

General Comment:

The Grain Marketing Board, GMB has increased the prices of maize grain and maize meal by between **350%** and **420%**. For example, a 10 kilogram bag of roller meal now costs \$623,400 up from \$152,400 while the same quantity of refined maize meal is now \$647,700 up from \$167,700.

Mashonaland Sub-Office

Maize grain was available on the open market in all monitored sites throughout the review period except in Murehwa where it was unavailable during week ending 18 January. The price of the commodity rose by **17%** in Harare during the first half of the review period, whilst in Marondera and Murombedzi it rose by **30%** and **60%** respectively during the second half of the review period. Open market prices of maize grain are lowest in these Mashonaland sentinel sites when compared to the rest of the sentinel sites (see figure 2 below). During the review period, they ranged from \$200,000 to \$457,143 per kilogram, with the lowest price having been recorded in Murehwa. Maize meal was unavailable in all sites except Murombedzi where GMB unrefined maize meal was available throughout the review period at \$17,000 per kilogram.

Bulawayo Sub-Office

The price of maize grain went up by **54%** at Bulawayo's Renkini Market during the week ending 11 January bringing the price to \$1,142,857, the highest in all surveyed sites (see figure 1 below). This can be attributed to the shortage of maize grain in the city and the fact that Matabeleland regions are grain deficit areas. In Nkayi, open market maize grain was available during the week ending 11 January at \$400,000 per kilogram. GMB maize grain was also available in Nkayi throughout the review period, even though the price rose by **247%** (from \$150,000 to \$520,000 per 50 kilogram bag). Gwanda and Binga surveyed sites remained without maize grain. Maize meal remained in short supply and was only available in Bulawayo at \$1,500,000 per kilogram during the first half of the review period and in Nkayi at \$1,600,000 per kilogram during the second half of the review period.

Masvingo Sub-Office

Masvingo and Zvishavane surveyed sites had maize grain available on the open market throughout the review period. In Masvingo, there were price increases of **20%** and **25%** during the first and the second half respectively. The price range of the commodity in the two sites of Masvingo and Zvishavane was \$685,714 to \$857,143 per kilogram. In Ngundu, maize grain was unavailable throughout the review period but GMB maize meal could be obtained at \$63,240 during week ending 18 January. Maize meal was unavailable in Masvingo and Zvishavane over the two week period.

Mutare Sub-Office

All surveyed sites had maize grain available on the open market throughout the review period. There was a **14%** increase in the price of the commodity in Mutare during the first half of the review period and an **8%** increase in Nyanyadzi during the second half of the review period. The price of maize grain in Chiredzi was stable during the review period. Prices of maize grain in the three surveyed sites ranged between \$371,429 and \$457,143 per kilogram. Maize meal was only available in Mutare during the review period at \$400,000 per kilogram.

Table 1: Maize Grain Prices for Major Cities in ZW\$

Date		Harare		Bulawayo		Masvingo		Mutare	
		17.5 kg	1 kg	17.5 kg	1 kg	17.5 kg	1 kg	17.5 kg	1 kg
January 2008	11/01/08	7,000,000	400,000	20,000,000	1,142,857	12,000,000	685,714	8,000,000	457,143
	18/01/08	7,000,000	400,000	20,000,000	1,142,857	15,000,000	857,143	8,000,000	457,143

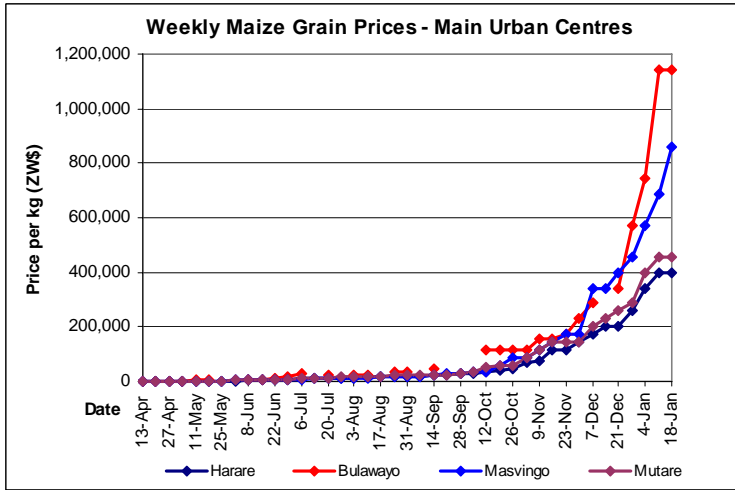


Figure 1: Maize Grain Prices for Major Cities in ZW\$

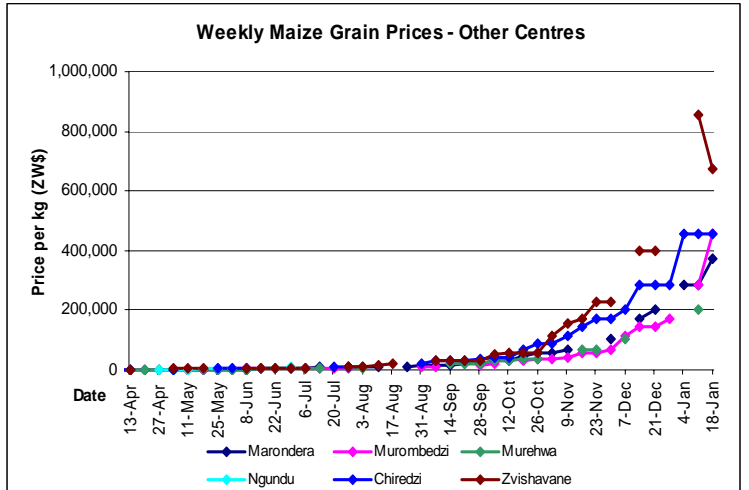


Figure 2: Maize Grain Prices for Other Centres in ZW\$