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MONTHLY REPORT ON FOOD PRICE TRENDS

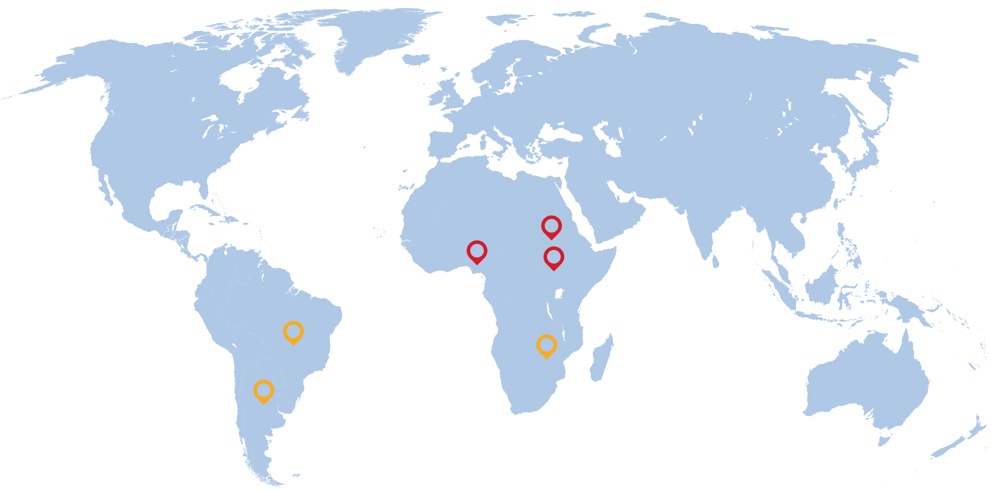
KEY MESSAGES

- ↗ International prices of grains increased overall again in May although they began to fall towards the end of the month on improved production prospects. International prices of rice held steady in May, with logistics problems and high shipping costs keeping trading activity subdued throughout the month.
- ↗ In East Africa, prices of coarse grains remained at near-record to record levels in the Sudan and South Sudan, underpinned by insufficient supplies and severe macro-economic difficulties, including currency weakness sustaining food inflation.
- ↗ Prices of maize grain in South Africa climbed moderately in May and remained up on a yearly basis, as the effects of higher prices on the international market have outweighed downward pressure from a substantial maize crop estimated for 2021.
- ↗ In South America, prices of yellow maize increased further in the key producing countries, Argentina and Brazil, remaining well above their year-earlier levels reflecting upward pressure from record export sales and adverse dry crop conditions, respectively. Markets in both countries were also supported by the strong upward trends in international price quotations.

CONTENTS

Domestic price warnings

Price warning level: High Moderate [Based on GIEWS analysis]



Argentina | Food items

Brazil | Cereals

Nigeria | Coarse grains

South Sudan | Staple foods

Sudan | Staple foods

Zimbabwe | Food items

Warnings are only included if latest available price data is not older than two months.

Source: GIEWS, modified to comply with UN map, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL CEREAL PRICES

Coarse grains and wheat prices firmed, while rice prices held steady in May

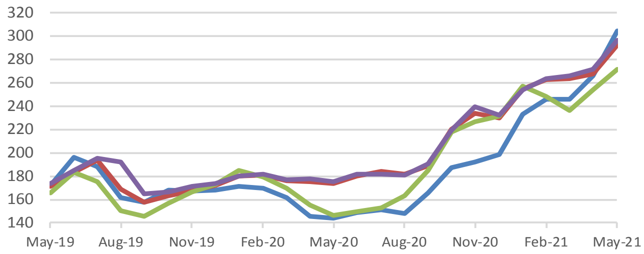
Mostly reflecting tight domestic supplies and expectations for reduced production in Brazil and strong demand from China (mainland), the benchmark US **maize** price (No.2, Yellow, f.o.b.) increased by 14.6 percent, up 111 percent year on year. After rising 6.1 percent in May, export quotations from Brazil (Paranaguá, feed) were also up nearly 99 percent year on year supported by prolonged dryness which hindered this year's production prospects. Prices of maize also increased in May in Argentina (Up River, f.o.b.), by 7.2 percent, as well as in Ukraine (offer, f.o.b.), by 9.2 percent. International barley and sorghum prices followed maize price trends, rising by 5.4 percent and 3.6 percent in May, respectively, to reach 38.9 and 84.1 percent above their values in May 2020.

The increase in prices of maize and uncertain production prospects, especially in the European Union and the United States of America, pushed up international prices of **wheat** at the start of the month. Although prices began to subside towards the end of month as production prospects began to improve, export quotations from all major origins averaged 5 to 8 percent higher in May compared to April, including those from Argentina, the European Union, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The benchmark US wheat price (No. 2, HRW) also increased, by 6.1 percent, reaching nearly 34 percent above its value one year earlier.

The FAO All **Rice** Price Index (2014-2016=100) averaged 110.6 points in May 2021, essentially unchanged from its April value, but 4.5 percent below its May 2020 level. Trading activities remained persistently slowed by logistical challenges and high shipping costs during May. This was especially the case in India, which saw May prices of higher quality Indica rice decline as logistical hurdles associated with COVID-19 containment measures put a damper on new deals. Indica prices also steadied or dropped across all other Asian origins, except in Pakistan, where quotations drew some support from sales to East African buyers and to Iraq. Conversely, long grain prices in the United States of America leaped by 7.9 percent month on month, as planting disruptions caused by wet weather raised prospects of even steeper area cuts in southern producing states in favour of other crops.

International maize prices

US Dollar per tonne

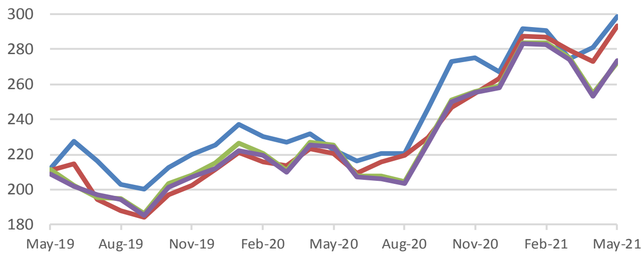


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Maize (US No. 2, Yellow)	304.48	14.6	23.7	111.2
Black Sea, Maize (feed)	292.25	9.3	11.2	68.4
Argentina, Maize (Argentina, Up River, f.o.b.)	271.75	7.2	9.5	85.8
Ukraine, Maize (offer, f.o.b.)	296.50	9.2	12.6	69.4

Source(s): USDA; International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

International wheat prices

US Dollar per tonne

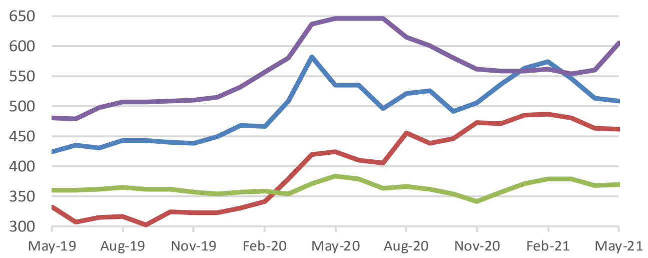


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
United States of America (Gulf), Wheat (US No. 2, Hard Red Winter)	298.50	6.1	2.7	33.9
European Union (France), Wheat (grade 1)	293.50	7.5	2.3	33.1
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	272.75	7.0	-4.0	20.9
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	273.50	7.9	-3.3	21.8

Source(s): International Grains Council; APK-Inform Agency

International rice prices

US Dollar per tonne



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Thailand (Bangkok), Rice (Thai 100% B)	508.75	-1.1	-11.4	-4.9
Viet Nam, Rice (25% broken)	462.50	-0.3	-5.1	8.8
India, Rice (25% broken)	370.00	0.3	-2.3	-3.8
United States of America, Rice (US Long Grain 2.4%)	605.00	7.9	7.7	-6.3

Source(s): Thai Rice Exporters Association; FAO rice price update

For more information visit the FPMA website here

DOMESTIC PRICE WARNINGS

Countries where prices of one or more basic food commodity are at abnormal high levels which could negatively impact access to food

Argentina | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04/21	Same period average
3 months	1.7	1.5
12 months	1.0	0.4

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Argentina, Greater Buenos Aires, Retail, Beef meat

Retail food prices continued to increase in April

The inflation rate for **food items** and non-alcoholic beverages continued to rise in April by about 4 percent month on month, similar to the average increase recorded in the first quarter of 2021. Among food items, prices of dairy products, eggs, cooking oil, bread, cereals and meat registered high monthly increases, more than offsetting the modest increases or declines in the prices of fruits, vegetables and beans. Food prices increased despite the price ceiling programme put in place, amid a difficult macro-economic situation, including the sustained weakening of the currency. As of April 2021, the Argentine peso lost about 47 percent of its value over the last 12 months. The programme, first introduced in March 2020 to curb rising prices amid the COVID-19 pandemic, has had its maximum price levels revised upwards twice since then in view of the increasing inflation and was extended until 8 June 2021.

Brazil | Cereals

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 05/21	Same period average
3 months	6.9	3.1
12 months	4.8	0.9

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Brazil, Mato Grosso, Wholesale, Maize (yellow)

Prices of cereals remained at high levels

Prices of **yellow maize** continued to rise in May, supported by concerns over the impact of dry conditions on the main crop yields. Some declines were reported towards the end of the month, as subdued international quotations weighed on domestic prices. Similarly, prices of **wheat** increased reflecting low seasonal availabilities, coupled with the year-on-year lower imports during the first four months of 2021. Prices are expected to remain at high levels until the start of the 2021 harvest in August. By contrast, prices of **rice** weakened for the second consecutive month in May as the ongoing harvest increased supplies to the markets. Prices of all the grains were well above their year-earlier levels due to strong demand for maize and rice, and the elevated import costs for wheat.

Nigeria | Coarse grains

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 04/21	Same period average
3 months	3.7	2.5
12 months	2.5	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Nigeria, Lagos, Wholesale, Maize (white)

Prices of coarse grains at high levels in April

Prices of locally produced **coarse grains** continued to increase in most markets in April, exceeding the already high levels of the past months. The onset of the lean season in southern parts in March, coupled with strong domestic demand for household consumption and for seeds for planting ahead of the start of the 2021 agricultural season, exacerbated the general upward pressure on prices, already substantiated by production shortfalls and large institutional purchases. Difficult macro-economic conditions persist despite the relative improvement in crude oil production. At 18.12 percent, the annual inflation rate in April 2021 remained high compared to the 12.4 recorded a year earlier, although marked the first decline in inflation since the closure of the land borders in August 2019 by a marginal 0.05 percent from its March level. High fuel and transport costs also contributed to the general increase in food prices. The currency continued to depreciate and traded at NGN 495/USD on the parallel market in late May against NGN 440/USD a year earlier, compared to the official rate of NGN 400/USD. In addition, food prices remained higher in the northern part of the country, where continued conflict has caused widespread disruption in agricultural and marketing activities leading to a deterioration of food security conditions.

Price warning level: High Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

South Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 05/21	Same period average
3 months	-6.2	3.1
12 months	3.1	-0.2

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: South Sudan, Juba, Retail, Maize (white)

Prices of coarse grains declined in May but remained at exceptionally high levels due to the continuous depreciation of the currency

In the capital, Juba, prices of **sorghum** and **maize** declined in May by 9 and 13 percent, respectively, prices of **cassava** remained firm, while prices of imported **wheat** and **groundnuts** increased by 3 and 10 percent, respectively. Nominal food prices were at exceptionally high levels, with those of maize and sorghum 58 and 71 percent, respectively, above the already high year-earlier values and more than 50 times those in July 2015, before the currency collapse. Underlying the high food prices is the continuously difficult macro-economic situation, due to low foreign currency reserves and the continued depreciation of the country's currency. In addition, in the past year, COVID-19-related disruptions to the local markets and trade, already adversely affected by the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict, provided further support.

Sudan | Staple foods

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 05/21	Same period average
3 months	27.8	-0.3
12 months	1.9	0.8

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Sudan, El Gedarif, Wholesale, Sorghum (Feterita)

Prices of staple foods at very high levels in May

Prices of locally grown sorghum and millet resumed their upward trend in May as the Sudanese pound further depreciated on the parallel market from SDG 393/USD in April to SDG 436/USD in May. Prices of coarse grains had previously stabilized or declined in March and April as a devaluation of the Sudanese pound from SDG 55/USD to SDG 375/USD in late February (FPMA Food Policy) substantially reduced the gap between the official and parallel market exchange rates, resulting in an increase in transactions of foreign currency in commercial banks and easing inflationary pressures. Prices in May were exceptionally high, about two times the already elevated year-earlier levels, mainly due to the weakness of the currency. Cereal prices began to follow a sustained increasing trend in late 2017 due to the difficult macro-economic situation, coupled with fuel shortages and high prices of agricultural inputs inflating production and transportation costs. In 2020, disruptions to marketing and trading activities related to the measures implemented to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to widespread floods, provided further upward pressure on prices.

Zimbabwe | Food items

Growth Rate (%)		
	to 05/21	Same period average
3 months	n.a	n.a
12 months	n.a	n.a

Compound growth rate in real terms.
Refers to: Zimbabwe, Harare, Retail, Food items

Large cereal output and a stable currency have helped temper food price increases

The official monthly food inflation rate was estimated at 1 percent in May, slightly lower than the 1.7 percent recorded in the previous month. The comparatively low and stable monthly food inflation rates mostly result from the persisting stability of the official exchange rate, which has been relatively steady since the last quarter of 2020. Additionally, the country is estimated to have produced a well above-average harvest in 2021, pegged at 2.7 million tonnes, owing to supportive government policies and almost ideal weather conditions; the large output led to the introduction of an import ban on maize in June (FPMA Food Policy), as the government seeks to support farmers and domestic millers. In spite of the tempered food inflation rate, overall **food prices** still remained at significantly high levels and the yearly food inflation rate was estimated at nearly 180 percent in May.

Price warning level: High Moderate

For more information visit the FPMA website here

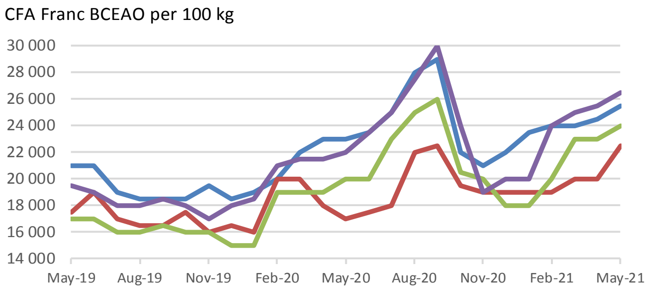
Prices of coarse grains continued to increase seasonally in most countries

In most countries of the subregion, prices of domestically produced coarse grains increased in May, continuing the seasonal upward trends started in the previous month. Overall, prices were significantly higher than a year earlier. Strong domestic demand amidst reduced supplies from the localized flood-constrained 2020 main season outputs in some countries and large purchases by traders and humanitarian agencies to replenish stocks, contributed to the price increases. In addition, the measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 still in place, exacerbated transportation bottlenecks while poor macro-economic conditions, including high inflation rates and depreciating currencies in some countries, further underpinned the high price levels. Persistent civil insecurity continued to disrupt market activities and trade flows, leading to additional significant price increases in the regions experiencing conflict, including Lake Chad Basin, Lac and Tibesti regions of Chad, Liptako-Gourma Region, northeastern, northwestern and central Nigeria.

In **the Niger**, coarse grain prices increased in most markets, particularly in the southeastern and western areas of the country where persistent conflict continues to prevent markets from functioning. Strong demand from households and institutions, coupled with reduced imports from Nigeria, pushed prices significantly above their year-earlier levels. In **Burkina Faso** and **Mali**, coarse grain prices were stable or seasonally increased in May and remained above their year-earlier levels due to localized production shortfalls last year and localized market disruptions stemming from persistent insecurity. In **Burkina Faso**, the government continued the sales of selected staples at subsidized prices, initiated in March 2021, to households to attenuate the price increases. In **Senegal**, coarse grain prices remained mostly stable for the third consecutive month in April. However, prices of millet were significantly higher than a year earlier due to COVID-19-related restrictions hindering market activities. In **Chad**, cereal prices increased further in most markets in April, underpinned by high transportation costs and tight domestic supplies as a result of the recent socio-political crisis in Ndjamena, which forced traders to constrain their operations with a negative impact on market supplies, while trade flows from the Sudan and Libya also decreased. In most countries of the Sahel, prices of imported rice remained overall stable and were generally similar to their year-earlier levels.

In coastal countries, coarse grain prices generally increased in April. In **Benin** and **Togo**, prices of maize increased seasonally in most markets in May and remained well above their year-earlier levels, supported by strong domestic demand for seeds for planting underway since March in southern areas and export demand from neighbouring countries. In **Nigeria**, prices of locally produced cereals continued to increase in April with the onset of the lean season and strong domestic demand for human consumption and for seeds ahead of the start of the 2021 agricultural season. The weak currency, civil insecurity and high transport costs continued to keep prices well above their year-earlier levels. In addition, in some areas of the northeast, prices of locally produced cereals increased further in April and were at all-time highs due to the high levels of conflict.

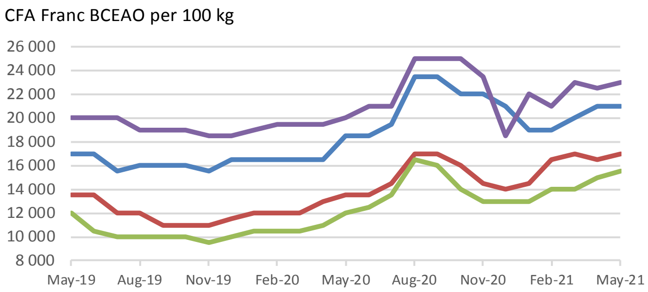
Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in the Niger



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Niamey, Millet (local)	25 500.00	4.1	6.3	10.9
Niamey, Sorghum (local)	22 500.00	12.5	18.4	32.4
Zinder, Sorghum (local)	24 000.00	4.3	20.0	20.0
Zinder, Millet (local)	26 500.00	3.9	10.4	20.5

Source(s): Afrique verte

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Burkina Faso



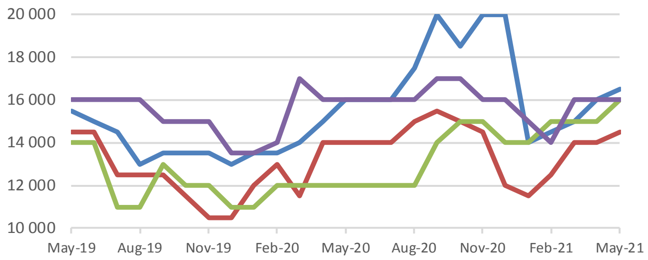
	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Ouagadougou, Millet (local)	21 000.00	0.0	10.5	13.5
Ouagadougou, Sorghum (local)	17 000.00	3.0	3.0	25.9
Dédougou, Sorghum (local)	15 500.00	3.3	10.7	29.2
Dori, Millet (local)	23 000.00	2.2	9.5	15.0

Source(s): Afrique verte

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Wholesale prices of millet and sorghum in Mali

CFA Franc BCEAO per 100 kg

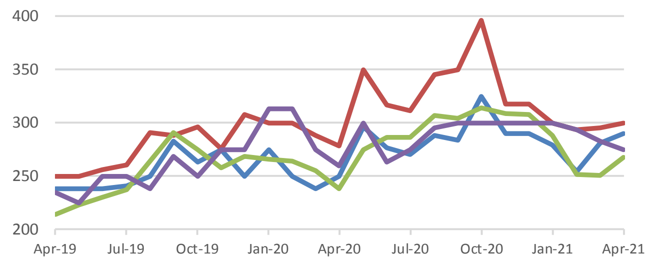


Source(s): Afrique verte

	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bamako, Millet (local)	16 500.00	3.1	13.8	3.1
Bamako, Sorghum (local)	14 500.00	3.6	16.0	3.6
Ségou, Millet (local)	16 000.00	6.7	6.7	33.3
Kayes, Sorghum (local)	16 000.00	0.0	14.3	0.0

Retail prices of millet in Senegal

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

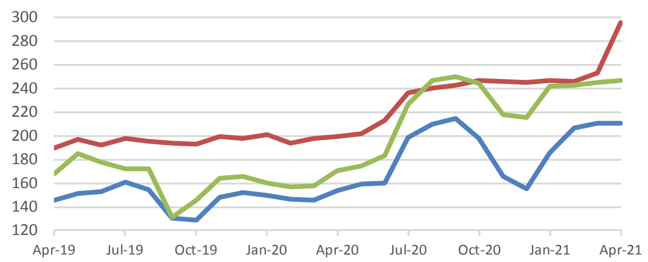


Source(s): Agence Nationale de la Statistique et la Démographie (ANSD)

	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Dakar, Millet	290.00	3.2	3.9	16.0
SaintLouis, Millet	300.00	1.7	0.0	7.9
Louga, Millet	268.00	6.8	-6.9	12.6
Matam, Millet	275.00	-2.8	-8.3	5.8

Retail prices of maize in Benin

CFA Franc BCEAO per kg

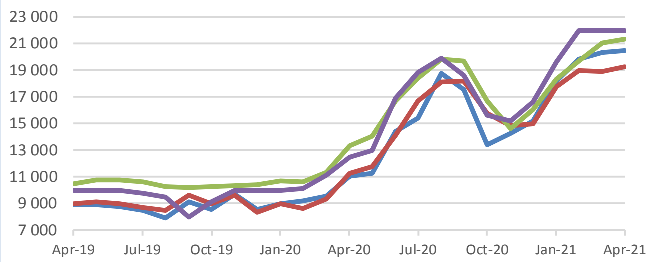


Source(s): Institut National de la Statistique et de l'Analyse Économique (INSAE)

	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Natitingou, Maize	211.00	0.0	13.4	37.2
Cotonou, Maize	296.00	17.0	19.8	48.6
Parakou, Maize	247.00	0.8	2.1	45.1

Wholesale prices of white maize in Nigeria

Naira per 100 kg



Source(s): FEWSNET

	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Kano, Maize (white)	20 445.00	0.5	12.4	85.0
Maiduguri, Maize (white)	19 250.00	1.9	8.5	71.1
Lagos, Maize (white)	21 300.00	1.0	16.2	59.6
Ibadan, Maize (white)	22 000.00	0.0	12.1	76.0

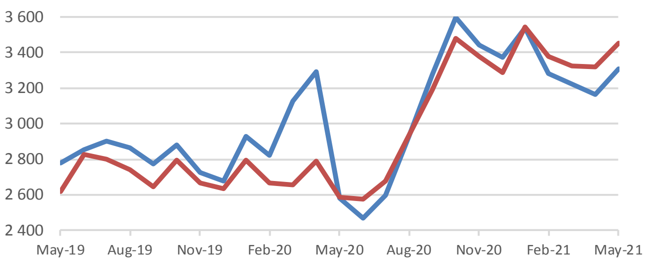
For more information visit the FPMA website here

Domestic maize prices generally declined, but increasing international prices and continued currency weakness instigated price rises in some countries

Amid the main harvest period that started in April, with most countries estimated to register large cereal outputs in 2021, prices of maize fell seasonally in several countries. However, increasing international prices and currency weakness in some countries have contained seasonal declines and, in some cases, helped push up prices on a monthly basis.

In **South Africa**, there was a modest uptick in the wholesale price of maize in May, generally owing to spill-over effects from the international market, where benchmark prices have been climbing in response to tightening global availabilities. The upward pressure from the international market more than countered domestic supply pressure, with a national output forecast in 2021 to be the second largest on record and meant that prices remained higher on a yearly basis. In import-dependent **Botswana**, prices of maize meal increased moderately in April and were also higher compared to the corresponding month in the previous year, reflecting the higher year-on-year levels in South Africa, the country's main source of grains. By contrast, prices in **Namibia**, which is also dependent on external grain supplies, declined slightly in April. In both the aforementioned importing countries, bumper domestic maize outputs are forecast in 2021 and this is expected to ease the price pressure in the coming months. Additionally, in Namibia the recent opening of a new bridge to Zambia (a net exporter of maize) is anticipated to facilitate increased trade in goods, including grains, between the two countries, which further reinforces prospects of ample supplies and infers an increased likelihood of limited supply pressure on prices. Maize meal prices in **Eswatini** remained mostly unchanged in April compared to the preceding month, but up on a yearly basis underpinned by the higher prices in South Africa, the main source of the country's cereal imports. In **Malawi** and **Zambia**, prices of maize grain continued to fall in May and were close to their year-earlier levels. Both countries are forecast to gather well above-average maize crops in 2021, which is the primary reason supporting the recent price declines, and a factor that has tempered inflationary effects from depreciating currencies. In **Zimbabwe**, the monthly food inflation rate has continued to fall in 2021 and was estimated at 1 percent in May, compared to 1.7 percent in April. The annual rate remained at an elevated level of about 180 percent but is, nevertheless, significantly below the levels recorded in 2020, when the monthly rates peaked at nearly 40 percent. The comparatively low and stable monthly food inflation rates result from the more stable official exchange rate, which has remained steady since the end of 2020. In addition, the national maize output is forecast to increase threefold this year, putting the harvest at a well above-average level of 2.7 million tonnes; the increased domestic supplies are foreseen to help keep maize prices stable in the next months.

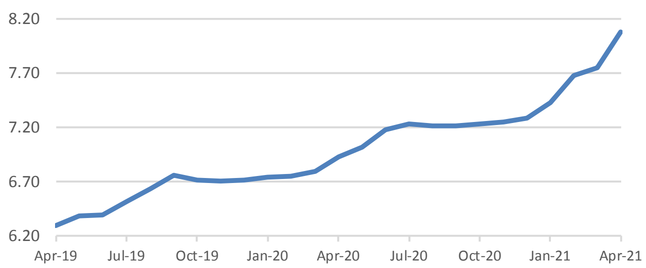
Wholesale prices of maize in South Africa



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Randfontein, Maize (white)	3 308.67	4.5	0.9	28.2
Randfontein, Maize (yellow)	3 453.90	4.0	2.2	33.6

Source(s): SAFEX Agricultural Products Division

Retail prices of maize meal in Botswana

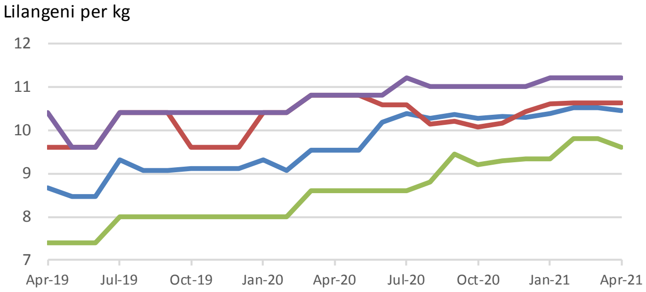


	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National average, Maize meal	8.08	4.3	8.7	16.6

Source(s): Statistics Botswana

For more information visit the FPMA website here

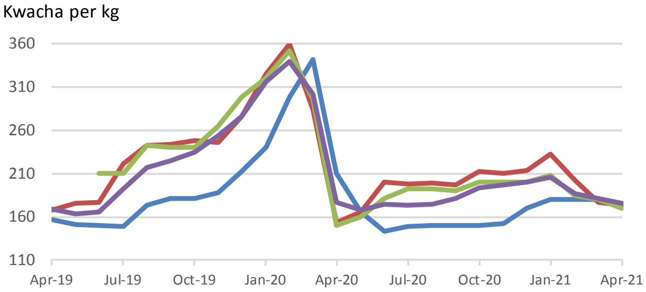
Retail prices of maize meal in Eswatini



	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National average, Maize meal	10.46	-0.5	0.7	9.5
Hhohho, Maize meal	10.64	0.0	0.3	-1.5
Lubombo, Maize meal	9.60	-2.0	2.7	11.6
Shiselweni, Maize meal	11.20	0.0	0.0	3.7

Source(s): Central Statistical Office (CSO)

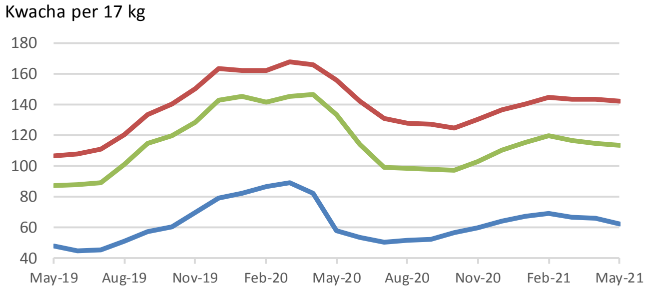
Retail prices of maize in Malawi



	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Mzuzu, Maize	170.00	-5.6	-5.6	-19.1
Nsanje, Maize	173.00	-2.0	-25.6	13.1
Liwonde, Maize	170.00	-5.6	-18.3	13.3
National Average, Maize	175.50	-3.3	-14.6	-1.0

Source(s): Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security/IFPRI

Retail prices of maize in Zambia



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Maize (white)	62.16	-5.7	-10.2	6.8
National Average, Breakfast maize meal	142.32	-1.0	-1.7	-8.7
National Average, White roller maize meal	113.76	-1.2	-5.0	-14.6

Source(s): Central Statistical Office

For more information visit the FPMA website here

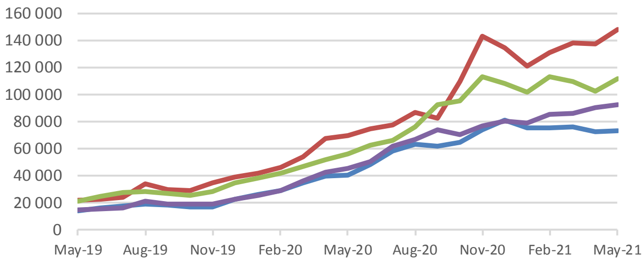
Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in May; exceptionally high levels persist in the Sudan and South Sudan

Prices of coarse grains followed mixed trends in May. They remained at exceptionally high levels in South Sudan and in the Sudan, reinforced by insufficient supplies and severe macro-economic difficulties, including currency weakness underpinning food inflation. By contrast, prices were below their year-earlier values in Uganda, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania, reflecting adequate market supplies following above-average 2020 cereal outputs. In addition, a slow economic recovery after the gradual phasing out since mid-2020 of several measures introduced in early 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19, continues to weaken demand, exerting a downward pressure on prices.

In **the Sudan**, prices of sorghum and millet resumed their upward trend in May after remaining stable or declining somewhat in March and April, and reached exceptionally high values, about twice their already elevated levels a year earlier, mainly due to a difficult macro-economic situation. In **South Sudan**, prices of maize and sorghum declined in May in the capital, Juba, but remained at exceptionally high levels due to the lingering impact of the prolonged conflict and a weak currency. In **Uganda**, prices of maize seasonally increased in May but remained well below their year-earlier levels due to adequate domestic availabilities and the lingering impact of the measures implemented in 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19, which constrained livelihood opportunities resulting in declining purchasing power and weakening domestic demand. In **Kenya**, prices of maize followed mixed trends in May and remained below or around their year-earlier values reflecting adequate domestic availabilities from the above-average 2020 "long-rains" main harvest, accounting for the bulk of the aggregate cereal production, concluded in early 2021 and estimated at 10–15 percent above average. In **the United Republic of Tanzania**, prices of maize seasonally declined in May with the start of the major "Msimu" harvest, which is expected at above-average levels, and were generally below their year-earlier levels. In **Somalia**, prices of maize and sorghum seasonally increased in April in most monitored markets. Prices were generally higher than one year earlier on account of a below-average 2020 cereal output due to erratic rains and locust attacks.

Wholesale prices of sorghum and millet in the Sudan

Sudanese Pound per tonne

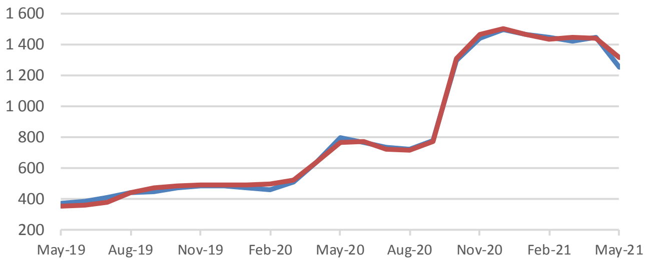


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
El Gedarif, Sorghum (Feterita)	73 700.00	1.1	-2.4	81.1
El Obeid, Millet	148 500.00	8.0	13.1	113.2
El Gedarif, Millet	112 200.00	9.3	-0.8	100.1
El Obeid, Sorghum (Feterita)	92 950.00	3.0	9.0	102.8

Source(s): Food Security information for Action (SIFSIA)

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in South Sudan

South Sudanese Pound per 3.5 kg



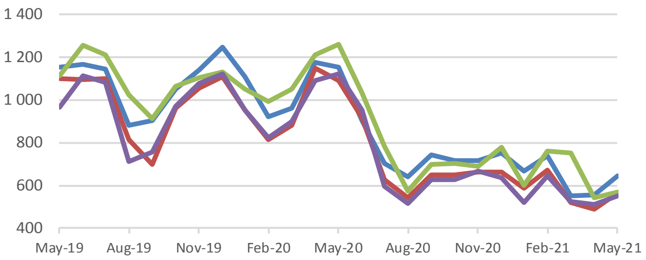
	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Juba, Maize (white)	1 256.00	-13.4	-13.3	57.6
Juba, Sorghum (Feterita)	1 315.00	-8.7	-8.3	71.4

Source(s): Crop & Livestock Market Information System (CLIMIS)

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Wholesale prices of maize in Uganda

Uganda Shilling per kg

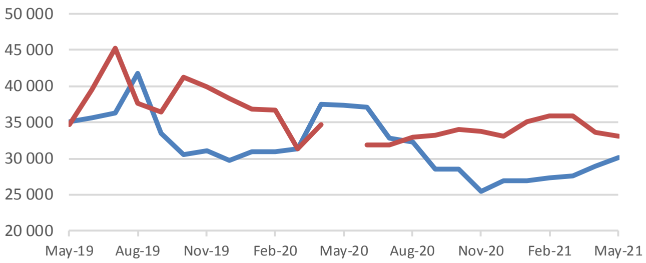


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Kampala, Maize	643.34	15.5	-13.0	-44.3
Lira, Maize	563.30	15.2	-16.1	-48.4
Kabale, Maize	569.93	5.4	-25.2	-54.8
Masindi, Maize	553.27	8.6	-14.2	-50.8

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in Kenya

Kenyan Shilling per tonne

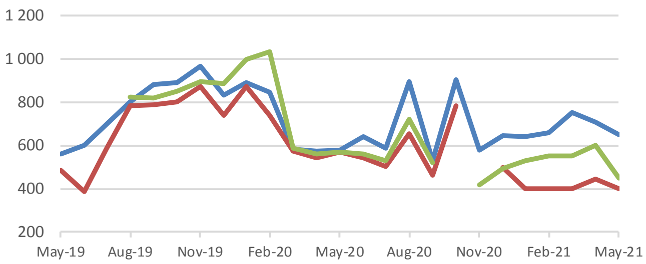


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Nakuru, Maize	30 094.00	4.0	10.1	-19.4
Nairobi, Maize	33 127.00	-1.4	-7.8	-

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Wholesale prices of maize in the United Republic of Tanzania

Tanzanian Shilling per kg

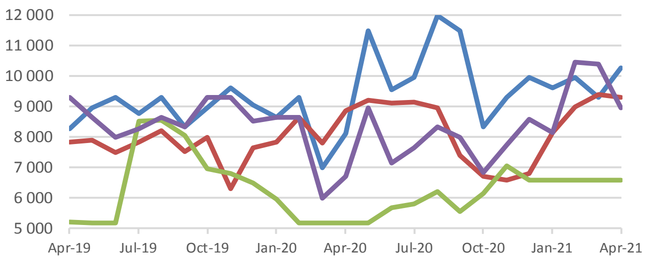


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Dar es Salaam, Maize	650.83	-8.1	-1.1	12.6
Iringa, Maize	400.22	-9.7	0.1	-29.5
Arusha, Maize	450.23	-25.0	-18.1	-20.7

Source(s): Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network

Retail prices of maize and sorghum in Somalia

Somali Shilling per kg



	Latest Price Apr-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Mogadishu, Maize (white)	10 275.00	10.5	6.8	26.5
Marka, Maize (white)	9 300.00	-1.1	14.1	4.8
Baidoa, Sorghum (red)	6 600.00	0.0	0.0	26.9
Mogadishu, Sorghum (red)	8 975.00	-13.7	10.1	33.5

Source(s): Food Security Analysis Unit

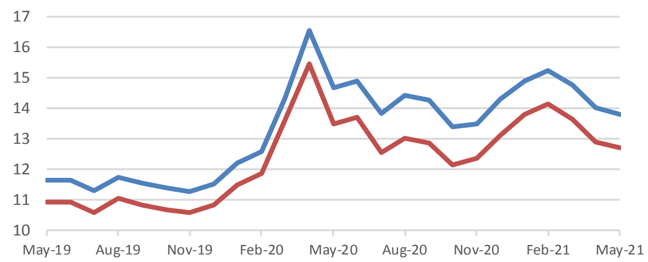
For more information visit the FPMA website here

Domestic prices of rice generally stable or softened in May; those of wheat changed little with the exception of Pakistan

Prices of rice were generally stable or softened in some countries in May, mostly reflecting good domestic availabilities from the ongoing or recently concluded paddy harvests. In **Thailand**, prices decreased for the third consecutive month in May, weighed down by improved supplies from the 2020/21 secondary harvest and persistent slow international demand. Prices generally softened in **India**, mirroring good market availabilities from the above-average 2020/21 secondary "Rabi" crop, currently being harvested. In addition, the government's stock releases to support households adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, also added to the downward pressure. In **Viet Nam**, after steady declines registered since the beginning of 2021, rice prices firmed up or increased seasonally in May. In **Cambodia** and **China (mainland)**, rice prices were stable, owing to generally good market availabilities from the 2020/21 harvests. In the importing countries, rice prices were stable in **the Philippines** as a result of adequate supplies from the recently-concluded 2020/21 secondary paddy harvest, estimated at an above-average level, and imports. In **Bangladesh**, rice quotations in Dhaka market were stable or decreased slightly with the start of the 2021 main "Boro" harvest and the high level of imports in recent months. By contrast, rice prices increased seasonally in **Sri Lanka** and were 13 percent above their year-earlier levels.

With regard to wheat grain and wheat flour, prices changed little in most countries, with the exception of **Pakistan**, where prices of wheat flour increased at a strong pace in May reaching levels well above the same month a year ago. Prices increased despite the ongoing 2021 wheat harvest, estimated at an above-average level, mostly reflecting strong domestic demand related to the Ramadan period (12 April to 12 May 2021) and reported delays in the transportation of wheat grain to wheat millers. Higher energy costs also added to the upward pressure. In **China (mainland)**, the subregion's main producer, prices of wheat in May were generally stable, with the onset of the 2021 harvest, forecast at an above-average level. In **India**, prices remained generally stable or decreased, under downward pressure from the recently concluded 2021 harvest, officially estimated at a record level. Wheat flour prices remained stable in **Sri Lanka** owing to good market availabilities from imports, while they decreased in **Bangladesh**, also reflecting the above-average 2021 harvest, recently completed.

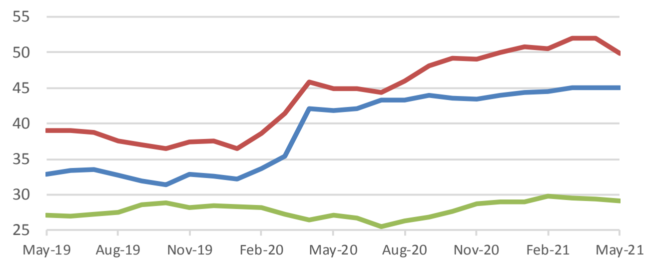
Wholesale prices of rice in Thailand



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bangkok, Rice (5% broken)	13.81	-1.4	-9.4	-6.0
Bangkok, Rice (25% broken)	12.71	-1.5	-10.1	-5.8

Source(s): Department of Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce

Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Bangladesh

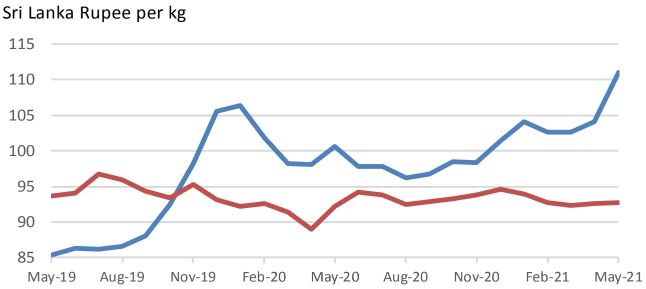


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Dhaka, Rice (coarse- BR-8/ 11/ Guti/ Sharna)	45.00	0.0	0.9	7.5
Dhaka, Rice (Medium)	49.89	-4.1	-1.3	11.0
Dhaka, Wheat (flour)	29.11	-0.9	-2.3	7.3

Source(s): Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM), Bangladesh

For more information visit the FPMA website here

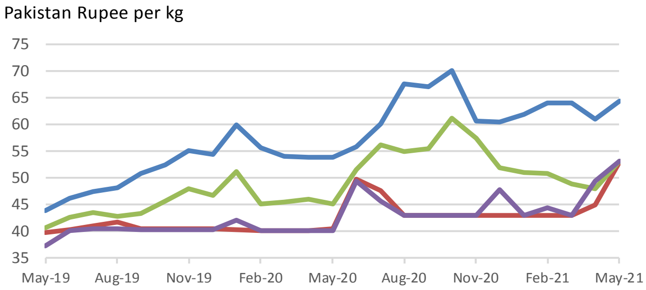
Retail prices of rice and wheat flour in Sri Lanka



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Colombo, Rice (white)	111.12	6.7	8.3	10.4
Colombo, Wheat (flour)	92.69	0.1	-0.1	0.5

Source(s): Department of Census and Statistics

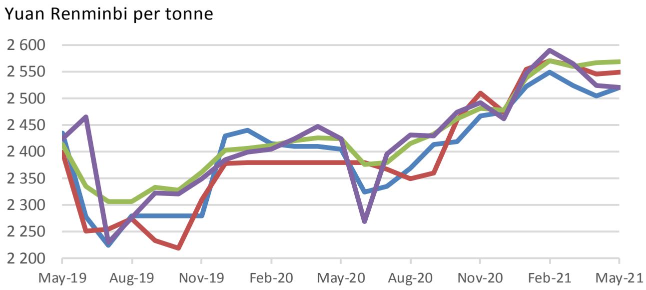
Retail prices of wheat flour in Pakistan



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Karachi, Wheat (flour)	64.46	5.6	0.7	19.8
Lahore, Wheat (flour)	53.07	17.9	23.4	31.0
Peshawar, Wheat (flour)	53.25	11.0	4.6	17.9
Multan, Wheat (flour)	53.22	7.6	20.0	32.2

Source(s): Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

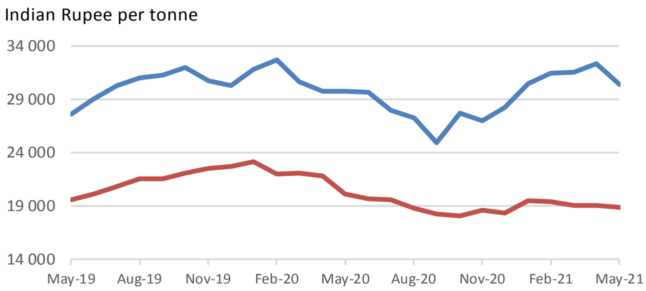
Wholesale prices of wheat in China (mainland)



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Zhengzhou, Wheat	2 520.00	0.6	-1.2	4.8
Linyi, Wheat	2 550.00	0.2	-0.8	7.1
National Average, Wheat	2 569.00	0.0	0.0	6.0
Sijiazhuang, Wheat	2 520.00	-0.2	-2.7	3.9

Source(s): CnAgri - China Agriculture Consultant

Wholesale prices of wheat in India



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Mumbai, Wheat	30 368.40	-6.2	-3.4	2.0
New Delhi, Wheat	18 886.70	-1.2	-2.8	-6.2

Source(s): Ministry of Consumer Affairs

For more information visit the FPMA website here

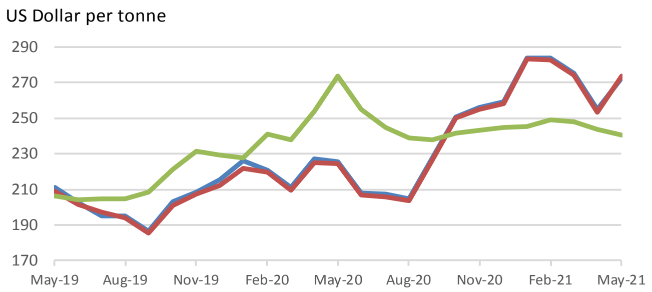
Export prices of wheat increased in the Russian Federation and Ukraine, while they declined in Kazakhstan due to weak demand and low trading activity

In the exporting countries of the subregion, export prices of milling wheat increased in early May in **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, mainly due to concerns over the production prospects in the United States of America, Europe and Black Sea region amid dry weather conditions. Prices declined in the second half of the month, following improved production forecasts and weak demand from importing countries, but overall they recorded a 7 percent monthly increase, in line with international market trends, reaching levels about 20 percent above those in May 2020. In the domestic markets, wholesale prices of milling wheat increased in May in **the Russian Federation** and **Ukraine**, to year-on-year higher levels. In **Kazakhstan**, export prices continued to decline slightly in May due to weak demand from importing countries and low trading activity, falling to levels 12 percent below those a year earlier, while domestic retail prices held steady.

In the importing countries of the subregion, prices of wheat flour held stable at year-on-year lower levels in **Tajikistan**, while they remained close to their year-earlier levels in **Kyrgyzstan**, reflecting satisfactory supplies after favourable outputs in 2020. In these two countries, prices remained around the generally high levels reached after rising between March and May 2020 in response to a spike in consumer demand triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also supported by the depreciation of the currencies. In **Armenia** and **Georgia**, in May, and in **Azerbaijan**, in April, prices held steady at values above their year-earlier levels, reflecting higher export quotations in the Russian Federation, the main wheat supplier to the three countries. In Azerbaijan, the harvest of a smaller output in 2020 also contributed to the annual increase in prices. In **Belarus**, prices declined in April to year-on-year lower levels, following the harvest of a larger output compared to a year earlier.

Regarding potatoes, another staple food in the subregion, prices increased in most countries in line with seasonal trends, to levels above those a year before. In **Kazakhstan**, **Kyrgyzstan** and **the Russian Federation**, prices continued to seasonally increase in May to levels above those a year earlier, and also in **Belarus** in April. In **Tajikistan**, prices followed mixed trends in May and were generally lower than their year-earlier values. In May, prices of potatoes increased in **Armenia**, while they declined in **Georgia** and, in both countries, prices were lower than a year earlier following the harvest of larger outputs. In **Azerbaijan**, prices declined to year-on-year lower levels in April.

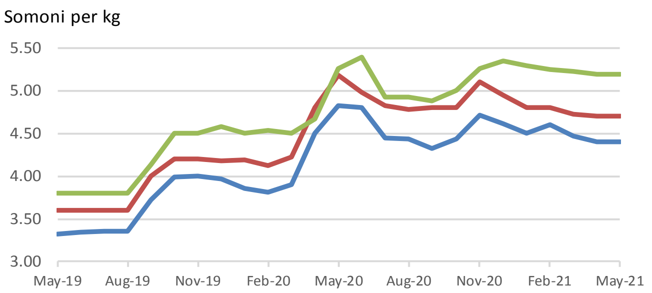
Export prices of milling wheat in CIS countries



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Russian Federation, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b., deep-sea ports)	272.75	7.0	-4.0	20.9
Ukraine, Wheat (milling, offer, f.o.b.)	273.50	7.9	-3.3	21.8
Kazakhstan, Wheat (milling, d.a.p. Saryagash station)	240.67	-1.4	-3.4	-12.2

Source(s): APK-Inform Agency

Retail prices of wheat flour in Tajikistan



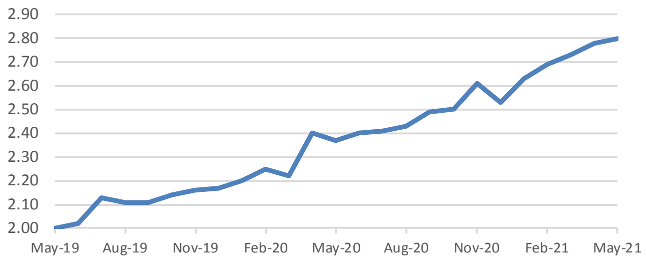
	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Khujand, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.40	0.0	-4.3	-8.9
Kurgonteppa, Wheat (flour, first grade)	4.70	0.0	-2.1	-9.3
Khorugh, Wheat (flour, first grade)	5.20	0.0	-1.0	-1.1

Source(s): Statistical Agency under President of the Republic of Tajikistan

For more information visit the FPMA website here

Retail prices of wheat flour in Georgia

Lari per kg

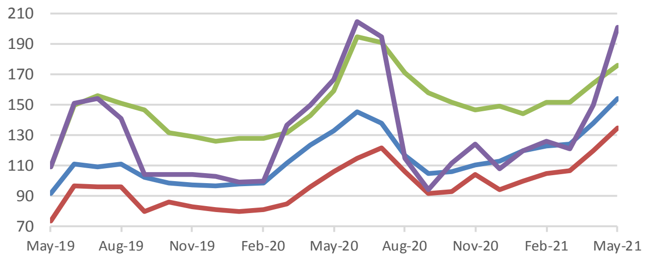


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Wheat (flour)	2.80	0.7	4.1	18.1

Source(s): National Statistics Office of Georgia

Retail prices of potatoes in Kazakhstan

Tenge per kg

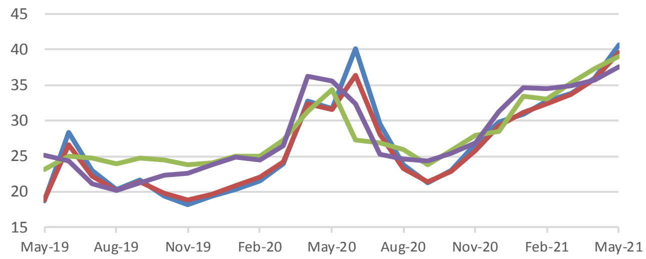


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Potatoes	154.00	11.6	25.2	15.8
Kostanay, Potatoes	135.00	12.5	28.6	27.4
Aktau, Potatoes	176.00	7.3	15.8	10.7
Nur-Sultan, Potatoes	201.00	34.0	59.5	20.4

Source(s): Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Committee on Statistics

Retail prices of potatoes in Kyrgyzstan

Som per kg

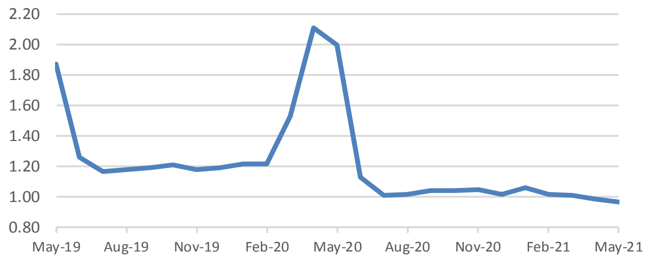


	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Bishkek, Potatoes	40.65	12.8	23.9	28.2
National Average, Potatoes	39.64	10.4	22.6	25.3
Batken, Potatoes	39.00	4.4	18.1	13.3
Osh, Potatoes	37.55	5.1	8.9	5.5

Source(s): National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic

Retail prices of potatoes in Georgia

Lari per kg



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Potatoes	0.97	-2.0	-4.9	-51.5

Source(s): National Statistics Office of Georgia

For more information visit the FPMA website here

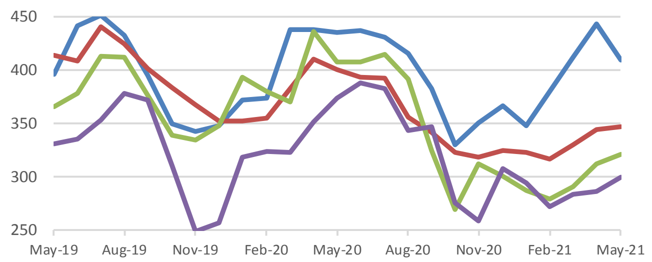
Prices of maize increased seasonally but overall lower year on year

In most countries of the subregion, prices of maize increased seasonally in May amid planting of the 2021 main season crops. Prices increased following seasonal trends in **El Salvador**, **Honduras** and **Nicaragua**, but were more than 10 percent lower year on year reflecting the good 2020 harvests. Prices also increased seasonally in **Mexico** and reached levels well above their year-earlier values, mostly reflecting trends in the international market, while concerns over the impact of soil moisture deficits on the ongoing planting added upward pressure. The high level of maize grain prices resulted in a sharp increase in prices of maize tortilla in the retail market. By contrast, prices decreased in **Guatemala** as markets were reportedly well supplied with carryover stocks from the 2020 harvests as well as imports from Mexico.

With regard to beans, prices were considerably lower in May than a year earlier, when prices reached atypically high levels following the upsurge in retail demand amid the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Nicaragua**, the major producer and exporter of red beans, prices weakened for the fourth consecutive month in May 2021, as markets were well supplied with the "Apante" season output, harvested in March 2021. In **El Salvador**, reflecting the lower prices of its major supplier, Nicaragua, prices also continued to decline in May. In these countries, prices were more than 30 percent lower year on year. In **Honduras**, prices were also well below the high levels registered in the same month last year, although they increased seasonally in May 2021. Regarding black beans, prices strengthened marginally in **Guatemala** as the upward seasonal pressure was limited by adequate market supplies from the 2020 main harvest. In **Mexico**, prices increased in most markets with the ongoing planting of the 2021 main season, where a year-on-year increase in sowings is officially forecast.

In the Caribbean, retail prices of red beans weakened in **the Dominican Republic** as the 2021 main season crop, harvested in the first quarter of the year, increased market availabilities. Prices remained higher year on year after the sustained increases in the second half of 2020, when dry conditions affected the output. By contrast, prices of black beans were similar to their levels in May 2020 mainly due to larger imports between July 2020 and March 2021 compared to the same period a year earlier. After the short-lived weakening in previous months, prices of rice increased in May despite the ongoing main season harvest, expected at an above-average level, and were about 7 percent higher year on year. In **Haiti**, prices of maize meal and black beans were stable or increased seasonally in April, while the first season crops were germinating under generally favourable conditions. Prices of rice, mostly imported, increased sharply by 15 percent month on month, following the weakening of the currency. The ongoing civil unrest and insecurity have reportedly disrupted market activities, especially in urban areas, with negative effects on access to food.

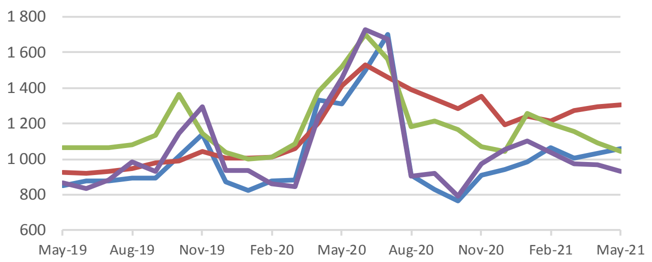
Wholesale prices of white maize in Central America



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Maize (white)	409.64	-7.7	7.9	-6.0
El Salvador, San Salvador, Maize (white)	346.72	0.7	9.4	-13.4
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Maize (white)	321.42	2.9	15.0	-21.2
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Maize (white)	299.64	4.4	10.0	-19.8

Source(s): Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG; SIMPAH

Wholesale prices of beans in Central America



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Honduras, Tegucigalpa, Beans (red)	1 058.86	2.5	-0.7	-19.3
Guatemala, Guatemala City, Beans (black)	1 304.16	0.8	7.1	-7.7
El Salvador, San Salvador, Beans (red)	1 043.68	-4.3	-12.9	-31.3
Nicaragua, Managua (oriental), Beans (red)	933.24	-3.9	-10.2	-36.0

Source(s): SIMPAH; Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación; Dirección General de Economía Agropecuaria, MAG

For more information visit the FPMA website here

SOUTH AMERICA

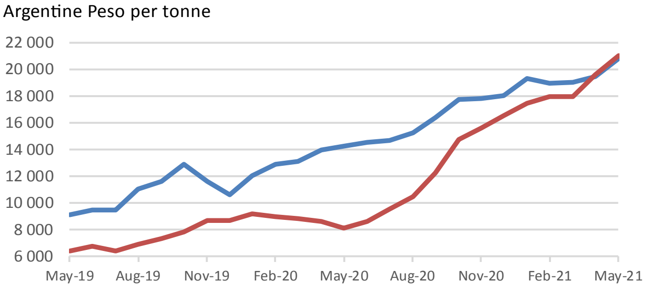
Prices of wheat and maize increased and were higher year on year

In most of countries of the subregion, prices of wheat increased seasonally in May and were overall above their year-earlier levels. In **Argentina**, the major wheat producer of the subregion, prices continued to rise in May, as seasonally low availabilities were exacerbated by strong domestic and foreign demand. Prices were higher year on year, mainly reflecting the reduced harvest in 2020. The planted area of the 2021 crop is officially forecast at a near-record level. Similarly, prices increased in **Brazil** with the 2021 planting underway at a slower pace than the average. The year-on-year lower imports during the first four months of 2021 exerted additional upward pressure on prices. In **Chile** and **Peru**, prices of wheat increased for the fourth consecutive month, underpinned by higher import costs due to elevated international prices. By contrast, prices weakened in **Uruguay** but were more than 10 percent higher year on year reflecting sustained increases in the previous months supported by large exports. In other importing countries, **Colombia** and **Ecuador**, prices were overall stable and near their year-earlier levels.

Regarding yellow maize, prices were also overall higher year on year across the subregion. In **Brazil**, prices continued to rise as the upward pressure from concerns over the impact of dry conditions more than offset the relatively stable currency in May. In **Argentina**, where the 2021 harvest is progressing at a slow pace, prices increased in May underpinned by strong export demand. The accumulated export sales from January to mid-May 2021 exceeded the record level of last year, although the 2021 output is forecast to contract year on year. In **Chile**, a net importer, prices were stable in May as the downward pressure from the recently completed 2021 harvest was limited by the high prices of imported maize. High international quotations also exerted an upward pressure on domestic prices in **Peru**. In **Colombia**, prices increased sharply by 15 percent month on month in the capital's market, as social unrest has reportedly disrupted trade and market activities. By contrast, in **Ecuador**, prices of yellow maize decreased with the ongoing 2021 main season harvest but were higher year on year reflecting the below-average harvest gathered in 2020.

With regard to rice, the 2021 new harvest generally lowered prices in May. In **Brazil**, prices declined for the second consecutive month as the ongoing harvest and low retail demand increased market availabilities. However, prices were more than 60 percent up from their year-earlier values in nominal terms following the sharp increases registered in the second half of 2020, when exports increased by 20 percent year on year. In **Uruguay**, prices of rice also weakened seasonally with the commercialization of the 2021 crop, officially estimated at a slightly above-average level as excellent yields more than offset the low level of plantings. Similarly, prices generally weakened in **Ecuador**, **Colombia** and **Peru** in line with seasonal trends and were lower year on year reflecting ample carryover stocks from the good 2020 harvests.

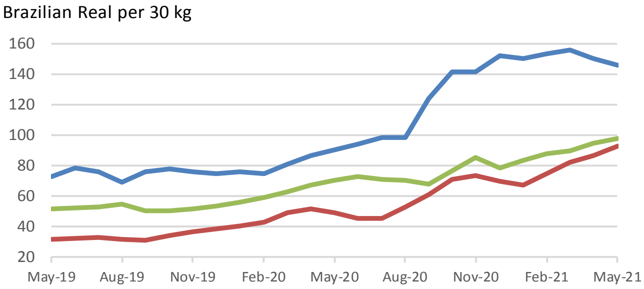
Wholesale prices of cereals in Argentina



Source(s): Bolsa de Cereales

	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Buenos Aires, Wheat	20 844.22	6.9	9.8	46.2
Rosario, Maize (yellow)	21 019.43	7.0	16.8	158.4

Wholesale prices of cereals in Brazil

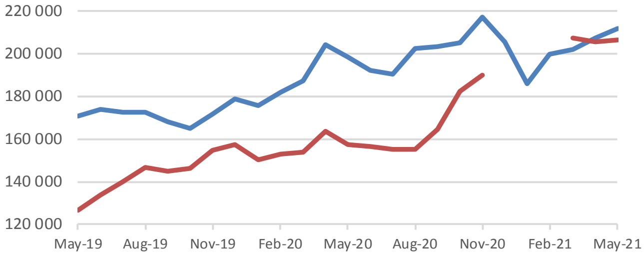


Source(s): Companhia Nacional de Abastecimento (Conab)

	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Rio Grande do Sul, Rice (milled, fine long-grain, type 1)	145.88	-2.9	-5.1	61.5
Mato Grosso, Maize (yellow)	93.00	7.4	24.5	89.6
Paraná, Wheat	97.74	2.8	11.3	38.3

For more information visit the FPMA website here

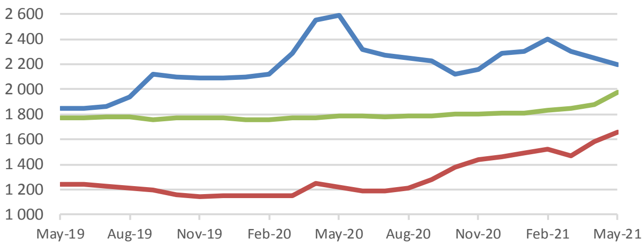
Wholesale prices of cereals in Chile



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Wheat	211 880.00	2.2	6.1	6.7
National Average, Maize (yellow)	206 380.00	0.4	-	31.0

Source(s): Cotrisa

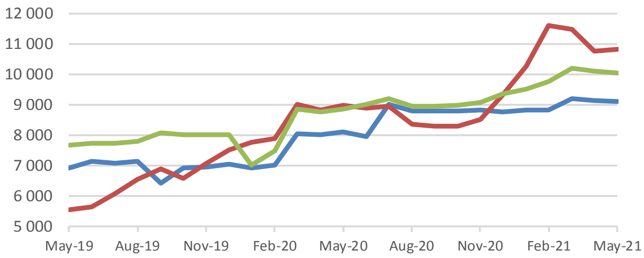
Wholesale prices of cereals in Peru



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
Lima, Rice (milled, superior)	2 200.00	-2.2	-8.3	-15.1
Lima, Maize (yellow)	1 660.00	5.1	9.2	36.1
Lima, Wheat (flour)	1 980.00	5.3	8.2	10.6

Source(s): Ministerio de Agricultura y Riego

Wholesale prices of cereals in Uruguay



	Latest Price May-21	Percent Change 1M	3M	1Y
National Average, Rice	9 103.00	-0.5	3.0	12.1
National Average, Maize	10 826.13	0.5	-6.9	20.6
National Average, Wheat	10 052.80	-0.5	3.0	13.2

Source(s): Instituto Nacional de Estadística, División Estadísticas Económicas, Departamento de Encuestas de Actividad Económica, Sección Encuestas Estructurales de Actividad Económica

For more information visit the FPMA website here

This bulletin was prepared by the **Food Price Monitoring and Analysis (FPMA) Team** of the Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS) in the Markets and Trade Division of FAO. It contains latest information and analysis on domestic prices of basic foods mainly in developing countries, complementing FAO analysis on international markets. It provides early warning on high food prices at country level that may negatively affect food security.

This report is based on information available up to early June 2021, collected from various sources.

All the data used in the analysis can be found in the **FPMA Tool** at: https://fpma.apps.fao.org/giews/food-prices/tool/public/#/home.

For more information visit the **FPMA Website** at: www.fao.org/giews/food-prices.

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