

## Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **July 2015** (Reported in August 2015)

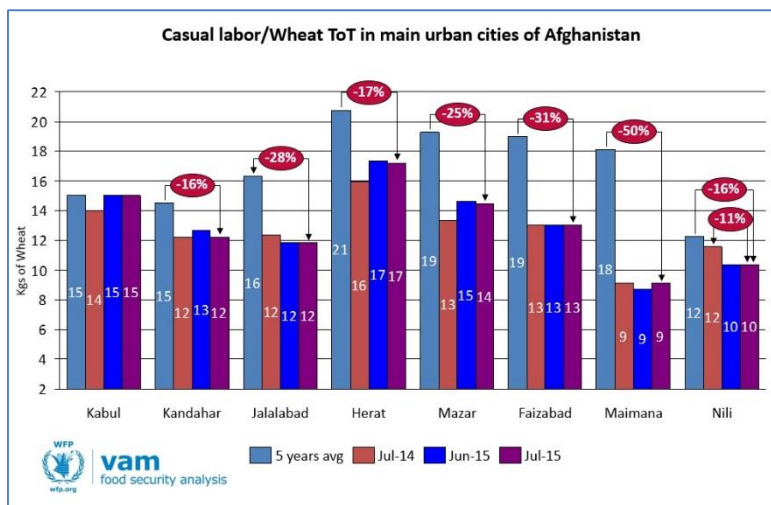
### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** Average wheat grain retail price in the main cities' markets of the country was slightly fluctuating in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, it slightly decreased from January – June 2015, and negligibly increased from June – July 2015.
- The current average wheat price in main cities of Afghanistan (AFN 22.3/Kg) is lower by 5.4% compared to the same time last year (July 2014), but significantly higher by 13.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Julys 2010 – 2014).
- **Wheat flour (High Price)** retail price in main cities of Afghanistan was relatively stable in 2013 and up to September 2014. Then, it was slightly decreasing from September 2014 to May 2015, and negligibly increased from June – July 2015. The current retail price (AFN 28.9/kg) is slightly lower by 5.8% compared to the same month last year (July 2014), but significantly higher by 10.7% 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 39.2/kg) is lower by 9.2% compared to the same month last year (July 2014), while slightly higher by 2.6% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 79.9/kg) is slightly lower by 7.9% compared to the same month last year (July 2014), but significantly higher by 12.2% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

### Terms of Trade (ToT):

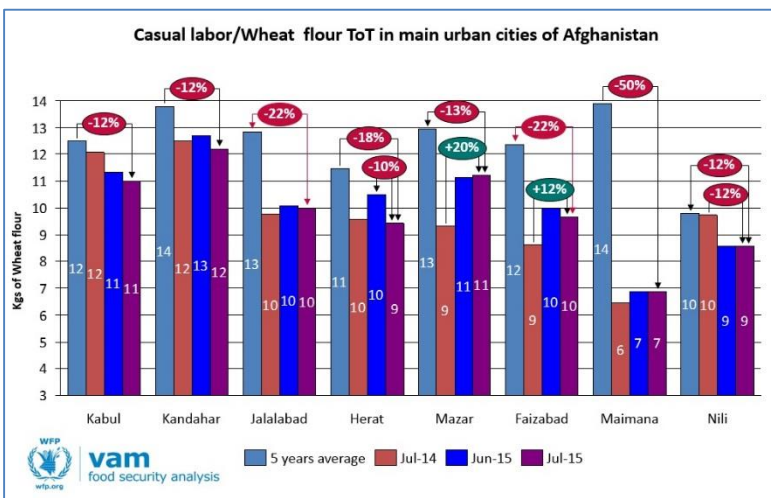
**Casual Labor and Wheat (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and wheat is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with 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 12.9 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT negligibly deteriorated (by 0.3%) from June to July 2015, mainly due to negligibly increased wheat price (by 0.1%). This deterioration was not experienced in the last three proceeding years as it improved in June – July 2014 (by 5%), in June – July 2013 (by 0.5%) and in June – July 2012 (by 3.1%).
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (July 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 1.6%, mainly due to decreased Wheat price (by 5.4%) outweighing decreased labor wage (by 5%).
- On the two-year comparison (July 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 21.7%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Julys 2010 - 2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 23.7%.



**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 9.9 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly deteriorated by 2.7% from June to July 2015, mainly related to increased wheat flour price (by 2.7%). This deterioration was also experienced in the last three proceeding years: in June – July 2014 (by

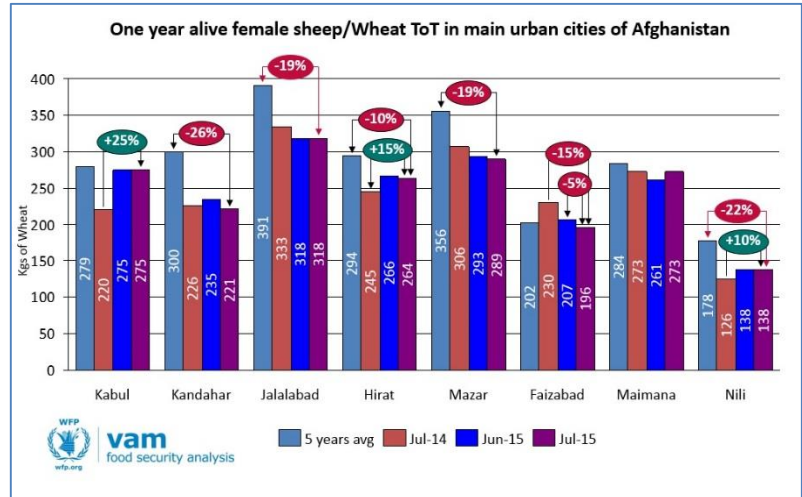


0.9%), in June – July 2013 (by 1%) and in June – July 2012 (by 3%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), this ToT was slightly improved by 1.2%, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 5.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (July 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 16.6%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Julys 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 20.7%.

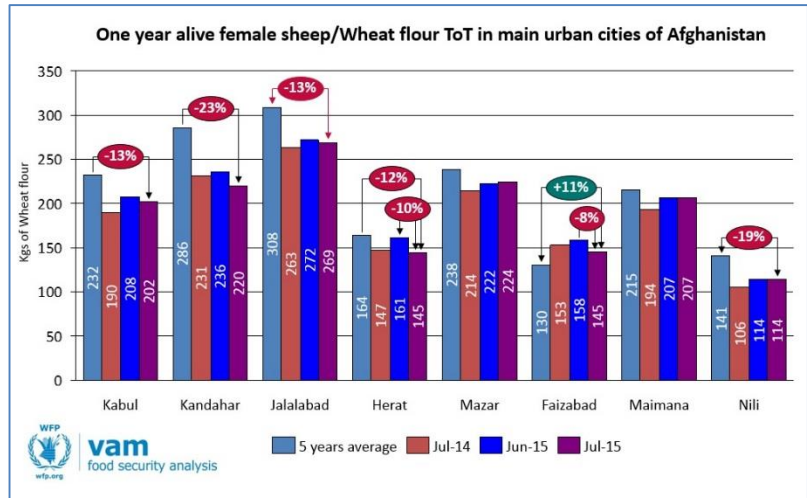
**Sheep and Wheat (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and Wheat is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households mainly relying on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

- Sheep-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 247 Kgs of wheat against one year alive female sheep, which negligibly deteriorated by 0.9% from June to July 2015, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 0.9%) and negligibly increased wheat price (by 0.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was only experienced in June – July 2013 (by 1.6%), while an improvement was seen in June – July 2014 (by 2.9%) and in June – July 2012 (by 1%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), this ToT negligibly improved by 0.7%, mainly related to decreased wheat price (by 5.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (July 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Julys 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 13.6%.



**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 (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 191 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 3.3% from June to July 2015, mainly due to increased wheat flour price (by 2.7%) and decreased sheep price (by 0.9%). This deterioration was also experienced in the last three proceeding years: in June – July 2014 (by 2.5%), in June – July 2013 (by 3.4%) and in June – July 2012 (by 4.1%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 2%, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 5.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (July 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 10.2%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Julys 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 11%.



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

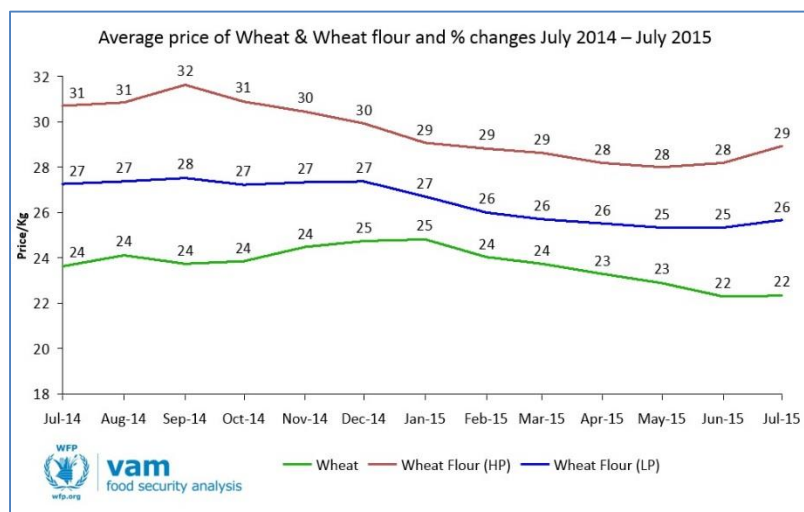
- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 22.3/Kg in July 2015. Compared to the past month (June 2015), the average price negligibly increased by 0.1%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-4.3% to 3.4%). During the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in June – July 2013 (by 2%) and in June – July 2012 (by 1.2%), while it decreased in June – July 2014 (by 4.3%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 5.4%. The largest decrease occurred in Kabul (20%) and Kandahar (14.4%), mostly due to increased supply of wheat from district markets during the harvest. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-7.2% to 4.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (July 2013), the average price slightly increased by 5.8%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Julys 2010 - 2014), the average price significantly increased by 13.7%.

## 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 28.9/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015). The average price slightly increased by 2.7% compared to the previous month (June 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Herat (by 11.4%), mainly due to increased price of imported wheat flour in border town market. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal limit (-0.9% to 4.2%).  
In the last three proceeding years, this increase was similarly experienced in June – July 2014 (by 1.7%), in June – July 2013 (by 0.8%) and in June – July 2012 (by 6.6%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 5.8%. The largest decrease occurred in Kandahar (12.1%) and Faizabad (10.8%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan, and arrival of the harvest. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-7.8% to 1.7%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (July 2013), the average price of wheat flour slightly increased by 1.2%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Julys 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 10.7%.



**Wheat flour (Low Price):** The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 25.7/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015). The average price slightly increased by 1.4% compared to previous month (June 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (0% to 4.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in June – July 2014 (by 0.1%), in June – July 2013 (by 3.5%) and in June – July 2012 (by 4.9%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 5.8%. The largest decrease occurred in Kabul (14.3%) and Mazar (12%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan, and arrival of the harvest. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-8.9% to 3.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (July 2013), the average price slightly increased by 1.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Julys 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.1%.

## Retail Price of Rice in Main Urban Cities:

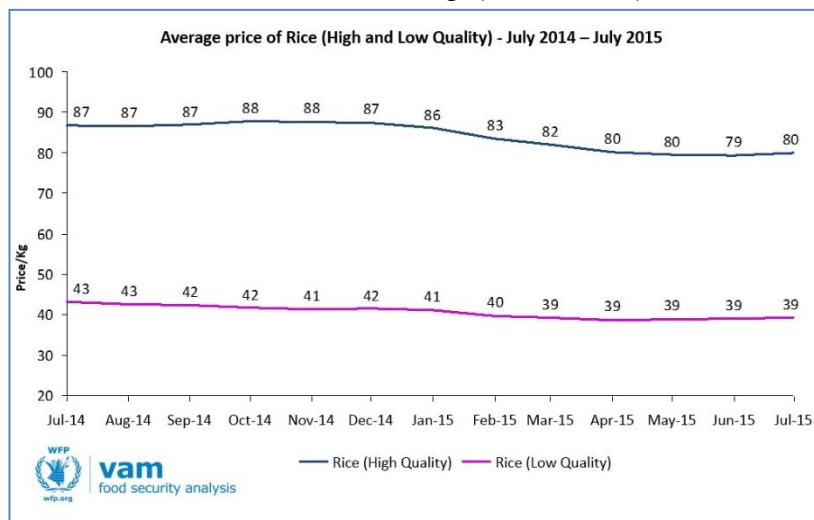
**Rice (High Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 79.9/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015) which negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to previous month (June 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Kandahar (by 6.3%). The variation in other main cities' markets was within a normal limit (-0.8% to 3.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in June – July 2013 (by 3%) and in June – July 2012 (by 3.8%), while remained unchanged in June – July 2014.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 7.9%. The largest decrease occurred in Herat (22%), Kandahar (18.6%) and Kabul (14.5%), mainly due to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price in border town markets. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-8% to 8%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (July 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 9.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Julys 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 12.2%.



**Rice (Low Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 39.2/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015), which negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to the previous month (June 2015). The highest increase was experienced only in Kandahar (by 9.6%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-4.2% to 4.6%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in June – July 2013 (by 0.1%) and in June – July 2012 (by 5.1%), while the price decreased in June – July 2014 (by 1.6%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the average price decreased by 9.2%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (30%), Nili (11.8%) and Mazar (11.1%), mainly related to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price in border town markets. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-8% to 2.5%),
- Compared to the same month two years ago (July 2013), the average price significantly decreased by 15.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Julys 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly increased by 2.6%.



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

The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities' markets was AFN 76.1/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015), which negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to previous month (June 2015). The highest increase was experienced only in Kandahar (by 6.7%), mainly due to increased price of oil in border town market. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-1.9% to 0.6%). This increase was also experienced in June – July 2013 (by 0.5%) and in June – July 2012 (by 1.6%), while remained unchanged in June – July 2014.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (July 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 5.9%. The largest decrease occurred in Herat (by 12.7%) and Faizabad (10%), mainly due to maintained supply of oil from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was normal (-9.1% to 0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (July 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 6.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Julys 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 3%.

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

**Salt:** The monthly average price of Salt for the month of July 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 13.2/Kg, which remained unchanged compared to previous month (June 2015).

- Compared to the same month last year (July 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.7%.

**Sugar:** The monthly average price of Sugar in July 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 41.4/Kg, which negligibly decreased by 0.7% compared to the previous month (June 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Mazar (6.1%), mainly due to maintained supply of sugar from Pakistan. Meanwhile, an increase occurred only in Herat (by 5.7%) mainly due to increased price of sugar in border town market. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-4.4% to 3.1%).

- Compared to the same month last year (July 2014), the average price decreased by 8%.

**Number of days averagely worked by a labourer:** The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during July 2015 was reported at 14 days. The highest number of working days was in Kabul and Nili (20 days), followed by Herat (16 days), Kandahar, Jalalabad and Maimana (12 days), Faizabad (10 days) and Mazar (8 days).

- Compared to the same month last year (July 2014), the average number of working days slightly increased by 4.8%.

## 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	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M				5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M
KABUL	Wheat	20.0	-4.2	-16.8	-20.0	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)										
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.3	8.5	-4.8	-6.0	2.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-3.8	-9.1	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	82.5	14.6	-11.5	-14.5	3.1	▲	▼	▼	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep	5,425	-17.7	-13.2	-16.2	-2.7	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	51.3	37.3	4.3	2.5	4.6	▲	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep	7,000	0.8	-22.2	0.0	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	76.0	-5.6	-12.9	-5.9	-1.9	▶	▼	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep	4,600	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
KANDAHAR	Wheat	24.5	9.6	2.6	-14.4	3.4	▶	▶	▼	▶	MAZAR	Sheep	6,000	5.4	-4.8	-3.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	24.6	5.7	-4.6	-12.1	4.2	▶	▶	▼	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,500	18.0	19.2	-15.1	-5.3	▲	▲	▼	▼
	Rice High Quality	63.4	-2.8	-21.0	-18.6	6.3	▶	▼	▶	▲	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	12.5	-0.4	0.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	24.8	-15.5	-6.9	-6.4	9.6	▼	▶	▶	▲	NILI	Sheep	4,000	-10.2	-16.7	5.3	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	68.4	2.7	7.7	-1.4	6.7	▶	▶	▶	▲	Terms of Trade Kgs of Wheat/Wheat flour										
JALALABAD	Wheat	22.0	23.6	12.8	4.8	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	15.0	-0.2	3.0	7.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.0	15.3	11.8	-2.3	1.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.2	-15.6	-16.5	0.1	-3.3	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	75.8	22.0	-1.8	-1.0	0.3	▲	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.8	-27.7	-11.4	-4.5	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	29.5	-24.9	-47.7	-30.0	0.0	▼	▼	▼	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	17.2	-17.2	-17.1	7.8	-0.9	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	73.0	-3.8	-9.6	-4.6	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	14.5	-24.9	-25.6	8.4	-1.2	▼	▼	▶	▶
HIRAT	Wheat	17.4	16.1	20.7	-7.2	0.9	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.0	-31.3	-30.2	0.0	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	31.8	20.5	5.9	1.7	11.4	▲	▶	▶	▲	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	9.1	-49.8	-51.5	0.0	4.5	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	59.3	-8.5	-26.5	-22.0	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.3	-15.7	-11.3	-10.6	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	26.4	-1.9	-6.7	-8.0	0.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	275.0	-1.5	9.2	25.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	65.8	-10.2	-11.2	-12.7	0.2	▼	▼	▼	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	221.4	-26.3	-15.4	-2.1	-5.9	▼	▼	▶	▼
MAZAR	Wheat	20.8	24.3	15.3	2.5	1.2	▲	▲	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	318.2	-18.5	-31.1	-4.5	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.8	9.9	-0.9	-7.8	-0.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	263.8	-10.3	-17.1	7.8	-0.9	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	80.0	10.3	-8.6	-5.0	-0.6	▲	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	289.2	-18.7	-17.4	-5.6	-1.2	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	36.0	1.0	-10.0	-11.1	0.0	▶	▶	▼	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	195.7	-3.2	-1.5	-15.1	-5.3	▶	▶	▼	▼
	Cooking Oil	78.0	4.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	272.7	-3.9	-9.5	0.0	4.5	▶	▶	▶	▶
FAIZABAD	Wheat	23.0	19.9	21.1	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	137.9	-22.5	-13.8	9.8	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	31.0	5.6	0.8	-10.8	3.3	▶	▶	▼	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.0	-11.7	-10.0	-8.8	-2.8	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	91.5	19.5	-4.7	-3.7	-0.8	▲	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	12.2	-11.7	-10.1	-2.5	-4.1	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	46.0	-5.4	-8.5	-8.0	-4.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.0	-22.1	-10.6	2.4	-1.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	90.0	-5.9	-10.7	-10.0	0.6	▶	▼	▼	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.4	-17.9	-5.6	-1.6	-10.2	▼	▶	▶	▼
MAIMANA	Wheat	22.0	13.3	10.0	0.0	-4.3	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.2	-13.3	-13.5	20.5	0.9	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	29.0	12.8	1.8	-6.5	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.7	-21.8	-16.2	12.1	-3.2	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	95.0	29.3	5.3	8.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	6.9	-50.3	-47.6	6.9	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	1.1	-23.1	0.0	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.6	-12.5	-14.9	-11.8	0.0	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Cooking Oil	83.0	1.5	3.1	-2.4	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	201.8	-13.0	-4.5	6.4	-2.8	▼	▶	▶	▶
NILI	Wheat	29.0	12.6	-3.3	-4.1	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	220.3	-23.0	-9.0	-4.7	-6.7	▼	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.0	8.5	0.7	-2.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	269.2	-12.7	-30.4	2.4	-1.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	92.0	10.6	-8.0	-8.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	144.5	-12.1	-5.6	-1.6	-10.2	▼	▶	▶	▼
	Rice Low Qaulity	60.0	22.0	-13.4	-11.8	0.0	▲	▼	▼	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	224.3	-5.9	-3.9	4.9	0.9	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	75.0	-5.1	-13.8	-9.1	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	145.2	11.4	18.2	-4.8	-8.3	▲	▲	▶	▼
											MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	206.9	-3.9	-2.1	6.9	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
											NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	114.3	-19.0	-17.3	8.3	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. 1M= Compared to month ago 1Y= Compared to July 2014 and 2Y= Compared to July 2013																					

Source: WFP/VAM market data from Afghanistan main cities (Kabul, Kandahar, Mazar, Jalalabad, Faizabad, Herat, Maimana and Nili)  
 Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) – World Food Programme (WFP), Afghanistan