

Highlights

- The national average price of Food Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) decreased from 808.12 LYD in June 2022 to 792.75 LYD in August 2022 (Decreased by 2%).
- Across the three regions, the cost of the food basket showed a decrease of (-3%) in the West, (-1%) in the East, and an increase of (+1%) in the South. The overall national price decrease was mainly driven by a decrease in prices of some items mainly Chicken meat (-15%), Lamb meat (-4%), Milk (-15%), and vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, and onions (-18%) due to seasonality effects.
- Although the national average of retail prices of some commodities continued to show signs of stabilization, prices of Wheat Flour are (+ 4%) higher in the past two months (between June and August 2022) and (+ 23 %) higher since January 2022 (Pre-Conflict), whereas Vegetable Oil is (+8%) higher in the last two months, and (+44%) higher since January 2022.
- The cost of the Food MEB increased by 14 % between January 2022(Pre-Conflict) and August 2022 and has had an annual increase of 19 % since August 2021.
- The cost of the Food MEB in August 2022 continued to be the highest in the southern region with 858.4 LYD (8 % higher than the national average), while it was 811.9 LYD in the West (2 % higher than the national average), and 752.7 LYD in the east (5 % less than the national average).
- The price of complete MEB decreased from 907.12 LYD in June 2022 to 893.2 LYD in August 2022 (Decreased by 2%). The cost of the food proportion of the MEB is making up for 89% of the overall cost of MEB.

Price Change of Commodities and Food Basket

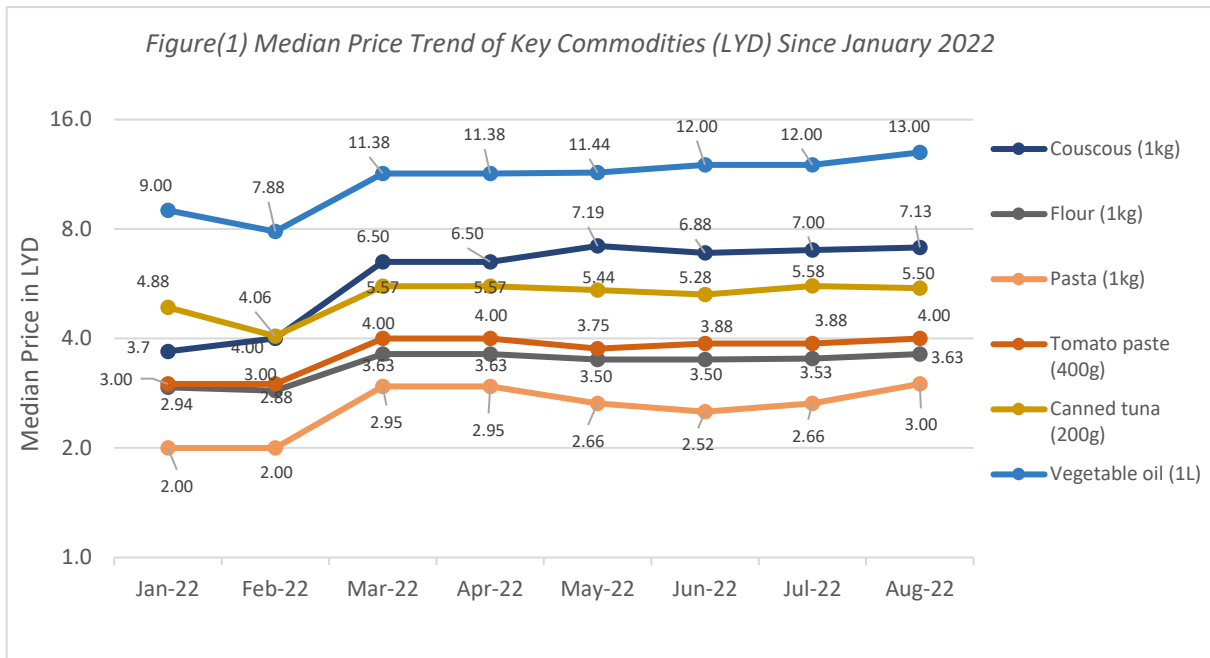
Key Items	Price Comparison %		
	% Change From June 2022-August2022	%Annual Change (August 2021 vs. August 2022)	% Change since pre-Ukrainian conflict(January 2022)
Rice (1kg)	-10%	24%	-14%
Pasta (500g)	19%	50%	50%
Couscous (1kg)	4%	97%	93%
Beans (400g)	8%	8%	8%
Chicken (1kg)	-15%	-12%	13%
Tuna (200g)	4%	26%	13%
Eggs (30 eggs)	17%	-16%	-14%
Milk (1L)	-15%	17%	0%
Tomatoes (1kg)	-36%	-10%	13%
Potatoes (1kg)	-4%	15%	15%
Onions (1kg)	-8%	13%	-10%
Peppers (1kg)	-25%	-16%	-29%
Tomato paste (400g)	3%	45%	33%
Black tea (250g)	0%	12%	8%
Vegetable oil (1L)	8%	79%	44%
Flour (1kg)	4%	29%	23%
Sugar (1kg)	0%	33%	3%
Salt (1kg)	0%	0%	0%
Food Basket (MEB)	-2%	19%	14%



Food Price Outlook

The prices of monitored commodities were generally stabilized since the notable increase since pre-Ukrainian conflict period (January 2022). Figure (1) shows how the price of frequently consumed commodities significantly increased between January and August 2022. This increase remains higher than the pre-conflict periods.

The price of Vegetable Oil (1L) increased by 8 % between June and August 2022, and by 44 % since January 2022 (Pre-Conflict), Flour(1kg) have increased by 4 % between June and August 2022, and by 23 % since January 2022 (Pre-Conflict). The other key commodities such as Couscous (1kg), Pasta (1kg), Tomato Paste (400g), and Canned Tuna (200g) have shown an average increase of 8 % between June and August 2022, and 47 % since January 2022 (Pre-conflict).



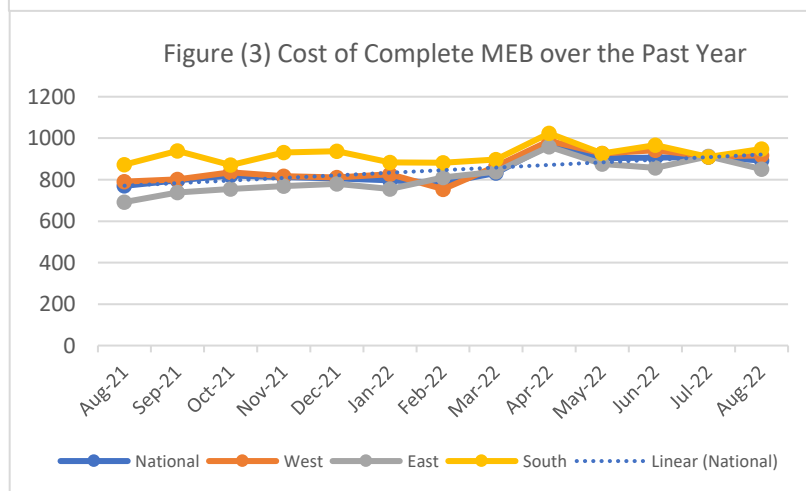
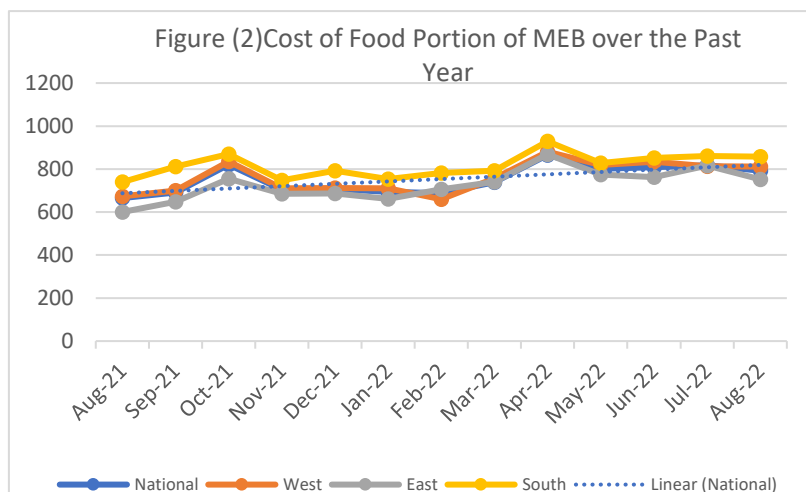
Minimum Expenditure Basket Cost Trend

The national price trend of both the MEB and food component of the MEB continued to move in a steep direction.

The cost of the complete MEB (Food and non-Food) witnessed a national rate increase of 16% over the past year (between August 2021, August 2022) and 12 % since January 2022 (Pre-Conflict).

The food proportion of the MEB also increased by a national rate of 19 % over the past year and by 14 % since January 2022 (Pre-conflict).

Among the three regions, the South continued to report the highest price levels and is higher than the national average by 8 % in August 2022, followed by the West which was 2 % higher than the national average, and the East was the lowest (5 % less than the national average).



Methodology:

This brief is on market price updates for Libya during the months of June and August 2022. The figures above were developed using the data collected for the “Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative” (JMMI)¹. The JMMI was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members. At least four prices per assessed item were collected within each location in key urban areas across Libya and are assessed monthly. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item.² WFP contributes to the data collection in parts of Libya through our partners in 20 municipalities. Data collected was processed, cleaned, and analysed by REACH initiative to generate median prices for different components of the minimum expenditure basket used here in this analysis.

The current MEB was established by the Cash Working Group (CWG) Taskforce in 2019³ the current MEB was established using a hybrid approach which consisted of structured consumer interviews conducted with typical Libyan households, and an additional structured consumer interviews to achieve saturation supplement by semi-structured qualitative focus group discussions conducted with groups of consumers. In terms of the food basket components and given that there is no representative sample to rely on an expenditure-based approach, WFP proposed a rights-based approach until a separate assessment is conducted to construct MEB, based on an expenditure-based approach. WFP have been discussing this issue with the Libya Cash and Market Working Group members.

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¹ Joint Market Analysis Terms of Reference: https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/ae6be02e/reach_lby_terms_of_reference_joint_market_analysis_initiative_october_2017_0.pdf

² JMMI May 2022 Factsheet: https://www.impact-repository.org/document/reach/43a83fce/REACH_LBY_Situation-overview_JMMI-MAY-2022_EN.pdf

³ CWG Task force Terms of Reference 2019: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/ctv_meb_tor_taskforce_libya_cmwg.pdf