

MONTHLY MARKET MONITORING

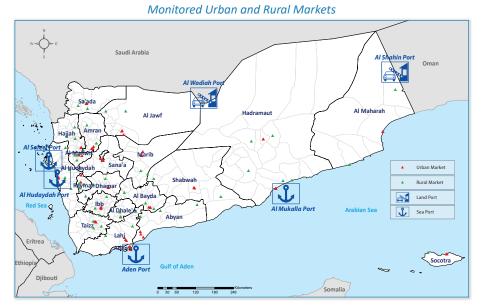
BULLETIN

BACKGROUND



Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin is produced jointly by FSIS Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC) funded by the European Union (EU).

The market data and information is collected from twenty-one (21) governorates through the Governorate Focal Units (GFUs). The price data is collected from at least three representative market centers in the main cities and 3-4 markets in the districts (rural areas) (see alongside map the market distribution). Retail prices are monitored and collected on weekly basis from the monitored markets of the following Governorates: Abyan, Aden, Al Dhaleé, Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Dhamar, Hadramaut Coast (Al Mukalla), Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Lahj, Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City), Shabwah, Taizz, Al Mahrah, Amran, Raymah , Al Mahwit , Marib, Sa'ada, Socotra in addition to Hadramout Valley (Sayun) through the Governorate Focal Units (GFUs).



Commodity prices are monitored and collected on weekly basis and averaged for the month. The district level rural markets were selected based on their representativeness in the governorate. Comprehensive market mapping was done and importance of each rural market was established in a consultative manner to capture locally produced commodities and linkages to the city markets. Three to four markets were selected to represent rural markets within a governorate. The rural markets also capture the supply chain of imported commodities reaching the rural areas and their differences. This Bulletin provides easy to use tables and charts that show monthly prices trends. It also allows users to compare the current prices with the previous months, one year and the pre-crisis prices of February 2015. Further, it gives comparison of prices between governorate main city markets and rural markets, which are further analyzed to give national prices estimates of key imported food commodities, locally produced cereals and fuel commodities.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Global

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) fell an average of 3.1 points (1.9 percent) from April, reaching the lowest monthly average since December 2018. The FAO Cereal Price Index averaged 162.2 points in May, down 1.6 points (1.0 percent) from April, almost reaching its level in the same month of last year. Among major cereals, only rice prices rose in May 2020.

Fuel materials

The national monthly price average of the two main fuel commodities (diesel and petrol) continued its price drop in May by five percent for the third consecutive month. On the other hand, the prices of locally produced cooking gas continued with decreasing trend by 3 percent compared to April.

Imported commodities

Nationally, average retail prices of Wheat grains, Wheat flour, Sugar and Basmati Rice witnessed price stability in May compared to April. While a slight price increase was reported by 2 percent or less for imported cooking oil and non-basmati rice, respectively. Nevertheless, the current prices are still higher than they were last year (May 2019) at the same time, by many folds. Sugar exhibited the highest price increase (44 percent), followed by non-basmati rice (23 percent), both locally refilled and imported vegetable cooking oil (13 percent), wheat flour (12 percent) and wheat grains (11 percent).

Locally produced Cereals

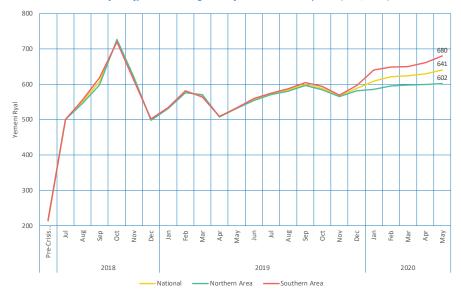
Nationally, the monitored local grains under similar conditions followed the price trend of imported grains. Compared to the previous month and apart from millet and barley that marginally dropped by 1 percent, other cereals (local wheat, maize and sorghum) showed a slight price increase ranging between 2 and 3 percent.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

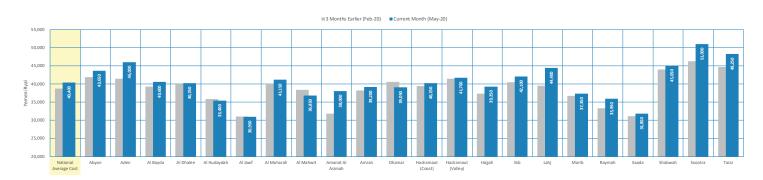
Inflation remains stable month-to-month with a 0.4 percent change (April CPI 441 from 439 in March) as prices of most commodities remained stable. However, the overall annual inflation rate (April 2020) increased by 9 percent. Particularly for food and non-alcoholic beverages, annual inflation has increased by 13 percent, a reflection of the increasing cost of food as the local currency depreciates further. As the impact of the pandemic continues to destabilize economies and reduce foreign direct investment, it is expected that inflation will continue to increase in the coming months. This represents April's latest CSO data (CPI March 2020), the annual inflation rate between January 2019 and March 2020 for all products was 424.2 and 439.4 with annual inflation rate for all commodities at 8.29 percent. Of which, 6.84 percent for food, 6.68 percent for cereals, 6.48 percent for cooking oil, 5.35 percent for meat, nearly 3 percent for sugar and similarly, the CPI for non-food items (mainly for fuel items) recorded an inflation rate of 10.08 percent.

At the time of reporting, further depreciation of the local currency against foreign currencies was recorded. Compared to the corresponding month last year, the current drop reached 20 percent and more significantly by 32 percent when compared to May 2018. Compared to the northern governorates, for several months, the unofficial rate in the southern governorates remained much higher in May by 12 percent (YER 686/USD 1 to 610 YER/USD 1). Governorates of Al Dhale'e, Al Maharah, Aden, Hadramaut (Valley) and Shabwah in the south recorded the highest rate at YER 690 YER/USD 1. while the northern governorates of Marib and Taiz recorded the highest at rates at YER 693 and 645 YER / USD 1, respectively. However, the overall national average of buying in May was recorded at YER 641 YER/USD 1 up 2 percent compared to April.

Trends of unofficial exchange rate for the last two years (YER/USD)



MINIMUM / SURVIVAL FOOD BASKET



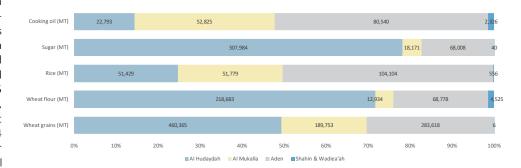
During May, the national average cost of the Minimum/Survival Food Basket (MFB) was recorded at YER 40,400 (USD 63), 1 percent higher than the previous month. Among other factors, the exchange rate difference and variation led to the MFB's higher cost of YER 43,717 in the southern governorates compared to YER 38,062 in the northern ones. At the individual governorate level, Socotra remained the highest cost per basket with YER 51,000, followed by Taiz at YER 48,250, and Aden at YER 46,000, while the lowest cost was recorded at YER 30,950 in Al Jawf. However, although imported and locally produced food commodities are available in all markets – and all points of entry (sea and land ports) remain open – food basket prices are continuing to soar, possibly influenced by ongoing instability and Covid-19.

*Composition of Yemen Minimum/Survival Food Basket for average household of 7 members per month (Prepared and adopted by FSAC partners): 75Kgs Wheat Flour,10Kgs Dry Weight Beans (Red Kidney of Beans), 8 Liters Vegetable Cooking Oil (Imported), 2.5 Kgs Sugar and 1Kg lodized Salt.

FOOD IMPORTS COMMODITIES (SEA/LAND) PORTS

During (January–May) the current year, an estimated 2 million tonnes of various food items (wheat grains, wheat flour, sugar, rice, milk and cooking oil) were imported through various maritime seaports of Aden, Al Hodeida, Al Salif, Al Mukalla and Socotra as well as land ports of Shahin/Al Maharah and Wadi'a and Hadramout. Wheat grains, sugar and wheat flour continued to be the major food imports at 45 percent, 19 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Of the total imports, Hodeida and Al Salif constitute the largest share of imports at 1 265,000 tonnes or 61.4 percent, followed by Aden, 665,400 tonnes or 32 percent, of basic food commodities. Overall

imports for humanitarian assistance of 10,753 tonnes (4 percent) came through Hodeida port – and 44,576 tonnes (49 percent) through Aden port – mainly of wheat flour, wheat grains, cooking oil and beans.





LOCAL CEREALS National Average Retail Prices of Local Cereals.



Sorghum [1KG] 487

1Y : 1M: 3M:



Maize [1KG] 522

1Y : PC : 1M: 3M:



Average Retail Price of Local Cereals (YER/KG)



Millet [1KG]

UR: 1M:



Barley [1KG]

UR: 1M:



IMPORTED COMMODITIES National Average Retail Prices of Imported Commodities.



Wheat Grain

UR: 6M: 11% 1Y : 3M PC: 130%



Wheat Flour

UR: 6M: 11% 1Y : 3M PC: 118%



Sugar

UR: 6M: 41% 1Y : 3M : 12% PC: 131%



Basmati Rice

UR : 3M: PC : 216%



Non-Basmati Rice

UR : 3M: PC: 161%



Local Cooking Oil

UR: 6M:



Imported Cooking Oil

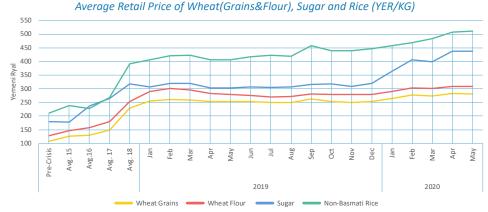
UR: 3M: 12% PC: 139%



Beans

1Y : PC : 3M: 151%





FUEL National Average Retail Prices of Fuel.



Petrol

245

1M : -34% PC:



Diesel

302

1Y : 1M:

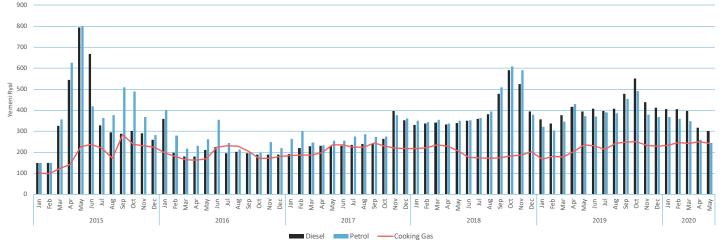


Cooking Gas (Cylinder)

4,861 1Y : 1M: PC:

Average Retail Price of Diesel, Petrol and Cooking Gas (YER/LT)

PC:











Onion [1KG] 444 1M: -11% 3M: -7%

Chilly Pepper [1KG]

6M:

1Y:

3M: -11%

3M:

UR:

1M:

13%

Carrot [1KG]



101	Hau	[IKG]	
537			
UR:	2%	6M:	18%
1M:	0%	1Y :	-20%
3M:	125%		

Tomato



Pot	ato	[1KG]		
UR:	-8%	6M:	9%	
1M:	-13%	17 :	-6%	



Gre	en	Pep	per	[1KG]
UR:	2%	6M:	-21%	
1M:	-2%	17 :	-1%	













Cuc 560	[1KG]		
UR:	-2%	6M:	-10%
1M:	-5%	1Y :	NA
3M:	-9%		

During May, the market for fresh produce still showed the impacts of the current harvest season in some regions, in addition to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, including limited movement, closure of some markets and imposed curfews. Vegetable markets and producers faced some of the most intense measures and constraints, hindering their dynamics and functionality. As a result, supply and demand were disrupted. leading to high fluctuation in availability and prices. Nationally, and apart from tomatoes (unchanged), the national monthly average retail prices of almost all other monitored vegetables declined compared to the previous month. Potatoes, onions, cucumber and okra had the sharpest decrease in that order, while there was an increase by 4 percent for chillies and by 3 percent for carrots. Chillies and okra continued to have the highest national retail price averages of YER 1,049 per kg, and YER 889 per kg, respectively, while potatoes had the lowest retail price at YER,432 per kg.

FRUITS National Average Retail Prices of Fruits.

Similar to vegetables, the ongoing Covid-19 regulations also impacted the export potential of mango to neighbouring countries, severely affecting its supply chains leading to hugely increased availability of the product locally. This resulted in a continued sharp price decrease during May almost across all monitored fruit markets. Compared to the previous month, the largest decrease in national retail prices reached 16 percent and more than 20 percent in most governorates. Among all monitored fruit products, only bananas are available in all seasons and across the monitored local markets. Its retail price in May decreased nationally by 4 percent and Socotra continued recording the highest retail price at YER 1,000 per kg, as products must be transported and exposed to sea water, causing losses and price increases. Conversely, the lowest retail price of banana was recorded in Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a city) at YER 275 per kg.







Mango [1KG] UR: 6M: 3M: -33%

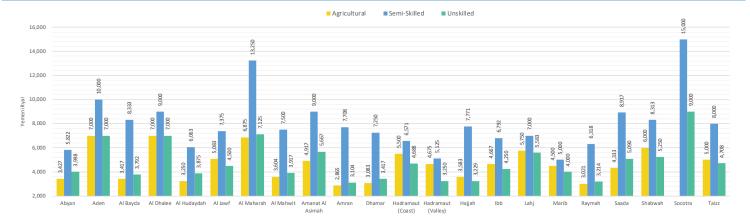


Grapes [1KG] 583 1M: 26% 3M: -19%



Pomegranate [1KG] 1.400 1M: 3M:

LABOR MARKET Average Daily Wages by Governorate.



Despite ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, the daily wage rate of unskilled and agricultural labour went up equally by 3 percent in May compared to April, while semi-skilled wages were almost unchanged and remained the same as of April. Employment opportunities varied across governorates and is expected to rise after Ramadan in June. Compared to the previous month, wages of all categories were unchanged and remained the same in Abyan, Aden, Al Jawf, Dhamar, Sa'ada, and Socotra. Further, the active demands in Al Dhalee, Marib and Amanat Al Asimah showed increased trends, reaching the highest in Marib. However, this trend fell in Hajjah, Ibb and Shabwah. Semi-skilled labour continued to bring a higher rate at YER 8 005 per day compared to others, due to their professional skills requiring 8-hour workdays, if not more.









Sheep (6M) [HEAD] 49,900

1M: 1% 1Y : 16% 3M:

1%



Goat (6M) [HEAD] 51,600

UR: 1M: 1Y : 3M: 1%



Sheep (12M) [HEAD]

69.000

UR: 1M: 1% 1Y : -2%



Chicken [HEAD] 2,240

UR: 1M **1**Y зм · -1%



Goat (12M) [HEAD]

71.100

UR: 1M: 1% 1Y : 11%

Due to the good rainy season and upcoming Eid Al Adha festival, monthly average retail prices of all monitored livestock (sheep and goats) started to rise gradually. However, compared to other governorates, livestock markets in Shabwah, Taiz, Marib, Lahi, Ibb, Al Maharah, Aden, the Hadramout coast and Al Bayda witnessed active demands that led to price increases, of which, Lahj and the Hadramaut coast had the highest. On the other hand, the prices of those monitored animals in the main breeding areas showed sharp declining trends in Hajjah, dropping more than 20 percent for both sheep and goats (6-months-old) followed by 18 percent and 17 percent in Al Mahwit for both sheep and goats (12-months-old), by 14 percent in Al Dhale'e for the same category. Similarly, the prices of livestock in Hodeida declined by 4 percent and 7 percent for 6-months-old and 12-months-old sheep, respectively, and by 6 percent for both age categories of goat.

ANIMAL PRODUCTS National Average Retail Prices of Animal Products.



Beef

5,385 UR: -1% 3M: 2%



Mutton

5,903 UR: 3M:



Local Cow's Milk

UR : 1M: 3M: 0%



Yoghurt

3M:

380 UR: 1M:



Chicken Meat

2,000 UR: 6M : 1M: 3% 1Y: 10%



Eggs

1,656 UR: 1M: -7% 1Y : -16%

At the national level and among all monitored products, eggs were most affected with price decreasing by 7 percent compared to April, while all other prices of monitored animal products started to rise. Among them, mutton recorded the highest retail price at YER 5,903 per kg, followed by YER 5,385 per kg for beef, YER 1,950 per kg of chicken and YER 1,656 per pack of 30 eggs. Yoghurt had the lowest monitored price at YER 380 for 500 grams. However, among other factors, the market for livestock and its associated products was influenced by ongoing Covid-19 measures, including closure of primary schools, universities, restaurants, markets and facilities. This affected the daily income and purchasing ability for large numbers of people, decreasing access and reducing demand as well.

FISH National Average Retail Prices of Fish.

In addition to the seasonality factors, the impact of the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak and associated preventive measures have impacted the fish market in which the supply chains of fresh fish have been hindered by movement restrictions on fishing activities, as well as trade between governorates. Accordingly, during May, all monitored fish types were totally unavailable in Al Jawf and Marib, and partially available across others. Sakhla was the most scares type of fish in most of the governorates, followed by Bagha. Compared to the previous month, overall prices declined for Bagha (3 percent) and Thamad (2 percent), and increased for Jahsh (2 percent) and Sakhla (1percent). Monthly average retail prices of Sakhla continued to be the most expensive, increasing for several months to YER 4,647 per kg, followed by YER 2,730 per kg for Jahsh and by YER 2,408 YER per kg for Thamad, while Bagha continued as the least expensive type of fish, retailing for YER 1,084 per kg.



Thamad [1KG]

2,408

6M: 1M: -2% 1Y: -18%



Sakhla [1KG] 4,647

UR · 6M: 1M: 1% 1Y:



Jahsh [1KG]

2.730

UR: 6M: 1M: 2% 1Y : 3M: -8%



Bagha [1KG] 1.084

UR: 6M: 1M: -3% 1Y: -17% 3M:

COMMODITIES' PRICES AT GOVERNORATE LEVEL

	Locally Produced Cereals					Lo	ocally Pro	oduced \	Fuel				
Commodity Governorate	Unofficial Exchange Rate	Sorghum	Millet	Maize	Barley	Onion	Tomato	Potato	Chilly	Okra	Petrol	Diesel	Cooking Gas
Abyan	676	578	533	563	538	550	392	442	917	900	175	278	4,042
Aden	690	683	629	600	688	383	529	383	1,608	1,100	165	230	4,708
Al Bayda	598	585	554	583	580	451	440	364	983	924	295	345	6,631
Al Dhale'e	695	600	500	500	700	413	713	400	1,225	875	173	250	3,200
Al Hudaydah	599	255	259	371	544	347	398	332	674	457	293	345	5,893
Al Jawf	613	544	550	431	447	566	527	619	750	610	314	370	6,083
Al Maharah	690	669	625	900	625	475	775	600	1,538	1,500	210	240	3,875
Al Mahwit	598	296	394	337	313	354	424	356	721	640	295	345	6,380
Amanat Al Asimah*	599	475	413	438	450	371	438	333	1,058	925	295	345	3,650
Amran	597	271	394	400	250	360	565	342	585	838	295	345	4,458
Dhamar	599	301	575	403	384	306	467	308	603	569	297	347	7,242
Hadramaut (Coast)	687	613	708	525	600	398	665	535	1,619	1,467	178	229	2,800
Hadramaut (Valley)	690	523	548	948	823	395	555	475	1,378	1,708	195	225	3,187
Hajjah	595	279	355	480	458	421	404	373	871	477	298	348	4,533
lbb	599	461	465	477	414	310	454	282	733	715	295	345	5,975
Lahj	693	633	567	750	600	504	446	319	1,313	1,200	165	227	3,575
Marib	693	500	500	500	700	500	500	500	800	850	175	272	2,500
Raymah	595	304	340	294	300	403	428	342	691	477	305	358	4,350
Sa'adah	598	464	422	403	399	444	388	408	603	558	295	345	6,120
Shabwah	690	748	718	568	700	456	522	428	1,131	906	190	247	3,025
Socotra	665	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,000	1,250	1,000	2,250	NA	240	290	8,000
Taizz	649	451	506	483	520	357	542	363	1,039	964	255	318	6,720

*Sana'a City and its environs.

- In May, the supply and availability of imported food commodities remained stable, compared to the previous month except sugar from Brazil, which is scarcely available in Aden, as well as Al Basha brand of imported cooking oil, in most of the monitored markets. Locally produced cereals witnessed slight variations and shortages among the monitored main city markets. In general, local barley and wheat continued to be scarce across most targeted governorates as they are cultivated in limited scale and in certain agro ecological areas mainly in the highlands. Monitored fruit products and fish types, continued to be the most affected and unavailable commodities over most monitored markets. The ongoing agricultural season in the highlands faced scarcity as well as price increases of essential inputs. Among the governorates, Amanat Al Asimah and Dhamar were the only ones in which all inputs were available, while they were totally unavailable in Raymah and Socotra, and partially available in the rest. Fuel items (mainly petrol and diesel) had better availability and stable prices.
- The availability of commodities in the markets came as a result of official imposed controls in some governorates, leading traders not to monopolise food commodities, in addition to the availability of fuel materials with the current declined prices, positively mitigating the effects of Covid-19 on markets. Further, stabilization of a stock of food commodities for a period of three months in anticipation of closing the ports or not importing from abroad. Commercial teams were formed consisting of the Trade and Chamber of Commerce representatives in this regard.

COMMODITIES' PRICES AT GOVERNORATE LEVEL

Imported Commodities

	Imported Commodities								Livestock					
Commodity Governorate	Wheat Flour	Wheat Grains	Sugar	Basmati Rice	Non- Basmati Rice	Cooking Oil	Beans	Local Cooking Oil	Sheep 6M	Sheep 12M	Goat 6M	Goat 12M	Live Chicken	
Abyan	328	295	465	868	416	1,044	933	917	52,500	70,000	55,700	74,000	2,500	
Aden	333	333	467	1,067	600	1,300	933	900	59,500	74,500	63,800	83,600	2,400	
Al Bayda	295	263	446	973	458	1,105	838	940	49,000	81,800	46,300	75,600	1,700	
Al Dhale'e	300	250	450	950	525	1,113	750	900	42,900	51,100	47,100	52,900	2,000	
Al Hudaydah	267	237	362	882	643	737	854	753	40,500	60,000	44,700	65,200	2,100	
Al Jawf	285	265	469	959	430	696	258	984	64,600	88,400	52,500	65,400	2,800	
Al Maharah	313	325	488	1,000	609	725	1,050	NA	60,400	81,200	70,900	90,200	2,900	
Al Mahwit	299	230	404	917	385	788	696	696	28,800	44,600	31,900	49,700	2,000	
Amanat Al Asimah*	313	304	425	950	479	1,050	488	811	52,900	72,700	53,700	73,000	1,500	
Amran	280	249	382	877	392	1,407	590	633	39,900	64,400	40,500	65,900	1,900	
Dhamar	308	270	400	1,000	403	971	704	876	43,100	56,800	42,700	55,500	2,100	
Hadramaut (Coast)	295	302	456	858	442	1,045	850	841	75,000	87,700	74,500	87,100	2,400	
Hadramaut (Valley)	298	296	430	865	595	1,097	943	850	58,500	66,700	62,000	74,700	2,000	
Hajjah	315	267	433	925	500	958	673	727	26,000	46,500	27,700	50,100	2,600	
lbb	317	300	410	963	427	1,044	883	895	34,500	61,600	36,600	66,300	1,900	
Lahj	325	307	475	975	817	1,100	992	975	63,400	82,400	64,500	85,600	2,500	
Marib	268	258	406	850	429	913	879	513	51,000	77,100	60,000	83,800	2,500	
Raymah	307	274	380	838	370	818	529	740	49,800	74,200	47,500	76,500	2,000	
Sa'adah	269	255	375	832	373	764	451	675	56,900	83,200	55,300	77,300	2,200	
Shabwah	346	300	506	959	479	897	1,050	744	86,300	96,600	85,600	97,500	2,700	
Socotra	400	285	500	1,200	1,000	1,188	1,000	1,000	28,000	39,000	35,000	50,000	NA	
Taizz	347	325	481	1,125	460	1,219	1,115	823	35,000	57,300	37,300	63,200	2,400	

*Sana'a City and its environs.

• Compared to the previous month, and among the governorates, Al Bayda, Hajjah, Raymah Shabwah and Marib recorded the highest price increase for sugar, cooking oil and basmati rice. While Amanat Al Asimah, Amran and Dhamar recorded the largest decrease of most imported food commodities. However, it was observed that weak purchasing power worsened by the persistence of prolonged conflict and current imposed preventive Covid-19 measures resulted in less demand for preferable food commodities, instead shifting towards obtaining medicine and health supplies. In addition to the great variation in the exchange rate between the southern and northern governorates, the minimum MFB cost followed the same trend and increased by 15 percent in the south (YER 43,717) compared to the north (YER 38,062), with Socotra continuing as the highest cost at YER 51,000.

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Livestock