



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

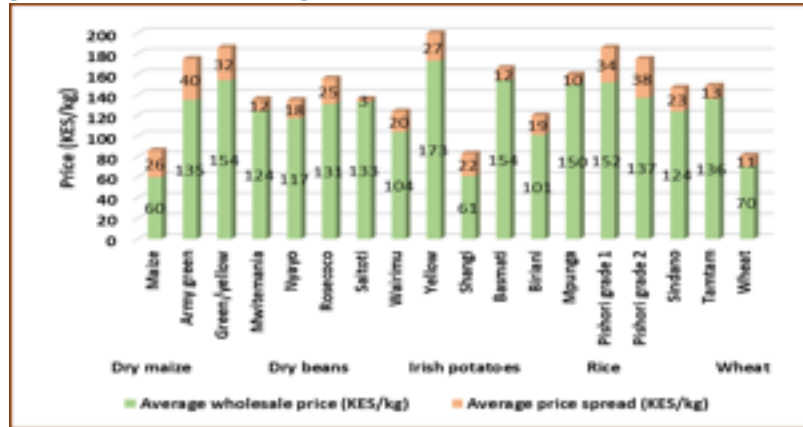
- ▶ Variances in wholesale and retail price margins was largely attributed to a combination of factors, including seasonality, production source, transport costs, repackaging costs, festive season activities and the existence of middlemen and produce brokers
- ▶ Higher price margins on maize could be as a result of high demand and low productivity due to poor temporal distribution of rainfall during the long rains
- ▶ High price margins for Irish potatoes resulted from supply and demand factors in markets, costs of farm inputs, delayed rains hence low production in the major potato producing regions, and festive season demand.
- ▶ High rice prices can be attributed to low productivity, reliance on imports, increased demand during the festive season, transport cost and existence of many middlemen and producer brokers

## Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for December

Average wholesale and retail prices for maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat in major Kenyan markets in December 2022 are illustrated in Figure 1. Most commodities recorded price margins of between 15% and 19%; these included some dry beans varieties [Nyayo (15%), Rosecoco (19%), Wairimu (19%), and Yellow beans (16%)], some rice varieties [Biriani (19%), and Sindano (19%)] and wheat (16%). Some commodities that recorded price margins of between 2% and 10% comprised Mwitmania beans (10%), Saitoti beans (2%), and some rice varieties including; Basmati (8%), Mpunga (7%), and TamTam (10%). A few commodities showed price margins of between 21% and 30%, specifically Army green beans (30%), green yellow beans (21%), Pishori grade 1 rice (22%), and Pishori grade 2 (28%). Lastly, several commodities recorded significantly higher price margins of between 36% and 43%. These included dry maize (53%) and Irish potatoes (36%).

The observed variances in wholesale and retail price margins can be largely attributed to a combination of factors, including seasonality, production source, transport costs, repackaging costs, and the existence of middlemen and produce brokers. Additionally, the higher price margins on maize could be as a result of high demand and low productivity. Despite maize being on season during the month of December, low supply of commodity is due to poor temporal distribution of rainfall during the long rains hence below-average harvest (EAST AFRICA Maize Regional Supply and Market Outlook November 2022). High price margins for Irish potatoes is as a result of supply and demand factors in markets. High costs of farm inputs, especially fertilizers and pesticides and delayed rains have mainly been attributed to the prevailing low production in the major potato producing regions. Notably, potatoes are highly demanded as a special delicacy in form of chips or fries during the festive season hence increased prices.

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



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of December 2022

## Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Several varieties of dry beans were recorded across regions, but only green/yellow and Wairimu beans were common in all the selected regions (Table 1). Army green beans were only common in Nairobi and Nakuru regions. Nakuru region recorded most beans varieties in December apart from Saitoti bean variety which was common only in Mombasa region and Yellow beans which was only common in Eldoret region. As expected, all beans varieties recorded higher retail prices compared to wholesale prices. Green yellow beans showed higher wholesale prices in Eldoret, Kisumu and Mombasa regions compared to the national average wholesale price of 154 KES/kg and higher retail prices in Eldoret, Kisumu and Nyeri regions compared to the national average retail price of 186KES/kg. In Mombasa region, all beans varieties available to that region recorded higher wholesale prices compared to their respective national average prices with the exception of Saitoti beans. Similarly in Kisumu and Nyeri regions, all beans varieties recorded higher retail prices compared to their respective national average retail prices. Nakuru region recorded lower wholesale prices for all available beans varieties in the region compared to the national average wholesale prices whereas Nairobi region recorded lower retail prices for all available beans varieties in that region compared to the average retail prices. The observed variation in prices can be attributed to seasonality, transport costs, and disruptions in the supply chain. High wholesale and retail prices for green/yellow beans recorded in most regions is attributable to its higher demand during the festive season resulting from its preferred attributes which included easy to cook, delicious and do not cause intestinal gas when consumed.

Dry maize recorded higher wholesale and retail prices in Kisumu, and Nairobi compared to the national average wholesale and retail prices of 60 KES/kg and 86KES/kg respectively. Wholesale prices in Kisumu and Nairobi were

68KES/kg and 70KES/kg respectively while retail prices were 60KES/kg and 90KES/kg in that order. Maize prices have been going up sharply in recent months due to low local production caused by a persistent drought and high cost of inputs such as fertiliser and diesel (The Eastern Africa Report December, 2022)

Compared to the national average wholesale price of 61KES/kg, Irish potatoes recorded higher wholesale prices in Nairobi (97KES/kg) and Nyeri (64KES/kg). Similarly, Kisumu and Nairobi showed highly significant retail prices of 101KES/kg and 107KES/kg, respectively, compared to the national average retail price of 83KES/kg. Increased prices in the populous cities can be attributed to high demand and unavailability of the commodity due to its perishable nature. It is also as result of high demand of the commodity during the festive season because it is regarded as a special delicacy consumed by most people.

Pishori rice was common to all regions with most regions recording grade 1 while Kisumu recording grade 2 and Nairobi recording both grades of Pishori rice variety. Except for Nakuru region, all other regions showed higher wholesale and retail prices of Pishori rice compared to the national average wholesale (152KES/kg) and retail prices (186KES/kg). Different regions showed various rice varieties and Mombasa showed more rice varieties including Biriani, Mpunga, Pishori, Sindano and Tamtam rice compared to other regions. High rice prices can be attributed to low productivity due unfavorable weather for production leading to reliance on imports, increased demand during the festive season, transport cost and existence of many middlemen and producer brokers.

Dry wheat saw higher wholesale prices in Kisumu (90 KES/kg), Mombasa (75KES/kg) and Nairobi (77 KES/kg), as well as higher retail prices in Kisumu (113KES/kg), and Nairobi (100 KES/kg), compared to the national average wholesale and retail prices of 70 KES/kg and 81 KES/kg, respectively. Price for wheat is higher in non-producing regions and in the populous cities due to dependence on wheat imports as the demand for the cereal is increasing at

a rate faster as compared to domestic production. On average, Kenya produces only 14% of the domestic wheat consumption. This means the country imports close to two-

thirds (86%) of its required wheat and despite the duty levied on imports (KIPPRA, 2022).

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

Product	Variety	Average wholesale price (KES/kg)						Average retail price (KES/ kg)						Total average wholesale 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				143	126					171	178		135	175
	Green/yellow	173	158	169	142	132	150	200	222	179	173	154	187	154	186
	Mwitemanja			173		75				180		91		124	136
	Nyayo		114	127	116	111			160	131	130	120		117	135
	Rosecoco	148	112		128	126	146	158	170		151	131	171	131	156
	Saitoti			133						136				133	136
	Wairimu	108	99	110	102	100	108	120	150	120	121	100	131	104	124
Yellow	173						200						173	200	
Dry maize	Maize	51	63	62	70	56	66	55	160	70	90	64	80	60	86
Irish potatoes	Shangi	58	48	56	97	43	64	66	101	76	107	69	72	61	83
Rice	Basmati	120			137	220	140	131			154	224	154	154	166
	Biriani			101	97	104				117	121	120		101	120
	Mpunga			150						160				150	160
	Pishori grade 1	175		195	177	99	180	200		200	197	164	195	152	186
	Pishori grade 2	128	146					150	200					137	175
	Sindano	122		150		121	115	130		162		153	141	124	147
TamTam			136						149				136	149	
Wheat	Wheat	54	90	75	77	68		60	113	80	100	69	70	81	

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of December 2022

## Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

Differences in weekly prices were seen across regions between week 1 and weeks 2 through 4. In Eldoret most commodities showed stable wholesale and retail prices while a few recorded increased prices. Most dry beans (green yellow, Wairimu and yellow beans), maize, rice varieties (Basmati, Pishori and Basmati) and wheat showed stable wholesale and retail prices. Rosecoco beans recorded increased wholesale (6.3%) and retail prices (6.3%) while Irish potatoes recorded increased wholesale (7.5%) and retail prices (0.5%). Stable prices in the region is as a result of availability of the food commodities in the region and nearby regions due to seasonality. Increased process of Rosecoco beans and Irish potatoes is attributable to high demand of the commodities during the festive season which outweigh the supply coupled with increased transaction costs.

In Kisumu, commodities saw a mix of stable, reduction and increased prices when week 1 prices were compared to week 4. Most dry beans (Nyayo, Rosecoco and Wairimu) saw stable retail prices and reduction in wholesale prices. Maize recorded increased wholesale prices of 9% and significant increase in retail prices for Irish potatoes of 28%. Rice varieties available in the region during December (Pishori Grade 2) saw stable retail and wholesale prices across the weeks. Reduction and stable prices is attributable to availability of food commodities in the region and in the nearby regions. Increased prices of maize and Irish potatoes is attributable below average harvest in the producing regions, high demand, existence of middlemen, transaction and transport cost during the festive season.

In Mombasa, a comparison between week four and week one recorded mixed results, with different commodities seeing stable, increased, and reduced prices. Green/Yellow and Wairimu beans recorded stable wholesale and retail prices, Nyayo beans, Saitoti beans and Sindano rice recorded reduced wholesale prices of between 10% and 24% and retail prices of between 7% and 17%. Irish potatoes showed increased wholesale price of 0.9% and retail price of 0.7%. Stable and reduced prices of some commodities is as a result of availability of food commodities in the region and the neighboring producing counties. Increased prices of Irish potatoes is attributable low production resulting from increased cost of production especially fertilizers and fuel and high demand due to Christmas festivities.

The Nairobi region recorded mixed results for retail prices while wholesale prices showed reduction and slight increase in prices of some commodities when week 1 prices were compared to week 4. Dry beans including Army green,

## FOCUS ON BEANS ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Bean is a staple food crop in Kenya, which rates second after maize. The crop is grown in almost all regions in Kenya. However, Eastern, Nyanza, Central, Western and Rift valley are the major bean growing regions. A good number of local traders include beans on their shelves due to the local demand for all types of meals. Common dry bean is well suited to diverse environments and fit in various cropping systems owing to their wide adaptability, low input requirements, fast growth, nitrogen fixing and weed smothering ability.

Beans cultivation in Kenya is a lucrative business because beans are one of the plant sources of protein, they are consumed in large quantities and the demand for them is always high. Bean grow with very minimum care and adds Nitrogen to the soil. Production tends to be more intensive where human population density is high, although a significant proportion of production occurs in areas of moderately low populations. Sole crop, maize-bean, banana-beans and root or tuber crop-bean intercrops are important among the many bean cropping systems in Kenya and for which the crop's rapid maturity and shade tolerance make it particularly suitable. A wide range of bean varieties are grown in Kenya including; Rose Coco, Mwiternia, Wairimu, Mwezi Moja, Canadian W, and KK 15. Beans are a versatile legume that can be prepared in a variety of ways, including boiled, fried, or baked. Beans are grown for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is their nutritional and financial worth.

During December 2022, different bean varieties registered varying prices across selected regions. The most common bean varieties included green/yellow, Rosecoco, and Wairimu beans. Green/yellow beans showed higher wholesale and retail prices in most regions compared to the national average prices. Major Bean markets include schools, institutions, fast food restaurants hotels, and open markets; thus the ever rising increase in demand for the bean commodity that has maintained bean prices way above average.

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

Variety	Average wholesale price (KES/kg)						Average retail price (KES/kg)					
	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri
Army green				142	126					171	178	
Green/yellow	172	158	169	142	132	150	200	222	179	172	154	187
Mwiternia			172			75				180		81
Nyayo		114	127	116	111			160	121	130	120	
Rosecoco	148	112		128	126	146	158	170			151	171
Saitoti			133						136			
Wairimu	168	99	110	162	160	168	120	130	120	121	100	131
Yellow	172						280					

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of December 2022.

Nyayo, Rosecoco and Wairimu saw increase retail prices of between 5.6% and 23.5% and wholesale prices of between 7% and 23%. Commodities that saw increased retail prices included green yellow beans (6%), Irish potatoes (3%) and Basmati rice (7%), and the same commodities saw increased retail prices of 8%, 3.5% and 4.5% respectively. Maize, beans and wheat saw stable retail prices. Commodities which saw reduction and stable prices is an indication of availability of the commodities in the country and neighboring East Africa countries like Uganda and Tanzania. Whereas increase prices of some commodities is as a result of demand and supply forces coupled with festive season demands.

In Nakuru, most commodities recorded decline in wholesale and retail prices, these included most dry beans (Army green, green/yellow, and Rosecoco) which saw decline in wholesale prices of between 4% and 14% and retail prices of between 4% and 12%. Other commodities which saw decline in wholesale prices were maize (4%), Irish potatoes (18%), Pishori rice (5%) and wheat 4%. Commodities that saw stable wholesale and retail prices comprised Mwiternia beans, Nyayo beans, Wairimu beans, Biriani rice, and Basmati rice. Maize and Pishori grade 1 rice saw increased retail prices of 14% and 5% respectively. Nakuru region is a major producing region of most of the selected commodities and it is surrounded by major producing counties known for beans, Irish potatoes, and wheat for instance Narok, Nyandarua, and Laikipia counties. Increased prices of maize and Pishori grade 1 is attributable to low supply of maize and increased demand for rice a delicacy during the festive season.

A comparison between week four and week one prices in Nyeri town saw reduced and increased wholesale and retail prices of commodities. Commodities that saw reduced wholesale prices included Green/yellow beans (10%), Wairimu (9%), maize (2%), and Irish potatoes. Rice commodities included Basmati, Pishori and Sindano rice saw increased wholesale prices of between 0.5% and 20% and retail prices of between 4% and 10%. Decline in prices

of commodities in December is attributable to seasonality and availability of commodities in the region and neighboring counties while increased rice prices is as a result of high demand during the festive season.

## **Comparison of National Average Prices between November and December 2022**

A comparison of overall prices (national averages for all commodities) for November and December 2022 (Table 2) shows stable and decline in wholesale and retail prices for most selected commodities. Most commodities saw stable prices of 2% but less than -4%, a few showing decrease of prices between more than -5% and less than -10% in wholesale and retail prices. Food commodities that saw stable wholesale and retail prices included Mwiternia, Wairimu, and Yellow beans; maize, Basmati, Biriani, Mpunga, Pishori and Sindano rice. Stable and slight decline in prices between November and December 2022 is attributable to availability of food commodities in the country. Most cereals are harvested in the major producing regions after the long rains, for instance maize, rice and wheat are harvested between October and December while beans are harvested between September and October.

**Table 2: Comparison of November and December 2022 prices**

Product	Variety	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)		Percentage change	Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		Percentage change
		November	December		November	December	
Dry beans	Army green	154	135	-14%	179	175	-2%
	Green/yellow	162	154	-5%	189	186	-2%
	Mwitmania	124	124	0%	136	136	0%
	Nyayo	128	117	-9%	148	135	-10%
	Rosecoco	138	131	-5%	160	156	-3%
	Saitoti	139	133	-5%	140	136	-3%
	Wairimu	105	104	-1%	124	124	0%
Dry maize	Yellow	172	173	1%	198	200	1%
	Maize	61	60	-2%	84	86	2%
Irish potatoes	Shangi	69	61	-13%	90	83	-8%
Rice	Basmati	154	154	0%	166	166	0%
	Biriani	101	101	0%	118	120	2%
	Mpunga	150	150	0%	160	160	0%
	Pishori grade 1	157	152	-3%	186	186	0%
	Pishori grade 2	136	137	1%	175	175	0%
Wheat	Sindano	129	124	-4%	149	147	-1%
	Wheat	72	70	-3%	88	81	-9%

Key	
<2 but >-4	Stable
>-5 but <-10	Slight decrease
>-11 but >-15	Decrease

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month November and December 2022

## Outlook for the Month of January 2023

During the month of January 2023, the following changes are expected:

- The impact of COVID-19 in Kenya is currently ranked low and it seems to be no longer an issue as the economy is now fully open and there are no further restrictions to movement following the full reopening of the economy and lifting of travel restrictions. Despite that, and coupled with other factors such as currency depression, high inflation, the Russia-Ukraine war and the drought across the country which are perceived to continue impacting retail and wholesale markets (Khusoko,2023), the prices of food commodities are expected to increase even further in the new year of 2023.
- The latest report by the Kenya Meteorological Department shows that the weather will remain drier in January and February (Star Farmer, 2022). This might negatively impact the expected harvest from short rain seasons which normally occur between November and January particularly in the Central and South-eastern regions of the country.
- In addition, the government revealed that it would do away with some of the measures it put in place to cushion Kenyans from the effects of the pandemic during the new year of 2023, amongst the mentioned measures included electricity, fuel and mobile transactions (Kenyans .co.ke, 2022). These measures will negatively impact production, marketing and transaction of food commodities hence increased wholesale and retail prices

### FOCUS ON NAKURU REGION

Nakuru is a city in the Rift Valley region of Kenya. It is the capital of Nakuru County, and was formerly the capital of Rift Valley Province. It was officially transformed to a city status in December 1, 2021, making it the fourth urban center in Kenya to be declared a city after Nairobi, Mombasa and Kisumu. Like most rift valley cities, Nakuru enjoys a temperate climate throughout the year, the region has a dry, sub-humid equatorial climate with two rainy seasons: the long rains during March-May and the short rains during October-December.

Agriculture, manufacturing and tourism are the main parts of the economy of Nakuru. The area surrounding the city is known for its agricultural uses, with numerous small farms and agricultural enterprises. The main crops grown around Nakuru include coffee, wheat, barley, maize, beans and potatoes. Additionally, dairy farming is a key economic activity in Nakuru and provides the inputs for various milk processing plants around the city.

Food commodities in the region come directly from local farmers and from neighboring counties; Irish potatoes are sourced from Mau Narok, Molo, Njoro, and Kuresoi sub-counties and from neighboring Nyandarua and Uasin Gishu Counties. Dry maize and beans are obtained from local producers and traded with neighboring counties (Trans Nzoia, Uasin Gishu, Bomet, and Elgeyo Marakwet); rice comes from Mwea and neighboring Tanzania; and wheat comes from local farmers (Kiambogo region) and Narok County.

There are three big markets within Nakuru town, these are: Wakulima market, Top market and Bargain market. Commodity prices are collected from Wakulima market, a wholesale and retail market located within the Central Business District. The market serves most of the neighboring sub-counties and counties in the region and is complemented by the neighboring Nakuru-Top market. Various agricultural products are sold in the wholesale market as well as the retail section. The market operates seven days a week, and on a typical day, the market is open from 5am. The market is mainly busy on Mondays and Saturdays in the morning hours between 6 am to 9am because this is when new stocks are received.

For the period of December 2022, decline in prices were recorded for most commodities while some maintained stable prices for both average wholesale and average retail prices. Comparing week 4 to week 1 commodities showing decline in wholesale prices included; Army green, green/yellow, Rossecoco beans varieties, Maize, Irish potatoes, wheat, Pishori grade 1 and Sindano rice. Decline in prices ranged between 4% and 18%. Commodities that saw stable wholesale prices comprised Mwitmania, Nyayo and Wairimu beans; Basmati and Biriani rice. Nakuru is one of the major producing regions and December is the end of short rain season where produce were harvested. Additionally food commodities were sourced from neighboring producing regions hence surplus of commodities in the region.

**Table 3: Average Retail and Wholesale Prices, Nakuru Region**

Product	Variety	Average wholesale price (KES/kg)				Total average wholesale (KES/kg)	Total average retail price (KES/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Army green	128	128	128	122	126	178
	Green/yellow	150	151	128	128	132	154
	Mwitmania	75	75	75	75	75	91
	Nyayo	111	111	111	111	111	120
	Rossecoco	130	125	124	124	126	131
	Wairimu	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dry maize	Maize	58	56	53	56	56	64
Irish potatoes	Shangi	50	44	40	41	43	69
Rice	Basmati	220	220	220	220	220	224
	Biriani	104	104	104	104	104	120
	Pishori grade 1	103	99	98	98	99	164
	Sindano	123	123	121	117	121	153
Wheat	Wheat	69	69	69	66	68	69

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of December.

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## 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.

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## DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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



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