



## Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of September 2015 (Reported in October 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 was decreasing trend from January – August, but negligibly increased from August to September.
- The current average wheat price in main cities of Afghanistan (AFN 22.7/Kg) is lower by 4.5% compared to the same time last year (September 2014), but significantly higher by 11.7% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2010 – 2014).
- **Wheat flour (High Price)** retail price in main cities' markets 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 – September 2015. The current retail price (AFN 30.6/kg) is slightly lower by 3.4% compared to the same month last year (September 2014), but significantly higher by 10.8% 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 39.7/kg) is lower by 6.2% compared to the same month last year (September 2014), while slightly higher by 2.4% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 79.2/kg) is slightly lower by 9.0% compared to the same month last year (September 2014), but slightly higher by 9.1% 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.

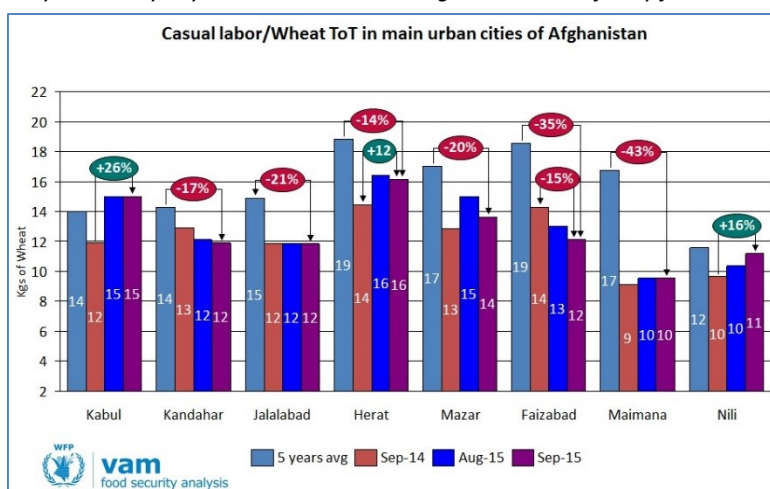
- Wage labor-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 12.6 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT negligibly deteriorated (by 1.9%) from August to September 2015, mainly due to negligibly increased wheat price (by 2.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this deterioration was also experienced in:

- August - September 2013 (by 6.6%), and
- August - September 2012 (by 4.4%),

While an improvement was seen in:

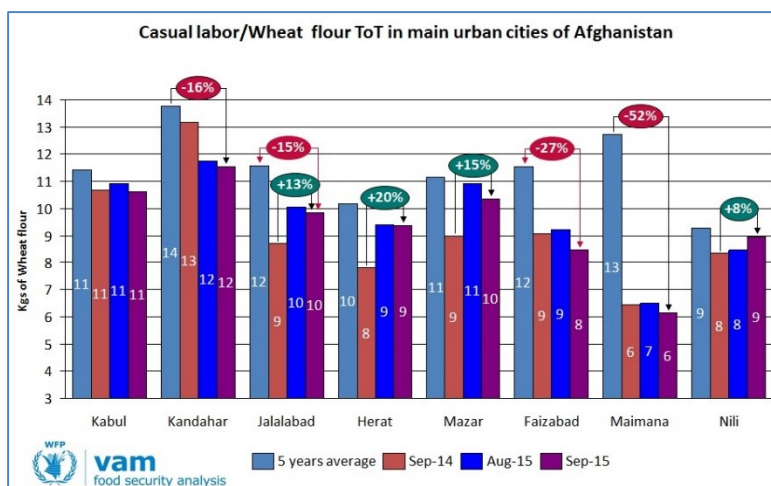
- August - September 2014 (by 0.7%).

- In comparison to the same month one year ago (September 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 4.5%, mainly due to decreased Wheat price (by 4.5%)
- On the two-year comparison (September 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.7%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2010 - 2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 19.6%.



**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.

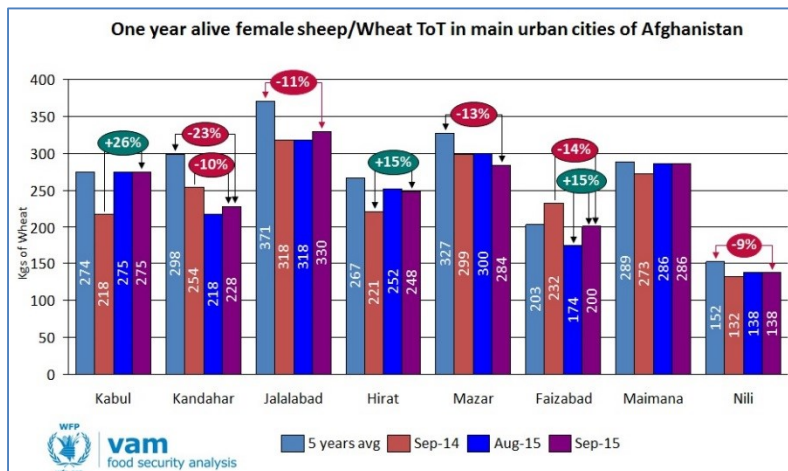
- Wage labor-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 9.4 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly deteriorated by 2.5% from August to September 2015, mainly related to slightly increased wheat flour price (by 3.1%). This deterioration was also experienced in the last three proceeding years in:
- August - September 2014 (by 2.8%),



- August - September (by 3.3%) and
- August - September (by 6.1%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 2.8%, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 3.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.9%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2010-2014), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 17.8%.

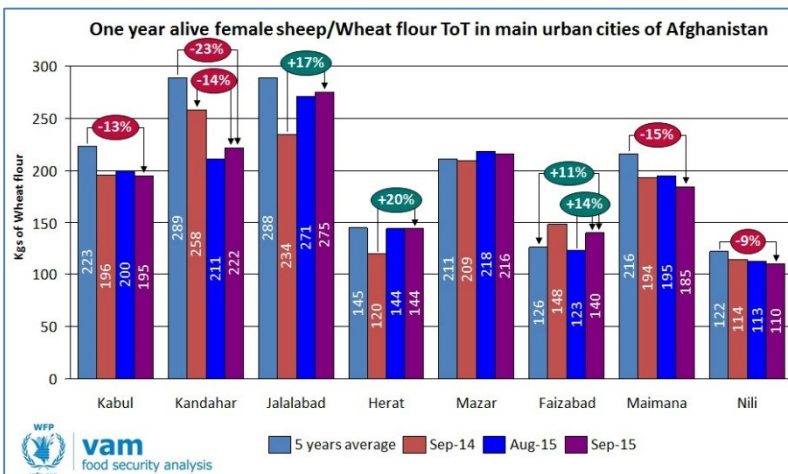
**Sheep and Wheat (ToT):** *The Terms of Trade between a one year old female sheep and Wheat is a proxy for the purchasing capacity of those households mainly relying on income from livestock (pastoralists). It says how many kilograms of Wheat can be obtained when selling a one year old female sheep.*

- Sheep-Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 249 Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly improved by 1.4% from August to September 2015, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 3.8%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was only experienced in:
  - August - September 2014 (by 2.9%),
 While deterioration was seen in:
  - August - September 2013 (by 3.5%) and
  - August - September 2012 (by 3.5%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), this ToT negligibly improved by 2.1%, mainly related to decreased wheat price (by 4.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 10.2%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2010-2014), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 8.8%.



**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 (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 186 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 0.7% from August to September 2015, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 3.8%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was experienced only in:
  - August - September 2014 (by 0.4%),
 While deterioration was reported in:
  - August - September 2013 (by 2.2%) and
  - August - September 2012 (by 5.3%)



- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 0.9%, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 3.4%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2013), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 11.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2010-2014), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 8.3%.

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

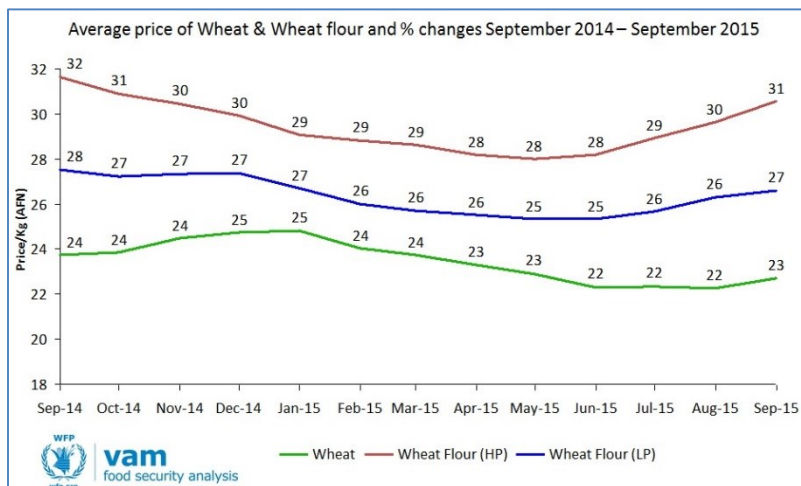
The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 22.7/Kg in September 2015. Compared to the past month (August 2015), the average price slightly increased by 2.0%. The highest increase occurred only in Mazar (by 10.0%), Mainly related to increased purchase of bulk of local wheat for milling purposes. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (1.4% to 3.3%). During the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in August - September 2013 (by 1.8%) and August - September 2012 (by 4.5%), while a decrease was seen in August - September 2014 (by 1.4%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.5%. The largest decrease occurred in Kabul (20.8%) and Hirat (10.7%), mostly due to increased supply of wheat, while an increase was seen only in Faizabad (13.1%). The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-6.5% to 4.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (September 2013), the average price slightly increased by 5.4%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2010 - 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.7%.

#### 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 30.6/Kg in the reporting month (September 2015). The average price slightly increased by 3.1% compared to the previous month (August 2015). The highest increase occurred in Maimana (by 5.7%) and Mazar (5.5%), 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 (0.4% to 4.6%).  
In the last three proceeding years, this increase was similarly experienced in August - September 2014 (by 2.6%) and August - September 2012 (by 6.8%), while a decrease was observed in August - September 2013 (by 0.9%).
- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.4%, mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The largest decrease occurred in Hirat (16.8%) and Jalalabad (11.7%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-2.0% to 4.8%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2013), the average price of wheat flour slightly increased by 7.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2010 - 2014), the average price significantly increased by 10.8%.



**Wheat flour (Low Price):** The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 26.6/Kg in the reporting month (September 2015). The average price slightly increased by 1.1% compared to previous month (August 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Mazar (by 6.7%), while a decrease was seen only in Kandahar (by 7.3%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-0.4% to 3.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was also experienced in August - September 2014 (by 0.6%) and August - September 2012 (by 4.2%), while a decrease was reported in August - September 2013 (by 1.5%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the current average price slightly decreased by 3.3%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (14.5%) and Kabul (13.9%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-9.2% to 8.7%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2013), the average price slightly increased by 5.7%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Septembers 2010 - 2014), the average price significantly increased by 11.8%.

#### Retail Price of Rice in Main Urban Cities:

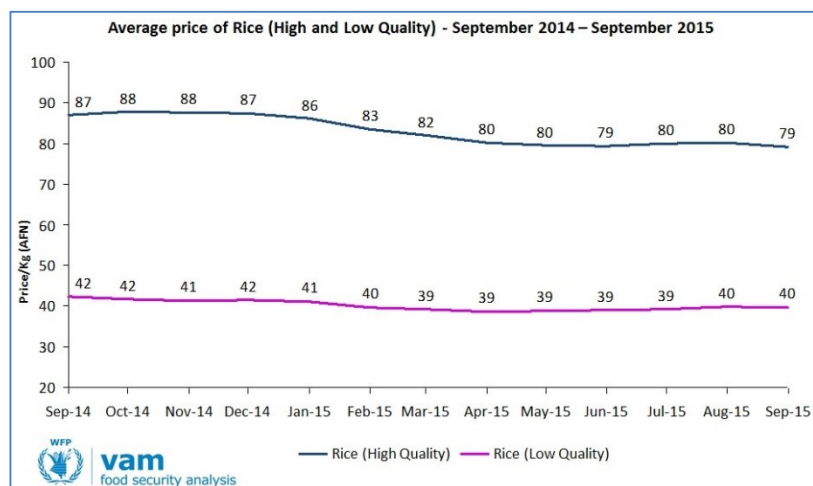
**Rice (High Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 79.2/Kg in the reporting month (September 2015) which negligibly decreased by 1.2% compared to previous month (August 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Maimana (7.1%). The variation in other main cities' markets was within a normal limit (-1.7% to 0.8%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was also experienced in August - September 2013 (by 1.2%), while an increase was reported in August - September 2014 (by 0.4%) and August - September 2012 (by 4.0%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 9.0%. The largest decrease occurred in Kandahar (17.7%), Hirat (17.3%), and Kabul (13.8%), mainly due to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and decreased price in border town markets after reaching a ceiling level in the past years. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-8.0% to 0.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2013), the average price significantly decreased by 10.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Septembers 2010 - 2014), the average price slightly increased by 9.1%.

**Rice (Low Quality):** The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 39.7/Kg in the reporting month (September 2015), which negligibly decreased by 0.5% compared to the previous month (August 2015). The highest decrease occurred only in Hirat (by 8.0%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-3.2% to 4.2%).

In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was also experienced in August - September 2014 (by 0.7%) and August - September 2013 (by 0.9%), while the price increased in August - September 2012 (by 3.7%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the average price decreased by 6.2%. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (16.9%), Kandahar (14.6%), Nili (11.8%) and Hirat (11.6%), mainly related to maintained supply of high quality rice from Pakistan. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-6.3% to 8.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2013), the average price significantly decreased by 14.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Septembers 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly increased by 2.4%.



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

The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities' markets was AFN 76.0/Kg in the reporting month (September 2015), which negligibly decreased by 1.0% compared to previous month (August 2015). The largest decrease occurred only in Mazar (8.9%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-3.3% to 3.6%). This decrease was also experienced in August - September 2014 (by 1.0%), while an increase was reported in August - September 2013 (by 1.3%) and August - September 2012 (1.6%).

- Compared to the same month one year ago (September 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.7%, mainly due to maintained supply of oil from Pakistan. The largest increase occurred in Kandahar (by 15.0%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-9.5 to -5.0%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (September 2013), the average price slightly decreased by 7.7%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Septembers 2010 – 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 5.0%.

### 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 September 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 13.3/Kg, which negligibly increased by 0.3% compared to previous month (August 2015). Compared to the same month last year (September 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 5.6%.

**Sugar:** The monthly average price of Sugar in September 2015 in main cities' markets was AFN 40.8/Kg, which remained unchanged, compared to the previous month (August 2015). The highest increase occurred only in Kabul (5.9%), mainly due to increased price in source points of Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-3.0% to 1.1%). Compared to the same month last year (September 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 9.1%.

**Number of days averagely worked by a labourer:** The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during September 2015 was reported at 14 days. The highest number of working days was in Nili (22 days) and Kabul (20 days), followed by Herat (16 days), Kandahar, Jalalabad and Maimana (12 days), Mazar (8 days) and Faizabad (6 days). Overall, compared to the past month it increased by 0.5 days per month, due to an increase by 2 days per month in Nili and Faizabad. The average number of working days remained unchanged in other main cities.

- Compared to the same month last year (September 2014), the average number of working days slightly decreased by 0.4 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			
			5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M	5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M				5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M	5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M
KABUL	Wheat	20.0	-5.0	-11.1	-20.8	0.0	▲	▼	▼	▼	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)										
	Wheat flour (HP)	28.3	10.1	6.6	0.4	2.7	▲	▲	▲	▲	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-3.3	-4.3	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	84.5	13.2	-9.7	-13.8	-1.7	▲	▲	▼	▲	KANDAHAR	Sheep	5,775	-13.4	-14.7	-15.8	6.9	▼	▼	▼	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	54.0	39.0	8.0	8.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	JALALABAD	Sheep	7,250	4.0	-10.8	3.6	3.6	▲	▼	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	76.0	-6.0	-13.1	-6.2	0.0	▲	▼	▲	▲	HIRAT	Sheep	4,600	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
KANDAHAR	Wheat	25.3	12.2	-1.0	-6.4	2.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	MAZAR	Sheep	6,250	10.5	0.4	-0.4	4.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.0	11.7	0.7	-2.0	1.9	▲	▲	▲	▲	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,750	21.8	2.7	-2.6	18.8	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	65.1	-1.5	-18.9	-17.7	0.0	▲	▼	▼	▲	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	8.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	25.4	-15.0	-12.7	-14.6	-3.2	▼	▼	▼	▲	NILI	Sheep	4,000	-1.1	2.9	-2.4	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	74.1	8.4	10.4	15.0	3.6	▲	▲	▲	▲	Terms of Trade Kgs of W/heat/V/heat flour										
JALALABAD	Wheat	22.0	16.9	10.0	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	KABUL	Casual Labor/W/heat	15.0	6.9	12.5	26.3	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.4	7.7	8.8	-11.7	1.9	▲	▲	▼	▲	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/V/heat	11.9	-17.1	-13.4	-8.4	-1.9	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	76.0	19.3	-4.1	-3.5	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/V/heat	11.8	-20.7	-9.1	0.0	0.0	▼	▲	▲	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	29.5	-24.8	-47.8	-16.9	0.0	▼	▼	▼	▲	HIRAT	Casual Labor/V/heat	16.2	-14.1	-11.3	12.0	-1.5	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	73.0	-6.3	-9.9	-5.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	MAZAR	Casual Labor/V/heat	13.6	-19.9	-14.2	6.1	-9.1	▲	▲	▲	▼
HIRAT	Wheat	32.0	12.9	12.8	-10.7	1.4	▲	▲	▲	▲	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/V/heat	12.1	-34.7	-33.4	-15.2	-7.1	▲	▼	▼	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.9	6.4	6.2	-16.8	0.4	▲	▲	▲	▲	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/V/heat	9.5	-43.2	-35.7	4.8	0.0	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	25.2	-4.5	-18.2	-17.3	0.8	▲	▼	▼	▲	NILI	Casual Labor/V/heat	11.2	-2.9	-3.9	15.8	8.3	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	65.8	-8.1	-6.3	-11.6	-8.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	KABUL	Sheep f/v/heat	275.0	0.2	7.6	26.3	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	65.0	-10.3	-8.7	-9.5	-0.5	▼	▼	▼	▲	KANDAHAR	Sheep f/v/heat	228.5	-23.4	-13.8	-9.9	4.9	▼	▼	▲	▲
MAZAR	Wheat	22.0	24.6	20.5	4.8	10.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	JALALABAD	Sheep f/v/heat	329.5	-11.2	-18.9	3.6	3.6	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	29.0	9.1	5.5	-3.3	5.5	▲	▲	▲	▲	HIRAT	Sheep f/v/heat	248.0	-7.0	-11.3	12.0	-1.5	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	80.0	7.3	-12.6	-5.9	0.0	▲	▲	▼	▲	MAZAR	Sheep f/v/heat	284.1	-13.2	-16.7	-4.9	-5.3	▲	▼	▼	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	37.5	1.6	-12.8	-6.3	4.2	▲	▲	▲	▲	FAIZABAD	Sheep f/v/heat	200.0	-1.6	-16.8	-13.8	15.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	71.8	-8.7	-9.2	-8.0	-8.9	▲	▲	▲	▼	MAIMANA	Sheep f/v/heat	285.7	-1.0	-3.6	4.8	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
FAIZABAD	Wheat	23.8	23.4	23.4	13.1	3.3	▲	▲	▲	▲	NILI	Sheep f/v/heat	137.9	-9.4	6.4	4.3	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	34.0	10.3	8.8	3.0	4.6	▲	▲	▼	▲	KABUL	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	10.6	-7.0	-6.2	-0.4	-2.7	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	85.0	11.0	-11.5	-6.8	0.0	▲	▼	▲	▲	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	11.5	-16.3	-14.9	-12.6	-1.8	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	46.0	-5.3	-6.1	-2.1	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	9.9	-14.8	-8.1	13.3	-1.9	▼	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	92.0	-4.3	-11.8	-6.1	1.7	▲	▼	▲	▲	HIRAT	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	9.4	-7.8	-5.9	20.2	-0.4	▲	▲	▲	▲
MAIMANA	Wheat	21.0	6.9	3.7	-4.5	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	MAZAR	Casual Labor/W/heat flour	10.3	-7.4	-1.9	14.9	-5.2	▲	▲	▲	▼
	Wheat flour (HP)	32.5	24.7	14.0	4.8	5.7	▲	▲	▲	▲	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	8.5	-26.8	-24.5	-7.0	-8.4	▲	▼	▲	▼
	Rice High Quality	88.3	20.7	-1.4	0.3	-7.1	▲	▲	▲	▼	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	6.2	-51.6	-41.5	-4.6	-5.4	▼	▼	▲	▼
	Rice Low Qaulity	40.0	1.9	-16.7	0.0	0.0	▲	▲	▼	▲	NILI	Casual Labor/V/heat flour	9.0	-3.5	-16.1	7.6	6.1	▲	▼	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	80.3	-1.4	-0.3	-5.6	-3.3	▲	▲	▲	▲	KABUL	Sheep f/v/heat flour	194.7	-12.7	-10.3	-0.4	-2.7	▼	▼	▲	▲
NILI	Wheat	29.0	6.8	-3.3	-6.5	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	KANDAHAR	Sheep f/v/heat flour	221.9	-23.1	-15.3	-14.1	5.0	▼	▼	▲	▲
	Wheat flour (HP)	36.3	7.7	10.7	0.7	2.1	▲	▲	▲	▲	JALALABAD	Sheep f/v/heat flour	274.9	-4.7	-18.0	17.3	1.6	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice High Quality	92.0	6.4	-6.1	-8.0	0.0	▲	▲	▲	▲	HIRAT	Sheep f/v/heat flour	143.8	-0.8	-5.9	20.2	-0.4	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Rice Low Qaulity	60.0	19.9	-10.4	-11.8	0.0	▲	▼	▼	▲	MAZAR	Sheep f/v/heat flour	215.5	1.9	-4.8	3.0	-1.2	▲	▲	▲	▲
	Cooking Oil	75.0	-9.8	-13.8	-8.5	0.0	▲	▼	▲	▲	FAIZABAD	Sheep f/v/heat flour	139.7	10.7	-5.6	-5.4	13.5	▲	▲	▲	▲
											MAIMANA	Sheep f/v/heat flour	184.6	-14.6	-12.3	-4.6	-5.4	▼	▼	▲	▲
											NILI	Sheep f/v/heat flour	110.3	-9.5	-7.0	-3.1	-2.1	▲	▲	▲	▲

**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 September 2014 and 2Y= Compared to September 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