



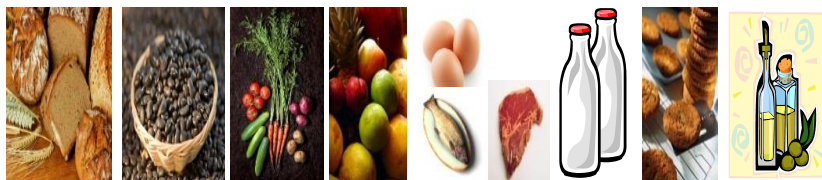
# Ukraine

Market Update 12

August-September 2016



**World Food Programme**



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## Market Update 12 (August – September 2016)

# UKRAINE

### Summary:

- According to updated data of State Statistics Service of Ukraine, GDP in the second quarter of 2016 increased by 1.4% compared to corresponding period of previous year.
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved a pilot project of cancellation of state price regulation on food, which begins on October 1, 2016 and will end on January 1, 2017
- The Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine reported that the actual cost of living in August 2016 amounted to 2,669 UAH. The average food expenditure share accounted for 54.6% of all cash expenditures of Ukrainian households.
- Agriculture production continues to decline in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA oblasts. Agricultural production in Ukraine in January - September 2016 increased by 0.9%, however in Donetsk oblast it decreased by 4.9% and in Luhansk by 5.7%.
- Slight increases of the price of food basket were observed in all monitored areas in both GCA and NGCA.

### Macro-Economic overview

Ukraine's economy continued the slow recovery after two previous years of sharp decline. According to updated data of State Statistics Service of Ukraine, GDP in the second quarter of 2016 increased by 1.4% compared to corresponding period of previous year. Rising purchasing power alongside the industrial output were some of the most important factors supporting economic growth. Retail trade turnover in January-August 2016 increased by 3.1% compare to the same period of 2015.

[National Bank of Ukraine](#)<sup>1</sup> and the [Ministry of Economy and Trade of Ukraine](#)<sup>2</sup> forecast 2016 economic growth to be around 1-1.1%.

Graph 1: Dynamic of annual GDP of Ukraine, %



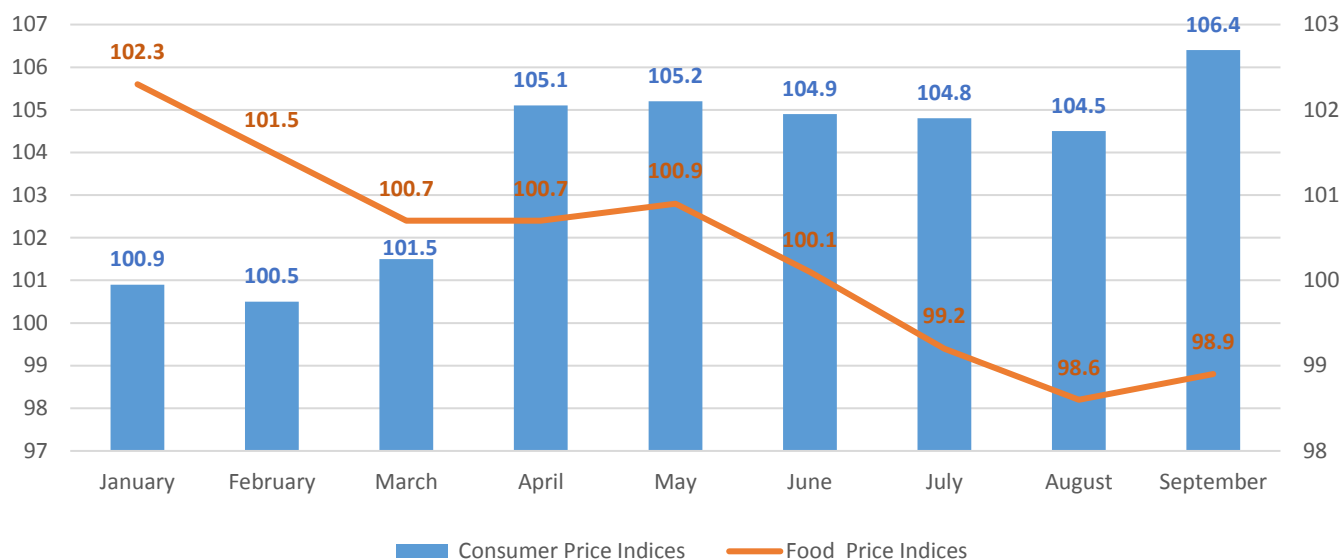
However, in total, the economy has lost about 16% in GDP over the 2014-2015 levels (**Graph 1**). As shown in **Graph 1**, the value of real GDP is comparable to 2003–2004 levels. According to the World Bank, Ukrainian economy has stabilized but longstanding structural challenges stand in the way of sustained recovery and shared prosperity.

<sup>1</sup> National Bank of Ukraine, Inflation Report July 2016

<sup>2</sup> Ukraine: perspectives of the development. Consensus forecast (August, 2016)

In order to reach the pre-conflict value of GDP (2013), the growth rate should be at least 5% annually for the next 3 years (2017-2019). [According to consensus forecast of the Ministry of Economy and Trade](#) Ukraine's GDP will grow by only 3-3.5 percent annually during 2017-2018. Taking into account forecast, the recovery of the economy to 2013 level thus will take at least 4-5 years. Inflationary processes continue to develop in Ukraine at relatively low levels with 6.4% inflation rate for 2016. In August 2016, consumer prices decreased for the third month in a row.

Graph 2: Consumer Price and Food Price Indices in 2016 (compared to December 2015)



However, after summer months of deflation in Ukraine, in September prices started to increase again (**Graph 2**). In September 2016, consumer prices rose by 1.8%, compared to the previous month. The main driver of inflation continues to be prices for administratively regulated goods and services<sup>3</sup>, which generally increased by 30% since the beginning of the year. The largest increases happened to be in electricity (+60%).

Food prices remain on similar levels compared to December 2015 (**Graph 2**). To be noted is a significant seasonal reduction of vegetables prices, as well as certain types of fruit. Following latest trends in food commodities a slight increase in food prices is expected to continue in October.

It is also important to point out that [Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine](#) has approved a pilot project of cancellation of state price regulation on food, which begins October 1, 2016 and will end on January 1, 2017<sup>4</sup>. This is necessary in order to assess how government intervention affects pricing, the government report says. That could be another source for food price volatility in the next quarter.

Before that, [government controlled](#) changing in the wholesale prices for wheat flour (higher, first and second grades), rye flour, buckwheat, beef, pork, poultry (carcass), sausages boiled (except higher grade), cow's milk (pasteurized), cottage cheese with fat up to 9 percent, sour cream with fat content up to 20 percent, butter with fat up to 72.5 percent, eggs, sugar, oil sunflower<sup>5</sup>.

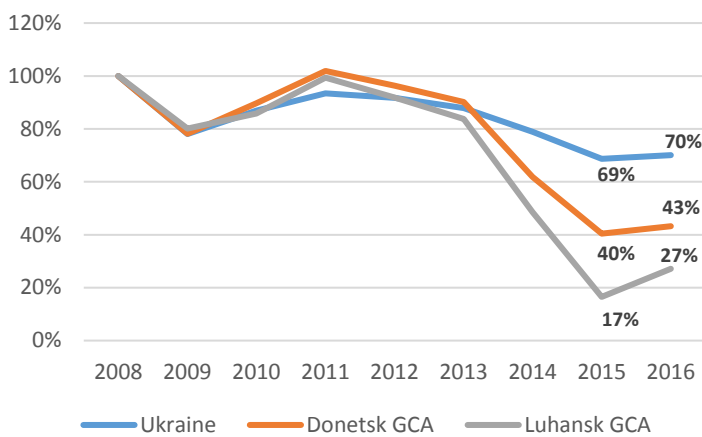
<sup>3</sup> Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels

<sup>4</sup> Official notification of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

<sup>5</sup> Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Decree On approval of the declaration of change of wholesale prices for food products

## Social-Economic Situation in Donbas

Graph 3: Industry production dynamics 2008-2016



Socio-economic situation in Donbas<sup>6</sup> has changed dramatically since the crisis began in 2014. Most indicators in the two oblasts of Donbas deteriorated in absolute terms and in relative terms of the average values for the country as a whole.

**Graph 3** shows industry production dynamics of Donetsk and Luhansk GCA oblasts during 2008-2016 when compared to national level.

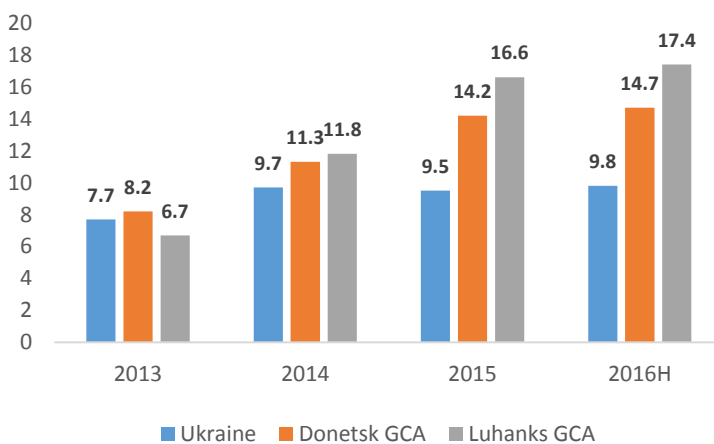
Starting from 2014 industry production has reduced significantly to 17% of 2008 value in Luhansk oblast and to 40% in Donetsk oblast, while at national level it dropped to 69% (**Graph 3**)<sup>7</sup>. However, in January-

September 2016 compared to the same period in 2015, industrial production started to grow again.

Agriculture production also continues to decline in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Agricultural production in Ukraine in January - September 2016 increased by 0.9%, however in Donetsk oblast it decreased by 4.9% and in Luhansk by 5.7%. More worrisome is the situation happened in the livestock sector. Production of animal products in the same period in Donetsk oblast decreased by 8.7% and in Luhansk by 16.9%.

Negative dynamics were observed in Donbas trade levels as well. Retail trade turnover at national levels in January - August 2016 increased by 3.1% compare to the same period of 2015. In contrast, in Luhansk oblast (GCA), retail trade continued to decline with 0.6%, while in the Donetsk oblast (GCA) with 5.9%.

Graph 4: Dynamics of unemployment rates, %



According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine data, unemployment rate (ILO methodology<sup>8</sup>) continued to increase in the first half of 2016 when compared to 2015. In Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, unemployment rates were respectively 14.7% and 17.4% (**Graph 4**).

These levels are much higher compared to the national average of 9.8% and are the highest among other regions of Ukraine. In 2013 the level of unemployment rate in Donetsk oblast was 8.2%, slightly higher compared to national levels (7.7%), and in Luhansk oblast unemployment rate amounted to 6.7%.

<sup>6</sup> In the report, Donbas means the Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts

<sup>7</sup> Here and afterward, it does not include NGCA data

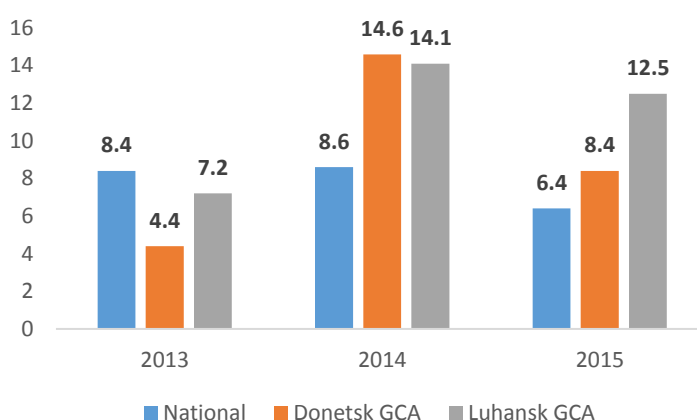
<sup>8</sup> ILO Unemployment Rate refers to the percentage of economically active people who are unemployed by ILO standard. Under the ILO approach, those who are considered as unemployed are either: 1.Out of work but are actively looking for a job or 2.Out of work and are waiting to start a new job in the next two weeks.

Proportions of population in terms of income levels have changed soon after the start of the conflict in the Donbas region. The subsistence level of living is used to monitor the living standards in Ukraine. However, currently actual subsistence level (ASL)<sup>9</sup> is different from official (legal) subsistence level (OSL)<sup>10</sup>.

As shown in the **Graph 5** percentage of the total population with total income below the official subsistence level grew radically in Donbas oblasts in 2014 when compared to 2013<sup>11</sup>. In Luhansk oblast, the value of this indicator doubled to 14.1% and in Donetsk the proportion of the same income group has tripled to 14.6% in the same period. Meanwhile, the country average indicator changed only by 0.2 points, reaching 8.6%.

In 2015, the share of the population with total income below the state subsistence level decreased to 6.4% at national level, 8.4% in Donetsk oblast and 12.5% in Luhansk oblast.

**Graph 5: Percentage of the total population with total income below the official subsistence line, %**



The reduction can be justified by changing of official subsistence level. These levels have increased over the 2014-2015 period only by 10%, while inflation over the same period increased by 79%.

However, the official level is lower than the actual subsistence level. The [Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine](#) reported that the ASL in August 2016 amounted to 2,669 UAH, which is 84% higher compared to the OSL approved by Parliament in 2016<sup>12</sup> and 112% higher than the ASL in March 2014<sup>13</sup>. It means that the actual share of the population living below ASL level is much higher compared to the percentage of people living below OSL threshold.

Recently the [Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine](#) has initiated a two-fold increase in the minimum wage and official subsistence level up to 3,200 UAH for 2017<sup>14</sup>. Thus, for the first time in 25 years of independence of Ukraine, the minimum wage of citizens will equal between ASL and OSL level. These figures are yet to be approved by the Parliament.

<sup>9</sup> Subsistence level is the cost value sufficient to ensure the normal functioning of the human body maintain its health dial food and a minimum set of non-food products and a minimum set of services required to meet basic social and cultural needs of the individual.

<sup>10</sup> The official (legal) subsistence level is used to establish the minimum wage and minimum age pension, social assistance to families with children etc.; unemployment eligibility for social assistance; setting the value of non-taxable income; formation of the State Budget of Ukraine and local budgets etc. That is why value of state subsistence level can be different from actual value which is also monitored by the Government. The amounts of the state subsistence minimum (level) annually approved in the law "On the State Budget of Ukraine" by Parliament.

<sup>11</sup> The average monthly official subsistence levels, which were used in the calculations in 2013 – 1,113.67 UAH, in 2014 – 1,176.0 UAH and in 2015 – 1,227.33 UAH per person per month. Currently value of official subsistence level is 1,450 UAH.

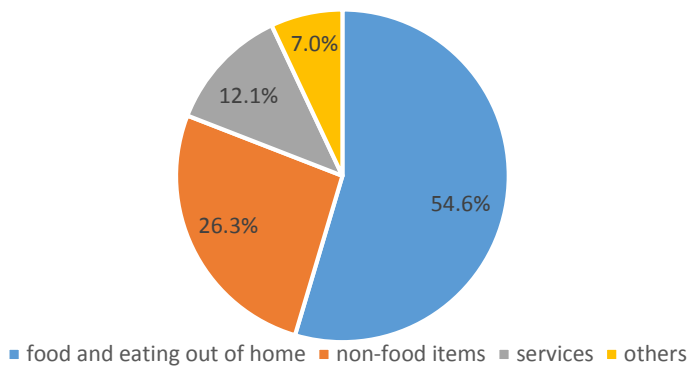
<sup>12</sup> Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Monitoring of social indicators note for August 2016

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Monitoring of social indicators note for March 2014

<sup>14</sup> Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Official notice

## Food consumption in Ukraine

Graph 6: HH cash expenditure allocation in Ukraine 2015, %



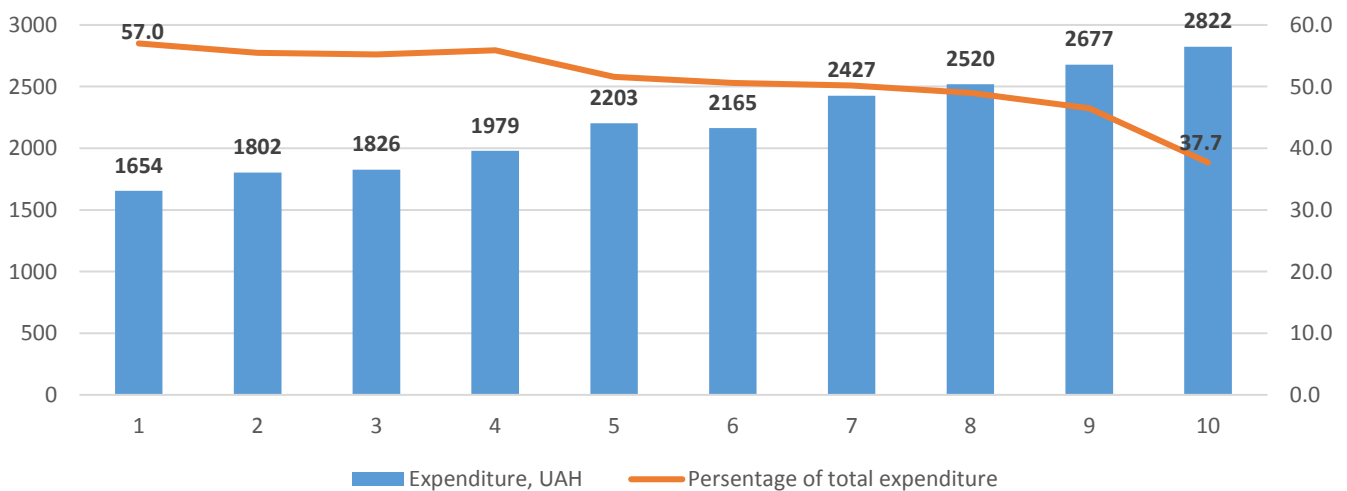
According to State Statistics Service of Ukraine in 2015, the average food expenditure share accounted 54.6% in all cash expenditures of Ukrainian households (**Graph 6**). Meanwhile non-food items share was 26.3% and service share – 12.1%.

There is a large difference in cash expenditure patterns between urban and rural households. In terms of household cash expenditure, for rural households food accounts for 49.2% of total expenditure, while in urban households it represents 56.8%.

The detailed analysis of monthly cash expenses on food shows that households on average spend 507 UAH on meat products, 422 UAH on cereals, 318 UAH on milk and eggs and 235 UAH on oils. On vegetables and potato people spend on average 175 UAH and on fruits 141 UAH.

**Graph 7** represents household cash expenditures by income level (deciles, 10%). Group 1 represents 10% of people with lowest income and Group 10 the one with the highest level of income. As shown in the **Graph 7**, the share of household cash expenditure on food by Group 1 amounts to 57% and in absolute value is 1,654 UAH, while in Group 10 it is 37.7%, equivalent to 2,822 UAH. Overall, there is a clear trend of increase in absolute spending on food and, at the same time, a reducing trend of the share of food expenditure in each of the next decile group. In other words, the richer the household the more its expenditures will be allocated to food, however the share of their budget spent on food will be lower.

Graph 7: Food and nonalcoholic beverages expenditures of households by decile (10%) from poorest to richest groups depending on the size of average equivalent cash income in 2015

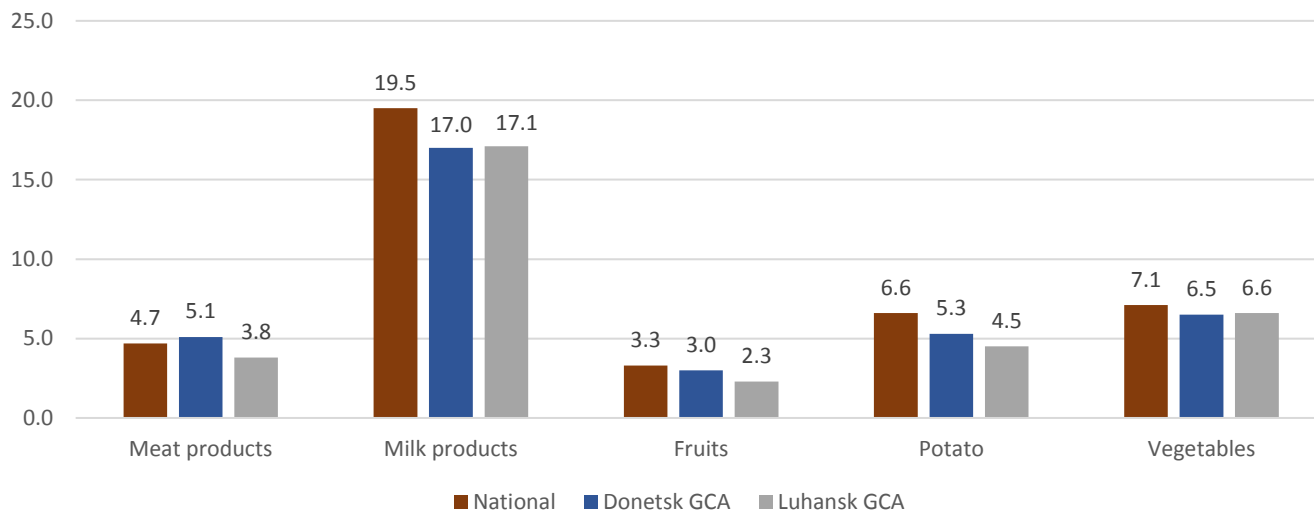


The poorest 70% of the Ukrainian people spent on food more than 50% their cash expenditure in 2015. The average household cash expenditures on food in Ukraine was 2,207 UAH in 2015. In the Donetsk GCA, it was 2,230 UAH, which is almost the same level national average (only 1% difference). In Luhansk GCA household cash expenditures on food was only 1,429 UAH or 35% lower compared to the national average.

On the other hand, total expenditure of households on food in Ukraine was 2,816 UAH in 2015. In Donetsk GCA, it amounts to 2,588 UAH, which is 8% lower compared to national level. In Luhansk GCA, total expenditure on food was 1,963 UAH, which is 30% lower compared to national value.

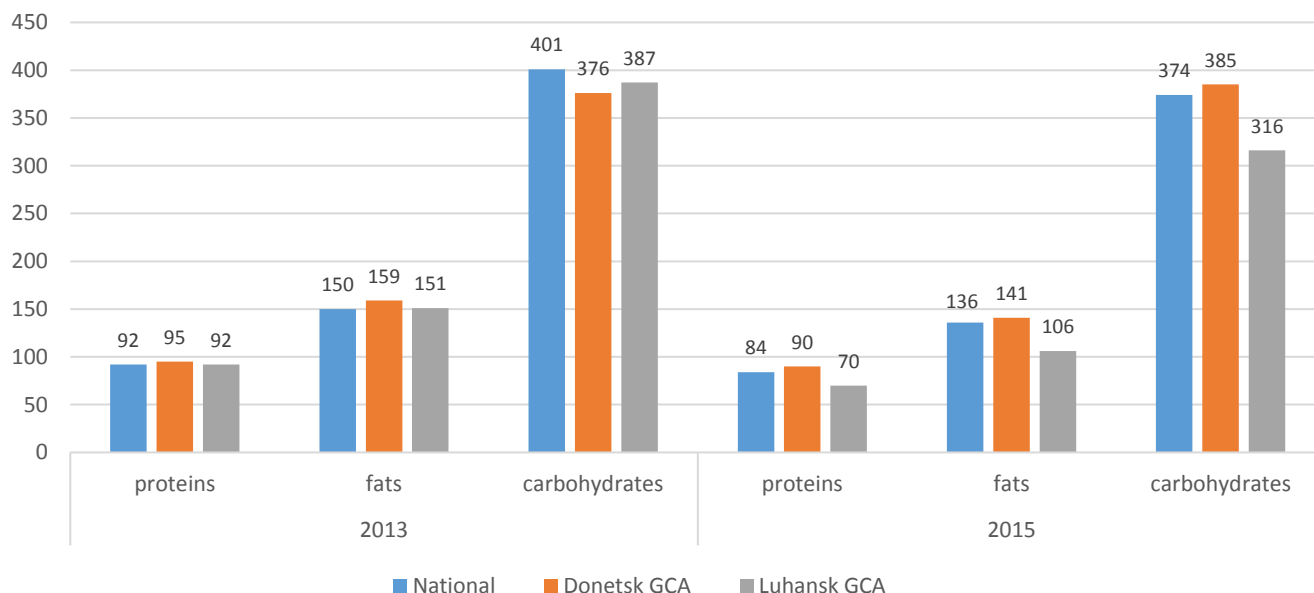
As shown on the **Graph 8**, food consumption of main commodities in 2015 in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are much lower compared to national level.

**Graph 8: Food consumption in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA compared to National level (on average per month per person in 2015, kg)**



The only one exception is consumption of meat products. On national level average consumption of meat products per person per month was 4.7 kg, while in Donetsk oblast it was 5.1 kg. However, in Luhansk oblast consumption accounted only 3.8 kg. Generally in Luhansk oblast food consumption looks poorer when compared to national and Donetsk oblast levels. Furthermore in Luhansk oblast people consumed 2.3 kg of fruits while the national average value is 3.3 kg. People in Luhansk consumed also less potatoes (4.5kg), while the national average level – 4.5 kg. (**please see Graph 8**).

**Graph 9: Nutritional content of foodstuffs consumed in 2013 and 2015 (on average per day per person, grams)**



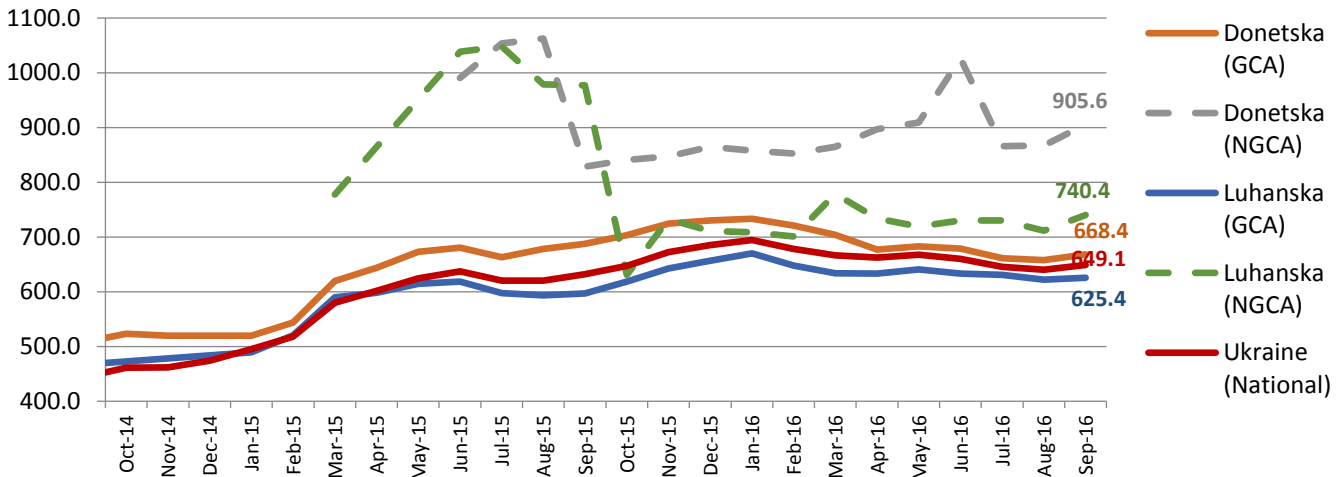
Nutritional analysis of consumed food shows a similar scenario with regard to Luhansk oblast (**Graph 9**). Consumption of proteins, fats and carbohydrates are lower in 2015 when compared to 2013 in Ukraine and particularly in Donbas oblasts.

Nutritional content of food consumed in 2015 is much lower when compared to national level. For instance, proteins consumed in Luhansk oblast per person per day on average was 70 gr, however average in Ukraine was 84 gr. There were also large differences in consumption of fats and carbohydrates in Luhansk oblast compared to average Ukraine or Donetsk oblast. Luhansk region held the largest drop in consumption 2015 when compared to 2013.

## Food Basket Price Trend

In September 2016, the value of the food basket in all WFP monitored areas started to grow again after a couple of months of a flat trend (**Graph 10**). However, on national level and in GCA oblasts the food basket value increased slightly. Food basket price increases were observed in NGCA also.

Graph 10: Cost of Food Basket by Oblast and Area of Control, UAH

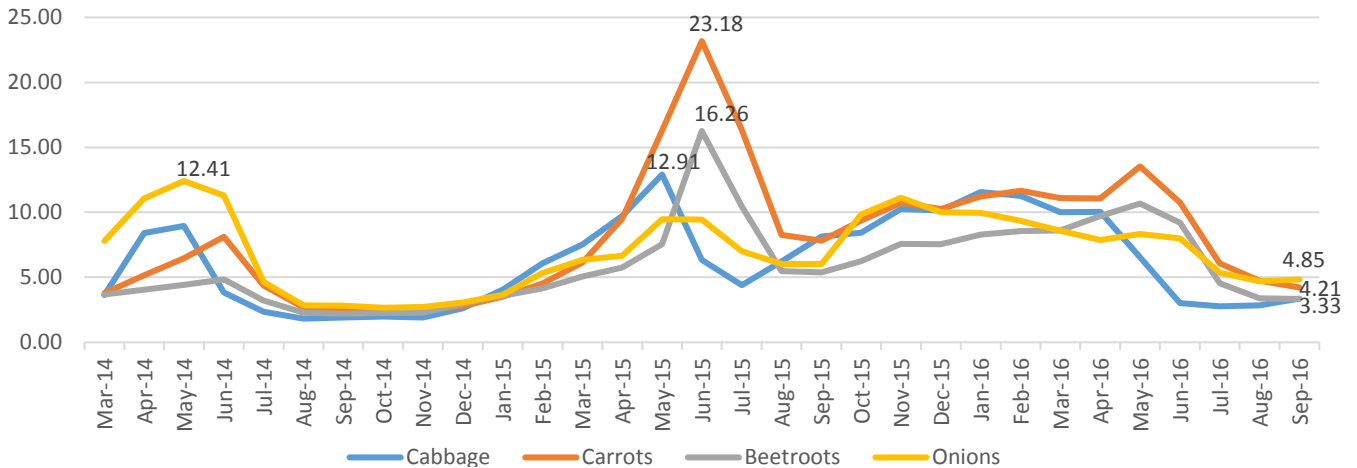


As in previous months, the cost of the food basket in Donetsk GCA is higher compared to national level while Luhansk value is lower. However, the gap between national and Donetsk GCA values is getting smaller. In Donetsk GCA, the value of food basket is 668.4 UAH, which is even lower than a year ago in September 2015. This indicates better integration of regional and national markets as well as lower demand in retail sector (retail trade turnover). On the other hand, there is no market integration between Donetsk NGCA and Luhansk NGCA despite a recent convergence of prices. As of September 2016, cost of food basket value in Luhansk NGCA was 740.4 UAH or 14% higher compared to national level. In Donetsk NGCA, food basket value grew up to 905.6 UAH or almost 40% higher when compared to national level.

The largest differences in prices in NGCA for food commodities were found in meat products such as beef (+52%), pork (+55%), poultry (+33%), as well as in pork fat (+126%), eggs (+72%), sour cream (+60%) and vegetables such as cabbage (+71%), carrot (+124%), beetroot (+71%). On the other hand, prices for wheat bread (-10%), wheat flour (-16%) and boiled sausages (-5%) are lower in NGCA.

The large difference between the prices of vegetable in GCA and NGCA could be explained by better production of vegetables in Ukraine GCA territories which is 3.5% higher in 2016 when compared to 2015. The prices for main vegetables are at the lowest levels since the beginning of 2015 (**see Graph 11**).

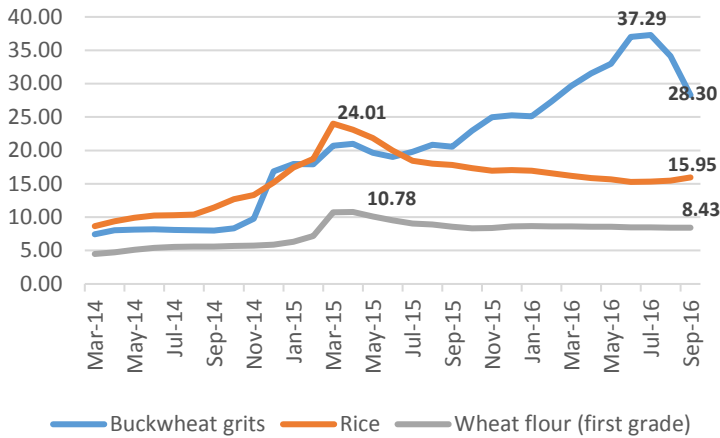
Graph 11: Price dynamics of main vegetables, UAH



As shown in the **Graph 11**, the seasonally higher vegetable prices are observed during May - June period, when new harvest is still not fully available in the market. The lowest prices are during August - October time, when the harvest is fully presented on the market.



**Graph 12: Major cereal commodities price dynamics, UAH**



Worth noting are also new developments in major staple commodities especially with regard to prices for buckwheat. After more than a year of rising prices, in August - September 2016 prices for buckwheat started to decrease (**Graph 12**). Increased availability of buckwheat in the market due to recent harvest of this commodity has been one of the major factors of this decrease. Considering this aspect, the downward trend in prices will probably continue in the near future.

Prices for other important staple commodities such as wheat flour and rice have remained stable throughout second half 2015 and first half of 2016.



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