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## FOOD PRICE MONITOR: KENYA

The Food Price Monitor: Kenya is a monthly report developed for the Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by IFPRI, with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on commodity price trends and variations in selected markets throughout Kenya. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural commodity markets in Kenya, namely producers, traders, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

# **Highlights**

- Variations in wholesale and retail prices are influenced by factors such as government policies, including import levies on cereals, legumes, and tubers, seasonal weather conditions, increased transport costs, local demand fluctuations, and currency depreciation.
- Bean prices were lower in Eldoret and Nakuru due to an abundant supply exceeding local demand, as these are major production regions.
- Dry maize prices were higher in Kisumu, Nyeri, and Mombasa due to strong demand, limited local production, increased transport costs from maize-producing areas, seasonal supply gaps, intermediary mark-ups, and occasional supply chain constraints.
- ▶ Irish potato prices were elevated in Nairobi, driven by strong demand, limited local production, and higher transport
- Most regions saw higher rice prices due to seasonal supply constraints, with intermediary costs further amplifying price increases in these areas.
- ▶ Dry wheat prices were higher in Eldoret and Kisumu due to increased demand and limited local supply during this period; intermediary mark-ups and regional market dynamics also contributed to these elevated prices.

# Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for September

In October 2024, Figure 1 illustrates the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat in major Kenyan markets. Most commodities had price margins between 6% and 15%, particularly for commonly available rice varieties. Dry beans and dry white maize displayed higher margins, ranging from 26% to 35%. A few commodities showed significantly higher price margins above 36%, including black beans (36%), Irish potatoes

(38%), specific rice varieties (Pishori grade 2 at 52% and Zamin at 41%), and dry wheat (37%). These pricing margin variations are influenced by factors such as government policies, including import levies on cereals, legumes, and tubers, seasonal weather conditions, higher transport costs, local demand fluctuations, and depreciating currency exchange rates.

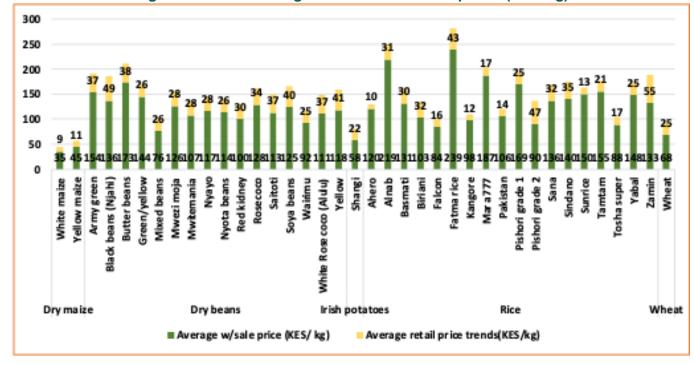


Figure 1: Overall average wholesale and retail prices (KES/Kg)

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of October 2024

# Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Different types of beans were found across various regions. Black beans (Njahi), Nyayo, Rosecoco, and Wairimu were available in all selected areas, while Army Green, Green Yellow, and Mwitemania beans were common everywhere except Kisumu. Yellow beans were present in all regions except Nairobi. Certain bean varieties were specific to particular regions: Nyota was only found in Eldoret, Red Kidney in Nakuru, and Mwezi Moja in Eldoret and Nairobi. Eldoret and Nakuru had the highest accessibility to bean varieties, being major producing regions. As expected, retail prices for all bean types were higher than wholesale prices. Compared to the national wholesale average, wholesale prices were generally higher in Nairobi, while retail prices were elevated in both Nairobi and Nyeri. Nakuru had lower wholesale and retail prices, likely due to an abundant supply exceeding local demand. Price differences across regions reflect market dynamics, such as supply and demand variations, intermediary presence, and higher transportation costs driven by rising fuel prices.

All regions reported the availability of dry white maize. Kisumu and Mombasa showed higher wholesale prices, at 39 KES/kg and 38 KES/kg respectively, compared to the national average wholesale price of 35 KES/kg. Additionally, Nyeri recorded higher retail prices of 50

KES/kg compared to the national average retail price of 44 KES/kg. The higher prices of dry maize in Kisumu, Nyeri and Mombasa in October are due to high demand, limited local production, increased transport costs from maize-producing regions, seasonal supply gaps, intermediary mark-ups, and occasional supply chain constraints.

In Nairobi and Nyeri, Irish potatoes commanded higher prices at 89KES/kg and 70KES/kg respectively, compared to the national average wholesale price of 58KES/kg. Similarly, Nairobi recorded notably higher retail prices of 101KES/kg, in contrast to the national average price of 80KES/kg. The higher prices of Irish potatoes in Nairobi during October can be attributed to strong demand in the city, limited local production, and increased transport costs from potato-growing regions like Nakuru and Nyandarua. Additionally, seasonal supply fluctuations may create scarcity, while intermediary mark-ups and rising fuel costs further elevate prices in urban markets like Nairobi.

All regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice, with Basmati rice common in every region except Mombasa, while Sindano rice was available everywhere except Nairobi. Additionally, Mombasa and Nyeri featured unique varieties, with Mombasa offering Tamtam and Sunrice, and Nyeri offering Kangore, Pakistan, and Tosha. Eldoret had Falcon and Zamin rice, Kisumu had Ahero, and Nakuru offered Alnab rice. Retail prices for most common rice varieties were highest in Eldoret, whereas wholesale

prices were generally higher in Mombasa. Rice prices in Eldoret and Mombasa were higher in October due to several factors: both regions depend on rice transported from production areas, leading to increased costs from long-distance transport, particularly with rising fuel prices. In Eldoret, low local rice production and higher demand further drive prices up, while Mombasa's proximity to the port, despite facilitating imports, also faces high demand from a large urban population, adding pressure on rice prices. Seasonal supply constraints and intermediary costs contribute as well, amplifying price increases in these areas.

Retail prices for wheat were slightly higher in Eldoret and Kisumu, at 69 KES/kg and 71 KES/kg respectively,

exceeding the national average of 68 KES/kg for dry wheat. Notably, wholesale prices in all regions were below the national average. Dry wheat prices were higher in Eldoret and Kisumu in October due to increased demand coupled with limited local supply during this period. Eldoret, though a key agricultural hub, faces seasonal fluctuations that can limit wheat availability post-harvest, driving up prices. In Kisumu, dependence on transported wheat from producing regions increases costs, especially with rising fuel and transport expenses. Additionally, intermediary mark-ups and regional market dynamics further contributed to the elevated prices in these areas.

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Table 1: Average wholesale and retail prices (kes/kg) by region for October 2024

Product	ot Variety Average w/sale price (KES/kg) Average retail price (KES/ kg)									Total	Total				
*****		Eldo	Kisu	Momb	Nair	Nak	Ny	Eldo	Kisu	Momb	Nair	Nak	Ny	aver	avera
		ret	mu	asa	obi	uru	eri	ret	mu	asa	obi	uru	eri	age	ge
														w/sal	retail
														e	price
														price	(KES/
														(KES	kg)
		454		455	405	450	440	200		000	400	400	404	/ kg)	404
Dry	Army green	151		165	165	156	146	200		200	180	190	184	154	191
beans	Black beans	167	187	152	163	82	83	241	280	172	180	120	114	136	185
	(Njahi) Butter beans	183			200	146		244			220	173		173	211
	Green/yellow	138		142	169	131	148	185		142	190	161	190	144	170
	Mixed beans	67		75	109	80	100	92		90	180	120	120	76	102
		111		10	144	ØU.	100	140		90	170	120	120	126	154
	Mwezi moja Mwitemania	103		85	144	93	111	134		94	170	139	137	107	135
		108	117	113	151	103	111	134	132	134	174	150	150	117	135
	Nyayo Nyota beans	114	11/	113	101	103	113	129	1-342	1.94	174	100	150	117	140
	Red kidney	114				100		140		ļ	-	130		100	130
	Rosecoco	110	124	118	158	101	169	150	166	146	178	160	170	128	162
	Saitoti	115	124	120	144	76	100	149	100	132	170	150	170	113	150
	Wairimu	80	89	110	100	74	100	100	118	124	120	103	140	92	117
	Yellow	124	131	120	100	92	121	156	193	160	120	139	150	118	159
Dry	White maize	30	39	38	36	36	34	37	44	42	48	44	50	35	44
maize	Yellow maize	30	45	30	36	36	34	31	56	42	40	44	00	45	56
Irish	Shangi	50	50	46	89	53	70	58	72	85	101	77	90	58	80
potatoes	Sharigi	GC.	- 00		00	90	10	90	12	00	101	<i>''</i>	00	50	- 00
Rice	Ahero		120			-			130					120	130
1444	Alnab		12.0			219						250		219	250
	Basmati	145	116	144	140	1.7	112	192	162	170	160		130	131	161
	Biriani	108	96	102	107	100	106	138	178	115	126	120	130	103	135
	Falcon	84			101	1,04		100			124	124		84	100
	Fatma rice	208		270				290		284				239	282
	Kangore	200		2.0			96	200		201			110	98	110
	Mara 777			260		148	152			273		170	170	187	204
	Pakistan	·		200		1.2	106			2			120	106	120
	Pishori grade	171		162	176	177	185	218		166	195	220	202	169	194
	1														
	Pishori grade	100	80					140	135					90	137
	2														
	Sana	151				132	120	196				159	140	136	168
	Sindano	151	154	142		124	128	196	189	178		160	150	140	175
	Sunrice			150						163	Ī			150	163
	Tamtam			165						176				155	176
	Tosha super						88						105	88	105
	Yabal	156				146	150	200				169	170	148	173
	Zamin	133						188						133	188
Wheat	Wheat	69	71		68	68	65	107	104		84	90	81	68	93

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of October 2024

# Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

During the first week and in weeks two through five, regional price fluctuations were observed. In Eldoret, commodity prices varied across wholesale and retail markets, showing increases, decreases, or stability. Stable prices were recorded for dry bean varieties such as Mwezi Moja, Mwitemania, and Rosecoco. Varieties with price decreases between 0.5% and 9% included Army Green, Saitoti, Butter Beans, Yellow Green, and Wairimu. Price increases, ranging from 4% to 9%, were seen for Black Beans (Njahi), Nyayo, Nyota, White Rosecoco (Alulu), and Yellow Beans. Maize saw a significant decrease of 15% in wholesale prices and 13% in retail prices. Similarly, Shangi Irish experienced substantial reductions, wholesale prices dropping by 12% and retail prices by 23%. Wheat also registered a 6% decrease in wholesale prices. The stability of most food commodity prices in Eldoret is attributed to a consistent local supply, with some dry bean varieties like Yellow Green, Army Green, and Saitoti, as well as dry maize and wheat, being in season. Additional supplies from neighboring regions and imports from Uganda, Tanzania, and Pakistan have also contributed to this stability. The significant drop in Irish potato prices is due to abundant supply from Elgeyo Marakwet County, a major production area nearby.

In Kisumu, a comparison of week 1 to week 5 prices show a general decrease in both retail and wholesale prices for most commodities, with a few exceptions showing stability or increases. All available dry beans saw wholesale price drops between 20% and 23%, while retail prices decreased by 11% to 31%. Rosecoco beans were the only exception. with a slight increase of 3% in wholesale and 6% in retail prices. Irish potatoes and wheat also saw declines, with wholesale prices dropping by 1% and 22%, and retail prices falling by 2% and 17%, respectively. Rice prices were mixed, with some varieties decreasing, others stable, and a few increasing. The generally decreasing and stable prices for most commodities can be attributed to consistent supplies from nearby counties such as Nandi, Kericho. Vihiga, Homa Bay, and Siaya, as well as imports from Tanzania and Uganda.

In Mombasa, a comparison of wholesale and retail prices between weeks 1 and 5 shows overall stability for most commodities, with a few experiencing increases or decreases in wholesale prices. Retail prices, however, displayed a mix of stability, decreases, and increases. Wholesale prices remained stable for most available dry beans, including Mixed, Rosecoco, Wairimu, and Yellow Beans, as well as for Shangi Irish potatoes, rice varieties such as Basmati, Biriani, Mara 777, and Sunrice. Dry beans like Black Beans, Mwitemania, and Nyayo saw wholesale price increases between 2% and 4%, while dry white maize increased by 1.5%. Certain rice varieties, including Fatma, Pishori, and Tamtam, also experienced price hikes ranging from 1% to 3%. This price stability can be attributed to

# FOCUS ON RICE ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Rice is currently Kenya's third most important staple crop after maize and wheat, serving as a valuable alternative cereal, particularly for households in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) regions as a supplement to maize. Approximately 80% of Kenva's rice is grown in irrigated areas developed by both the government and local communities, with the remaining 20% produced under rain-fed conditions. The Mwea Irrigation Scheme in Kirinyaga County is the primary center for rice cultivation, though it is also grown in other regions, including Ahero in Kisumu County and Bunyala in Busia County. Due to its adaptability, rice is cultivated across many counties, including Kirinyaga, Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori, Meru, Embu, Tharaka Nithi, Isiolo, Marsabit, Busia, Kakamega, Bungoma, Turkana, Garissa, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, Baringo, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale, Tana River, Lamu, Siaya, and Murang'a.

In Mwea, the primary harvest season is in November, with a secondary ratoon harvest typically occurring in August. All of Kenya's rice is produced through irrigation, with a growth cycle of three to four months to maturity. Kenyan rice varieties include long-grain Sindano, medium-grain, and aromatic basmati rice, with Pishori as the most premium and widely cultivated variety in the Mwea scheme and its surrounding areas.

Rice farming is critical to Kenya's food security and provides a substantial income for many smallholder farmers. Popular rice types like Pishori, Basmati, and Sindano are traded widely across regions. Key sources of traded rice include the Mwea irrigation scheme (Pishori grade 2 and Basmati), Tanzania (Pishori grade 1, Mpunga, and Sindano), Pakistan (Basmati, Biriani, Sindano, and TamTam), and the Ahero irrigation scheme (Ahero variety). Higher prices for common rice varieties in Eldoret and Mombasa were due to market dynamics, the presence of intermediaries, and increased fuel costs.

Figure 1: Average wholesale and retail prices of rice (KES/kg) in selected regions

	Average wisale price (KES/ kg)							retali prici	Total average wisale price (KES/ kg)	Total average retall price (KES/kg)				
Variety	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyori		
Ahero		120						130					120	130
Alnab					219						250		219	250
Basmati	145	116	144	140		112	192	152	170	160		130	131	161
Birrani	108	95	102	107	100	106	138	178	115	126	120	130	103	135
Falcon	84						100						84	100
Fasma rice	238		270				290		284				239	282
Kangore						98						110	98	110
Mara 777			290		148	152			273		170	170	187	204
Pakistan						106						120	105	120
Pishori g.1	171		152	176	177	185	218		166	195	220	232	169	194
Plahori g 2	100	50					140	135					90	137
Sana	151				132	120	195				159	140	135	168
Sindano	151	154	142		124	128	195	189	178		160	150	140	175
Survice			150						163				150	163
Tamtan			155						176				155	176
Tosha super						98						105	88	105
Yabal	156				146	150	200				169	170	148	173
Zamin	133						188						133	188

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of October 2024.

imports from countries like Tanzania, Uganda, and Pakistan, as well as the steady supply of food commodities from nearby producing regions.

In the Nairobi region, a comparison of wholesale and retail prices between weeks 1 and 5 reveals overall stability in retail prices, with wholesale prices showing decreases for nearly all commodities except Basmati rice, which remained stable. Available dry beans experienced wholesale price

drops between 1% and 10%, while maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, and wheat saw declines of 4%, 14%, and 7%, respectively. All rice varieties recorded wholesale price decreases of 2% to 8%. For retail prices, most commodities remained stable, with only a few exceptions: maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, and wheat recorded retail price decreases of 10%, 17%, and 11%, respectively, while rice saw declines ranging from 8% to 9%. Most food commodity prices in Nairobi were declining or stable due to consistent supplies from neighboring regions, imports from Tanzania and Uganda, seasonal harvests increasing crop availability, efficient distribution networks, due to relatively better infrastructure and distribution networks than other regions, allowing for the smooth flow of goods.

A comparison of wholesale and retail prices in Nakuru from week 1 to week 5 showed varied trends, with most commodities experiencing price decreases, a few showing increases, and some remaining stable. Dry beans saw price drops between 3% and 20%, maize declined by 10%, and available rice varieties decreased by 1% to 13%. Shangi Irish potatoes and rice varieties such as Mara 777 and Sindano maintained stable prices. Some dry bean varieties, including Butter, Rosecoco, and Wairimu, recorded increases of 1%, 5%, and 2%, respectively, while wheat prices fell by 7%. Retail prices remained mostly stable, with a few commodities showing declines. Food commodities in Nakuru recorded price decreases primarily due to factors such as abundant local harvests, steady supply from neighboring agricultural regions, and cross-border imports. The availability of locally grown staples like maize, beans, and potatoes from nearby counties contributes to a steady

supply that helps keep prices lower. Efficient distribution networks and seasonal harvest cycles also play a role, ensuring that markets are well-stocked, and prices remain competitive.

A comparison of prices between week 1 and week 5 in Nyeri revealed decreasing and stable wholesale prices while for retail, most commodities saw stable prices with a few increases and declines. For wholesale prices, dry beans saw decline ranging between 1% and 22%, maize at 3%, Shangi Irish potatoes at 8%, Pishori at 4% and dry wheat at 6% while some dry beans and most rice varieties saw stable prices. These fluctuations in wholesale and retail prices are influenced by seasonal variations and market dynamics.

# Comparison of National Average Prices between September and October

A comparison of overall prices (national averages for all commodities) between September and October 2024 shows that most wholesale and retail prices remained stable or decreased (see Table 2). Retail and wholesale prices for most commodities declined, with fluctuations ranging from -5% to -42%. This trend is likely driven by an ample supply of food commodities from various production regions, along with imports from neighboring East African countries and beyond (Pakistan, Thailand, and India).

**Table 2: Comparison of September and October prices** 

Product	Variety	Average Wholesal	le Price (Kes/Kg)	Percentage change	Average Reti (Kes/ Kg)	Percentage change			
		September	October	1	September	October			
Dry maize	White maize	43	35	-23%	52	44	-18%		
	Yellow maize	44	45	2%	52	56	7%		
Dry beans	Army green	168	154	-9%	188	191	2%		
	Black beans (Njahi)	145	136	-7%	188	185	-2%		
	Butter beans	215	173	-24%	243	211	-15%		
	Green/yellow	154	144	-7%	177	170	-4%		
	Mixed beans	70	76	8%	105	102	-3%		
	Mwezi moja	154	126	-22%	176	154	-14%		
	Mwitemania	118	107	-10%	150	135	-11%		
	Nyayo	129	117	-10%	158	145	-9%		
	Nyota beans	162	114	-42%	184	140	-31%		
	Red kidney	123	100	-23%	151	130	-16%		
	Rosecoco	134	128	-6%	169	162	-4%		
	Saitoti	121	113	-7%	149	150	1%		
	Soya beans	124	125	1%	153	165	7%		
	Wairimu	104	92	-13%	133	117	-14%		
	White Resecco (Alulu)	120	111	-8%	134	148	9%		
	Yellow	129	118	-9%	171	159	-8%		
	Shangi	63	58	-9%	81	80	-1%		
Irish potatoes	Ahero	128	120	-7%	140	130	-8%		
Rice	Alnab	236	219	-8%	256	250	-2%		
	Basmati	152	131	-16%	187	161	-16%		
	Biriani	118	103	-15%	142	135	-5%		
	Fatma rice	260	239	-9%	293	282	-4%		
	Mara 777	155	167	7%	175	184	5%		
	Pakistan	160	156	-3%	170	150	-13%		
	Pishori grade 1	119	129	8%	147	154	5%		
	Pishori grade 2	181	190	5%	146	137	-7%		
	Sana	135	136	1%	166	168	1%		
	Sindano	130	140	7%	154	165	7%		
	Sunrice	162	150	-8%	182	163	-12%		
	Tamtam	150	155	3%	162	176	8%		
	Yabal	149	148	-1%	170	173	2%		
Wheat	Wheat	67	68	1%	88	93	5%		
		Key <6 but =-5 <-5 but <-15 >-15 but <-42		Stable Decrease Major decrease					
		>5 but =10		Slight increas					

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of October 2024

# **Outlook for the Month of November**

- Food commodity prices for maize, beans, Irish potatoes, and wheat are expected to show some stability, with possible slight decreases due to favorable supply conditions. This outlook is influenced by harvests from Kenya's main producing regions, including Trans Nzoia, Nakuru, and Uasin Gishu, which have had beneficial rainy seasons. Additionally, imports from East African countries like Uganda are helping maintain supply levels.
- Maize and Irish potato prices are projected to remain relatively low. Maize has been consistently supported by local production and supply, and while demand pressures may increase toward the end of the year, prices are expected to remain stable. Beans, however, could see slightly elevated prices due to regional demand, though supplies from local harvests should prevent drastic price increases. Wheat prices are also likely to stay steady, backed by good international stocks and local availability from the recent harvests
- These trends reflect improved availability across Kenya, contributing to lower wholesale and retail prices for most staple commodities, benefiting consumers across the country.
- Rice prices are expected to remain stable or possibly decline slightly, largely due to steady imports and improved local availability. While local rice production is limited, Kenya relies significantly on imports from countries like Pakistan and Thailand, which have seen stable production levels. Recent international rice prices have shown moderate decreases, which may help ease prices within Kenya as well
- The availability of rice is bolstered by local stocks and imports from East African neighbors, such as Tanzania, which provides supplementary supplies to Kenyan markets. While some upward pressure may arise from seasonal demand, this is likely to be offset by ample supply, keeping prices manageable for consumers.

## **FOCUS ON ELDORET REGION**

Eldoret, located in Kenya's Rift Valley region, is the county seat of Uasin Gishu. According to the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census, it is the fifth most populous urban area in the country, following Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, and Ruiru. Surrounded by fertile agricultural land, Eldoret is a vital commercial center for Uasin Gishu's economy, which depends significantly on large-scale grain production, dairy farming, and horticulture. The town also serves as a regional manufacturing hub, housing several nationally recognized companies.

Eldoret's agricultural productivity makes it a key contributor to Kenya's grain reserves, especially for wheat and maize. Local farmers also engage in dairy farming and grow a range of crops, including beans, Irish potatoes, and various horticultural products. The town receives food supplies from nearby counties, local farmers, and East African neighbors like Uganda and Tanzania, while imported rice primarily comes from Pakistan and Thailand. Price data for essential food items is sourced from the Eldoret Wholesale Market, the main center for wholesale and retail food trade in the town.

Throughout October, the wholesale and retail prices of most commodities remained stable or declined. The stability in prices for key food items like dry beans, maize, and wheat is attributed to a steady local supply driven by seasonal factors. These food commodities were sourced from within the region and neighboring counties, including Bungoma, Trans Nzoia, Nandi, Nakuru, and Elgeyo Marakwet.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Eldoret Region

Product	Variety		Average	w/sale price	Total average w/sale	Total average			
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	price (KES/kg)	retail price (KES/kg)	
Dry beans	Army green	164	150	160	160	160	151	200	
	Black beans (Njahi)	152	158	158	158	158	157	241	
	Butter beans	190	190	179	179	179	183	244	
	Green/yellow	145	135	135	139	139	138	185	
	Mixed beans	66	- 66	66	67	70	67	92	
	Mwezi moja	111	111	111	111	111	111	140	
	Mwitemania	103	103	103	103	103	103	134	
	Nyayo	95	115	111	103	103	106	129	
	Nyota beans	105	117	115	115	115	114	140	
	Rosecoco	110	110	110	110	110	110	150	
	Sartoti	119	125	113	108	108	115	149	
	Wairimu	80	80	80	80	80	80	100	
	White Resecce (Alulu)	108	108	108	108	129	111	148	
	Yellow	121	125	125	125	127	124	156	
Dry maize	White maize	33	32	28	28	28	30	37	
Irish potatoes	Shangi	52	52	49	50	46	60	58	
Rice	Basmati	144	144	144	144	164	145	192	
	Biriani	105	107	108	110	110	108	138	
	Falcon	85	84	84	84	84	84	100	
	Fatma rice	208	208	208	208	206	208	290	
	Pishori grade 1	169	170	170	172	172	171	218	
	Pishori grade 2	100	100	100	100	100	100	140	
	Sana	148	151	162	162	162	151	196	
	Sindano	155	152	151	160	148	151	196	
	Yabal				166	166	156	200	
	Zamin				136	132	133	188	
Wheat	Wheat	69	70	72	69	65	69	107	

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of October 2024.

#### **ABOUT THIS SERIES**

The Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), aims to improve food security for the world's poor and increase the resilience of global food systems against food and financial crisis. The project brings together international, regional, and country-level data, news, and research aimed at meeting countries' immediate food security needs and building long-term global food security. The FSP is designed to pool information in structured ways to ensure high-quality, timely, and relevant data and to provide the opportunity for collaboration among policymakers, development professionals, and researchers.

This report is part of the FSP's efforts to monitor country-level food prices in order to improve the governments' ability to respond to and prevent food crises. It presents monthly price trends and movements for key food commodities, including dry beans, dry maize, rice, wheat, and Irish potatoes, in selected major regions and markets in Kenya.

## DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, and Nyeri regions of Kenya. These regions comprise the key markets in major urban centers. The five selected commodities comprise the major staple foods in Kenya<sup>1</sup>.

Data assistants, some of whom were traders, collected average daily wholesale and retail prices from the main markets of the selected regions. Data was collected daily for six days (Mondays to Saturdays) from stockists/wholesalers and traders in the morning hours.

During the last week of the month, the following qualitative data were captured:

- General observations on food prices during the month, including price variations and the lowest, highest, and prevailing wholesale and retail prices
- The source of food commodities and their availability throughout the month
- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as government restrictions including curfews and cessation of movement, on food prices and availability (both supply and demand)
- Traders' adaptation strategies to the COVID-19 pandemic, including sourcing and selling

Additional secondary data was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Government Food Security War Room (FSWR), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), and Regional Agriculture Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NB: While the report covers wheat, consumption of that commodity in Kenya is comprised mainly of wheat products (flours, pastries, and highly processed foods) rather than raw wheat itself.

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