

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

- ▶ Price variations between wholesale and retail markets were influenced by high transaction costs, intermediary margins, and fragmented market linkages.
- ▶ Dry beans prices reflected typical market dynamics, where supply concentration, transport costs, and proximity to production areas strongly influenced price levels.
- ▶ Maize prices were higher in Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Mombasa due to transport costs, supply chain constraints, and strong demand in deficit markets, while lower prices in Eldoret and parts of Nairobi were supported by better local harvests and higher nearby supply.
- ▶ Irish potato prices varied significantly across regions, with higher prices in Kisumu, Nakuru, and Mombasa driven by perishability, transport costs, and seasonal supply constraints, while lower prices in Eldoret, Nairobi, and Nyeri reflected proximity to production zones.
- ▶ Pishori rice prices were elevated in Eldoret and Nairobi due to low domestic production, high transport costs, strong urban demand, and reliance on imports, compounded by import-related regulatory challenges.
- ▶ Wheat prices remained high in Eldoret and Kisumu due to lean season supply shortages, high production and transport costs, and sustained strong demand.

Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for March

In March 2026, Figure 1 shows the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat across major Kenyan markets. Price differentials ranged from 15% to 25% for several commodities, including dry beans (butter, mixed, Saitoti) and most rice varieties (Alnab, Biriani, Family, Kapunga, Pakistan, Pishori 1, and Yabal). Higher differentials of 26% to 36% were observed for most dry bean varieties (Army Green, Black, Green Yellow, Mwezi Moja, Nyayo, Red Kidney, Wairimu, Yellow), Shangi Irish potatoes, and some rice varieties (Basmati, Falcon, Kangore, Pishori grade 2, and Sana). Differentials between 37% and 45% were recorded for white maize, Mwitemania, Rosecoco, Ahero rice, Fzami, Mara 777, and Zamin. Yellow

maize, Nyota beans, Fatma, Tamtam, and dry wheat exhibited the highest differentials, ranging from 46% to 66%.

These patterns point to significant inefficiencies in price transmission between wholesale and retail markets, likely driven by high transaction costs, intermediary margins, and spatial market fragmentation. Supporting evidence is consistent with these findings. Food inflation remained elevated on an annual basis, while monthly changes were relatively modest, suggesting that price pressures were concentrated in specific commodities rather than across the entire food basket (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, March 2026). Seasonal dry conditions constrained supply, while rising energy costs increased processing and storage expenses. In addition, the role of intermediaries and weak market integration contributed to wide marketing margins, particularly in major urban centers.

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



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of March 2026

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Bean varieties exhibited both widespread and region-specific distribution patterns. Army Green, Green Yellow, Mwitmania, Rosecoco, and Wairimu were consistently available across all selected regions. In contrast, certain varieties were location-specific, such as Butter beans and Red Kidney in Nakuru, and Nyota and Mwezi Moja in Eldoret. Other varieties showed partial regional presence: Njahi and Saitoti were available in most regions except Kisumu, while Nyayo was present in all regions except Nyeri. Eldoret, Nyeri, and Nakuru recorded the widest diversity of bean varieties, reinforcing their role as key production hubs. Correspondingly, lower wholesale and retail bean prices were observed in these areas, reflecting strong local supply. In contrast, higher prices prevailed in Nairobi and Kisumu, where demand is high and markets rely more heavily on inflows from other regions. Elevated transport costs and urban demand pressures further contributed to higher prices in these consumption centers. Overall, the observed price patterns reflect typical market dynamics, where supply concentration, transport costs, and proximity to production zones are key determinants of price levels.

Dry white maize was available across all regions. At the national level, the average wholesale price was about 44 KES/kg, while the average retail price stood at 64 KES/kg. Wholesale prices were relatively higher in Kisumu, Nakuru, and Nyeri, recorded at 46 KES/kg, 47 KES/kg, and 50 KES/kg, respectively. On the retail side, prices reached 69 KES/kg in Kisumu, 90 KES/kg in Nakuru, and 66 KES/kg in Mombasa. Higher maize prices in Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Mombasa reflect transport costs, supply chain constraints, and strong demand in these largely non-producing or deficit markets. In contrast, lower prices in Eldoret and parts of Nairobi were supported by improved local harvests, relatively weaker demand, and increased supply from nearby producing areas.

Irish potatoes recorded higher wholesale prices in Kisumu and Mombasa, at 63 KES/kg and 55 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 52 KES/kg. On the retail side, prices were also elevated in Nakuru (90 KES/kg) and Kisumu (75 KES/kg), relative to the national average of 66 KES/kg. Overall, Irish potato prices showed notable regional variation. Higher prices in Kisumu, Nakuru, and Mombasa contrasted with lower levels in Eldoret, Nairobi, and Nyeri. This pattern reflects the combined effects of inflationary pressures, seasonal supply constraints, transport costs, and differences in proximity to key production zones.

All regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice. Sindano rice was available in most areas except Nairobi and Kisumu, while Basmati rice was not found in Nakuru. Certain regions recorded higher prices for specific varieties. In Eldoret and Nairobi, both wholesale and retail prices for Pishori rice exceeded the national averages of 160 KES/kg for wholesale and 192 KES/kg for retail. In Eldoret, Pishori grade 1 reached 180 KES/kg at wholesale and 259 KES/kg at retail. The elevated Pishori rice prices in Eldoret and Nairobi in March 2026 were driven by low domestic production, high transport costs, strong urban demand, and reliance on imports, which were further complicated by a legal dispute over duty-free rice imports.

Wheat wholesale and retail prices were higher in Eldoret and Kisumu, with wholesale prices reaching 78 KES/kg and 95 KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average of 72 KES/kg. Retail prices were 108 KES/kg in Eldoret and 175 KES/kg in Kisumu, surpassing the national average of 105 KES/kg. In contrast, most other regions recorded lower prices due to increased supply from major wheat-producing areas. Dry wheat prices in Eldoret and Kisumu in March 2026 remained elevated due to tight supply during the January–March lean season, high production costs including fuel and transportation, and strong demand. Despite a projected bumper harvest in 2026, which is expected to increase output by 27%, reliance on imports for up to 92% of national consumption and localized high prices delayed the impact on market prices (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, 2026).

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

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)
		Eldo ret	Kisu mu	Momb asa	Nair obi	Nak uru	Ny eri	Eldo ret	Kisu mu	Momb asa	Nair obi	Nak uru	Ny eri		
Dry beans	Army green	103	137	155	161	120	98	160	187	200	180	160	132	129	170
	Black beans (Njahi)	160		111	160	85	87	200		133	177	150	120	121	156
	Butter beans					125						155		125	155
	Green/yellow	106	142	149	158	119	120	170	185	158	175	160	160	133	168
	Mixed beans	70		75		72	86	90		100		100	90	76	95
	Mwezi moja	111						150						111	150
	Mwitamania	104	108	80	153	99	83	150	160	133	170	150	100	104	144
	Nyayo	96	133	94	155	100		140	172	117	170	150		116	150
	Nyota beans	103						150						103	150
	Red kidney					138						177		138	177
	Rosecoco	116	132	77	159	119	100	160	178	150	177	160	140	117	161
	Saltoti	102		100	154	120		140		122	170	150		119	146
Dry maize	Wairimu	79	125	100	99	80	96	120	182	121	117	120	120	97	130
	Yellow	105		120		90	96	150		158		120	130	103	140
Irish potatoes	White maize	45	46	36	44	47	50	60	69	66	58	70	60	44	64
	Yellow maize		49				52		93				70	50	82
Rice	Shangi	54	63	55	44	50	45	64	75	66	50	90	50	52	66
	Ahero		115						161					115	161
	Alnab					200						230		200	230
	Basmati	152	229	140	134		126	220	291	183	160		160	156	203
	Biriani	106	167	103	106	96	96	150	183	111	127	150	120	112	140
	Falcon	89						120						89	120
	Family rice			140						163				140	163
	Fatma rice	168		164				280		272				166	276
	Fzami	138						200						138	200
	Kangore						90						120	90	120
	Kapunga						96						120	96	120
	Mara 777			160		138				269		160		149	215
	Pakistan						96						120	96	120
	Pishori grade 1	180		153	175	160	136	250		181	190	180	170	160	192
	Pishori grade 2	144	146					200	193					145	197
	Sana	148				129	100	220				160	130	126	170
	Sindano	153		156		135	138	203		190		170	160	146	181
	Sunrice		139	140					152	178				140	165
	Tamtam			120						181				120	181
	Yabal					139						170		139	170
	Zamin	138						200						138	200
Wheat	Wheat	78	95	78	69	60	60	108	175	107	87	100	70	72	105

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of March 2026

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

Between the first week and the subsequent period (weeks two to four), food prices exhibited notable regional variation. In the Eldoret market, most commodities showed either stability or declines at both wholesale and retail levels. At the wholesale level, prices for most commodities remained stable or decreased. Most dry bean varieties recorded declines ranging from 3% to 12%. Black beans (Njahi), Mixed beans and Mwezi Moja beans maintained stable prices, while Rosecoco beans registered a modest increase of 3%. At the retail level, all available dry bean varieties remained stable. Dry maize prices increased by 12% at wholesale level but remained stable at retail. Shangi Irish potatoes recorded retail price increases of 16% and 7%. All available rice varieties maintained stable prices at both wholesale and retail levels. Dry wheat prices remained stable at wholesale level but recorded a significant 20% increase in retail. The relative stability in dry bean and rice prices in Eldoret is attributed to consistent supply and sustained import volumes. In contrast, the increase in Shangi Irish potato prices is driven by reduced supply due to poor rainfall, alongside elevated demand and higher transaction costs.

A comparison of commodity prices in Kisumu between week 1 and week 4 shows an overall decline in wholesale prices for most commodities and a mixed pattern at retail level, with more items declining but a few recording increases. At wholesale level, most dry bean varieties declined by 0.3% to 7%, except Mwitemia, which increased by 10%. At retail level, most dry beans increased by 4% to 11%, with Wairimu beans declining by 5%. Dry maize recorded a 23% decline in wholesale prices while retail prices remained stable. Shangi Irish potatoes increased by 24% at wholesale and 2% at retail levels. All rice varieties recorded declines in both wholesale (3%–18%) and retail prices (11%–27%). Notably, no wheat was available in Kisumu during March. Overall, declining bean and rice prices are linked to steady regional supply and increased cross-border imports from Tanzania and Uganda, alongside a shift in demand toward cheaper staples, while rising potato prices reflect reduced supply due to poor rainfall, low yields, pests and diseases, higher production costs, and intermediary mark-ups. A notable observation was that wheat was largely unavailable during the four-week period, appearing only intermittently. This shortage is attributed to drought-induced production shortfalls, elevated import costs, and the reallocation of limited supplies to alternative uses such as livestock feed.

In the Mombasa region, commodity prices exhibited a mixed pattern of stability, declines, and increases across key food

items. At the wholesale level, most dry bean varieties remained stable, with Black beans increasing by 12% and Nyayo beans declining slightly by 0.8%. Retail prices for dry beans also showed a combination of stability, increases,

FOCUS ON MAIZE ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Irish potatoes remain a central component of Kenya's food system and cash crop economy. Key production counties include Nyandarua, Nakuru, Meru, Elgeyo Marakwet, Bomet, and Narok, which account for a substantial share of national output.

As the second most important staple after maize, Irish potatoes play a significant role in food security, household nutrition, and rural incomes. National production is estimated at 2 to 3 million metric tons annually and is largely concentrated in highland regions. However, supply often lags demand due to population growth, urbanization, and shifting consumption patterns.

Potatoes are widely consumed across Kenyan households and food service outlets, prepared in multiple forms including boiling, mashing, roasting, and frying. They are also integral to traditional dishes such as mukimo. Urban centers including Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and Nakuru serve as major demand hubs, supported by households, restaurants, and fast-food outlets. To bridge supply gaps, particularly during seasonal shortfalls, Kenya supplements domestic production with imports from neighboring countries such as Tanzania and Uganda.

In March 2026, Irish potatoes were widely available across the selected regions. Wholesale prices in Kisumu and Mombasa exceeded the national average of 52 KES per kg, while retail prices in Kisumu and Nakuru were above the national average of 66 KES per kg. These elevated prices reflect the combined effects of seasonal supply constraints, transport costs, inflationary pressures, and distance from major production zones.

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

Average wholesale price (KES/kg)						Total average wholesale price (KES/kg)
Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	
54	63	55	44	50	45	52
Average retail price (KES/kg)						Total average retail price (KES/kg)
Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	
64	75	66	50	90	50	66

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

and declines. Dry maize recorded a 3% increase at wholesale level but a 17% decline at retail level. Shangi Irish potatoes registered increases of 8% at wholesale and 21% at retail levels. Rice varieties were largely stable at wholesale level, with mixed movements at retail level. Dry wheat remained stable at wholesale level but increased by 11% at retail level. Overall, the observed price dynamics in March 2026 reflect the influence of high transportation costs and strong demand pressures for some commodities, alongside supply gluts and weak farm-gate prices for staples such as maize and beans. The rise in potato prices is associated with sustained demand, while fluctuations in

grain prices are linked to early rainfall patterns and varying input costs.

In Nairobi, a comparison of commodity prices between week 1 and week 4 shows that most food commodities exhibited a mix of stability and declines at both wholesale and retail levels. At the wholesale level, dry bean prices showed mixed trends, including declines, stability, and some increases, while at retail level prices were largely stable or declined, ranging between 6% and 8%. Dry maize prices increased by 9% at wholesale level but declined by 8% at retail level. Shangi Irish potatoes declined by 4% at wholesale and 1% at retail. Dry wheat prices declined by 6% at wholesale level but increased by 13% at retail. Available rice varieties recorded wholesale price declines of between 5% and 9%, while at retail level, Basmati and Pishori rice remained stable and Biriani rice increased by 8%. Overall, food price trends were largely shaped by supply dynamics and policy interventions. A good maize harvest contributed to declining prices in some areas, driving reductions in Nairobi markets, although this negatively affected farmers. Dry bean prices remained relatively stable in urban centers due to regional trade flows and early harvests, despite localized increases. Irish potato prices declined, supported by improved supply chains and early long rains harvests, which eased previous inflationary pressures. Dry wheat prices remained stable due to controlled imports under government quotas and new grading regulations. Additionally, government measures such as reduced maize seed prices and continued fertilizer subsidies contributed to lower production costs and improved expectations for future supply stability.

In Nakuru, a comparison of commodity prices between week 1 and week 4 indicates that most food commodities remained stable, with a few registering modest increases and declines. At the wholesale level, most dry bean varieties maintained stable prices, while Army Green, Mwitemania, and Wairimu recorded increases of 1%, 10%, and 4% respectively, and Nyayo declined by 3%. Dry maize increased slightly by 1%, wheat prices remained unchanged, and rice prices declined by between 2% and 10%. At the retail level, dry bean prices were largely stable, except for Red Kidney beans, which declined by 6%. Dry maize, Shangi Irish potatoes, dry wheat, and all available rice varieties recorded stable retail prices.

Overall, food price stability was supported by favorable production conditions and policy interventions. Strong crop

performance for maize and beans helped maintain adequate supply, while consistent and well-distributed rainfall in Nakuru supported agricultural production, particularly for Irish potatoes and other staples. Additionally, the government's introduction of a KES 2 billion maize subsidy in March 2026 helped contain inflationary pressures. Stable global grain markets and steady import flows further contributed to price stability for key staples such as rice and wheat, preventing sharp price increases despite earlier concerns (ReliefWeb, 2026).

A comparison of commodity prices in Nyeri between week 1 and week 4 indicates a general pattern of stability and mild declines. At the wholesale level, most dry bean varieties remained stable, except for Army Green, Mwitemania, Rosecoco, and Wairimu, which recorded slight declines ranging from 1% to 3%. Dry maize and all available rice varieties remained unchanged, while Irish potatoes and dry wheat declined marginally by 1%. At the retail level, prices for most dry bean varieties were stable, except for Army Green, which increased slightly by 5%. Shangi Irish potatoes also recorded a 3% increase, while dry maize and all available rice varieties remained unchanged. Overall, these price trends reflect improved local supply, seasonal availability, and relative market saturation. Increased inflows from neighbouring regions, coupled with reduced demand pressures, contributed to stable and moderate prices for key staples.

Comparison of National Average Prices between February and March

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 February and March prices

	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)			Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		
Variety	Feb-26	Mar-26	Percentage change	Feb-26	Mar-26	Percentage change
White maize	43	44	2%	63	64	2%
Amoy green	130	129	-1%	169	170	1%
Black beans (Njahi)	121	121	0%	157	156	-1%
Butter beans	132	125	-6%	166	155	-8%
Green/yellow	133	133	0%	166	168	0%
Mixed beans	75	76	1%	95	95	0%
Mwezi moja	111	111	0%	150	150	0%
Mwittemania	103	104	1%	143	144	1%
Nyayo	116	116	0%	149	150	1%
Nyola beans	103	103	0%	136	150	8%
Red kidney	140	138	-1%	175	177	1%
Rosecoco	117	117	0%	152	161	6%
Saltoli	117	119	2%	143	146	2%
Walimu	96	97	1%	130	130	0%
Yellow	103	103	0%	140	140	0%
Shangi	52	52	0%	66	66	0%
Ahero	107	115	7%	140	161	13%
Ainab	202	200	-1%	234	230	-2%
Basmati	153	156	4%	200	203	1%
Biriani	113	112	-1%	142	140	-1%
Falcon	89	89	0%	120	120	0%
Family rice	140	140	0%	171	163	-5%
Fatma rice	166	166	0%	197	237	17%
Fzami	138	138	0%	170	200	15%
Kangara	90	90	0%	120	120	0%
Kapunga	98	96	0%	120	120	0%
Mara 777	149	149	0%	164	215	14%
Pakistan	96	96	0%	120	120	0%
Pishori grade 1	159	160	1%	194	192	-1%
Pishori grade 2	147	145	-1%	178	197	10%
Sana	124	126	2%	163	170	4%
Sindano	145	146	1%	179	181	1%
Sunrice	136	140	3%	170	165	-3%
Tambam	120	120	0%	156	181	13%
Yabai	137	139	1%	170	170	0%
Zamin	138	138	0%	166	200	16%
Wheat	74	72	-3%	109	105	-4%
		<=4 but >4	Stable			
		>4 but <=10	Decrease			
		>3 but <17	Increase			

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of March 2026

Outlook for the Month of April

In April 2026, commodity prices for dry maize, beans, rice, Irish potatoes, and dry wheat are expected to be shaped by seasonal supply conditions, market demand dynamics, transport costs, and continued reliance on both domestic supply and imports.

- ▶ **Dry maize:** Prices are expected to remain generally stable with a slight downward bias in some markets, supported by improved availability from recent harvests and existing household and trader stocks. However, localized upward pressure may persist in deficit areas where inflows are delayed or demand from millers remains strong.
- ▶ **Dry beans:** Most dry bean varieties are expected to remain stable, supported by steady regional supply and cross-border inflows. Nevertheless, selected markets may experience small increases where demand is firm and stocks are relatively tight, particularly for preferred varieties.
- ▶ **Rice:** Rice prices are expected to remain largely stable, underpinned by consistent import flows and adequate market supply. Short-term fluctuations may occur depending on import timing and exchange rate movements, but no significant upward price shocks are anticipated.
- ▶ **Irish potatoes:** Prices are likely to show mild upward pressure in some markets due to seasonal supply adjustments, post-harvest flow constraints, and relatively high transport and handling costs. However, ongoing market arrivals from producing regions should help moderate sharp increases.
- ▶ **Dry wheat:** Wheat prices are expected to remain stable, supported by sustained imports and adequate stock levels. Government import controls and steady international supply conditions are likely to limit major price movements, although global logistics costs remain a potential risk factor.
- ▶ **Overall, April 2026 price trends** are expected to reflect broad stability across most staples, with minor seasonal and localized fluctuations. Maize may show slight softening, beans and rice are likely to remain stable, while Irish potatoes may experience modest upward pressure and wheat is expected to remain steady.

FOCUS ON KISUMU REGION

Kisumu is situated in western Kenya along the shores of Lake Victoria and ranks as the country's third largest city after Nairobi and Mombasa. Within the Lake Victoria Basin, it is the third largest urban center after Mwanza and Kampala.

Despite its role as a major commercial hub, Kisumu continues to experience food insecurity and relatively low agricultural productivity. However, its geographic positioning provides strong potential for both agriculture and aquaculture. The Kano Plains support extensive irrigated rice cultivation. Areas along the northern and eastern fringes of the plains such as Kibos, Miwani, and Chemelil are recognized for high output sugarcane farming. The county is also an important supplier of fresh produce, including vegetables, poultry, beans, sweet potatoes, and maize.

Kibuye Market stands out as one of the primary commercial centers in the region and ranks among the largest open-air markets in Eastern and Central Africa. It functions as a central node for commodity distribution and price monitoring across Kisumu's sub counties and the broader Nyanza region. Operating under the Kisumu County Government, the market facilitates both wholesale and retail trade, opening as early as 4:00 a.m., with peak activity typically observed over weekends.

The market sources food commodities from a wide geographic area. Dry maize is supplied from Trans Nzoia, Busia along the Kenya Uganda border, Uasin Gishu, and Nandi. Irish potatoes are transported from Narok, Molo in Nakuru County, and Elgeyo Marakwet, while dry beans originate from Western Kenya and Uganda. Wheat is channeled through Laikipia and Meru, and rice is sourced from Ahero and Mwea irrigation schemes, Busia, Sirare on the Kenya Tanzania border, and international suppliers such as Pakistan.

Over a four-week observation period, wholesale prices for most food commodities in Kisumu showed a downward trend, indicating stable and consistent supply from both local and neighboring production zones. In contrast, Irish potato prices increased, largely due to their perishability and sustained market demand.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Kisumu Region

Product	Variety	Average wholesale price (KSh/kg)				Total average wholesale price (KSh/kg)	Total average retail price (KSh/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Arara green	144	136	136	134	137	187
	Green/yellow	149	146	144	133	142	185
	Mwittemania	103	101	99	123	108	160
	Nyayo	133	133	133	133	133	172
	Roseco	133	135	129	133	132	178
Dry maize	Wairimu	127	123	123	126	125	162
	White maize	48	46	45	44	46	69
Irish potatoes	Yellow maize	51	49	48	48	49	93
	Rhago	62	63	68	67	65	75
Rice	Ahero	117	121	120	106	115	161
	Basmati	270	243	210	203	229	291
	Burien	177	176	165	153	167	183
	Phahori grade 2	154	151	146	137	146	193
	Surrice	140	140	140	138	139	152
Wheat	Wheat	109	96	83	85	95	175

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of March 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 Kenya¹.

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.

REFERENCES

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics. (2026). *Consumer Price Indices and Inflation Rates, March 2026*. Nairobi: KNBS.

ReliefWeb (2026). Kenya food security and market updates. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/food-price-monitoring-and-analysis-fpma-bulletin-2-12-march-2026> . Accessed March 2026

About the authors

Ruth T Chepchirchir: African Research and Economic Development Consultants Limited (AFREDEC), Nairobi,
Kenya
Maina B.J.K: African Research and Economic Development Consultants Limited (AFREDEC), Nairobi,
Kenya

INTERNATIONAL FOOD POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A world free of hunger and malnutrition

IFPRI is a CGIAR Research Center

1201 Eye Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA | T. +1-202-862-5600 | F. +1-202-862-5606 | Email: ifpri@cgiar.org | www.ifpri.org | www.ifpri.info

© 2026 International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). This publication is licensed for use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0). To view this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>.