Initial Market Price Bulletin for the month of **January 2017** (Reported in February 2017)
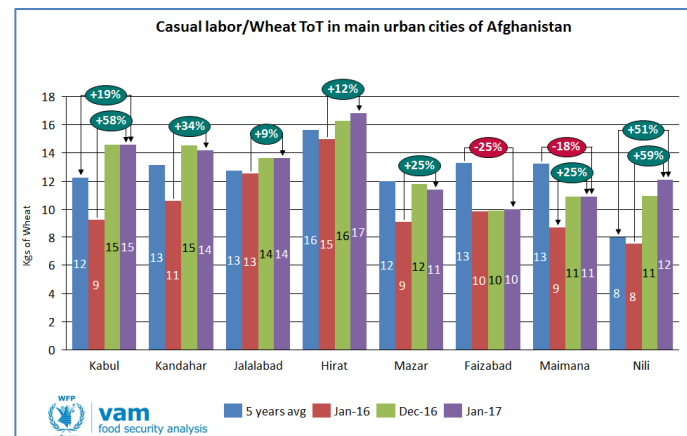
HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Wheat:** The current average wheat price in main cities' markets of Afghanistan (AFN 23.4/Kg) is slightly lower by 6.6% compared to the same time last year (January 2016), but negligibly higher by 2.0% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016).
- **Wheat flour (High Price)** The current retail price (AFN 28.7/kg) is slightly lower by 4.5% compared to the same month last year (January 2016), and negligibly higher by 0.6% 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 41.8/kg) is slightly higher by 2.9% compared to the same month last year (January 2016), and negligibly higher by 1.1% compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months. The current average price of High Quality Rice (AFN 75.7/kg) is slightly lower by 2.8% compared to the same month last year (January 2016), and negligibly lower by 2.5% 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.*
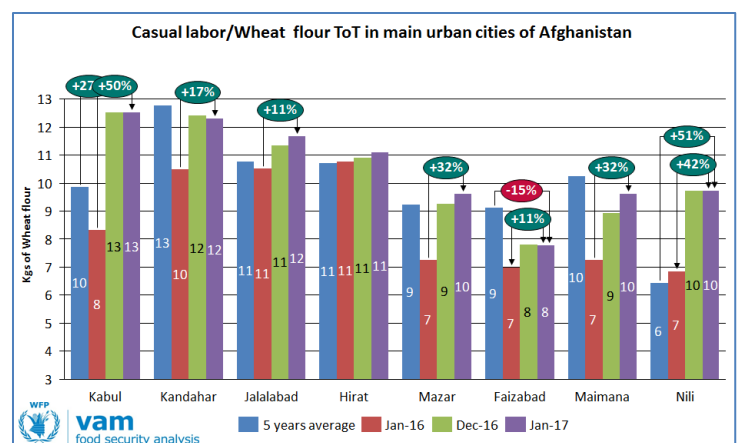
Labor wage/Wheat average ToT for the reporting month was 12.9 Kgs of Wheat. On average, this ToT negligibly improved (by 1.0%) from December 2016 to January 2017, mainly due to negligible decreased wheat price by 1.3%. The highest improvement only occurred in Nili (10.3%) due to significant decrease by 9.4%. The variations in other main city markets were within normal range (-3.4 to 3.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was not experienced, while deteriorated in;

- o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 3.9%)
- o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 9.0%)
- o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 7.5%)

Casual labor/Wheat ToT in main urban cities of Afghanistan

- In comparison to the same month one year ago (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 25.4%, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 18.7%) as well slightly decreased of wheat price (by 6.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 26.4%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012-2016), this ToT negligibly improved by 3.3%.

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.*

Labor wage/Wheat flour (HP) average ToT for the reporting month was 10.5 Kgs of Wheat flour which negligibly improved by 1.7% from December 2016 to January 2017, mainly due to negligible decreased Wheat flour by 1.6%. The highest improvement only occurred in Maimana (7.7%) due to significant decrease in wheat flour price. The variations in other main city markets were within normal range (-1.1 to 3.8%). This improvement was not experienced, while deteriorated in;
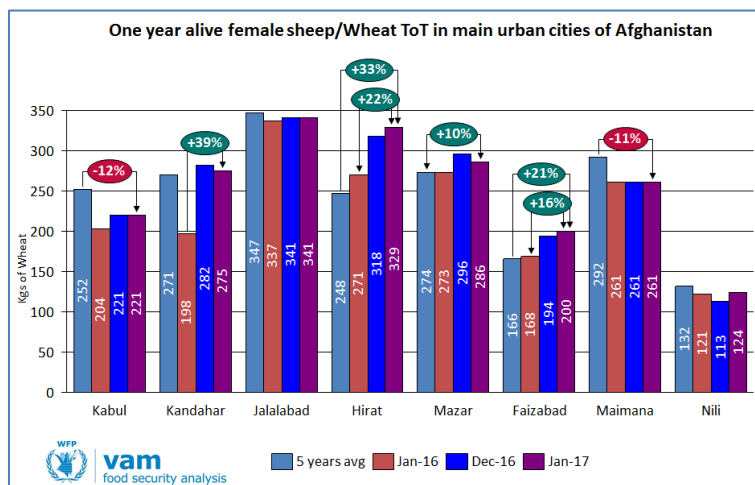

Casual labor/Wheat flour ToT in main urban cities of Afghanistan

- o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.3%)
- o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 6.2%)
- o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 4.0%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 23.0 %, mainly due to increased labor wage (by 18.7%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 4.5%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2015), this ToT significantly improved by 20.1%.
- Compared to the 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 6.5%.

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 255 Kgs of wheat against one-year alive female sheep, which negligibly improved by 0.6% from December 2016 to January 2017, mainly due to decreased wheat price (by 1.3%) and increased sheep price by 0.2%. The highest improvement only occurred in Nili (10.3%) credited to significant decrease in wheat price (12.1%. The variations in other main city markets were within normal range (-3.4 to 3.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was not experienced, while deteriorated in;
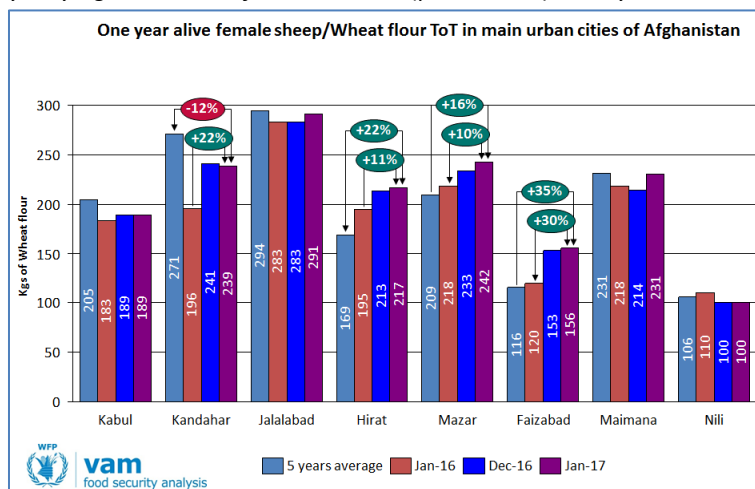
- o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.2%)
- o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 0.1%)
- o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 1.5%)

One year alive female sheep/Wheat ToT in main urban cities of Afghanistan

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), this ToT significantly improved by 11.2%, which is mainly due to increased sheep price (by 5.2%) and decreased wheat price by 6.6%.
- On the two-year comparison (January 2015) this ToT significantly improved by 13.5%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), this ToT negligibly improved by 2.9%.

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 208 Kgs of Wheat flour against one-year alive female sheep, which slightly improved by 2.3% from December 2016 to January 2017, mainly due to negligible decreased Wheat flour by 1.6% and increased sheep price by 0.2%. The highest increase only occurred in Maimana (7.7%), while the variation all other markets was within normal range (-1.1 to 3.8%). In the last three proceeding years, this improvement was also experienced in;

- o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 2.6%)
- o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 3.2%)
- o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 2.4%)

One year alive female sheep/Wheat flour ToT in main urban cities of Afghanistan

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), this ToT slightly improved by 9.3%, mainly due to increased sheep price (by 5.2%) and decreased wheat flour price (by 6.6%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2015), this ToT slightly improved by 8.3%.
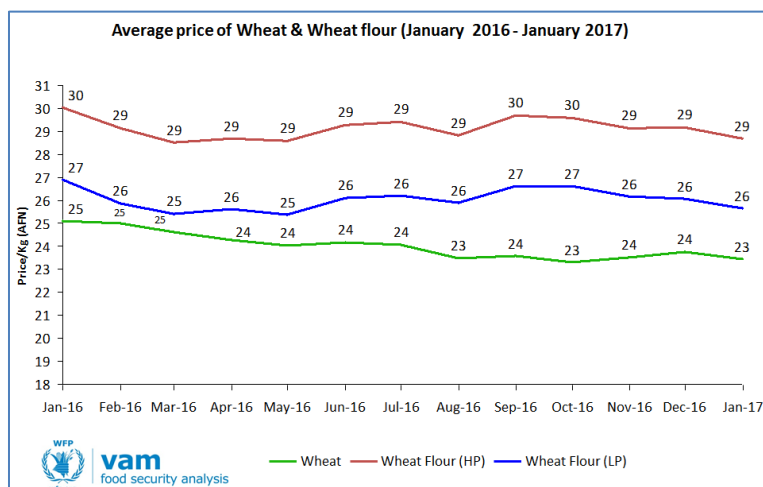- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), this ToT negligibly improved by 3.9%.

Retail Price of Wheat Grain in Main Urban Cities:

- The monthly average price of Wheat in main cities' markets of Afghanistan was AFN **23.4**/Kg in January 2017. Compared to the past month (December 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 1.3%. The highest decrease only occurred in Nili (by 9.4%), Main reason for the decrease was lower demand by consumers. The variation in the remaining main cities was within a normal range (-3.4% to 3.5%). In the last three proceeding years, this price decrease was not experienced, while increased in;

  - o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.9%)
  - o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 0.2%)
  - o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 2.1%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), the average wheat price slightly decreased by 6.6%. The highest decrease occurred in Kandahar (12.8%), Nili (12.1%), Kabul and Hirat (11.1%), which was mainly due to increased supply of local wheat from nearby provinces and imported wheat from Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-6.5% to 6.0%).
- On the two-year comparison (January 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 5.5%.
- Compared to the last 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 2.0%.

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 (January 2017). The average price negligibly decreased by 1.6% compared to the previous month (December 2016). The highest decrease only occurred in Maimana (by 7.1%), mainly due to increased supply of wheat flour from border countries. The variation in other main cities was within a normal limit (-3.7% to 1.1%). In the last three proceeding years, this price decrease was experienced during;
  - o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 1.1%)
  - o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 2.8%)
  - o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 1.5%)

- Compared to the same month last year (January 2016), the current average price slightly decreased by 4.5%. The highest decrease only occurred in Faizabad (by 14.3%), which was mainly due to increased supply of imported wheat flour compared to the same time one year ago. The variation in all other remaining main cities was within a normal range (-5.5% to 4.0%).

Average price of Wheat & Wheat flour (January 2016 - January 2017)

- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average price of wheat flour negligibly decreased by 1.4%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 0.6%.

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 (January 2017). The average price negligibly decreased by 1.6% compared to previous month (December 2016). The highest decrease only occurred in Maimana (by 8.0%), mainly due to increased supply of local low wheat flour. The variation in other main cities was within a normal range (-4.2% to 2.8%). In the last three proceeding years, this price decrease was experienced during;
  - o December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
  - o December 2014 to January 2015 (by 2.4%)
  - o December 2013 to January 2014 (by 1.8%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), the current average price negligibly decreased by 4.7%. The highest decrease only occurred in Hirat (by 18.2%) due to increased supply of wheat for milling from nearby districts of Hirat province, while the variation in other remaining main cities was within a normal range (-7.7% to 9.5%).

- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average price slightly decreased by 4.0%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 0.8%.

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 **75.7**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2017) which negligibly decreased by 0.4% compared to the previous month (December 2016). In the last three preceding years, this price decrease was also experienced in;
  - December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
  - December 2014 to January 2015 (by 1.4%)
  - December 2013 to January 2014 (by 0.7%)

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 2.8%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-6.7% to 4.2%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average price significantly decreased by 12.1%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of the some months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 2.5%.

Rice (Low Quality):
- The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities' markets was AFN **41.8**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2017), which negligibly decreased by 0.1% compared to the previous month (December 2016). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-1.0% to 1.1%). In the last three proceeding years this price decrease was experienced during;
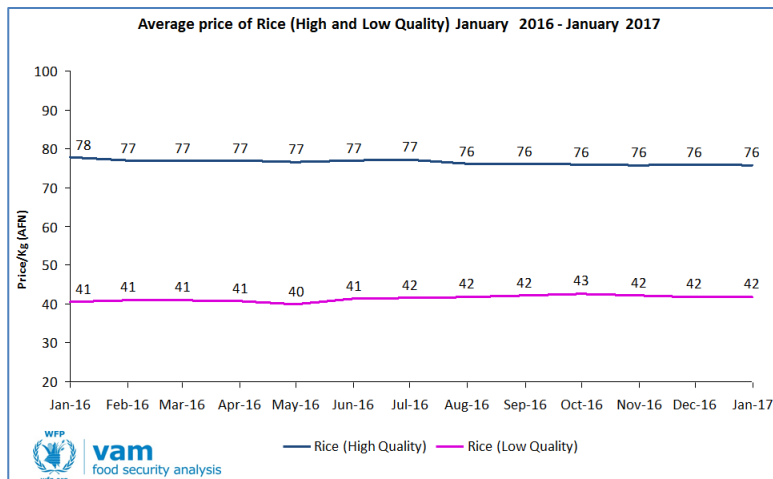 - December 2014 to January 2015 (by 1.2%)
  - December 2013 to January 2014 (by 1.1%)

While the price increased during;

  - December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.9%)

Average price of Rice (High and Low Quality) January 2016 - January 2017

- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), the average price slightly increased by 2.9%. The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-5.3% to 8.3%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average price negligibly increased by 1.8%.
- Compared to 5-year average price of same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly increased by 1.1%.

Retail Price of Cooking Oil in Main Urban Cities:

The monthly average price of cooking oil in main cities' markets was AFN **80.7**/Kg in the reporting month (January 2017), being negligibly decreased by 0.2% compared to previous month (December 2017). The variation in all main cities was within a normal range (-1.8% to 0.9%). In the last three proceeding years this price decrease was only experienced during;
  - December 2014 to January 2015 (by 1.5%)
  - December 2013 to January 2014 (by 1.2%)
While the price increased during;

  - December 2015 to January 2016 (by 0.5%)
- Compared to the same month one year ago (January 2016), the average price slightly increased by 3.9%. The largest increase occurred in Hirat and Nili (by 13.3%), main reason for the increase was increased price of oil by the traders and decreased supply of oil from source points. The variation in all other main cities was within a normal limit (-2.2% to 3.5%).
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average price slightly increased by 4.7%.
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the average price negligibly decreased by 0.3%.

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

Pulses: The monthly average price of Pulses in January 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **77.7**/Kg negligibly increased from last month (December 2016). The variation in all main cities markets was within a normal range (0 to 1.1%).
- Compared to the same time last year (January 2016), the price of pulses significantly increased by 14.2%, the highest increase occurred in in Faizabad (26.5%), followed by Jalalabad (26.2%), Hirat (24%), and Mazar (19.4%) Kabul (13.9%), Nili (11.8%). The variation in other two markets was within a normal range (-1.4 to 0%).
- Compared to the same time two year ago (January 2015), the price of pulses increased by 24.2%. Compared to
- Compared to 5-year average of the same months (Januarys 2012 - 2016), the prices of pulses increased significantly by 27.2%.

Salt: The monthly average price of Salt in January 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **14**/Kg which is negligibly increased by 0.4% compared to the previous month (December 2016). The only significant increase occurred in Kandahar (5.9%). The variation in other main cities was zero. The current average price of salt negligibly increased by 0.6% compared to the same month last year (January 2016), and negligibly increased by 2.8% compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015).

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in January 2017 in main cities' markets was AFN **54.1**/Kg, being negligibly decreased by 0.4% compared to the previous month (December 2016). The current average price of Sugar significantly increased by 20.5% compared to the same month last year (January 2016), and by 24.2% compared to the same month two year ago (January 2015) due to increased price in source points.

Number of days averagely worked by a labourer: The monthly average number of days worked by a laborer during January 2017 was reported at 8.25 days. The highest number of working days was in Jalalabad (14 days) followed by Kandahar, Hirat and Mazar (12 days), Maimana (9 days), Kabul (5 days), while it was least in Faizabad (2.0 days). The average number of days worked by unskilled laborers in a month in main cities of Afghanistan decreased by 17.5% (1.8 days) compared to the previous month (December 2016). The significant decrease occurred in Nili by 100% (4 days), Kabul 58% (7 days), and Maimana by 25% (3 days), the variation in other main cities remain unchanged.
- Compared to the same month last year (January 2016), the average number of working days in a month increased by 10% (0.8 day). Increased in Kandahar and Mazar 50% (4 days), Kabul 25% (1.2 day), Maimana 12.5% (1day) and decreased in Hirat by 25 %(4days). The variation in other main cities was zero.
- Compared to the same month two years ago (January 2015), the average number of working days for main cities decreased by 15.4% (1.8 days).

Market Watch:

Markets	Major Comm	Current Price per Kg	5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M
KABUL	Wheat	24.0	4.8	-2.0	-11.1	0.0
	Wheat flour (HP)	28.0	0.0	10.3	-6.7	0.0
	Rice High Quality	75.0	-9.3	-23.5	-6.3	0.0
	Rice Low Quality	58.0	26.6	16.0	0.0	0.0
	Cooking Oil	81.8	-0.2	1.2	3.5	0.9
KANDAHAR	Wheat	24.7	-2.6	-10.0	-12.8	2.4
	Wheat flour (HP)	28.5	12.5	5.4	-0.3	1.1
	Rice High Quality	64.8	-6.0	-11.7	-5.2	1.1
	Rice Low Quality	30.6	10.8	5.6	4.5	1.1
	Cooking Oil	74.6	11.7	37.1	-0.9	-1.8
JALALABAD	Wheat	22.0	3.6	-6.4	6.0	0.0
	Wheat flour (HP)	25.8	2.5	-7.6	4.0	-2.8
	Rice High Quality	75.5	4.6	-6.6	-0.7	-0.7
	Rice Low Quality	31.0	-18.5	4.2	5.1	0.0
	Cooking Oil	75.8	-4.3	-0.2	3.1	0.3
HIRAT	Wheat	17.9	-7.3	-17.6	-11.1	-3.4
	Wheat flour (HP)	27.1	-4.1	-8.1	-2.9	-1.7
	Rice High Quality	62.2	-2.5	-3.6	4.2	0.9
	Rice Low Quality	28.8	9.7	11.6	7.5	-0.3
	Cooking Oil	76.2	4.2	9.7	13.3	-1.2
MAZAR	Wheat	22.0	9.5	0.0	0.0	3.5
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.0	-0.9	-7.1	-5.5	-3.7
	Rice High Quality	74.0	-6.5	-14.9	-7.5	0.0
	Rice Low Quality	36.0	-5.5	-10.0	-5.3	0.0
	Cooking Oil	80.0	0.6	2.6	3.2	0.0
FAIZABAD	Wheat	25.0	7.8	0.0	-6.5	-1.0
	Wheat flour (HP)	32.1	-3.6	4.5	-14.3	0.4
	Rice High Quality	84.0	2.6	-9.4	-6.7	0.0
	Rice Low Quality	48.0	-4.5	-4.0	3.2	-1.0
	Cooking Oil	90.0	-11.3	-7.9	-2.2	0.0
MAIMANA	Wheat	23.0	8.2	-4.2	0.0	0.0
	Wheat flour (HP)	26.0	-3.8	-10.3	-5.5	-7.1
	Rice High Quality	75.0	-6.5	-21.1	0.0	0.0
	Rice Low Quality	37.0	-14.8	-7.5	0.0	0.0
	Cooking Oil	82.0	-2.7	-1.2	0.6	0.0
NILI	Wheat	29.0	-5.2	-4.1	-12.1	-9.4
	Wheat flour (HP)	36.0	-4.0	2.5	-1.4	0.0
	Rice High Quality	95.0	3.3	-2.1	1.1	-3.1
	Rice Low Quality	65.0	6.3	1.6	8.3	0.0
	Cooking Oil	85.0	4.8	10.0	13.3	0.0

Markets	Major Comm	Current Price in AFN	5Y Ave	2Y	1Y	1M
Livestock-One year live Sheep (Female)						
KABUL	Sheep	5,300	-6.4	-3.6	-3.6	0.0
KANDAHAR	Sheep	6,800	1.5	2.1	21.4	0.0
JALALABAD	Sheep	7,500	2.0	7.1	7.1	0.0
HIRAT	Sheep	5,875	24.0	27.7	8.2	0.0
MAZAR	Sheep	6,300	14.4	8.6	5.0	0.0
FAIZABAD	Sheep	5,000	30.0	14.3	11.1	2.0
MAIMANA	Sheep	6,000	-2.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
NILI	Sheep	3,600	-9.8	-7.7	-10.0	0.0
Terms of Trade		**Kgs of Wheat/Wheat flour**				
KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat	14.6	19.4	42.9	57.5	0.0
KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat	14.2	7.9	11.1	33.7	-2.3
JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	13.6	7.0	23.3	8.7	0.0
HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat	16.8	7.6	21.4	12.4	3.5
MAZAR-	Casual Labor/Wheat	11.4	-5.3	25.0	25.0	-3.4
FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.0	-24.6	0.0	1.7	1.0
MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat	10.9	-17.8	30.4	25.0	0.0
NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat	12.1	50.8	82.5	59.3	10.3
KABUL	Sheep /Wheat	220.8	-12.4	-1.6	8.4	0.0
KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat	275.3	1.8	13.4	39.1	-2.3
JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat	340.9	-1.6	14.4	1.1	0.0
HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat	329.1	32.9	55.1	21.6	3.5
MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat	286.4	4.7	8.6	5.0	-3.4
FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat	200.0	20.7	14.3	18.9	3.1
MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat	260.9	-10.6	4.3	0.0	0.0
NILI	Sheep /Wheat	124.1	-5.8	-3.7	2.4	10.3
KABUL	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	12.5	26.8	26.9	50.0	0.0
KANDAHAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	12.3	-3.6	-5.1	17.1	-1.1
JALALABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.7	8.3	24.9	10.9	2.9
HIRAT	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	11.1	3.5	8.8	3.0	1.8
MAZAR	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.6	4.3	34.6	32.2	3.8
FAIZABAD	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	7.8	-14.6	-4.3	11.2	-0.4
MAIMANA	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.6	-6.2	39.4	32.2	7.7
NILI	Casual Labor/Wheat flour	9.7	51.0	70.7	41.9	0.0
KABUL	Sheep /Wheat flour	189.3	-7.6	-12.7	3.2	0.0
KANDAHAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	238.6	-12.0	-3.1	21.9	-1.1
JALALABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	291.3	-1.0	16.0	3.0	2.9
HIRAT	Sheep /Wheat flour	217.0	28.4	38.9	11.4	1.8
MAZAR	Sheep /Wheat flour	242.3	15.7	17.0	11.1	3.8
FAIZABAD	Sheep /Wheat flour	155.6	34.7	9.4	29.7	1.6
MAIMANA	Sheep /Wheat flour	230.8	-0.3	11.5	5.8	7.7
NILI	Sheep /Wheat flour	100.0	-5.8	-9.9	-8.8	0.0

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 January 2016 and 2Y= Compared to January 2015

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