

Price Monitoring for Food Security in the Kyrgyz Republic

Situation Update

During the lean season months of March/April, Kazakhstan experienced significant flooding in ten of its seventeen regions, affecting infrastructure and agricultural areas and resulting in the loss of approximately 6,000 livestock. The Kyrgyz Republic provided humanitarian assistance and was reminded of the region's climate vulnerability. The Department of Monitoring and Forecasting of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic predicts minimal flooding in the country, confined to a few districts. Given the lean season and the fact that one-third of the population lives in poverty, monitoring food systems as well as migration patterns/remittance flows after increase of antimigration sentiments remain critical as the pillars of food security (availability, access, utilization, and stability) continue to be exposed to shocks and stressors.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Kyrgyz Republic continued to grow and **increased by 8.8 percent**, adding KGS 249 billion (US \$2.8 billion) to the economy in January-March 2024 compared to January-March 2023. This GDP growth is driven by goods-producing industries (+10.2 percent), services (+8 percent), and food taxes (+9 percent).

In March 2024, **inflation reached 5.2 percent compared to March 2023** (National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic). The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food shows a steady slowdown from 16 percent in January–March 2023 to 2 percent in January-March 2024. Nevertheless, the CPI increased by **10 percent for non-food items and 9 percent for services** compared to January–March 2023. Consumer price growth was witnessed in all regions of the country, except Jalal-Abad and Chuy provinces. The CPI for **fuel and lubricants is estimated to have increased by 10 percent**, leading to an increase in transportation costs, which in turn has affected all other prices. Rising food and fuel prices, combined with inflation are eroding the purchasing power of the most vulnerable to access a nutritious diet. In February 2024, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the [Price Stabilization Plan](#) for 2024 for socially significant food commodities to ensure the stability and intensity of the domestic market and provide state support to domestic production in 2024. It should be noted that earlier, the Cabinet of Ministers took measures to reduce VAT on vegetable oil, flour and wheat to zero rates, as well as measures to restrict exports of a number of goods (fodder, onions, mineral fertilizers, etc.), which contributed to the stabilization of prices.

The Kyrgyz Republic **remains one of the five top recipient countries in the world based on the ratio of remittances to GDP**. The share of remittances is 20 percent of GDP in 2023. This reflects significant GDP growth in 2023 as well as changes in the National Bank's methodology in tracking remittances (remittances through mobile applications added). In January–February 2024, remittance inflow increased by 40 percent compared to January-February 2023.

Reflecting high dependency on imports and regional market volatility, the Kyrgyz Republic reports not to meet its own needs by internal production for 40 percent of wheat and wheat flour, 69 percent of fruits and berries, 40 percent of eggs, and 57 percent of vegetable oil. The level of self-sufficiency through domestic production of these products is well below 80 percent of the national requirements. Ninety-five percent of wheat imports were from the Russian Federation (RF) and 82 percent of wheat flour imports were from Kazakhstan. In March 2024, the export prices for wheat from RF dropped by 16% compared to January 2024 and by 30% compared to March 2023. Given the broad impact of various factors such as drought conditions in producing countries, new food supply restrictions imposed by producing countries, and continued increases in global energy prices in the face of the non-extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative from July 2023, cautious price monitoring remains essential.

The following section discusses average national retail prices for the four weeks from 08 March to 05 April 2024, in comparison to the previous month, the annual average in April 2023 and the monthly average in February 2020 (before the COVID-19 outbreak began in the country).





- **Wheat:** The price of wheat remained stable to the previous month, with an average price of 30 KGS/kg. As of 05 April 2024, the highest price for wheat was observed in Jalal-Abad province (41 KGS/kg) and the lowest price in Naryn province (20 KGS/kg). Prices were 12 percent lower compared to April 2023 and 44 percent higher compared to February 2020.





- **Wheat flour (first grade):** The price for wheat flour remained stable compared to the previous month with an average of 53 KGS/kg. As of 05 April 2024, the highest price was in Bishkek city (54 KGS/kg) and the lowest in Naryn province (43 KGS/kg). Prices were 2 percent and 58 percent higher compared to April 2023 and February 2020.


Situation Update

 • **Oil (Cooking):** The price of vegetable oil decreased by 2 percent compared to the previous month, with an average price of 149 KGS/L. As of 05 April 2024, the highest price was in Talas province (167 KGS/L) and the lowest price was in Yssyk-Kul province (141 KGS/L). The prices were 10 percent lower compared to April 2023 and **56 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.

 • **Eggs:** The price of eggs decreased by another 1 percent compared to the previous month, leading to an average price of 130 KGS/10 pcs. As of 05 April 2024, the highest price was observed in Chuy province (138 KGS/10 pcs) and the lowest price in Batken province (121 KGS/10 pcs). The price of eggs was **11 percent** and **70 percent** higher compared to April 2023 and February 2020.

 • **Milk:** Retail milk prices decreased by 5 percent compared to last month, with an average of 64 KGS/kg. As of 08 March 2024, the highest price was in Bishkek town (70 KGS/l) and the lowest in Talas province (48 KGS/l). The price of milk was **4 percent** and **58 percent** higher compared to April 2023 and February 2020 respectively.

 • **Exchange Rate:** The National Bank continues to closely monitor exchange rates. During the period from 08 March to 05 April 2024, the Kyrgyz Som slightly appreciated from 89.43 KGS to 89.35 KGS against the US Dollar, the Russian Ruble depreciated from 91 RUB to 92 RUB against the US Dollar, and the Kazakh Tenge appreciated from 447 KZT to 446 KZT against the US Dollar. **Compared to April 2023, the Kyrgyz Som and Russian Ruble depreciated by 2 percent and 14 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:** At the beginning of April 2024 the price of fuel and lubricants in the domestic market of Kyrgyz Republic has slightly increased. As of 05 April 2024, retail prices of both diesel and fuel (AI-92) increased by 2 percent and 3 percent compared to March 2024. Furthermore, compared to April 2023, the price for AI-92 remained 22 percent higher, while the price for diesel remained 1 percent lower, reaching almost 65 KGS/l for fuel (AI-92) and 73 KGS/l for diesel. The Kyrgyz Association of Oil Traders (KAOT) announced a possible increase in fuel prices by KGS 1-3 in the coming months due to higher export prices in the Russian Federation. The rise in retail prices is also in line with global oil trends. KAOT 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.

In the short term (EIA forecast), oil markets are likely to remain volatile. From 08 March to 05 April 2024, WTI price increased from USD 79 per barrel to USD 88 per barrel and Brent price increased from USD 84 per barrel to USD 93 per barrel. The WTI and Brent prices remained 10 percent and 9 percent higher respectively, compared to April 2023 levels.

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

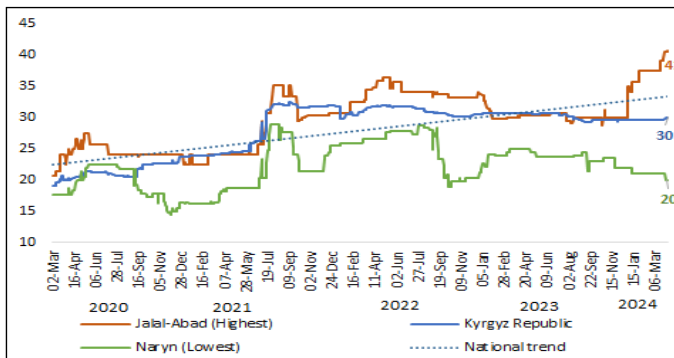
	08 Mar—05 Apr 2024 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend		08 Mar—05 Apr 2024 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend
Bread (1st grade)	67	66	1%	Rice (medium)	144	144	0%
Milk	61	64	-5%	Sugar	82	81	1%
Meat (beef)	547	547	0%	Wheat	30	30	0%
Meat (mutton)	554	552	0%	Wheat flour (1st grade)	53	53	0%
Oil (cooking)	149	152	-2%	Wheat flour (high-grade)	68	67	1%
Potatoes	32	31	1%	Eggs	130	132	-1%

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.

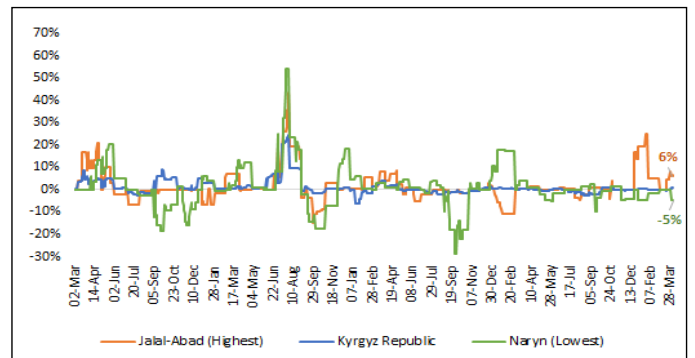
For additional information on the Price Monitoring Bulletins, please contact WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org

WHEAT

Pic 1. Retail wheat prices (KGS/kg, provinces)

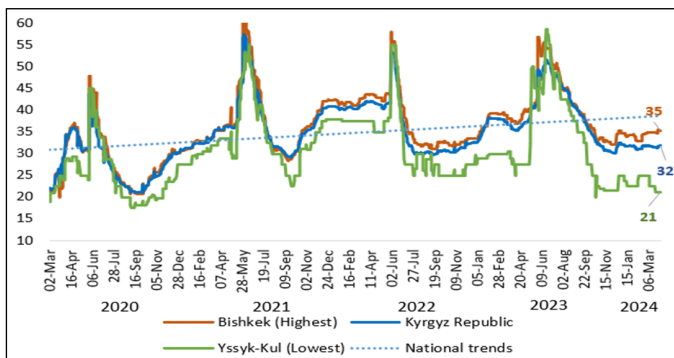


Pic 2. Growth rate of wheat prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

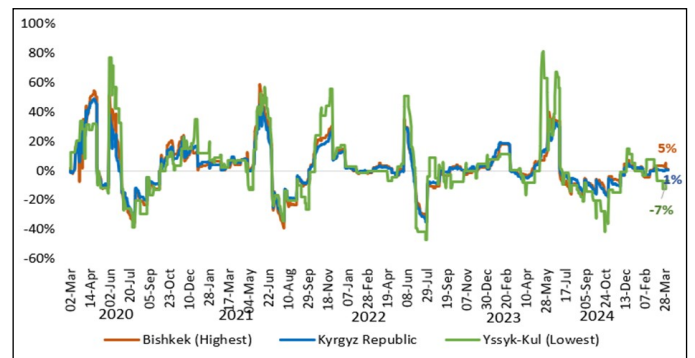


POTATO

Pic 3. Retail potatoes prices (KGS/kg, provinces)

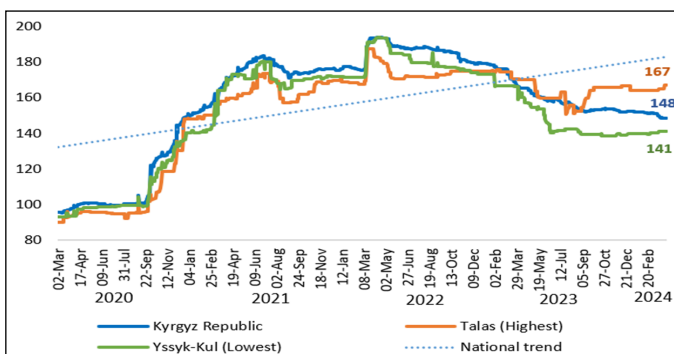


Pic 4. Growth rate of potatoes prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

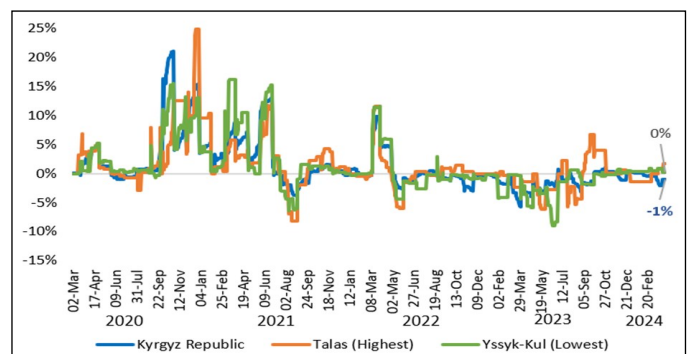


OIL (COOKING)

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

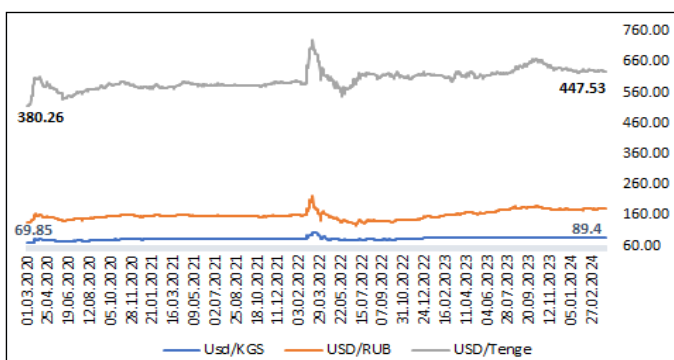


Pic 6. Growth rate of vegetable oil prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price



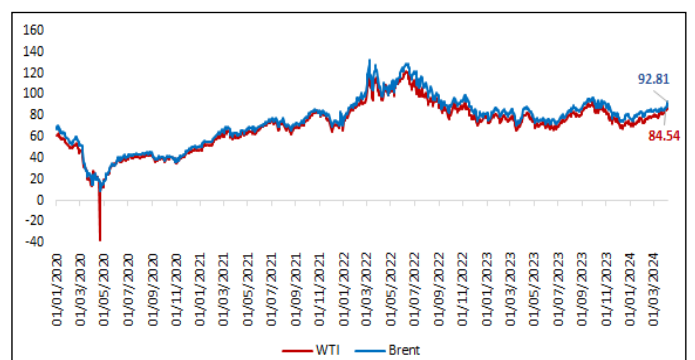
EXCHANGE RATE

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 05 Apr 2024, source: US Energy Information Administration)



Annex: Average retail 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	April 5 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE/previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / April 2023	MONTHLY PRICE/ Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE/ previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / April 2023	MONTHLY PRICE/ Feb 2020	Commodity	April 5 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE/previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / April 2023	MONTHLY PRICE/ Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE/ previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / April 2023	MONTHLY PRICE/ Feb 2020
BATKEN																
	Bread (1st grade)	80	0%	9%	58%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	32	1%	-9%	34%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	92	-1%	4%	54%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	157	3%	37%	107%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	121	-4%	-3%	46%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	86	-1%	-13%	101%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	505	0%	3%	47%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	29	0%	-5%	45%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	1%	71%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	50	0%	-8%	47%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	62	1%	9%	78%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	64	0%	-4%	44%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	159	0%	-7%	67%	▶	▶	▲								
	BISHKEK CITY															
	Bread (1st grade)	65	0%	3%	50%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	35	4%	-7%	0%	▶	▶	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	95	0%	10%	52%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	143	-1%	29%	95%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	128	0%	13%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	83	2%	-9%	104%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	567	0%	0%	59%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	32	0%	0%	71%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	546	1%	0%	75%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	54	-1%	2%	66%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	66	-3%	2%	69%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	1%	8%	71%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	145	-2%	-9%	51%	▶	▼	▲								
	CHUY															
	Bread (1st grade)	60	0%	1%	54%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	23	-1%	-25%	4%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesotka)	88	0%	0%	38%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	137	0%	24%	78%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	138	0%	0%	75%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	79	1%	-13%	105%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	523	0%	0%	61%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	24	0%	-23%	30%	▶	▼	▲
	Meat (mutton)	534	0%	0%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	53	0%	3%	52%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	60	-1%	15%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	63	0%	4%	45%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	160	0%	-9%	76%	▶	▶	▲								
	JALALABAD															
	Bread (1st grade)	84	1%	11%	59%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	31	-4%	14%	31%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	98	3%	10%	32%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	148	-1%	14%	78%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	128	-2%	2%	56%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	81	0%	-12%	100%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	508	0%	2%	48%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	41	4%	28%	89%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	552	0%	1%	61%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	48	-1%	-3%	38%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	44	-15%	6%	29%	▼	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	63	-1%	0%	52%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	154	-1%	-12%	71%	▶	▶	▲								
	NARYN															
	Bread (1st grade)	68	-1%	1%	34%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	23	-8%	-10%	23%	▼	▼	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	97	0%	7%	62%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	131	-2%	15%	93%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	128	-1%	11%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	76	-1%	-12%	97%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	560	0%	0%	66%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	20	-1%	-17%	18%	▶	▼	▲
	Meat (mutton)	560	0%	1%	68%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	43	0%	-6%	38%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	50	-5%	20%	54%	▼	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	53	-2%	-4%	38%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	156	-2%	-15%	66%	▶	▼	▲								
	OSH															
	Bread (1st grade)	76	3%	10%	25%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	29	2%	-16%	22%	▶	▼	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	111	-1%	6%	49%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	156	2%	39%	64%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	132	0%	9%	63%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	86	-1%	-7%	87%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	529	0%	3%	3%	▶	▶	▶	Wheat	30	1%	1%	53%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	4%	71%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	53	0%	4%	38%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	52	0%	11%	49%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	0%	10%	42%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	152	-5%	-13%	63%	▶	▶	▲								
	TALAS															
	Bread (1st grade)	74	3%	-1%	63%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	31	3%	-9%	44%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	90	-1%	6%	49%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	138	0%	22%		▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	130	-1%	6%	57%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	80	0%	-7%	100%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	495	0%	5%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	22	1%	-7%	41%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	510	0%	5%	63%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	49	1%	5%	48%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	48	0%	0%	68%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	79	3%	21%	113%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	167	1%	-3%	84%	▶	▶	▲								
	YSSYK-KUL															
	Bread (1st grade)	63	4%	4%	43%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	21	-9%	-21%	17%	▼	▼	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	96	4%	14%	62%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	149	-1%	40%	91%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	134	-2%	27%	80%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	76	1%	-12%	106%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	497	-1%	0%	47%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	22	0%	-13%	25%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	514	0%	2%	65%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	44	0%	-5%	23%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	48	0%	-1%	65%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	69	0%	10%	46%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	141	-3%	-12%	43%	▶	▶	▲								
	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC															
	Bread (1st grade)	66	1%	4%	45%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	32	1%	-12%	44%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesotka)	97	1%	8%	52%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	144	0%	28%	86%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	130	-1%	11%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	82	1%	-10%	100%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	548	0%	1%	57%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	30	0%	-3%	56%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	556	0%	1%	72%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	53	0%	2%	58%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	60	-5%	4%	58%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	1%	7%	61%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	148	-2%	-10%	56%	▶	▶	▲								

▲ 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

