

## Food Security and Markets Monitoring Report

### Situation Update

The 2024/25 cropping season has been characterised by mixed conditions with the southern parts of the country receiving above normal rainfall while the north mainly received below normal rainfall. Crop condition is mainly at vegetative to reproductive stage and reported to be in good condition in the southern parts of the country and fair in the north. Chances of having localised pockets of food insecurity are high countrywide. Livestock condition has been reported to have significantly improved with the increased access to drinking water and grazing pasture. The government and partners are still responding to the impacts of the 2023/24 El Nino drought while awaiting for the arrival of the harvest as from April 2025.

With the growing uncertainties surrounding the quality of the rainfall season especially in the north, which are the main crop producing areas in the country, the World Bank Zimbabwe Economic Update (ZEU) of January 2025 emphasised the need for immediate efforts focusing on strengthening the early warning system and improving the social protection framework to better respond to emerging risks and vulnerabilities.



### Highlights



In USD terms, the month on month inflation was 11.5% while the annual inflation was 14.6% for January 2025. In local currency, the month on month inflation rate was 10.5% up from 3.7% in December 2024 (RBZ).



The WFP internal crop and livestock monitoring identified some improvements in crop, livestock and pasture conditions in several districts in the country due to significant rains received in both surplus and deficit-producing areas.



Price of food on the international market saw a slight downward movement of about 1.6% according to the FAO price index. The index stood at 124.9 points.



Maize meal was available in an average of 90% of the rural and urban markets. Other food commodities monitored were generally available in most markets except for chicken, eggs, and vegetables in formal rural markets as these are mainly sold at household level.



The seasonal rainfall performance has been characterised by mixed conditions with the southern parts of the country receiving above normal rains while the north received normal to below normal rainfall



The USD and ZWG cost of the monitored food and non food essential needs basket remained the same in both urban and rural markets when compared to December 2024.



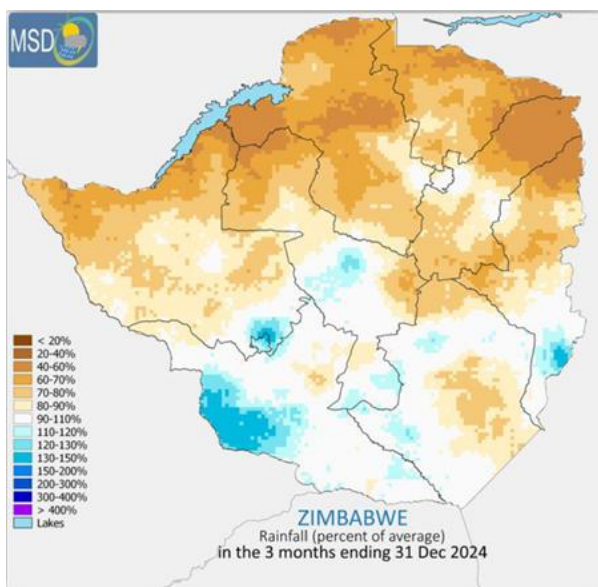
## Food security situation and the progression of the rainfall season

The 2024/25 rainfall season has been characterized by mixed conditions across the country. During the first half of the season i.e. October to December 2024, the northern part of the country received below normal rainfall ranging between 60 to 80 percent of the long-term average for the area while the south received normal rainfall of about 90 to 110% of the long term average for the area (**Map 1**). During the month of January 2025, the south received above normal rainfall while the north received mainly normal rainfall (**Map 2**). However, the rainfall distribution in the north was poor both in time and space. As a result of the dry conditions experienced during the first half of the year, some of the early planted crop wilted permanently leading to widespread replanting in January 2025. Most of the maize and small grains crop is at vegetative stage, mainly in good condition in the south and fair in the north (**Map 3**). The rainfall forecast for February 2025 is showing high chances of above normal rainfall across most of the country, a situation if realized, can lead to better crop production across the country.

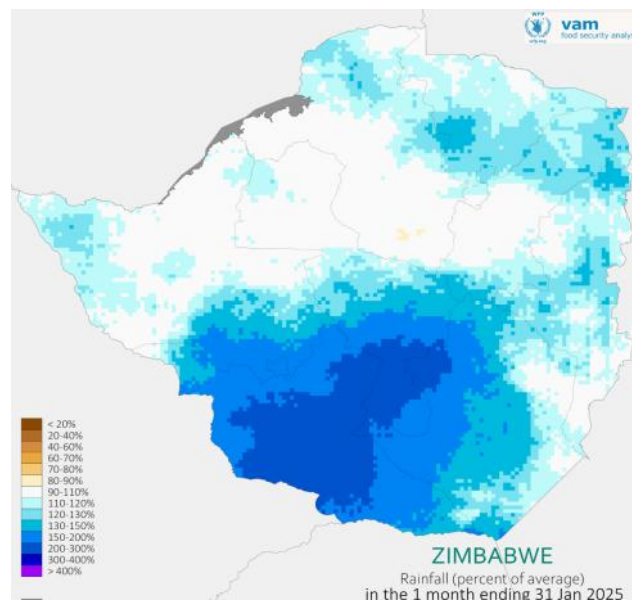
The findings from the WFP internal food security monitoring showed that during the month of January the majority of farmers in rural areas engaged in crop management activities which include weeding, fertilizer application and monitoring of the crop. Maize seed and fertilizer is readily available in local markets in most districts but farmers are reported facing challenges in accessing adequate quantities due to the high cost of the inputs and can compromise on the potential harvest. The government supported the vulnerable farmers with crop inputs adequate to cover a hectare in a bid to promote food security.

Casual labour opportunities are reported to be available mainly in the agricultural sector, however, they are reported to be accessed by a few as compared to other seasons as most farmers are facing liquidity challenges after the El Nino induced drought from the previous season. Petty trade remains the dominant livelihood activity, particularly amongst urban dwellers. Livestock condition is reported to be mainly good across the country due to an increase in water and pasture availability. Terms of trade for livestock are likely to improve compared to the previous season.

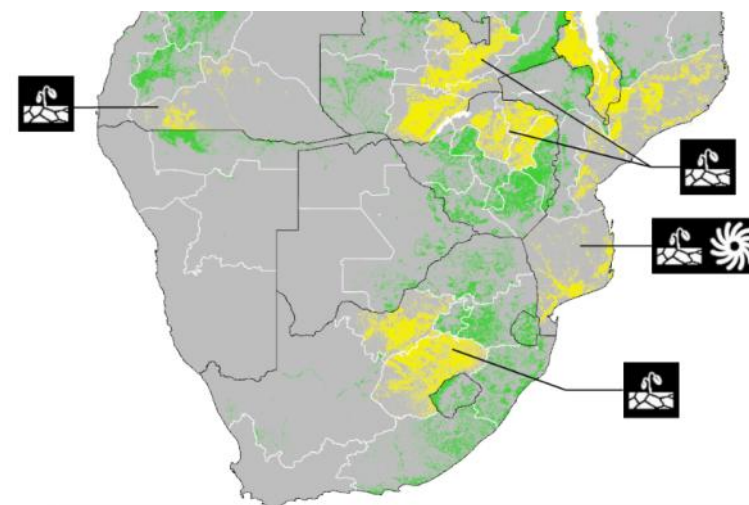
**Map 1:** October to December 2024 rainfall percent of average



**Map 2:** January rainfall percent of average



**Map 3:** Maize condition as of 28 January 2025





## Coping mechanism story



In the heart of Mwenezi, Nelta, a resilient woman, has long relied on her garden for survival. Unpredictable weather patterns and dwindling rainfall are increasingly making gardening a difficult endeavour. In Mwenezi most of the gardening activities started in January when the district received significant rains. Like other vulnerable households, Nelta has also diversified her income generating efforts by starting a chickens project, hoping to secure a steady supply of eggs to sell and consume. Yet, she quickly faced another setback — persistent feed shortages that stunted the growth and productivity of her fledgling flock. She has also ventured into okra production, which she sells at a nearby market (see pic)

Nelta has also joined a community lending scheme, hoping this will help her secure funds for her projects. However, the group members constantly grappled with competing priorities: food for their households, school fees, and the cost of basic services. Despite the challenges, she keeps pushing forward, learning to balance the little she had for immediate needs while contributing what she could to the savings pool.

Nelta remains hopeful and began to reach out to neighbouring poultry farmers for advice, learning creative feeding strategies for her chickens using locally sourced materials like maize husks and wild greens. She also proposed staggered contributions to the lending scheme, which the group embraced to ease financial pressures. Slowly, her garden showed signs of revival, and the first eggs from her hens symbolized hope amid the hardships.



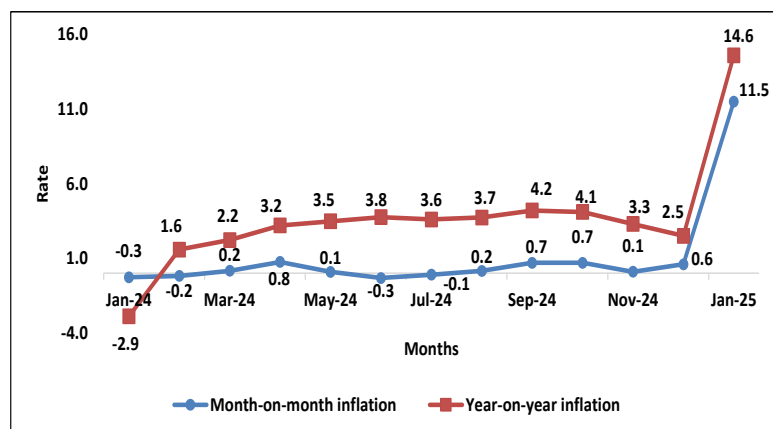
## Macro-economic situation

Zimbabwe's consumer inflation rate for ZWG surged to 10.5 percent in January 2025, up from a four-month low of 3.7 percent in December 2024, marking a significant shift in price trends. The rise in inflation is largely attributed to higher costs of essential goods and services, including food, housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels. The increase has been exacerbated by prolonged drought conditions, which strained agricultural production and water supply, further driving up prices. In addition, the recent introduction of new taxes targeting various sectors, including leisure activities and fast food consumption, has contributed to the inflationary pressures. Inflation in US dollar terms also rose sharply to 11.5 percent, compared to 0.6 percent in December 2024.

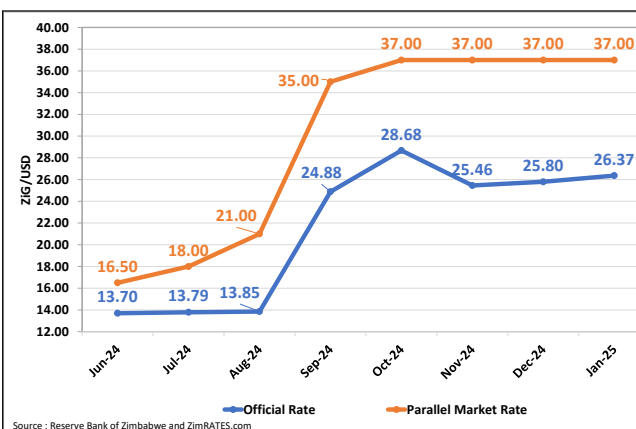
At the end of January 2025, the foreign currency exchange rate was pegged at ZWG26.37 to 1USD which is comparable to ZWG25.80 to 1USD recorded at the end of December, 2024. The parallel market exchange rate remained stable at about ZWG37.00 to 1 USD in January 2025 similar to December 2024 (**Figure 1 and 2**).

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 124.9 points in January 2025, reflecting a decrease of 2.1 points, or 1.6 percent, from its revised December level. This decline was driven primarily by lower prices for sugar, vegetable oils, and meat, which more than offset rising prices for dairy products and cereals. Despite this monthly decrease, the index was still 7.3 points, or 6.2 percent, higher than its level in January 2024. Nevertheless, it remained significantly lower—35.3 points, or 22.0 percent—below the all-time high recorded in March 2022.

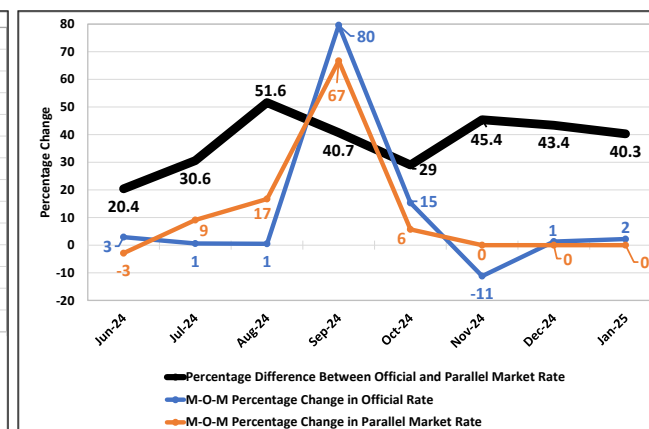
**Figure 1: Inflation rates (USD)**



**Figure 2: Exchange rate trends**



**Figure 3: percentage change in exchange rates**



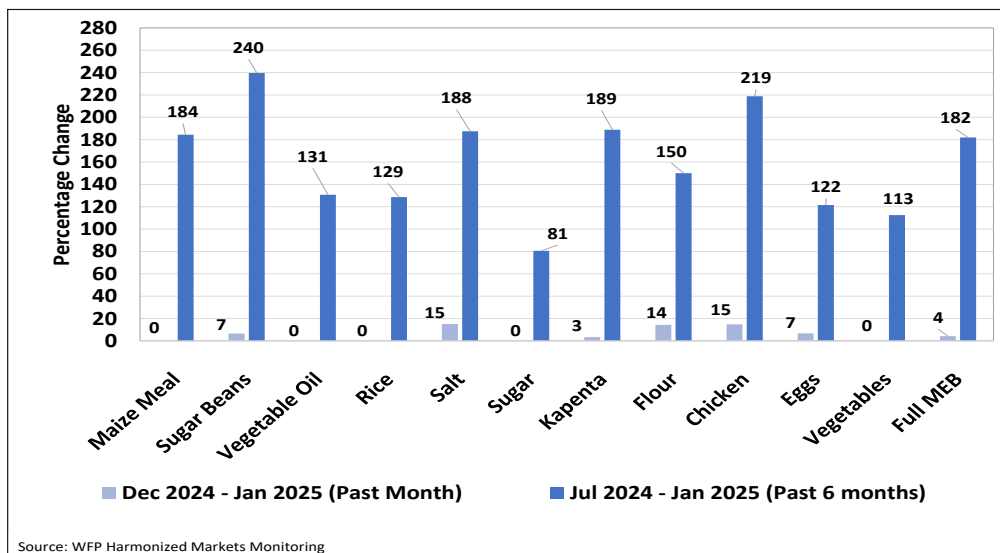
Data Source: Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, 2025



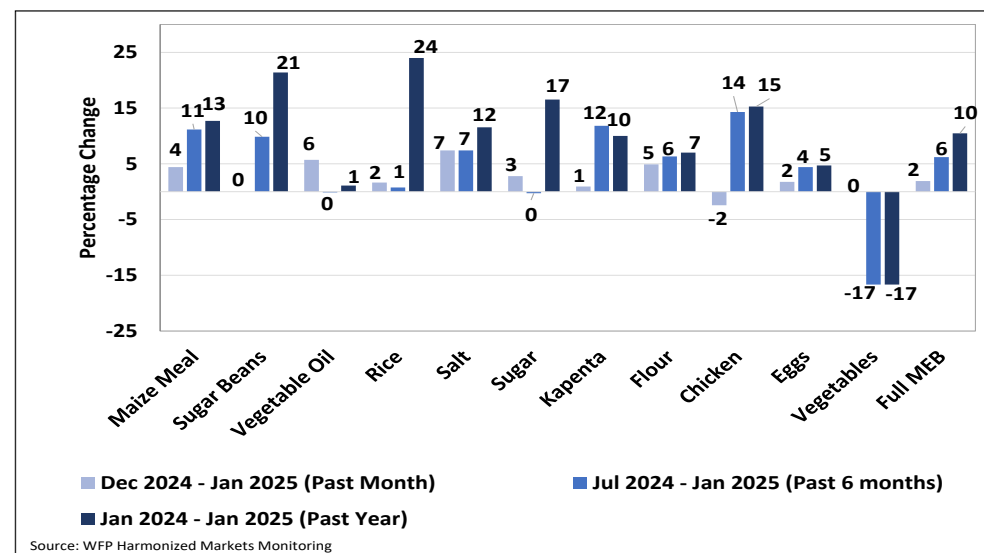
## Rural Market Performance Update: a review of availability and prices of basic food basket commodities (ZWG and USD)

The USD value of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) which represents minimum household requirements to meet their essential needs, was estimated at an average of \$24.64 which is similar to \$24.18 in December 2024. The January 2025 cost was 6% higher than the cost 6 months ago and 10% higher when compared to a year ago. The local currency (ZWG) cost of the MEB was estimated at ZWG937.35 in January 2025 which is comparable to ZWG899.70 in December 2024.

**Figure 4:** Rural food MEB ZWG percentage change



**Figure 5:** Rural food MEB USD percentage change



Availability of most commodities remained high and comparable to availability in December 2024 (**Table 1**). Maize, the primary staple, is available as mealie meal in shops. Maize grain is currently unavailable due to seasonal variations. Small grains like sorghum and millet are not available in the markets but reported to be available with some farmers mainly from regions where crop is grown. Seasonal produce such as tomatoes, onions, and leafy greens are increasingly available, though their supply depends on local farming conditions and rainfall.

Prices in both ZWG and USD terms of remained stable for most of the food commodities during the first half of January when compared to December 2024 (**Figure 4 and Table 1**). The price of salt, chicken, flour, sugar beans and eggs rose by 15%, 15%, 14%, 7% and 7% respectively. Prices in USD terms increased by an average of 182% when compared to 6 months ago (**Figure 5**). Higher USD price increases were reported for salt (7%), vegetable oil (6%) and flour (5%) most likely due to the effects of rising inflation recorded in January 2025.

**Table 1:** Commodity prices in USD and availability (%) in rural markets

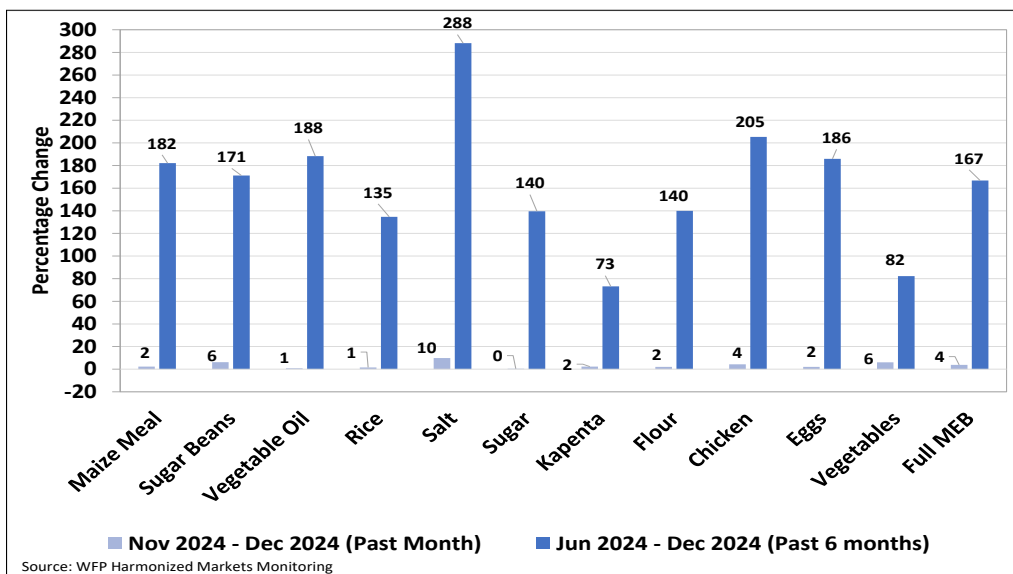
ITEM	USD % price change			ZWG % price change			Availability (%)	
	Dec USD	Jan USD	change	Dec ZWG	Jan ZWG	change	Dec	Jan
Maize Grain/Kg								
Maize Meal/Kg	0.68	0.71	4%	27.00	27.00	0%	87	88
Sugar Beans/Kg	2.44	2.44	0%	102.00	108.67	7%	33	59
Vegetable Oil/L	1.75	1.85	6%	60.00	60.00	0%	93	93
Rice/Kg	1.22	1.24	2%	45.00	45.00	0%	93	100
Salt/Kg	0.54	0.58	7%	20.00	23.00	15%	95	100
Sugar/Kg	1.44	1.48	3%	39.00	39.00	0%	100	100
Kapenta/Kg	10.90	11.00	1%	450.00	465.00	3%	60	83
Flour/Kg	1.02	1.07	5%	35.00	40.00	14%	87	97
Chicken/Kg	4.10	4.00	-2%	125.00	143.50	15%	0	4
Eggs/Kg	2.85	2.90	2%	75.00	80.00	7%	0	44
Vegetables/Kg	1.00	1.00	0%	34.00	34.00	0%	0	0



## Urban Market Performance Update: a review of availability and prices of basic food basket commodities (ZWG and USD)

The cost of the full minimum expenditure (MEB) food basket in USD in urban markets was estimated at an average price of USD24.89 which is stable when compared to USD24.32 reported in December 2024. Compared to a year ago, the USD cost of the basket increased by 10%. In local currency the cost was estimated at an average price of ZWG942.40 which is comparable to ZWG908.38 in December 2024.

**Figure 6:** Urban food MEB ZWG percentage change

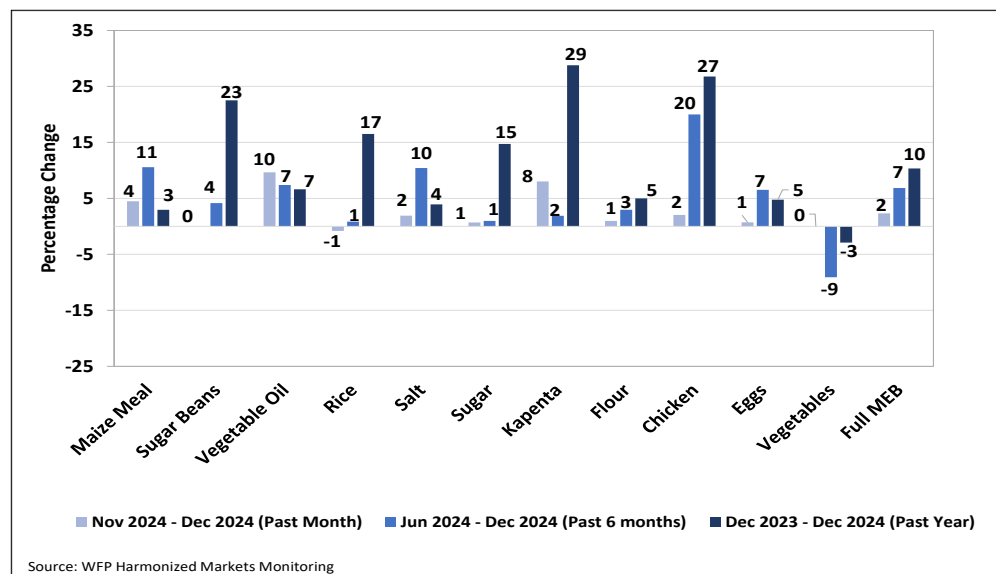


Maize meal, the primary staple, was generally available in urban markets reported by 92% of the monitored traders. The urban markets had high assortment of food commodities including both local and imported maize meal, rice and wheat products. The urban markets had a steady supply of fresh produce, including leafy greens, sourced from both local farms and regional suppliers. However, availability was reported to be sometimes affected by transport logistics and weather conditions. (Table 2).

Prices in USD were generally stable when compared to the previous month save for chicken whose price rose by 26% (Figure 7). This could be related to the increased demand over the festive season.

In local currency, prices were stable across commodities save for chicken, rice and sugar which rose by 38%, 14% and 9% respectively (Figure 6). Compared to 6 months ago, prices increased by an average of 154%. The price increases are likely a result of the increased demand for the particular products over the festive season.

**Figure 7:** Urban food MEB USD percentage change



**Table 2:** Commodity prices in ZWG, USD and availability (%) in urban markets

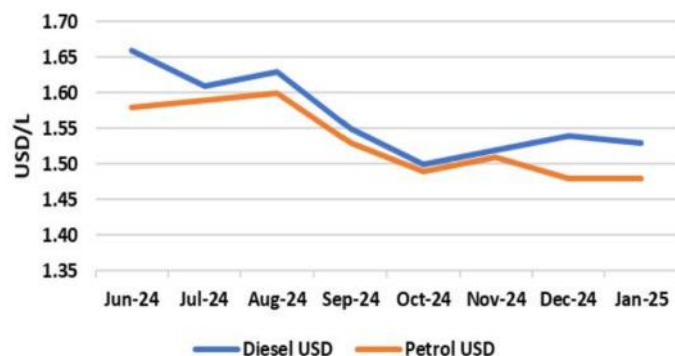
ITEM	USD % price			ZWG % price			Dec Availability	Jan Availability
	Dec USD	Jan USD	change	Dec ZWG	Jan ZWG	change2		
Maize Grain/Kg				-	-			
Maize Meal/Kg	0.67	0.70	4%	25.43	26.00	2%	92	91
Sugar Beans/Kg	2.45	2.45	0%	96.02	102.00	6%	100	100
Vegetable Oil/L	1.76	1.93	10%	72.43	73.00	1%	92	91
Rice/Kg	1.21	1.20	-1%	40.63	41.23	1%	92	92
Salt/Kg	0.52	0.53	2%	25.00	27.45	10%	96	98
Sugar/Kg	1.47	1.48	1%	49.43	49.61	0%	100	100
Kapenta/Kg	12.22	13.20	8%	438.16	448.00	2%	82	82
Flour/Kg	1.04	1.05	1%	33.34	34.00	2%	92	91
Chicken/Kg	4.41	4.50	2%	165.00	172.00	4%	45	40
Eggs/Kg	2.84	2.86	1%	100.00	102.00	2%	82	78
Vegetables/Kg	1.00	1.00	0%	33.00	35.00	6%	50	50





## Fuel price (USD and ZWG)

**Figure 8:** Fuel USD prices trends

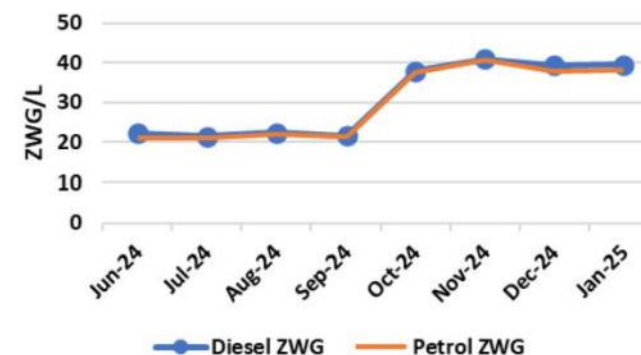


The price of diesel and petrol was pegged at \$1.48/L and \$1.53/L respectively. The price is comparable to the December price (**Figure 8**). In comparison with the same time a year ago, the USD prices were 15% and 7% less for diesel and petrol respectively.

In local currency the January price of fuel was 6% higher than the December prices for both diesel and petrol (**Figure 9**).

Data Source: ZERA, 2025

**Figure 9:** Fuel ZWG price trends



Data Source: ZERA, 2025

## Non-food commodities (USD and ZWG)

Availability of soap remained stable in both rural and urban markets when compared to December 2024 (**Table 3**).

In local currency, the price of soap in both rural and urban markets increased by an average of 7%. (**Table 3**).

**NB:** (*The cheapest brand is monitored, however sometimes due to unavailability, different brands are monitored which could explain the high price differences*).

USD prices for soap remained stable in both rural and urban markets.

**Table 3:** Non-Food Commodity prices in ZWG, USD and availability

Commodity	Availability				Price in USD				Price in ZWG			
	Dec	Jan	Avail % change		Dec (\$)	Jan (\$)	% change \$		Dec (ZWG)	Jan (ZWG)	% change \$	
Laundry Soap Rural	97%	96%	-1%	↔	\$ 1.30	\$ 1.28	-2%	↔	ZWD 35.76	ZWD 35.43	-1%	↔
Laundry Soap Urban	98%	98%	0%	↔	\$ 1.29	\$ 1.28	-1%	↔	ZWD 33.47	ZWD 33.00	-1%	↔
Bathing Soap Rural	96%	92%	-4%	↔	\$ 0.33	\$ 0.34	3%	↔	ZWD 13.96	ZWD 13.90	0%	↔
Bathing Soap Urban	100%	100%	0%	↔	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.29	-3%	↔	ZWD 12.50	ZWD 12.53	0%	↔

Data Source: WFP Harmonised Markets Monitoring, 2025



## Methodology



Data for this reporting period, data was mainly collected between 1-17 January 2025 and is based on interviews with 42 traders of which 28 were in rural and 14 in urban districts. About 90% of the interviews were conducted face-to-face while other interviews were collected remotely.

Checking availability at market level: If a trader reports having sold a commodity within the last week, the commodity is considered available in their respective market. Availability at district-level is calculated as the share of markets with commodity availability across districts. Missing data indicate that none of the interviewed traders generally trades the commodity. For the full harmonized markets monitoring database, please visit: [Economic: Prices - Dataviz | WFP - VAM](#).

The harmonised markets monitoring initiative is conducted by WFP in partnership with members of the National Cash Assistance Working Group (NCWG).

### Partners who collected this month's data:

AARDS, Plan International, Terre Des Hommes Italia, Welthungerhilfe and World Vision Zimbabwe



## For further information

**Barbara CLEMENS**, WFP Representative and Country Director  
**Rudo SAGOMBA**, Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Officer  
**Ifeoma MADUEKEGARBA**, Head of External Relations

Barbara.Clemens@wfp.org  
Rudo.Sagomba@wfp.org  
ifeoma.maduekegarba@wfp.org

**Website:** [wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe](https://wfp.org/countries/zimbabwe)  
**Twitter:** [twitter.com/WFP\\_Zimbabwe](https://twitter.com/WFP_Zimbabwe)  
**WFP HungerMap LIVE:** [hungermap.wfp.org](https://hungermap.wfp.org)  
**Latest newsletter:** [January 2025](#)

