

Monthly Market Price Bulletin

Syria | February 2025 — ISSUE 122

WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



HIGHLIGHTS

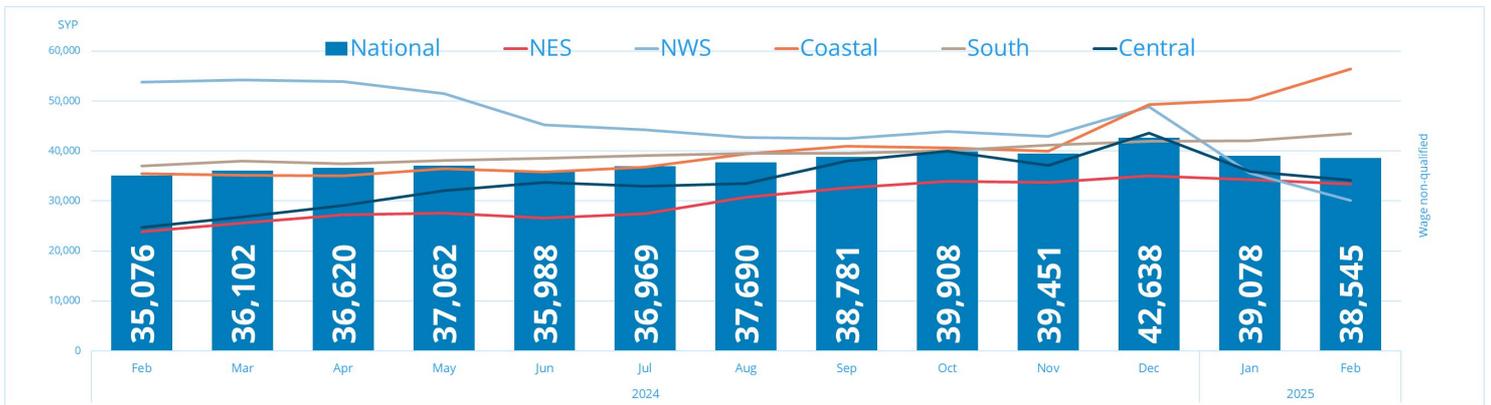
- In February, the weight of the subsidized bread bundle was reduced from 1.5 kg to 1.2 kg, while the price remained stable at 4,000 SYP. This 20% reduction in quantity marks another step in the government's plan to fully remove bread subsidies. WFP estimates that the removal of bread subsidies will add 1.2 million people to severe food insecurity, bringing the total number facing extreme food consumption gaps from 1.4 million to 2.6 million people.
- The cost of living, as measured by the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), fell by 14% to SYP 2.1 million, down from SYP 2.5 million in the previous month. This decline was primarily driven by the appreciation of Syrian Lira over the past two months and improved market supply. Meanwhile, the monthly minimum wage of SYP 278,910 covers only 13 percent of the MEB, which underscores a severe affordability gap.
- The parallel market exchange rate appreciated from SYP 11,684 per USD to SYP 9,622 per USD compared to January 2025. However, the official exchange rate depreciated from SYP 13,065 per USD to SYP 13,266 per USD.
- Cash liquidity remains a significant challenge for Syrians, affecting personal finances and business operations. With banks no longer exchanging USD for Syrian pounds, all currency exchanges are now taking place in the parallel market.
- Retail prices continued to decline for the second consecutive month, influenced by the new import regulations and unified customs fees introduced in January 2025. These measures, combined with a lower parallel exchange rate and increased availability of key food commodities have reduced market monopolization.
- The EU Council has decided to suspend certain restrictive measures on Syria to support its political transition, economic recovery and reconstruction.

- The Syrian transitional government (STG) reduced the weight of subsidised bread bundles from 1.5 KG to 1.2 KG, maintaining the same number of loaves. This reduction aims to preserve wheat flour and prevent shortages.
- The 20% cut in bread subsidies follows the government's announcement of its intention to fully remove bread subsidies in the coming months. As bread is Syria's primary staple food, these cuts are pushing food-insecure people into deeper crisis. WFP estimates that the removal of bread subsidies will add 1.2 million people to severe food insecurity, bringing the total number facing extreme food consumption gaps to 2.6 million.
- The EU Council has decided to suspend certain restrictive measures on Syria to support its political transition, economic recovery, and reconstruction. Key decisions include:
 - Suspending sectoral sanctions in the energy and transport sectors
 - Removing five Syrian banks and Syrian Arab Airlines from asset freezes.
 - Allowing financial transactions related to energy, transport, humanitarian aid, and reconstruction.
 - Indefinitely extending humanitarian exemptions.
 - Permitting limited exports of luxury goods for personal use.
- The STG Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources announced that the resumption of oil and natural gas supplies from northeastern Syria, based on a revised contract previously signed between the "Syrian Democratic Forces" and the former regime, now amended to align with national interests.
- The Syrian News Agency reported the arrival of a tanker carrying 30,000 MT of diesel in February, marking the first such delivery since the fall of the regime.
- The STG has unified public transportation costs across Damascus, Aleppo, Homs, and Latakia governorates, setting the fare at SYP 2,000 per trip.



- The national daily wage for unskilled labor slightly decreased by 1 percent in February 2025. In northwest Syria (NWS), wages continued to decline for the second consecutive month, drooping by 15 percent compared to January 2025. Since the Turkish Lira (TL) is used in this region, the decline reflects exchange rate fluctuations between the SYP and TL, although wages in TL have remained stable at around 100 TL since December.
- For the second consecutive month, coastal regions reported the highest average wages at SYP 56,406, driven by the highest cost of living in Tartous (SYP 2.4M) compared to national average, along with increased demand for agriculture labor during the citrus harvest season.

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



Global food prices and inflation trends

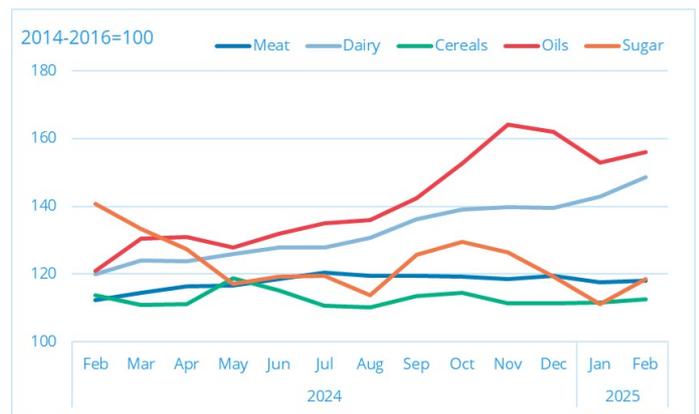
- In February 2025, the FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) averaged 127.1 points, rising by 2.0 points (1.6 percent) from January 2025. Prices increased across sugar, vegetable oils, dairy and cereals while the meat price index remained stable. However, the index remained 9.7 points (8.2 percent) higher than the same period last year.
- The FAO Cereal Price Index increased by 0.7% in February but remained 1.1% lower year-on-year. Wheat prices increased due to tightened Russian supplies and crop concerns in Europe, Russia, and the U.S.. Maize prices also climbed amid supply constraints in Brazil and Argentina and strong U.S. export demand. In contrast, rice prices fell by 6.8% due to ample supplies and weak import demand.

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



Source: FAO

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



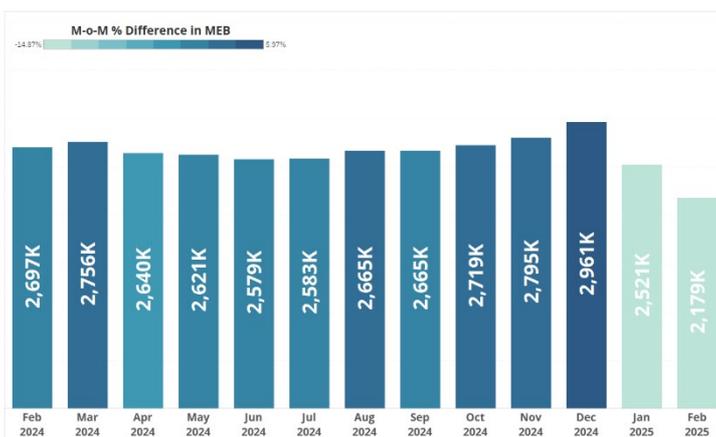
Source: FAO

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

⁴ Trading Economics “Inflation Rate”

- In February 2025, the national average Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)—a key indicator of Syria’s cost of living—fell by another 14 percent for the second consecutive month, averaging SYP 2,178,774 for a family of five. This marks the lowest monthly average since September 2023. Although the MEB is 20 percent lower than February 2024, this is largely due to the appreciation of the Syrian Lira.
- Meanwhile, the monthly minimum wage of SYP 278,910 covers only 13 percent of the MEB, underscoring a severe affordability gap. It can only cover 20 percent of the MEB’s food component, valued at SYP 1,364,980.
- Regional disparities persist. Damascus recorded the highest MEB (SYP 2,412,574), followed by Tartous (SYP 2,385,553), while Idleb had the lowest (SYP 1,760,831). Idleb and Tartous saw the sharpest month-on-month price declines, whereas Quneitra had the smallest decrease.
- The Coastal Region reported the highest MEB for the third consecutive month, driven by rising prices for bulgur, eggplants, onions, carrot, dairy products and lentils. In contrast, Aleppo region had the lowest MEB, benefitting from lower prices for cereals, potatoes, dairy, pulses, sugar and vegetable oil.
- Annual MEB food costs fluctuated, with bakery bread prices surging following subsidy reductions. Meanwhile, prices increased for parsley (+34 percent), while declining for sugar (-46 percent), lentils (-45 percent), potatoes (-44 percent), eggs (-44 percent), tomatoes (-42 percent), beans (white) (-35 percent), chickpeas (-35 percent), bulgur (-29 percent), vegetable Oil (-28 percent), onions (-23 percent), cheese (-22 percent), and meat (chicken, plucked) (-15 percent).

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



Source: Damascus Cash Working Group

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

Governorate	February 2025 Cost	Last Month
Quneitra	2,266,359 SYP	▼ -6.9%
Al-Hasakeh	2,241,267 SYP	▼ -11.2%
Damascus	2,412,574 SYP	▼ -11.3%
Ar-Raqqa	2,245,844 SYP	▼ -11.8%
Hama	2,216,252 SYP	▼ -11.8%
Lattakia	2,249,918 SYP	▼ -12.0%
Deir-ez-Zor	2,211,778 SYP	▼ -12.4%
Homs	2,224,873 SYP	▼ -14.3%
Rural Damascus	2,178,876 SYP	▼ -14.4%
Dar'a	2,345,556 SYP	▼ -14.7%
Aleppo	1,909,570 SYP	▼ -14.8%
As-Sweida	2,364,184 SYP	▼ -15.2%
Tartous	2,385,553 SYP	▼ -15.2%
Idleb	1,760,831 SYP	▼ -20.8%

Source: Damascus Cash Working Group

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

Regions	February 2025 Cost	Last month
NES	2,229,796 SYP	▼ -11.9%
Central	2,221,281 SYP	▼ -13.3%
South	2,286,659 SYP	▼ -13.3%
Coastal	2,317,735 SYP	▼ -13.7%
Aleppo	1,894,507 SYP	▼ -15.5%

Source: Damascus Cash Working Group

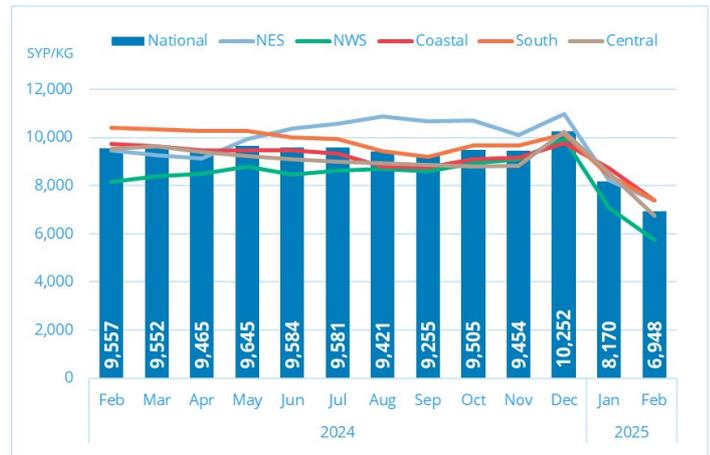
Legend on regions :

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

¹ 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).

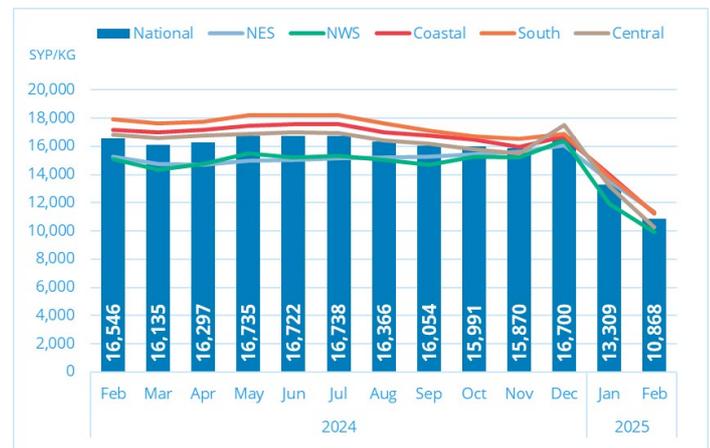
- Wheat Flour:** In February, wheat flour prices fell by 15 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 6,948 per kilogram, driven by a decline in the parallel exchange rate in January and February 2025.
- The South recorded the highest price at SYP 7,397 per kilogram, while the Northwest had the lowest price at SYP 5,756 per kilogram, Since the TL is used mainly in this region, the decrease reflects exchange rate variations between the SYP and TL .
- Over the past year, wheat flour prices have declined by 27 percent, with all regions experiencing a decline.
- Rice:** In February, the average price of 1 KG of Egyptian white rice was SYP 10,868, marking an 18 percent decrease from the previous month due to the decline of the parallel exchange rate in January and February 2025. Compared to last year, prices dropped by 34 percent.
- Regionally, the Northeast had the highest price at SYP 11,385, while the Northwest recorded the lowest at SYP 9,926. Since the TL is used primarily in the Northwest, the decrease reflects exchange rate fluctuations between the SYP and TL.
- The Central region saw the largest annual decrease (29 percent), whereas the Northeast had the smallest decline (25 percent).
- Chicken and Eggs** In February 2025, the national average price of plucked chicken decreased by 5 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 34,443 per kilogram, with a 15 percent year-on-year decline.
- Southern areas recorded the highest price at SYP 39,055 per kilogram, while the Northwest had the lowest at SYP 30,012. The Central region saw the largest annual decrease (21 percent), whereas the Northeast had the smallest decline (9 percent).
- Meanwhile, the price of a tray of 30 eggs decreased by 8 percent, averaging SYP 29,492. Egg prices declined over the past year by 44 percent.
- The decrease in poultry meat and products can be attributed to increased production and expansion of poultry farms, alongside price stabilisation measures introduced by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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



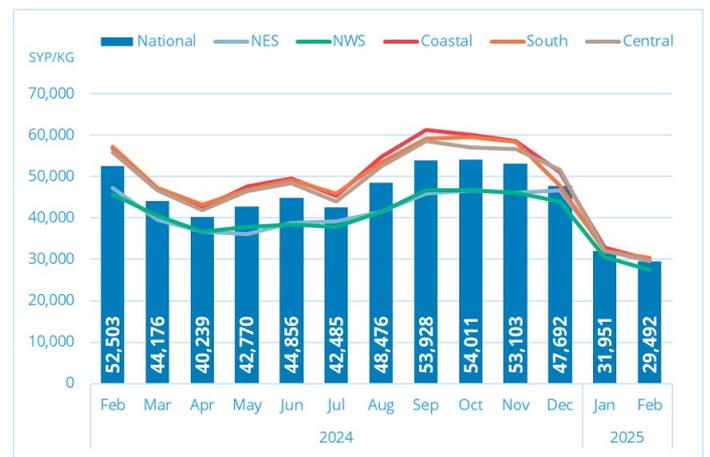
Source: WFP

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



Source: WFP

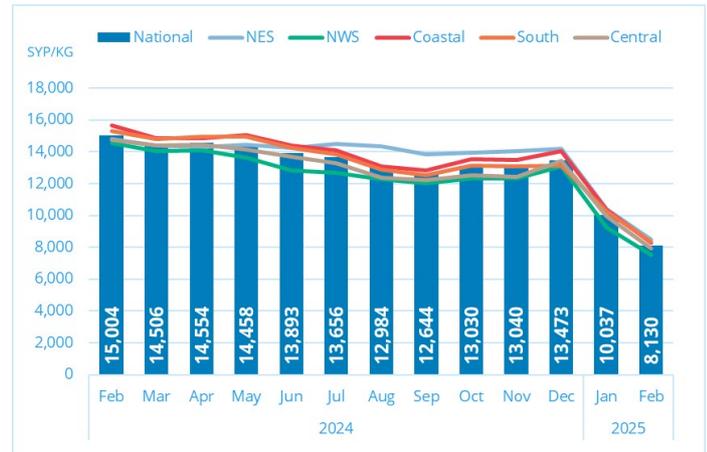
Chart 5: Retail Prices of Chicken, SYP (February 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- Sugar** In February 2025, sugar prices fell by 19 percent from the previous month, averaging SYP 8,130 per kilogram, with a 46 percent year-on-year decline.
- Regionally, the Northeast region recorded the highest retail price at SYP 8,484, while the Northwest had the lowest price at SYP 7,552. The Northwest region saw the highest annual decrease (48 percent) while the Northeast recorded the smallest decline (43 percent) since February 2024.

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

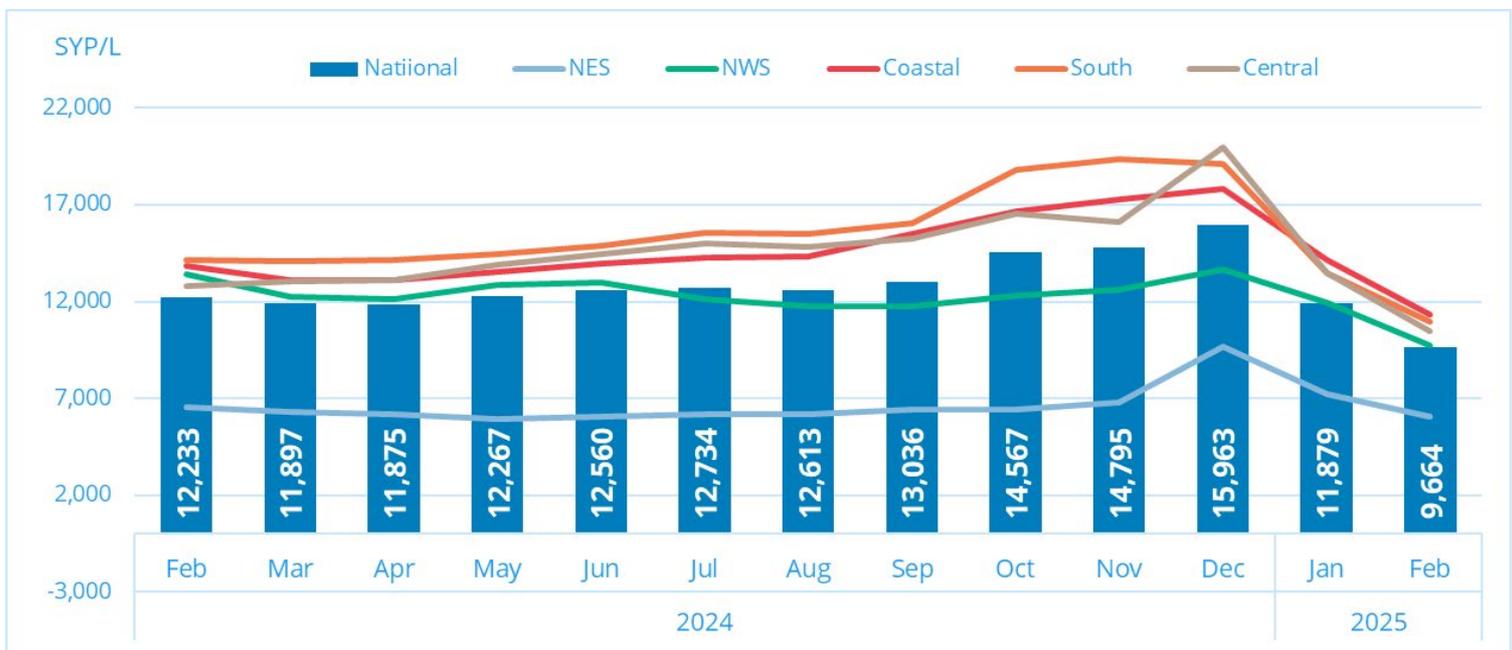


Source: WFP

Energy prices

- Gas stations now quote all prices in SYP only, eliminating the flexibility of paying in USD or SYP.
- The national parallel market price for transport diesel fell 19 percent from January 2025, averaging SYP 9,664, a 21 percent decrease from February 2024.
- The Northeast recorded the smallest annual decrease (7 percent) in diesel prices, while the Central region saw the largest price drop.
- The average price of a 25-litre cylinder of butane gas on the parallel market fell by 21 percent from the previous month, to SYP 212,178. However, gas prices declined only 9 percent year-on-year, with the Northwest recording the sharpest drop (40 percent), while the Northeast saw a 28 percent increase due to the formal gas price hike in SDF Ares from USD7 to USD10 per cylinder, inflating parallel market prices.
- Declining diesel prices are attributed to new resource availability and a decreasing parallel exchange rate.

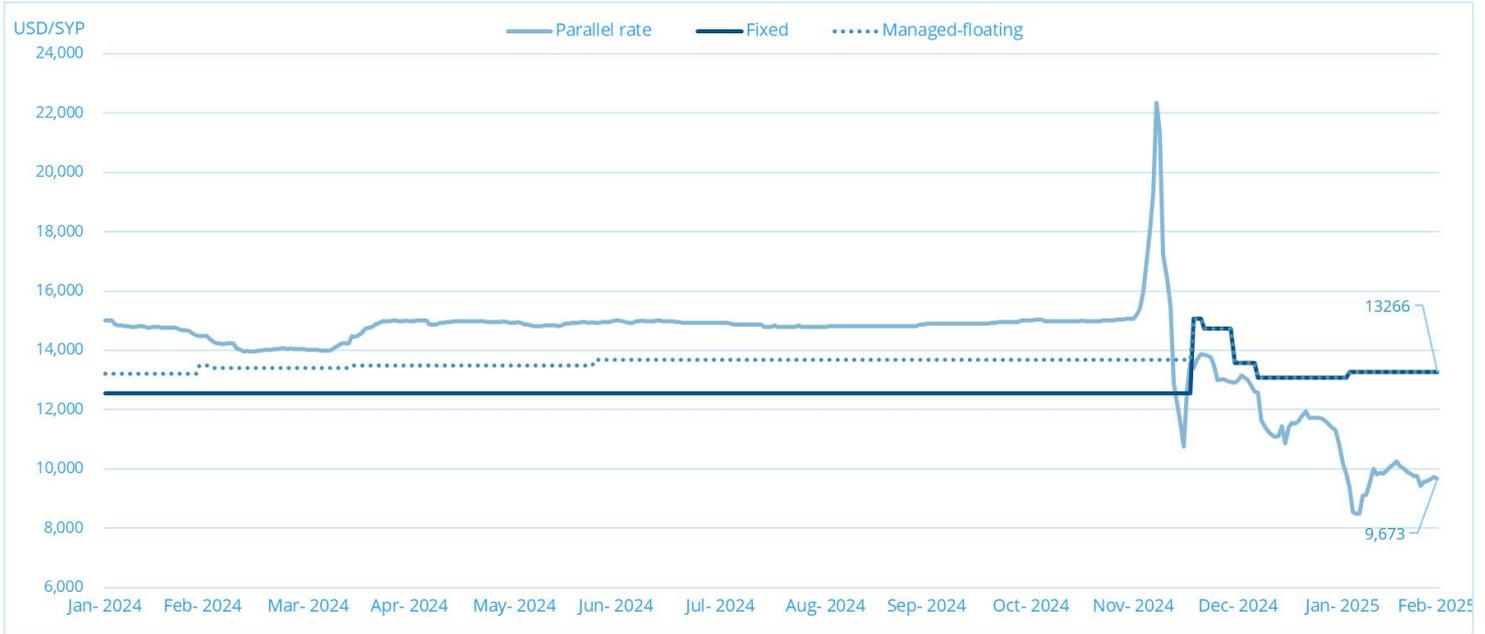
Chart 7: Monthly Prices of Transport Diesel, SYP/L (February 2024-2025)



Source: WFP

- The official exchange rate of the SYP increased from SYP 13,065 to 13,266 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 9,622 by the end of February - the lowest monthly average since August 2023. While this represents a 53% appreciation over the past year, the currency has depreciated by 26 percent over two years.

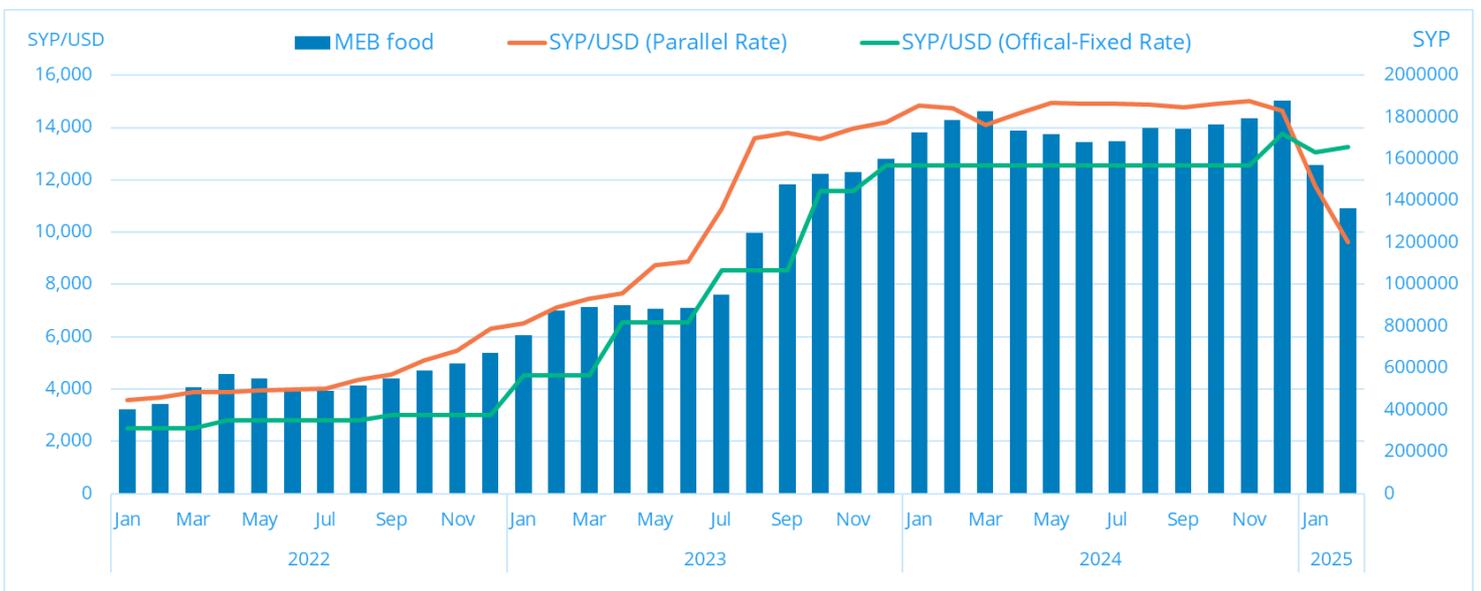
Chart 8: Daily exchange rate trends in 1 year calendar , SYP/USD (February 2024-2025)



Source: WFP, CBS

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

Chart 9: Correlation between food MEB and exchange rate

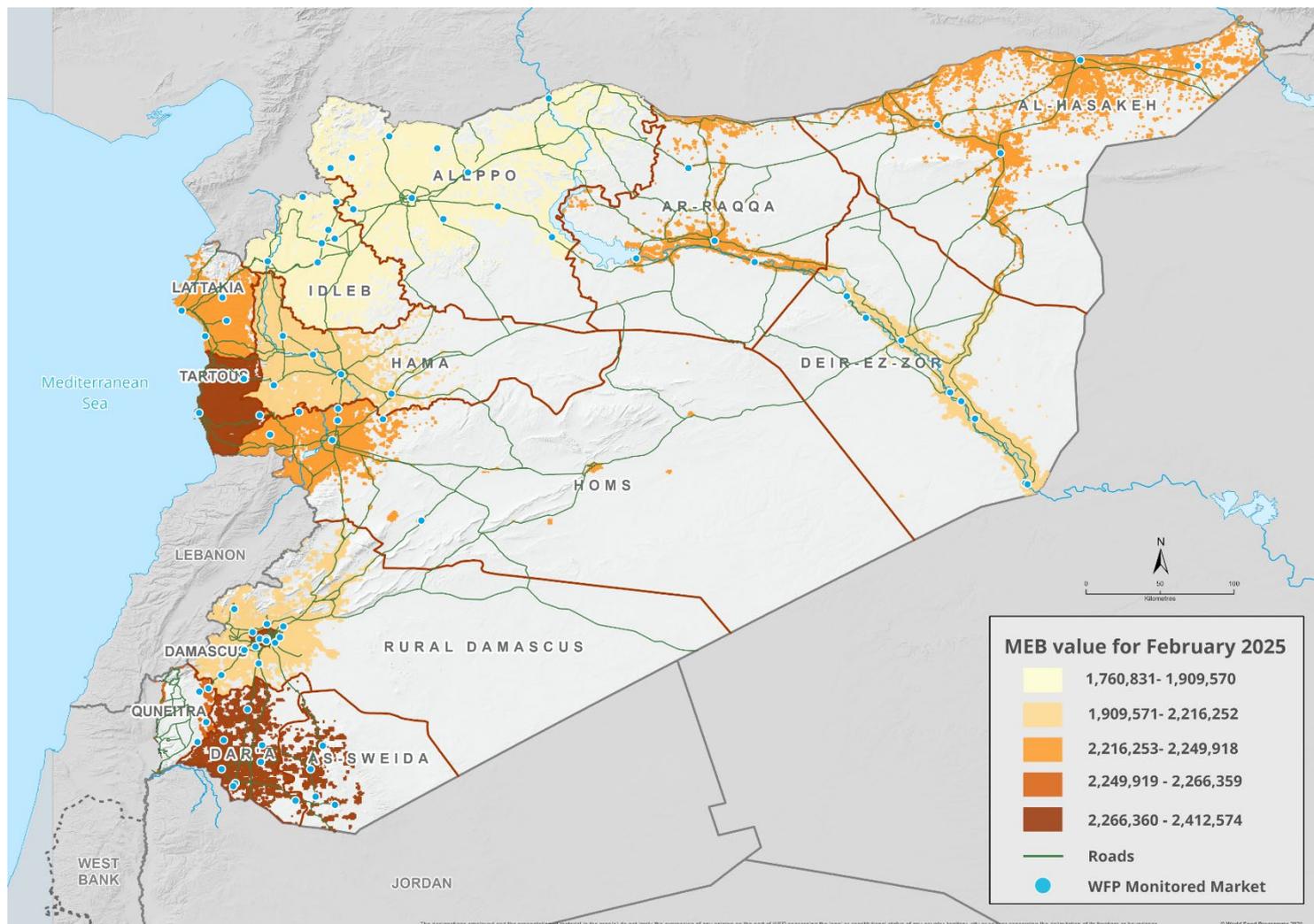


Annex 1: Retail prices for MEB food components

items	Monitoring Unit	February 2024 National	2 years	1 Year	1 month	2 years change	1 year change	1 month change			
Bread (bakery)	1.1KG	SYP 3,537	SYP 284	SYP 586	SYP 2,989	▲	1146%	▲	503%	▲	18%
Parsley	Packet	SYP 1,339	SYP 640	SYP 1,002	SYP 1,504	▲	109%	▲	34%	▼	-11%
Onions	1 KG	SYP 4,854	SYP 7,789	SYP 6,308	SYP 5,725	▼	-38%	▼	-23%	▼	-15%
Carrots	1 KG	SYP 4,428	SYP 2,746	SYP 5,167	SYP 5,523	▲	61%	▼	-14%	▼	-20%
Tomatoes	1 KG	SYP 4,877	SYP 3,379	SYP 8,447	SYP 7,633	▲	44%	▼	-42%	▼	-36%
Apples	1 KG	SYP 8,291	SYP 3,187	SYP 9,109	SYP 9,161	▲	160%	▼	-9%	▼	-10%
Potatoes	1 KG	SYP 3,552	SYP 1,928	SYP 6,393	SYP 4,232	▲	84%	▼	-44%	▼	-16%
Bread (shop)	1.1 KG	SYP 9,571	SYP 5,256	SYP 10,811	SYP 10,397	▲	82%	▼	-11%	▼	-8%
Eggplants	1 KG	SYP 8,590	SYP 3,576	SYP 9,405	SYP 9,647	▲	140%	▼	-9%	▼	-11%
Salt (iodised)	1 KG	SYP 3,535	SYP 1,433	SYP 3,998	SYP 3,964	▲	147%	▼	-12%	▼	-11%
Yogurt	1 KG	SYP 7,500	SYP 4,051	SYP 8,552	SYP 8,473	▲	85%	▼	-12%	▼	-11%
Chickpeas	1 KG	SYP 16,902	SYP 7,127	SYP 25,925	SYP 20,931	▲	137%	▼	-35%	▼	-19%
Oil	1 Liter	SYP 17,314	SYP 16,817	SYP 23,983	SYP 19,905	▲	3%	▼	-28%	▼	-13%
Bulgur	1 KG	SYP 8,766	SYP 6,684	SYP 12,404	SYP 10,660	▲	31%	▼	-29%	▼	-18%
Beans (white)	1 KG	SYP 22,218	SYP 12,162	SYP 34,091	SYP 28,173	▲	83%	▼	-35%	▼	-21%
Rice	1 KG	SYP 10,868	SYP 7,944	SYP 16,546	SYP 13,309	▲	37%	▼	-34%	▼	-18%
Cheese	1 KG	SYP 32,577	SYP 19,845	SYP 41,915	SYP 36,421	▲	64%	▼	-22%	▼	-11%
Lentils	1 KG	SYP 11,942	SYP 9,864	SYP 21,541	SYP 15,265	▲	21%	▼	-45%	▼	-22%
Sugar	1 KG	SYP 8,130	SYP 6,871	SYP 15,004	SYP 10,037	▲	18%	▼	-46%	▼	-19%
Meat (chicken, plucked)	1 KG	SYP 34,443	SYP 19,350	SYP 40,494	SYP 36,106	▲	78%	▼	-15%	▼	-5%
Eggs	30 eggs	SYP 29,492	SYP 21,260	SYP 52,503	SYP 31,951	▲	39%	▼	-44%	▼	-8%

Annex 2: Retail prices for MEB non-food components

items	Monitoring Unit	February 2024 National	2 years	1 Year	1 month	2 years change	1 year change	1 month change			
dishwashing liquid	900 ml	SYP 11,627	SYP 6,354	SYP 14,226	SYP 13,179	▲	83%	▼	-18%	▼	-12%
internet bundle	1 GB	SYP 47,321	SYP 8,832	SYP 29,388	SYP 27,065	▲	436%	▲	61%	▲	75%
Fuel (gas, parallel market)	25 KG	SYP 212,178	SYP 134,604	SYP 234,030	SYP 267,169	▲	58%	▼	-9%	▼	-21%
toothpaste	100 ml	SYP 15,287	SYP 8,048	SYP 17,061	SYP 17,991	▲	90%	▼	-10%	▼	-15%
Fuel (gas)	25 KG	SYP 159,181	SYP 10,927	SYP 33,614	SYP 182,968	▲	1357%	▲	374%	▼	-13%
Multipurpose soap	1 piece	SYP 2,593	SYP 1,551	SYP 3,599	SYP 2,890	▲	67%	▼	-28%	▼	-10%
sanitary pads	10 pcs	SYP 9,208	SYP 6,074	SYP 11,582	SYP 10,405	▲	52%	▼	-21%	▼	-12%



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