

## Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **November 2014** (Reported in December 2014)

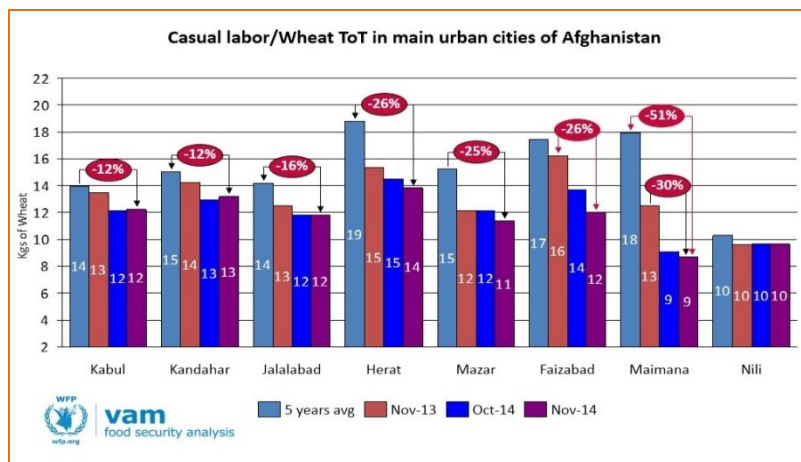
### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wheat: Average wheat grain retail price in the main cities' markets of the country was decreasing during April – June 2013, slightly increased during July 2013 – May 2014, slightly decreased in June – September 2014, and negligibly increased from October to November 2014.
- The current average wheat price in main cities of Afghanistan (AFN 24.5 /Kg) is higher by 9.1% compared to the same time last year (November 2013), and by 24.8% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Novembers 2009 – 2013).
- Wheat flour (High Price): Average retail price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was slightly decreased during April – June 2013, relatively stable during July – September 2013 and was slightly increasing during October – December 2013. It slightly decreased during January - February 2014, however, it was slightly increasing again during March - September 2014, and decreased from September to November 2014. The current retail price (AFN 30.4/kg) is higher by 3.2% compared to the same month last year (November 2013), and by 15.2% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- Rice is considered as the 2<sup>nd</sup> main staple food in Afghanistan. The current average retail price of Low Quality Rice (AFN 41.4/kg) is lower by 9.4% compared to the same month last year (November 2013), but significantly higher by 10% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 87.6/kg) is negligibly lower by 1.0% compared to the same month last year (November 2013), but higher by 28.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

### Terms of Trade (ToT):

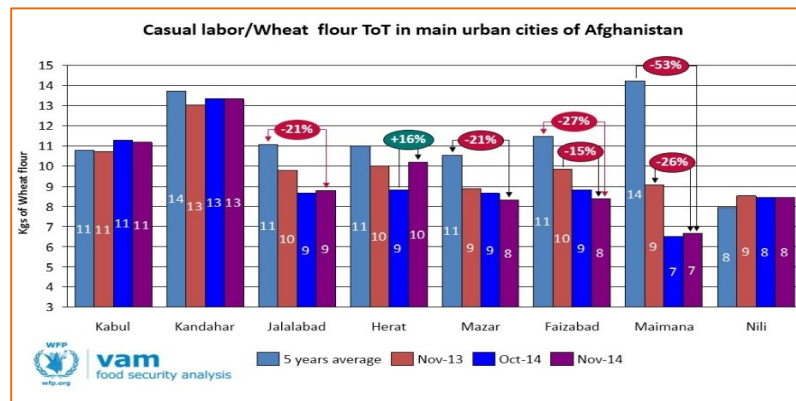
**Casual Labor and Wheat (ToT):** The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and wheat is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveal how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with one day of casual unskilled labor wage, but do not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.

- Wage labor-Wheat ToT average for the reporting month was 11.6 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly deteriorated (by 3.2%) from October to November 2014, mainly due to increased Wheat price (by 2.5%) and decreased labor wage (by 0.4%). This deterioration was also experienced in the same period during the three preceding years: by 8.9% in October - November 2013, 4.6% in October - November 2012 and by 0.2% in October - November 2011.
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (November 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 12.4%, mainly due to increased Wheat price (by 9.1%) and decreased labor wage (by 3.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2012), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 25%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2009-2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 24.2%.



**Casual Labor and High Price Wheat flour (ToT):** The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of Wheat Flour in the market. This ToT reveal how many Kilograms of Wheat Flour (HP) can be purchased with one day of casual unskilled labor wage, but do not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.

- Wage labor-Wheat flour (HP) ToT average for the reporting month was 9.4 Kgs of Wheat flour which



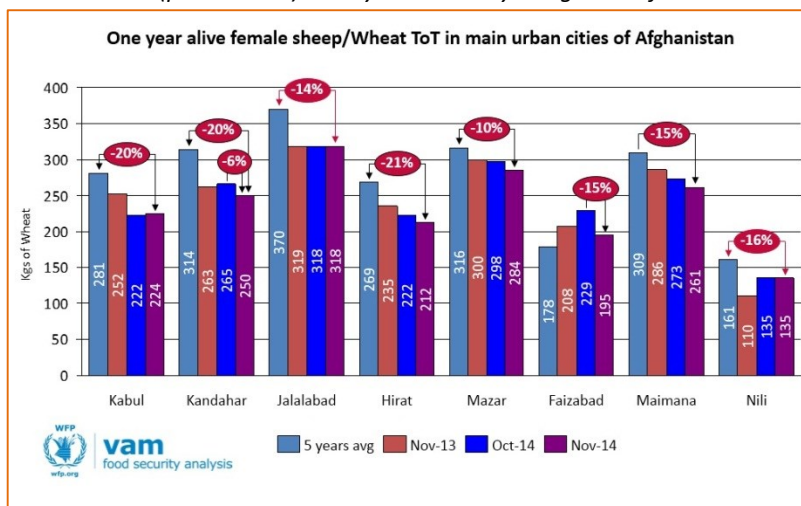
slightly improved by 1% from October to November 2014, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 1.5%).

This improvement was not experienced in the two last years of the three preceding years; it was deteriorated by 6.7% in October - November 2013 and 2012, and only improved by 3.1% in October - November 2011.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), this ToT deteriorated by 5.7%, mainly related to decreased labor wage (by 3.4%) and increased Wheat flour price (by 3.2%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2012), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 11.2%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2009-2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 17.1%.

**Sheep and Wheat (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and Wheat is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households that are mainly reliant on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

- Sheep-Wheat ToT for the reporting month was 235 Kgs of wheat against one year alive female sheep, which deteriorated by 4.2% from October to November 2014. Main reason for deterioration was decreased sheep price (by 1.8%). This deterioration was experienced in October - November 2013 (by 9.9%) and in October - November 2012 by 3.1%, while it improved by 0.7% in October - November 2011.
- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), this ToT deteriorated by 4.7%, mainly related to increase Wheat price (by 9.1%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2012), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 16.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2009-2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.4%.

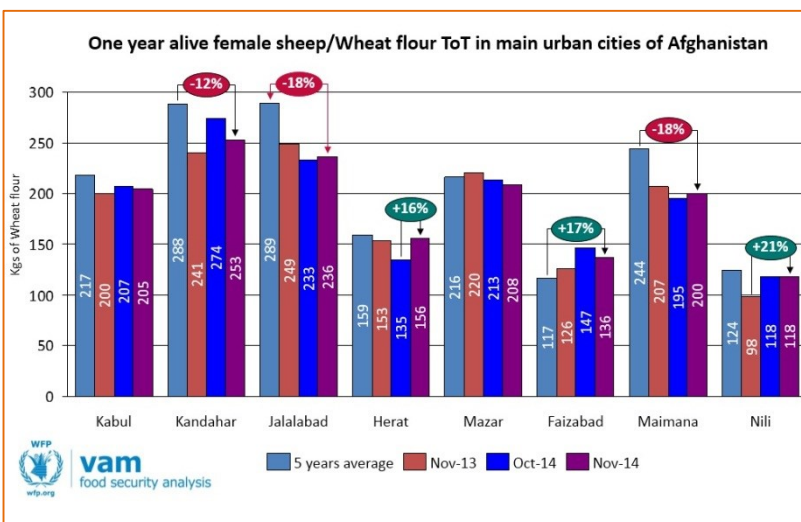


**Sheep and High Price Wheat flour (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households that are mainly reliant on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat Flour (HP) can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

- Sheep-Wheat flour ToT for the reporting month was 189 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 0.7% from October to November 2014. The deterioration was mainly related to decrease Sheep price (by 1.8%).

This deterioration was experienced in October - November 2013 (by 7.9%) and in October - November 2012 (by 4.9%), while it improved by 2.6% in October - November 2011.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), this ToT slightly improved by 1.3%, mainly due to increased Sheep price (by 5.1%), while wheat flour price increased by 3.2%
- On the two-year comparison (November 2012), this ToT deteriorated by 5.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2009-2013), this ToT deteriorated by 8.6%.



#### Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 24.5/Kg in November 2014. Compared to the past month (October 2014), the average price increased by 2.5%. The highest increase occurred only in Faizabad (by 14.3%), main reason for the increase was seasonally decreased supply of Wheat from neighboring district markets in the post-harvest months. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-2% to 4.8%). This increase was also experienced in the last 3 proceeding years, increased by 3.9% in October - November 2013, by 3.6% in October - November 2012, and by 0.4% in October - November 2011.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the average price increased by 9.1%. The highest increase occurred in Faizabad (25%), Hirat (10.9%), Kabul (10.1%) and Mazar (10%), mainly due to seasonally increased price of Wheat during pre-winter time. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-0.8% to 9.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (November 2012), the average price was significantly increased by 14.1%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Novembers 2009 - 2013), the price increased by 24.8%.

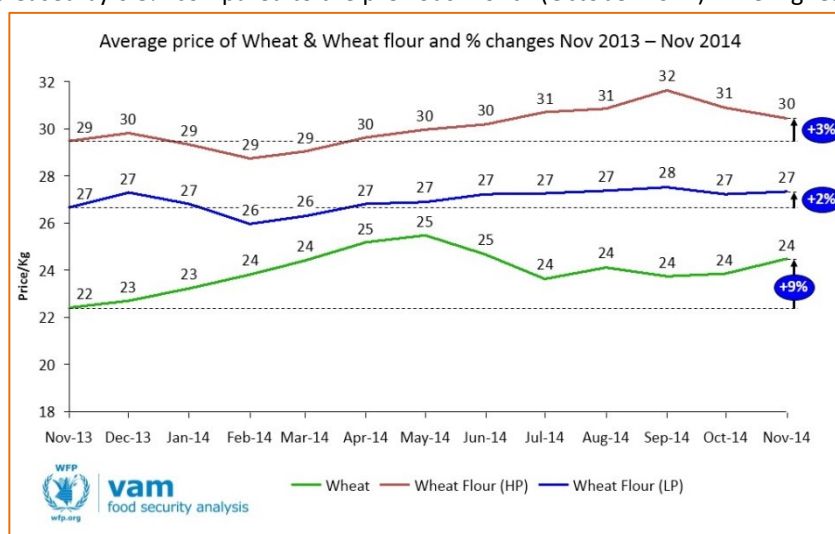
## Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

### Wheat flour (High Price):

- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 30.4/Kg in the reporting month (November 2014). The average price slightly decreased by 1.5% compared to the previous month (November 2014). The highest decrease occurred only in Hirat (by 13.4%), main reason for the decrease was maintained supply of imported Wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan, while an increase occurred only in Faizabad (by 5.1%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-1.3% to 0.9%). During the three preceding year, this decrease was only experienced in October - November 2011 (decreased by 1.3%), while it increased by 1.0% in October - November 2013 and by 6% in October - November 2012.
- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the current average price slightly increased by 3.2%. The highest increase occurred in Kabul (by 11.3%) and Mazar (by 10.1%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-1.7% to 8.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2012), the average price of Wheat flour slightly decreased by 2.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Novembers 2009-2013), the average price increased by 15.2%.

**Wheat flour (Low Price):** The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 27.3/Kg in the reporting month (November 2014). The average price slightly increased by 0.3% compared to the previous month (October 2014). The highest increase occurred only in Faizabad (by 7.5%), Main reason for the increase was increased demand for winter stock piling. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-2.6% to 0.3%). This increase was also experienced in the last 3 proceeding years, increased by 3.1% in October - November 2013, by 4.1% in October - November 2012, and by 1.0% in October - November 2011.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the current average price increased by 2.5%, which is normal. The variation in all main cities markets was normal (-4.1% and 8.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2012), the average price increased by 8.5%.



## Retail Price of Rice in Main Urban Cities:

**Rice (High Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) was AFN 87.6/Kg in the reporting month (November 2014) which was negligibly decreased by 0.2% compared to previous month (October 2014). The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-3.1% to 1.1%). In the last three preceding years, this negligible decrease was not experienced, while the price was increased by 0.4% in October - November 2013, by 2.5% in October - November 2012 and by 0.3% in October - November 2011.

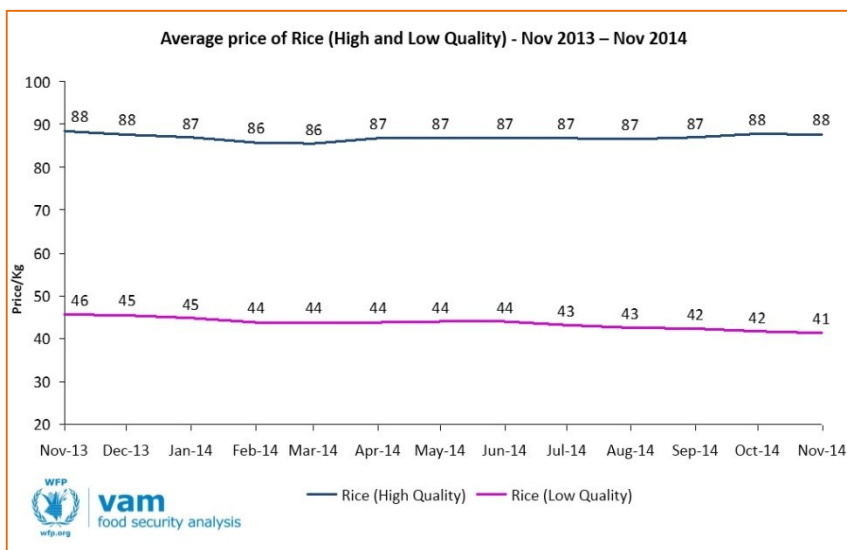
- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.0%. The variation in all main city markets was within a normal range (-5.2% to 4.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2012), the average price significantly increased by 13.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Novembers 2009-2013), the average price significantly increased by 28.7%.



**Rice (Low Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) was AFN 41.4/Kg in the reporting month (November 2014), which negligibly decreased by 0.9% compared to the previous month (October 2014). The highest decrease occurred only in Hirat (by 7.0%), Main reason for the decrease was increased supply to the market, the variation in other main cities was normal (-4.8% to 1.0%).

These decreases were experienced in 2013 and 2011, during the three preceding years: decreased by 0.1% in October – November 2013 and by 1.9% in October – November 2011, while increased by 4.1% in October – November 2012.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the average price decreased by 9.4%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (44.2%) and Maimana (16.7%). The variation in remaining main cities' markets was within a normal range (-7% to 3.9%). Main reason for the decrease was maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and India.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2012), the average price decreased by 6.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Novembers 2009-2013), the average price significantly increased by 10%.



## Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of Cooking Oil was AFN 78.8/Kg in the reporting month (November 2014), which negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to previous month (October 2014). The highest decrease occurred only in Kandahar by 6.4%, mainly due to maintained supply of cooking oil from Pakistan. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-0.5% to 0.5%). In the last three preceding years, this slight decrease were experienced in 2011 and 2012, decreased by 1.4% in October - November 2011 and by 0.3 % in October - November 2012 , while remained unchanged in October - November 2013 .

- Compared to the same month one year ago (November 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 4.8%. The largest decrease occurred only in Kandahar by 14.6%. The variation in all main cities was normal (-4.7% to 2.5%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (November 2012), the average price decreased by 8.9%.
  1. Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Novembers 2009 – 2013), the current average price slightly increased by 1.6%.

## 2. Retail Price of Salt, Sugar and No. of days averagely worked by a laborer:

**Salt:** The average price of Salt for the month of November 2014 was AFN 13.9/Kg, which negligibly decreased by 1.1% compared to previous month (October 2014). The highest decrease occurred only in Kandahar (by 1 5.7% or 1 AFN/Kg). The price in other main cities remained unchanged.

**Sugar:** The average price of Sugar in November 2014 was AFN 44.4/Kg, which negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to the previous month (October 2014). The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-2.1-0%).

**Number of days averagely worked a laborer:** The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during November 2014 was reported 11 days. The highest number of days worked was in Kabul, Hirat (16 days), followed by Kandahar, Jalalabad (12 days), Nili (11 days), and Mazar, Maimana and Faizabad (8 days). Compared to the last moth the average monthly working days per month increased in Kabul by 1 day/month, decreased by 7, 3 and 2 days a month in Maimana, Nili and Faizabad respectively, remained the same for other markets.

## Market Watch:

Markets	Major Comm	Current Price per Kg	Price change (%)				Average				Markets	Major Comm	Current Price	Price change				Average			
			5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1M				5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1M
KABUL	Wheat	24.5	21.0	14.6	10.1	-1.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)										
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.9	1.5	-19.8	-4.0	0.9	▶	▼	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-2.9	-8.3	-1.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	98.0	42.3	23.7	2.6	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep	6,635	0.1	6.6	2.7	-7.8	▶	▶	▶	▼
	Rice Low Qaulity	50.0	42.9	21.2	1.5	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep	7,000	3.9	-27.8	5.7	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	81.5	6.7	-6.3	-4.4	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep	4,600	9.7	0.6	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
KANDAHAR	Wheat	26.5	25.3	19.3	8.0	-2.1	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep	6,250	21.4	3.7	4.2	-2.3	▲	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.3	12.8	9.4	-2.1	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,875	41.4	21.9	17.5	-2.5	▲	▲	▲	▶
	Rice High Quality	78.5	26.9	2.6	-1.9	-0.5	▲	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	5.3	6.7	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	29.1	-6.9	-10.6	3.6	1.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep	4,200	1.2	-19.2	21.7	0.0	▶	▼	▲	▶
	Cooking Oil	58.1	-11.4	-21.7	-14.6	-6.4	▼	▼	▼	▶	Terms of Trade Kgs of Wheat/Wheat flour										
JALALABAD	Wheat	22.0	21.1	6.0	5.9	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.2	-12.3	-12.8	-9.2	1.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	29.6	27.6	11.8	11.3	-1.3	▲	▲	▲	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.2	-12.2	-2.3	-7.4	2.2	▼	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	82.5	42.3	8.6	4.3	1.1	▲	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.8	-16.5	-2.0	-5.6	0.0	▼	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	30.0	-23.0	-46.9	-44.2	-4.8	▼	▼	▼	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.9	-26.3	-18.1	-9.7	-4.5	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	77.5	3.1	-7.7	-2.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.4	-25.4	-34.7	-6.3	-6.0	▼	▼	▶	▼
HIRAT	Wheat	21.7	36.3	22.3	10.9	4.8	▲	▲	▲	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.0	-31.1	-39.4	-26.2	-12.5	▼	▼	▼	▼
	Wheat flour (HP)	29.5	10.4	-4.8	-1.7	-13.4	▲	▶	▶	▼	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	8.7	-51.5	-56.5	-30.3	-4.2	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Rice High Quality	75.0	24.3	4.2	-2.3	-3.1	▲	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	9.7	-5.9	-4.1	0.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	26.7	0.0	-4.6	3.9	-7.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	224.5	-20.1	-20.0	-10.8	1.0	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Cooking Oil	71.3	1.1	-9.8	-3.4	-0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	250.0	-20.3	-10.7	-4.9	-5.8	▼	▼	▶	▶
MAZAR	Wheat	22.0	31.7	15.8	10.0	2.3	▲	▲	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	318.2	-13.9	-32.0	-0.2	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	30.0	25.3	3.4	10.1	0.0	▲	▶	▲	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	212.4	-20.9	-17.7	-9.7	-4.5	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	87.0	27.9	11.9	-3.9	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	284.1	-10.2	-10.7	-5.3	-4.6	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	15.8	-2.4	-7.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	195.0	9.4	0.9	-6.0	-14.7	▶	▶	▶	▼
	Cooking Oil	78.0	1.5	-12.6	-2.5	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	260.9	-15.4	-7.8	-8.7	-4.3	▼	▶	▶	▶
FAIZABAD	Wheat	25.0	29.1	20.8	25.0	14.3	▲	▲	▲	▲	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	135.5	-15.7	-22.5	22.7	0.0	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.8	19.9	4.8	8.3	5.1	▲	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.2	3.5	24.7	4.2	-0.9	▶	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	92.0	26.1	33.3	-5.2	0.8	▲	▲	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	13.3	-2.8	6.7	2.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	47.3	-3.4	-12.8	-6.9	0.5	▶	▼	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.8	-20.8	-7.0	-10.1	1.3	▼	▶	▼	▶
	Cooking Oil	99.0	2.4	-3.4	-8.9	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.2	-7.6	5.1	1.7	15.5	▶	▶	▶	▶
MAIMANA	Wheat	23.0	21.6	15.0	9.5	4.5	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.3	-20.9	-26.8	-6.4	-3.8	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	30.0	24.4	0.8	3.4	-2.4	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.4	-26.8	-30.2	-14.8	-4.9	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Rice High Quality	88.0	25.4	18.5	-3.3	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	6.7	-53.1	-50.4	-26.3	2.5	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	1.8	-10.6	-16.7	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.5	6.1	14.1	-0.7	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	83.0	3.0	-10.5	2.5	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	204.7	-5.9	14.3	2.3	-0.9	▶	▼	▶	▶
NILI	Wheat	31.0	17.9	4.2	-0.8	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	252.8	-12.3	-2.5	4.9	-7.8	▼	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.5	4.9	-12.3	0.7	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	236.3	-18.2	-35.4	-5.0	1.3	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	100.0	18.6	8.1	2.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	155.9	-1.9	5.7	1.7	15.5	▶	▶	▶	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	68.0	47.0	18.8	1.5	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	208.3	-3.5	0.3	-5.4	-2.3	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	82.0	4.5	-1.5	-4.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	136.4	16.9	16.3	8.4	-7.3	▲	▲	▶	▼
											MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	200.0	-18.1	5.8	-3.3	2.5	▼	▶	▶	▶
											NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	118.3	-4.7	-7.9	20.9	0.0	▶	▶	▲	▶
Remark ▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation ▶ Normal Price fluctuation ▼ Price decrease below normal price fluctuation																					
Price fluctuation is considered normal if the price change is within 5% for 1 month, or within 10% for 3 months, one year, two year and 5 years. 1Ms Compared to month ago, 1Ys Compared to Nov 2013 and 2Ys Compared to Nov 2012																					

Source: WFP/VAM market data from Afghanistan main cities (Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Jalalabad, Faizabad, Hirat, Maimana and Nili)

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) – World Food Programme (WFP), Afghanistan