



World Food Programme

# WFP Libya

## Market Monitoring Report

February 2024



### HIGHLIGHTS

- In February 2024, the cost of food as measured by the **Minimum Food Expenditure Basket** was **LYD 792.13** (3 percent higher than the previous month).
- Food commodities that increased in cost between January and February were **eggs** (6 percent increase), **beans** (9 percent increase), **couscous** (4 percent increase), and **tomatoes** (17 percent increase).
- The South region recorded the highest cost of the food basket at LYD 866.00 (9 percent higher than the national average), followed by the East which was at LYD 804.36 (2 percent higher than the national average).
- The cost of the **Full Minimum Expenditure Basket** (food and non-food items) reached **LYD 913.28 in February 2024** (6 percent higher than the previous month).
- During the monitoring period, there was a **shortage in cooking fuel in Ajdabiya, Derna and Sirte**.
- WFP's price analysis in the East shows that the cost of the food basket in **Derna increased** from 729.38 LYD in January to LYD 779.0 in February (7 percent increase) and has increased in **Albayda** from 796.30 LYD in January to LYD 827.06 in February (4 percent increase).
- Currently, Libyan household's emergency cash value receive **USD 21** for food assistance per person and **USD 105 per a household of 5** for food needs per month (**LYD 515**). In February 2024, the food portion of the WFP transfer value covered **65 percent** of the national food MEB.

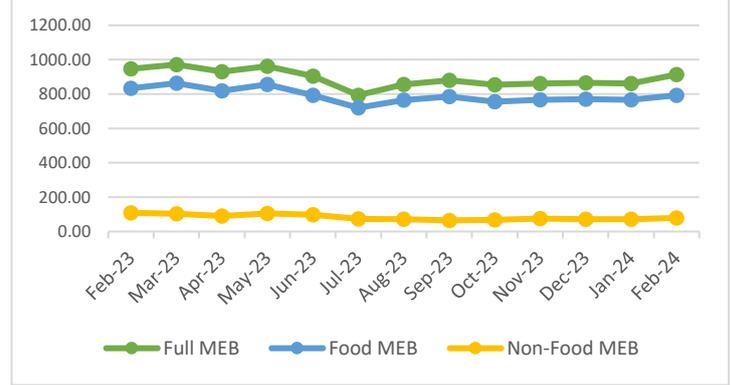
# MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET

## Minimum Expenditure Basket Trends

The national cost of the **Food Minimum Expenditure Basket** has increased from LYD 767.44 in January to LYD 792.13 in February, a monthly increase of 3 percent (Table 2). This increase is mainly due to an increase in the cost of eggs (+6 percent), beans (+9 percent), couscous (+4 percent), and tomatoes (+17 percent). Compared to the same time last year, the cost of the food basket fell by 5 percent. Comparing current prices with those before the outbreak of the conflict in Ukraine, Libyan households now spend 14 percent more to cover the monthly food needs. Prices of cereal group have reported an increase since the conflict such as couscous (+90 percent), pasta (+25 percent), and flour (+2 percent) (Table 4).

The cost of the food basket in the south continues to record the highest value at LYD 866.00 (9 percent higher than the national average), followed by the East which was at LYD 804.36 (2 percent higher than the national average), while

Table 1: Cost of Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Over the Past 12 Months



the West recorded the lowest cost at LYD 740.31 (7 percent less than the national average). The cost of the full MEB (measured by food and non-food items) has increased from LYD 861.55 in January to LYD 913.28 in February (6 percent increase compared to the previous month). Compared to the same time last year, the cost of the full basket is 4 percent lower, falling from LYD 946.63 in February 2023 to LYD 913.28 in February 2024.

Table 3: Minimum Expenditure Basket Cost, February 2024

Commodity	Measure	Quantity	Price/unit	Total (LYD)
<b>Food MEB</b>				
Wheat bread	Loaf	32.00	1.67	53.44
Rice	Kg	10.00	4.50	45.00
Couscous	Kg	5.50	7.00	38.50
Pasta	500g	19.00	2.50	47.50
Potatoes	Kg	12.00	3.00	36.00
Beans	400g	15.00	3.00	45.00
Tomatoes	Kg	10.00	3.00	30.00
Pepper	Kg	4.50	4.25	19.13
Onions	Kg	7.00	2.75	19.25
Tomato paste	400g	15.00	4.00	60.00
Chicken	Kg	7.50	13.00	97.50
Eggs	30 pcs	4.00	19.00	76.00
Canned tuna	200g	20.00	4.50	90.00
Milk	Litre	8.50	4.63	39.31
Vegetable oil	Litre	5.00	7.50	37.50
Salt	Kg	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sugar	Kg	2.00	4.50	9.00
Black tea	250g	8.00	6.00	48.00
<b>Total Food MEB</b>				<b>792.13</b>
<b>Non-Food MEB</b>				
Soap	150g	9.0	2.25	20.25
Detergent	Litre	1.3	5.50	7.15
Dishwashing liquid	Litre	1.3	5.00	6.50
Toothpaste	Piece	5.0	5.75	28.75
Pads	10 pads	4.0	4.00	16.00
<b>Total Non-Food MEB</b>				<b>78.65</b>
Cooking fuel				42.50
<b>Total full MEB (Feb)</b>				<b>913.28</b>

Table 2: Price Change in Food Basket Across Regions

Region	Food MEB Price (LYD) (February 2024)	% Monthly Change (January 2024)	% Annual Change (February 2024)	% Change Since January 2022 (Pre-Ukrainian Conflict)
<b>National</b>	792.13	3%↑	-5%↓	14%↑
<b>West</b>	740.31	-1%↓	-11%↓	4%↑
<b>East</b>	804.36	5%↑	N/A	22%↑
<b>South</b>	866.69	4%↑	2%↑	15%↑

Table 4: Food commodity price trends

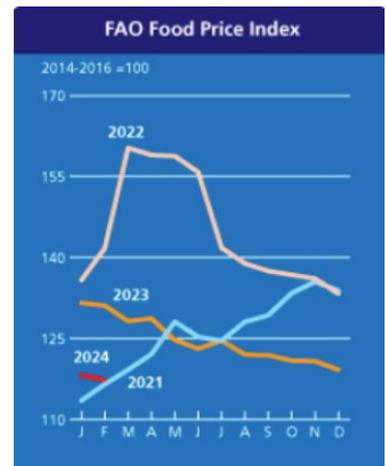
Food Basket Components	Price (LYD)	Price Change %		
	Feb-24	% Monthly Change (Jan-24)	% Annual Change (Feb-23)	% Change since pre-ukrainian conflict (Jan-22)
Flour (1kg)	3.00	0%↑	-14%↓	2%↑
Rice (1kg)	4.50	0%↑	0%↑	-14%↓
Couscous (1kg)	7.00	4%↑	136%↑	90%↑
Pasta (500g)	2.50	0%↑	-15%↓	25%↑
Potatoes (1kg)	3.00	0%↑	0%↑	20%↑
Beans (400g)	3.00	9%↑	0%↑	20%↑
Tomatoes (1kg)	3.00	17%↑	33%↑	50%↑
Pepper (1kg)	4.25	6%↑	-15%↓	-11%↓
Onions (1kg)	2.75	-8%↓	-8%↓	10%↑
Tomato paste (400g)	4.00	-2%↓	0%↑	33%↑
Chicken (1kg)	13.00	-4%↓	7%↑	33%↑
Eggs (30 eggs)	19.00	6%↑	29%↑	33%↑
Tuna (200g)	4.50	0%↑	-27%↓	-8%↓
Milk (1L)	4.63	3%↑	12%↑	9%↑
Vegetable oil (1L)	7.50	0%↑	-27%↓	-17%↓
Salt (1kg)	1.00	0%↑	0%↑	0%↑
Sugar (1kg)	4.50	0%↑	13%↑	16%↑
Black tea (250g)	6.00	4%↑	-21%↓	-8%↓
<b>Food Basket (MEB)</b>	792.13	3%↑	-16%↓	14%↑

# MACRO-ECONOMICS SITUATION

## Global Economy

The benchmark for world food commodity prices declined for the seventh consecutive month in February, as lower international quotations for all major cereals more than offset rising prices of sugar and meat. The FAO Food Price Index averaged 117.3 points in February, down 0.7 percent from January and 10.5 percent from the same month a year ago. The FAO Cereal Price Index decreased by 5.0 percent in February to reach a level 22.4 percent below that of February 2023. International wheat prices declined mostly due to a strong export pace from the Russian Federation. International rice prices also declined, by 1.6 percent in February. The FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index decreased by 1.3 percent from January to stand 11 percent below its February 2023 value. International soy oil prices dropped markedly, underpinned by prospects of abundant soybean outputs in South America, while abundant global export availability of sunflower and rapeseed oils pushed their prices down (source: [FAO FPI March 2023](#))

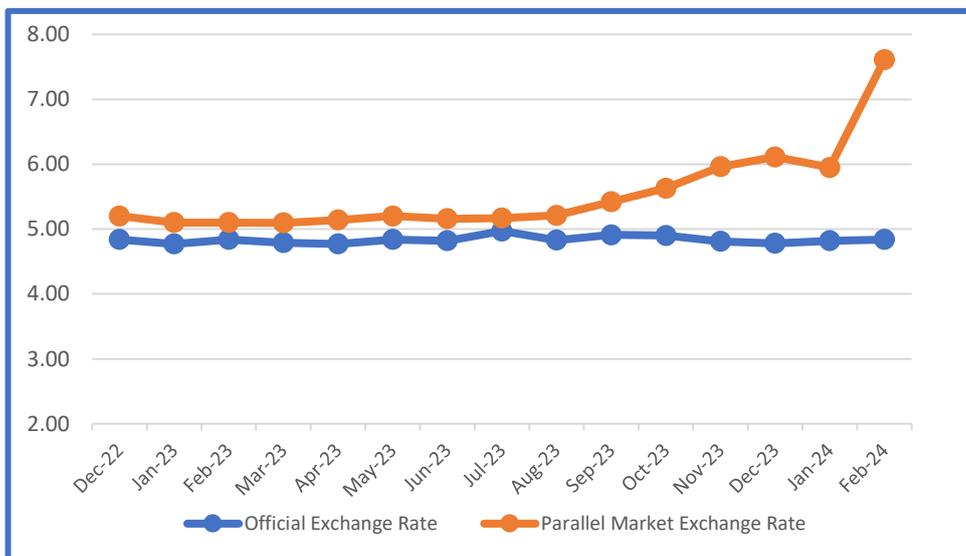
Figure 1: FAO FPI, February 2023



## Libya Economy

The Central Bank of Libya proposed the imposition of 27% fees on the official exchange rate for all purposes except in sectors funded by the public treasury - a de facto devaluation of the dinar. The previous exchange rate, set by the central bank in December 2020, was 4.8 dinars to the dollar, and the parallel market has been following the same trend until last year August 2023 when there was a noticeable deterioration of the LYD in the parallel market. With the introduction of the fees, the new rate will stand between 5.95-6.15 dinars to the dollar, which is still a significant difference from the parallel exchange rate. The devaluation of a Libyan dinar can have significant implications for the food basket, impacting access to affordable basic food items. In the current reporting period, the official exchange rate was still pegged at LYD4.84:US\$1 and in the Parallel Market Exchange Rate it was reported at LYD7.61:US\$1 (source: Libyan Observer).

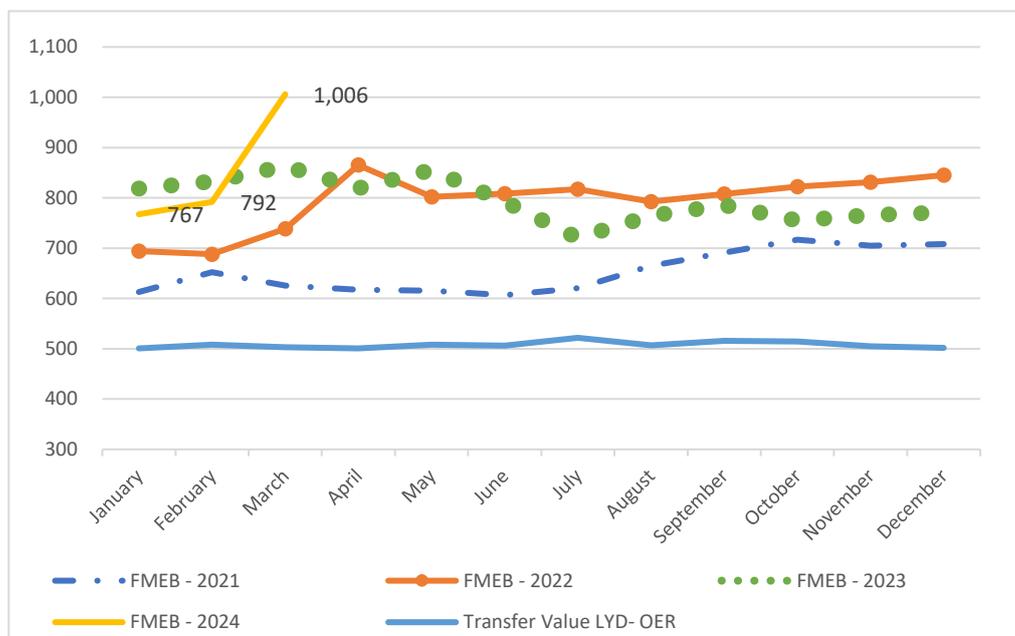
Figure 2: Evolution of Official Vs. Parallel Exchange Rate



## Implication of the Exchange Rate on the Minimum Expenditure Basket

The poor performance of the Libyan dinar may lead to inflation as the prices of goods and services, including food, increase due to higher production costs and import prices. The latest inflation rates reported by the National Bureau of Statistics show a downward trend from December 2022 (4 percent) to November 2023 (percent). In Libya, the most important categories in the consumer price index (CPI) are food and beverages (39 percent of the total weight) and housing, water, electricity and other fuels (23 percent). This can erode the purchasing power of the local population, especially those on fixed incomes or low wages, making it harder for them to afford an adequate diet. The transfer value from WFP programmes averaging LYD 508 (USD 163) has been stable based on the official exchange rate of LYD 4.8: USD1. However, the devaluation of the Libyan dinar may exacerbate income disparities within the population, as those with higher incomes or access to USD cash may be better able to absorb the increased costs of food, while those with lower incomes may struggle to afford an adequate diet. If the government's proposal to impose a 27 percent tax on the exchange rate is implemented across all sectors, the cost of the food MEB is also projected to increase to LYD 1,006 in March 2024.

Figure 3: Food MEB Trend Analysis 2021 - 2024



## FLOOD IMPLICATIONS IN THE EASTERN REGION

Between 10 and 12 September 2023, the eastern region of Libya, mainly the city of Derna and districts in Al Jabal Al Akhdar, experienced devastating flooding caused by the collapse of two upstream dams. This caused casualties and displacement, and negatively affected access to and availability of food. 43,000 people were displaced across the country, including 16,000 in Derna. Since the September floods, WFP has reached more than 108,210 people and distributed 1207 MT of food. An additional 7,149 people were supported with LYD 1,194,819 through food-restricted cash transfers. In addition, WFP is conducting an analysis focused on the East, specifically on food prices and availability, to assess the long-term impact of the floods.

### Derna Price Analysis

By the end of October, most shops reopened, though there has been an issue in accessing the markets due to fuel shortage, and road blockages due to the floods. Respondents have also indicated that loss of income and loss of savings have impacted consumer's access to markets. When comparing the current prices in Derna to their levels before the floods in August, the cost of the food minimum expenditure basket in Derna has increased by 17 percent from 664.39 LYD in August 2023 to 779.0 LYD currently in February. With a significant increase in the cost of eggs (20 percent increase), and Chicken meat (26 percent). When compared to the previous month, the cost of the food basket has increased from 729.38 LYD in January to 779.0 LYD in February (a 7 percent increase). Commodities that witnessed the highest monthly increase in Derna were Flour (1 kg) (5 percent increase), Rice (1kg) 9 percent increase), Tuna (39 percent increase), and Chicken Meat (6 percent increase).

Table 1: Price Change of Key Commodities in Derna municipality

Essential Food Items in Derna	Current Cost in LYD (February 2024)	Previous Month Cost in LYD (January 2024)	Before Floods Cost in LYD (August 2023)	Monthly Change %	% Change Before the Floods (Since August 2023)
Flour	2.88	2.75	3.00	5%↑	-4%↓
Rice	4.38	4.00	4.00	9%↑	9%↑
Pasta	1.88	2.50	2.04	-25%↓	-8%↓
Tomato Paste	4.00	4.13	3.50	-3%↓	14%↑
Veg Oil	6.82	7.25	7.65	-6%↓	-11%↓
Tuna	5.20	3.75	5.71	39%↑	-9%↓
Eggs	18.00	20.00	15.00	-10%↓	20%↑
Chicken meat	14.78	14.00	11.75	6%↑	26%↑
Food MEB	779.0	729.38	664.39	7%↑	17%↑

## Price Analysis of Albayda

Comparing current prices in Albayda with pre-flood levels in August, the cost of the minimum food basket rose by 14 percent in February, with increases in all essential food items, most notably flour (up 91 percent), pasta (up 54 percent), tomato paste (up 33 percent), vegetable oil (up 25 percent) and eggs (up 23 percent). Compared to the previous month, the cost of the food basket increased from LYD 796.30 in January to LYD 827.06 in February. (4 percent higher than the previous month). The commodities with the highest monthly increase were pasta (500g) (9 percent increase), tuna (200g) (7 percent increase) and vegetable oil (5 percent increase).

Table 2: Price Change of Key Commodities in Albayda municipality

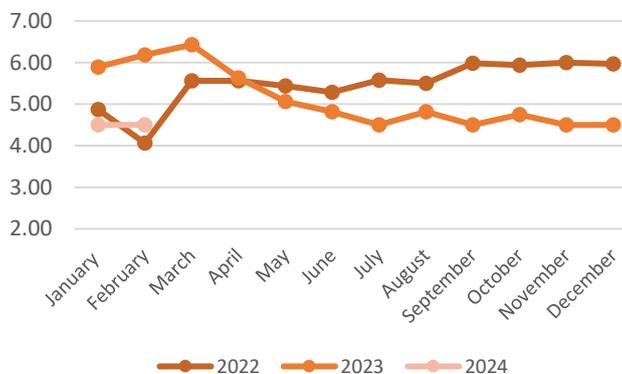
Essential Food Items in Albayda	Current Cost in LYD (February 2024)	Previous Month Cost in LYD (January 2024)	Before Floods Cost in LYD (August 2023)	Monthly Change %	% Change Before the Floods (Since August 2023)
Flour	3.50	3.50	1.83	0%↑	91%↑
Rice	4.13	4.25	3.73	-3%↓	11%↑
Pasta	3.75	3.44	2.44	9%↑	54%↑
Tomato Paste	4.00	4.00	3.00	0%↑	33%↑
Veg Oil	7.50	7.13	6.00	5%↑	25%↑
Tuna	4.00	3.75	4.00	7%↑	0%↑
Eggs	17.25	18.00	14.00	-4%↓	23%↑
Chicken meat	15.00	15.00	14.00	0%↑	7%↑
Food MEB	827.06	796.30	727.38	4%↑	14%↑

## NATIONAL COMMODITY PRICE



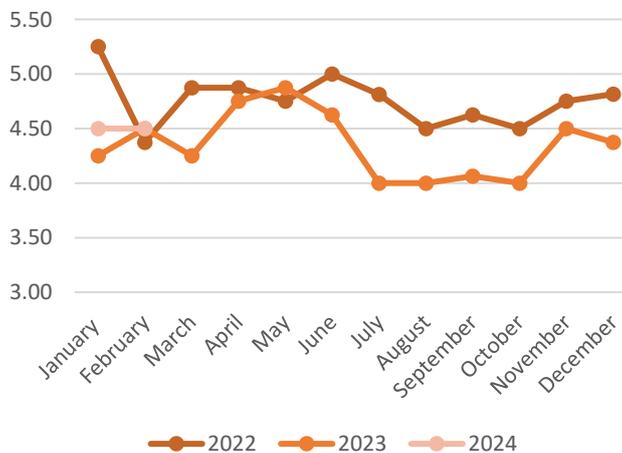
### Canned tuna:

The price of tuna remained unchanged compared to the previous month at LYD 4.5/200g. Since April 2023, the downward trend of tuna prices has continued, with prices remaining 27 percent lower than last year.



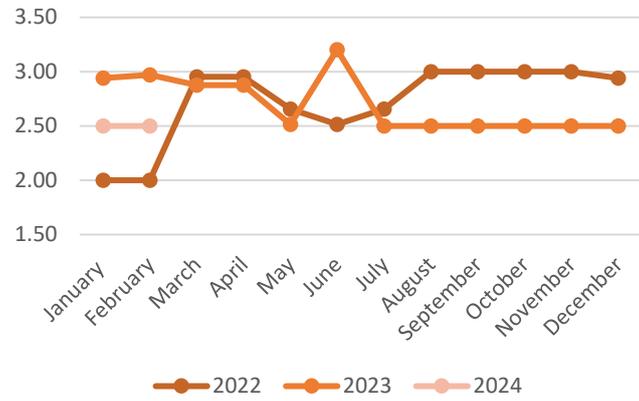
### Rice:

The price of rice has remained stable at 4.5/kg LYD and is also at the same level as last year in February 2023.

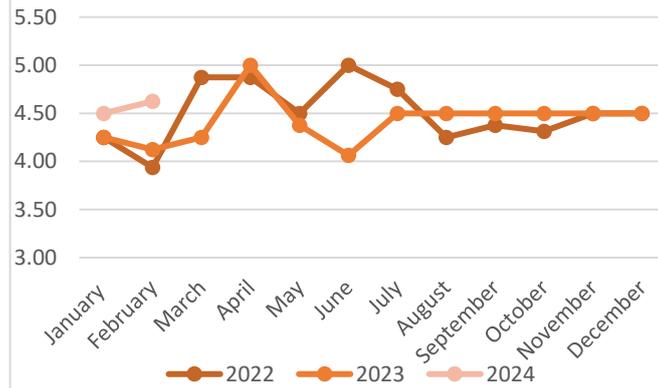




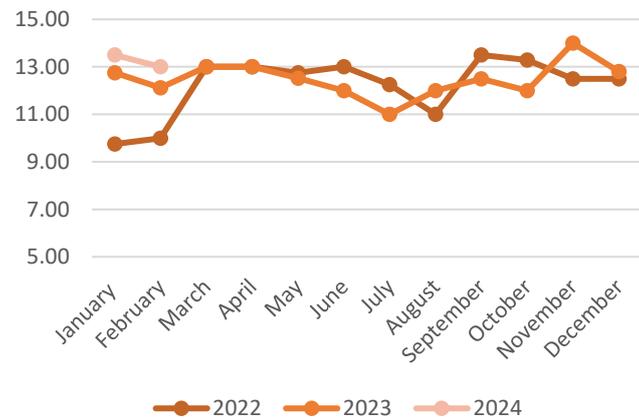
**Pasta:** The price of pasta remained stable after the spike in June 2023 at (LYD 2.5/kg), since the onset of the Ukrainian conflict in January 2022, the prices of cereal food groups have increased, with the price of pasta being 25 percent higher. Looking at annual trends, the price of pasta is 16 percent lower than the previous year.



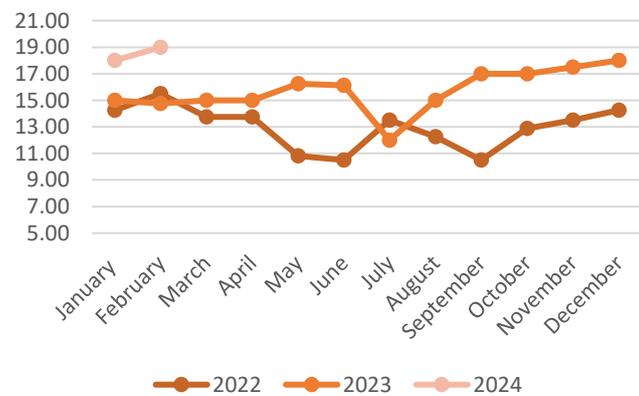
**Milk:** The price of milk rose to 4.63 LYD/L (3 percent higher than the previous month) and 12 percent higher than last year.



**Chicken:** The average price of chicken fell to LYD 13.0/kg, 4 percent lower than in the previous month, but still 7 percent higher than at the same time last year.

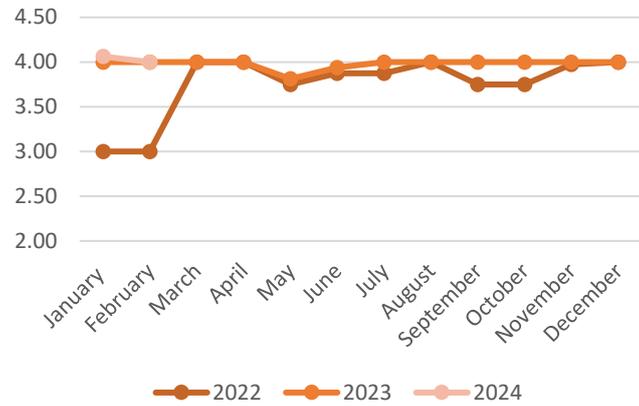


**Eggs:** The price trend for eggs has been increasing since 2023, with the current price of eggs continuing to be the highest reported in recent years, reaching LYD 19.00 per 30 eggs, up 6 percent on the previous month and 29 percent on the previous year.

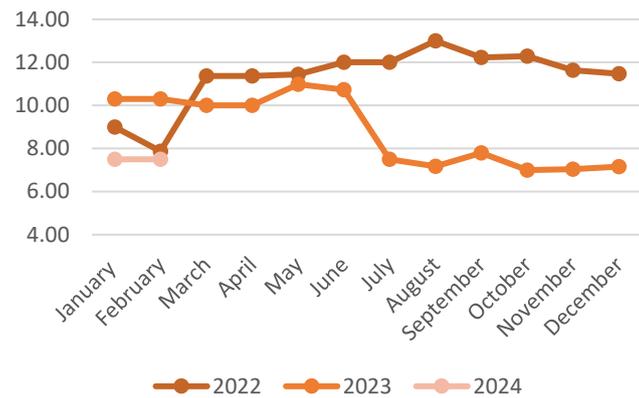




**Tomato Paste:** The price of canned tomatoes fell to LYD 4.00/400g, 2 percent less as the previous month and at the same level as last year.



**Vegetable oil:** The price of vegetable oil was unchanged at LYD 7.5/litre, 27 percent less than the previous year. The long-term trend is in line with the general decline in global oilseed prices.



## METHODOLOGY

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

In response, WFP has been collecting market monitoring data in Libya's 20 municipalities since 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. Data collection began on 25th February and continued until 29th February, with field staff familiar with local market conditions identifying shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations. At least four prices per item were collected in each location. In line with the purpose of local market monitoring, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item, and median prices were calculated for food and non-food items.

## ANNEX – MEB Cost and Monthly Change

Municipality	Full MEB Monthly %	Food MEB Monthly %	Non-Food MEB Monthly %
AlBayda	3%↑	4%↑	-10%↓
Algatroun	22%↑	13%↑	26%↑
AlJufra	7%↑	8%↑	32%↑
AlKhums	3%↑	-0%↓	5%↑
AlKufra	-3%↓	-3%↓	5%↑
Azzawya	-5%↓	-2%↓	-9%↓
Benghazi	-4%↓	-9%↓	5%↑
Derna	6%↑	7%↑	-2%↓
Ejdabia	5%↑	11%↑	3%↑
Ghat	3%↑	-6%↓	-12%↓
Misrata	-5%↓	-4%↓	-15%↓
Murzuq	-1%↓	5%↑	18%↑
Nalut	7%↑	6%↑	29%↑
Sebha	8%↑	7%↑	30%↑
Sirt	5%↑	9%↑	-13%↓
Tobruk	9%↑	11%↑	-4%↓
Tripoli Center	-10%↓	-9%↓	-3%↓
Ubari	8%↑	-0%↓	0%↑
Wadi Alshati	-3%↓	4%↑	27%↑
Zwara	19%↑	18%↑	37%↑

Municipality	Full MEB Cost (LYD)	Food MEB Cost (LYD)	Non-Food MEB Cost (LYD)
AlBayda	909.89	827.06	72.83
Algatroun	1124.14	954.44	99.70
AlJufra	997.62	850.82	96.80
AlKhums	895.20	795.10	73.10
AlKufra	1025.80	905.80	100.00
Azzawya	765.20	686.25	69.95
Benghazi	950.22	762.48	137.74
Derna	840.70	778.97	61.73
Ejdabia	864.29	802.54	61.75
Ghat	969.23	820.38	58.85
Misrata	802.20	721.25	76.95
Murzuq	1077.39	907.69	99.70
Nalut	902.24	788.69	93.55
Sebha	947.53	808.88	88.65
Sirt	826.18	757.38	68.80
Tobruk	833.75	763.75	64.00
Tripoli Center	765.01	680.50	78.01
Ubari	911.99	789.89	52.10
Wadi Alshati	1007.64	870.44	97.20
Zwara	911.50	834.50	67.00