

Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **April 2016** (Reported in May 2016)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** Average wheat grain retail price in the main cities' markets of the country was relatively stable, with slight or negligible fluctuations within a normal limit during 2013 - 2015. In 2016, the price negligibly increased in January, but was negligibly decreasing in February - April.
- The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 24.2/Kg) is slightly higher by 4.1% compared to the same time last year (April 2015), but significantly higher by 12.3% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015).
- **Wheat flour (High Price)** retail price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was relatively stable with slight or negligible fluctuations within a normal limit during 2013-2015. In 2016, the price was negligibly decreasing in January -March, while negligibly increased in April. The current retail price (AFN 28.7/kg) is negligibly higher by 1.9% compared to the same month last year (April 2015), and slightly higher by 4.5% 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 40.7/kg) is slightly higher by 5.7% compared to the same month last year (April 2015), and also slightly higher by 3.3% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 77/kg) is slightly lower by 4.0% compared to the same month last year (April 2015), but slightly higher by 5.2% 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 11.3 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT improved (by 6.1%) from March to April 2016, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.3 %) and increased labor wage (by 4.9%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also experienced;

- March - April 2015 (by 10.6%)
- March - April 2013 (by 0.6%)

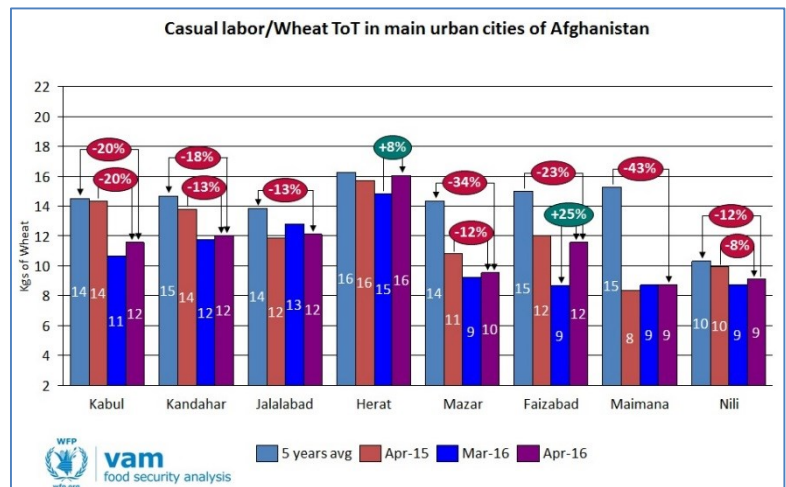
While a deterioration was seen;

- March - April 2014 (by 1.5%)

- In comparison to the same month one year ago (April 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 6.4%, mainly due to increased Wheat price (by 4.1%).

- On the two-year comparison (April 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 4.4%.

- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Aprils 2011-2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 20.7%.



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 9.5 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly improved by 2.9% from March to April 2016, mainly related to increased labor wage (by 4.9%).

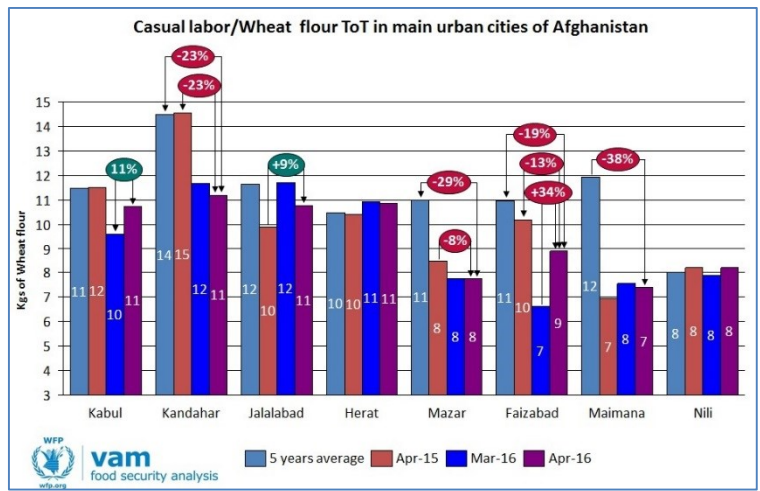
This improvement was also experienced;

- March - April 2015 (by 10.4%)
- March - April 2013 (by 2.6%)

While a deterioration was seen;

- March - April 2014 (by 0.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by (5.5%), mainly related to increased wheat flour price (by 1.9%) and decreased labor wage (by 2.8%).
- On the two-year comparison (April 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 3.2%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 15.8%.



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.

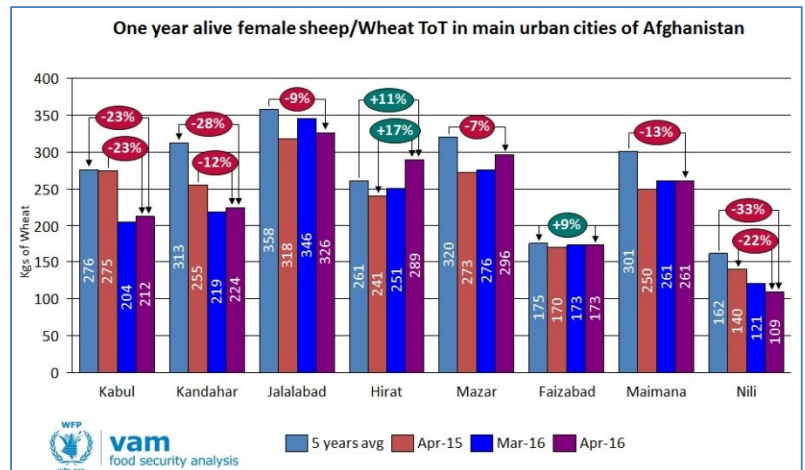
- Sheep/Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 236.2 Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 2.2% from March to April 2016, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.3%). In the last three preceding years, this improvement was also experienced;

- March - April 2015 (by 2.5%)
- March - April 2014 (by 1.2%)

While a deterioration was seen;

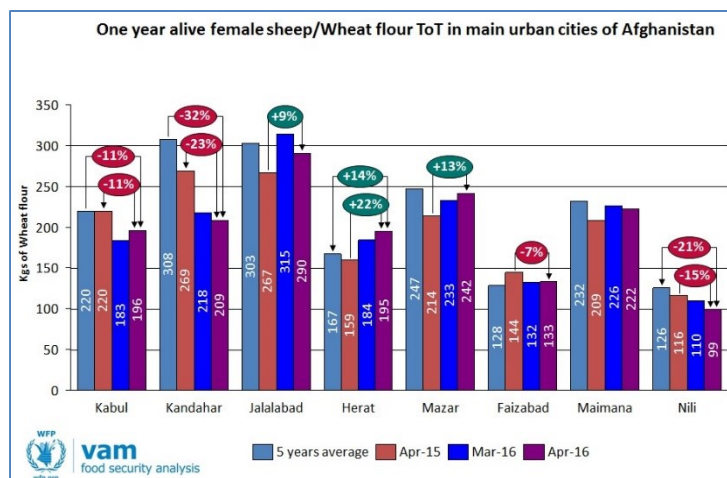
- March - April 2013 (by 1.5%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 1.7%, mainly related to increased wheat price (by 4.1%).
- On the two-year comparison (April 2014) this ToT slightly improved by 2.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 12.8%.



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 198.3 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly deteriorated by 1.0% from March to April 2016, mainly due to increased wheat flour price (by 0.6%) as well as increased of Sheep price (by 0.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also similarly experienced;
 - March - April 2015 (by 0.3%)
 - March - April 2014 (by 2.4%)
 - March - April 2013 (by 0.7%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), this ToT negligibly deteriorated by 0.8%, mainly due to increased wheat flour price (by 1.9%).
- On the two-year comparison (April 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 1.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 8.4%.



Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 24.2/Kg in April 2016. Compared to the past month (March 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.3%. The largest decrease only occurred in Hirat (7.5%) due to increased supply from a neighboring district and also from Pakistan. While the highest increase only occurred in Jalalabad (6.2%), the variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.7% to 0.0%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was experienced in;

- March – April 2015 (by 1.9%)
- March – April 2013 (by 0.7%)

While the price increase in;

March - April 2014 (by 3.1%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the average wheat price slightly increased by 4.1%. The highest increase occurred in Kabul (by 30.0%) and Nili (by 13.8%). The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-4.5% to 4.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (April 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 3.6%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price significantly increased by 12.3%.

Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

Wheat flour (High Price):

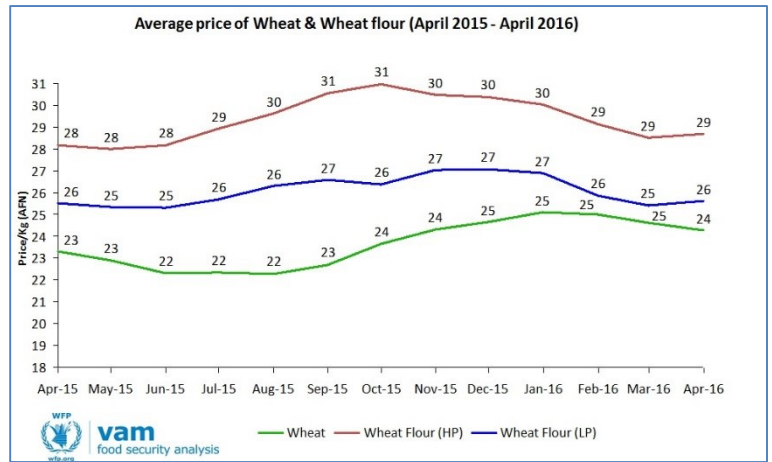
- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 28.7/Kg in the reporting month (April 2016). The average price negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to the previous month (March 2016). The highest increase only occurred in Jalalabad (8.4%), mainly due to increased prices in source point in Pakistan, while the largest decrease only occurred in Kabul (6.7%). The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal limit (-0.7% to 4.6%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was only experienced;

- March - April 2014 (by 2.1%)

While the price decrease in;

- March - April 2015 (by 1.5%)
- March - April 2013 (by 2.7%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the current average price negligibly increased by 1.9%, mainly due to depreciation of Afghan currency against US dollar. The highest increase occurred in Faizabad (14.4%), Kabul (12.0%) and Kandahar (11.6%). The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-8.1% to 4.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average price of wheat flour slightly decreased by 3.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 4.5%.



Wheat flour (Low Price):

- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 25.6/Kg in the reporting month (April 2016). The average price negligibly increased by 0.8% compared to previous month (March 2016). The highest increase only occurred in Jalalabad (7.1%) due to increase of prices across the border. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-4.0% to 3.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this increase was only experienced;
 - March - April 2014 (by 1.9%)

While the price increase in;

- March - April 2015 (by 0.8%)
- March - April 2013 (by 0.2%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the current average price negligibly increased by 0.4%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-9.0% to 9.1 %), except a significant decrease occurred in Maimana (10.3%) mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 5.3%.

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 77/Kg in the reporting month (April 2016) which remained unchanged compared with the previous month (March 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-0.3% to 0.7%). In the last three preceding years, there was an increase only ;
 - March - April 2014 (by 1.4%)

While the price decrease in;

- March - April 2015 (by 2.4%)
- March - April 2013 (by 1.1%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 4.0%. The largest decrease only occurred in Maimana (21.1%), mainly due to maintained supply of rice from Pakistan and normalized price in border town markets after it had reached a ceiling level in the past years. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-7.8% - 3.9%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average price significantly decreased by 11.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 5.2%.

Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 40.7/Kg in the reporting month (April 2016), which negligibly decreased by 0.4% compared to the previous month (March 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-4.8 to 2.5%).

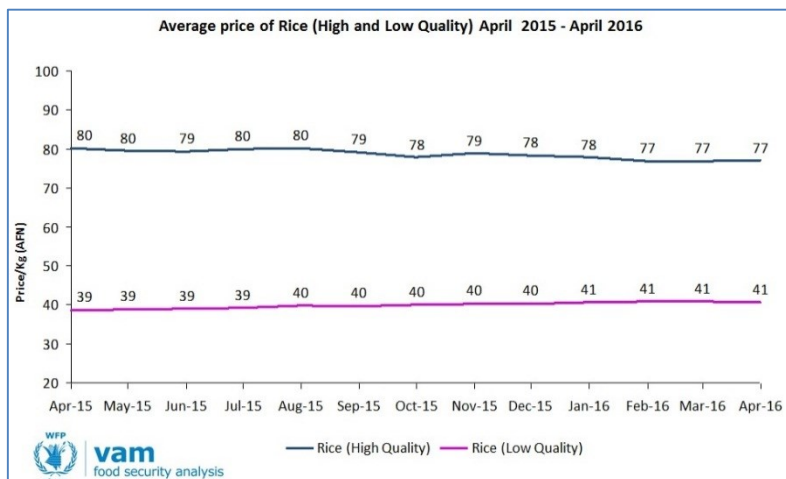
In the last three preceding years, this decrease was only experienced;

- March - April 2015 (by 1.5%)
- March - April 2013 (by 2.8%)

While the price increase in;

- March - April 2014 (by 0.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the average price increased by 5.7%. The largest increase occurred in Kandahar (39.8%), Kabul (18.4%) and Hirat (15.4%), mainly due to decreased supply of rice from source points in Pakistan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-7.5% to 1.7%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 6.9%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 3.3%.



Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities' markets was AFN 78.3/Kg in the reporting month (April 2016), being negligibly increased by 1.5% compared to previous month (March 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (0.0% to 5%). In the last three preceding years, this increase was only experienced;

- March - April 2014 (by 0.1%)

While the price decrease in;

- March - April 2015 (by 1.0%)
- March - April 2013 (by 0.8%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (April 2015), the average price slightly increased by 2.9%. The largest increase only occurred in Kandahar (12.1%), mainly due to decreased supply of Oil from source points in Pakistan. The variation in main cities was within a normal limit (-1.3% to 8.5%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 3.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Aprils 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 2.5%.

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

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in April 2016 in main cities' markets was AFN 13.9/Kg, which remained unchanged compared with the previous month (March 2016). Compared to the same month last year (April 2015), the average price slightly increased by 6.3%. Compared to the same month two year ago (April 2014), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.0%.

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in April 2016 in main cities' markets was AFN 45.8/Kg, being negligibly increased by 1.8% compared to the previous month (March 2016). Compared to the same month last year (April 2015) the average price significantly increased by 11.0%. Compared to the same month two year ago (April 2014) the average price slightly increased by 3.0%.

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during April 2016 was reported at 11.3 days. The highest number of working days was in Hirat, Nili and Kabul (16 days), followed by Jalalabad (14 days, Kandahar, Mazar and Maimana (8 days). Meanwhile, the lowest number of working days was reported in Faizabad (5 days). Overall, compared to the past month it increased by 1.4 days per month due to an increase by 6 days in Kabul, 4 days in Nili, and 0.8 day in Faizabad. The average number of working days remained unchanged in other main cities.

- Compared to the same month last year (April 2015), the average number of working days negligibly decreased by 0.9 day per month.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (April 2014), the average number of working days also negligibly decreased by 1.0 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	1 Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y				1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y
KABUL	Wheat	26.0	22.6	-7.1	30.0	-3.7	▲	▶	▶	Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	28.0	7.1	-1.8	12.0	-6.7	▶	▶	▶		KANDAHAR	Sheep	5,600	-20.9	-12.8	-13.5	0.0	▼	▼	▶
	Rice High Quality	80.0	6.5	-16.7	-7.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶		JALALABAD	Sheep	7,000	-2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Quality	58.0	47.2	16.0	18.4	0.0	▶	▶	▶		HIRAT	Sheep	5,395	16.8	17.3	17.3	6.4	▶	▶	▶
	Cooking Oil	81.0	-1.9	0.0	1.3	3.2	▶	▶	▶		MAZAR	Sheep	6,225	1.2	-2.7	3.8	3.8	▶	▶	▶
KANDAHAR	Wheat	25.0	6.7	-13.6	-1.5	-2.4	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,500	17.2	-7.2	5.9	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.9	14.4	-3.6	11.6	4.6	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	-2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	62.7	-1.2	-18.4	3.9	0.7	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep	3,600	-19.5	-5.3	-11.4	-10.0	▼	▼	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	30.3	6.7	18.9	39.8	-4.8	▶	▶	▶	Terms of Trade										
	Cooking Oil	73.5	7.2	7.3	12.1	2.2	▶	▶	▶	Kgs of wheat/wheat flour										
JALALABAD	Wheat	21.5	7.6	3.6	-2.3	6.2	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/wheat	11.5	-20.4	29.2	-19.7	8.4	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	24.1	1.6	-3.0	-8.1	8.4	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/wheat	12.0	-18.2	-0.7	-13.0	2.4	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	76.0	13.4	-1.1	1.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/wheat	12.1	-12.6	-3.5	2.3	-5.9	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	29.5	-22.1	-38.4	1.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/wheat	16.1	-1.2	17.6	2.2	8.2	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	77.0	-2.3	-0.3	8.5	1.3	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/wheat	9.5	-33.7	0.0	-11.8	3.5	▶	▶	▶	
HIRAT	Wheat	18.7	3.3	-14.9	-2.1	-7.5	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/wheat	11.5	-23.1	-6.5	-3.8	33.3	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.6	-1.3	-6.0	-4.2	0.5	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/wheat	8.7	-43.2	0.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	60.1	-6.3	-20.2	1.9	-0.3	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/wheat	9.1	-11.8	1.5	-8.3	4.3	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	28.4	7.7	6.0	15.4	2.5	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /wheat	211.5	-23.3	7.7	-23.1	3.8	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	70.9	-3.9	-5.8	8.5	5.0	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /wheat	224.0	-28.3	0.9	-12.2	2.5	▶	▶	▶	
MAZAR	Wheat	21.0	8.5	0.0	-4.5	-3.4	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /wheat	325.6	-9.1	-3.5	2.3	-5.8	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.8	1.2	-4.6	-8.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /wheat	289.2	10.7	38.1	20.1	15.4	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	78.0	5.9	-10.3	-5.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /wheat	296.4	-7.4	-2.7	8.7	7.5	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	36.0	-1.9	-14.3	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /wheat	173.1	-1.1	-13.3	1.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	77.0	-0.2	1.3	-1.3	1.0	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /wheat	260.9	-13.4	0.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
FAIZABAD	Wheat	26.0	18.8	7.0	4.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep /wheat	109.1	-32.7	-3.8	-22.1	-10.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	33.8	12.2	1.4	14.4	-0.7	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/wheat flour	10.7	-6.7	22.1	-6.8	11.8	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	90.0	18.2	-5.3	-0.6	0.0	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/wheat flour	11.2	-22.9	-11.1	-23.2	-4.4	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	46.5	0.5	-7.0	-3.1	-1.1	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/wheat flour	10.8	-7.5	3.1	8.8	-7.8	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	90.0	-6.8	-10.0	-1.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/wheat flour	10.9	3.6	6.4	4.4	-0.5	▶	▶	▶	
MAIMANA	Wheat	23.0	11.0	0.0	-4.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/wheat flour	7.8	-29.4	4.9	-8.4	0.0	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.0	0.3	-4.4	-6.1	1.9	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/wheat flour	8.9	-18.8	-1.3	-12.6	34.3	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	75.0	-3.6	-14.8	-21.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/wheat flour	7.4	-37.9	4.6	6.5	-1.9	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	37.0	-10.2	-7.5	-7.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/wheat flour	8.2	2.4	3.4	0.1	4.3	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	82.0	-0.3	-1.8	-1.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /wheat flour	196.4	-10.6	1.8	-10.7	7.1	▶	▶	▶	
NILI	Wheat	33.0	17.0	-1.5	13.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /wheat flour	208.6	-32.3	-9.6	-22.5	-4.4	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	36.5	1.5	-3.3	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /wheat flour	290.2	-4.3	3.1	8.8	-7.8	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	94.0	7.0	-5.6	2.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /wheat flour	195.3	16.6	24.8	22.5	5.9	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	60.0	1.7	-11.6	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /wheat flour	241.7	-2.2	2.0	12.8	3.7	▶	▶	▶	
	Cooking Oil	75.0	-9.3	-11.2	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /wheat flour	133.3	3.8	-8.5	-7.5	0.7	▶	▶	▶	
									MAIMANA	Sheep /wheat flour	222.2	-4.3	4.6	6.5	-1.9	▶	▶	▶		
									NILI	Sheep /wheat flour	98.6	-21.4	-2.0	-15.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶		

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 April 2015 and 2Y= Compared to April 2014

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