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.

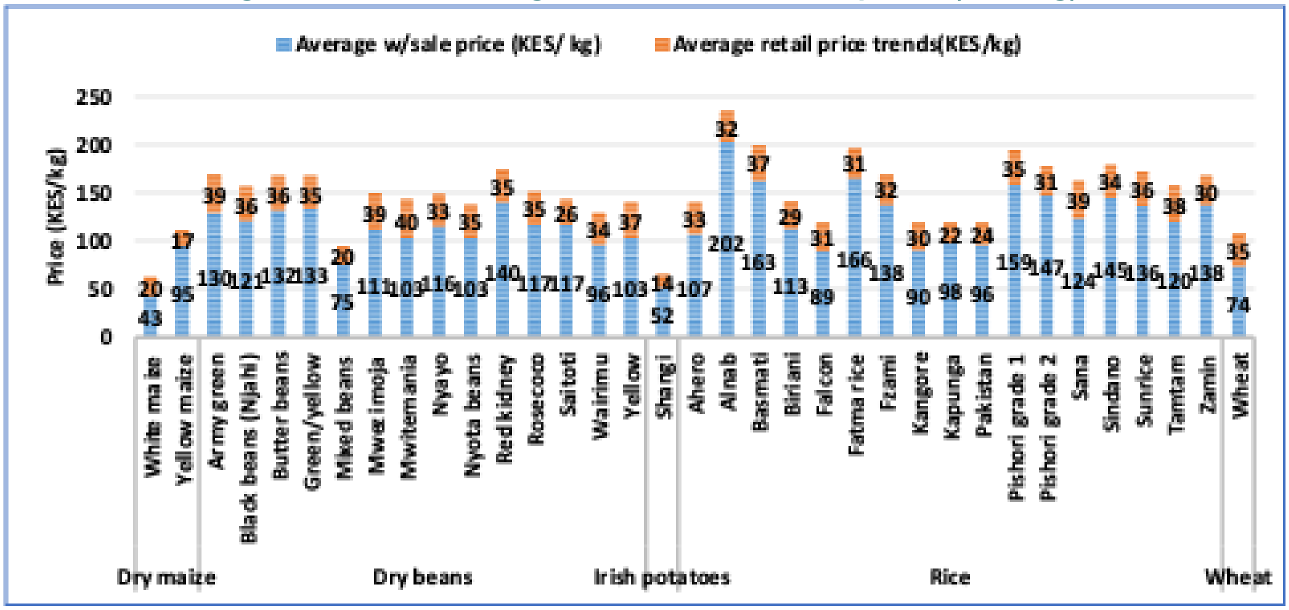
Highlights

- The differences in wholesale and retail price margins during February reflect variations in market structure and supply chain costs, including transportation expenses, intermediary trading activities, and periodic supply constraints across producing regions.
- Dry beans: Prices were higher in Nairobi and Kisumu due to strong urban demand, higher transport costs, and limited local production. Lower prices in Nakuru, Nyeri, and Eldoret correspond to these areas' status as key production zones during the harvest period.
- Dry maize: Prices were relatively high in Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Mombasa, driven by elevated transport costs, demand in deficit markets, and some stock withholding. Eldoret and Nairobi recorded lower prices because of closer proximity to production zones, more efficient supply chain logistics, and access to existing stocks, including imports in Nairobi.
- Irish potatoes: Prices remained high in Kisumu, Mombasa, and Nakuru due to strong demand and long-distance transport challenges. Lower prices in Eldoret, Nyeri, and Nairobi reflect better access to production areas and increased market supply during the harvest season.
- Rice: Prices in Eldoret were higher than in Nyeri, reflecting reliance on rice transported from distant production areas or imports, while Nyeri benefited from proximity to major domestic irrigation schemes such as Mwea.
- Wheat: Higher prices in Kisumu and Mombasa were driven by long supply chains and local demand, whereas Nyeri and Nairobi recorded lower prices due to proximity to production areas like Narok and Nakuru and reduced transport costs.
- Overall, wholesale and retail price variations in February were largely shaped by supply chain structures, distance from production zones, transport and logistics costs, and urban demand pressures.

Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for February

In February 2026, Figure 1 presents the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat across major Kenyan markets. Most commodities recorded price margins ranging between 18% and 25%, particularly across several rice varieties. Other commodities recorded margins ranging between 26% and 39%, including most dry bean varieties and Shangi Irish potatoes. In contrast, dry white maize and dry wheat recorded notably higher margins of about 47% each. The observed differences in price margins reflect variations in market structure and supply chain costs, including transportation expenses, intermediary trading activities, and periodic supply constraints across producing regions. These factors continue to influence staple food price formation in Kenyan markets. More broadly, food price dynamics remained an important component of household expenditure pressures in early 2026, as staple commodities such as maize grain and maize flour experienced price increases that contributed to the overall cost of living and food inflation trends in the country (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2026).

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



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2026

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

A wide range of bean varieties was identified across the surveyed regions. Army Green, Mwitemania, Rosecoco, and Wairimu were available in all the selected areas. Black beans (Njahi) were present in every region except Kisumu. Nyayo beans were available in all regions except Nyeri. Saitoti beans were found in all selected regions except Kisumu and Nyeri, while yellow beans were present in every area except Kisumu and Nairobi. Some bean types were limited to specific regions. Nyota and Mwezi Moja were reported only in Eldoret, whereas Butter and Red Kidney beans were found exclusively in Nakuru. Eldoret and Nakuru recorded the greatest accessibility to bean varieties, reflecting their role as major bean producing areas in the country. Retail prices for all bean varieties were consistently higher than wholesale prices. Relative to the national wholesale average, most bean varieties recorded higher wholesale prices in Kisumu and Nairobi. In contrast, Eldoret, Nakuru, and Nyeri reported comparatively lower wholesale and retail prices. Dry bean prices in February 2026 were higher in Nairobi and Kisumu because of strong demand in densely populated urban areas that do not produce beans, higher transport costs, and supply chain constraints. Lower prices in Nakuru, Nyeri, and Eldoret reflect their position as key agricultural production zones where supply is higher, particularly during harvest periods.

Dry white maize was available in all surveyed regions, while yellow maize was reported only in Kisumu and Nyeri. Wholesale prices for white maize exceeded the national average of KES 43/kg in several areas, including Kisumu at KES 58/kg, Nyeri at KES 50/kg, and Nakuru at KES 47/kg. At the retail level, prices in Mombasa and Nakuru were above the national average of KES 63/kg. In February 2026, maize prices were relatively high in Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Mombasa. This pattern reflects elevated transport costs, strong demand in deficit markets, and stock withholding by some farmers and traders. Eldoret and Nairobi recorded comparatively lower prices. Eldoret's proximity to the North Rift production belt ensured greater local availability, while Nairobi benefited from more efficient supply chain logistics and access to existing stocks, including imported maize, despite being a major consumption center.

In Kisumu, Mombasa, and Nakuru, Irish potatoes recorded higher wholesale prices of KES 77/kg, KES 68/kg, and KES 90/kg respectively, compared with the national average of KES 66/kg. Retail prices were also elevated in Kisumu at KES 65/kg and in Mombasa at KES 58/kg, both above the national average retail price of KES 52/kg. In February

2026, prices remained relatively high in Kisumu, Mombasa, and Nakuru, largely due to strong market demand, high transportation costs associated with long-distance supply routes, and inefficiencies along the supply chain. In contrast, Eldoret, Nyeri, and Nairobi reported lower prices, reflecting improved local availability, closer proximity to key production zones, and increased market supply during the harvest period.

All surveyed regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice varieties. Basmati rice was widely available in most areas except Nakuru. Sindano rice was present in all regions except Kisumu and Nairobi. Eldoret recorded additional varieties including Falcon, Fzami, and Zamin. Mombasa markets offered Tamtam and Family Rice, while Kisumu featured locally produced Ahero rice. Eldoret reported relatively higher wholesale and retail prices for the most consumed rice varieties, whereas Nyeri recorded comparatively lower prices across the varieties available in the region. In February 2026, rice prices in Eldoret were likely higher than those in Nyeri due to differences in logistics and supply chain dynamics. Eldoret relies more heavily on rice transported from distant production areas or imported through major entry points, which increases handling and transportation costs. In contrast, Nyeri benefits from its proximity to major domestic irrigation schemes such as the Mwea Irrigation Scheme, which supplies a significant share of locally produced rice and reduces transport costs while improving market availability (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, 2024; National Irrigation Authority, 2023). More broadly, Kenya remains highly dependent on imported rice. Domestic production supplies less than 20% of national consumption, creating a substantial supply deficit that is met through imports. This structural gap contributes to price volatility and upward pressure on rice prices across the country, particularly when exchange rates, logistics costs, or global market conditions fluctuate (Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, 2024; Food and Agriculture Organization, 2023; Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2024)

Retail prices for dry wheat were higher than the national average of KES 74/kg in several regions. Eldoret recorded KES 78/kg, Kisumu KES 112/kg, and Mombasa KES 78/kg. Wholesale prices also exceeded the national average of KES 109/kg in Kisumu at KES 213/kg and in Mombasa at KES 114/kg. Higher prices in Kisumu and Mombasa reflected elevated transportation costs, dependence on extended supply chains, and relatively strong local demand. In contrast, Nyeri and Nairobi recorded lower prices, largely due to their closer proximity to major wheat production areas such as Narok and Nakuru and comparatively lower logistical costs. During February 2026, regional price differences were further intensified by drought conditions in some areas, rising fuel costs, and increasing food insecurity, all of which placed additional pressure on market supply and distribution.

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

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/ kg)						Average retail price (KES/kg)						Total average w/sale price (KES/ kg)	Total average retail price (KES/ kg)
		Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri		
Dry beans	Army green	103	147	155	159	120	96	160	194	200	173	160	130	130	169
	Black beans (Njahi)	160		111	162	83	87	200		133	180	150	120	121	157
	Butter beans					132						168		132	168
	Green/yellow	108	147	150	161	115	119	170	183	158	180	160	160	133	168
	Mixed beans	70		75		70	86	90		100		100	90	75	95
	Mwezi moja	111						150						111	150
	Mwitemania	104	100	80	147	107	81	150	163	129	165	150	100	103	143
	Nyayo	98	138	94	150	100		140	175	111	170	150		116	149
	Nyota beans	103						150						103	150
	Red kidney					140						180		140	180
	Rosecoco	116	136	77	158	115	100	160	181	150	173	160	140	117	161
	Saitoti	102		100	146	120		140		118	163	150		117	143
	Wairimu	79	123	100	101	80	94	120	175	113	120	120	120	96	128
	Yellow	105		120		90	96	150		160		120	130	103	140
Dry maize	White maize	37	48	36	43	47	50	58	63	69	60	70	60	43	63
	Yellow maize		47				52		70				70	95	112
Irish potatoes	Shangi	51	65	58	42	50	43	61	77	68	48	90	50	52	66
Rice	Ahero		107						177					107	177
	Ainab					202						234		202	234
	Basmati	150	266	140	132		126	220	328	172	151		160	163	206
	Biriani	108	172	104	100	96	96	150	200	111	120	150	120	113	142
	Falcon	89						120						89	120
	Family rice			140						171				140	171
	Fatma rice	168		164				280		274				166	277
	Fzami	138						200						138	200
	Kangore						90						120	90	120
	Kapunga						98						120	98	120
	Mara 777			160		138				269		160		149	215
	Pakistan						96						120	96	120
	Pishori grade 1	180		153	171	162	136	250		178	190	198	170	159	194
	Pishori grade 2	140	155					200	240					147	220
	Sana	148				125	100	220				158	130	124	169
	Sindano	153		156		134	138	203		184		170	160	145	179
	Sunrice		132	140					150	195				136	172
	Tamtam			120						168				120	168
	Yabal					137						170		137	170
	Zamin	138						200						138	200
Wheat	Wheat	78	112	78	66	60	59	100	213	114	80	100	70	74	109

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2026

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

Between weeks one and four, food commodity prices showed varying trends across regions. In Eldoret, most commodities maintained relatively stable wholesale and retail prices. All available dry bean varieties recorded stable prices at both market levels. In contrast, dry maize prices increased, with wholesale and retail prices rising by 16% and 34% respectively. Shangi Irish potatoes registered slight declines, with wholesale prices falling by 2% and retail prices by 4%. All rice varieties available in the region maintained stable prices at both wholesale and retail levels. Dry wheat prices declined by 17% at the wholesale level, while retail prices remained unchanged. The stability observed in dry bean and rice prices can be attributed to consistent supply, imports, and steady market availability. By contrast, maize prices increased due to tightening supply conditions. The decline in potato prices was largely associated with increased inflows from neighboring producing areas such as Elgeyo-Marakwet County, which improved market availability.

A comparison of food commodity prices in Kisumu between week one and week four shows notable fluctuations, with most commodities experiencing price increases. Some dry bean varieties, including Army Green, Nyayo, and Rosecoco, saw wholesale prices decline by 1% to 5%. Retail prices for Army Green, Green Yellow, and Rosecoco also decreased, ranging from 4% to 8%. Conversely, certain bean varieties experienced price increases. Wholesale prices for Green Yellow, Mwitemania, and Wairimu rose between 0.3% and 9%, while retail prices for Mwitemania, Nyayo, and Wairimu increased by 2% to 11%. For maize, white dry maize declined by 8% at the wholesale level but rose 14% at retail, whereas yellow maize increased by 4% wholesale and 7% retail. Most rice varieties recorded wholesale price increases of 2% to 16% and retail increases of 3% to 18%, with Sunrice maintaining stable prices at both levels. Ahero rice retail prices declined slightly by 2%. Dry wheat saw a modest 2% increase in both wholesale and retail prices. The overall rise in food prices in Kisumu was primarily driven by severe drought conditions, which reduced local production, constrained supply, and heightened demand. Additional pressures from higher fuel and transportation costs, combined with seasonal factors, further elevated prices. The prolonged dry and sunny weather from January through February 2026 limited the availability of key staples such as maize and potatoes, significantly impacting food supply in the region.

In the Mombasa region, a comparison of prices between week one and week four indicates that most food commodities maintained stable wholesale prices. Retail prices, however, showed mixed movements, with some commodities remaining stable while others recorded either increases or decreases. Among dry bean varieties, wholesale prices were largely stable. The only exceptions

FOCUS ON MAIZE ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Maize is widely cultivated across the Rift Valley, Western Kenya, Nyanza, Central Kenya, and parts of Eastern Kenya. Uasin Gishu and Trans-Nzoia counties are commonly regarded as Kenya's breadbasket because of their extensive maize and wheat production, which supplies a large share of the country's grain requirements.

Farmers in these major producing zones grow several maize types, including high-yielding and disease-resistant hybrid varieties. Many smallholder farmers also cultivate open-pollinated varieties because these allow seed saving for subsequent planting seasons. In addition, specific varieties such as highland and drought-tolerant maize are selected to suit the agro-ecological conditions of different regions.

Despite its importance, Kenya's maize sector faces multiple constraints. Price volatility is frequent and is often driven by erratic weather patterns, speculative market behavior, and periodic shifts in government policies regarding maize imports and exports. Post-harvest losses remain significant because of inadequate storage infrastructure and pest infestations, which reduce marketable volumes and affect profitability, especially for small-scale farmers and traders. High transportation costs from rural production zones to urban markets also increase marketing expenses.

Traders frequently face difficulties accessing reliable markets and timely market information, which complicates price setting and business planning. Regulatory procedures, including licensing requirements and changing trade policies, add further uncertainty. In addition, competition from imported maize and supplies from other domestic production zones can reduce margins and intensify market pressure.

In February 2026, wholesale maize prices in Nakuru, Nyeri, and Kisumu were slightly above the national average. This pattern reflected strong consumer demand, seasonal fluctuations in supply, and higher marketing and transportation costs in deficit markets. In contrast, Eldoret and Nairobi recorded comparatively lower prices. Eldoret benefited from its proximity to the North Rift production belt, which ensured greater local availability of maize. Nairobi, although a major consumption center, experienced relatively lower prices because of more efficient supply chain logistics and the availability of market stocks sourced from major producing regions. These regional differences highlight the influence of production proximity, transport costs, and supply chain efficiency on maize price dynamics across the country.

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

Region	Average w/sale price (KES/kg)	Average retail price (KES/ kg)	Total average w/sale price (KES/kg)	Total average retail price (KES/ kg)
Eldoret	37	58	43	63
Kisumu	48	63		
Mombasa	36	69		
Nairobi	43	60		
Nakuru	47	70		
Nyeri	50	60		

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2026.

were black beans (Njahi) and green yellow beans, which declined by 9% and 1%, respectively. At the retail level, bean prices showed varied movements, with some remaining unchanged while others declined or increased. White dry maize recorded stable wholesale prices but a 6% increase at the retail level. In contrast, yellow maize experienced declines at both market levels, with wholesale prices falling by 0.4% and retail prices decreasing by 5%. Shangi Irish potatoes registered notable reductions, with wholesale prices declining by 17% and retail prices falling by 25%. For rice, wholesale prices remained stable for most available varieties, except for Pishori grade 1, which declined slightly by 0.3%. At the retail level, most rice varieties recorded price decreases ranging from 1% to 6%. Dry wheat maintained stable wholesale prices but registered an 8% decline in retail prices. The stability and slight declines in rice prices were supported by increased imports, particularly from Pakistan, alongside government measures that allowed duty-free imports, which helped maintain adequate supply in the market. The reduction in retail prices for dry wheat was largely associated with steady regional imports from Tanzania and Uganda that sustained market availability. The decline in Shangi Irish potato prices was mainly driven by increased supply following harvests in late 2025, especially from producing regions such as Narok and Elgeyo Marakwet, which improved availability in the Mombasa markets.

In Nairobi, food prices between week one and week four showed a mix of stability, increases, and minor declines at both wholesale and retail levels. Wholesale prices for most dry bean varieties, including Mwitemania, Nyayo, Rosecoco, Wairimu, and Saitoti, increased by 2–7%. Black beans (Njahi) slightly declined by 1%, while Green Yellow remained stable. At the retail level, most available dry bean varieties recorded price increases ranging from 3–6%, while Nyayo, Black beans, Green Yellow, and Wairimu remained stable. Dry white maize prices declined by 3% at the wholesale level but increased by 3% at retail. Shangi Irish potatoes and dry wheat remained unchanged at both wholesale and retail levels. For rice, all available varieties, including Basmati, Biriani, and Pishori Grade 1, increased by 2–3% at the wholesale level, while retail prices remained stable, except for Basmati, which declined by 3%. Higher bean and rice prices were driven by reduced supply due to drought, rice import constraints, and trader stockholding, while maize, potatoes, and wheat prices remained low or stable due to recent harvests, adequate domestic supply, and stable imports.

A comparison of prices between week one and week four in Nakuru shows that most food commodities remained stable in both wholesale and retail markets. Wholesale prices for most dry bean varieties were stable, although Mwitemania and Butter beans declined by 9% and 7%, respectively, while Mixed beans increased slightly by 2%. At the retail level, all available dry bean varieties remained stable except Butter beans, which declined by 11%. Dry maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, and dry wheat remained unchanged at both wholesale and retail levels. Similarly, most rice varieties recorded stable prices in both markets. At the wholesale level, Alnab and Pishori declined by 4% each, while Sana and Sindano increased by 12% and 3%, respectively. At the retail level, Basmati declined slightly by 3%. Overall, the relative stability of dry maize, wheat, and potato prices in Nakuru in February 2026 was supported by sustained local supply from recent harvests, balanced demand for staple foods, and market interventions such as the release of government grain reserves, which helped offset broader inflationary pressures from dry weather and high fuel costs.

A comparison of wholesale and retail prices in Nyeri between week one and week four shows that most food commodities remained stable, with only a few recording slight declines or increases at the wholesale level. At the wholesale level, most available dry bean varieties maintained stable prices. However, Army Green and Rosecoco declined slightly by 2% and 1%, while Wairimu increased marginally by about 2 to 3%. Dry white and yellow maize prices remained stable, Shangi Irish potatoes declined by 5%, and wheat increased slightly by 2%. All available rice varieties also maintained stable prices at the wholesale level. At the retail level, all available dry bean varieties, dry white and yellow maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, dry wheat, and all rice varieties recorded stable prices. Overall, the stability of key staple prices in Nyeri in February 2026 was supported by adequate supply from local harvests, regional inflows, and carryover stocks. Contributing factors included substantial maize carryover stocks held by farmers in Kieni at about 11.9%, steady supply from neighboring regions including imports from Tanzania and Uganda, and favorable harvest timing in nearby producing areas that ensured consistent market supply. Despite earlier price increases in cities such as Mombasa due to transport costs in 2025, stable supply conditions helped maintain relatively stable staple prices in February 2026.

Comparison of National Average Prices between December and January

A comparison of national average commodity prices between January and February 2026 indicates overall stability in both wholesale and retail markets, with most prices remaining within the stable range of −4% to +4%. However, some commodities registered moderate declines ranging from −4% to −19%, while a few recorded increases of between +4% and about +16% (see Table 2). As highlighted during the preparation of this report, these trends are largely explained by adequate supplies from key domestic production areas, supported by inflows from cross-border trade within the East African region and imports from international suppliers such as Pakistan, and India.

Table 2: Comparison of January and February prices

	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)			Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		
Variety	**Jan-26**	**Feb-26**	**Percentage change**	**Jan-26**	**Feb-26**	**Percentage change**
White maize	40	43	7%	58	63	8%
Army green	131	130	-1%	178	169	-5%
Black beans (Njahi)	115	121	5%	155	157	1%
Butter beans	135	132	-2%	175	168	-4%
Green/yellow	133	133	0%	169	168	-1%
Mixed beans	75	75	0%	95	95	0%
Mwezi moja	111	111	0%	150	150	0%
Mwitemania	100	103	3%	135	143	6%
Nyayo	117	116	-1%	143	149	4%
Nyota beans	105	103	-2%	150	138	-9%
Red kidney	140	140	0%	180	175	-3%
Rosecoco	118	117	-1%	158	152	-4%
Saitoti	117	117	0%	140	143	2%
Wairimu	93	96	3%	124	130	5%
Yellow	123	103	-19%	145	140	-4%
Shangi	54	52	-4%	62	66	6%
Ahero	136	117	-16%	150	140	-7%
Ainab	210	202	-4%	250	234	-7%
Basmati	159	163	2%	168	200	16%
Biriani	107	113	5%	132	142	7%
Falcon	89	89	0%	120	120	0%
Family rice	140	140	0%	161	171	6%
Fatma rice	166	166	0%	205	197	-4%
Fzami	138	138	0%	180	170	-6%
Kangore	94	90	-4%	120	120	0%
Kapunga	98	98	0%	120	120	0%
Mara 777	152	149	-2%	216	184	-17%
Pakistan	96	96	0%	120	120	0%
Pishori grade 1	162	159	-2%	195	194	-1%
Pishori grade 2	147	147	0%	190	178	-7%
Sana	123	124	1%	169	163	-4%
Sindano	145	145	0%	179	179	0%
Sunrice	138	136	-1%	202	170	-19%
Tamtam	120	120	0%	159	158	-1%
Yabai	137	137	0%	170	170	0%
Zamin	138	138	0%	200	168	-19%
Wheat	75	74	-1%	104	109	5%
		<=4 but >-4	Stable			
		>-4 but <-19	Decrease			
		>4 but <16	Increase			

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2026

Outlook for the Month of March

In March 2026, national average food prices are expected to remain generally stable, although some commodities may experience moderate fluctuations depending on supply flows, seasonal patterns, and market demand.

- Dry maize: Prices are expected to remain mostly stable but could increase slightly in some markets. Stocks from the previous harvest are gradually declining, and demand from urban centers remains strong. Cross-border inflows from Uganda and Tanzania will continue to support availability.
- Dry beans: Prices are likely to remain firm, with certain varieties experiencing slight increases. Supplies from key producing counties such as Nakuru, Narok, and Meru, along with cross-border trade through Busia and Namanga, will support the market, but tightening stocks for preferred varieties may sustain upward pressure.
- Rice: Prices are expected to remain stable. Steady imports from Pakistan, India, and Thailand, combined with domestic production from irrigation schemes like Mwea in Kirinyaga County, are providing consistent supply to markets.
- Irish potatoes: Prices may remain stable or decline slightly, supported by continued supply from main production areas including Narok, Nakuru, Kinangop, and Nyahururu. Transport costs and post-harvest handling constraints may cause minor price differences between markets.
- Dry wheat: Prices are expected to remain firm due to Kenya's continued reliance on imports. Global market trends, exchange rate fluctuations, and shipping costs may influence local prices, keeping them higher relative to other staples.
- Overall, adequate domestic supplies, complemented by imports and cross-border trade, are expected to maintain relative price stability in March 2026. Some localized price increases may occur for commodities with tighter stocks or higher transport costs, but most staples should remain accessible to households across the country.
- Ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly the conflict involving Iran and the United States, have contributed to volatility in global oil prices. Higher crude oil prices can translate into increased fuel and transportation costs, which may gradually raise the cost of moving food commodities from production areas to consumption markets and increase the cost of imported staples such as wheat and rice. If elevated fuel prices persist, this could exert mild upward pressure on food prices in the coming months.

FOCUS ON NAIROBI REGION

Nairobi's food supply is sourced from multiple production zones across Kenya and supplemented by imports from neighboring East African countries as well as international markets.

Price data for key agricultural commodities is collected from two primary wholesale markets: Nyamakima Market and Wakulima Market (Marikiti). Nyamakima operates daily from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and functions as a major hub for grain trading, while Marikiti specializes primarily in fresh produce. Maize traded in these markets is sourced from Kitale, Nakuru, Narok, Busia along the Kenya–Uganda border, and Namanga on the Kenya–Tanzania border. Beans are supplied mainly from Busia, Nakuru, Narok, Taita Taveta, Meru, and Namanga. Rice, particularly Basmati and Biriani varieties, is largely imported from Pakistan through Port of Mombasa and is also produced domestically in the Mwea Irrigation Scheme. Wheat supplies originate from Narok, Taita Taveta, and Namanga, while Irish potatoes are traded predominantly through Marikiti, which serves retailers throughout the day and wholesalers during the early morning trading window between 3:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Market operations involve several regulatory fees payable to the city authorities, including hygiene charges, business permits, clearance certificates, and monthly rental fees for trading spaces. These markets bring together farmers, wholesalers, brokers, retailers, vendors, and porters who facilitate the distribution of food commodities to different parts of the city. Irish potatoes traded in the Nairobi markets are mainly sourced from Narok, Nakuru, Kinangop, and Nyahururu.

During the reporting period, average wholesale prices in Nairobi ranged between KES 101/kg and KES 162/kg for dry beans, while retail prices ranged from KES 120/kg to KES 180/kg. Dry maize averaged KES 43/kg at wholesale and about KES 60/kg at retail. Shangi Irish potatoes were sold at approximately KES 42/kg wholesale and KES 48/kg retail. Rice varieties recorded higher prices, with Pishori Grade 1 averaging KES 171/kg at wholesale and KES 190/kg at retail, while wheat averaged KES 66/kg wholesale and KES 80/kg retail. Overall, these price patterns reflect the influence of supply flows from major producing regions, transport and logistics costs, and the structure of wholesale and retail distribution within Nairobi's food markets.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Nairobi Region

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/kg)				Average retail price (KES/ kg)				Total average w/sale price (KES/kg)	Total average retail price (KES/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Army green	158	158	158	161	170	170	170	180	159	173
	Black beans (Njahi)	162	163	161	161	180	180	180	180	162	180
	Green/yellow	161	161	160	161	180	180	180	180	161	180
	Mwitemania	144	144	150	150	160	160	170	170	147	165
	Nyayo	145	150	150	156	170	170	170	170	150	170
	Rosecoco	156	158	158	161	170	170	170	180	158	173
	Saitoti	144	144	146	150	160	160	163	170	146	163
	Wairimu	99	100	102	102	120	120	120	120	101	120
Dry maize	White maize	44	44	44	42	58	60	60	60	43	60
Irish potatoes	Shangi	42	42	42	42	48	48	48	48	42	48
Rice	Basmati	131	130	133	134	155	150	150	150	132	151
	Biriani	100	96	100	102	120	120	120	120	100	120
	Pishori grade 1	173	170	170	170	190	190	190	190	171	190
Wheat	Wheat	65	67	66	65	80	80	80	80	66	80

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2026.

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[1].

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).

[1] 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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