ZAMBIA mVAM Market Bulletin 4: September 2016



Bean and groundnut prices increase as the lean season arrives

Key points:



Maize prices continued to fall in most districts in September 2016 but they remain higher than the five-year average



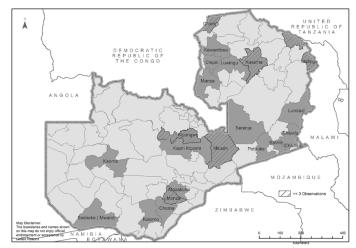
Bean prices are rising, particularly in areas of Muchinga, Central Province, Luapula and Western Province.



Groundnut prices are also increasing, especially in parts of Eastern Province, Central Province, Luapula, Southern Province and Western Province.



Map 1: Districts surveyed in September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

Methodology

WFP Zambia's in-house call centre has been operational since May 2016 as a part of WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) initiative. The centre conducts telephone interviews with key informants to collect weekly information on the price of food including maize, rice, groundnuts, cassava and beans, as well as information on general food availability and market accessibility. The surveys are carried out with a sample of 51 traders across 24 districts. The call centre collected 230 responses in August and 180 responses in September 2016. The reduction in response rates from traders is attributed to bad mobile networks meaning traders were unreachable. Phone surveys contain inherent response biases; therefore, the bulletin reports patterns and trends rather than precise estimates.



Maize prices continue to fall in most surveyed districts

In September, maize prices continued to fall in most surveyed districts compared with August (**Figure 1**). The continued downward price trend is attributed to government enforcement of the export ban, in place to help meet the requirements of the National Strategic Reserve. By 14 September, the National Food Agency had purchased 216,724 mt – representing 22 percent of the total maize requirement (1,000,000 mt). Despite the general fall in maize prices, six districts recorded price increases in September compared with August. These were Mkushi (up 14 percent) and Kapiri Mposhi (up 10 percent) in Central Province; Choma (11 percent) and Kalomo (7 percent) in Southern Province; and Petauke (5 percent) and Chipata (4 percent) in Eastern Province.

Although maize prices have been falling since August in most surveyed districts, they are still higher than the national five-year average (September 2010 – September 2015) and than during same period in 2015 (source: <u>FAO GIEWS</u>).



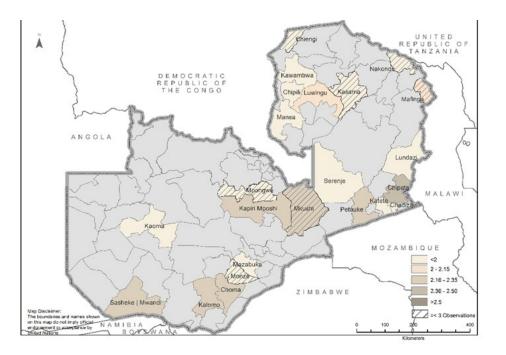
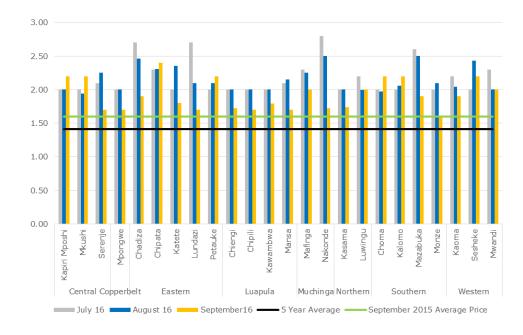


Figure 1: Maize prices (ZMK/kg) for monitored districts, July, August and September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

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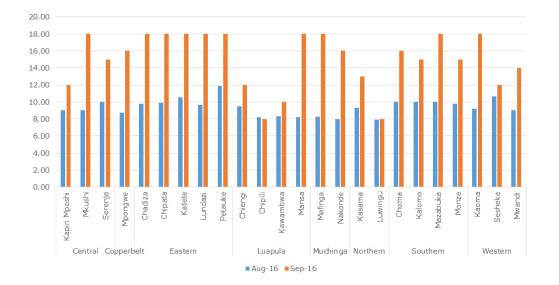


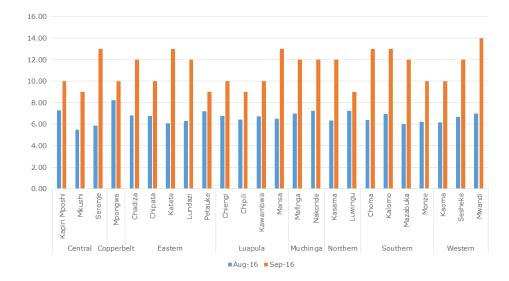
Beans and groundnuts more expensive in all monitored districts

The price of beans and groundnuts increased in all surveyed districts in September compared with August (Figures 2 & 3). The most expensive beans were found in Luapula Province (Mansa district), Muchinga Province (Mafinga and Nakonde districts) and Central Province (Mkushi district), where prices ranged between ZMK16/kg and ZMK18/kg. These are the same districts that recorded the highest percentage price increase for beans from August 2016 (between 100 and 118 percent). For groundnuts, the survey also shows price increases for all surveyed districts in September. The most expensive groundnuts were in Sesheke and Mwandi in Western Province (ZMK14/kg), followed by Katete in Eastern Province and Mansa in Luapula Province (ZMK13/kg) (Table 1). The rising price of groundnuts and beans is attributed to reduced supply on most markets because of the start of lean period – an expected seasonal phenomenon.



Figure 3: Prices for groundnuts (ZMK/kg) across monitored districts





Source: mVAM September 2016

Source: mVAM September 2016



Traders facing high transportation costs and limited storage facilities

High transport costs and limited storage facilities continue to be the main constraints affecting traders, followed by limited access to finances and unstable prices (**Figure 3**). Some traders also mentioned limited access to markets, high production costs and limited crop diversification (mono-cropping, with maize being the main crop grown). Although some traders are opting to sell maize to neighbouring countries where the price is higher, export flows have continued to fall thanks to government enforcement of the export ban. This has brought maize prices down further.

Figure 3: Word cloud of open-ended responses



Source: mVAM September 2016

Table 1: Food Prices Across Surveyed Districts (ZMK/kg)

	Beans			Maize			Groundnuts		
Districts	Current	August	% Change	Current	August	% Change	Current	August	% Change
Kaoma	18.00	9.20	95.65	1.90	2.04	-6.86	12.00	6.15	95.1
Sesheke	12.00	10.67	12.50	2.20	2.43	-9.59	14.00	6.67	110.0
Kapiri Mposhi	12.00	9.00	33.33	2.20	2.00	10.00	10.00	7.30	37.0
Mkushi	18.00	9.00	100.00	2.20	1.94	13.55	9.00	5.50	63.6
Serenje	15.00	10.00	50.00	1.70	2.25	-24.44	13.00	5.88	121.3
Chadiza	18.00	9.80	83.67	1.90	2.46	-22.76	12.00	6.80	76.5
Chipata	18.00	9.89	82.02	2.40	2.31	4.10	10.00	6.78	47.5
Katete	18.00	10.57	70.27	1.80	2.36	-23.64	13.00	6.07	114.1
Lundazi	18.00	9.67	86.21	1.70	2.10	-19.05	12.00	6.29	90.7
Petauke	18.00	11.88	51.52	2.20	2.10	4.96	9.00	7.20	25.0
Chiengi	12.00	9.50	26.32	1.72	2.00	-14.00	10.00	6.75	48.1
Chipili	8.00	8.22	-2.70	1.70	2.00	-15.00	9.00	6.44	39.7
Kawambwa	10.00	8.31	20.37	1.76	2.00	-12.00	10.00	6.73	48.6
Mansa	18.00	8.20	119.51	1.70	2.15	-20.93	13.00	6.50	100.0
Kasama	13.00	9.33	39.29	1.74	2.00	-13.00	12.00	6.33	89.5
Luwingu	8.00	7.92	1.01	2.00	2.00	0.20	9.00	7.24	24.3
Choma	16.00	10.00	60.00	2.20	1.98	11.39	13.00	6.40	103.1
Kalomo	15.00	10.00	50.00	2.20	2.06	6.94	13.00	6.93	87.6
Mazabuka	18.00	10.00	80.00	1.90	2.50	-24.00	12.00	6.00	100.0
Monze	15.00	9.80	53.06	1.60	2.10	-23.81	10.00	6.20	61.3
Mpongwe	16.00	8.75	82.86	1.70	2.00	-15.00	10.00	8.25	21.2
Mafinga	18.00	8.25	118.18	2.00	2.25	-11.11	12.00	7.00	71.4
Nakonde	16.00	8.00	100.00	1.72	2.50	-31.20	12.00	7.25	65.5
Mwandi	14.00	9.00	55.56	2.00	2.00	0.00	14.00	7.00	100.0



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Website: http://vam.wfp.org/mvam/

Blog: mvam.org

Toolkit: http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM



