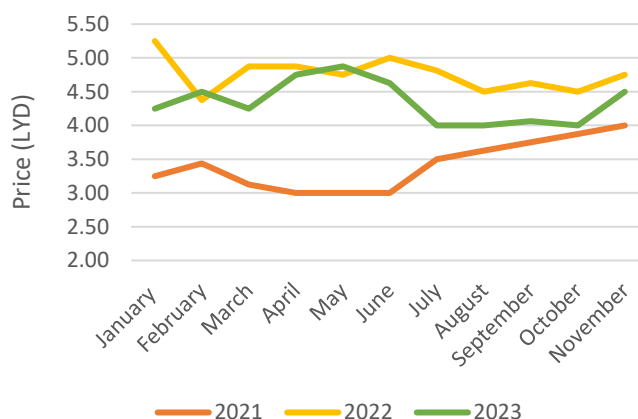


Canned tuna:

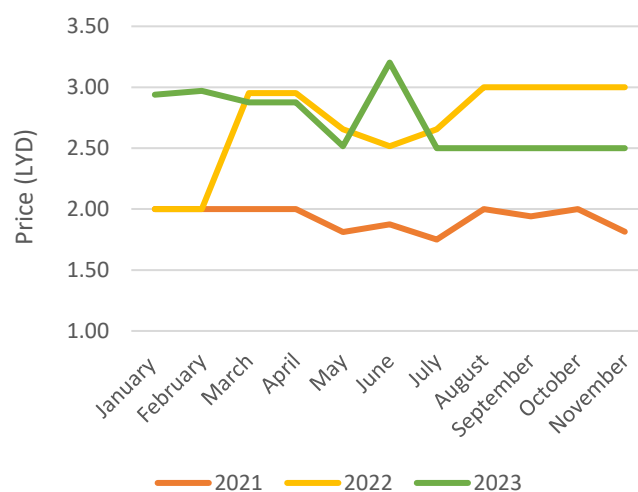
The price of tuna decreased to LYD 4.5/200g, 5 percent less than in October and 25 percent less than the same period last year. This price reduction is in line with the downward trend in tuna prices observed since March this year.



Rice: The price of rice has spiked in November reaching LYD 4.5/kg, which is an 13 percent increase compared to the previous month and 5 percent less than the previous year.

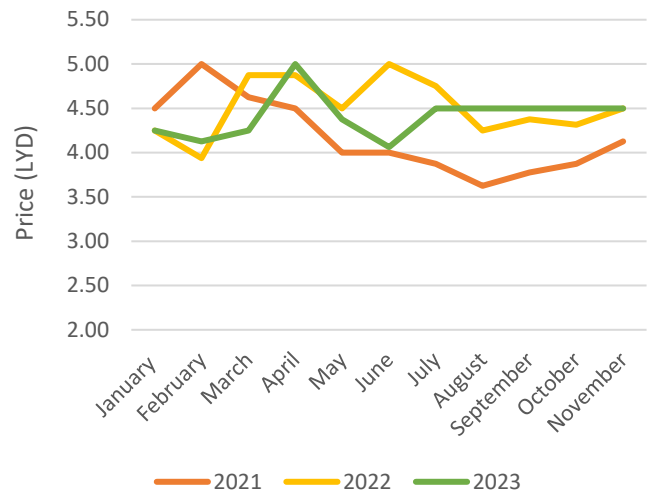


Pasta: The price of pasta remained stable after the spike in June (LYD 2.5/kg). The price of pasta has been on rise since the beginning of the ukrainian conflict with 25 percent increase since January 2022, while it is 17 percent lower than one year ago due to the general improvement at the global market.

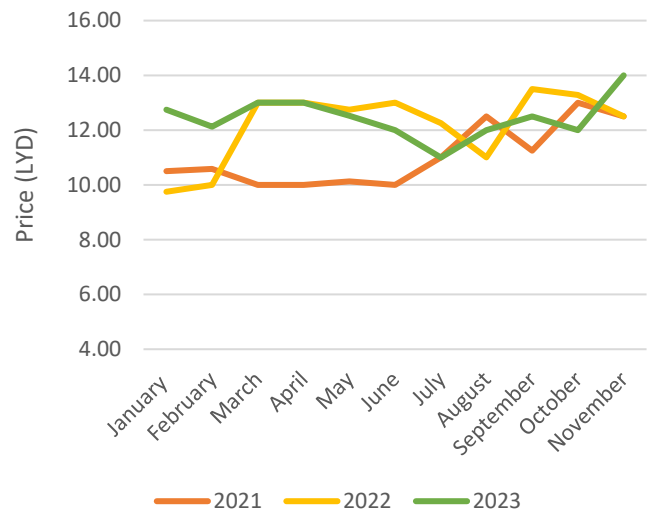




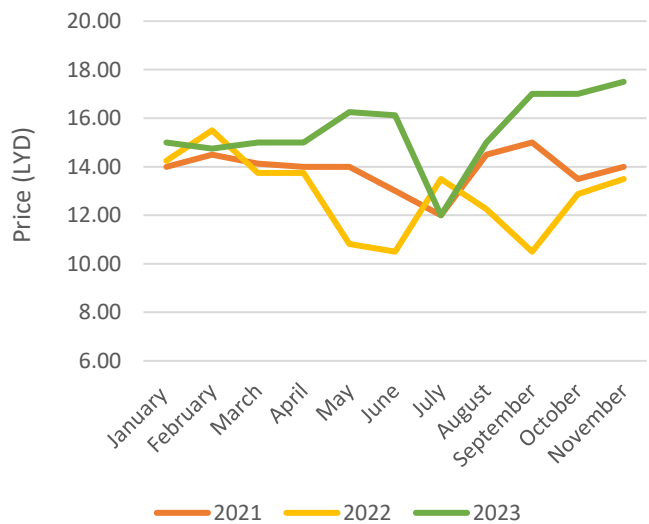
Milk: The price of milk remained stable at LYD 4.5/l, the same as last month (and similar than a year ago)



Chicken: The average price of chicken spiked to LYD 14/kg, an increase of 17 percent since the last month, and 12 percent higher than the previous year.

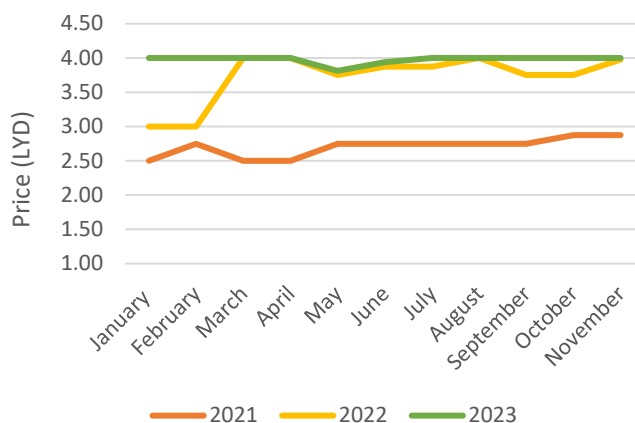


Eggs: The price trend for eggs has been on the rise in 2023, with the the current price of eggs being the highest price reported since the beginning of the year, reaching LYD 17.50 per 30 eggs, 3 percent higher than the previous month and 30 percent higher than last year.



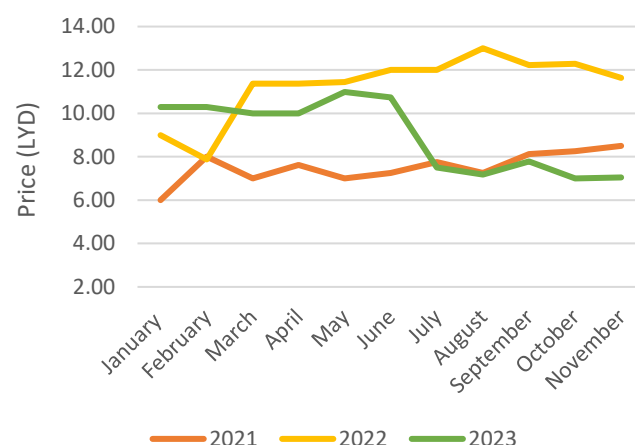


Tomato: The price of canned tomato has remained stable at LYD 4/400. When compared to last year, the price of canned tomato has increased by 1 percent and is 33 percent higher since the beginning of the Ukrainain conflict in January 2022.



Vegetable oil: The price of vegetable oil has remianed stable in November at LYD 7/L and is 39 percent lower than the previous year.

When compared to the pre-Ukraine crisis period, the current price of vegetable oil is 22 percent lower. The long term trend is in line with the general decline in the global oilseed prices.



RECOMMNDATIONS

- Continue monthly monitoring of the development in the prices of essential food and non-food items.
- Monitor the macroeconomic development in Libya and global food price trends.
- Monitor the role of humanitarian aid and local assistance on food prices in flood affected areas.

METHDOLOGY

In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was launched by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative was led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members. Funding for REACH ended April 2023 and since then there has been a gap in market monitoring.

WFP through its Research Assessment & Monitoring Unit has started collecting market monitoring data in Libya's 20 municipalities from July 2023. Markets in key urban areas across Libya are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. The data collection started from 16th November to 26th November, data were collected by field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations.

At least four prices were collected per item in each location. In line with the purpose of the local market monitoring, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item and median prices were calculated for food items and non-food items.