

# Price Monitoring for Food Security in the Kyrgyz Republic

## Situation Update

**Food security of the Kyrgyz Republic remains susceptible to inflation and dry conditions.** In light of the lean season and the slowdown in the economic activity of people who derive their livelihoods from agriculture, that share of the population facing a decline in income, it is important to continue to monitor the stability of the food security and nutrition situation in the country in order to respond quickly to seasonal situations.

**Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** of the Kyrgyz Republic at the same time continued to grow and **increased by 7.4 percent**, adding KGS 7.3 billion (US \$181 million) to the economy in January 2024 compared to January 2023. This GDP growth is driven by goods-producing industries (+15.6 percent), services (+5.5 percent), and food taxes (+2.6 percent).

In January 2024, **inflation reached 6 percent compared to January 2023 (National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic)**. Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food shows a steady slowdown from 15 percent in January 2023 to 2.2 percent in January 2024. Nevertheless, CPI increased by **10 percent for non-food items and 8.4 percent for services** compared to January 2023, the second highest values in the Eurasian region. Consumer price growth was witnessed in all regions of the country, except Jalal-Abad province. 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 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.

While 'Listening to Kyrgyzstan' quarterly brief reported a downward trend in remittances in October-December 2023 (remittances accounted for about 6% of the household income, below the all-time average of 10%), remittances increased by 15 percent in 2023 compared to the previous year. The increase in remittances is due to the stabilization of outflows, which increased significantly in 2022 due to the arrival of Russian migrants, and improved inflows from October to December. According to the latest census data, about one million people are in labour migration, of which 89 percent of the population works in the Russian Federation (IOM). [According to the International Monetary Fund](#) (IMF), there remains a **risk of deterioration in the Russian economy as a result of sanctions in 2024, which could result in the return of Kyrgyz labour migrants, reduced trade, and hindered growth**.

Given the **high dependency on import and regional volatility of the market**, the Kyrgyz Republic remains not self-sufficient (based on internal production) for 40 percent for wheat and wheat flour, 69 percent for fruits and berries, 40 percent for eggs and 57 percent for vegetable oil, as self-sufficiency through domestic production of these products is well below 80 percent of national needs (2023, Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture and Manufacturing Industry, MoA). In 2023, Kyrgyz Republic imported 94 percent of its wheat from the Russian Federation and 5 percent from Kazakhstan. Given the broad impact of various factors such as producing countries may impose new restrictions on food supplies and global energy prices may continue their recent upward trend in the face of non-renewal of Black Sea Grain Initiative from July 2023, cautious monitoring of prices remains essential. On 11 December 2023, the Russian Federation, through Resolution 2123, announced a ban on wheat exports until 31 May 2024 to ensure sufficient domestic supplies. Exceptions to the ban include exports that are provided for humanitarian assistance, as well as exports under international intergovernmental agreements.

In Kyrgyz Republic, the growing of winter wheat and barley continues under **mixed, below to above-average rainfall conditions** that have been downgraded from "favourable" to "watch" with the prevailing dry conditions. The southern part of the country experienced drier than average conditions in January 2024. Agriculture is main income source for 65 percent of rural areas. According to the International Research Institute Climate Forecast, the rainfall from February to April 2024 is likely to be above the average across the country, while air temperature will likely be above normal across southern parts of the country (>90 percent of exceeding the median temperature) ([WFP Seasonal Monitor](#)). According to the MoA, in 2024, farmers will be timely provided with quality seeds of staple food commodities for spring sowing. Only 30 percent of agricultural areas are provided with seeds of local grain crops. The MoA developed and submitted for public discussion the draft [Program for the Development of Horticulture](#) in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2024-2028 to ensure sufficient fruit and berry products for internal needs and to improve export prospects.

**The following section discusses average national retail prices for the four weeks from 12 January to 09 February 2024, in comparison to the previous month, the annual average in February 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 09 February 2024, the highest price for wheat was observed in Jalal-Abad province (38 KGS/kg) and the lowest price in Naryn province (21 KGS/kg). Prices were 3 percent lower compared to February 2023 and 56 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 52 KGS/kg. As of 09 February 2024, the highest price was in Bishkek city (54 KGS/kg) and lowest in Yssyk-Kul and Naryn provinces (44 KGS/kg). Prices were 26 percent and 57 percent higher compared to February 2023 and February 2020.

## Situation Update



• **Oil (Cooking):** The price of vegetable oil remained stable compared to the previous month, with an average price of 152 KGS/L. As of 09 February 2024, the highest price was in Talas province (164 KGS/L) and the lowest price was in Yssyk-Kul province (140 KGS/L). **The prices were 14 percent lower compared to February 2023 and 59 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 increased by another 5 percent compared to the previous month, leading to an average price of 131 KGS/10 pcs. As of 09 February 2024, the highest price was observed in Chuy and Yssyk-Kul provinces (138 KGS/10 pcs) and the lowest price in Bishkek city (128 KGS/10 pcs). **The price of eggs was 25 percent and 70 percent higher compared to February 2023 and February 2020.** The increase in egg prices is due to low domestic production as a result of dry conditions and higher prices for forage crops.



• **Milk:** Due to seasonal fluctuations, the price of milk increased by 6 percent compared to last month, with an average of 65 KGS/kg. As of 09 February 2024, the highest price was in Bishkek town (70 KGS/l) and the lowest in Yssyk-Kul province (46 KGS/l). The price of milk was **15 percent and 67 percent higher compared to February 2023 and February 2020 respectively.** The latest increase in the price of milk in the Kyrgyz Republic followed seasonal price fluctuations and was in line with rising inflation.



• **Exchange Rate:** The National Bank continues to closely monitor exchange rates. During the period from 12 January to 09 February 2024, **the Kyrgyz Som slightly decreased from 89.32 KGS to 89.43 KGS against the US Dollar, the Russian Ruble depreciated from 88 RUB to 91 RUB against the US Dollar, and the Kazakh Tenge appreciated from 453 KZT to 450 KZT against the US Dollar. Compared to February 2023, the Kyrgyz Som and Russian Ruble depreciated by 3 percent and 24 percent respectively,** while the Kazakh Tenge remained at the same level 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:** In February 2024 the price of fuel and lubricants in the domestic market of Kyrgyz Republic was stable according to the Ministry of Economy and Commerce. **As of 09 February 2024, retail prices of both diesel remained stable and fuel (AI-92) decreased by 1 percent compared to January 2024. Furthermore, compared to February 2023, the price for AI-92 remained 15 percent higher, while the price for diesel remained 5 percent lower, reaching almost 62 KGS/l for fuel (AI-92) and 71 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.

In the short term (EIA forecast), oil markets are likely to remain volatile. From 12 January to 09 February 2024, WTI price increased from USD 72 per barrel to USD 77 per barrel and Brent price increased from USD 80 per barrel to USD 84 per barrel. The WTI and Brent prices remained 1 percent and 1 percent higher respectively, compared to February 2023 levels, and 65 percent and 59 percent higher respectively compared to March 2020.

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

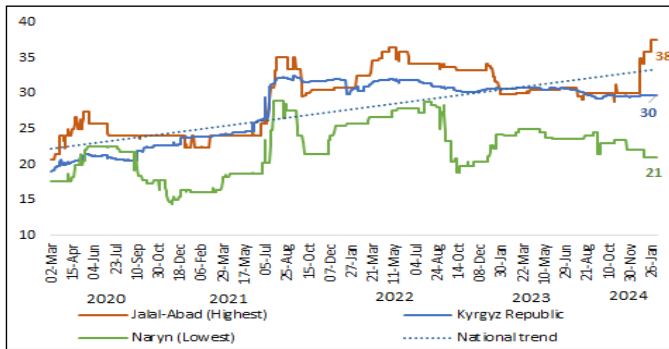
	12 Jan—09 Feb 2024 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend		12 Jan—09 Feb 2024 (KGS/kg)	Previous month (KGS/kg)	Trend
<b>Bread (1st grade)</b>	66	66	0%	<b>Rice (medium)</b>	144	144	0%
<b>Milk</b>	65	61	6%	<b>Sugar</b>	81	83	-2%
<b>Meat (beef)</b>	544	543	0%	<b>Wheat</b>	30	30	0%
<b>Meat (mutton)</b>	551	554	-1%	<b>Wheat flour (1st grade)</b>	52	52	0%
<b>Oil (cooking)</b>	152	152	0%	<b>Wheat flour (high-grade)</b>	67	66	1%
<b>Potatoes</b>	32	31	1%	<b>Eggs</b>	131	125	5%

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.

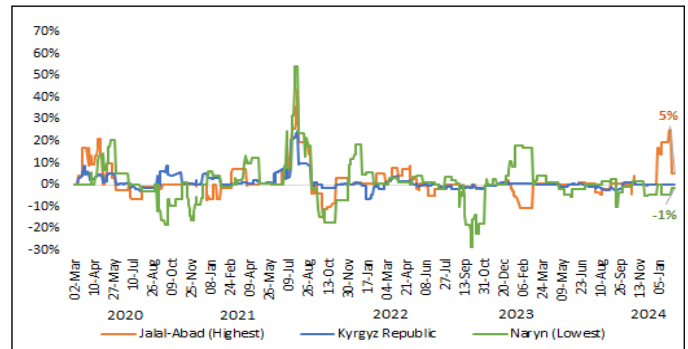
For additional information on the Price Monitoring Bulletins, please contact [WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org)

WHEAT

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

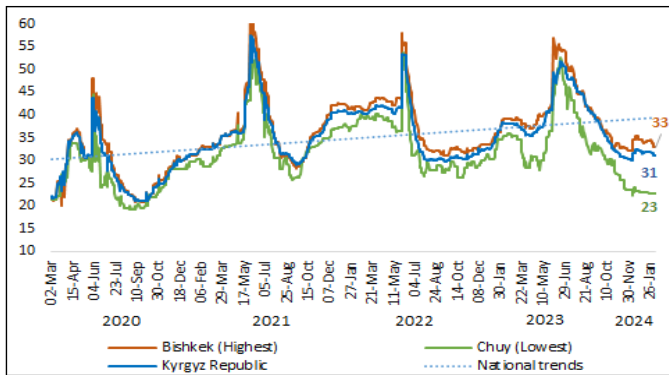


Pic 2. Growth rate of wheat prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

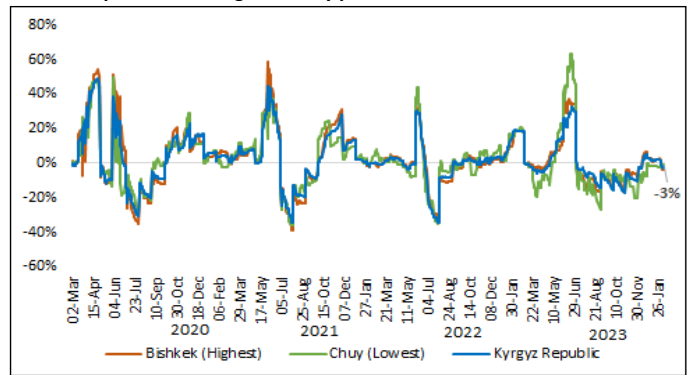


POTATO

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

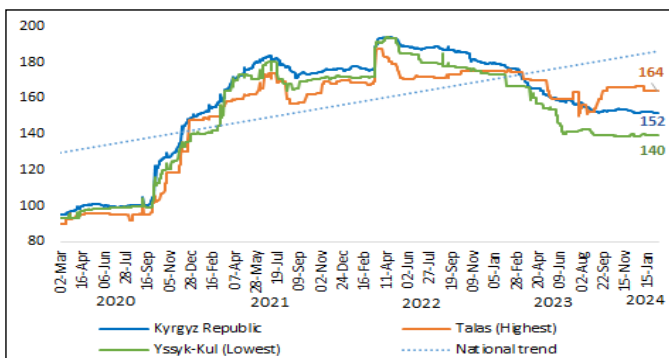


Pic 4. Growth rate of potatoes prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price

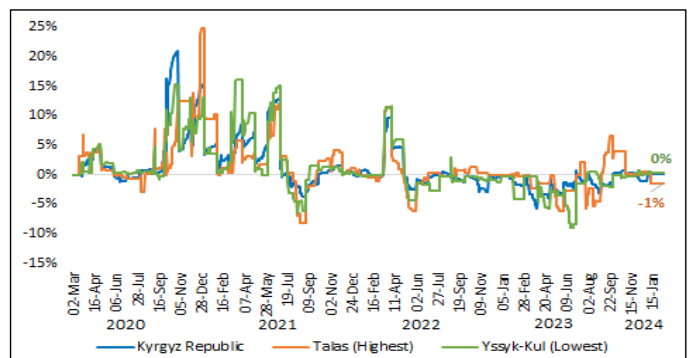


OIL (COOKING)

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

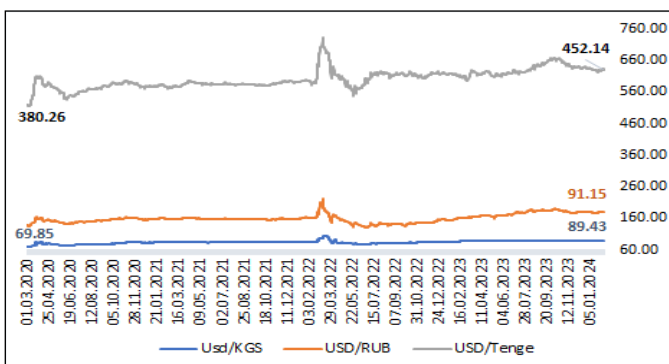


Pic 6. Growth rate of vegetable oil prices, as a percentage of the daily prices from the previous average monthly price



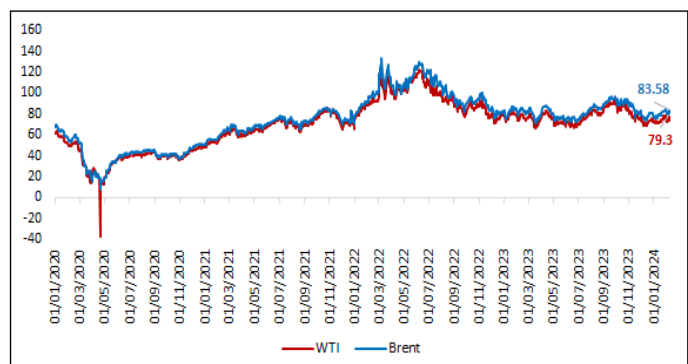
EXCHANGE RATE

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 09 Feb 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	February 9 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / February 2023	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / February 2023	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	Commodity	February 9 Price (KGS)	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / February 2023	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020	MONTHLY PRICE / previous month	MONTHLY PRICE / February 2023	MONTHLY PRICE / Feb 2020
<b>BATKEN</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	80	0%	24%	58%	▶	▲	▲	Potatoes	32	1%	-14%	37%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesika)	93	-2%	20%	55%	▶	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	148	5%	80%	96%	▶	▲	▲
	Eggs	129	1%	19%	55%	▶	▲	▲	Sugar	88	-2%	16%	101%	▶	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	505	0%	9%	47%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	29	0%	-9%	45%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	20%	71%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	50	0%	13%	48%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	62	1%	34%	72%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	63	-2%	23%	47%	▶	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	159	-1%	-14%	67%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>BISHKEK CITY</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	66	0%	22%	50%	▶	▲	▲	Potatoes	33	1%	-19%	0%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	95	-2%	25%	52%	▶	▲	▲	Rice (medium)	144	1%	84%	96%	▶	▲	▲
	Eggs	128	4%	26%	69%	▶	▲	▲	Sugar	80	-2%	15%	99%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	565	0%	19%	57%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat	32	0%	2%	71%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	540	-1%	20%	73%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	54	0%	29%	65%	▶	▲	▲
	Milk	70	7%	18%	75%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	67	3%	25%	65%	▶	▲	▲
	Oil (cooking)	151	1%	-15%	56%	▶	▼	▲								
<b>CHUY</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	60	-1%	23%	54%	▶	▲	▲	Potatoes	23	-2%	-41%	7%	▶	▼	▲
	Bread (lepesika)	88	-5%	-2%	38%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	136	2%	66%	77%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	138	5%	4%	73%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	78	-2%	16%	105%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	523	-1%	-1%	61%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	24	0%	-12%	30%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	534	-1%	0%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	52	0%	21%	51%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	61	7%	18%	70%	▶	▲	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	63	0%	23%	45%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	160	0%	-4%	76%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>JALALABAD</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	81	1%	30%	55%	▶	▲	▲	Potatoes	33	2%	76%	37%	▶	▶	▲
	Bread (lepesika)	94	0%	7%	27%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	152	-1%	76%	80%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	131	0%	15%	58%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	82	-5%	10%	100%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	507	0%	11%	47%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	38	22%	15%	78%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	552	-1%	20%	61%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	49	-2%	13%	39%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	58	3%	12%	61%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	64	-1%	25%	54%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	157	-1%	-10%	73%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>NARYN</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	71	0%	18%	36%	▶	▲	▲	Potatoes	27	5%	-38%	33%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	97	-1%	34%	64%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	137	0%	87%	96%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	135	7%	10%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	77	-3%	11%	101%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	550	0%	18%	65%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	21	-5%	-19%	19%	▶	▼	▶
	Meat (mutton)	550	0%	18%	68%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	44	-2%	8%	40%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	53	4%	35%	68%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	54	-2%	19%	44%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	158	0%	-13%	68%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>OSH</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	73	3%	9%	20%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	28	-4%	-27%	21%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	114	-3%	22%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	148	0%	47%	59%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	134	4%	20%	69%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	90	0%	19%	90%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	530	0%	10%	3%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	29	1%	-2%	52%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	600	0%	16%	71%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	52	-1%	19%	37%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	56	0%	12%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	68	0%	21%	42%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	159	11%	-9%	69%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>TALAS</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	71	1%	12%	57%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	31	-3%	-21%	44%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	92	-1%	19%	52%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	138	0%	111%	94%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	132	4%	19%	53%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	80	-5%	15%	101%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	491	-1%	13%	60%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	22	4%	-21%	40%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	502	-3%	17%	63%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	49	-4%	16%	47%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	48	3%	4%	67%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	77	6%	41%	103%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	164	-1%	-3%	82%	▶	▶	▲								
<b>YSSYK-KUL</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	59	0%	16%	35%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	24	1%	-40%	21%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	90	0%	24%	52%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	152	-3%	85%	94%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	138	11%	23%	79%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	74	-1%	8%	104%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	500	-1%	7%	46%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	22	0%	-14%	25%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	505	-2%	11%	64%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	44	0%	13%	23%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	52	-2%	16%	64%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	69	2%	29%	45%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	140	1%	-19%	57%	▶	▼	▲								
<b>KYRGYZ REPUBLIC</b>																
	Bread (1st grade)	66	0%	18%	44%	▶	▶	▲	Potatoes	31	1%	-22%	44%	▶	▼	▶
	Bread (lepesika)	97	-2%	22%	51%	▶	▶	▲	Rice (medium)	144	0%	73%	87%	▶	▶	▲
	Eggs	132	5%	25%	70%	▶	▶	▲	Sugar	82	-2%	15%	98%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (beef)	547	0%	15%	56%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat	30	0%	-3%	56%	▶	▶	▲
	Meat (mutton)	553	-1%	18%	72%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (1st quality)	53	0%	26%	57%	▶	▶	▲
	Milk	64	6%	15%	67%	▶	▶	▲	Wheat flour (high grade)	67	1%	25%	58%	▶	▶	▲
	Oil (cooking)	152	0%	-14%	59%	▶	▶	▲								

▲ 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

