



Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **March 2016** (Reported in April 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 negligibly decreased in February and March.
- The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 24.6/Kg) is slightly higher by 3.6% compared to the same time last year (March 2015), but significantly higher by 14.2% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (March 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, February and March. The current retail price (AFN 28.5/kg) is negligibly lower by 0.3% compared to the same month last year (March 2015), and slightly higher by 3.3% 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 40.9/kg) is slightly higher by 4.5% compared to the same month last year (March 2015), and also slightly higher by 2.9% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 76.9/kg) is slightly lower by 6.3% compared to the same month last year (March 2015), but slightly higher by 5.5% 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.

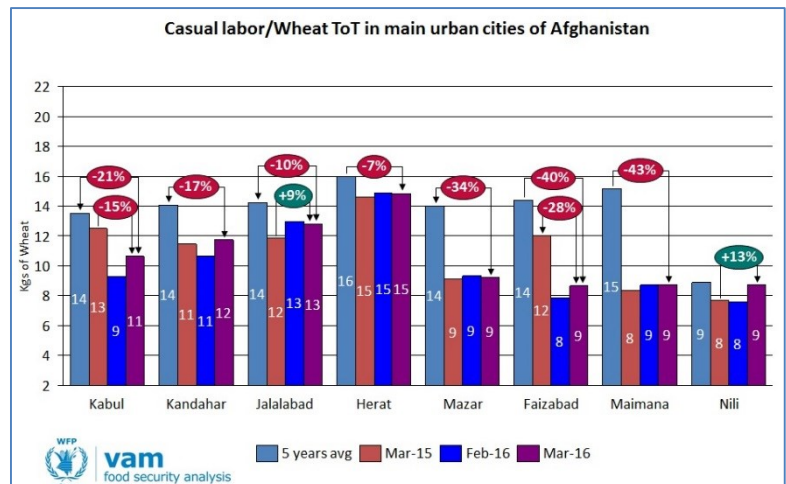
- Wage labor/Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 10.7 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT improved (by 5.0%) from February to March 2016, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.5 %) and increased labor wage (by 4.4%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also experienced;

- February - March 2015 (by 2.9%)
- February - March 2013 (by 7.1%)

While a deterioration was seen;

- February - March 2014 (by 0.5%)

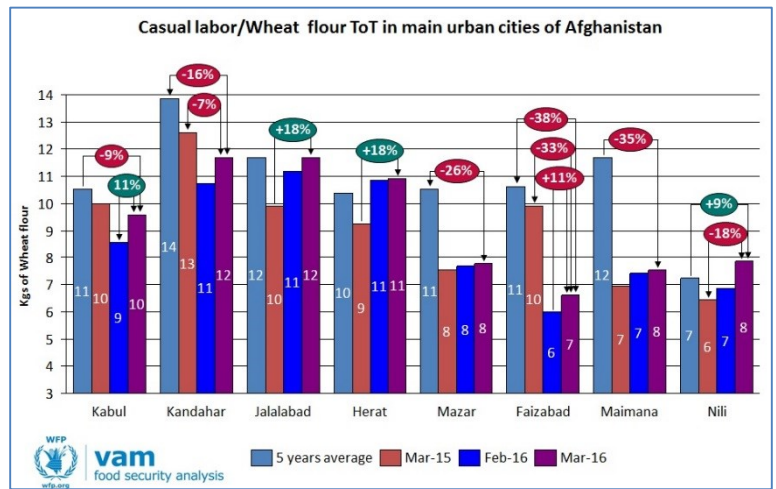
- In comparison to the same month one year ago (March 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 2.5%, mainly due to increased Wheat price (by 3.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (March 2014), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 3.1%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (March 2011-2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 22.6%.



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

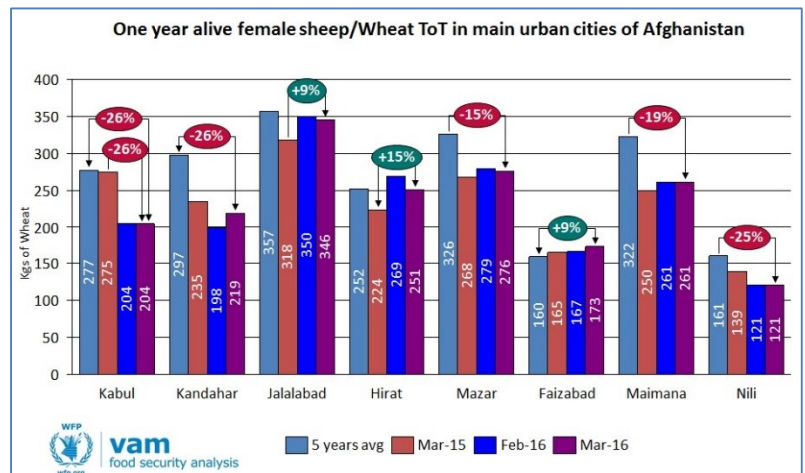
market. This ToT reveals how many Kilograms of Wheat Flour (HP) can be purchased with one-day casual unskilled labor wage, but does not say how many days a month a laborer can get to cover the family food needs.

- Wage labor/Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 9.2 Kgs of Wheat flour which slightly improved by 6.5% from February to March 2016, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 2.1%) and increased labor wage (by 4.4%). this improvement was also experienced in:
 - February - March 2015 (by 2.3%)
 - February - March 2014 (by 0.9%)
 - February - March 2013 (by 6.3%),
- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), this ToT negligibly improved by 1.4%, mainly related to decreased wheat flour price (by 0.3%) and increased labor wage (by 0.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (March 2014), this ToT negligibly improved by 0.1%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (March 2011 - 2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.8%.



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 231.2 Kgs of wheat against one- year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 0.1% from February to March 2016, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also experienced;
 - February - March 2015 (by 1.8%)
 - February - March 2013 (by 2.9%)
- While a deterioration was seen;
- February - March 2014 (by 2.8%)



- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), this ToT negligibly deteriorated by 1.3%, mainly related to increased wheat price (by 3.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (March 2014) this ToT negligibly improved by 1.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (March 2011 - 2015), this ToT significantly deteriorated by 14.0%.

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.

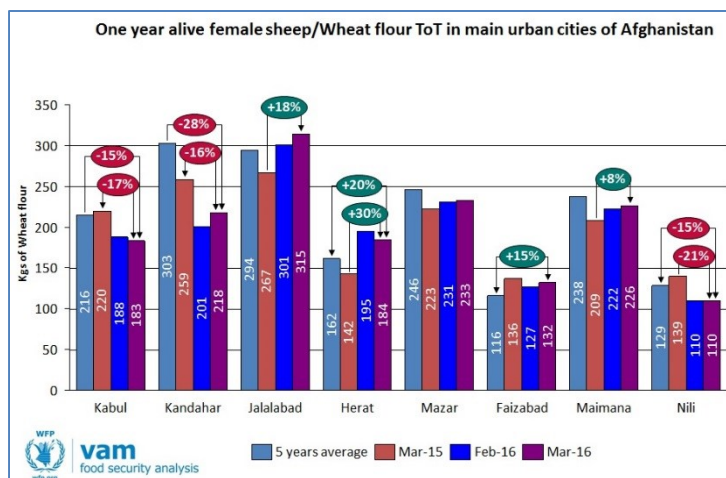
- Sheep-Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 200.2 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 1.7% from February to March 2016, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 2.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also experienced;

- February - March 2015 (by 3.4%)
- February - March 2013 (by 1.2%)

While a deterioration was seen;

- February - March 2014 (by 1.4%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), this ToT negligibly improved by 0.5%, mainly due to decreased wheat flour price (by 0.3%) and increased sheep price (by 0.1%).
- On the two-year comparison (March 2014), this ToT slightly improved by 5.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Marches 2011 - 2015), this ToT slightly deteriorated by 6.0%.



Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN 24.6/Kg in March 2016. Compared to the past month (February 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.5%. The largest decrease only occurred in Kandahar (9.3%) due to increased supply from a neighboring district and also from Pakistan, while the variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.7% to 1.3%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was only experienced in;

- February - March 2015 (by 1.1%)

While the price increase in;

- February - March 2014 (by 2.6%)
- February - March 2013 (by 0.4%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the average wheat price slightly increased by 3.6%. The highest increase occurred in Kabul (by 35.0%) and Nili (by 12.8%). The variation in all other main cities was within a normal range (-8.0% to 4.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (March 2014), the average price negligibly increased by 0.8%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Marches 2011 - 2015), the average price significantly increased by 14.2%.

Retail Price of Wheat flour in Main Urban Cities:

Wheat flour (High Price):

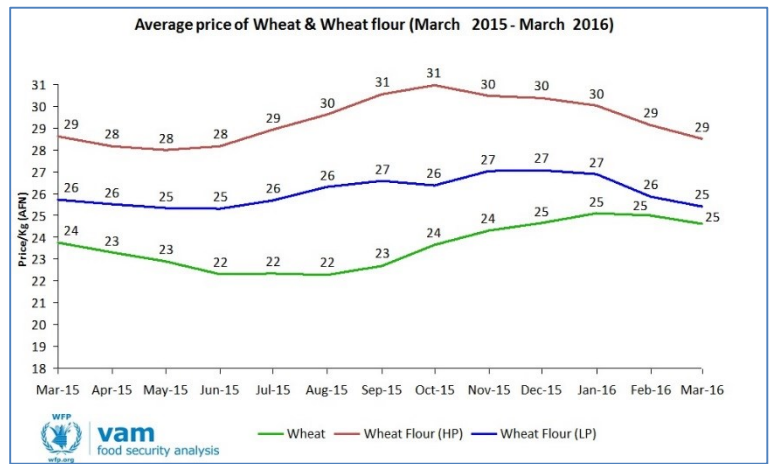
- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 28.5/Kg in the reporting month (March 2016). The average price negligibly decreased by 2.1% compared to the previous month (February 2016). The largest decrease only occurred in Kandahar (8.1%), mainly due to increased supply from source point in Pakistan, while the variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal limit (-4.3% to 2.6%). In the last three proceeding years, this decrease was only experienced;

- February - March 2015 (by 0.6%)

While the price increase in;

- February - March 2014 (by 1.0%)
- February - March 2013 (by 1.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the current average price negligibly decreased by 0.3%, mainly due to depreciation of Afghan currency against US dollar. The largest decrease occurred in Jalalabad (15.2%) and Hirat (15.1%), while the highest increase occurred in Kabul (by 20.0%) and Faizabad (by 12.4%). The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-7.8% to 4.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average price of wheat flour negligibly decreased by 1.7%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (March 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 3.3%.



Wheat flour (Low Price):

- The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities' markets was AFN 25.4/Kg in the reporting month (March 2016). The average price negligibly decreased by 1.8% compared to previous month (February 2016). The largest decrease only occurred in Kandahar (5.1%) due to increased supply from points of source Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-4.9% to 0.0%). In the last three preceding years, this decrease was only experienced;
 - February - March 2015 (by 1.1%)

While the price increase in;

- February - March 2014 (by 1.3%)
- February - March 2013 (by 2.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the current average price negligibly decreased by 1.2%. The largest decrease occurred in Hirat (14.0%) and Maimana (12.1%), mainly due to maintained supply of imported wheat flour from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. While the highest increase only occurred in Kabul (13.6%). The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-9.7% to 5.7 %).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 3.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (March 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 4.8%.

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 76.94/Kg in the reporting month (March 2016) which negligibly increased by 0.1% compared to previous month (February 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal limit (-0.2% to 0.0%). In the last three preceding years, this increase was only experienced;
 - February - March 2013 (by 2.5%)

While the price decrease in;

- February - March 2015 (by 1.6%)
- February - March 2014 (by 0.1%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 6.3%. The largest decrease occurred in Maimana (21.1%) and Kabul (15.6%), 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 (-7.1% - 2.2%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average price significantly decreased by 10.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (March 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 5.5%.

Rice (Low Quality):

- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN 40.88/Kg in the reporting month (March 2016), which negligibly decreased by 0.1% compared to the previous month (February 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-3.9 to 3.4%).

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

- February - March 2015 (by 1.4%)
- February - March 2014 (by 0.1%)

While the price increase in;

- February - March 2013 (by 1.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the average price increased by 4.5%. The largest increase occurred in Kandahar (28.3%), Kabul (17.8%) and Hirat (14.5%), mainly due to decreased supply of rice from source points. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-7.5% to 1.7%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 6.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Marches 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly increased by 2.9%.



Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities' markets was AFN 77.1/Kg in the reporting month (March 2016), being negligibly increased by 0.4% compared to previous month (January 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-1.6% to 2.7%). In the last three preceding years, this increase was only experienced;
 - February - March 2014 (by 0.1%)

While the price decrease in;

- February - March 2015 (by 0.2%)
- February - March 2013 (by 2.2%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (March 2015), the average price negligibly increased by 0.4%. The variation in main cities was within a normal limit (-5.3% to -9.6%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average price slightly decreased by 4.3%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Marches 2011 - 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 4.0%.

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

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in March 2016 in main cities' markets was AFN 13.9/Kg, which remained as the same as in the previous month (February 2016). Compared to the same month last year (March 2015), the average price slightly increased by 6.1%, and compared to the same month two year ago (March 2014) the average price slightly decreased by 2.0%.

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in February 2016 in main cities' markets was AFN 45/Kg, which remained as the same as in the previous month (February 2016). Compared to the same month last year (March 2015), the average price slightly increased by 8.1% and compared to the same month two year ago (March 2014), the average price negligibly increased by 1.0%.

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during March 2016 was reported at 10 days. The highest number of working days was in Hirat (16 days), followed by Jalalabad (14 days), Nili (12 days), Kabul (10 days), Kandahar, Mazar and Maimana (8 days). Meanwhile, the lowest number of working days was reported in Faizabad (4 days). Overall, compared to the past month it increased by 2.5 days per month due to an increase by 12 days per month in Nili, 6 days in Kabul and 1.7 days in Faizabad. The average number of working days remained unchanged in other main cities.

- Compared to the same month last year (March 2015), the average number of working days negligibly decreased by 0.9 days per month.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (March 2014), the average number of working days slightly decreased by 2.0 days 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	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M				5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	5 Y Ave	2 Y	1 Y	1 M	
KABUL	Wheat	27.0	28.3	-0.9	35.0	0.0	▲	▶	▶	▶	Livestock-One gear live Sheep (Female)	KABUL	Sheep	5,500	-3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	30.0	12.1	5.1	20.0	2.6	▶	▶	▶	▶		KANDAHAR	Sheep	5,600	-19.7	-14.7	-12.7	0.0	▼	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	80.0	4.1	-16.7	-15.6	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶		JALALABAD	Sheep	7,000	-1.4	7.7	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Quality	58.0	47.0	16.0	17.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶		HIRAT	Sheep	5,070	12.3	10.2	10.2	-6.1	▶	▶	▶	▶
KANDAHAR	Wheat	25.6	6.4	-10.5	-6.0	-9.3	▶	▶	▶	▶		MAZAR	Sheep	6,000	-1.0	-5.1	1.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.7	9.6	-6.0	3.5	-8.1	▶	▶	▶	▶		FAIZABAD	Sheep	4,500	29.7	24.1	9.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice High Quality	62.3	0.5	-18.7	-0.7	-0.2	▶	▶	▶	▶		MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	-3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Quality	31.8	12.5	26.5	28.3	-3.9	▶	▶	▶	▶		NILI	Sheep	4,000	-12.0	14.3	-1.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
JALALABAD	Wheat	20.3	2.1	-1.8	-8.0	1.3	▶	▶	▶	▶		Terms of Trade										
	Wheat flour (HP)	22.3	-7.7	-13.2	-15.2	-4.3	▶	▶	▶	▶		Kgs of wheat/wheat flour										
	Rice High Quality	76.0	13.7	-1.3	1.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶		KABUL	Casual Labor/wheat	10.6	-21.3	16.1	-14.8	15.0	▶	▶	▶	▶
	Rice Low Quality	29.5	-21.2	-38.5	1.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶		KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/wheat	11.7	-16.7	-4.2	2.2	10.2	▶	▶	▶	▶
HIRAT	Wheat	20.2	10.5	-9.5	-1.6	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/wheat	12.8	-10.0	1.9	8.7	-1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.5	-3.1	-4.1	-15.1	-0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/wheat	14.8	-7.1	10.6	1.7	-0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	60.3	-3.9	-18.1	-0.8	1.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/wheat	9.2	-34.3	-3.4	1.2	-1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	27.7	5.5	3.6	14.5	3.4	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/wheat	8.7	-39.8	-33.8	-27.9	10.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
MAZAR	Wheat	21.8	15.2	3.6	-1.1	1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Casual Labor/wheat	8.7	-42.6	-13.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.8	3.6	-1.0	-2.8	-1.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Casual Labor/wheat	8.7	-2.0	8.1	13.3	15.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	78.0	6.7	-8.2	-7.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Sheep /wheat	203.7	-26.3	0.9	-25.9	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	36.0	-0.6	-14.3	-2.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Sheep /wheat	218.6	-26.5	-4.7	-7.1	10.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
FAIZABAD	Wheat	26.0	19.7	18.2	4.0	-3.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Sheep /wheat	345.7	-3.2	9.7	8.6	-1.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	34.0	13.6	7.1	12.4	-4.2	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Sheep /wheat	250.6	-0.6	21.8	12.0	-6.7	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	90.0	19.0	0.0	-3.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Sheep /wheat	275.9	-15.4	-8.4	2.9	-1.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	47.0	-3.5	-6.0	-4.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Sheep /wheat	173.1	8.5	5.0	4.9	3.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	
MAIMANA	Wheat	23.0	17.2	15.0	-4.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAIMANA	Sheep /wheat	260.9	-19.0	-13.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.5	-1.1	-2.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	NILI	Sheep /wheat	121.2	-24.6	16.0	-13.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	75.0	-3.7	-14.8	-21.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KABUL	Casual Labor/wheat flour	9.6	-9.1	9.4	-4.2	12.1	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	37.0	-12.7	-7.5	-7.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/wheat flour	11.7	-15.6	-8.8	-7.3	8.8	▶	▶	▶	▶	
NILI	Wheat	33.0	14.0	-1.5	12.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	JALALABAD	Casual Labor/wheat flour	11.7	0.1	15.2	18.0	4.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Wheat flour (HP)	36.5	-1.1	-2.0	4.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	HIRAT	Casual Labor/wheat flour	10.9	5.1	4.2	17.7	0.5	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice High Quality	94.0	6.2	-4.6	2.2	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	MAZAR	Casual Labor/wheat flour	7.8	-26.2	1.0	2.9	1.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	
	Rice Low Quality	60.0	1.7	-11.1	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶	▶	FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/wheat flour	6.6	-37.7	-26.9	-33.3	10.6	▶	▶	▶	▶	
											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 March 2015 and 2Y= Compared to March 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