



Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of August 2015 (Reported in September 2015)

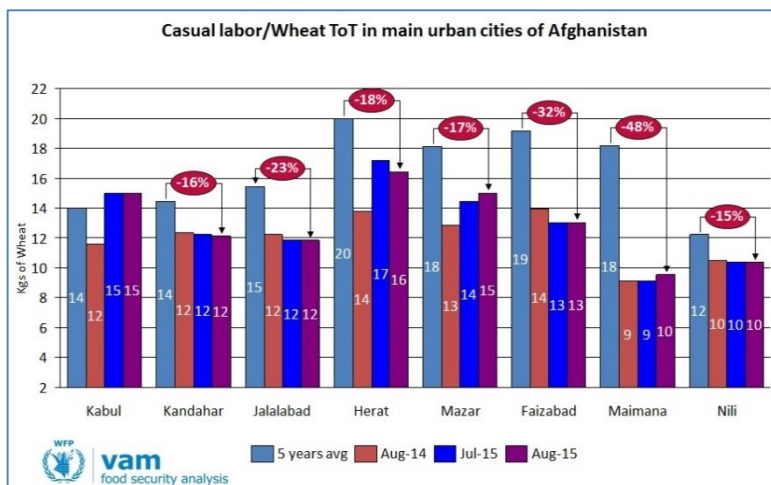
HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** Average wheat grain retail price in the main cities' markets of the country was slightly fluctuating in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, it followed decreasing trend from January – August 2015.
- The current average wheat price in main cities of Afghanistan (AFN 22.3/Kg) is lower by 7.6% compared to the same time last year (August 2014), but significantly higher by 11.1% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Augusts 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 – August 2015. The current retail price (AFN 29.6/kg) is slightly lower by 3.9% compared to the same month last year (August 2014), but significantly higher by 10.0% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.
- Rice is considered as the 2nd main staple food in Afghanistan. The current average retail price of Low Quality Rice (AFN 39.9/kg) is lower by 6.4% compared to the same month last year (August 2014), while slightly higher by 4.0% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 80.1/kg) is slightly lower by 7.5% compared to the same month last year (August 2014), but significantly higher by 11.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months.

Terms of Trade (ToT):

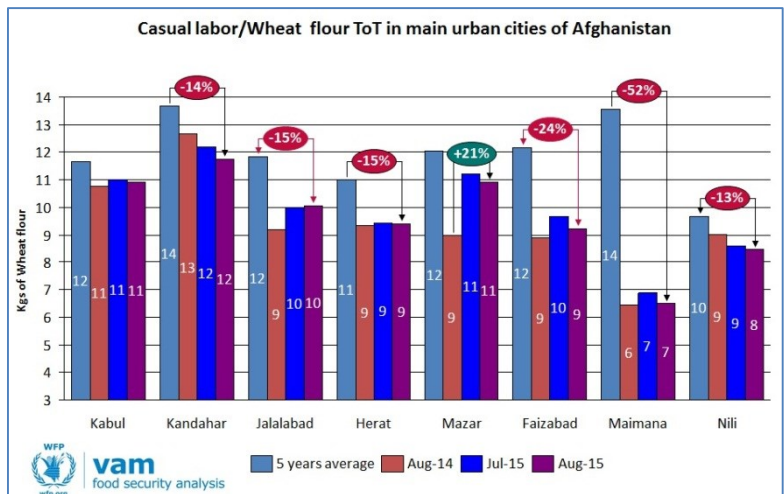
Casual Labor and Wheat (ToT): *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and wheat is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of wheat in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of wheat can be purchased with one- 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 improved (by 0.1%) from July to August 2015, mainly due to negligibly decreased wheat price (by 0.3%). Improvement was not experienced in the last three proceeding years as it deteriorated in:
 - July – August 2014 (by 5.2%),
 - July – August 2013 (by 3.5%) and
 - July – August 2012 (by 2.3%).
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (August 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 7.2%, mainly due to decreased Wheat price (by 7.6%)
- On the two-year comparison (August 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 18.8%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Augusts 2010 - 2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 21.5%.



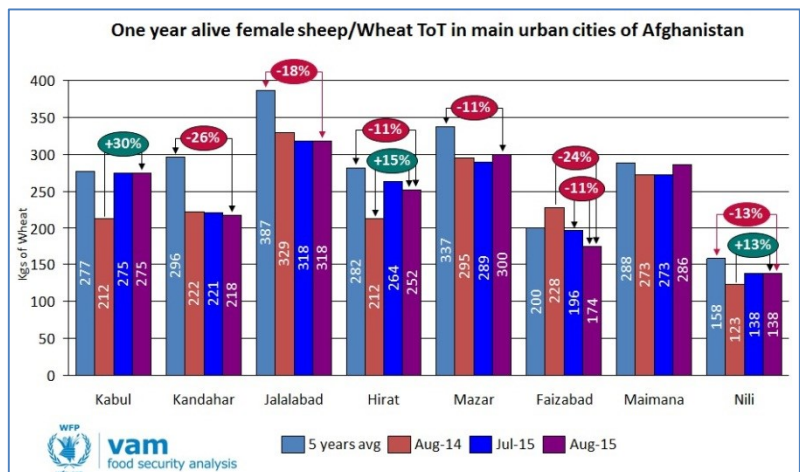
Casual Labor and High Price Wheat flour (ToT): *The Terms of Trade (ToT) between casual Labor and High Price Wheat Flour is a proxy indicator or the purchasing capacity of households mainly relying on casual labor as main income, and purchase of Wheat Flour in the market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms 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 9.7 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly deteriorated by 2.2% from July to August 2015, mainly related to increased wheat flour price (by 2.4%). This deterioration was also experienced in the last three proceeding years in:
 - July – August 2014 (by 3.5%),
 - July – August 2013 (by 3.3%) and
 - July – August 2012 (by 6.2%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), this ToT was slightly improved by 2.5%, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 3.9%).
- On the two-year comparison (August 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 15.7%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Augusts 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 19.2%.



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.

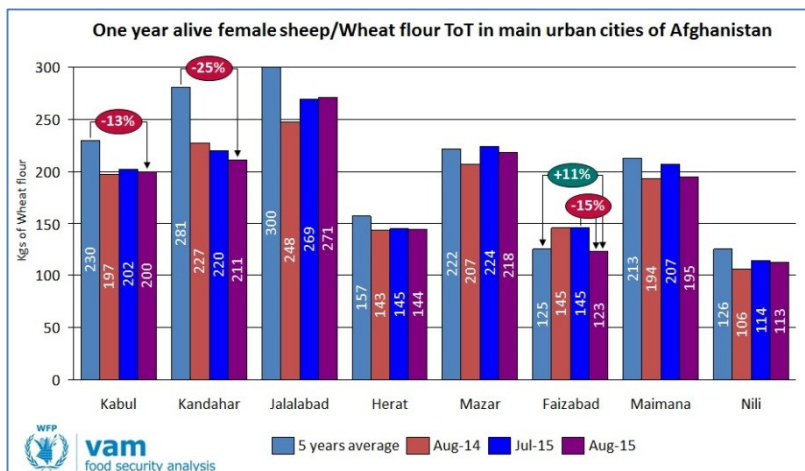
- Sheep-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 245 Kgs of wheat against one year alive female sheep, which negligibly deteriorated by 0.7% from July to August 2015, mainly due to decreased sheep price (by 1.2%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was only experienced in:
 - July – August 2014 (by 3.4%) and
 - July – August 2013 (by 0.4%),
 While an improvement was seen in:
 - July – August 2012 (by 0.3%).



- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), this ToT negligibly improved by 3.6%, mainly related to decreased wheat price (by 7.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (August 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Augusts 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 11.9%.

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 184 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly deteriorated by 3.4% from July to August 2015, mainly due to increased wheat flour price (by 2.4%) and decreased sheep price (by 1.2%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was experienced in:
 - July – August 2014 (by 2.0%) and
 - July – August 2012 (by 3.3%),
 While an improvement was seen in:
 - July – August 2013 (by 0.5%).



- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 0.6%, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 3.9%).
- On the two-year comparison (August 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 13.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Augusts 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 10.7%.

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 August 2015. Compared to the past month (July 2015), the average price negligibly increased by 0.3%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-4.5% to 4.9%). During the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in July – August 2014 (by 2.1%), in July – August 2013 (by 0.2%) and in July – August 2012 (by 1.3%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 7.6%. The largest decrease occurred in Kabul (23.1%), Hirat (15.8%) and Kandahar (12.5%), 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 (-6.5% to 7.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (August 2013), the average price slightly increased by 5.3%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Augusts 2010 - 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.1%.

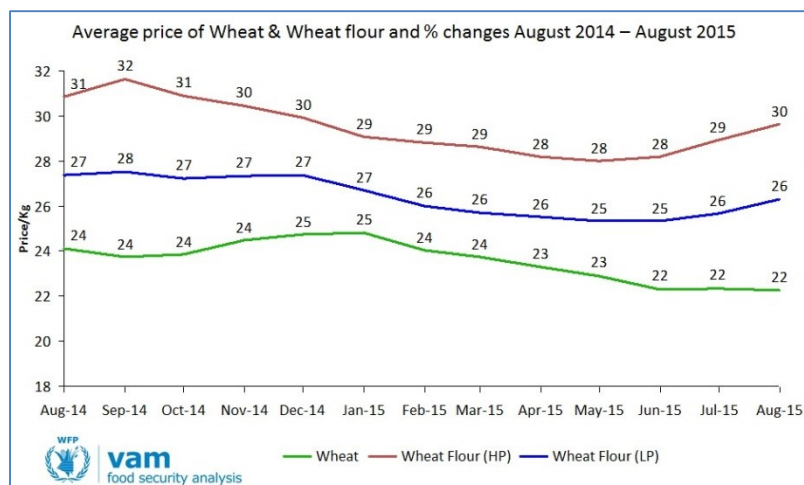
Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

Wheat flour (High Price):

- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 29.6/Kg in the reporting month (August 2015). The average price slightly increased by 2.4% compared to the previous month (July 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Maimana (by 6.0%), 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 (-0.5% to 4.8%).

In the last three proceeding years, this increase was similarly experienced in July – August 2014 (by 0.4%), in July – August 2012 (by 6.1%), while remained unchanged in July – August 2013.

- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.9%. Mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-8.4% to -0.8%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (August 2013), the average price of wheat flour slightly increased by 3.6%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Augusts 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 10%.



Wheat flour (Low Price): The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 26.3/Kg in the reporting month (July 2015). The average price slightly increased by 2.4% compared to previous month (July 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Maimana (by 6.5%). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-0.6% to 4.7%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in July – August 2014 (by 0.4%), in July – August 2013 (by 0.9%) and in July – August 2012 (by 3.0%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.8%. The largest decrease occurred in Kabul (14.3%), Mazar (13.5%) and Jalalabad (11.4%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-8.9% to 6.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (August 2013), the average price slightly increased by 3.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (August 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.7%.

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 80.1/Kg in the reporting month

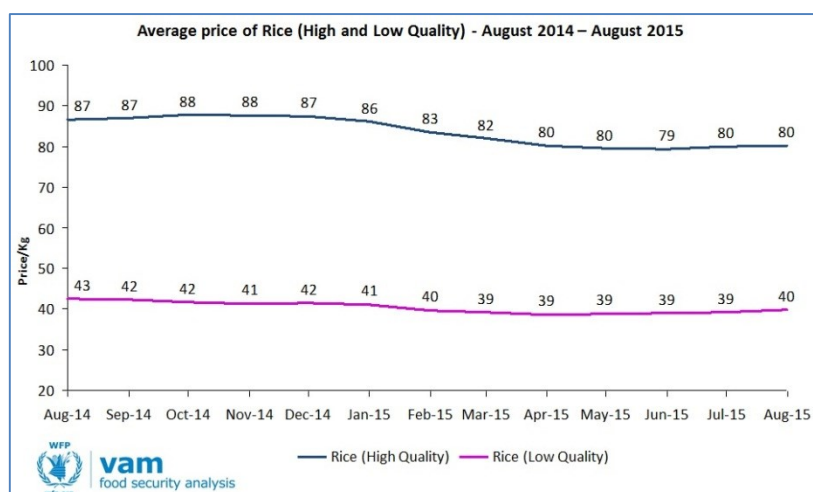
(August 2015) which negligibly increased by 0.2% compared to previous month (July 2015). The variation in all main cities' markets was within a normal limit (-7.1% to 4.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in July – August 2013 (by 1.2%) and in July – August 2012 (by 1.9%), while decreased in July – August 2014 (by 0.2%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 7.5%. The largest decrease occurred in Herat (17.6%), Kandahar (16.1%) and Kabul (12.2%), mainly due to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price in border town markets as it increased to the top ceiling level in the past years. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-8.6% to 8%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (August 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 10.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Augusts 2010 – 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.7%.

Rice (Low Quality): The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 39.9/Kg in the reporting month (August 2015), which negligibly increased by 1.6% compared to the previous month (July 2015). The highest increase occurred in Kandahar (by 5.6%) and in Kabul (by 5.4%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (0% to 3.8%).

In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in July – August 2013 (by 0.2%) and in July – August 2012 (by 4.6%), while the price decreased in July – August 2014 (by 1.4%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the average price decreased by 6.4%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (24.8%), Nili (11.8%) and Mazar (10.0%), mainly related to maintained supply of high quality rice from Pakistan. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-5.2% to 8.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (August 2013), the average price significantly decreased by 14.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Augusts 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly increased by 4.0%.



Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities' markets was AFN 76.7/Kg in the reporting month (August 2015), which negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to previous month (July 2015). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (0% to 4.6%). This increase was also experienced only in July – August 2012 (by 0.6%), remained unchanged in July – August 2013 and decreased in July – August 2014 (by 0.5%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (August 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.7%. The largest decrease occurred in Herat (by 10.4%), mainly due to maintained supply of oil from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was normal (-8.5% to 3.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (August 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 5.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Augusts 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 2.9%.

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 August 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 13.2/Kg, which negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to previous month (July 2015). Compared to the same month last year (August 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.8%.

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in August 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 40.8/Kg, which negligibly decreased by 1.3% compared to the previous month (July 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Maimana (7.0%), mainly due to maintained supply of sugar from Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-1.8% to 3.0%).

- Compared to the same month last year (August 2014), the average price decreased by 9.4%.

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during August 2015 was reported at 13 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), Mazar (8 days) and Faizabad (4 days). Compared to the past month on average it decrease by 0.8 day. In Faizabad there was a decrease of 0.6 day per month and the variation in other main cities were not significant.

- Compared to the same month last year (August 2014), the average number of working days slightly decreased by 0.3 day per month.

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	1Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1Y	1M				5 Y Ave	2 Y	1Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1Y	1M
KABUL	Wheat	20.0	-4.2	-16.8	-20.0	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)										
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.5	8.5	-4.8	-6.0	2.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-4.4	-9.8	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	86.0	14.6	-11.5	-14.5	3.1	▲	▼	▼	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep	5,400	-17.7	-16.8	-14.1	-0.5	▼	▼	▼	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	54.0	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	24.8	9.6	2.6	-14.4	3.4	▶	▶	▼	▶	MAZAR	Sheep	6,000	5.4	-4.8	-3.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.6	5.7	-4.6	-12.1	4.2	▶	▶	▼	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,000	18.0	1.9	-18.4	-11.1	▲	▶	▼	▼
	Rice High Quality	65.1	-2.8	-21.0	-18.6	6.3	▶	▼	▼	▲	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	26.2	-15.5	-6.9	-6.4	9.6	▼	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep	4,000	-10.2	-10.1	5.3	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	71.5	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	7.0	15.0	30.0	0.0	▶	▲	▲	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.9	15.3	11.8	-2.3	1.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.1	-16.4	-16.6	-2.0	-1.2	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	76.0	22.0	-1.8	-1.0	0.3	▲	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.8	-23.4	-10.2	-3.4	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	29.5	-24.9	-47.7	-30.0	0.0	▼	▼	▼	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	16.4	-17.8	-16.1	19.0	-4.5	▼	▼	▲	▶
	Cooking Oil	73.0	-3.8	-9.6	-4.6	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	15.0	-17.3	-18.8	16.7	3.8	▼	▼	▲	▶
HIRAT	Wheat	18.3	16.1	20.7	-7.2	0.9	▲	▲	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.0	-31.9	-29.2	-6.5	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	31.9	20.5	5.9	1.7	11.4	▲	▶	▶	▲	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	9.5	-47.6	-50.8	4.8	4.8	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	62.0	-8.5	-26.5	-22.0	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.3	-15.4	-3.0	-1.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	27.4	-1.9	-6.7	-8.0	0.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	275.0	-0.7	3.7	30.0	0.0	▶	▶	▲	▶
	Cooking Oil	66.2	-10.2	-11.2	-12.7	0.2	▼	▼	▼	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	217.8	-26.4	-19.0	-1.8	-1.6	▼	▼	▶	▶
MAZAR	Wheat	20.0	24.3	15.3	2.5	1.2	▲	▲	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	318.2	-17.7	-30.2	-3.4	0.0	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.5	9.9	-0.9	-7.8	-0.9	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	251.9	-10.6	-16.1	19.0	-4.5	▼	▼	▲	▶
	Rice High Quality	80.0	10.3	-8.6	-5.0	-0.6	▲	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	300.0	-11.0	-14.3	1.6	3.8	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	36.0	1.0	-10.0	-11.1	0.0	▶	▼	▼	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	173.9	-12.8	-15.8	-23.7	-11.1	▼	▼	▼	▼
	Cooking Oil	78.8	4.0	2.6	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	285.7	-0.9	-4.8	4.8	4.8	▶	▶	▶	▶
FAIZABAD	Wheat	23.0	19.9	21.1	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep /Wheat	137.9	-12.7	-7.0	12.5	0.0	▼	▶	▲	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	32.5	5.6	0.8	-10.8	3.3	▶	▶	▼	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.9	-6.3	-0.9	1.4	-0.9	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	85.0	19.5	-4.7	-3.7	-0.8	▲	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.7	-14.2	-11.9	-7.2	-3.6	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	46.0	-5.4	-8.5	-8.0	-4.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.0	-15.1	-12.1	9.2	0.5	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	90.5	-5.9	-10.7	-10.0	0.6	▶	▼	▼	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.4	-14.5	-5.9	0.9	-0.2	▼	▼	▶	▶
MAIMANA	Wheat	21.0	13.3	10.0	0.0	-4.3	▲	▲	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	10.9	-9.4	-7.3	21.2	-2.7	▶	▶	▲	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	30.8	12.8	1.8	-6.5	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.2	-24.1	-16.9	3.8	-4.6	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	95.0	29.3	5.3	8.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	6.5	-52.0	-51.7	0.8	-5.7	▼	▼	▶	▼
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	1.1	-23.1	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	8.5	-12.6	-10.2	-6.4	-1.4	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	83.0	1.5	3.1	-2.4	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	200.0	-13.1	-10.7	1.4	-0.9	▼	▼	▶	▶
NILI	Wheat	29.0	12.6	-3.3	-4.1	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	211.4	-24.7	-14.4	-7.1	-4.1	▼	▼	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	35.5	8.5	0.7	-2.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	270.5	-9.8	-31.6	9.2	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	92.0	10.6	-8.0	-8.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	144.3	-7.9	-5.9	0.9	-0.2	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Qaulity	60.0	22.0	-13.4	-11.8	0.0	▲	▼	▼	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	218.2	-1.7	-2.2	5.6	-2.7	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	75.0	-5.1	-13.8	-9.1	0.0	▶	▼	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	123.1	-1.6	-1.2	-15.2	-15.2	▶	▶	▼	▶
											MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	195.1	-8.3	-6.5	0.8	-5.7	▶	▶	▶	▶
											NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	112.7	-10.4	-13.9	6.7	-1.4	▼	▼	▶	▶

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 1month, or within 10% for 3 months, one year, two year and 5 years.

1M= Compared to month ago 1Y= Compared to August 2014 and 2Y= Compared to August 2013