



## MONTHLY UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY AND PRICES IN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

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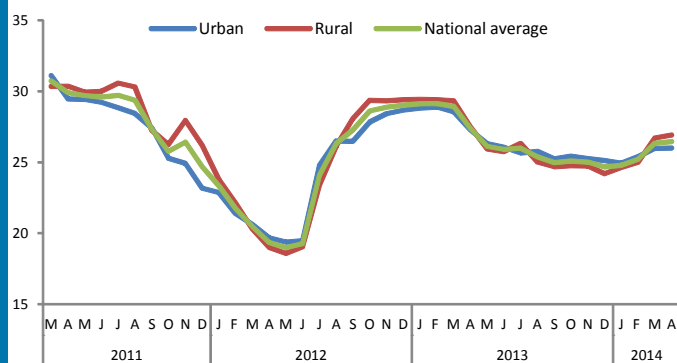
Monthly Update on Food Security and Prices is produced by the Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit of the World Food Programme Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic as a contribution to periodic food security monitoring in the country. This is the 23rd issue of the update.

### Highlights

- ◆ The national average retail price of wheat flour remained largely unchanged on a month-on-month basis in April 2014; however a slight increase was observed in rural areas (1%). The price was 3% lower on a year-on-year basis, but was 37% higher than the lowest point in the last three years, which was recorded in May/June 2012. The National Statistics Committee's (NSC) price monitoring, which covers the main urban markets also showed no change in wheat flour prices on a month-on-month basis.
- ◆ Following a seasonal pattern, potato prices increased further in April 2014 in both urban and rural areas and reached a new record high in nominal term. The national average price was 75% higher than a year ago.
- ◆ Meat prices also showed a seasonal increase and remained at a record high level - the prices were 6% and 10% higher for mutton and beef respectively, than in April 2013.
- ◆ Fuel prices slightly decreased by 1% in April 2014, but were 2% higher than a year ago.
- ◆ After a sharp depreciation of the Kyrgyz Som from 49 som to 54 som per US dollar, the exchange rate remained almost unchanged in April 2014. The price data of this report reflects WFP's actual monthly recording of prices in seven urban and thirteen rural markets around the country, as well as in urban settlements monitored by the NSC.
- ◆ Market stability is critical for vulnerable households particularly during the spring season, because of increased expenditures on agricultural inputs and depleted household food stocks from the previous harvest. In the months ahead, WFP will pay close attention to a number of risk factors: the potential impact of the depreciation of the national currency on food and fuel prices, higher prices for some food items in rural areas, the levels of household level food consumption and the occurrence of natural disasters such as floods and droughts.
- ◆ Should any recipient of this bulletin require information from previous monitoring conducted by WFP since June 2009, please contact WFP Country Office in the Kyrgyz Republic at [WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org](mailto:WFP.Bishkek@wfp.org).

### WHEAT FLOUR PRICES (APRIL 2014)

Figure 1. Retail prices of wheat flour (KGS/kg)

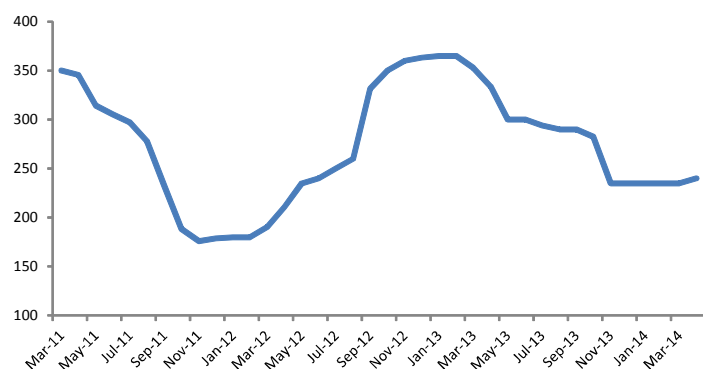


Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

The national average retail price of wheat flour remained largely unchanged on a month-on-month basis in April 2014 (Figure 1); however a slight increase was observed in rural areas (1%). The price was 3% lower on a year-on-year basis, but was 37% higher than the lowest point in the last three-years, which was recorded in May/June 2012. The National Statistics Committee's (NSC) price monitoring, which covers the main urban markets also showed no change in wheat flour prices on a month-on-month basis.

## INTERNATIONAL PRICES (APRIL 2014)

Figure 2. Wholesale price of wheat, USD/ton

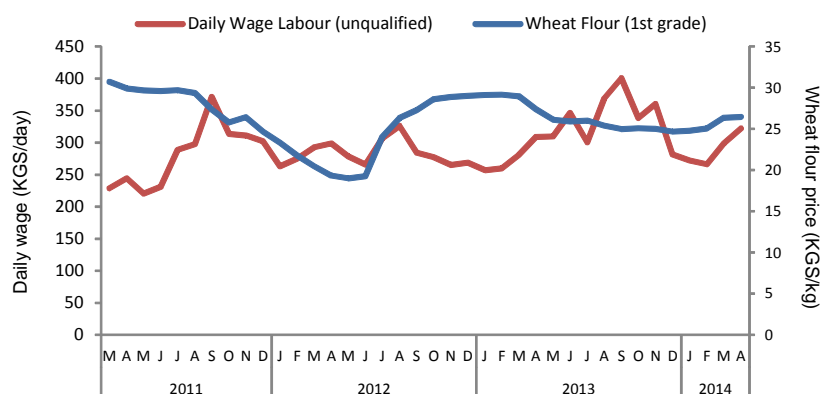


Source: milling wheat export price, Kazakhstan, FAO Global Information and Early Warning System

For the first time in 15 months, the export price of wheat in Kazakhstan (Free on Board [FOB] rate) increased by 2% in April 2014. On a year-on-year basis, the price in April 2014 was 28% lower (Figure 2).

## HOUSEHOLD PURCHASING POWER (APRIL 2014)

Figure 3. Retail prices of wheat flour and daily wage rates of unskilled labourer

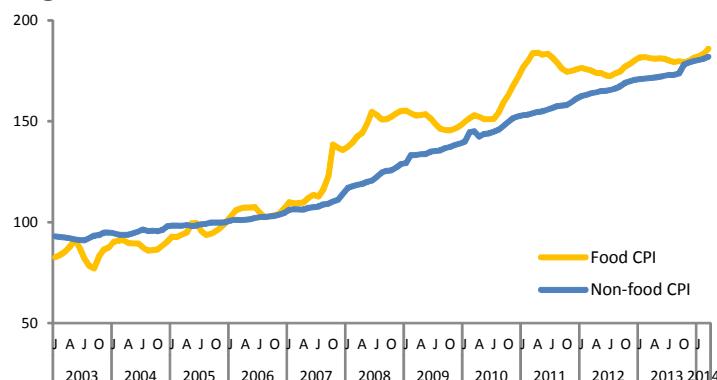


Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

According to WFP's monthly monitoring, daily wage rates of unskilled labour did not show fluctuations, but high domestic retail prices of wheat flour indicate that wheat flour continues to be less affordable for unskilled labourers (Figure 3).

## INFLATION (MARCH 2014)

Figure 4. Consumer Price Index (food and non-food)

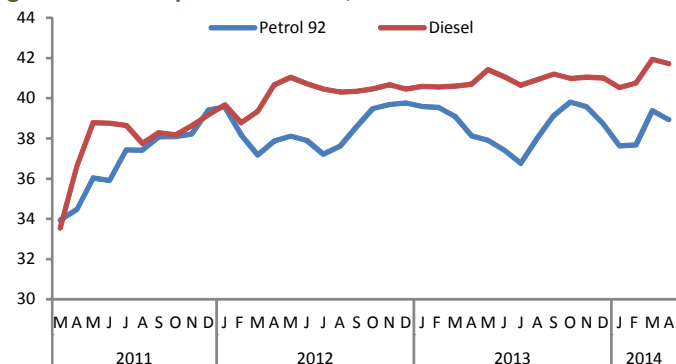


Source: WFP elaboration based on NSC data

Inflation in the Kyrgyz Republic has steadily increased since 2007, driven both by food and non-food price inflation as indicated by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in Figure 4. The growth rate for non-food prices has steadily climbed since 2003 while the prices of food items have shown some fluctuations. In March 2014, non-food CPI increased 1.1% while food CPI increased by 2.8%. On the annual basis, non-food CPI increased 7.7% and food CPI increased by 5.4%.

## FUEL PRICES AND EXCHANGE RATE (APRIL 2014)

Figure 5. Retail prices of fuel (Petrol 92 and diesel, KGS/litre)

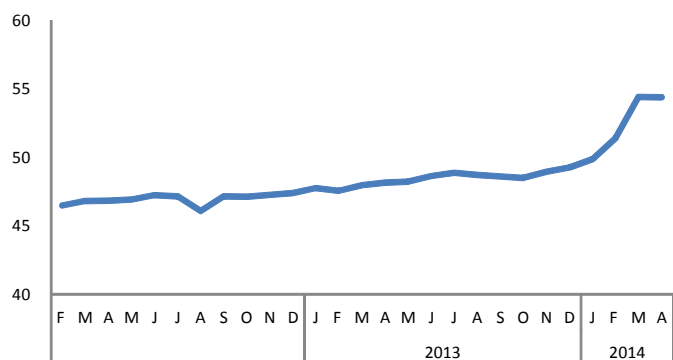


Fuel prices slightly decreased by 1% in April 2014, but were 2% higher than a year ago. (Figure 5). Prices have been consistently higher in rural areas since WFP started price monitoring in rural areas in April 2012. Close monitoring of prices in rural areas will be required as high fuel prices and transportation costs may continue to be transmitted to consumers.

Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

## CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE (APRIL 2014)

Figure 6. Exchange rate of US Dollar against the KGS

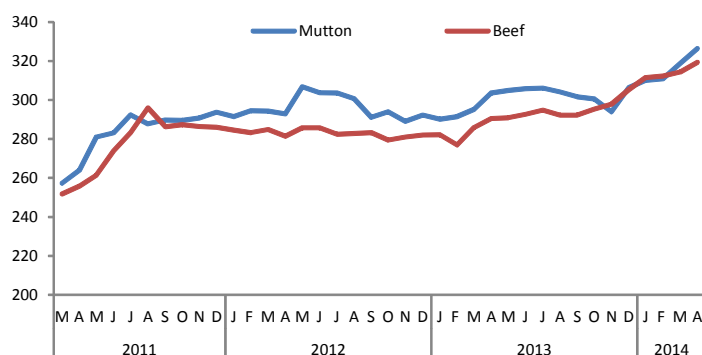


Source: National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic

After a sharp depreciation of Kyrgyz Som from 49 som to 54 som per US dollar in March 2014, the exchange rate remained almost unchanged in April 2014. The US Dollar rate was 13% higher on an annual basis (Figure 6). A sharp depreciation of the Kyrgyz Som in March 2014 likely affected the retail prices of some imported food commodities, mainly sugar and cooking oil. A close monitoring of the situation in currency exchange markets and the impact on domestic retail prices is required.

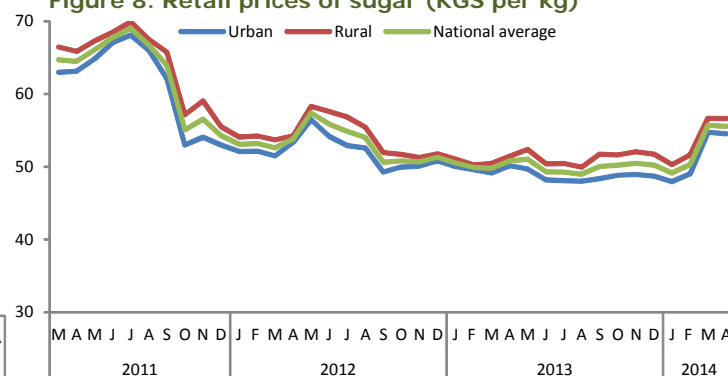
## PRICES OF OTHER BASIC COMMODITIES (APRIL 2014)

Figure 7. Retail prices of meat (KGS/kg)



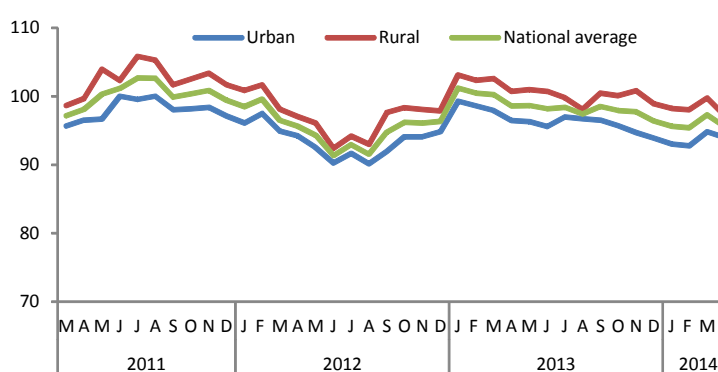
Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

Figure 8. Retail prices of sugar (KGS per kg)



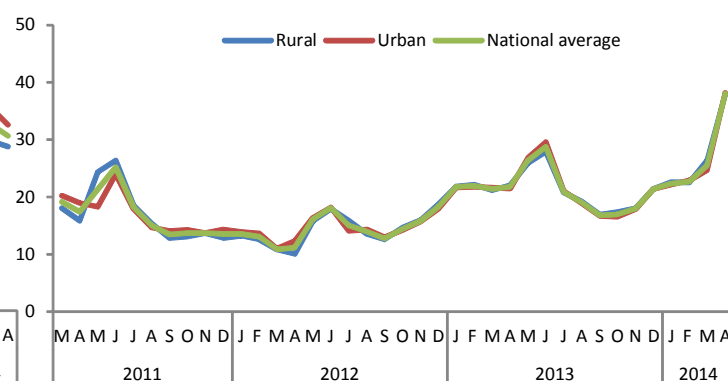
Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

Figure 9. Retail prices of cooking oil (KGS per liter)



Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

Figure 10. Retail prices of potato (KGS per kg)



Source: WFP Monthly Market Monitoring

Potato prices, which have been affected by the non-harvest season and the depletion of stocks for sale, have risen for six consecutive months in both rural and urban areas. In April 2014 the price dropped sharply by 49% on a month-on-month basis, and was 75% higher than in April 2013. NSC's monitoring confirms this trend, however with a slightly lower increase. Meat prices remained at record high levels - the prices were 6% and 10% higher for mutton and beef respectively, than in April 2013. Prices for the other main food commodities (sugar and cooking oil) remained almost unchanged on a month-on-month basis, which was consistent with the NSC's price monitoring. Similar changes in the above mentioned commodities were reported by NSC monitoring.

## OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

- ◆ Market stability is critical for vulnerable households particularly during the spring season, because of increased expenditures on agricultural inputs and depleted household food stocks from the previous harvest.
- ◆ In the months ahead, WFP will pay close attention to a number of risk factors: the potential impact of the depreciation of the national currency on food and fuel prices, higher prices for some food items in rural areas, the levels of household level food consumption and the occurrence of natural disasters such as floods and droughts.
- ◆ The potential effects of increased wheat export prices in Kazakhstan as well as prices of other regional exporters, such as the Russian Federation and Ukraine, need to be closely monitored.
- ◆ The price of potatoes is considerably higher than in the same period over the last year. The increase in potato prices in spring is seasonal. Over the next few months a gradual decrease in prices is expected.








## WFP IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

- ◆ In the months ahead, WFP will pay close attention to food prices in local markets to detect whether the price change is seasonal or abnormal. The alert will be shared with stakeholders when the observed price is above the normal seasonal trend.
- ◆ WFP will continue to implement community asset development for food security, including rehabilitation of irrigation networks, riverbank reinforcement works and vegetable growing, with view to building the resilience of vulnerable communities.
- ◆ WFP is also assisting the Government in developing a national school meals policy and implementation strategy. Technical assistance is provided to the government to sustainably improve the quality and efficiency of the existing school meal programme. At the same time, WFP is implementing projects to improve meals in selected pilot schools. In total, 250 schools are planned to be covered by the project over the coming year.



## ANNEX 1—PRICES OF BASIC COMMODITIES IN RURAL AND URBAN MARKETS (APRIL 2014)

The retail prices of basic commodities are monitored on a monthly basis in selected rural and urban markets in all oblasts (provinces) of the country. The latest retail prices are compared against prices in the previous month, three months ago, and one year ago.

Area	Commodity	Current Price (KGS/unit)	Change in Price (%)			Level of Fluctuation			Commodity	Current Price (KGS/unit)	Change in Price (%)			Level of Fluctuation		
			1 m	3 m	1 yr	1 m	3 m	1 yr			1 m	3 m	1 yr			
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	29	0%	5%	4%	►	▲	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	28	0%	8%	0%	►	►	►
	Meat (mutton)	330	0%	16%	12%	►	▲	▲	Meat (mutton)	320	7%	7%	10%	▲	►	►
	Meat (beef)	330	0%	6%	14%	►	▲	▲	Meat (beef)	300	0%	0%	3%	►	►	►
	Milk	35	0%	6%	17%	►	▲	▲	Milk	25						
	Potato	37	22%	70%	59%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	28	15%	31%	10%	▲	▲	►
	Cooking oil	98	0%	1%	7%	►	►	►	Cooking oil	85	-13%	-10%	-11%	▼	►	►
	Sugar	55	0%	17%	10%	►	▲	▲	Sugar	54	-1%	3%	16%	►	►	▲
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	38	-1%	4%	4%	►	►	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	38	-1%	15%	5%	►	▲	►
	Diesel	42	0%	5%	4%	►	▲	►	Diesel	42	0%	10%	4%	►	▲	►
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	24	0%	4%	-9%	►	►	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	24	-1%	1%	-9%	►	►	►
	Meat (mutton)	305	3%	12%	8%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	300	0%	7%	5%	►	►	►
	Meat (beef)	298	-2%	13%	11%	►	▲	►	Meat (beef)	-						
	Milk	25	0%	11%	25%	►	▲	▲	Milk	25	0%	0%	25%	►	►	▲
	Potato	22	-27%	43%	119%	▼	▲	►	Potato	33	44%	44%	132%	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking oil	82	-10%	11%	-7%	▼	►	►	Cooking oil	90	0%	0%	-10%	►	►	►
	Sugar	55	-1%	21%	20%	►	▲	▲	Sugar	55	0%	15%	15%	►	▲	►
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	38	1%	11%	4%	►	▲	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	38	-1%	5%	3%	►	►	►
	Diesel	40	0%	5%	7%	►	►	►	Diesel	40	-2%	3%	4%	►	►	►
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	26	1%	14%	-12%	►	▲	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	28	2%	22%	-7%	►	▲	►
	Meat (mutton)	297	2%	1%	12%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	300	3%	3%	13%	►	►	►
	Meat (beef)	313	4%	-1%	10%	►	►	►	Meat (beef)	320	7%	0%	10%	▲	►	►
	Milk	20	0%	0%	0%	►	►	►	Milk	25	0%	0%	25%	►	►	▲
	Potato	35	88%	119%	192%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	35	94%	133%	200%	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking oil	100	0%	3%	-5%	►	►	►	Cooking oil	105	0%	0%	-5%	►	►	►
	Sugar	55	0%	10%	10%	►	►	►	Sugar	60	0%	12%	9%	►	▲	►
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	38	-3%	0%	3%	►	►	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	-						
	Diesel	41	3%	3%	4%	►	►	►	Diesel	-						
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	27	1%	1%	-6%	►	►	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	33			12%			►
	Meat (mutton)	320	0%	0%	-9%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	-						
	Meat (beef)	320	0%	0%	-6%	►	►	►	Meat (beef)	-						
	Milk	25	25%	-17%	0%	▲	▼	►	Milk	30	50%		20%	▲		▲
	Potato	37	49%	47%	47%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	36						
	Cooking oil	93	6%	4%	4%	▲	►	►	Cooking oil	123	3%	12%	12%	►	▲	►
	Sugar	52	0%	15%	3%	►	▲	►	Sugar	60	0%	20%	13%	►	▲	►
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	37	-4%	-6%	2%	►	►	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	-						
	Diesel	40	-1%	0%	3%	►	►	►	Diesel	-						
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	26	-3%	0%	-1%	►	►	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	24	-9%	-4%	-10%	▼	►	►
	Meat (mutton)	330	2%	0%	10%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	387	21%	21%	29%	▲	▲	▲
	Meat (beef)	330	3%	3%	18%	►	►	▲	Meat (beef)	340	6%	6%	17%	▲	►	▲
	Milk	30	2%	-14%	20%	►	▼	▲	Milk	30	0%	0%	20%	►	►	▲
	Potato	42	47%	67%	79%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	48	53%	93%	116%	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking oil	99	-3%	-1%	4%	►	►	►	Cooking oil	93	-7%	-7%	0%	▼	►	►
	Sugar	55	0%	10%	10%	►	►	►	Sugar	55	0%	10%	3%	►	►	►
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	39	3%	6%	1%	►	►	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	39	-2%	1%	-1%	►	►	►
	Diesel	42	3%	5%	2%	►	►	►	Diesel	42	-3%	0%	-1%	►	►	►
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	25	2%	2%	-6%	►	►	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	27	2%	9%	1%	►	►	►
	Meat (mutton)	330	3%	3%	10%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	320	0%	0%	7%	►	►	►
	Meat (beef)	320	7%	0%	10%	▲	►	►	Meat (beef)	320	7%	7%	19%	▲	►	▲
	Milk	30	0%	0%	0%	►	►	►	Milk	30	0%	0%	20%	►	►	▲
	Potato	45	60%	79%	49%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	44	48%	77%	56%	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking oil	85	0%	-4%	-6%	►	►	►	Cooking oil	85	0%	-6%	-9%	►	►	►
	Sugar	55	0%	22%	11%	►	▲	►	Sugar	55	0%	20%	9%	►	▲	►
	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	40	-1%	1%	2%	►	►	►	Petrol (Octane rating 92)	40	-1%	1%	2%	►	►	►
	Diesel	42	1%	0%	1%	►	►	►	Diesel	42	1%	0%	1%	►	►	►
	Urban									Rural						
	Wheat flour (1st quality)	25	0%	7%	-7%	►	►	►	Wheat flour (1st quality)	26	8%	3%	-15%	▲	►	►
	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	0%	►	►	►	Meat (mutton)	350	0%	0%	0%	►	►	►
	Meat (beef)	320	0%	0%	14%	►	►	►	Meat (beef)	320	0%	7%	14%	►	►	►
	Milk	40	9%	26%	20%	▲	▲	▲	Milk	38	44%	44%	10%	▲	▲	►
	Potato	48	99%	107%	93%	▲	▲	▲	Potato	22	-8%	-5%	2%	▼	►	►
	Cooking oil	100	2%	3%	-3%	►	►	►	Cooking oil	100	2%	-2%	-3%	►	►	►

- ▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation
- Normal price fluctuation
- ▼ Price decrease below normal fluctuation

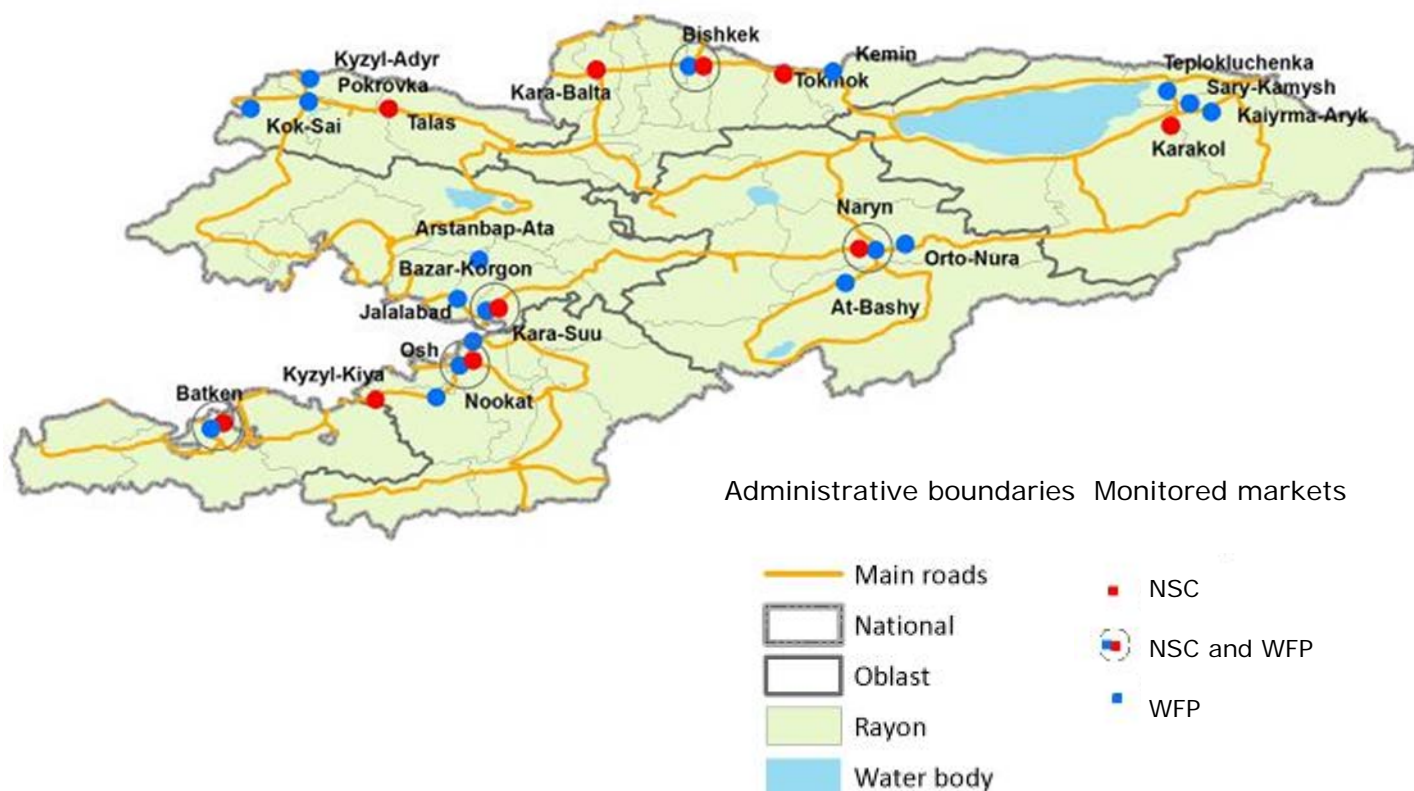
Price fluctuation is considered normal if change within:  
5% for 1 month, 10% for 3 months, 15% for 1 year

## ANNEX 2 – MARKET LOCATIONS MONITORED BY WFP AND NSC

Retail prices of basic food commodities are monitored and reported by the NSC in selected province and rayon capitals (coloured in red).

WFP monitors prices of basic food commodities in seven markets in urban areas and thirteen markets in rural areas, where about 76% of people classified as 'poor' live.

Increased and volatile food prices will affect food insecure and vulnerable families the most because they spend the largest proportion of their household budgets on food.



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