



March 2026

MARKET SITUATION UPDATE

Amid Cambodia-Thailand Border Conflict

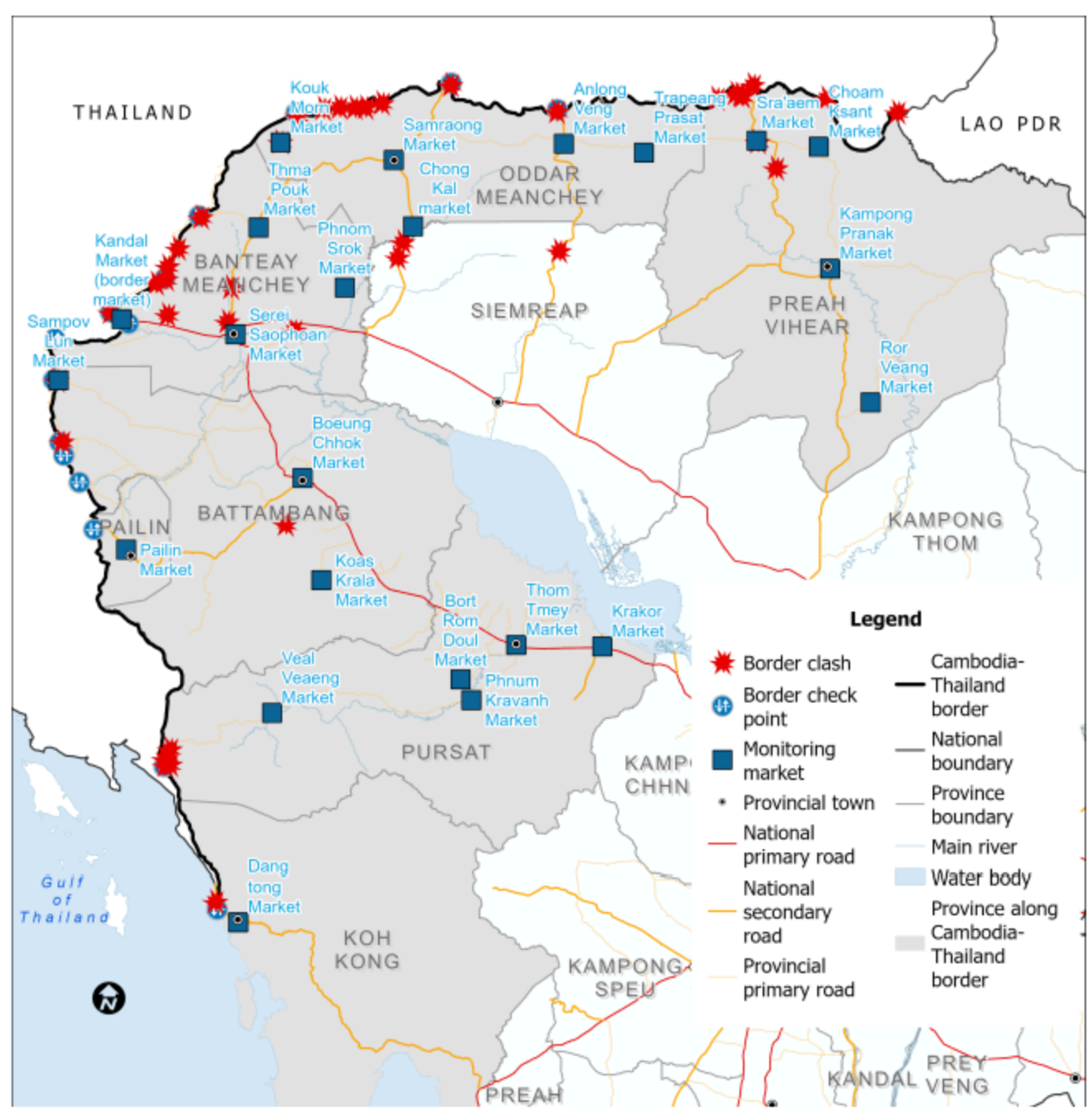
KEY FINDINGS

- The market continued to function well in March 2026, showing a slight improvement from February**, driven entirely by better price predictability and improved physical availability of essential commodities while all other dimensions of market functionality remained strong.
- Market footfall remained low in March 2026, as fear of renewed armed clashes and rising fuel prices discouraged travel to larger markets.** Households increasingly relied on nearby village shops and mobile vendors, reflecting continued caution and efforts to conserve resources during heightened uncertainty.
- The basic food basket rose to KHR 104,300 (+3.3% MoM)**, driven by the combined effects from **ongoing border tensions** and **mid-March fuel-price spike already observed in the local markets.**
- several commodities within the basket recorded notable increase including **orange-fleshed sweet potato (+6.7%), pork with fat (+6.2%), vegetable oil (+4.0%), and morning glory (+5.2%).**

BACKGROUND

Armed clashes have erupted along the Cambodia-Thailand border since mid-2025, initially in Oddar Meanchey and Preah Vihear provinces, with tensions spreading to other border areas. **As of March 2026, tensions remain high along the Cambodia-Thailand border, with border crossings still closed and travel advisories in effect. Both governments deny preparing for conflict and reaffirm commitment to peace. Displacement persists, with over 36,500 people still unable to return home (NCDM, 15 March 2026).**

To better understand the impact of the conflict and border closures on market, since October 2025, WFP Cambodia expanded its remote market monitoring to **23 markets located within seven provinces along the Cambodia-Thailand border** (see map on the right). This effort aims to track potential food price fluctuation and disruptions affecting vulnerable households living in the conflict affected provinces.

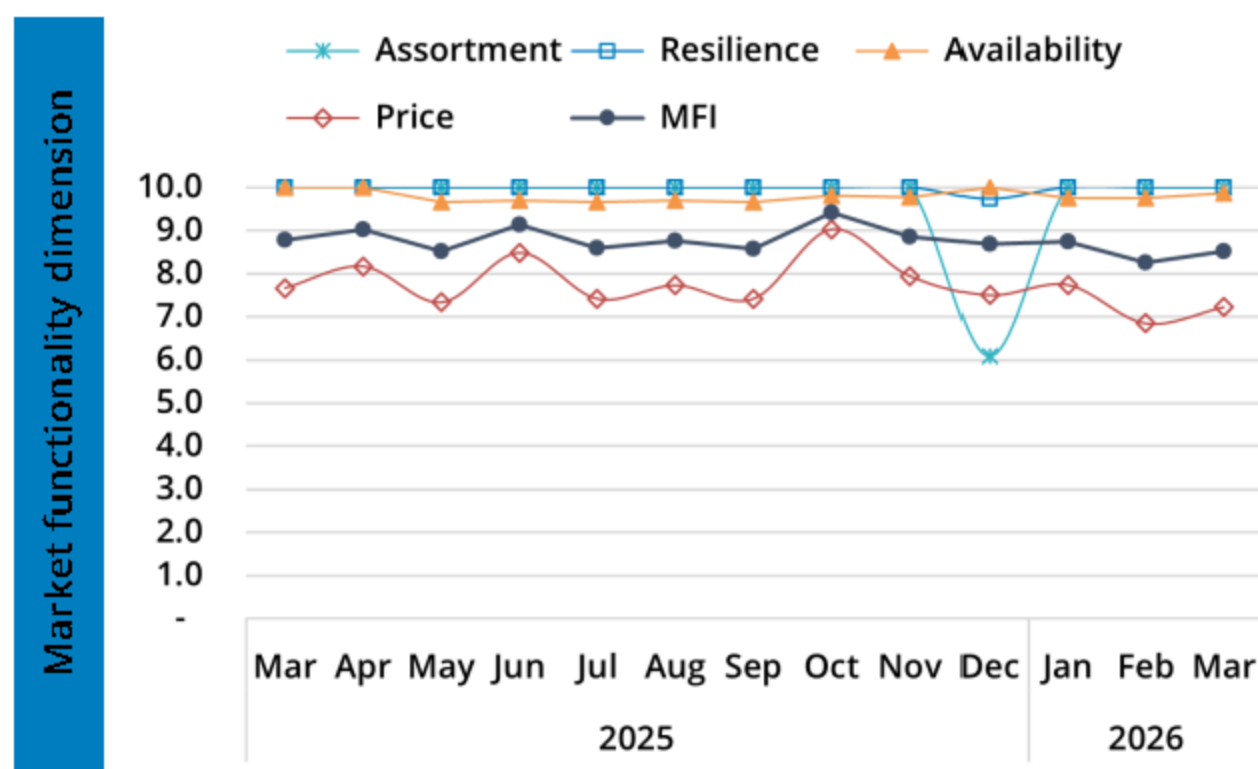


Source: The international border is delineated in accordance with United Nations-approved boundary.

Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever of WFP concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Market functionality

The **Market Functionality Index¹ (MFI)**, developed by WFP, **measures how well markets operate in crisis or recovery contexts**. By tracking MFI scores over time, humanitarian actors can assess the feasibility of cash or voucher programs, monitor market recovery and resilience, and design interventions effectively.



The figure above illustrates the MFI trajectory from **23 monitored markets** across seven Cambodian provinces bordering Thailand **that reported operating daily during the reporting period**.

After a slight drop in February, the MFI edged upward in March 2026, driven entirely by improved price stability and the physical availability of essential goods. Assortment and overall market resilience remained strong, indicating that **markets continued to offer a diverse range of commodities and were able to function consistently despite insecurity**—

reflecting traders' ability to adapt supply routes, maintain stock levels, and prevent major disruptions. Meanwhile, consumer and vendor fear of renewed armed clashes continued to limit market footfall, increasing reliance on small village shops and mobile vendors, who play a vital role in sustaining household food consumption during periods of uncertainty. This coincided with the mid-March spike in fuel prices, which further discouraged travel to larger markets and encouraged households to conserve resources in anticipation of a potentially prolonged crisis.

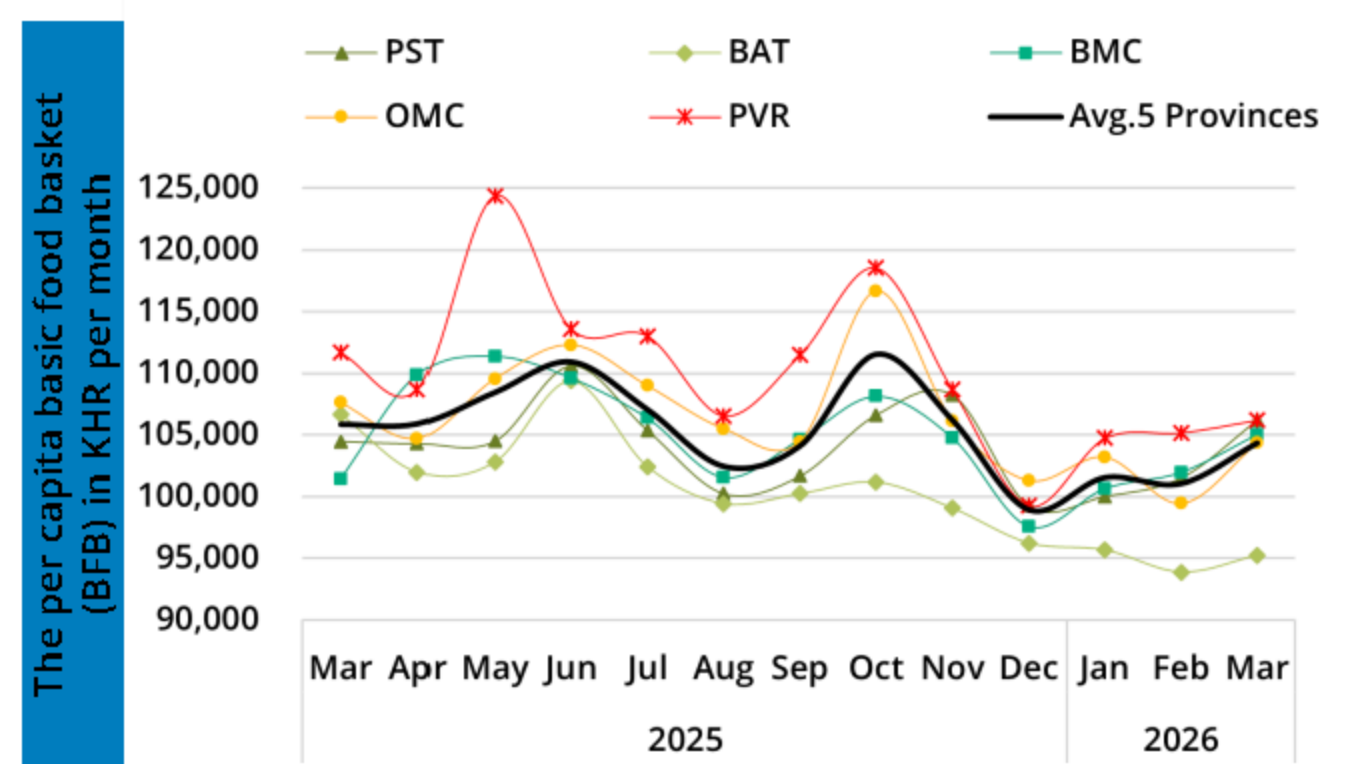
¹ The market functionality index (MFI) measures the functionality of monitored markets along the following key dimensions: assortment of essential goods, physical availability of goods in sufficient quantities, affordable and stable-predictable prices, and the underlying resilience of supply chains. Each dimension in the reduced MFI is indexed on a scale of 0 to 10, with a higher value indicating better market functionality at the time of monitoring. Overall MFI is an aggregation of the four dimensions

² The cost of the WFP basic food basket (BFB) is calculated to assist with interpreting the impact of monthly changes in food commodity prices on the cost of a basic diet consumed in Cambodia—such as rice, pork, fish, eggs, morning glory, sweet potatoes, and vegetable oil.

³ Pursat (PST), Battambang (BAT), Banteay Meanchey (BMC), Oddar Meanchey (OMC) and Preah Vihear (PVR).

Cost of basic food basket

The per capita **basic food basket² (BFB)** is calculated to assist with **interpreting the impact of monthly food price changes on the cost of a basic diet** consumed by Cambodian households. This section covers basic food basket costs in five border provinces³, excluding Pailin and Koh Kong due to limited data.



The cost of the basic food basket showed a slight increase in March 2026, rising to **KHR 104,300 per person per month (+3.3% MoM and -1.4% YoY)**. The modest upward trend MoM was driven by the combined effects of ongoing border tensions and higher fuel prices, which increased transportation costs that contributed to price rises for most items in the basket, particularly pork, vegetable oil, morning glory, and orange-fleshed sweet potatoes. Only a few items declined, including snakehead fish and duck eggs (see Table 1).

Province-level movements diverged (OMC +4.9% MoM, PST +4.6%; BMC +3.0%, BAT +1.5%, PVR +1.0%) and inter-province dispersion widened. This widening inter-provincial dispersion likely reflects the uneven impact of the recent fuel-price spike—felt more strongly in provinces with longer supply routes or higher transport dependence—combined with differing levels of existing stock availability. As fuel prices only began rising in mid-March, **the observed increases reflect early transport-driven effects, with medium-term production-side impacts yet to materialize.**

Table 1: Retail prices and changes as of March 2026

Food commodity	Unit	Aug'25	Sep'25	Oct'25	Nov'25	Dec'25	Jan'26	Feb'26	Mar'26	Change compared to Feb'26	Change compared to Dec'25	Change compared to Mar'25
Mixed Rice*	KG	2,159	2,000	2,209	1,993	1,893	1,965	1,912	1,932	→ 1.1%	→ 2.1%	↓ -12.4%
30-35% broken rice	KG	2,150	2,075	2,050	1,800	1,950	1,800	2,100	1,900	↓ -9.5%	→ -2.6%	↓ -25.0%
Snakehead fish (Live)*	KG	10,750	10,385	10,759	10,595	10,929	10,159	10,273	10,111	→ -1.6%	↓ -7.5%	↓ -5.4%
Trey Pra (Live)	KG	7,781	7,333	7,995	7,819	7,500	7,568	7,692	7,472	→ -2.9%	→ -0.4%	↑ 6.7%
Catfish (Live)	KG	9,167	8,786	9,240	8,897	8,875	8,146	8,619	8,167	↓ -5.2%	↓ -8.0%	→ 3.2%
Dried snake fish	KG	27,000	27,929	26,282	27,583	29,333	29,000	27,000	26,867	→ -0.5%	↓ -8.4%	→ 1.1%
Broahok	KG	7,917	7,600	9,200	8,667	7,500	8,250	8,222	8,167	→ -0.7%	↑ 8.9%	↑ 9.9%
Trey Por	KG	10,250	10,238	10,802	11,067	10,625	10,136	10,000	10,389	→ 3.9%	→ -2.2%	→ -1.1%
Red tailed catfish	KG	38,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Trey Sandai	KG	39,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Pork with fat*	KG	17,542	16,792	16,316	15,653	15,750	15,321	17,879	18,986	↑ 6.2%	↑ 20.5%	↑ 7.5%
Pork ribs	KG	17,958	16,958	16,246	15,074	15,400	14,400	16,714	15,833	↓ -5.3%	→ 2.8%	↑ 35.2%
Pork bone	KG	14,000	13,646	12,851	15,000	16,000	14,000	-	16,000	●	→ 0.0%	→ 3.2%
Pork legs	KG	14,125	13,896	12,956	15,250	14,444	14,563	14,611	15,750	↑ 7.8%	↑ 9.0%	↑ 12.5%
Beef with fat	KG	12,917	15,333	15,990	15,792	15,639	15,346	17,788	18,379	→ 3.3%	↑ 17.5%	→ 4.6%
Chicken meat (Farm)	KG	-	12,000	15,500	12,278	12,083	11,859	14,561	15,347	↑ 5.4%	↑ 27.0%	↑ 7.8%
Chicken meat (CP)	KG	14,389	15,556	16,074	12,361	12,194	11,958	14,424	14,958	→ 3.7%	↑ 22.7%	↑ 5.3%
Duck egg*	10 pcs	5,069	4,875	5,417	5,379	5,036	4,636	4,552	4,467	→ -1.9%	↓ -11.3%	→ -3.4%
Salty duck egg	10 pcs	7,100	6,700	7,339	7,188	6,333	6,741	6,417	7,010	↑ 9.3%	↑ 10.7%	↑ 5.8%
Vegetable Oil*	5 L	29,310	29,200	28,239	28,750	28,792	28,767	28,450	29,594	→ 4.0%	→ 2.8%	→ -0.7%
Iodized salt	KG	1,417	1,100	1,596	1,492	1,480	1,394	1,382	1,411	→ 2.1%	→ -4.7%	→ 4.5%
Fish sauce (Lobster)	730 ml	3,400	3,375	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,417	3,500	→ 2.4%	→ 0.0%	→ 0.6%
Ground nut	KG	9,524	10,800	9,400	9,519	10,167	9,944	9,773	10,389	↑ 6.3%	→ 2.2%	→ 4.5%
Soybean	KG	-	-	6,381	6,000	5,250	8,000	5,625	-	●	●	●
Green bean/mung bean	KG	6,048	6,250	6,125	6,297	6,250	6,900	6,571	6,650	→ 1.2%	↑ 6.4%	↑ 20.2%
Morning glory*	KG	2,288	3,130	4,078	3,583	2,686	3,325	2,875	3,025	↑ 5.2%	↑ 12.6%	→ 4.3%
Carrot	KG	3,350	3,875	3,824	3,697	3,667	3,947	4,311	3,545	↓ -17.8%	→ -3.3%	↑ 11.2%
Ivy gourd leave	KG	5,500	5,750	5,409	5,167	4,000	6,143	6,100	5,667	↓ -7.1%	↑ 41.7%	→ 0.0%
Moringa leaves	KG	6,000	3,940	4,417	4,333	7,500	6,100	5,000	-	●	●	●
Chinese spinach	KG	3,600	5,292	5,642	5,472	3,250	2,941	2,871	3,955	↑ 37.7%	↑ 21.7%	↑ 9.8%
Pak Choi	KG	3,750	5,042	5,279	4,903	2,917	3,029	3,045	4,000	↑ 31.3%	↑ 37.1%	→ 4.3%
Chinese flowering cabbage	KG	3,600	4,542	5,103	5,083	2,889	2,924	2,864	4,045	↑ 41.3%	↑ 40.0%	↑ 6.9%
Mustard Greens	KG	3,600	4,083	4,686	4,500	2,700	3,039	2,717	3,925	↑ 44.5%	↑ 45.4%	↑ 9.0%
Amaranthus	KG	4,050	3,958	5,096	5,593	4,500	4,625	3,380	4,139	↑ 22.5%	↓ -8.0%	↑ 14.2%
Ngob leaves	KG	5,500	3,750	5,833	7,333	7,500	-	5,500	-	●	●	●
Pumpkin leaves	KG	5,000	4,663	4,500	5,000	4,000	6,450	5,575	4,625	↓ -17.0%	↑ 15.6%	→ -2.6%
Pumpkin fruit	KG	2,488	2,375	2,672	2,742	2,833	2,722	2,159	2,136	→ -1.1%	↓ -24.6%	↓ -6.5%
Bottle gourd	KG	-	-	1,750	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Wax gourd	KG	2,850	2,458	2,401	3,088	2,607	2,368	2,096	1,975	↓ -5.8%	↓ -24.2%	↓ -25.9%
Long eggplants	KG	2,800	3,417	3,708	4,722	3,375	3,841	2,741	2,750	→ 0.3%	↓ -18.5%	↓ -26.7%
Round eggplants	KG	2,450	3,500	4,005	4,639	2,750	3,856	2,643	2,806	↑ 6.2%	→ 2.0%	↓ -12.6%
Tomatoes	KG	3,950	4,417	5,431	6,017	6,208	5,972	3,705	3,333	↓ -10.0%	↓ -46.3%	↑ 16.7%
Spong gourd	KG	3,000	2,792	3,302	3,264	2,900	2,889	2,615	2,375	↓ -9.2%	↓ -18.1%	↓ -15.2%

* Food items for calculate the monthly per capita cost of a basic food basket.

Note: Price data and change are reported in nominal terms/prices, i.e., prices observed in the marketplace.

Change in the price:

↑ Increase when % > 5

→ Stable when % between 5 and -5

↓ Decrease when % < -5

● No prices recorded

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Food commodity	Unit	Aug'25	Sep'25	Oct'25	Nov'25	Dec'25	Jan'26	Feb'26	Mar'26	Change compared to Feb'26	Change compared to Dec'25	Change compared to Mar'25
Ridge Gourd	KG	3,000	2,750	3,075	2,750	2,667	2,833	2,300	2,400	→ 4.3%	↓ -10.0%	↓ -8.6%
Green papaya	KG	1,120	1,317	1,225	1,403	1,500	1,644	1,705	1,932	↑ 13.3%	↑ 28.8%	↑ 20.7%
Long bean	KG	4,150	3,292	3,667	5,167	3,643	3,701	3,361	3,000	↓ -10.7%	↓ -17.6%	↓ -18.4%
Banana flower	KG	2,350	2,750	2,564	2,924	2,250	2,444	2,702	2,667	→ -1.3%	↑ 18.5%	↑ 23.1%
Cauliflower	KG	6,250	8,050	7,599	8,472	3,950	3,771	4,046	4,250	↑ 5.0%	↑ 7.6%	↓ -8.9%
Chinese Kale	KG	4,850	6,500	7,146	7,530	2,417	3,364	3,800	4,056	↑ 6.7%	↑ 67.8%	↑ 8.1%
Orange-flesh Sweet Potatoes*	KG	1,750	2,500	2,633	2,650	2,800	2,950	2,813	3,000	↑ 6.7%	↑ 7.1%	→ 0.0%
Garlic	KG	6,639	6,350	6,784	6,767	6,708	6,583	6,659	6,869	→ 3.2%	→ 2.4%	↓ -16.2%
Ripe tamarind (with seed)	KG	5,938	5,900	6,109	6,037	5,313	4,139	3,565	3,786	↑ 6.2%	↓ -28.7%	↓ -33.2%
Ripe tamarind (No seed)	KG	-	-	5,667	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Water lily	KG	2,100	1,700	2,712	3,750	-	2,100	-	-	●	●	●
Climbing wattle	KG	6,167	6,500	9,115	11,429	12,667	10,375	-	10,300	●	↓ -18.7%	↑ 28.8%
Lufa Gourd leaf	KG	-	-	5,833	-	-	-	-	5,000	●	●	→ 0.0%
Agati	KG	-	5,000	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Abalone mushroom	KG	7,750	8,875	8,755	8,083	5,000	7,821	9,750	8,167	↓ -16.2%	↑ 63.3%	→ 3.7%
Cabbage	KG	2,938	2,900	3,382	3,722	4,271	3,333	2,833	2,714	→ -4.2%	↓ -36.4%	↑ 8.6%
Chinese salad	KG	3,938	4,300	4,297	4,111	4,063	4,510	4,278	3,607	↓ -15.7%	↓ -11.2%	→ -3.8%
Bean sprout	KG	3,150	2,583	2,792	2,750	3,000	3,000	3,375	2,750	↓ -18.5%	↓ -8.3%	↓ -8.3%
Baby watermelon	KG	-	-	2,458	2,500	-	-	2,000	-	●	●	●
Okra	KG	6,167	5,400	6,528	5,786	5,750	7,500	4,750	4,900	→ 3.2%	↓ -14.8%	→ -2.0%
Baby corn	KG	10,000	7,083	3,913	-	15,000	10,000	-	-	●	●	●
Corn	KG	-	-	3,500	-	-	-	-	-	●	●	●
Palm fruit (sliced)	KG	10,000	10,000	6,750	7,667	5,000	5,000	-	-	●	●	●
Cucumber	KG	2,063	3,438	3,733	2,086	2,000	2,500	2,313	2,063	↓ -10.8%	→ 3.1%	↓ -23.6%
Taro	KG	5,333	4,250	5,030	4,850	4,250	4,438	3,900	4,667	↑ 19.7%	↑ 9.8%	↓ -25.3%
Chinese radish	KG	3,167	2,500	3,910	3,528	3,625	2,833	2,583	3,000	↑ 16.1%	↓ -17.2%	↑ 26.3%
Bamboo shoot	KG	2,000	1,833	2,979	3,167	6,500	-	-	-	●	●	●
Ripe Banana	KG	2,450	2,500	2,109	2,017	1,917	2,111	2,233	2,205	→ -1.3%	↑ 15.0%	↓ -5.5%
Ripe Mango	KG	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	2,500	-	●	●	●
Pineapple/Anana	KG	2,375	2,500	2,731	2,375	2,500	2,667	3,000	2,000	↓ -33.3%	↓ -20.0%	●
Fresh milk	140 ml	2,167	-	2,000	1,967	-	1,900	-	-	●	●	●
Coke	330 ml	2,000	-	1,894	1,775	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	→ 0.0%	→ 0.0%	→ 0.0%
Gasoline (Regular)	L	3,780	3,783	3,801	3,750	3,680	3,685	3,700	5,432	↑ 46.8%	↑ 47.6%	↑ 41.3%
Diesel	L	3,380	3,340	3,494	3,389	3,450	3,425	3,404	6,495	↑ 90.8%	↑ 88.3%	↑ 89.5%
Fertilizer: Urea	KG	2,875	2,793	2,795	2,735	2,600	2,867	2,557	2,875	↑ 12.4%	↑ 10.6%	↑ 7.0%

* Food items for calculate the monthly per capita cost of a basic food basket

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