

# Monthly Market Price Bulletin

Syria | January 2025 — ISSUE 121

WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cash liquidity continues to be a significant challenge for Syrians, affecting personal finances and business operations. The suspension of e-payment services in most banks has made electronic transactions very difficult, forcing people to spend hours in ATM queues to withdraw limited cash, which remains insufficient to meet their needs.
- In January 2025, the official exchange rate averaged 13,065 per USD, while the parallel market rate was SYP 11,678 per USD. Due to poor liquidity, banks are restricting currency exchange.
- The public sector has been going through a structural reform aiming at reducing the workforce from 1.3 million to 900,000 people. At the same time, there is a major delay in salaries and pension disbursements.
- The cost of living, as measured by the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), fell by 15 percent to SYP 2.5 million, down from SYP 3 million the previous month. However, limited cash access continues to restrict purchasing power for food and essential goods.
- Gas prices rose by 23 percent compared to last year. The removal of domestic gas subsidies in December has severely impacted low-income households, which struggle to afford alternative energy sources.
- Bread remained partially subsidized at SYP 4000 per 1.5 KG per bundle. However, accounting for the change in bundle weight, the price has increased eightfold compared to last year, placing a significant burden on food insecure households that rely heavily on bread for survival.

## Customs tariffs

- A new unified customs tariff system has been introduced across Syrian Transitional Government (STG) areas, covering sea and land crossings and airports. The tariff increase has severely impacted Idlib and northwestern Aleppo, causing price hikes of over five times for some materials.
- The STG defends the tariff reform as essential for addressing budget shortfalls and protecting local industries, citing previous inconsistencies in customs practices, such as at the Bab al-Hawa crossing, as a reason for the changes.
- To ease public concerns, the STG is considering tariff reductions on essentials like fuel and flour and establishing monitoring committees to prevent exploitation.
- The removal of the “Al-damima” fee, previously charged on top of customs to encourage local production, has also been implemented.
- The removal of numerous military checkpoints and the associated unofficial tolls on transportation has helped lower food transportation costs.

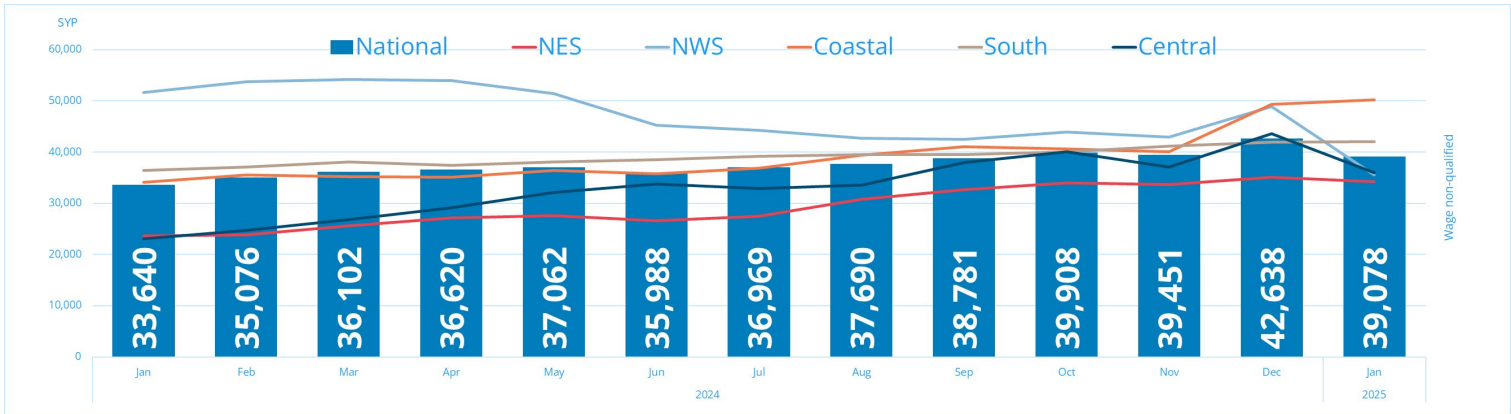
## Salaries and Pensions

- Before the transition, the government employed 1.3 million individuals; however, the STG aims to reduce this to 900,000 as a cost-cutting measure.
- The STG plans to increase salaries, but implementation is still pending as the government reviews the institutions and workforce.
- Most retirees have not received pensions, as obtaining a proof-of-life certificate from the civil affairs office remains a significant challenge with only one office per governorate processing requests.
- The Central Bank of Syria has lifted transaction restrictions for financial transfer companies, previously capped at SYP 5,000,000 for sending and receiving.



- The national daily wage for unskilled labor remains unchanged across all regions, however, in NWS, wages declined compared to December. Since the Turkish Lira (TL) is used in this region, the decrease reflects exchange rate fluctuations between the SYP and TL, though wages in TL terms remain stable at around 100 TL since December.
- For the second consecutive month, coastal regions reported the highest average wages at SYP 50,250, while northeastern regions recorded the lowest at SYP 34,250.

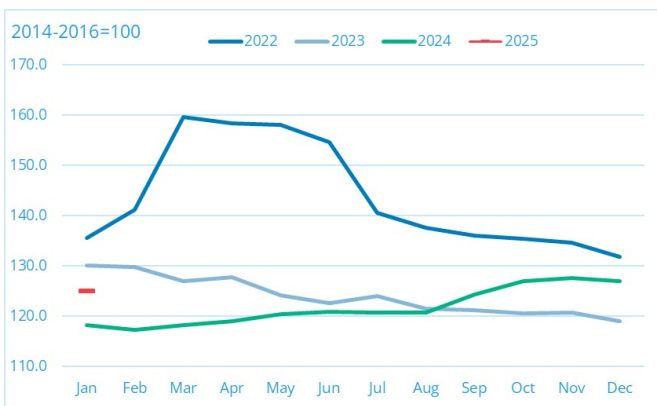
Chart 1. Daily wage (Unskilled labour) (January 2024-2025)



## Global food prices and inflation trends

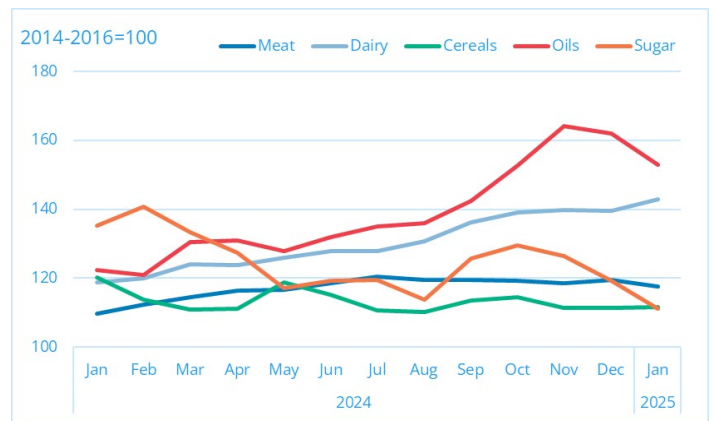
- In January 2025, the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 124.9 points, down 2.1 points (1.6 percent) from December. Price declines in sugar, vegetable oils and meat outweighed increases in dairy and cereals. However, the index remained 7.3 points (6.2 percent) higher than the same period last year.
- The FAO Cereal Price Index edged up slightly but stayed below last year's level. Wheat prices remained steady, balancing weak demand and tighter supplies in Russia. Maize prices rose for the first time in two years, driven by tight supply and challenging conditions in Argentina. Sorghum and barley also increased, though barley's rise was minimal. Meanwhile, rice prices fell by 4.7% due to ample supply and strong competition amongst exporters.

Chart 4: FAO Food Price Index (2022 –2025)



Source: FAO

Chart 5: FAO Food Commodity Price Indices (Jan 2024 –2025)



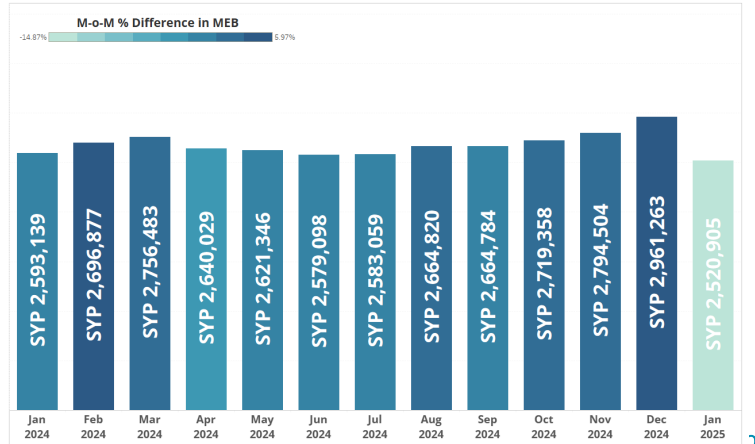
Source: FAO

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/foodpricesindex/en/>

<sup>4</sup> Trading Economics "Inflation Rate"

- In January 2025, the national average Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)—a key indicator of Syria's cost of living— fell by nearly 15 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 2,520,905 for a family of five, marking the lowest monthly average in a year. Although the MEB is 3 percent lower than January 2024, it has surged by 116 percent over the past two years. Meanwhile, the monthly minimum wage of SYP 278,910 covers only 11 percent of the MEB, highlighting a severe affordability gap. The minimum wage can only cover 18 percent of the MEB food component, valued at SYP 1,573,889.

Chart 2: MEB Trend in Syria , SYP (January 2024-2025)



- Significant regional disparities persist. Tartous recorded the highest MEB (SYP 2,813,773), followed by As-Sweida and Dar'a, while Idleb had the lowest (SYP 2,223,766).

Figure 1: MEB cost and changes, SYP (governorates)

| Governorate    | January 2025 Cost | Last Month |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Aleppo         | 2,240,750 SYP     | ▼ -27.7%   |
| Hama           | 2,512,270 SYP     | ▼ -18.9%   |
| Lattakia       | 2,558,145 SYP     | ▼ -16.2%   |
| Idleb          | 2,223,766 SYP     | ▼ -16.1%   |
| Ar-Raqqa       | 2,545,687 SYP     | ▼ -15.8%   |
| As-Sweida      | 2,787,676 SYP     | ▼ -14.3%   |
| Dar'a          | 2,748,301 SYP     | ▼ -12.8%   |
| Homs           | 2,596,273 SYP     | ▼ -12.6%   |
| Damascus       | 2,721,096 SYP     | ▼ -12.2%   |
| Quneitra       | 2,433,176 SYP     | ▼ -12.1%   |
| Rural Damascus | 2,545,571 SYP     | ▼ -11.5%   |
| Tartous        | 2,813,773 SYP     | ▼ -11.1%   |
| Deir-ez-Zor    | 2,524,431 SYP     | ▼ -10.2%   |
| Al-Hasakeh     | 2,524,576 SYP     | ▼ -8.6%    |

Source: Damascus Cash Working Group

- Aleppo and Hama experienced the most significant month-on-month price declines, whereas Al-Hasakeh had the smallest.

- Regionally, the Coastal Region reported the highest MEB for the second consecutive month, mainly due to rising prices for rice, potatoes, eggs, onions, dairy products, and chickpeas. In contrast, Aleppo region had the lowest MEB, driven by lower prices for cereals, vegetables, dairy, sugar and vegetable oil.

Figure 2: MEB cost and changes, SYP (Regions)

| Regions | January 2025 Cost | Last month |
|---------|-------------------|------------|
| Aleppo  | 2,241,109 SYP     | ▼ -23.9%   |
| Central | 2,560,679 SYP     | ▼ -15.3%   |
| Coastal | 2,685,959 SYP     | ▼ -13.6%   |
| South   | 2,637,545 SYP     | ▼ -12.5%   |
| NES     | 2,531,109 SYP     | ▼ -11.7%   |

Source: Damascus Cash Working Group

- Annual MEB food costs fluctuated with bakery bread prices rising sharply following subsidy reductions. Increases were recorded for parsley (67 percent), eggplants (16 percent), carrots (10 percent), onions (4 percent), shop-bought bread (3 percent), and apples (2 percent), while prices fell for eggs (44 percent), sugar (33 percent), lentils (26 percent), potatoes (25 percent), rice (19 percent), chicken (plucked) (16 percent), and cheese (15 percent).

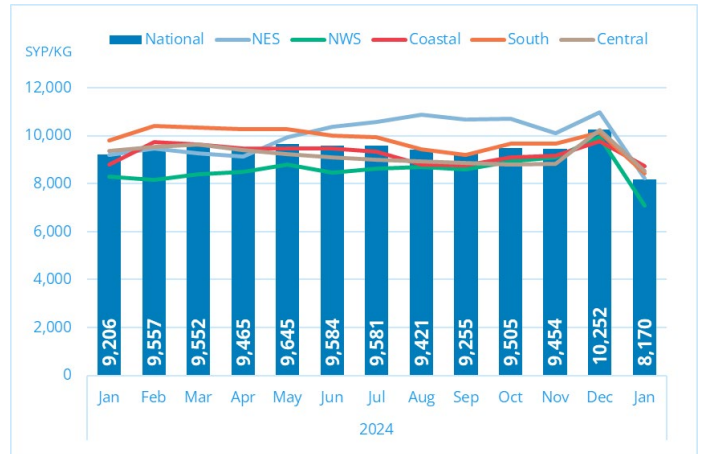
**Legend on regions :**

**NWS** = Aleppo And Idleb - **South** = Damascus, Rural Damascus, Dar'a, As-Sweida, and Quneitra - **NES** = Ar-Raqqa, Al-Hasakeh, and Deir-ez-Zor - **Coastal** = Lattakia and Tartous **Central** = Homs and Hama

<sup>1</sup> A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is defined as what a household requires to meet essential needs, conceptually equivalent to a poverty line. It includes the cost of food, utilities, services and re-resources required monthly. For Syria, it was developed through an interagency collaborative process under the Humanitarian Country Team Cash Working Group (HCT-CWG).

- Wheat Flour:** In January, wheat flour prices fell by 20 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 8,170 per kilogram.
- The Coastal region recorded the highest price, averaging SYP 8,738 per kilogram, while the Northwest had the lowest price at SYP 7,091 per kilogram.
- Over the past year, prices have declined by 11 percent, with all regions seeing a price decrease. The South and Northwest regions have experienced the most significant drops, while the Coastal region had the smallest.

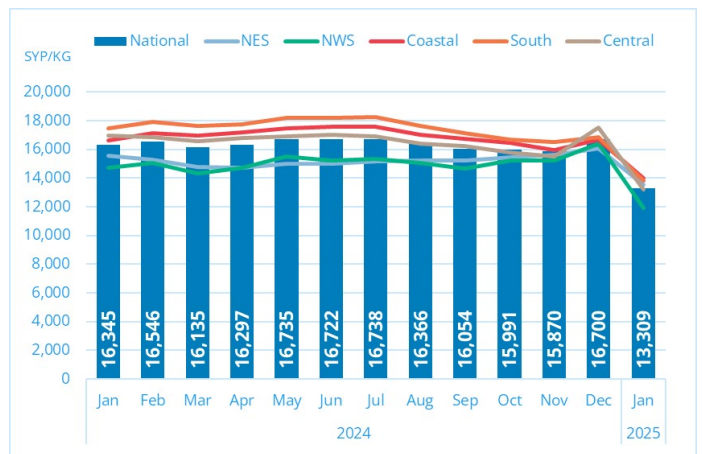
Chart 3: Retail Prices of Wheat flour, SYP (January 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- Rice:** In January, the average price of 1 KG of Egyptian white rice was SYP 13,309, reflecting a 20 percent decrease from the previous month, a 19 percent decrease compared to last year.
- Regionally, the Coastal region had the highest retail price at SYP 13,983, while the Northwest recorded the lowest at SYP 11,943.
- The Central region saw the largest annual decrease at 22 percent, whereas the Northeast had the smallest decline at 13 percent.

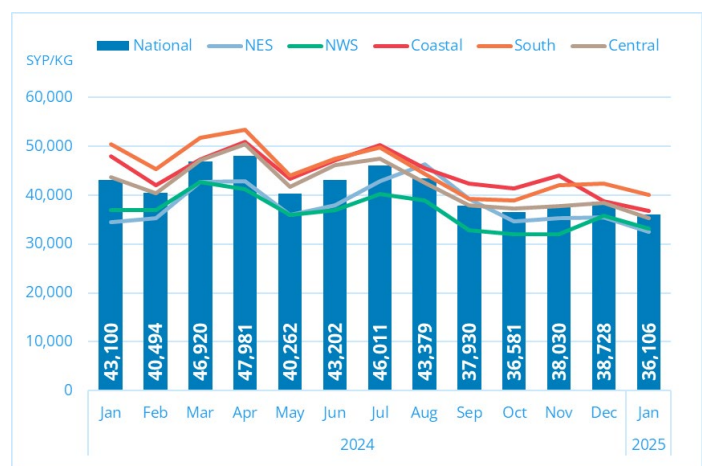
Chart 4: Retail Prices of rice, SYP (January 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- Chicken and Eggs** In January 2025, the national average price of plucked chicken decreased by 7 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 36,106 per kilogram. Year-on-year prices dropped by 16 percent, but over two years they more than doubled, rising by 113 percent.
- Southern areas recorded the highest price at SYP 40,038 per kilogram, while the Northwest had the lowest at SYP 32,471. The Coastal region saw the largest annual decrease (23 percent), whereas the Northeast had the smallest decline (6 percent).
- Meanwhile, the price of a tray of 30 eggs decreased by 33 percent, averaging SYP 31,951. Egg prices declined over the past year by 44 percent.

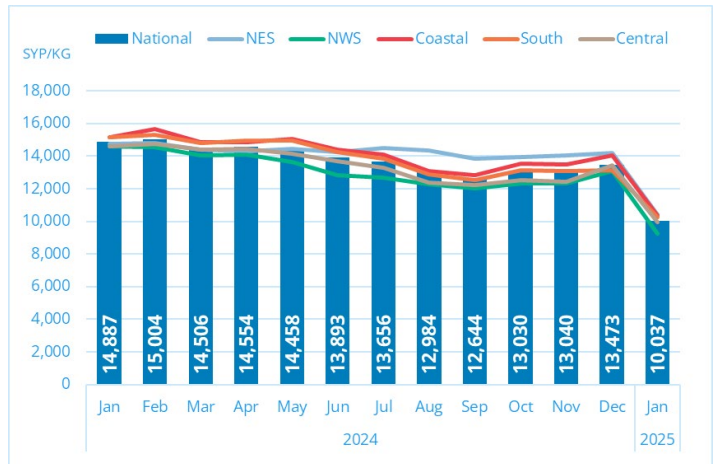
Chart 5: Retail Prices of Chicken, SYP (January 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- Sugar** In January 2025 sugar prices fell by 26 percent compared to the previous month, averaging SYP 10,037 per kilogram. Over the past year, prices declined by 33 percent.
- Regionally, the Northeast region recorded the highest retail price averaged at SYP 10,410, while the lowest price recorded in the northwest region at SYP 9,261. The Northwest region saw the highest annual decrease by 37 percent while Northeast region recorded the lowest decrease by 29 percent since January 2024.

Chart 6: Retail Prices of sugar, SYP (January 2024-2025)

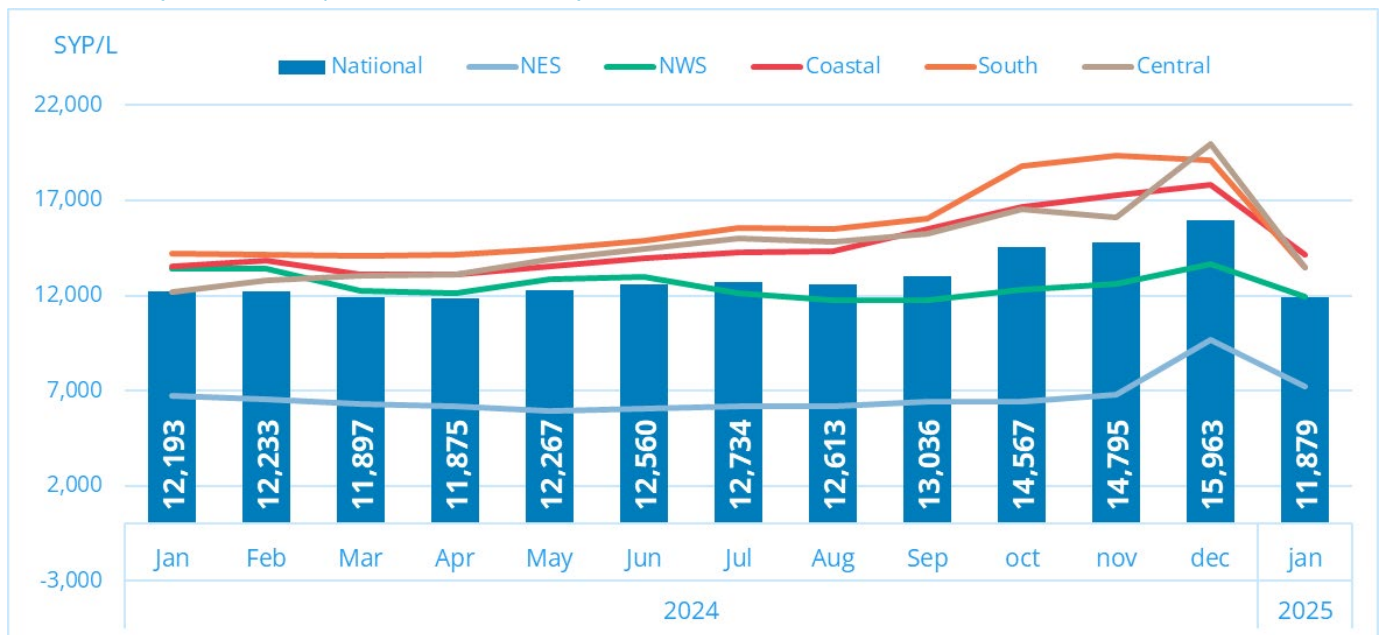


Source: WFP

## Energy prices

- Fuel remains priced in US dollars but sold in Syrian pounds based on the parallel exchange rate, creating price disparities between gas stations.
- The national parallel market price for transport diesel fell 26 percent compared to December 2024, averaging SYP 11,879. This represents a three percent decrease from January 2024.
- The Northeast recorded the highest annual increase in diesel prices, rising seven percent from the previous month, while the Northwest observed the largest price decline.
- Similarly, the average national price of a 25-litre butane gas cylinder on the parallel market fell by 24 percent from the previous month, to SYP 267,169. However, compared to last year, gas prices rose by 23 percent, with the highest annual increase in the Northeast (52 percent), followed by the South (38 percent) and Coastal regions (28 percent). Removal of subsidized domestic gas that was implemented in December has heavily impacted low-income households that cannot afford alternative energy sources.

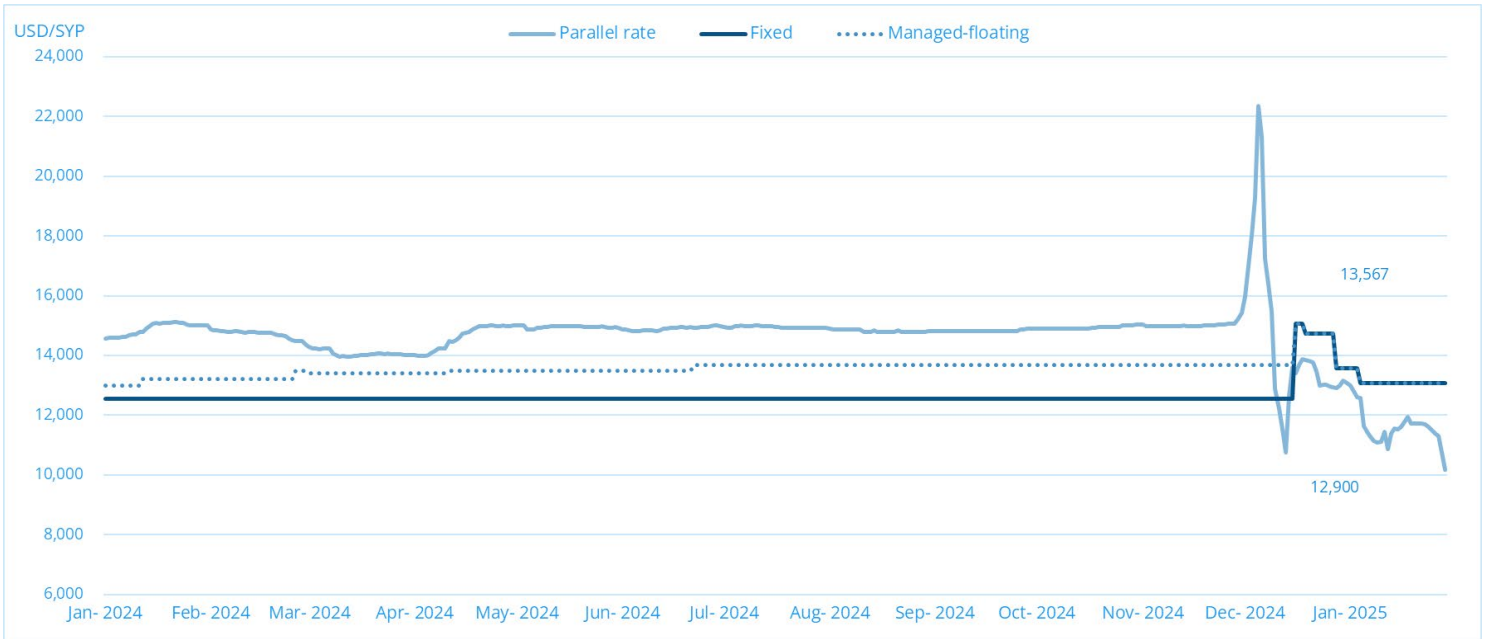
Chart 7: Monthly Prices of Transport Diesel , SYP/L (January 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- The official exchange rate of the Syrian Pound (SYP) decreased from SYP 13,567 to 13,065 per USD. Liquidity shortages remain a significant challenge, further weakening the parallel market rate and contributing to persistent bank withdrawal restrictions for individuals.
- The parallel market exchange rate remains lower than the official rate, averaging SYP 11,678 by the end of January, the lowest monthly average since August 2023. While this represents a 27% appreciation over the past year, the currency has depreciated by 44 percent over two years.

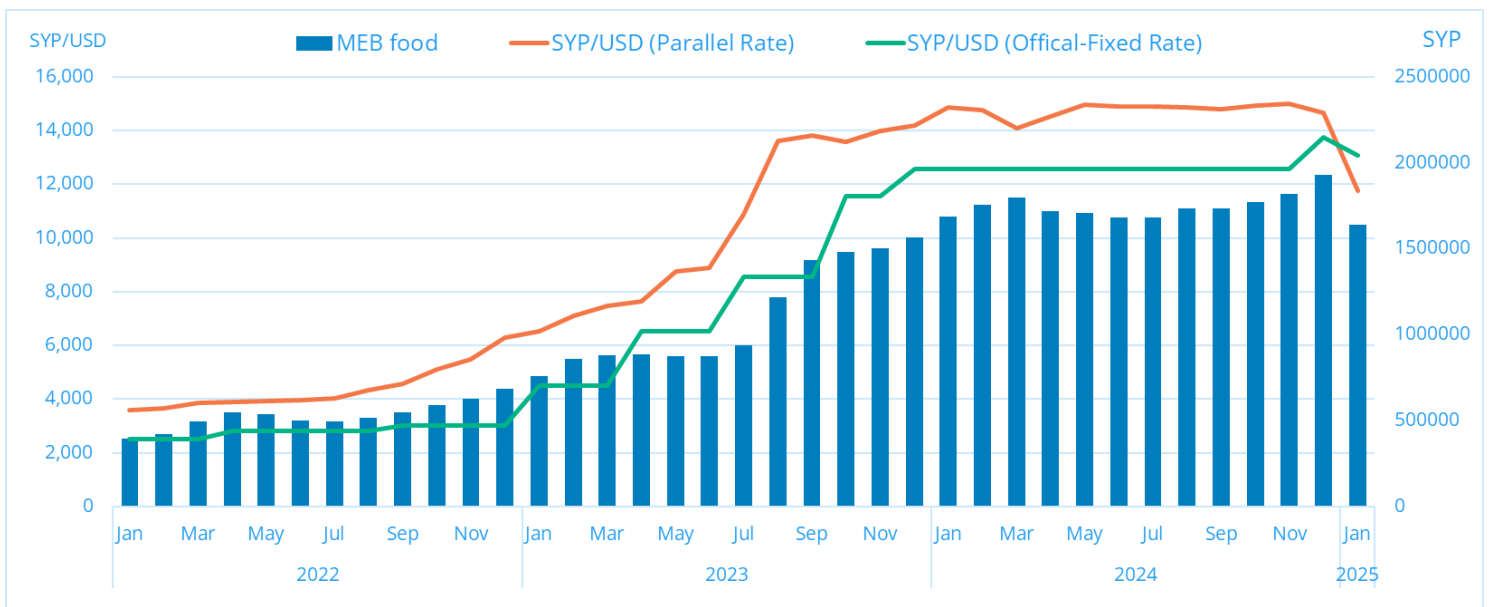
Chart 8: Daily exchange rate trends in 1 year calendar , SYP/USD (January 2024-2025)



Source: WFP, CBS

- Syria relies heavily on food imports, making it highly vulnerable to rising costs driven by currency fluctuation. Chart 9 shows the correlation between exchange rate fluctuations and food prices within the MEB, highlighting the recent appreciation of the Syrian pound and the reduction of the food MEB value.

Chart 9: Correlation between food MEB and exchange rate



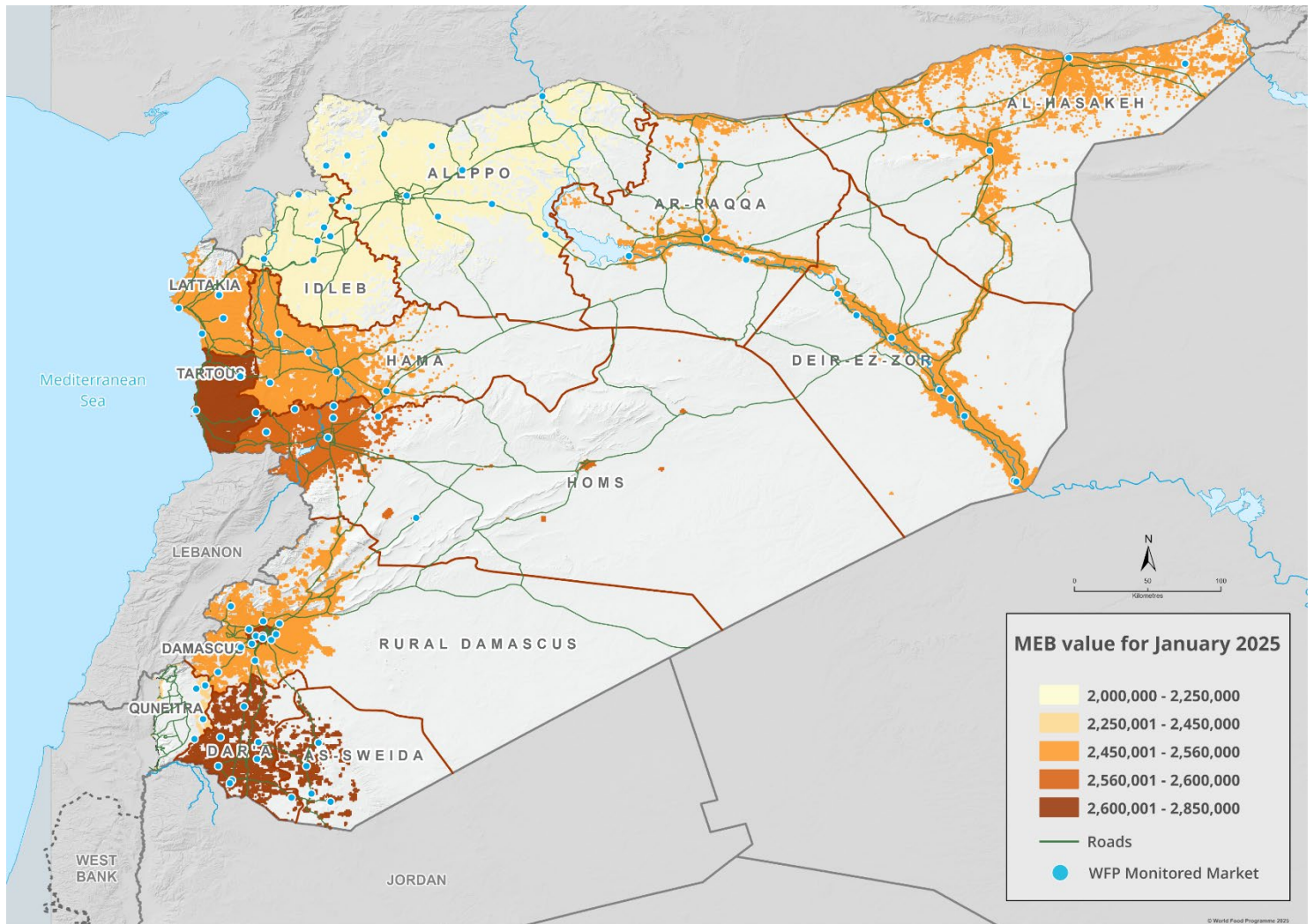
# Annex 1: Retail prices for MEB food components

| items                   | January 2024 National | 2 years    | 1 Year     | 1 month    | 2 years change | 1 year change | 1 month change |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Bread (bakery)          | SYP 2,989             | SYP 261    | SYP 336    | SYP 2,214  | ▲ 1045%        | ▲ 790%        | ▲ 35%          |
| Parsley                 | SYP 1,504             | SYP 493    | SYP 902    | SYP 1,708  | ▲ 205%         | ▲ 67%         | ▼ -12%         |
| Onions                  | SYP 5,725             | SYP 4,081  | SYP 5,493  | SYP 7,084  | ▲ 40%          | ▲ 4%          | ▼ -19%         |
| Carrots                 | SYP 5,523             | SYP 1,990  | SYP 5,019  | SYP 7,140  | ▲ 177%         | ▲ 10%         | ▼ -23%         |
| Tomatoes                | SYP 7,633             | SYP 3,007  | SYP 7,754  | SYP 7,696  | ▲ 154%         | ▼ -2%         | ▼ -1%          |
| Apples                  | SYP 9,161             | SYP 2,532  | SYP 9,011  | SYP 11,407 | ▲ 262%         | ▲ 2%          | ▼ -20%         |
| Potatoes                | SYP 4,232             | SYP 1,781  | SYP 5,652  | SYP 7,114  | ▲ 138%         | ▼ -25%        | ▼ -41%         |
| Bread (shop)            | SYP 10,397            | SYP 4,696  | SYP 10,050 | SYP 11,719 | ▲ 121%         | ▲ 3%          | ▼ -11%         |
| Eggplants               | SYP 9,647             | SYP 2,641  | SYP 8,296  | SYP 8,737  | ▲ 265%         | ▲ 16%         | ▲ 10%          |
| Salt (iodised)          | SYP 3,964             | SYP 1,402  | SYP 4,008  | SYP 4,683  | ▲ 183%         | ▼ -1%         | ▼ -15%         |
| Yogurt                  | SYP 8,473             | SYP 3,903  | SYP 8,631  | SYP 9,700  | ▲ 117%         | ▼ -2%         | ▼ -13%         |
| Chickpeas               | SYP 20,931            | SYP 6,693  | SYP 24,143 | SYP 25,874 | ▲ 213%         | ▼ -13%        | ▼ -19%         |
| Oil                     | SYP 19,905            | SYP 16,500 | SYP 24,203 | SYP 26,229 | ▲ 21%          | ▼ -18%        | ▼ -24%         |
| Bulgur                  | SYP 10,660            | SYP 6,529  | SYP 11,979 | SYP 13,249 | ▲ 63%          | ▼ -11%        | ▼ -20%         |
| Beans (white)           | SYP 28,173            | SYP 11,829 | SYP 31,789 | SYP 34,354 | ▲ 138%         | ▼ -11%        | ▼ -18%         |
| Rice                    | SYP 13,309            | SYP 7,137  | SYP 16,345 | SYP 16,700 | ▲ 86%          | ▼ -19%        | ▼ -20%         |
| Cheese                  | SYP 36,421            | SYP 19,055 | SYP 42,868 | SYP 43,229 | ▲ 91%          | ▼ -15%        | ▼ -16%         |
| Lentils                 | SYP 15,265            | SYP 9,033  | SYP 20,492 | SYP 19,453 | ▲ 69%          | ▼ -26%        | ▼ -22%         |
| Sugar                   | SYP 10,037            | SYP 6,483  | SYP 14,887 | SYP 13,473 | ▲ 55%          | ▼ -33%        | ▼ -26%         |
| Meat (chicken, plucked) | SYP 36,106            | SYP 16,950 | SYP 43,100 | SYP 38,728 | ▲ 113%         | ▼ -16%        | ▼ -7%          |
| Eggs                    | SYP 31,951            | SYP 18,727 | SYP 57,141 | SYP 47,692 | ▲ 71%          | ▼ -44%        | ▼ -33%         |

# Annex 2: Retail prices for MEB non-food components

| items                       | January 2024 National | 2 years     | 1 Year      | 1 month     | 2 years change | 1 year change | 1 month change |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| dishwashing liquid          | SYP 13,179            | SYP 5,884   | SYP 13,739  | SYP 15,092  | ▲ 124%         | ▼ -4%         | ▼ -13%         |
| internet bundle             | SYP 27,065            | SYP 8,614   | SYP 28,490  | SYP 36,720  | ▲ 214%         | ▼ -5%         | ▼ -26%         |
| Fuel (gas, parallel market) | SYP 267,169           | SYP 137,357 | SYP 216,860 | SYP 351,595 | ▲ 95%          | ▲ 23%         | ▼ -24%         |
| toothpaste                  | SYP 17,991            | SYP 7,486   | SYP 16,967  | SYP 20,323  | ▲ 140%         | ▲ 6%          | ▼ -11%         |
| Fuel (gas)                  | SYP 182,968           | SYP 10,800  | SYP 20,848  | SYP 132,144 | ▲ 1594%        | ▲ 778%        | ▲ 38%          |
| Multipurpose soap           | SYP 2,890             | SYP 1,537   | SYP 3,383   | SYP 3,344   | ▲ 88%          | ▼ -15%        | ▼ -14%         |
| sanitary pads               | SYP 10,405            | SYP 5,796   | SYP 11,277  | SYP 11,652  | ▲ 80%          | ▼ -8%         | ▼ -11%         |





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All data, previous flash updates, and monthly reports can be found in [DataViz](#) website