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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

- Prices of dry maize, beans, rice, wheat, and Irish potatoes rose in January 2026 due to low seasonal supply, high transport and logistics costs, and strong urban demand. School reopening further increased demand for staples, especially maize and beans.
- **Dry beans:** Higher prices were driven by high fuel and transport costs, multiple intermediaries, strong lean-season demand, and reduced drought-affected production.
- **Dry maize:** Prices were higher in Kisumu, Nyeri, Mombasa, and Nakuru due to supply shortages and high transport costs from surplus areas, while Eldoret and Nairobi recorded relatively lower prices because of proximity to production zones and government market releases.
- **Irish potatoes:** Elevated prices reflected low seasonal supply, strong demand, rising fuel costs, adverse weather, and high input costs, with Mombasa recording particularly high prices due to transport costs.
- **Rice:** Higher prices in Eldoret, Nairobi, and Nakuru were linked to reduced domestic production caused by erratic rainfall and drought in key growing areas such as Mwea.
- **Wheat:** Elevated prices in Eldoret, Kisumu, and Mombasa were driven by limited local supply, strong urban demand, and heavy reliance on imports.

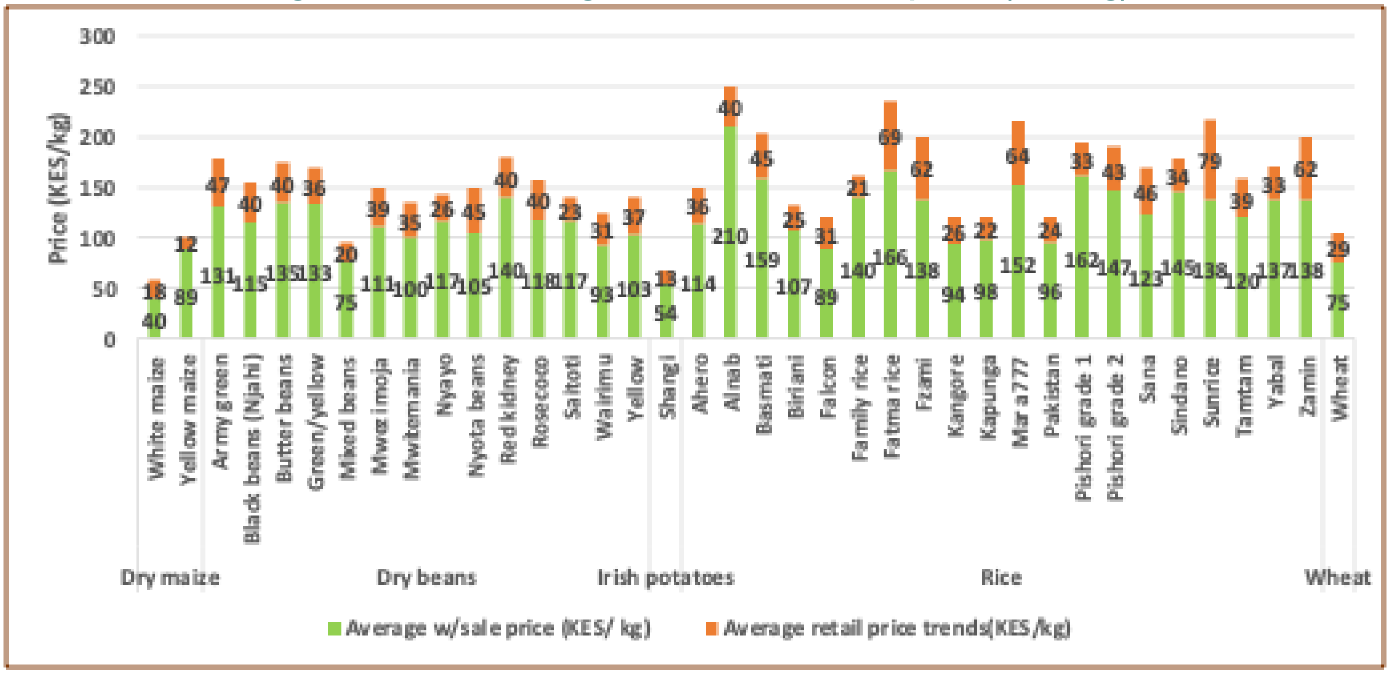
Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for January

In January 2026, Figure 1 presents the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat across major Kenyan markets. Price differentials ranged from 13 % to 25 % for some commodities, including dry beans such as Nyayo and Saitoti, yellow maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, and most rice varieties, including Alnab, Biriani, Family, Kapunga, Pakistan, Pishori 1, Sindano, and Yabal. A higher price differential of 26 % to 39 % was observed for most dry bean varieties (Army Green, Black, Butter, Green Yellow, Mwezi Moja, Mwitemania, Red Kidney, Rosecoco, Wairimu, and Yellow), some rice varieties (Ahero, Basmati, Falco, Kangowe, Pishori Grade 2, Sana, Tamtam), and dry wheat. Conversely, certain commodities, including white dry maize, Nyota beans, Fatma, Fzami, Mara 777, and Sunrice, experienced significantly higher price differentials ranging from 40 % to 46 %.

Fluctuations in Kenyan wholesale and retail prices for dry maize, beans, rice, wheat, and Irish potatoes in January 2026 were driven by low seasonal supply, high transportation and logistical costs, and increased demand in urban centres. A surge in demand following school reopening tightened supply for staples such as maize and beans. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) Consumer Price Index report published on February 15, 2026, although annual inflation eased to 4.4 %, food and non-alcoholic beverages recorded a year-on-year increase of 7.3 %, making food the largest contributor to headline inflation. Dry maize and beans recorded notable price increases because of low seasonal output and farmer hoarding in key production regions such as Eldoret, despite some supply from neighboring countries.

The varying differentials between specific varieties reflected differences in local availability, consumer preference, and distribution costs.

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



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of January 2026

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Bean varieties differed across regions, with Black beans (Njahi), Rosecoco, Nyayo, Army Green, Green Yellow, Mwitemania, Yellow, Saitoti, and Wairimu commonly found in most of the selected areas. Some varieties were specific to particular regions, including Butter beans and Red Kidney in Nakuru, as well as Nyota and Mwezi Moja. Eldoret and Nakuru recorded the widest range of bean varieties, underscoring their role as key bean production hubs in the country. Across all markets, retail prices for every bean variety were consistently higher than wholesale prices. In Kisumu and Nairobi, both wholesale and retail prices for most varieties exceeded the national average. In contrast, Eldoret, Nakuru, and Mombasa reported lower wholesale and retail prices than the national average, while Nyeri recorded lower retail prices for all available varieties compared to national averages. These price patterns were largely influenced by high transportation costs, the presence of multiple market intermediaries, and strong demand at the onset of the 2026 lean season. Retailers added margins to cover logistics, while high fuel prices and reduced, drought-affected production contributed to the upward pressure on prices.

Availability of dry white maize was reported in all regions. At the national level, the average wholesale price was about 40 KES/kg, while average retail prices stood at 58 KES/kg. Prices were relatively higher in Kisumu and Nyeri, where wholesale prices were around 51 KES/kg and 50 KES/kg, and retail prices reached 63 KES/kg in Kisumu and 60 KES/kg in Nyeri. Retail prices were also elevated in Mombasa at about 68 KES/kg and in Nakuru at around 61 KES/kg. Kisumu and Mombasa are not major maize-producing regions, and the higher prices observed in these markets are likely driven by the involvement of middlemen, high transport and transaction costs, and market conditions characterized by strong demand and limited local supply. Overall, dry maize prices were higher in Kisumu, Nyeri, Mombasa, and Nakuru due to supply shortages following below-average harvests and the high cost of transporting maize from surplus-producing areas. In contrast, Eldoret and Nairobi recorded relatively lower prices, largely because of their proximity to the maize-producing Rift Valley and the release of maize into the market by the government. The Ministry of Agriculture released 200,000 bags of maize from the National Strategic Grain Reserve through the

National Cereals and Produce Board to register millers at subsidized rates, helping to stabilize flour prices in major markets such as Nairobi (Capital Business, 26 May 2025; Citizen Digital, 26 May 2025).

Irish potatoes recorded higher wholesale prices in Kisumu and Mombasa, reaching 67 KES/kg and 62 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 54 KES/kg. Retail prices were also slightly higher in Nakuru, at 67 KES/kg, against the national average of 61 KES/kg. The elevated prices in these densely populated areas were driven by a combination of low seasonal supply, strong demand, and increased transportation costs resulting from rising fuel prices. The shortage was further compounded by adverse weather conditions affecting production and high costs for farm inputs. Mombasa, which is not a potato-producing region, experienced particularly high prices due to transport costs and strong local demand. Overall, general food price inflation in Kenya, influenced by rising transport and fuel costs, affected prices of potatoes and other staple foods (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2026).

All regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice, with Sindano rice available everywhere except in Nairobi and Kisumu, and Basmati rice not found in Nakuru. Some regions recorded higher wholesale and retail prices for specific rice varieties. Eldoret, Nairobi and Nakuru had both wholesale and retail prices for Pishori rice that were higher than the national averages of 162 KES/kg for wholesale and 195 KES/kg for retail. Most rice varieties available in Eldoret were priced above average, reflecting broader market pressure in that urban center. These elevated prices in Eldoret, Nairobi and Nakuru were likely driven by a combination of erratic rainfall and drought conditions that reduced domestic rice yields in key growing areas such as Mwea, forcing Kenya to depend more on costly imports to cover a national deficit estimated at between 1.3 million and 1.5 million metric tonnes annually and exposing the gap between local supply and demand (Capital News, January 2026; Business Daily, January 2026). According to Kenyan Wallstreet in January 2026, erratic rainfall and reduced planting in major rice growing areas had already disrupted output, and acute food insecurity in arid and semi-arid counties was projected to rise from about 1.8 million to 3.5 million people if mitigation measures stalled (Kenyan Wallstreet, January 2026).

Wheat prices were a bit higher in Eldoret, Kisumu, and Mombasa, with wholesale prices reaching 78 KES/kg, 110 KES/kg, and 78 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 75 KES/kg. Retail prices were also elevated in Eldoret at 181 KES/kg, surpassing the national average of 104 KES/kg. In contrast, most other regions recorded lower wholesale and retail prices due to increased supply from major wheat-producing areas. The higher prices in Eldoret, Kisumu, and Mombasa were driven by limited local supply, high urban demand, and reliance on imported wheat, which accounts for most of the Kenya’s consumption. Seasonal shortages, high input costs, and market dynamics, including the influence of brokers and traders responding to anticipated scarcity, further contributed to elevated prices, particularly in Eldoret where depressed rainfall affected local production (Agricultural Food Authority, 2025; Zawya, 2025).

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

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	107	145	155	159	120	100	163	243	200	173	160	130	131	178
	Black beans (Njahi)	160		101	153	75	87	200		133	170	150	120	115	155
	Butter beans					135						175		135	175
	Green/yellow	112	149	147	158	115	119	172	189	156	177	160	160	133	169
	Mixed beans	70		75		70	86	90		100		100	90	75	95
	Mwezi moja	111						150						111	150
	Mwitemania	106	82	80	144	108	82	150	127	123	160	148	100	100	135
	Nyayo	100	146	94	146	101		140	155	109	163	150		117	143
	Nyota beans	105						150						105	150
	Red kidney					140						180		140	180
	Rosecoco	115	140	77	157	115	102	160	165	150	173	160	140	118	158
	Saitoti	103		100	144	120		140		111	160	150		117	140
	Wairimu	79	106	100	99	79	95	120	155	111	120	118	119	93	124
	Yellow	106		120		90	96	150		160		120	130	103	140
Dry maize	White maize	29	51	35	39	38	50	46	63	68	50	61	60	40	58
Irish potatoes	Shangi	48	67	62	46	47	44	52	76	83	51	76	50	54	67
Rice	Ahero		114						150					114	150
	Alnab					210						250		210	250
	Basmati	150	242	140	138		126	220	255	226	160		160	159	204
	Biriani	108	133	103	105	95	96	150	141	109	123	147	120	107	132
	Falcon	89						120						89	120
	Family rice			140						161				140	161
	Fatma rice	168		164				280		269				166	275
	Fzami	138						200						138	200
	Kangore						94						120	94	120
	Kapunga						98						120	98	120
	Mara 777			160		144				267		166		152	216
	Pakistan						96						120	96	120
	Pishori grade 1	180		154	180	170	136	250		174	199	200	170	162	195
	Pishori grade 2	140	155					200	180					147	190
	Sana	148				120	100	220				156	130	123	169
	Sindano	153		156		133	138	203		181		170	160	145	179
	Sunrice		135	140					238	197				138	217
	Tamtam			120						159				120	159
	Yabal					137						170		137	170
	Zamin	138						200						138	200
Wheat	Wheat	78	110	78	66	60	59	100	181	96	82	100	70	75	104

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of January 2026

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

Between the first week and the period, covering weeks two to four, there were noticeable changes in food prices across different regions. In the Eldoret market, the prices of commodities showed a mix of stability, increases, and decreases at both wholesale and retail levels. At the wholesale level, most foods maintained stable prices, although some dry bean varieties saw their prices fall by between 3% and 12%. Black beans, Mixed beans, Mwezi Moja, and Wairimu bean prices did not change much at all, remaining steady over the period. In retail markets, most bean varieties also held steady, except for Army Green and Green Yellow beans, which dropped by 8% and 4% respectively. Dry maize prices in Eldoret rose significantly, climbing about 12% at both the wholesale and retail levels. Irish potatoes sold under the Shangi variety saw even larger increases, with wholesale prices rising by around 16% and retail prices jumping by 35%. In contrast, all available rice and wheat products showed very little change in both wholesale and retail prices, indicating steady conditions for these commodities. The relative stability in the prices of dry beans, rice, and wheat in Eldoret was likely due to a steady supply in markets and consistent import volumes. On the other hand, the higher prices for dry maize and Irish potatoes appear to have been driven by stronger demand, including increased consumption linked to school reopenings, combined with tighter supply due to scarcity and higher transport costs. Overall food price inflation in Kenya, particularly for staple foods, was 7.3 % in January 2026 according to data from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

A comparison of commodity prices in Kisumu between week 1 and week 4 shows that most food items recorded price declines, although a few commodities experienced increases at both wholesale and retail levels. At the wholesale level, nearly all available dry bean varieties posted price declines ranging from 0.3% to 7%, apart from Mwitemania, which recorded a slight increase of 1%. Retail prices for dry beans showed mixed movements. Army Green and Green Yellow beans recorded price declines of 17% and 1% respectively, while Mwitemania, Rosecoco, and Wairimu beans registered increases of 6%, 4%, and 1% respectively. Dry maize prices declined sharply in Kisumu, falling by 23% at the wholesale level and 20% at the retail level. In contrast, Shangi Irish potatoes recorded notable price increases, with wholesale prices rising by 24% and retail prices increasing by 19%. Dry wheat prices showed mixed trends, with wholesale prices declining by 6% while retail prices increased by 7%. Overall, all available dry bean varieties recorded price declines ranging from 3% to 18% at the wholesale level and between 1% and 25% at the retail level. The price trends observed in January 2026 suggest that non-perishable staples such as dry beans, maize, and wheat were relatively well supplied in Kisumu, supported by inflows from neighbouring regions and cross-border trade with countries such as Uganda. In contrast, the supply of perishable staples, particularly Irish potatoes, remained constrained due to seasonal factors, logistical challenges, and market-structure limitations, contributing to higher prices.

FOCUS ON RICE ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Rice is Kenya's third most important staple after maize and wheat and serves as a key alternative cereal, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. About 80% of rice production comes from irrigated systems, mainly in schemes such as Mwea in Kirinyaga, Ahero in Kisumu, and Bunyala in Busia, while the remaining 20% is produced under rain-fed conditions. The Mwea Irrigation Scheme remains the country's main production hub, with the premium Pishori variety accounting for a large share of output. Other commonly grown varieties include Sindano, Basmati, and medium-grain rice.

Rice production supports thousands of small-holder farmers and plays an important role in national food security. Most locally traded rice is sourced from Mwea, particularly Pishori grade 2 and Basmati, and from Ahero, which mainly supplies the Ahero variety. Imported rice from Tanzania and Pakistan complements domestic supply and includes varieties such as Pishori, Sindano, Biriani, and TamTam. Prices for premium varieties, especially Pishori and Basmati, are generally higher due to strong consumer preference, the influence of intermediaries along the value chain, and rising transportation costs.

As shown in the table below, rice prices varied notably across regions. Pishori rice recorded relatively high wholesale and retail prices in most markets. Eldoret consistently reported higher prices across several varieties, while Nyeri recorded substantially lower wholesale and retail prices than national averages for all available rice varieties. These regional differences reflect variations in supply sources, transportation distances, and levels of consumer demand.

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

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		
Ahero		114						150					114	150
Basmati	150	242	140	138		126	220	255	226	160		160	159	204
Biriani	108	133	103	105	95	95	150	141	109	123	147	120	107	132
Fatma rice	168		164				280		269				166	275
Pishori grade 1	180		154	180	170	136	250		174	199	200	170	162	195
Pishori grade 2	140	155					200	180					147	190
Sana	148				120	100	220				156	130	123	169
Sindano	153		156		133	138	203		181		170	160	145	179
Sunrice		135	140					238	197				138	217

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

In the Mombasa region, commodity prices generally showed a mix of stability and modest declines, with a few notable increases across selected food items. At the wholesale level, most available dry bean varieties maintained stable prices. However, Black beans recorded a price increase of 12%, while Nyayo beans registered a slight decline of 1%. Retail prices followed a similar pattern of relative stability, although Nyayo beans declined by 13%, while Saitoti and Wairimu beans increased by 6% and 11% respectively. Dry maize prices showed mixed movements, with wholesale prices increasing by 3% while retail prices declined by 9%. Shangi Irish potatoes recorded sharp increases at both market levels, with wholesale prices rising by 8% and retail prices increasing significantly by 30%. Dry wheat remained stable at the wholesale level but increased by 5% at the retail level. Most available rice varieties maintained stable prices at both wholesale and retail levels, although Biriani rice recorded a decline of 3% in wholesale prices while retail prices increased slightly by 3%. Overall, Mombasa experienced relatively stable prices for rice, beans, and wheat, supported by steady imports through the port and consistent market supplies. In contrast, maize and Irish potatoes recorded higher price pressure due to localized shortages linked to poor October to December 2025 short rains and elevated demand. During the period, maize grain prices rose to over KES 71/kg, reflecting tighter supplies and increased demand as reported by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, and Irish potato prices rose sharply due to reduced seasonal production and stronger market demand.

In Nairobi, food commodity prices showed a mix of stability, declines, and slight increases at both wholesale and retail levels. At the wholesale level, dry bean prices generally declined. Army Green beans fell by 2%, while Rosecoco and Wairimu beans each declined by 4%. Black beans, Green Yellow, Mwitemania, and Nyayo beans also recorded modest declines ranging between 1% and 4%. At the retail level, prices for Black beans, Mwitemania, Saitoti, and Wairimu remained largely stable. However, Green Yellow beans declined by 1%, while Rosecoco beans recorded a larger decrease of 6%. Dry maize prices remained stable at the retail level, although wholesale prices increased by 9%. Irish potato prices were stable in retail markets, while wholesale prices declined slightly by 4%. Wheat prices declined at both market levels, falling by 9% in retail and 6% in wholesale markets. Most available rice varieties also recorded price declines, with wholesale prices falling by between 7% and 9% and retail prices declining within a range of 5% to 9%. Overall, Nairobi experienced a divergence in food price trends. Prices for maize, beans, and Irish potatoes remained relatively stable, while rice and wheat prices declined. These movements were influenced by government interventions such as subsidies and imports, as well as market dynamics, particularly increased supply of rice and wheat. At the same time, demand for staples such as Irish potatoes remained high during the festive season and the early school term. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, inflation eased marginally to 4.4% in January 2026, although staple food prices remained elevated compared to the same period in the previous year.

Between week one and week four, wholesale and retail food prices in Nakuru remained largely stable for most commodities, with only a few notable exceptions. At the wholesale level, prices for most dry bean varieties remained steady, although some recorded declines. Army Green beans declined by 1%, Mwitemania by 10%, and Wairimu by 4%. A similar pattern was observed in retail markets, where most dry bean prices remained stable, while Mwitemania and Wairimu recorded declines of 7% and 6% respectively. Dry maize prices increased markedly over the period, rising by 15% at the wholesale level and by 8% at the retail level. Irish potato prices also recorded slight increases, with wholesale prices rising by 1% and retail prices increasing by 3%. Wheat prices remained stable at both wholesale and retail levels. Most available rice varieties also maintained stable prices, although some recorded modest declines ranging between 2% and 11%. Overall, Nakuru experienced price stability for beans, wheat, and rice, supported by consistent local supply, ongoing harvest availability, and relatively stable import flows. In contrast, maize prices rose sharply due to heightened competition between the National Cereals and Produce Board and millers, alongside tightening market supplies. Irish potato prices increased slightly as a result of strong demand and the perishable nature of the crop, despite seasonal availability, as noted by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Between week one and week four, wholesale and retail food prices in Nyeri remained largely stable, supported by consistent supply from local producers and neighbouring regions, balanced demand, and minimal market disruptions. At the wholesale level, most available dry bean varieties maintained stable prices, although Wairimu, Rosecoco, Army Green, and Mwitemania recorded modest declines ranging between 0.5% and 3%. Dry maize and all available rice varieties also recorded stable wholesale prices, while Shangi Irish potatoes and dry wheat posted slight price declines of 1% and 0.93% respectively. At the retail level, prices for all dry bean varieties, dry maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, rice, and wheat remained steady throughout the period. This stability reflects adequate stock levels in local markets and relatively consistent consumer demand. Overall, staple food prices in Nyeri and surrounding markets showed a combination of stability and slight declines, largely driven by improved supply from consistent harvests. This trend persisted despite broader national inflationary pressures. While some commodities, such as Irish potatoes, experienced price volatility in other regions, key staples in Nyeri benefited from strong regional availability and imports, helping to stabilize prices even amid overall inflation.

Comparison of National Average Prices between December and January

comparison of national average prices between December 2025 and January 2026 indicates that both wholesale and retail prices for most commodities remained largely stable, with only a few recording modest increases or declines. Price movements were generally limited, with fluctuations ranging between −3% and 3%. This stability was largely supported by consistent supply from key domestic production areas, alongside steady imports from neighbouring East African countries and international markets.

Table 2: Comparison of December and January prices

	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)			Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		
Variety	Dec-25	Jan-26	Percentage change	Dec-25	Jan-26	Percentage change
White maize	38	40	5%	55	58	5%
Army green	130	131	1%	169	178	5%
Black beans (Njahi)	117	115	-2%	158	155	-2%
Butter beans	135	135	0%	175	175	0%
Green/yellow	134	133	-1%	166	169	2%
Mixed beans	73	75	3%	106	95	-12%
Mwezi moja	111	111	0%	150	150	0%
Mwitemania	100	100	0%	131	135	3%
Nyayo	109	117	7%	146	143	-2%
Nyota beans	110	105	-5%	150	150	0%
Red kidney	140	140	0%	180	180	0%
Rosecoco	112	118	5%	159	158	-1%
Saitoti	118	117	-1%	139	140	1%
Wairimu	88	93	5%	122	124	2%
Yellow	139	123	-13%	162	145	-12%
Shangi	45	54	17%	54	62	13%
Ahero	156	136	-15%	170	150	-13%
Alnab	210	210	0%	250	250	0%
Basmati	131	159	18%	145	168	14%
Biriani	115	107	-7%	139	132	-5%
Falcon	89	89	0%	120	120	0%
Family rice	140	140	0%	178	161	-11%
Fatma rice	166	166	0%	177	205	14%
Fzami	138	138	0%	158	180	12%
Kangore	97	94	-3%	120	120	0%
Kapunga	98	98	0%	120	120	0%
Mara 777	154	152	-1%	194	216	10%
Pakistan	84	96	13%	114	120	5%
Pishori grade 1	162	162	0%	195	195	0%
Pishori grade 2	162	147	-10%	200	190	-5%
Sana	125	123	-2%	170	169	-1%
Sindano	155	145	-7%	185	179	-3%
Sunrice	140	138	-1%	180	202	11%
Tamtam	120	120	0%	149	159	6%
Yabal	137	137	0%	170	170	0%
Zamin	138	138	0%	178	200	11%
Wheat	65	75	13%	90	104	13%
		<=3 but >-3	Stable			
		>-3 but <-15	Decrease			
		>3 but <18	increase			

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of January 2026

Outlook for the Month of February

In February, commodity prices for dry maize, beans, rice, Irish potatoes, and dry wheat are expected to be shaped by seasonal supply patterns, market demand, transportation costs, and the continued role of imports.

- Dry maize: Prices are expected to remain firm, with the likelihood of slight increases. Tightening supplies, strong demand from millers, and competition between public and private buyers are likely to sustain upward pressure, although localized inflows may help moderate sharp price spikes.
- Dry beans: Most dry bean varieties are expected to maintain stable prices, supported by adequate regional supply and cross-border inflows. However, selected varieties may experience marginal price increases as demand remains strong and market stocks gradually tighten.
- Rice: Rice prices are expected to remain largely stable, supported by steady imports and consistent local production. Imported rice will continue to dominate the market, helping to cushion prices against short-term volatility.
- Irish potatoes: Prices are likely to remain elevated or increase slightly due to strong demand, seasonal production constraints, and the perishable nature of the crop. These factors may contribute to continued price pressure, particularly in urban markets.
- Dry wheat: Wheat prices are expected to remain relatively stable, supported by existing stocks and steady import volumes. However, any disruptions in global supply chains or increases in import costs could introduce mild upward pressure.
- Overall, February price trends are expected to reflect a mix of stability and moderate upward pressure. Beans and rice are likely to remain relatively stable, maize and Irish potatoes may face continued price pressure, and wheat prices are expected to remain steady with limited short-term fluctuations.

FOCUS ON MOMBASA REGION

Mombasa serves as a major commercial and tourism hub and hosts Kilindini Harbour, the largest and most important seaport in East Africa. The port plays a central role in Kenya's import and export trade and serves neighbouring countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and South Sudan.

Food commodity prices in the region are primarily monitored at Kongowea Market, the largest wholesale market in East and Central Africa. Kongowea is the main supply hub for Mombasa's retail markets and serves surrounding sub-counties as well as other counties across the Coast region. The market operates daily from around 4:00 a.m. and consists of both wholesale and retail sections, offering a wide range of agricultural commodities. While it functions mainly as a wholesale market, its retail segment makes it a key source of fresh produce for urban consumers. Kongowea Market is managed by the Mombasa County Government, with traders paying daily market levies. Most traders are Kenyan, although some maintain active trade linkages with counterparts in Uganda and Tanzania.

Mombasa sources dry beans largely from western and Rift Valley counties, including Busia along the Kenya–Uganda border, Kitale, Nyandarua, Narok, Meru, Taita Taveta, and Loitoktok, with additional inflows from Uganda. Rice supplies originate mainly from the Mwea and Bura irrigation schemes, supplemented by imports through the port from Tanzania and major international exporters such as Pakistan, India, and China. Irish potatoes are sourced primarily from Nakuru County, especially Molo and Mau Narok, and from Nyandarua County, including Kinare and Ol-Kalau, with some supplies coming from Uganda. Wheat is mainly supplied from the Rift Valley counties of Narok, Uasin Gishu, and Nakuru, alongside imports from Uganda.

In January 2026, commodity prices in Mombasa showed a mix of stability and declines, with most food items recording downward price movements between week one and week four. These trends were largely influenced by steady inflows of food commodities from local production areas, surplus-producing counties, and neighbouring East African countries, as well as continued availability of imported staples through the port.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Mombasa Region

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/kg)				Average Retail price (KES/kg)				Total average w/sale price (KES/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	
Dry beans	Army green	155	155	155	155	200	200	200	200	155
	Black beans (Njahi)	96	104	96	108	133	133	133	133	101
	Green/yellow	148	141	149	148	156	156	157	156	147
	Mixed beans	75	75	75	75	100	100	100	100	75
	Mwitemania	80	80	80	80	119	125	128	119	80
	Nyayo	94	94	91	94	114	125	96	100	94
	Rosecoco	77	77	77	77	150	150	150	150	77
	Saitoti	100	100	100	100	104	126	103	111	100
	Wairimu	100	100	100	100	102	113	119	113	100
	Yellow	120	120	120	120	160	160	160	160	120
Dry maize	White maize	34	36	36	36	68	75	69	62	35
Irish potatoes	Shangi	60	61	64	64	73	78	86	94	62
Rice	Basmati	140	140	140	140	252	227	230	195	140
	Biriani	104	106	102	101	113	110	108	106	103
	Mara 777	160	160	160	160	257	258	268	283	160
	Pishori grade 1	150	155	158	154	173	173	174	178	154
	Sindano	156	156	156	156	188	178	180	179	156
Wheat	Wheat	78	78	78	78	95	98	93	100	78

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of January 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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