



National Market Monitor Report

WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis

Uganda | March 2024

HIGHLIGHTS FOR KARAMOJA

- The overall average retail prices for maize grain and sorghum decreased between January and March 2024 by 7 percent and 9 percent, respectively, with Moroto, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit experiencing significant reductions.
- Overall, throughout the first quarter of 2024, the overall average retail price for maize grain and sorghum remained below the 2023 average and the five-year average.
- Overall, the projection analysis show that the prices for maize grain and sorghum are likely to remain stable through May 2024 although there will be a slight increase between April and May.
- The terms of trade for labor wage and goats to maize grain saw significant increases compared to the average levels of 2023 and 2022, indicating an improvement in the purchasing power of households. This rise can be attributed to lower prices for maize grain across the region.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY

- Throughout the first quarter of 2024, there was a consistent decline in the overall retail prices for cereals, with maize grain prices decreasing by 9 percent and sorghum by 7 percent between January and March. This decline is attributed to improved supplies resulting from last year's relatively good harvest in the country.
- Conversely, the price for beans consistently increased during this period, rising by 7 percent from UGX 3,807 to UGX 4,062, with Hoima experiencing a notable increase of 62 percent.
- Overall, retail prices for maize grain, sorghum, and beans throughout the quarter remained below 2023 average levels. However, prices stayed above the five-year average except for maize grain, which was at similar levels as the five-year average.
- Through May 2024, the overall retail prices for cereals and beans are expected to follow seasonal trends, slightly increasing between April and May 2024 due to anticipated demand.

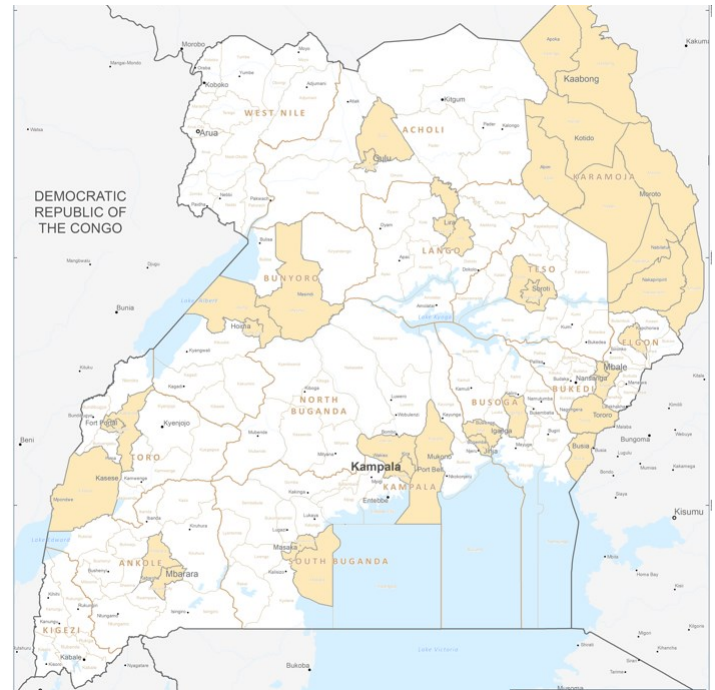
CONTEXT

WFP Uganda continues to monitor key markets across the country to support early warning through price alerts, provide information for setting cash-based transfer (CBT) values, provide context on inflationary trends, support understanding of the impact of CBT interventions on local markets, and inform decisions over the timing and location of WFP procurement.

WFP currently monitors retail prices of sorghum grain, maize grain, maize flour, millet, cassava flour, beans, and vegetable oil in the key markets in Karamoja and the rest of the country. Districts whose main markets are monitored are shown in the map.

This report provides results of analysis of the trend of the key food commodities in 2023, 2022 and the 5-year average (2019-2023). More details can be obtained online at <https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/eastern-africa/uganda/economic/prices>.

Map of Uganda showing districts whose main markets are monitored.

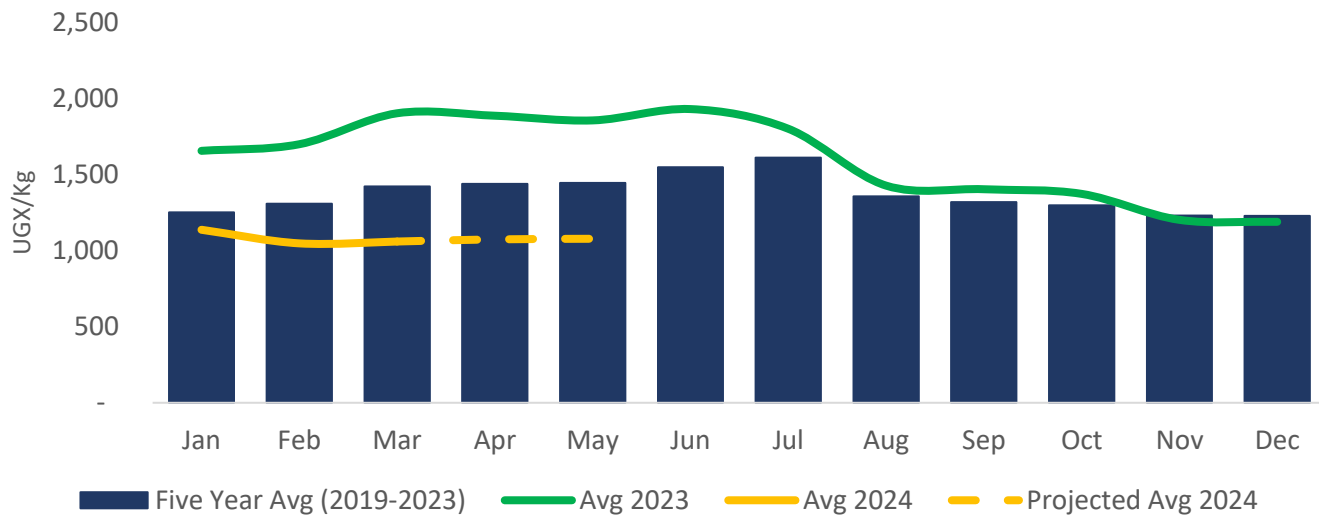


RESULTS

Karamoja Sub-region

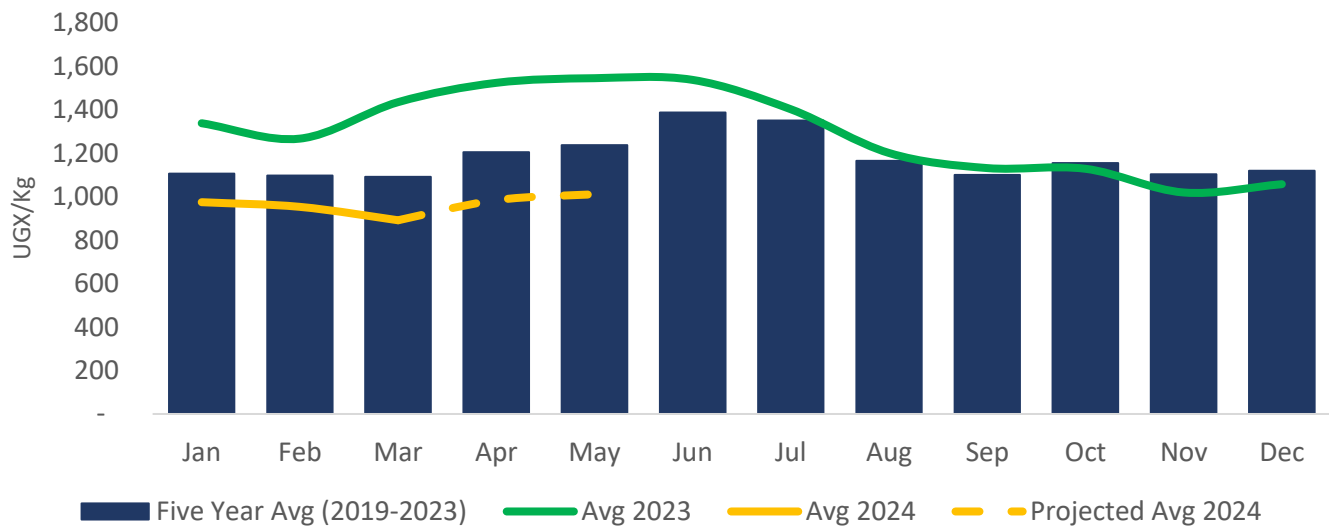
- During the first quarter of 2024, the retail price for maize grain exhibited stability overall, though showing a slight decline from January to March. From January to March 2024, the overall price decreased by 7 percent from UGX 1,138 to UGX 1,061 (Figure 1). This decrease was evident in 7 out of the 9 districts, with particularly notable declines of 18%, 13%, and 10% in Kaabong, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit, respectively.
- By March 2024, the retail price for maize grain was significantly lower compared to the previous year, by 44%, and the five-year average, by 25%, with Napak, Kaabong, and Moroto experiencing substantial decreases (Figure 1).
- Projections indicate that the retail price for maize grain is expected to remain relatively stable, continuing to remain below the 2023 levels and the five-year average until May 2024 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Average Price of Maize Grain - Karamoja



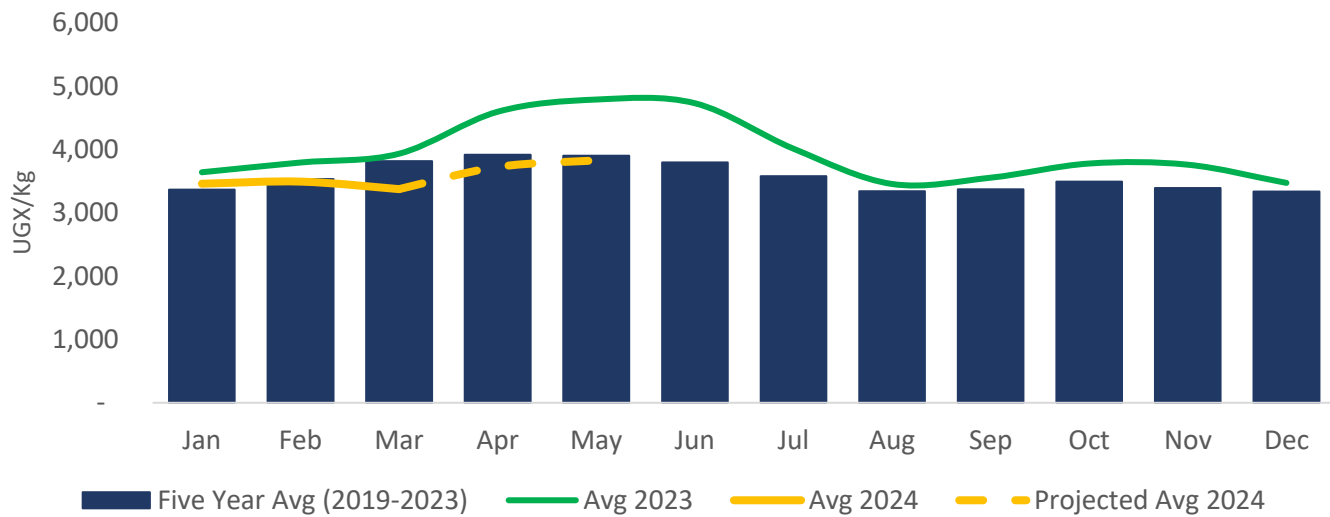
- While the retail price for sorghum remained below the levels of 2023 and the five-year average in the first quarter, there was an overall reduction of 9 percent from January to March 2024, dropping from UGX 975 to UGX 891 (Figure 2). Significant declines were observed particularly in Nabilatuk (32 percent), Nakapiripirit (25 percent), and Moroto (15 percent).
- In comparison to the same period last year and the five-year average, the overall retail price for sorghum in March 2024 was notably lower by 38 percent and 18 percent, respectively (Figure 2), especially pronounced in Nabilatuk and Moroto. However, Karenga experienced an increase compared to the previous year by 4 percent and the five-year average by 24 percent.
- Between March and May 2024, the overall retail price for sorghum is expected to follow seasonal trends, showing a slight increase but remaining below 2023 levels and the five-year average (Figure 2).
- The continued reduction in the retail price for sorghum can largely be attributed to increased supplies largely from the Lango and Teso sub-regions.

Figure 2: Average Price of Sorghum - Karamoja



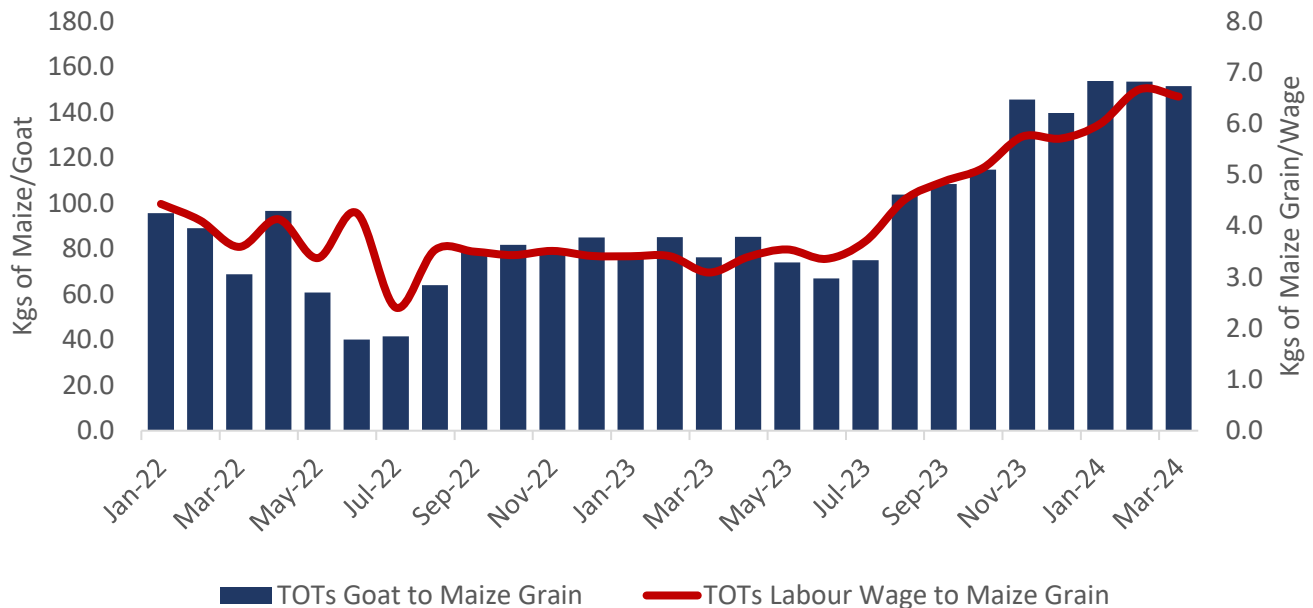
- Throughout the first quarter of 2024, the overall retail prices for beans remained relatively stable (Figure 3). District-level analysis revealed a decline in prices between January and March 2024 in Amudat and Moroto by 16 percent and 12 percent, respectively, mainly due to increased supplies from the Busigu sub-region. However, during the same period, Nabilatuk experienced a 21 percent rise, increasing from UGX 2,867 to UGX 3,480.
- In March 2024, the retail price for beans continued to be lower than 2023 levels by 14 percent and the five-year average by 12 percent (Figure 3), although significant price declines were particularly observed in Kotido, Abim, and Amudat.
- While the overall retail price for beans is expected to start increasing from April through May 2024, the price is projected to remain below 2023 levels but within similar levels as the five-year average (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Average Price of Beans - Karamoja



- The main sources of income in Karamoja are casual labour and the sale of livestock. The analysis in Figure 4 illustrates the most recent trend in the purchasing power of casual labourers and pastoralists, averaged across the nine districts in the region.
- While the terms of trade for labour wage to maize grain and goats to maize grain remained relatively stable throughout the first quarter of 2024, there was a gradual but significant improvement from June 2023, reaching unprecedented levels in March 2024 (Figure 4).
- As of March 2024, casual laborers in Karamoja could purchase 6.5 kilograms of maize grain compared to only 3.1 and 3.6 kilograms around the same period in 2023 and 2022, respectively, marking an increase by 111 percent and 82 percent, respectively (Figure 4).
- Similarly, the terms of trade for goats to maize grain in March 2024 exhibited a similar trend, with a notable improvement by 99 percent and 120 percent compared to 2023 and 2022, respectively. This suggests that pastoral households were able to purchase 152 kilograms compared to 76 and 69 kilograms, respectively (Figure 4).
- The overall improvement in the purchasing power of casual laborers and pastoralists can be attributed to reduced prices for maize grain, a result of improved supplies from other regions following a relatively good harvest in 2023.

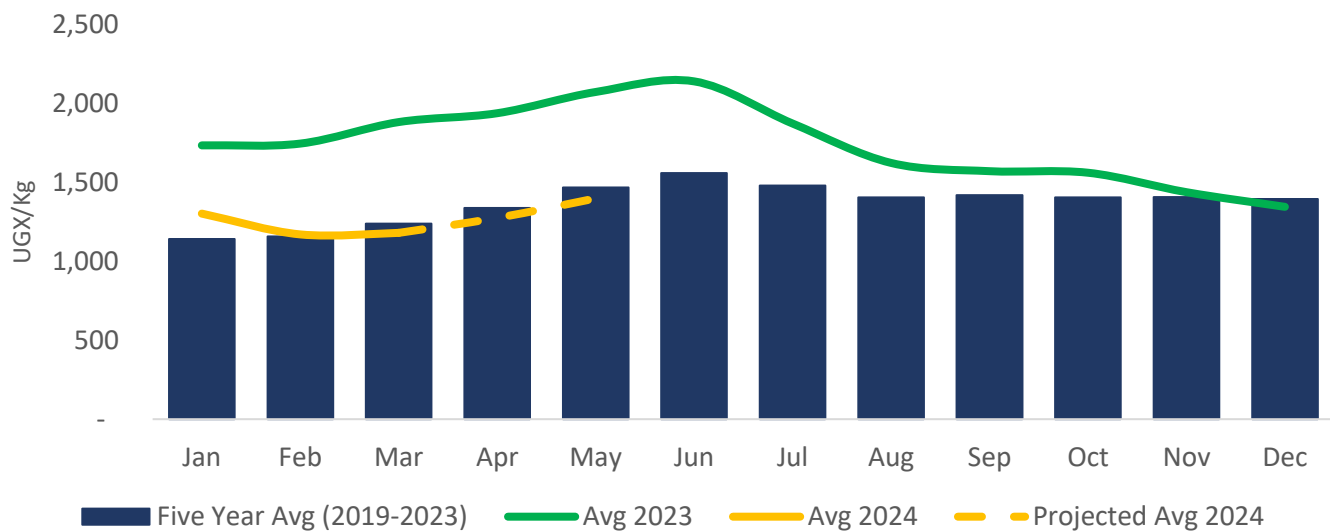
Figure 4: Terms of Trade - Karamoja



Results for the rest of the Country markets

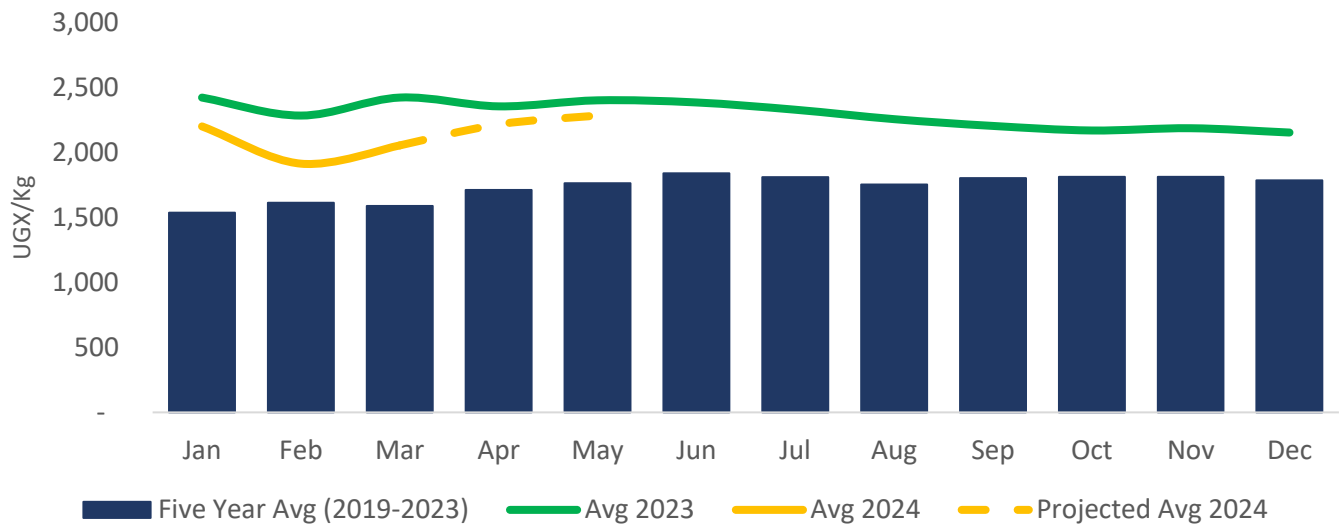
- The overall retail price for maize grain across the country declined by 9 percent between January and March, with the price dropping from UGX 1,303 to UGX 1,181 (Figure 5). A district-level analysis indicated that the price decline was particularly significant in Mbale (37 percent), Hoima (36 percent), and Masindi (33 percent). However, within the same period, the price increased in Iganga, Kasese, and Wakiso by 34 percent, 9 percent, and 7 percent, respectively.
- Compared to March 2023 and the five-year average, the retail price for maize grain remained below by 37 percent and 5 percent, respectively (Figure 5), which is attributable to improved supplies from last year's harvest across the country. Significant price declines were observed in Hoima, Masaka, and Busia.
- Through May 2024, the price of maize grain is projected to follow a seasonal trend and likely to remain well below the 2023 average but stay at levels similar to the five-year average (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Average Price of Maize Grain-rest of the country markets



- In the first quarter of 2024, the overall average retail price for sorghum declined between January and February, followed by a 7 percent increase from February to March, rising from UGX 1,915 to UGX 2,056 (Figure 6). Mukono, Hoima, and Kasese witnessed significant decreases in sorghum prices by 44 percent, 33 percent, and 17 percent, respectively.
- In March 2024, the overall average retail price for sorghum remained 15 percent below 2023 levels (Figure 6), with notable declines in Soroti (42 percent), Busia (40 percent), and Gulu (35 percent).
- However, compared to the five-year average, the overall average retail price for sorghum throughout the quarter remained well above, rising by 29 percent as of March 2024 (Figure 6), particularly evident in Masindi and Kasese by 33 percent and 31 percent, respectively.
- The analysis in Figure 6 indicates that the average retail price for sorghum is expected to continue increasing through May 2024, although it will remain slightly below 2023 levels and significantly above the five-year average (Figure 6). This projected increase in price is mainly attributed to an expected rise in demand coupled with reduced supplies in markets.

Figure 6: Average Price of Sorghum- rest of the country markets



- The overall average retail price for beans in the first quarter followed seasonal trends, showing a consistent increase from January to March 2024. The price rose by 7 percent, from UGX 3,807 in January to UGX 4,062 in March (Figure 7), with Hoima and Masaka experiencing the highest increases of 62 percent and 26 percent, respectively.
- Throughout the quarter, the overall average retail price for beans remained slightly below 2023 levels but above the five-year average. By March 2024, the price was 7 percent lower than the previous year's levels and 17 percent higher than the five-year average (Figure 7).
- The analysis in Figure 7 indicates that the retail price for beans will continue to follow seasonal trends through May 2024, remaining below 2023 levels but above the five-year average (Figure 7). The anticipated increase is likely due to high demand coupled with depletion in stock levels.

Figure 7: Average Price of Beans- rest of the country markets

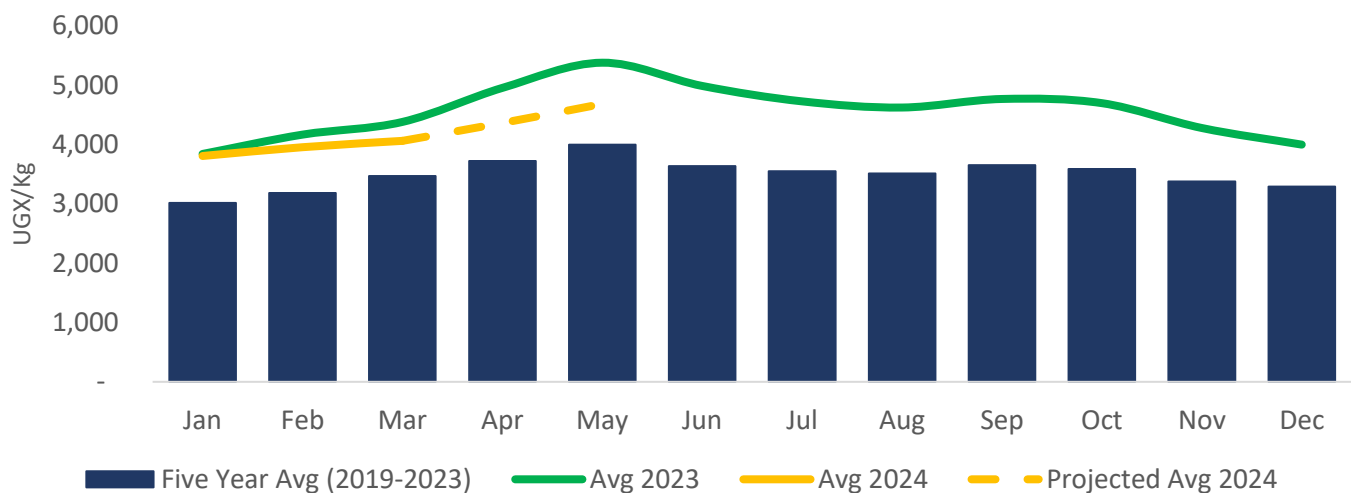


Table 1: Average commodity prices across the districts in Karamoja in 2024

Commodity	District	Average retail prices, 2024			Av 2019-2023	% change to March 2024		
		J	F	M		Feb-Mar 2024	Mar 23 - Mar 24	5-Year Avg
Maize Grain	Abim	900	800	825	1,216	3%	-48%	-32%
	Amudat	1,317	1,200	1,360	1,493	13%	-28%	-9%
	Kaabong	1,150	920	938	1,338	2%	-59%	-30%
	Karenga	1,344	1,321	1,375	1,215	4%	13%	13%
	Kotido	875	900	813	1,163	-10%	-47%	-30%
	Moroto	1,200	1,000	1,040	1,435	4%	-54%	-28%
	Nabilatuk	1,100	1,000	1,000	1,478	0%	-40%	-32%
	Nakapiripirit	1,160	1,100	1,040	1,322	-5%	-39%	-21%
	Napak	1,200	1,200	1,160	2,013	-3%	-62%	-42%
	Karamoja	1,138	1,049	1,061	1,423	1%	-44%	-25%
Sorghum	Abim	750	700	775	977	11%	-48%	-21%
	Amudat				1,000			
	Kaabong	1,363	1,325	1,338	1,062	1%	-26%	26%
	Karenga	1,000	1,000	1,000	806	0%	4%	24%
	Kotido	825	800	800	992	0%	-43%	-19%
	Moroto	1,100	900	940	1,141	4%	-53%	-18%
	Nabilatuk	850	900	580	1,101	-36%	-55%	-47%
	Nakapiripirit	960	900	720	1,036	-20%	-46%	-30%
	Napak	950	1,100	980	1,263	-11%	-18%	-22%
	Karamoja	975	953	891	1,091	-6%	-38%	-18%
Beans	Abim	2,550	2,475	2,550	3,367	3%	-28%	-24%
	Amudat	3,583	4,000	3,000	3,333	-25%	-25%	-10%
	Kaabong	4,500	4,625	4,125	3,466	-11%	6%	19%
	Karenga	3,813	3,786	3,750	3,300	-1%	-6%	14%
	Kotido	2,825	2,550	2,500	3,779	-2%	-29%	-34%
	Moroto	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,933	0%	-20%	2%
	Nabilatuk	2,867	3,000	3,480	3,073	16%	-16%	13%
	Nakapiripirit	3,000	3,000	2,960	3,223	-1%	-11%	-8%
	Napak	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,233	0%	0%	-6%
	Karamoja	3,460	3,493	3,374	3,814	-3%	-14%	-12%
Maize Flour	Abim	1,950	2,000	2,000	2,168	0%	-21%	-8%
	Amudat	2,583	2,000	2,040	2,400	2%	-24%	-15%
	Kaabong	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,363	0%	-27%	-15%
	Karenga	3,875	4,000	4,000	3,167	0%	0%	26%
	Kotido	1,900	1,800	1,950	2,520	8%	-38%	-23%
	Moroto	2,400	1,800	1,800	2,483	0%	-54%	-28%
	Nabilatuk	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,933	-4%	-37%	-18%
	Nakapiripirit	2,900	2,000	2,100	2,496	5%	-36%	-16%
	Napak	2,483	2,000	2,000	2,933	0%	-33%	-32%
	Karamoja	2,544	2,233	2,254	2,800	1%	-30%	-19%

Table 2: Table 1: Average commodity prices across the Country in 2024

Commodity	District	Average retail prices, 2024			Av 2019-2023	% change to March 2024		
		J	F	M		Feb-Mar 2024	Mar 23 - Mar 24	5-Year Avg
Maize Grain	Busia	875	800	1,690	1,370	9%	-48%	-36%
	Fort Portal	875	980	1,600	1,550	-11%	-45%	-44%
	Gulu	1,257	1,250	1,638	1,409	1%	-23%	-11%
	Hoima	600	700	1,500	1,400	-14%	-60%	-57%
	Iganga	1,100	900	1,560	1,173	22%	-29%	-6%
	Jinja	1,625	1,600	2,240	1,808	2%	-27%	-10%
	Kapchorwa	1,000	1,000	1,800	1,218	0%	-44%	-18%
	Kasese	1,550	1,000	2,060	1,690	55%	-25%	-8%
	Lira	722	740	1,520	1,070	-2%	-53%	-33%
	Masaka	638	800	1,480	1,215	-20%	-57%	-48%
	Masindi	800	733	1,500	1,046	9%	-47%	-24%
	Mbale	1,000	1,220	2,100	1,300	-18%	-52%	-23%
	Mbarara	2,000	2,000	2,500	1,388	0%	-20%	44%
	Mukono	2,000	2,083	2,500	2,050	-4%	-20%	-2%
	Kampala	1,750	1,625	2,600	1,509	8%	-33%	16%
	Soroti	920	1,000	1,680	1,293	-8%	-45%	-29%
	Tororo	925	975	1,640	1,135	-5%	-44%	-19%
	Wakiso	1,625	1,680	2,300	1,800	-3%	-29%	-10%
Average	1,181	1,171	1,884	1,240	1%	-37%	-5%	
Sorghum	Busia	913	775	1,520	1,260	18%	-40%	-28%
	Fort Portal	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,438	0%	0%	23%
	Gulu	1,286	1,250	1,975	1,423	3%	-35%	-10%
	Hoima	2,000	1,500	2,000	1,600	33%	0%	25%
	Iganga	1,800	1,675	1,800	1,883	7%	0%	-4%
	Jinja	1,700	1,840	2,320	1,935	-8%	-27%	-12%
	Kapchorwa	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,367	0%	0%	27%
	Kasese	2,400	2,060	1,960	1,830	17%	22%	31%
	Lira	480	480	1,645	1,094	0%	-71%	-56%
	Masindi	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,500	0%	0%	33%
	Mbale	2,125	2,000	3,160	2,113	6%	-33%	1%
	Mbarara	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,450	0%	0%	2%
	Mukono	3,600	2,533	3,800	3,400	42%	-5%	6%
	Kampala	2,875	2,625	3,900	2,288	10%	-26%	26%
	Soroti	900	900	1,560	1,153	0%	-42%	-22%
	Tororo	2,000	2,125	2,080	1,576	-6%	-4%	27%
	Wakiso	2,375	2,300	3,000	2,475	3%	-21%	-4%
	Average	2,056	1,915	2,425	1,589	7%	-15%	29%

Commodity	District	Average retail prices, 2024			Av 2019-2023	% change to March 2024		
		J	F	M		Feb-Mar 2024	Mar 23 - Mar 24	5-Year Avg
Beans	Busia	3,180	3,000	2,900	2,965	-3%	-25%	-2%
	Fort Portal	4,250	4,800	4,500	3,763	-6%	2%	20%
	Gulu	5,317	5,133	5,214	4,458	2%	-8%	17%
	Hoima	3,080	3,200	5,000	3,250	56%	25%	54%
	Iganga	3,600	4,250	4,200	3,533	-1%	-1%	19%
	Jinja	3,875	4,200	4,500	3,845	7%	-9%	17%
	Kapchorwa	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,888	0%	-12%	4%
	Kasese	3,125	3,380	3,750	3,500	11%	-13%	7%
	Lira	3,800	4,500	4,300	3,261	-4%	6%	32%
	Masaka	2,850	3,500	3,600	3,757	3%	-23%	-4%
	Masindi	4,600	4,367	5,000	3,433	15%	19%	46%
	Mbale	4,250	4,000	4,000	3,538	0%	-11%	13%
	Mbarara	4,125	4,000	4,000	3,375	0%	-11%	19%
	Mukono	3,875	3,667	3,350	3,429	-9%	-15%	-2%
	Kampala	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,569	0%	-20%	12%
	Soroti	4,029	4,000	3,800	3,495	-5%	-17%	9%
	Tororo	3,800	4,375	4,125	2,975	-6%	3%	39%
	Wakiso	3,775	3,820	3,875	3,583	1%	-15%	8%
Average	3,807	3,955	4,062	3,466	3%	-7%	17%	
Maize Flour	Busia	2,040	2,000	2,050	2,385	3%	-30%	-14%
	Fort Portal	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,875	0%	-17%	4%
	Gulu	3,050	2,267	2,286	1,974	1%	28%	16%
	Hoima	2,700	3,000	3,000	3,000	0%	-25%	0%
	Iganga	2,580	2,350	2,550	2,367	9%	-15%	8%
	Jinja	2,000	2,040	2,025	2,540	-1%	-34%	-20%
	Kapchorwa	2,160	2,150	2,200	2,408	2%	-27%	-9%
	Kasese	2,600	2,400	2,000	2,790	-17%	-35%	-28%
	Lira	1,700	1,467	1,640	2,107	12%	-43%	-22%
	Masaka	2,500	2,520	2,250	2,750	-11%	-25%	-18%
	Masindi	3,000	2,500	2,000	2,117	-20%	-33%	-6%
	Mbale	1,950	1,700	2,000	2,294	18%	-33%	-13%
	Mbarara	3,125	2,500	2,500	2,444	0%	-22%	2%
	Mukono	2,525	2,600	2,700	2,500	4%	-10%	8%
	Kampala	2,750	2,250	2,375	2,390	6%	-33%	-1%
	Soroti	1,929	1,800	1,960	2,267	9%	-35%	-14%
	Tororo	2,000	1,900	1,800	2,209	-5%	-40%	-19%
	Wakiso	2,000	2,420	2,500	2,570	3%	-18%	-3%
Average	2,423	2,270	2,269	2,144	0%	-26%	6%	

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