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Highlights:

- In October 2015 the Syrian Government increased the official price of bread to SYP 50/bundle (from SYP 35/bundle), gas cylinder to SYP1,800 (from SYP1,600), diesel to SYP135/L (from SYP130/L). Consequently, the purchasing power and food security situation of poor households, who mainly depend on food purchases, has continued to deteriorate and increasing their dependence on external assistance to cover their basic food needs.
- The ongoing conflict continues to restrain the commodity supply chain and disrupt trade, leading to nominal prices increased of wheat flour (+42%), rice (+83%), subsidized bread (+134%) and shop bread (+69%) compared to the same month last year.
- The besieged area of Eastern Ghouta recorded the most significant price changes compared to the Damascus market prices (+400% wheat flour and +600% rice).
- Food prices more than doubled in western Aleppo city as the only supply route was blocked for two weeks between the end of October and beginning of November 2015.
- The wholesale wheat price on Damascus local markets averaged US\$ 496.8/MT, which is 200 percent higher compared to the wholesale price of wheat in the international market (US\$ 165.7/MT) .

A- Price of a standard basket of dry goods (SYP)

As of October 2015, the lowest price of a standard basket of dry food was recorded in Dar'a, Hama and Damascus governorates (SYP 16,500), while in Rural Damascus a standard basket costed SYP 28,000. In contrast, extremely high food prices were observed in the besieged areas in Deir-ez-Zor governorate, where the cost of a standard dry food basket was (SYP 131,093) eight times higher than in central Damascus.

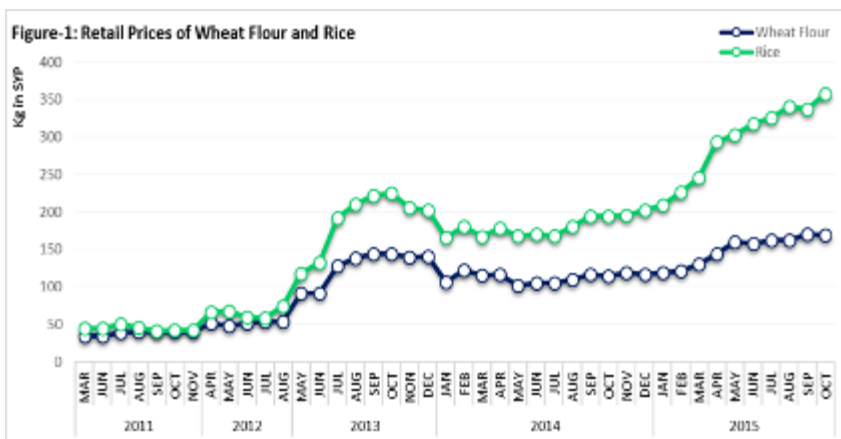
Governorate	Oct-14	Oct-15	Changes
Aleppo	10,548	17,735	68%
Damascus	9,711	16,274	68%
Dar'a	11,043	16,230	47%
Deir-ez-Zor	14,310	131,093	816%
Hama	10,886	16,390	51%
Al-Hassakeh	11,543	17,878	55%
Homs	10,786	17,998	67%
Lattakia	11,368	16,883	49%
Raqqa	12,724	22,139	74%
Rural Damascus	12,192	28,119	131%
Sweida	8,715	18,362	111%
Tartous	11,874	17,021	43%

B: Retail Prices

1- Wheat Flour and Rice:

The average price of rice in September/October 2015 was SYP 348/kg. This represents a 2.2 percent increase compared to the price of rice in August, a 18.5 percent increase compared to the price of rice six months ago and an 83 percent increase compared to the price of rice in November 2014. Compared to pre-crisis level prices, the price of rice increased by 763 percent.

The average price of wheat flour in October was SYP 170/kg. This represents a 4.4 percent increase compared to the price of wheat flour in August, a 17.8 percent increase compared to the price of wheat flour in April 2015 and a 42 percent increase compared to the price of wheat flour in November 2014. Compared to pre-crisis level prices, the price of wheat flour increased by 323 percent.



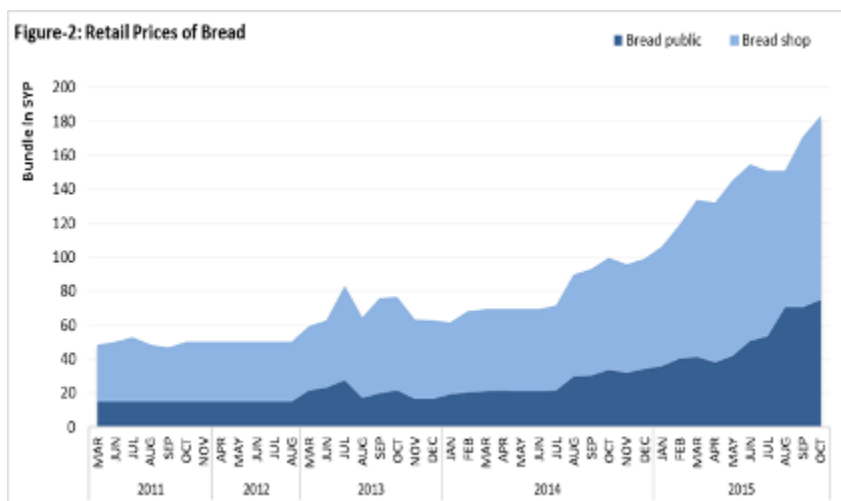
Ongoing conflict continues to restrain the supply chain of commodities and disrupt trade inside Syria during the reporting period. As a result, in Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus governorates, the price of wheat flour (SYP 218/kg) was 35 percent more expensive than on markets in Damascus governorate. Similarly, due to the deteriorating security situation in the governorate, the price of rice in Deir-ez-Zor was 4 times higher (SYP 1,125/kg) compared to Damascus governorate. Moreover, inaccessibility and the supply-demand imbalance continued to drive significant price increases in besieged areas. In Eastern Ghouta, Rural Damascus governorate, the price of wheat flour (SYP 756/kg) and rice (SYP 1,219/kg) was more than four and six times respectively higher than in Damascus.

2- Bread:

The average price of subsidized bread in October was SYP 72.7/bundle. This represents a 3.2 percent increase compared to the price of subsidized bread in August and a 133.7 percent increase compared to the price of subsidized bread in November 2014. Compared to pre-crisis level prices, the price of subsidized bread increased by 384.7 percent.

The average price of (unsubsidized) shop bread in October was SYP 104/bundle. This represents a 29.4 percent increase compared to the price of shop bread in August and a 69.1 percent increase compared to the price of shop bread in November 2014. Compared to pre-crisis level prices, the price of unsubsidized bread increased by 224.4 percent.

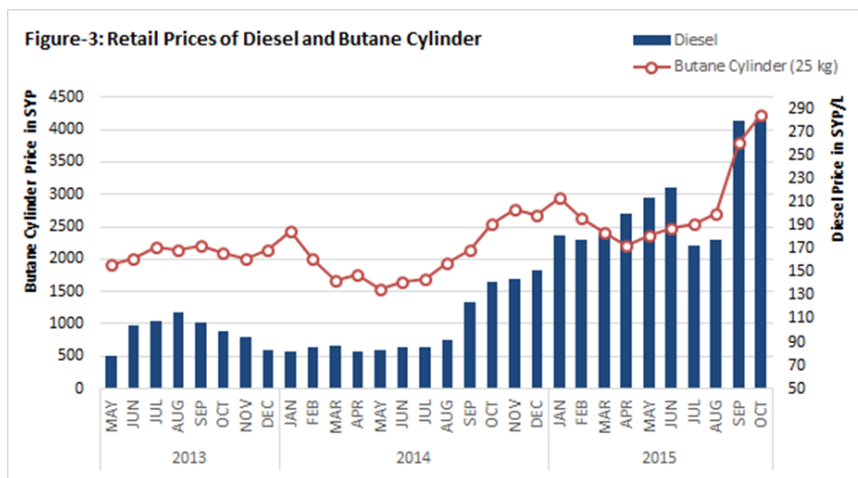
The price increase of subsidized and shop bread is mainly a result of the progressive depreciation of the Syrian Pound and gradual removal of government subsidies.



3– Diesel and cylinder of butane gas:

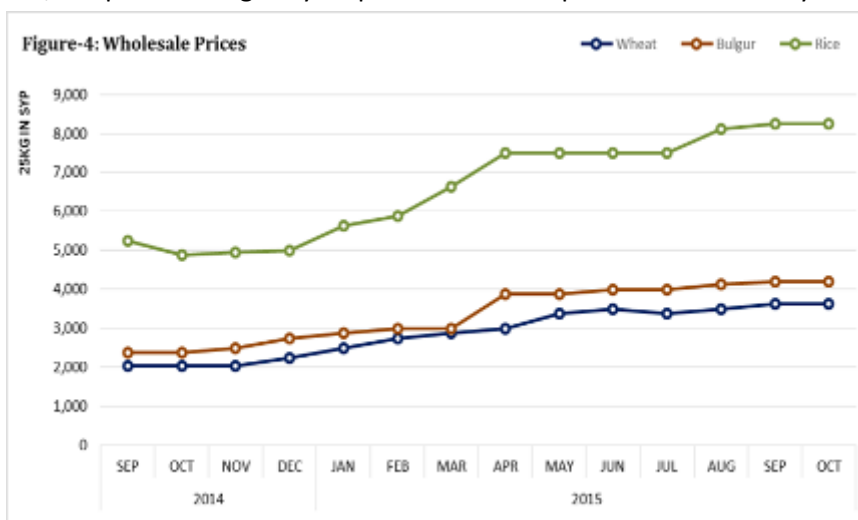
During September and October 2015, the average price of one liter of diesel was SYP 282, while a cylinder of butane gas was available at SYP 4,013. Compared to August, the price of diesel rose by 58.6 percent while a cylinder of butane gas price increased by 48.9 percent. The price of diesel was doubled and a cylinder butane gas more 50 percent of the course of one year.

During the reporting period, the highest price for diesel was reported on markets in Deir-ez-Zor governorate at SYP 1,443/L, a ten-fold increase compared to the official price (SYP 135/L). The increased fuel prices in combination with the depreciation of the Syrian Pound will continue to inflate the prices of all main food commodities .



C. Wholesale Prices of main cereal in Damascus Market:

Between September and October 2015, the average nominal wholesale price of wheat grain was SYP 3,625, SYP 4,200 for bulgur and SYP 8,250 for white rice. Compared to August 2015, the whole sale price of bulgur increased by 1.8 percent, rice by 1.5 percent and wheat by 3.6 percent. Between November 2014 and October 2015, the whole-sale price of wheat grain increased by 79 percent, the price of bulgur by 68 percent and the price of white rice by 66.7 percent. The increase of wholesale prices of wheat grain, bulgur and white rice was mainly a result of the progressive depreciation of the Syrian Pound, the gradual removal of government subsidies and the increasing food prices. Wholesale prices for most food commodities are expected to increase further during the month of December as a result of the intensification of the conflict in different parts of country.



D. Food Supply to Markets:

During the reporting period, most markets throughout the country were functioning, specifically in Lattakia, Tartous, As-Sweida and Damascus governorates as a result of the relative stable security conditions. Most of the food commodities were therefore available on markets in these governorates. However, in besieged areas in Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus, commodities on local markets are scarce and fewer commodities were available compared to previous months. In most of Deir-ez-Zor and Rural Damascus governorates, the supply of essential food commodities was disrupted as active fighting cut off the main supply routes, resulting in the irregular supply of commercial goods. Furthermore, in Idleb, Al-Hasakeh and Aleppo governorates, as well as the north-eastern governorates, periodic clashes between armed groups is interrupting the regular food supply to local markets. This results in a price increase of the commodities that are available on local markets. This further jeopardizes poor households' purchasing power and increases their dependence on external assistance to cover their basic food needs.

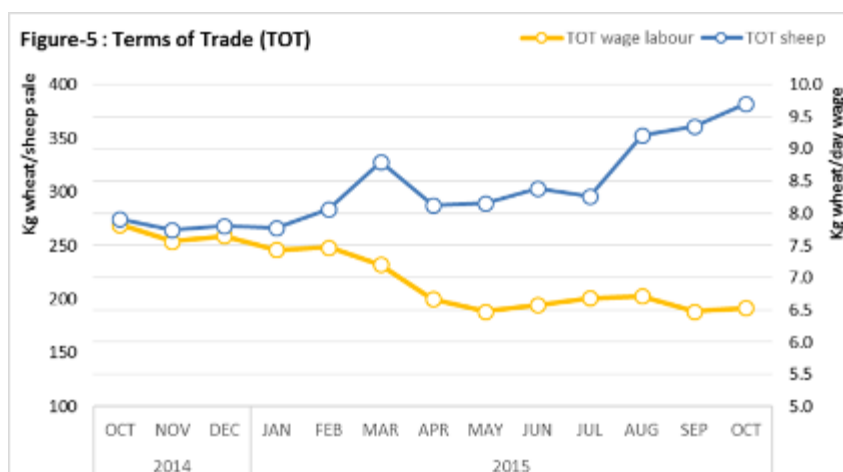
E. Terms of Trade (TOT):²

TOT between wage labour and wheat flour:

The nominal average daily wage rate in September and October was SYP 1,104, with the lowest wage rate in Dar'a governorate (SYP 700) and the highest in Ar-Raqqa governorate (1,500 SYP). During the same period, the average TOT between a daily unskilled laborer wage and the retail price of wheat flour was 6.5kg/day, which is 3.5 percent lower than in August 2015 and 12.8 percent lower than in January 2015. This means that the purchasing capacity of daily wage earners as reflected by the terms of trade has slightly improved since June 2015.

TOT between sheep and wheat flour:

In September and October 2015, the average price of a two-year old male sheep was SYP 63,023/head, which is 10 percent higher compared to August 2015. The national average TOT between a sheep and wheat flour was 371.5kg/sheep, which is 5.4 percent higher compared to August 2015. The highest TOT was recorded in Deir-ez-Zor governorate (883kg/sheep), while the lowest TOT was in Dar'a governorate (252kg/sheep). Sheep prices increased during the reporting period because of the Eid Al-Adha period.

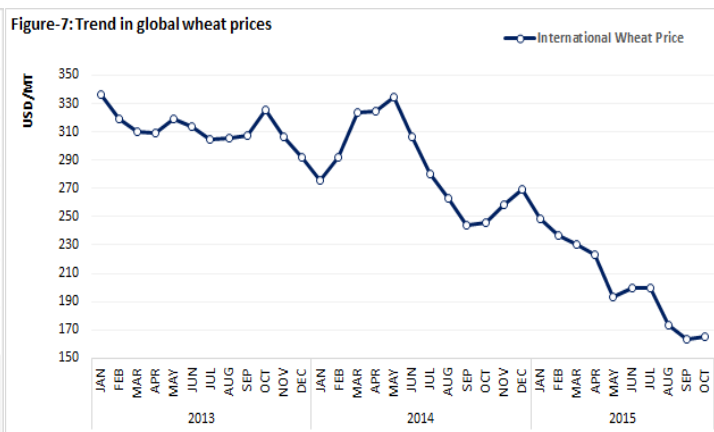
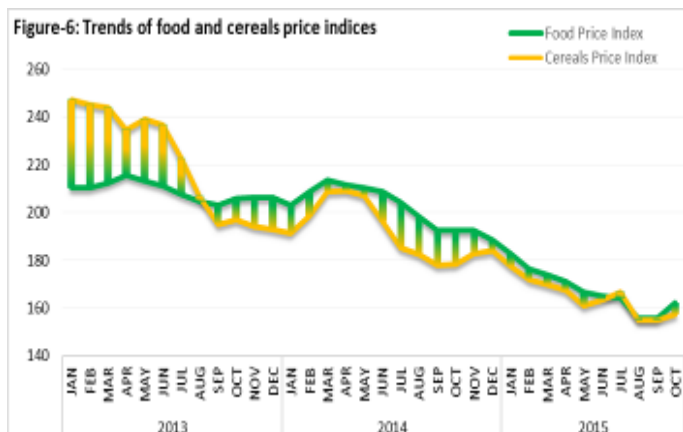


F. International Market prices:

Between September and October 2015, the FAO Food Price Index averaged 159 points, which represents a 2 percent increase compared to August and 17.4 percent down from November 2014. The overall food price index gradually declined every month since April 2014. Similarly, the Cereal Price Index averaged 156.1 points in September and October, a 0.7 percent increase compared to August.

In the month of October 2015, the wheat price on local markets averaged US\$ 496.8/MT, which is 200 percent higher compared to the price of wheat in the international market (US\$ 165.7/MT).

Data Source: <http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/wfs-home/foodpricesindex/en/> and <http://www.indexmundi.com/commodities/?commodity=wheat>



2. The TOT are proxy indicators of the purchasing power of households that rely on livestock and/or casual labour as their main source of income for the purchase of cereals from local markets. TOT are important components of food security analysis. Changes in the terms of trade between wages/livestock and staple food commodities are indicative of the trends in purchasing power and the impact on the food security situation of households dependent on food

Table 1. Market Price of Main Commodities in Syrian Pounds

Commodity	Governorate	Current Price	Price change	Price change (%)	Average Change	Average Change	Commodity	Governorate	Current Price	Price change	Price change (%)	Average Change	Average Change
			1M	6 M	1M	6 M				1M	6 M		
Bread Public (1.5 kg)	Aleppo	101	16	21.1	↑	↑	Rice (kg)	Aleppo	190	1.2	(8.9)	↔	↔
	Damascus	39	10.7	10.7	↑	↑		Damascus	177	9.2	26.2	↔	↑
	Daraa	37	5.4	10.7	↔	↑		Daraa	340	1.5	32.0	↔	↑
	Deir Ezzor	153	(2.1)	336.6	↔	↑		Deir Ezzor	1,125	(5.7)	124.4	↔	↑
	Hama	39	10.7	10.7	↑	↑		Hama	228	(23.8)	(2.5)	↓	↔
	Hassakeh	36	3.9	3.9	↔	↔		Hassakeh	358	(1.2)	24.0	↔	↑
	Homs	44	26.8	26.8	↑	↑		Homs	302	9.7	31.0	↔	↑
	Lattakia	37	5.4	(0.0)	↔	↔		Lattakia	283	3.0	22.7	↔	↑
	Raqqa	91	4.8	160.7	↔	↑		Raqqa	338	2.5	28.6	↔	↑
	Rural Damascus	219	5.4	526.8	↔	↑		Rural Damascus	297	38.3	20.2	↑	↑
	Sweida	39	10.7	10.7	↑	↑		Sweida	263	4.3	38.3	↔	↑
	Tartous	38	8.0	8.0	↑	↔		Tartous	272	-	9.6	↔	↔
Bread Shops (1.5 kg)	Aleppo	155	5.6	18.1	↔	↑	Sheep 2Y old Male	Aleppo	45,906	3.5	21.1	↔	↑
	Damascus	81	13.9	30.2	↑	↑		Damascus	53,953	0.6	12.2	↔	↑
	Daraa	150	(5.6)	(16.7)	↔	↓		Daraa	49,200	41.8	40.6	↑	↑
	Deir Ezzor	286	-	(9.2)	↔	↔		Deir Ezzor	192,500	(8.0)	40.6	↔	↑
	Hama	53	18.1	18.1	↑	↑		Hama	51,814	13.1	93.1	↑	↑
	Hassakeh	79	(0.8)	4.5	↔	↔		Hassakeh	44,250	13.4	16.5	↑	↑
	Homs	54	20.8	8.3	↑	↔		Homs	43,813	6.9	54.9	↔	↑
	Lattakia	51	2.5	8.2	↔	↔		Lattakia	53,100	10.6	32.8	↑	↑
	Raqqa	113	12.5	49.2	↑	↑		Raqqa	47,750	5.3	40.4	↔	↑
	Rural Damascus	126	76.0	103.0	↑	↑		Rural Damascus	62,594	11.5	23.2	↑	↑
	Sweida	54	7.5	7.5	↔	↔		Sweida	53,900	12.0	30.1	↑	↑
	Tartous	49	17.4	21.9	↑	↑		Tartous	57,500	9.5	32.4	↔	↑
Bulane Cylinder (25 k	Aleppo	3,472	23.7	26.6	↑	↑	Sugar (kg)	Aleppo	206	14.6	72.6	↑	↑
	Damascus	1,769	4.0	4.0	↔	↔		Damascus	177	3.3	24.6	↔	↑
	Daraa	3,285	(9.6)	7.3	↔	↔		Daraa	203	-	11.3	↔	↑
	Deir Ezzor	13,700	14.8	28.3	↑	↑		Deir Ezzor	2,969	50.8	183.8	↑	↑
	Hama	2,172	15.0	3.8	↑	↔		Hama	200	7.8	42.9	↔	↑
	Hassakeh	3,300	22.9	(5.2)	↑	↔		Hassakeh	202	12.2	35.0	↑	↑
	Homs	2,203	12.2	1.8	↑	↔		Homs	187	5.2	50.1	↔	↑
	Lattakia	1,775	4.4	17.4	↔	↑		Lattakia	173	1.5	17.8	↔	↑
	Raqqa	4,713	7.4	10.0	↔	↑		Raqqa	177	2.4	14.6	↔	↑
	Rural Damascus	7,500	116.9	305.4	↑	↑		Rural Damascus	358	38.5	129.2	↑	↑
	Sweida	2,500	-	17.6	↔	↑		Sweida	191	7.3	38.4	↔	↑
	Tartous	1,772	3.5	4.3	↔	↔		Tartous	174	7.2	36.0	↔	↑
Diesel (L)	Aleppo	186	(0.5)	29.4	↔	↑	Tea (kg)	Aleppo	1,631	7.0	10.0	↔	↑
	Damascus	205	4.4	(8.9)	↔	↔		Damascus	1,119	(0.7)	(21.9)	↔	↓
	Daraa	220	(13.1)	(9.3)	↓	↔		Daraa	2,250	-	41.0	↔	↑
	Deir Ezzor	1,443	(11.4)	198.5	↓	↑		Deir Ezzor	7,831	12.4	101.7	↑	↑
	Hama	164	(17.4)	(2.5)	↓	↔		Hama	1,444	9.0	7.0	↔	↔
	Hassakeh	58	22.6	15.4	↑	↑		Hassakeh	2,171	7.9	27.5	↔	↑
	Homs	185	1.4	4.5	↔	↔		Homs	1,469	(4.0)	5.9	↔	↔
	Lattakia	154	2.5	2.5	↔	↔		Lattakia	1,500	-	20.2	↔	↑
	Raqqa	112	(3.6)	37.8	↔	↑		Raqqa	1,886	5.9	16.1	↔	↑
	Rural Damascus	228	1.0	(11.1)	↔	↓		Rural Damascus	2,475	4.2	75.0	↔	↑
	Sweida	275	-	-	↔	↔		Sweida	2,210	0.5	24.5	↔	↑
	Tartous	154	2.5	4.3	↔	↔		Tartous	1,500	(2.0)	15.4	↔	↑
Lentils (kg)	Aleppo	333	4.8	48.8	↔	↑	Unskilled Labor wage	Aleppo	1,000	-	-	↔	↔
	Damascus	393	(1.9)	37.8	↔	↑		Damascus	1,475	-	13.5	↔	↑
	Daraa	237	(0.4)	18.3	↔	↑		Daraa	700	-	16.7	↔	↑
	Deir Ezzor	3,775	(13.6)	369.0	↓	↑		Deir Ezzor	938	(6.3)	4.4	↔	↔
	Hama	353	(7.0)	17.8	↔	↑		Hama	1,000	(16.5)	(8.3)	↓	↔
	Hassakeh	266	7.6	(12.4)	↔	↓		Hassakeh	800	-	(12.6)	↔	↓
	Homs	366	(2.7)	26.5	↔	↑		Homs	913	6.3	6.3	↔	↔
	Lattakia	320	6.5	22.9	↔	↑		Lattakia	1,000	-	100.0	↔	↑
	Raqqa	378	(3.0)	80.4	↔	↑		Raqqa	1,500	-	-	↔	↔
	Rural Damascus	480	4.8	56.1	↔	↑		Rural Damascus	1,475	1.7	13.5	↔	↑
	Sweida	424	6.0	37.1	↔	↑		Sweida	1,200	-	20.0	↔	↑
	Tartous	359	8.4	24.0	↔	↑		Tartous	1,250	41.7	150.0	↑	↑
Oil (L)	Aleppo	364	4.7	36.4	↔	↑	Wheat Flour (kg)	Aleppo	116	(9.8)	29.0	↔	↑
	Damascus	368	0.8	13.1	↔	↑		Damascus	164	(3.6)	26.9	↔	↑
	Daraa	359	4.3	2.4	↔	↔		Daraa	195	(20.3)	13.2	↓	↑
	Deir Ezzor	3,084	51.9	275.2	↑	↑		Deir Ezzor	218	(1.1)	(35.0)	↔	↓
	Hama	362	(1.4)	7.6	↔	↔		Hama	163	20.3	45.6	↑	↑
	Hassakeh	363	0.2	25.0	↔	↑		Hassakeh	166	0.8	35.9	↔	↑
	Homs	358	0.7	5.0	↔	↔		Homs	137	3.3	10.6	↔	↑
	Lattakia	350	-	3.4	↔	↔		Lattakia	156	4.2	33.5	↔	↑
	Raqqa	392	(0.7)	47.5	↔	↑		Raqqa	156	0.5	22.1	↔	↑
	Rural Damascus	463	6.7	33.8	↔	↑		Rural Damascus	220	23.5	57.3	↑	↑
	Sweida	386	2.8	19.7	↔	↑		Sweida	180	7.7	43.9	↔	↑
	Tartous	374	2.5	10.9	↔	↑		Tartous	165	3.1	30.1	↔	↑
Key:	↑	Prices increase above normal price fluctuation											
	↔	Normal Price Fluctuation											
	↓	Price decrease below normal price fluctuation											