

## Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **May 2015** (Reported in June 2015)

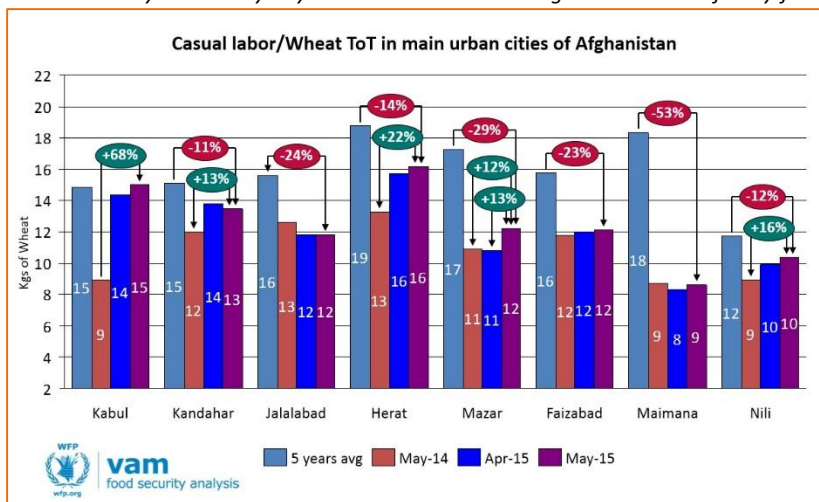
### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** Average wheat grain retail price in the main cities' markets of the country was slightly fluctuating in 2013. It was slightly increasing during January - May 2014, slightly decreasing in June – September 2014, negligibly increasing from September 2014 to January 2015, and slightly decreased from February – May 2015.
- The current average wheat price in main cities of Afghanistan (AFN 22.9/Kg) is significantly lower by 10.2% compared to the same time last year (May 2014), but significantly higher by 15.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Mays 2010 – 2014).
- **Wheat flour (High Price)** retail price in main cities of Afghanistan was relatively stable in 2013. After a slight decrease during January - February 2014, it was slightly increasing during March - September 2014. However, it was slightly decreasing from September 2014 to May 2015. The current retail price (AFN 28/kg) is slightly lower by 6.5% compared to the same month last year (May 2014), while significantly higher by 11.5% 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 38.8/kg) is significantly lower by 11.9% compared to the same month last year (May 2014), while slightly higher by 1.4% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 79.6/kg) is slightly lower by 8.3% compared to the same month last year (May 2014), but significantly higher by 15.1% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

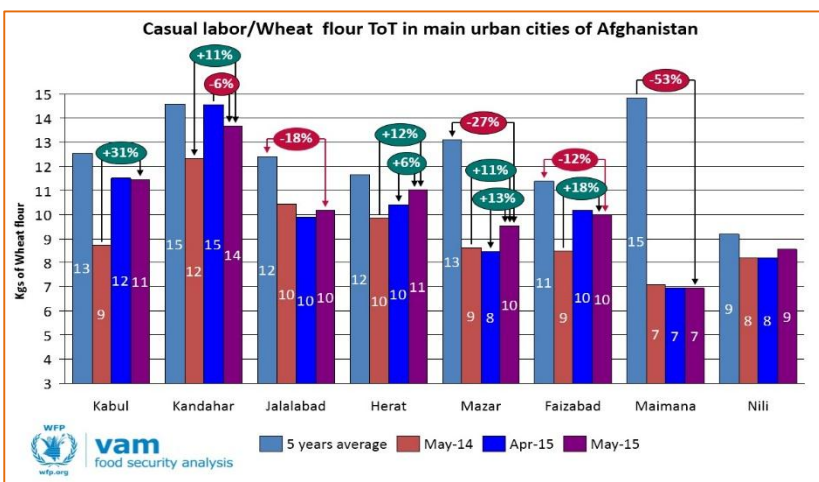
### Terms of Trade (ToT):

**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 mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with one- day casual unskilled labor wage, but does not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.

- Wage labor-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 12.5 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT slightly improved (by 3.1%) from April to May 2015, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.8%) and increased labor wage (by 1.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was only experienced in April – May 2012 (by 2.1%), while deteriorated in April – May 2013 (by 3.3%), and remained unchanged in April – May 2014.
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (May 2014), this ToT significantly improved by 14.5%, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 10.2%) and increased labor wage (by 2.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (May 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 17.6%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Mays 2010 - 2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 21.8%.



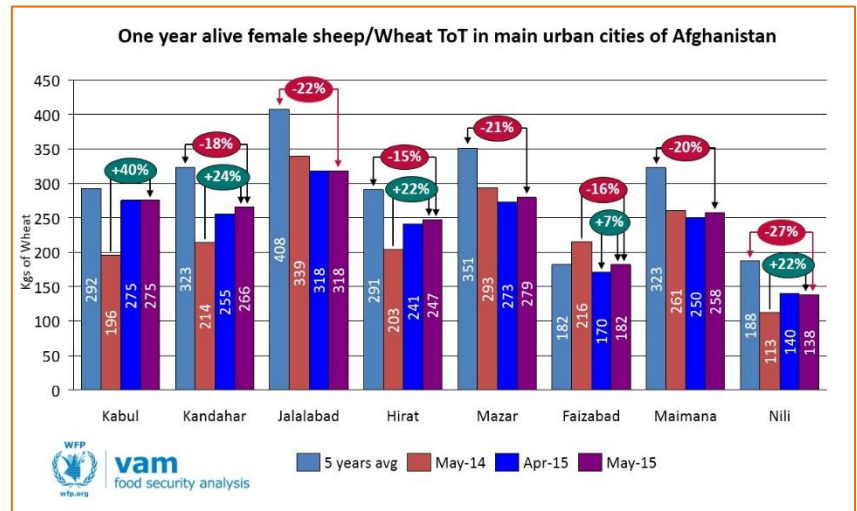
**Casual Labor and High Price Wheat flour (ToT):** The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of Wheat Flour in the market. This ToT reveals how many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



- Wage labor-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 10.2 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly improved by 1.5% from April to May 2015, mainly related to increased labor wage (by 1.1%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 0.6%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was similarly experienced in April – May 2014 (by 0.5%), in April – May 2013 (by 1.2%), and in April – May 2012 (by 0.2%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), this ToT was significantly improved by 10.2%, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 6.5%) and increased labor wage (by 2.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (May 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 10.6%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Mays 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 18.3%.

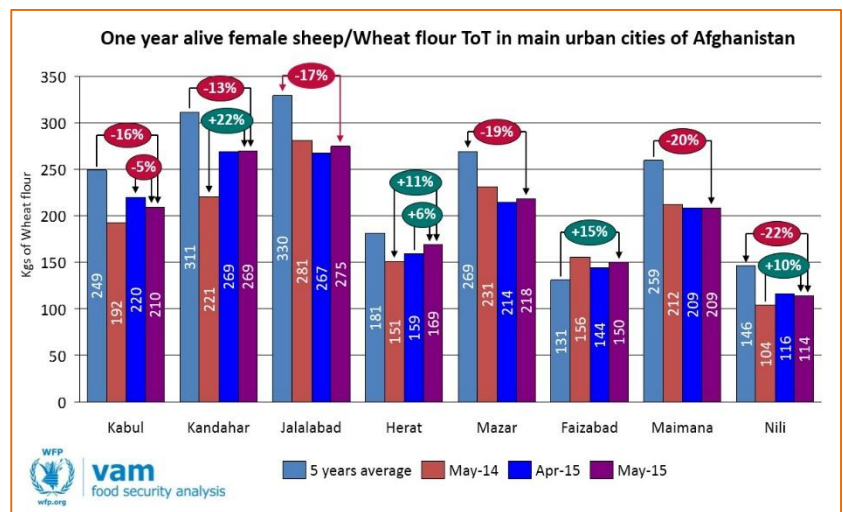
**Sheep and Wheat (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and Wheat is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households mainly relying on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

- Sheep-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 245 Kgs of wheat against one year alive female sheep, which slightly improved by 2.1% from April to May 2015, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.8%) and negligibly increased sheep price (by 0.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was only experienced in April – May 2012 (by 3.2%), while deteriorated in April – May 2013 (by 0.6%), and in April – May 2014 (by 0.4%). Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 6.9%, mainly related to decreased wheat price (by 10.2%).
- On the two-year comparison (May 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 13.2%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Mays 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 16.8%.



**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 mainly relying 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 average ToT for the reporting month was 202 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly improved by 1% from April to May 2015, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 0.6%) and increased sheep price (by 0.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was similarly experienced in April – May 2013 (by 4%) and in April – May 2012 (by 2.5%), while deteriorated in April – May 2014 (by 0.5%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 4.2%, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 6.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (May 2013), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 7.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Mays 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14%.



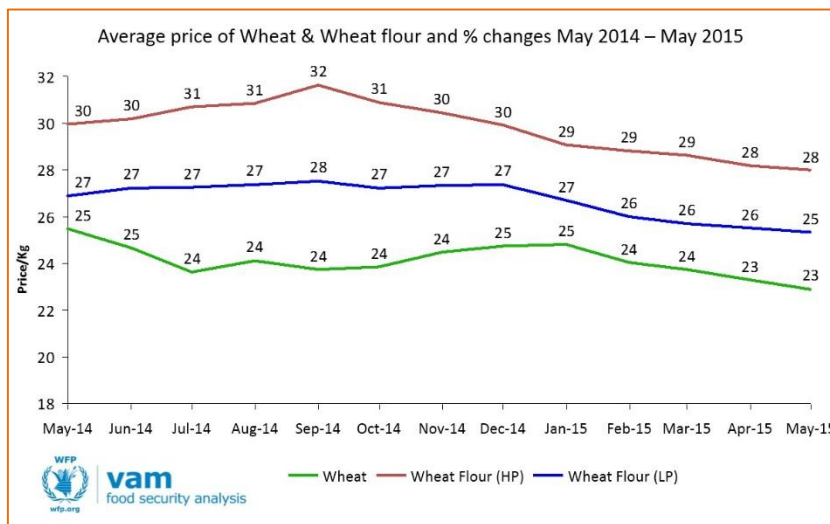
## Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 22.9/Kg in May 2015. Compared to the past month (April 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 1.8%. The largest decrease occurred only in Kandahar (by 5.1%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-3.1% to 0%). During the last three proceeding years, this decrease was only experienced in April – May 2012 (by 2%), while remained unchanged in April – May 2013, and increased in April – May 2014 (by 1.2%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the average price significantly decreased by 10.2%. The highest decrease occurred in Kabul (28.6%), Hirat (17.8%), Kandahar (17.6%) and Nili (13.4%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan, and the start of harvest in some districts of the mentioned provinces. The variation in remaining main cities was within a normal range (2.9% to 6.7%).
- On the two-year comparison (May 2013), the average price slightly increased by 4.9%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Mays 2010 - 2014), the price significantly increased by 15.7%.

## 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 28/Kg in the reporting month (May 2015). The average price negligibly decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous month (April 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Hirat (by 5.7%), mainly due to maintained supply of wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, a significant increase occurred only in Kabul (5%), mainly due to increased price of wheat flour before harvesting. The variation in remaining main cities was within a normal limit (-2.9% to 1.7%).  
In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was similarly experienced in April – May 2013 (by 3.2%) and in April – May 2012 (by 2.5%), while increased in April – May 2014 (by 1.1%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 6.5%. The largest decrease occurred in Kandahar (16.4%), Faizabad (14.9%) and Hirat (10.7%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other remaining main cities was within a normal range (-8.3% to 2.5%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (May 2013), the average price of wheat flour slightly decreased by 4.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Mays 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.5%.



**Wheat flour (Low Price):** The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 25.3/Kg in the reporting month (May 2015). The average price negligibly decreased by 0.7% compared to previous month (April 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.2% to 2.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was similarly experienced in April – May 2013 (by 1.5%) and in April – May 2012 (by 0.5%), while increased in April – May 2014 (by 0.4%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 5.8%. The highest decrease occurred in Kabul (14.7%) and Kandahar (12.6%), main reason for the decrease was maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-7.2% to 1.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (May 2013), the average price slightly increased by 1.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Mays 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 13.4%.

## Retail Price of Rice in Main Urban Cities:

**Rice (High Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) was AFN 79.6/Kg in the reporting month (May 2015) which



negligibly decreased by 0.7% compared to previous month (April 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Kabul (by 7.8%), mainly related to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-0.9% to 2.4%). This decrease was not experienced in all last three proceeding years. It remained unchanged in April – May 2014, while increased in April – May 2013 (by 2.3%) and in April – May 2012 (by 3%).

Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 8.3%. The largest decrease occurred in Kandahar (22.6%), Hirat (20.5%) and Kabul (16.7%), mainly due to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price of rice in border town markets. The variation in other main city markets was within a normal range (-8% to 8%).

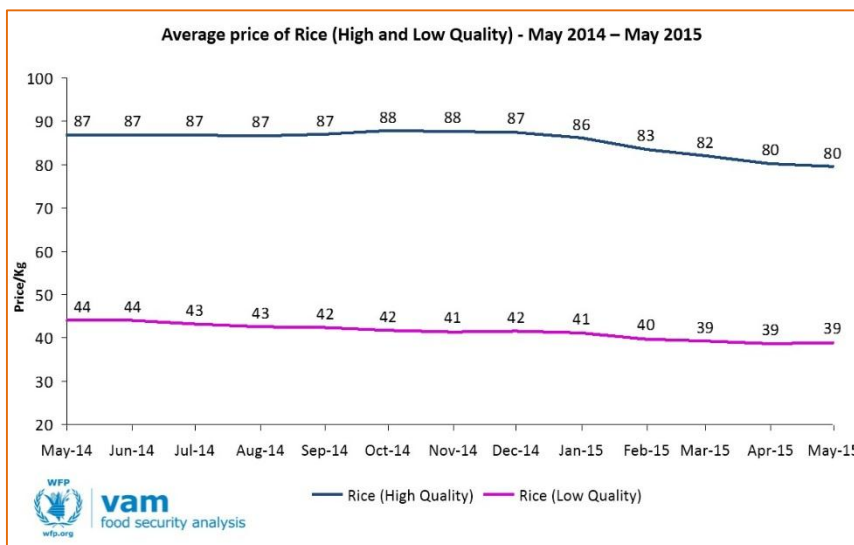
- Compared to the same month two years ago (May 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 1.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Mays 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 15.1%.

**Rice (Low Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) was AFN 38.8/Kg in the reporting month (May 2015), which negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to the previous month (April 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (0% to 4.5%).

In the last three proceeding years, this increase was similarly experienced in April – May 2014 (by 0.5%) and in April – May 2012 (by 0.6%), but it decreased in April – May 2013 (by 1.9%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the average price significantly decreased by 11.9%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (37.9%), Kandahar (15%), Mazar (14.3%), Nili (11.8%) and Hirat (10.1%), mainly related to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price of rice in border town markets. The variation in remaining main cities' markets was within a normal range (-4% to 0%),

- Compared to the same month two years ago (May 2013), the average price significantly decreased by 17.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Mays 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly increased by 1.4%.



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

The monthly average price of Cooking Oil was AFN 75.7/Kg in the reporting month (May 2015), which negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to previous month (April 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.4% to 0.6%). This decrease was not experienced in the last three proceeding years. It increased in April – May 2014 and April-May 2013 (by 0.1%) and remained unchanged in April – May 2012.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (May 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 6.3%. The highest decrease occurred in Hirat (by 12%), Nili (10.7%) and Faizabad (10.5%), mainly due to maintained supply of oil from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was normal (-8.1% to 1%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (May 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 6.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Mays 2010 – 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 1.3%.

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

**Salt:** The average price of salt for the month of May 2015 was AFN 13.1/Kg, which negligibly increased by 0.3% compared to previous month (April 2015). The variation in all main cities' markets remained stable (0% to 4.4%).

- Compared to the same month last year (May 2014), the average price decreased by 5.8%.

**Sugar:** The average price of sugar in May 2015 was AFN 41.3/Kg, which negligibly increased by 0.2% compared to the previous month (April 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-1.7% to 2.8%).

- Compared to the same month last year (May 2014), the average price decreased by 6.4%.

**Number of days averagely worked a laborer:** The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during May 2015 was reported at 13 days. The highest number of days worked was in Kabul and Nili (20 days), followed by Hirat (16 days), Kandahar and Jalalabad (12 days), Mazar and Maimana (8 days) and Faizabad (4 days).

### Market Watch:

Markets	Major Comm	Current Price per Kg	Price change (%)				Average				Markets	Major Comm	Current Price in AFN	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	20.0	-1.9	-13.0	-28.6	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)											
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.3	10.1	-8.7	-8.3	5.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-3.3	-8.3	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	80.0	16.4	-11.1	-16.7	-7.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep	6,400	-5.1	3.7	2.2	-1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	49.0	37.6	4.3	-2.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep	7,000	-0.6	-30.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	80.0	1.4	-7.0	-1.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep	4,600	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
KANDAHAR	Wheat	24.1	11.4	2.4	-17.6	-5.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep	6,000	3.6	-7.7	-4.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	23.8	7.2	1.1	-16.4	-1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,500	19.2	25.0	-18.2	5.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	59.9	-6.0	-19.1	-22.6	-0.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	3.0	-8.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	21.9	-30.5	-18.8	-15.0	1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep	4,000	-12.5	-14.9	5.3	-1.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	63.4	-4.0	-3.0	-8.1	-3.4	▶	▶	▶	▶	Terms of Trade Kgs of Wheat/Wheat flour											
JALALABAD	Wheat	22.0	27.5	10.0	6.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	15.0	1.0	-1.4	68.0	4.3	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.5	18.5	12.7	2.5	-2.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.5	-10.8	-9.4	12.6	-2.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	75.5	24.7	-1.6	-1.3	0.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.8	-24.4	-9.1	-6.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	29.5	-21.9	-49.0	-37.9	1.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	16.1	-14.0	3.1	21.6	2.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	71.3	-5.6	-12.0	-6.9	0.4	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.2	-29.2	-33.7	11.7	13.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
HIRAT	Wheat	18.6	14.5	-3.0	-17.8	-2.6	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.1	-23.2	-24.7	3.0	1.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.2	8.0	-11.9	-10.7	-5.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	8.6	-53.1	-48.3	-1.1	3.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	60.4	-4.3	-19.3	-20.5	2.4	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.3	-11.8	-6.9	15.5	4.3	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	25.7	-3.7	-7.0	-10.1	4.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	275.0	-5.9	5.4	40.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	65.7	-8.7	-16.3	-12.0	0.6	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	265.8	-17.8	1.3	24.0	4.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
MAZAR	Wheat	21.5	23.6	13.2	0.0	-2.3	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	318.2	-22.0	-36.4	-6.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.5	21.1	1.9	0.9	-1.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	247.3	-15.1	3.1	21.6	2.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	82.0	18.7	2.2	-3.5	-0.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	279.1	-20.5	-18.4	-4.8	2.3	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	36.0	-0.6	-10.0	-14.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	181.8	0.2	16.2	-15.7	7.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	78.0	6.7	6.8	1.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	258.1	-20.1	-20.9	-1.1	3.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
FAIZABAD	Wheat	24.8	17.5	7.6	-2.9	-1.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	137.9	-26.5	-20.8	21.6	-1.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	30.0	2.6	-15.6	-14.9	1.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.4	-8.9	-6.1	30.9	-0.6	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	92.0	29.6	35.3	-3.7	1.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	13.7	-6.2	-8.1	11.0	-6.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	48.0	0.1	-11.4	-4.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.2	-17.8	-11.3	-2.5	2.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	89.5	-0.8	-10.5	-10.5	-1.6	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.0	-5.1	13.5	11.9	6.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
MAIMANA	Wheat	23.3	23.1	16.3	1.1	-3.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.5	-27.2	-26.4	10.7	12.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	28.8	20.4	-0.9	1.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.0	-12.2	-4.0	17.5	-1.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	95.0	31.8	11.8	8.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	7.0	-53.1	-39.3	-1.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	4.0	-20.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.6	-6.7	8.6	4.3	4.3	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	83.0	5.6	8.1	-1.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	209.5	-15.8	0.4	9.0	-4.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	
NILI	Wheat	29.0	13.7	7.4	-13.4	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	269.5	-13.4	2.6	22.2	0.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.0	8.2	-7.9	-4.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	274.5	-16.7	-37.9	-2.5	2.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	92.0	8.2	-4.9	-8.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	169.1	-6.7	13.5	11.9	6.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Qaulity	60.0	16.3	-18.4	-11.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	218.2	-18.8	-9.4	-5.6	1.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	75.0	-5.5	-12.5	-10.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	150.0	14.5	48.0	-3.9	4.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
												MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	208.7	-19.5	-7.2	-1.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
												NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	114.3	-21.8	-7.6	9.8	-1.5	▶	▶	▶	▶
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. 1M= Compared to month ago 1Y= Compared to Mai 2014 and 2Y= Compared to Mai 2013																						

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