



**AFGHANISTAN**  
**FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE**  
**CLUSTER**

# Monthly meeting July 2021

Food Security and  
Agriculture Cluster  
in Afghanistan



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# Agenda of the meeting

S. No	Subject	Presenting Agency	Time
1	Review of the previous action points	FSAC	5 min
2	AAP and FSAC introduction: Being accountable to your project participants	AAP	40 min
3	Presentation on climate outlook	FEWSNET	20 min
4	Market price update	WFP	20 min
5	Update on Seasonal Food Security Assessment	FSAC	10 min
6	Mahram guidelines update	FSAC	10 min
7	AoB; - - FAO Data in Emergency Hub Introduction - Updates on MoU - Date of next meeting	FSAC	10 min

# Previous meeting action points

AP/N	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	TIMELINE	Status
1	FSAC will take necessary actions for drought and inform FSAC partners about it	FSAC	Based on need	Ongoing
2	FSAC will update partners regarding progress of SFSA 2021 preparations	FSAC	July	Ongoing
3	FSAC will send invitations to Agriculture and Livelihoods Working members for the next meeting	FSAC	July	Pending



# Afghanistan AAP 101

Class 3 | Skill-building on feedback: Using perception indicators to put project participants' needs, suggestions and experiences with assistance at the center of the humanitarian response

*A pilot curriculum for the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Afghanistan*

Isabella Leyh and Carolyn Davis | AAP Working Group

FSAC meeting | 28 July 2021

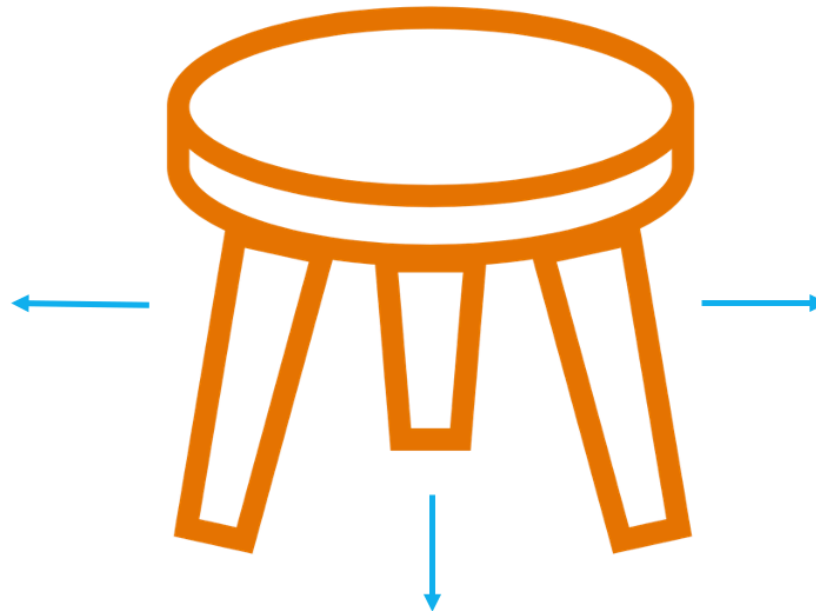
## Review: AAP definition

*Accountability refers to the responsible use of power (resources, decision making) by humanitarian actors, combined with effective and quality programming that recognizes a community of concern's dignity, capacity, and ability to be independent.*

– UNHCR

# AAP's 3-legged stool

Ensuring community feedback systems are in place, enabling people to assess and comment on the performance of humanitarian action, including on sensitive matters such as SEA, fraud, corruption, and discrimination



Systematically sharing timely, relevant and actionable information with communities

Supports meaningful participation and leadership of affected people -  
- including those of different sex, age, disability status and other diversities -- in decision-making

Designing perception indicators for the FSAC



## What we want to do

- Develop a set of standardized perception indicators that partners can use to systematically track the response through the perceptions of affected people

## Why we want to do it

- To ensure that the humanitarian response in Afghanistan is better informed and adapted to the perspectives of affected communities
- To strengthen a collective approach to feedback and response





# Perception indicators being designed

General quality of aid

Protection

WASH

Health

Food security & agriculture

# Perception surveys



# What is a perception survey?



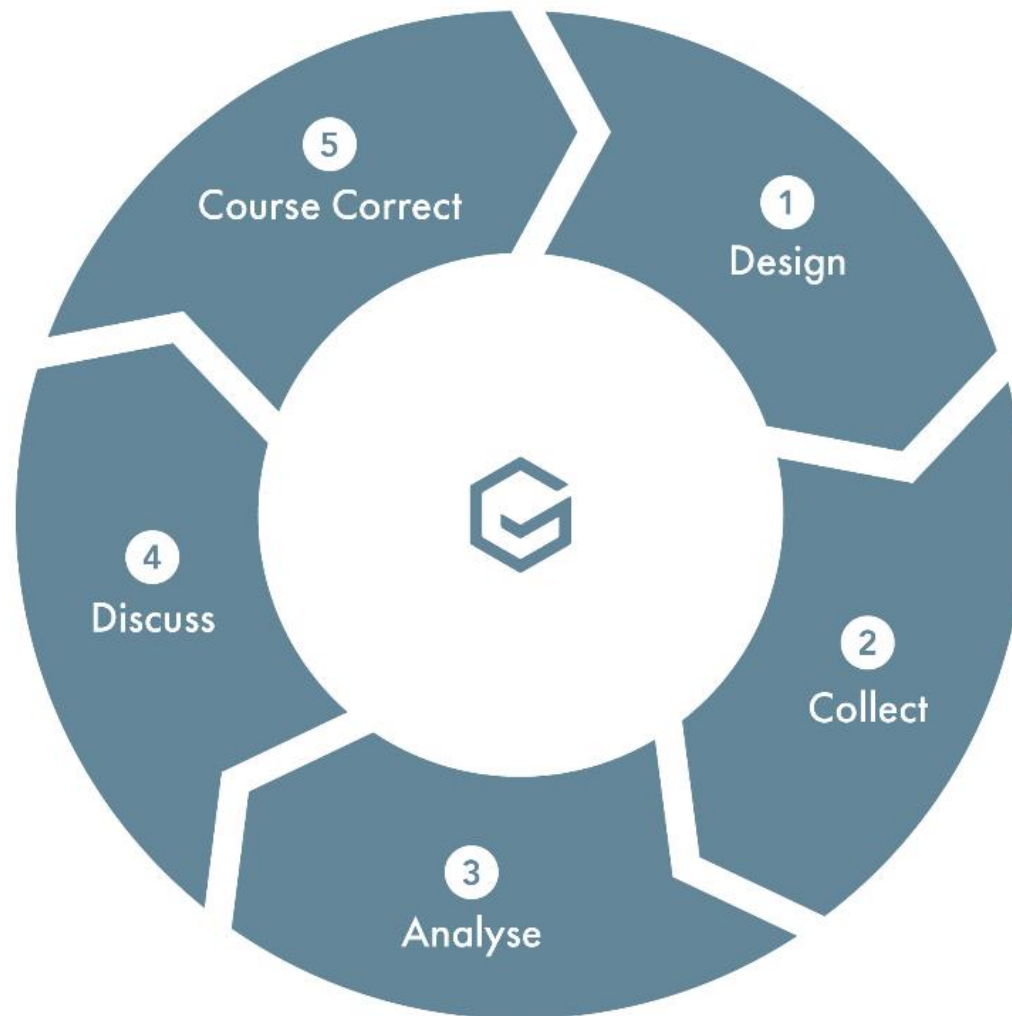
- Used to understand how **people think, feel and comprehend**
  - Do you think...?
  - Do you feel...?
  - Do you believe...?
  - Do you understand...?
- Subjective answers – there is no right or wrong answer
- Enables crisis-affected communities to systematically express their opinions, views and perceptions (their experience (with) of the humanitarian assistance received
- A very powerful systematic feedback mechanism
- One big difference ...



# The difference: a proactive feedback tool



# Turning it into a feedback mechanism



# Why perceptions surveys?

1. Find out about the preferences of the communities you work with
2. Monitor how your response and accountability to affected people practices is perceived by your aid recipients
3. Adapt your programming to the perceptions, views and feedback of your constituents
4. Improve the way you respond, provide information and collect feedback
5. Evaluate the impact of your response on the lives of your aid recipients
6. Demonstrate to donors and partners that you have strong and systematic accountability and feedback systems in place

# Why don't we all do it?

We can't change the programme after we started implementing. The donor won't let us.

There is no budget for AAP activities!

We already know what affected communities think – we talk to them all the time.

We don't have the capacity or time to implement this!

# The scales

## The question

Does the assistance go to those who need it most?

## The answer options

### Binary

No     Yes     Don't want to answer

### Likert

Not at all     Not very much     Somewhat     Mostly yes     Yes, completely     Don't want to answer



# More than 50% of respondents say aid goes to those most in need

Does aid go to those who need it most?

(values in %)

Mean: 2.9 to 3.2 ^



● Not at all ● Not very much ● Somewhat ● Mostly yes ● Yes, completely

N=553

# Turning perception questions into indicators

## Perception question

Do you know how to make a complaint about the assistance you receive?



## Perception indicator

% of affected people who know how to make a complaint about the aid they receive

Do you receive the assistance when you need it most?



% of affected people who believe that they receive the assistance when they need it most

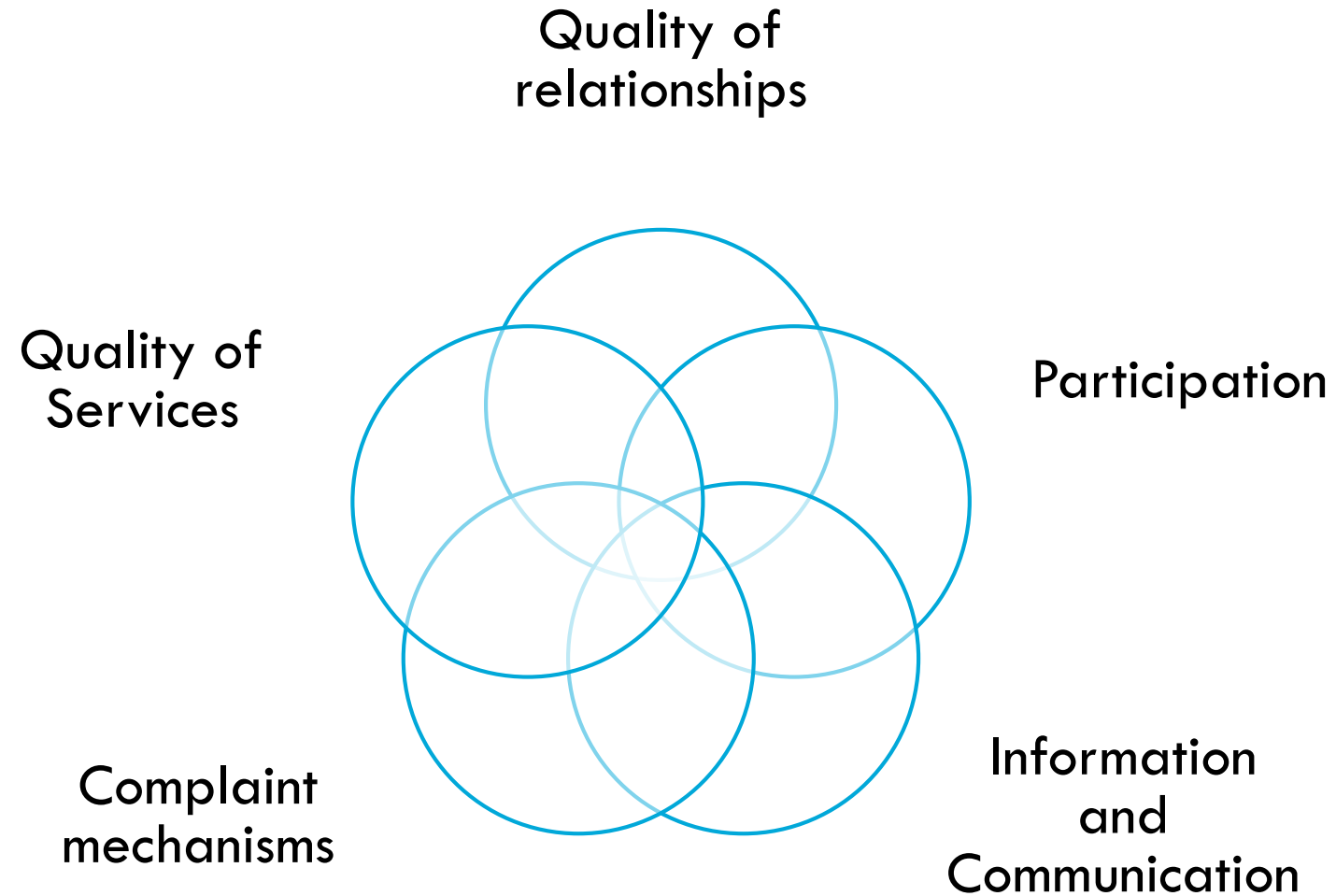
Do you feel informed about the assistance available to you?



% of affected people who feel informed about the assistance available to them

# Types of perception questions

# Question themes



# General quality of aid

## Perception indicator

**% of crisis-affected people who think the assistance they receive covers their most important needs**



**Does the assistance you receive cover your most important needs?**

**% of crisis-affected people who believe that the assistance goes to those who need it most**



**Do you believe that the assistance goes to those who need it most?**

**If not, who is left out?**

**% of crisis-affected people who feel informed about the assistance available to them**



**Do you feel informed about the assistance available to you?**

**If not, what information do you need?**

# Protection indicators

## Perception indicator

**% of crisis-affected people who feel safe when accessing humanitarian assistance**



## Perception question

Do you feel safe when accessing humanitarian assistance?

**% of crisis-affected people who know how to report instances of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment by aid providers**



Do you know how to report instances of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment by aid providers (i.e. retaliation, exchange of aid for sexual favours/money?)

**% of crisis-affected people who their people in their community would feel comfortable to report instances of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment by humanitarian workers**



Do you think people in your community would feel comfortable to report instances of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment by government officials?

# Complaint-feedback mechanisms & participation indicators

## Perception indicator

**% of crisis-affected people who are aware of their right to complaint/give feedback**



## Perception question

Do you think you have the right to complain about the assistance you receive?

**% of crisis-affected people who know how they can ask a question about humanitarian assistance**



Do you know how you can ask a question about the humanitarian assistance (i.e. where to go, whom to ask)?

**% of crisis-affected people who know how to make a suggestion or complaint about humanitarian assistance**



Do you know how to make a complaint or suggestions about the humanitarian assistance? **How would you prefer to make complaints?**

# WASH indicators

## Perception indicator

**% of crisis-affected people who think that water, hygiene and sanitation facilities (toilets, showers, water points) are accessible to people with disabilities**



## Perception question

Are people with disabilities able to access the provided water, hygiene and sanitation facilities (toilets, showers, water points), should they need them?

**% of crisis-affected women and girls who feel comfortable using and disposing of their menstrual products (i.e. sanitary pads)**



[To women and girls] Do you feel comfortable to use and dispose of your menstrual products (i.e. sanitary pads)?

**% of crisis-affected people who believe that their opinion was taken into account in choosing the location of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (toilets, showers, water points)**



Do you feel like aid providers took your opinion into account when choosing the location of the water, sanitation and hygiene facilities (toilets, showers, water point)?



# Health indicators

## Perception indicator

**% of crisis-affected people who think that health services are available when they need them most**



**% of crisis-affected people who can choose a health worker of the same gender**



**% of crisis-affected people who trust health workers to provide them with the best possible care**



## Perception question

Do you think that health services are available to you when you need them most?

Can you choose a health worker of the same gender?

Do you trust health workers to provide you with the best possible care?

# Food security & agriculture perception indicators

*Possible themes...*

Quality of agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, tools etc.)

Livelihood protection

Livelihood resilience

Sensitisation and awareness raising

Cash and Voucher assistance

Vocational training

Drought preparedness/  
Early recovery capacities

**What other topics come to mind?**

# DATA COLLECTION

Integrate into cluster  
monitoring tools

Integrate into  
partners' monitoring  
tools



# NEXT STEPS

- Organise a perception indicators design workshop with interested partners
- Offer a short training on how to collect data against perception indicators

# National FSAC Meeting

FEWS NET UPDATES

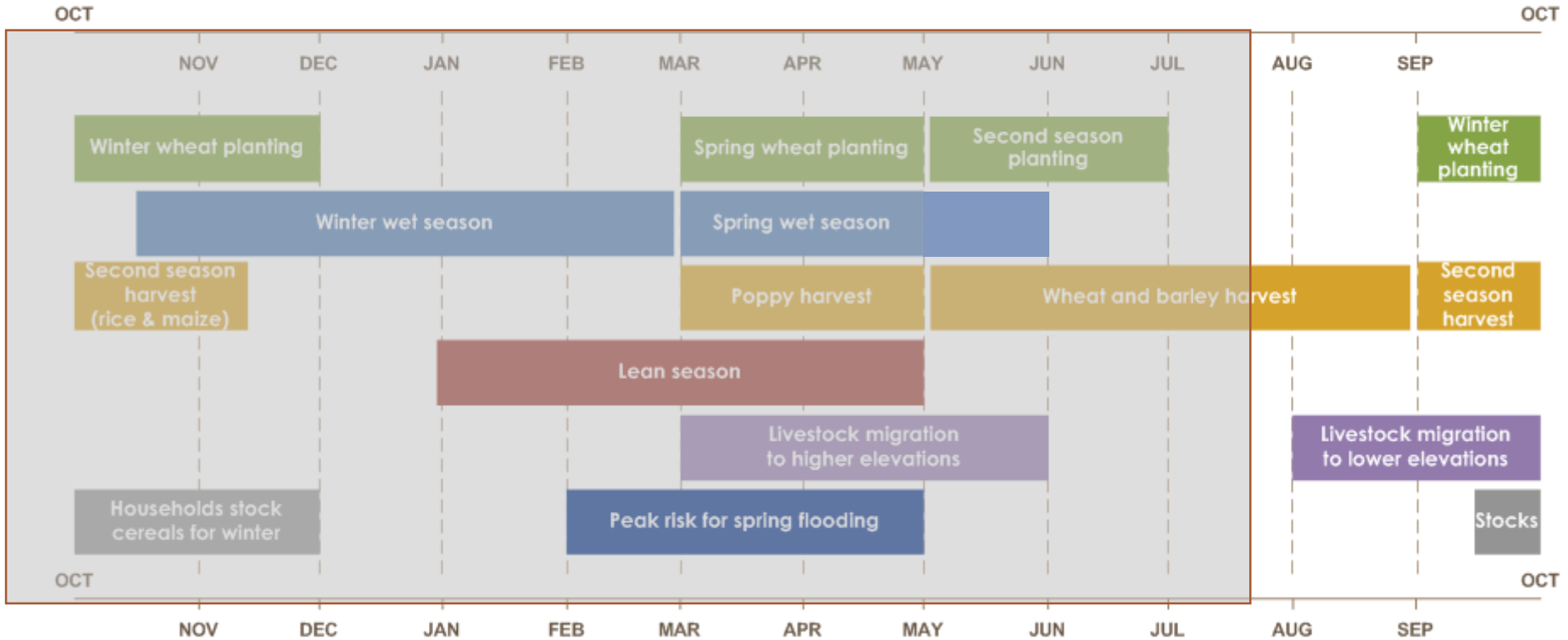
July 28, 2021

## Outline

- 2020/21 wet season progress
- State of the global climate
- Assumptions for Afghanistan

# 2020/21 wet season progress

# Afghanistan seasonal calendar

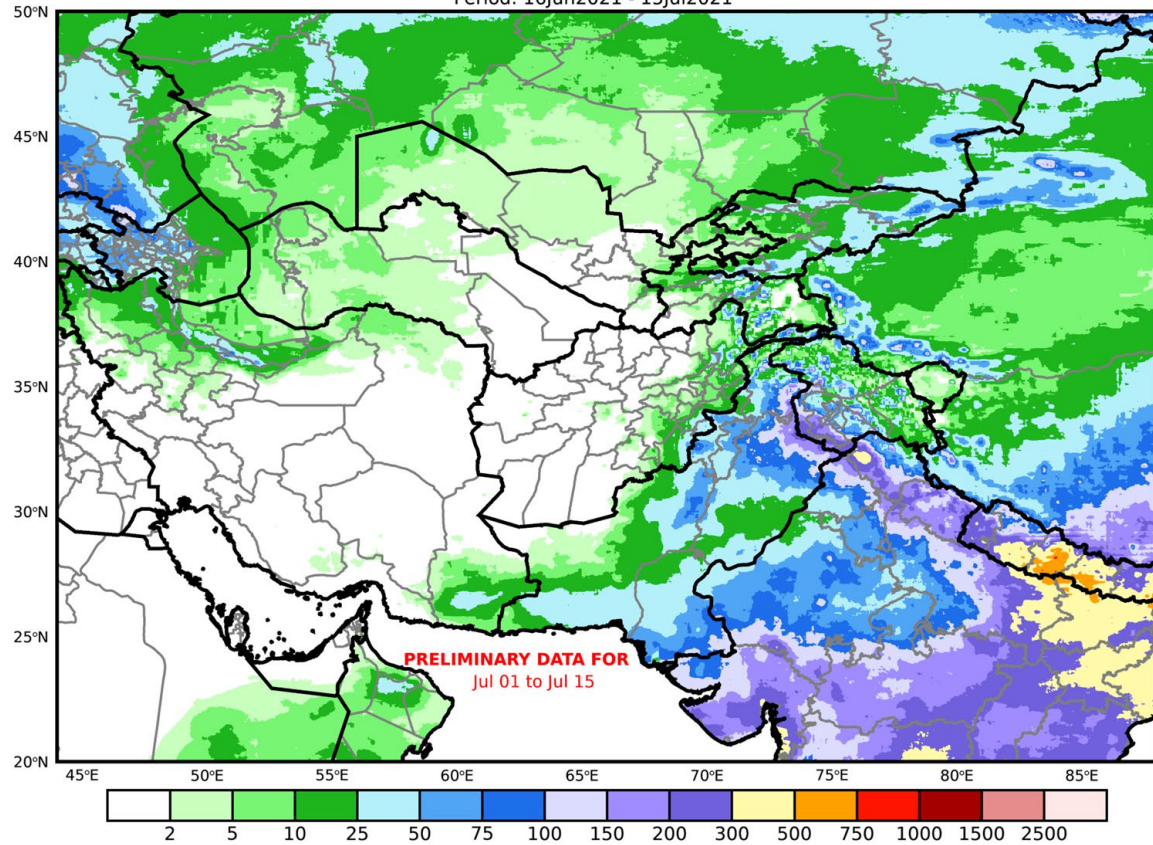


Source: FEWS NET



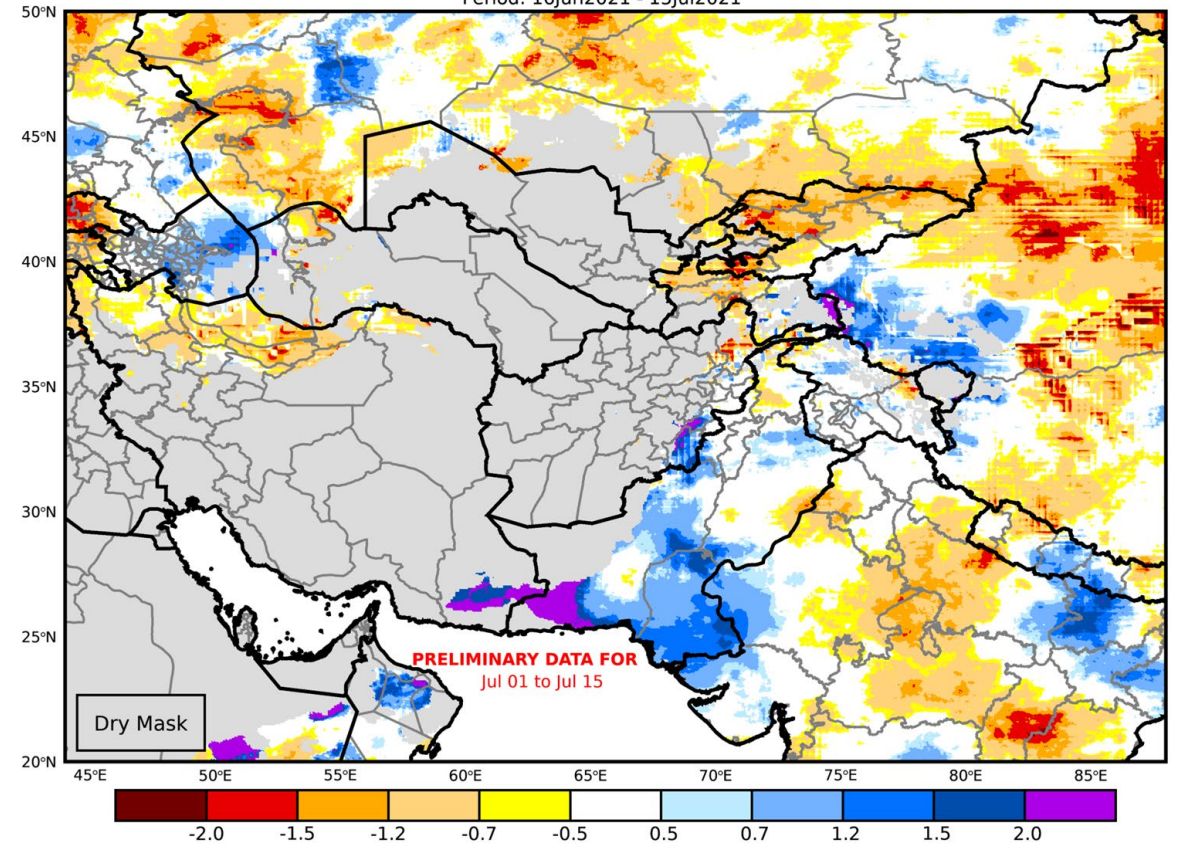
# Eastern periphery of Afghanistan received precipitation in the last six pentads

CHIRPS 6-Pentad Total Rainfall (mm)  
Period: 16Jun2021 - 15Jul2021



Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

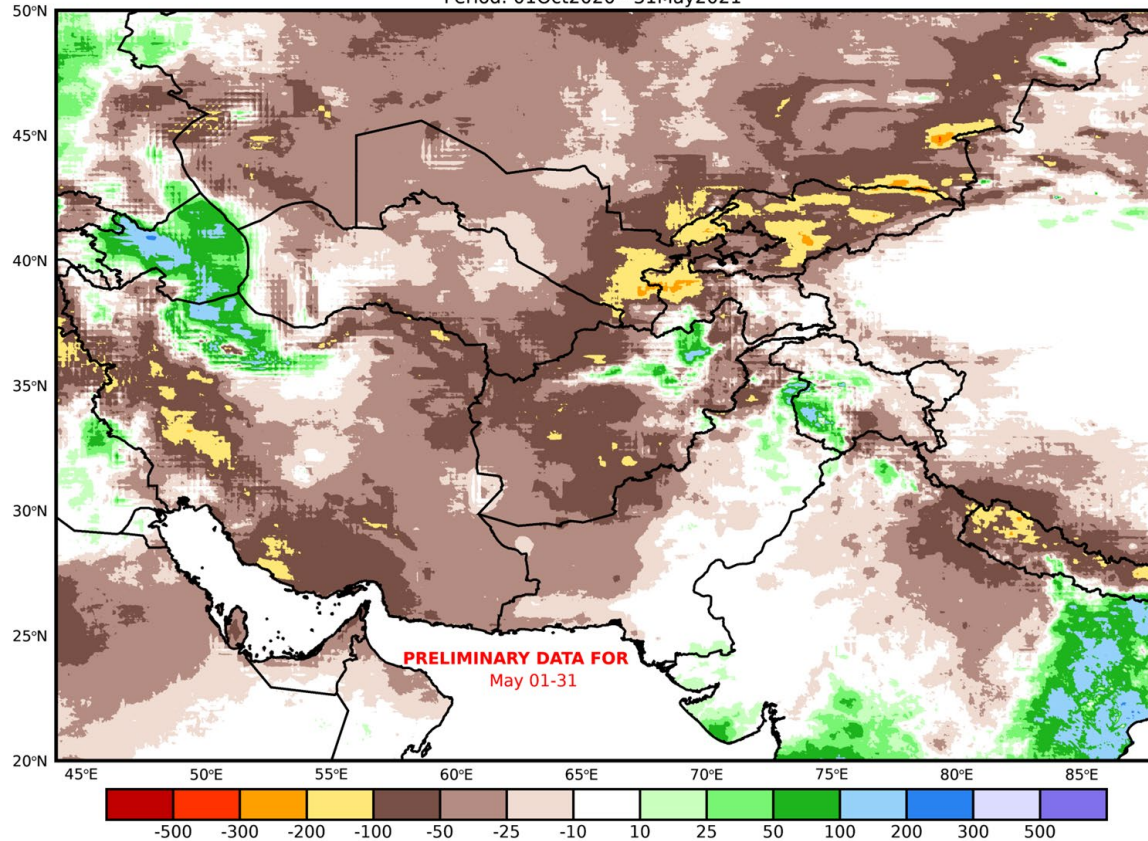
CHIRPS 6-Pentad SPI  
Period: 16Jun2021 - 15Jul2021



Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

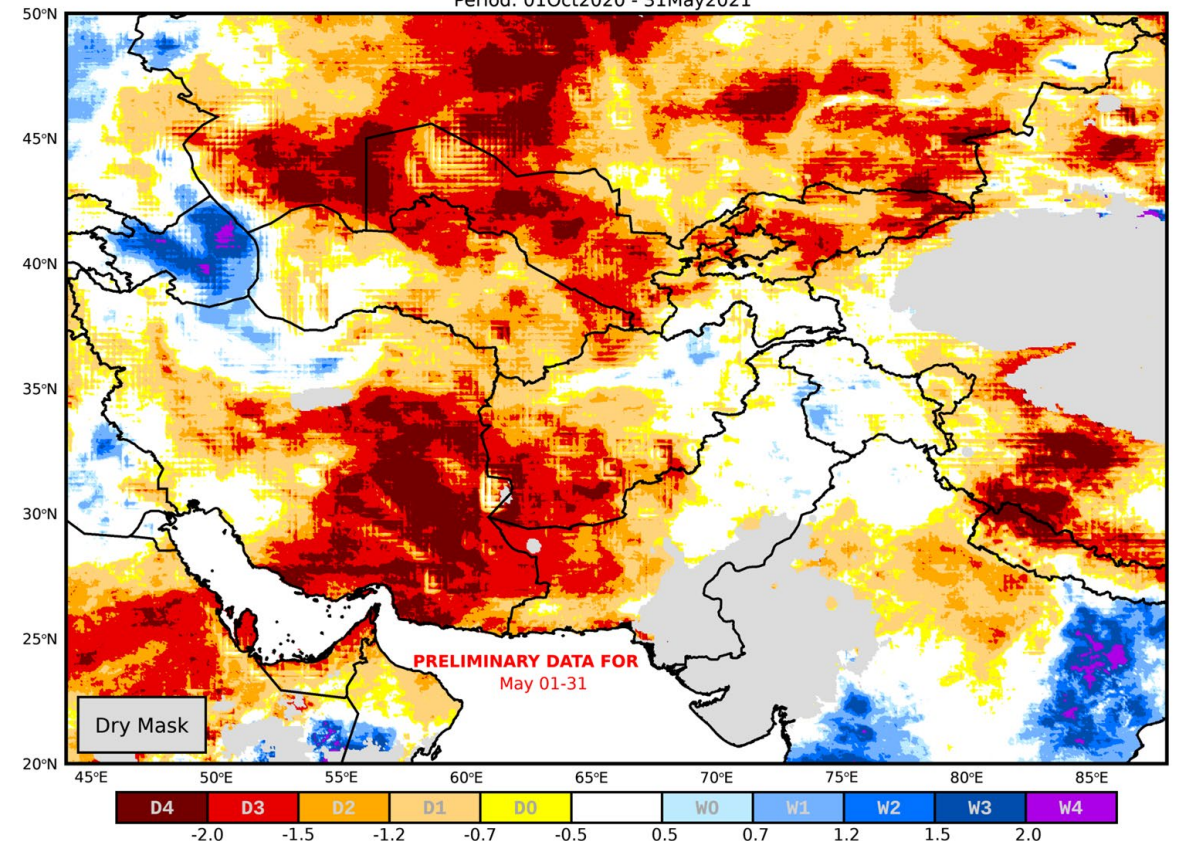
# Below average precipitation was observed across much of Afghanistan during the 2020-21 wet season

CHIRPS Season Rainfall Anomaly (mm)  
Period: 01Oct2020 - 31May2021



Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

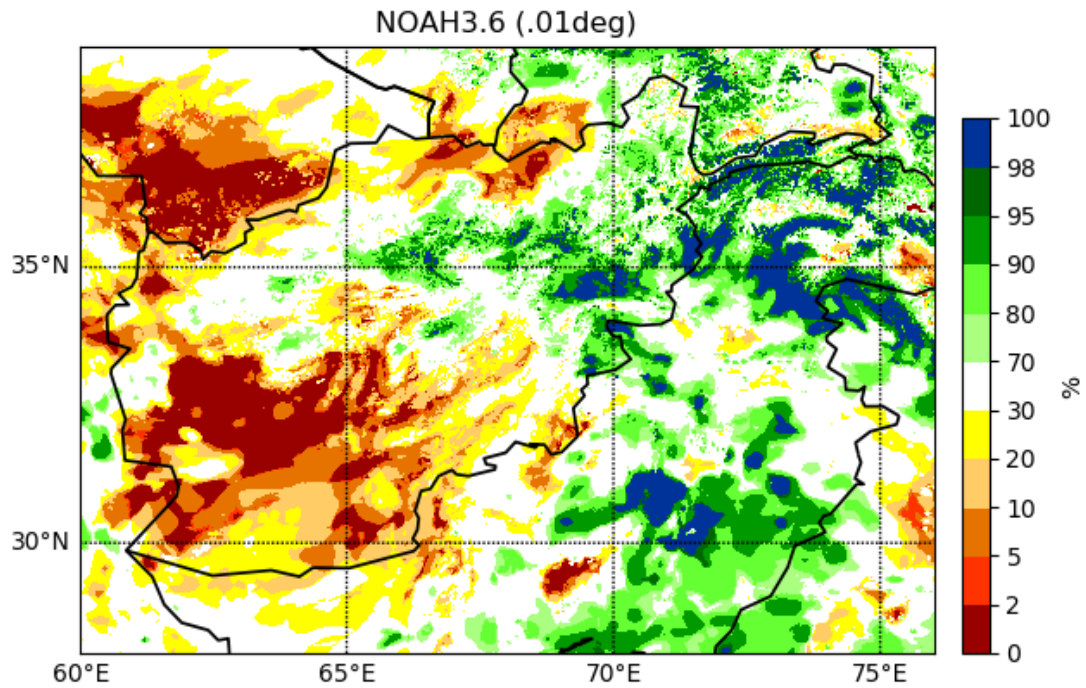
CHIRPS Season SPI  
Period: 01Oct2020 - 31May2021



Source: UCSB Climate Hazards Center

# Ongoing agricultural drought across parts of the west, south, and north related to low NDVI

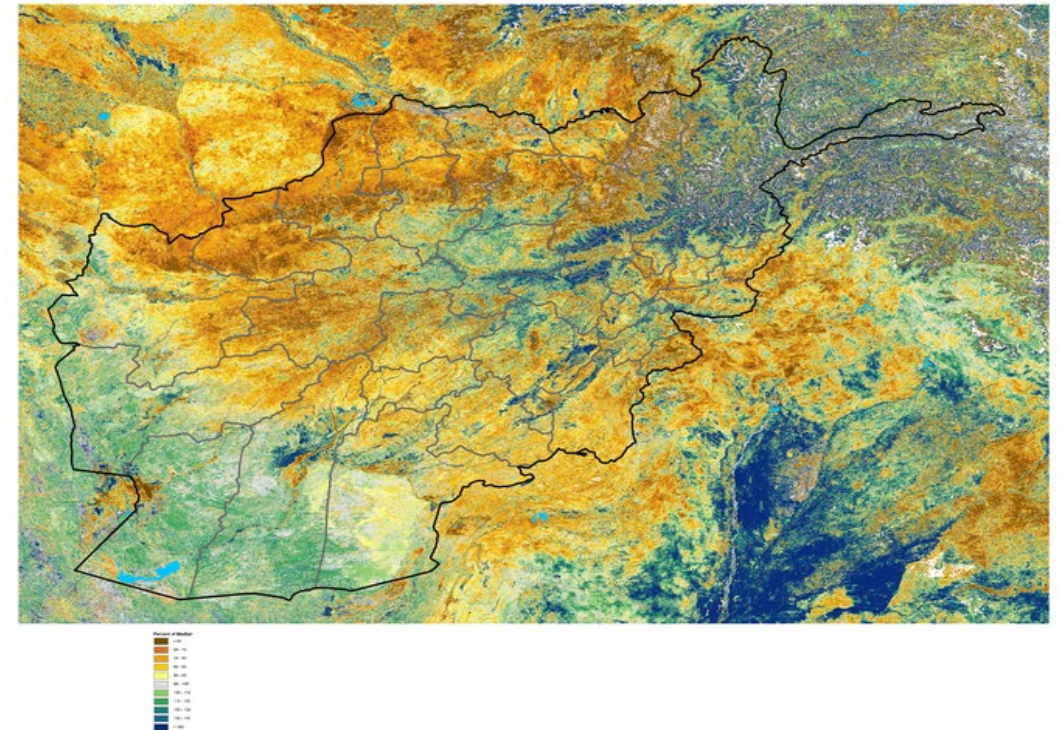
Rootzone Soil Moisture Percentile : 20210719



Source: NASA LIS Framework

**Afghanistan**  
**eMODIS 250m Percent of Median NDVI**

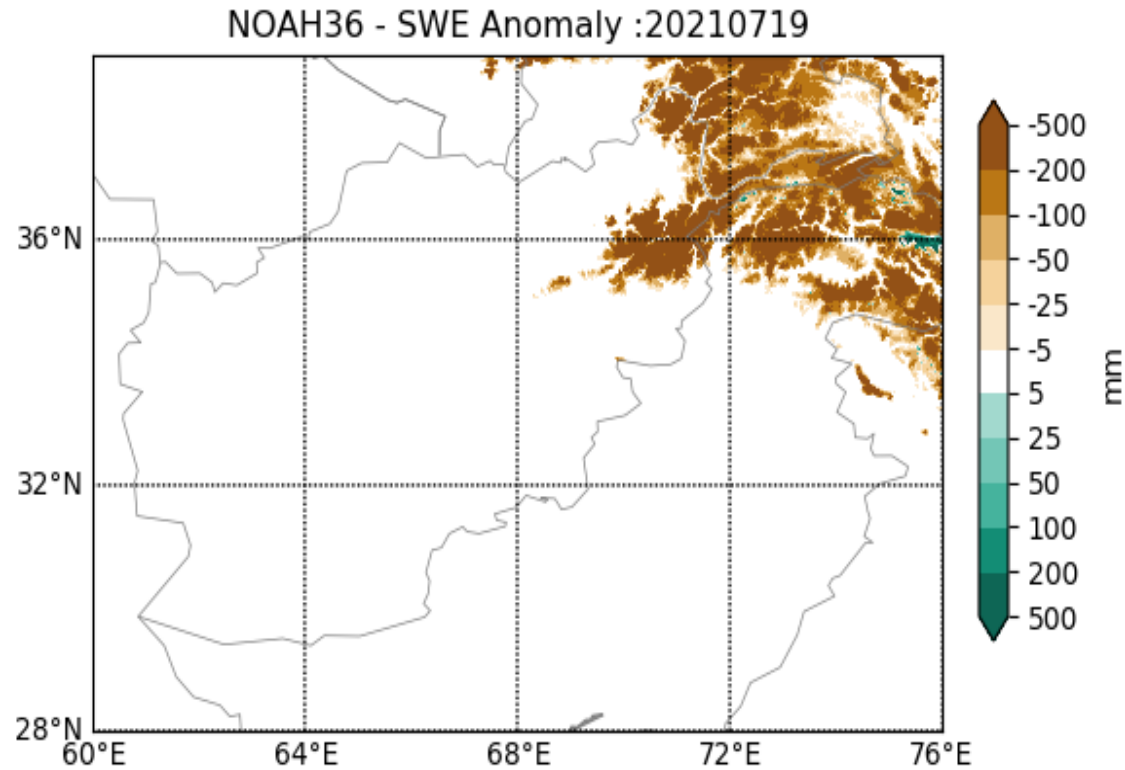
Period 19 / Jul 01 - 10, 2021



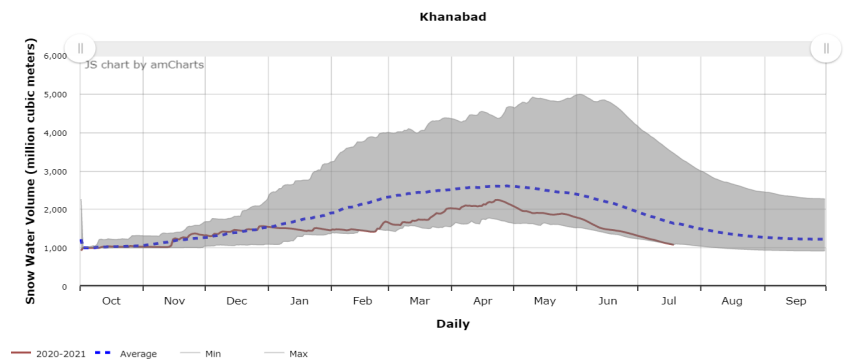
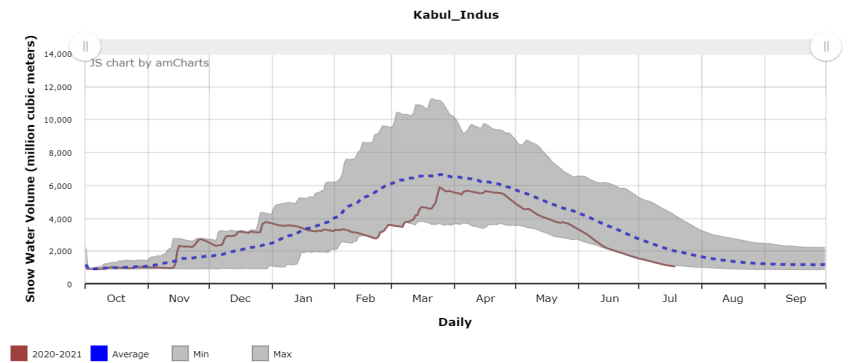
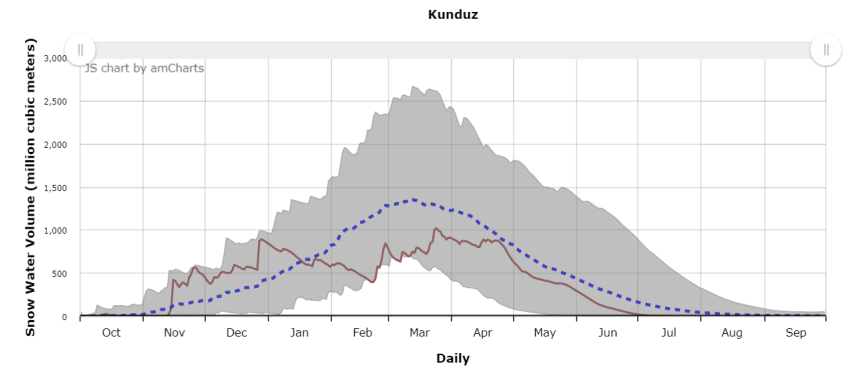
Map Produced by USGS/EROS



# Below average snow water equivalent



Source: NASA LIS Framework



Source: USGS/ USAID/ FEWS NET

# State of the global climate

# EL NIÑO/SOUTHERN OSCILLATION (ENSO) DIAGNOSTIC DISCUSSION

issued by

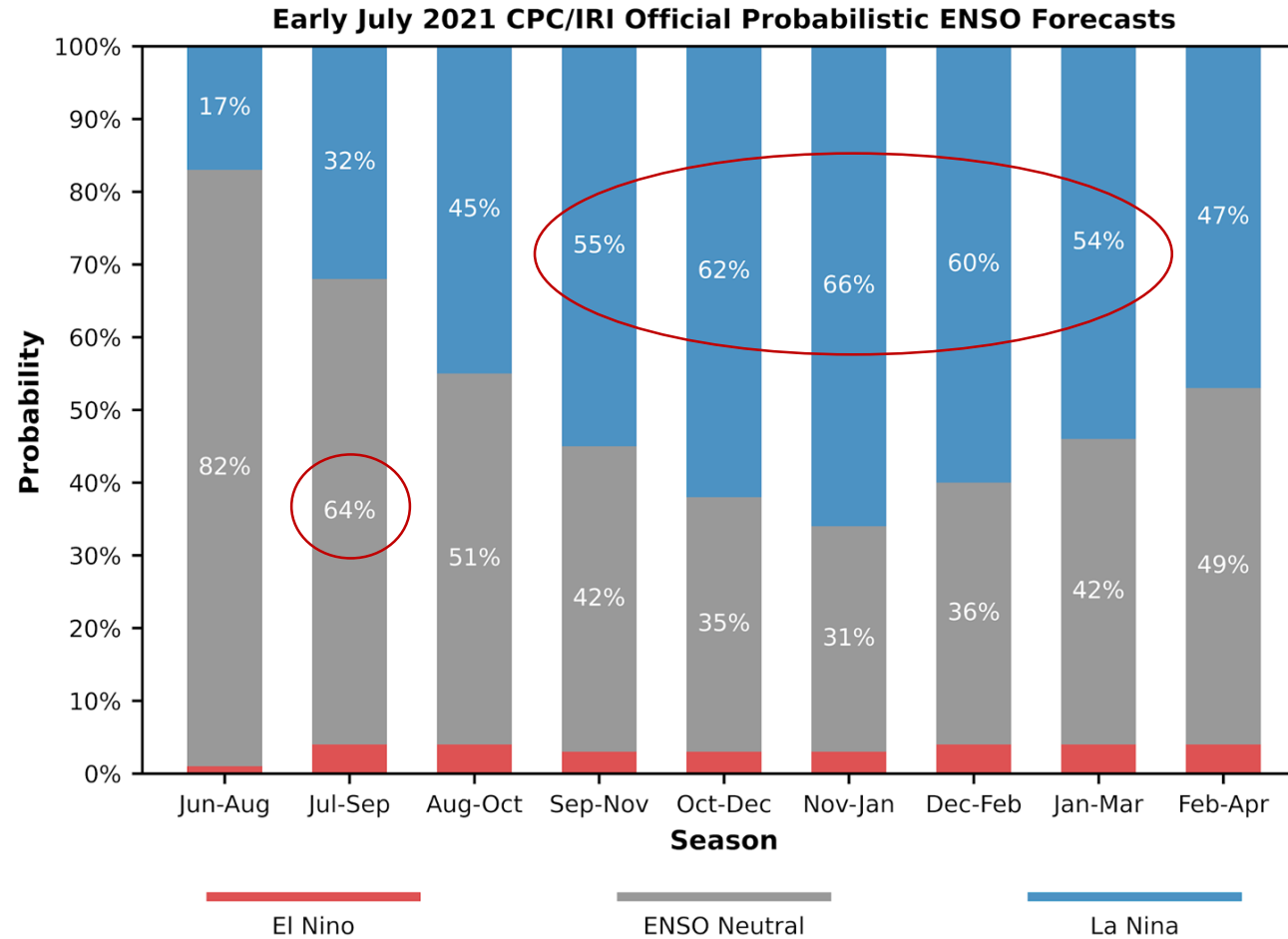
**CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER/NCEP/NWS**  
**and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society**  
8 July 2021

**ENSO Alert System Status: [La Niña Watch](#)**

**Synopsis: ENSO-neutral is favored through the Northern Hemisphere summer and into the fall (51% chance for the August-October season), with La Niña potentially emerging during the September-November season and lasting through the 2021-22 winter (66% chance during November-January).**

Near-average sea surface temperatures, consistent with ENSO-neutral conditions, were observed across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean during June (Fig. 1). In the last week, most Niño indices were near zero except for the Niño-1+2 index, which was +0.3°C (Fig. 2). Subsurface temperature anomalies were slightly positive (averaged from 180-100°W) and remained steady during the month (Fig. 3). However, in parts of the eastern Pacific, below-average subsurface temperature anomalies returned near the thermocline (Fig. 4). For the month, the low-level and upper-level winds were near average across most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Tropical convection was suppressed near the Date Line, while remaining mostly near average elsewhere (Fig. 5). Overall, the ocean and atmosphere system reflected ENSO-neutral conditions.

# ENSO neutral forecast through summer >50% probability of La Nina in September-November



# Assumption

ENSO neutral conditions are present and are expected through the summer 2021. La Nina is the most likely ENSO state from fall (Sep-Nov) 2021 through winter (January-March) 2022.



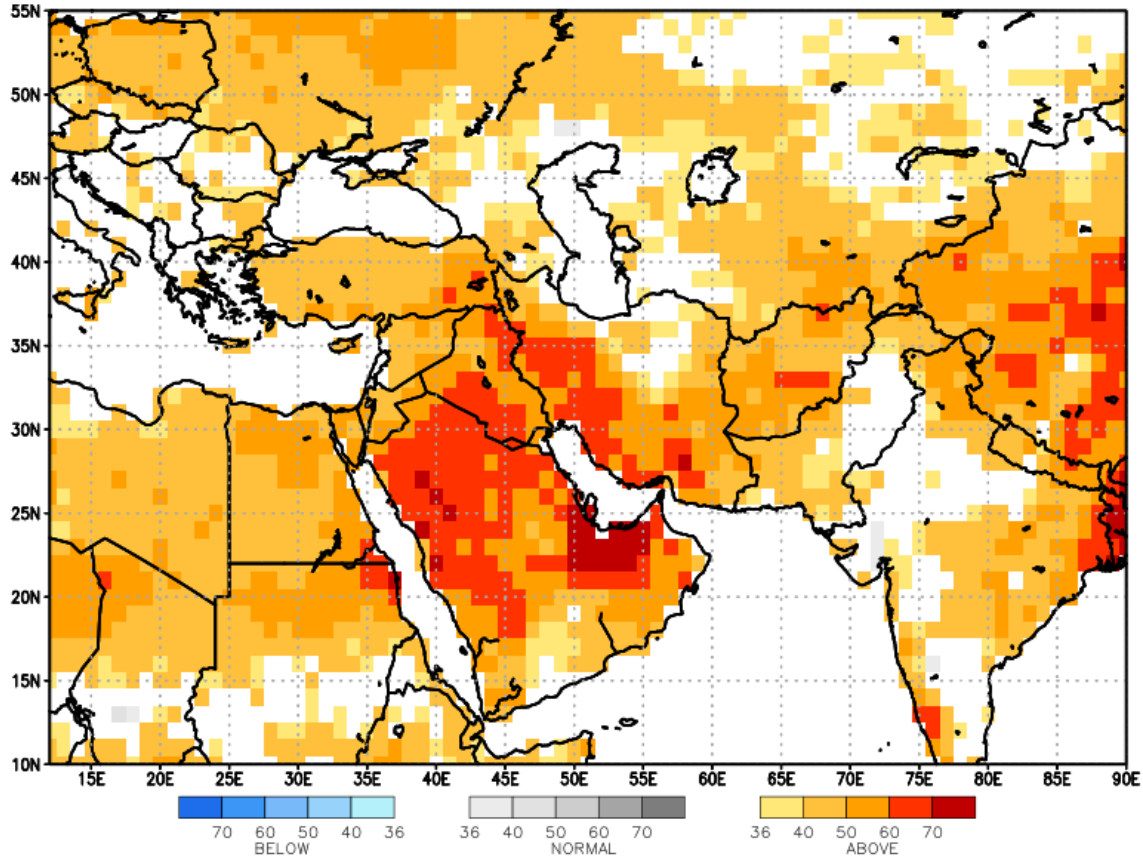
# Assumptions for Afghanistan

## Assumption 1: temperatures

According to NMME, C3S, and WMO ensemble forecasts, above-average mean temperatures are most likely throughout most of the country through January 2022.

# Temperature: August – October

NMME 2m Air Temp Prob. JulIC Aug2021–Oct2021 Fcst

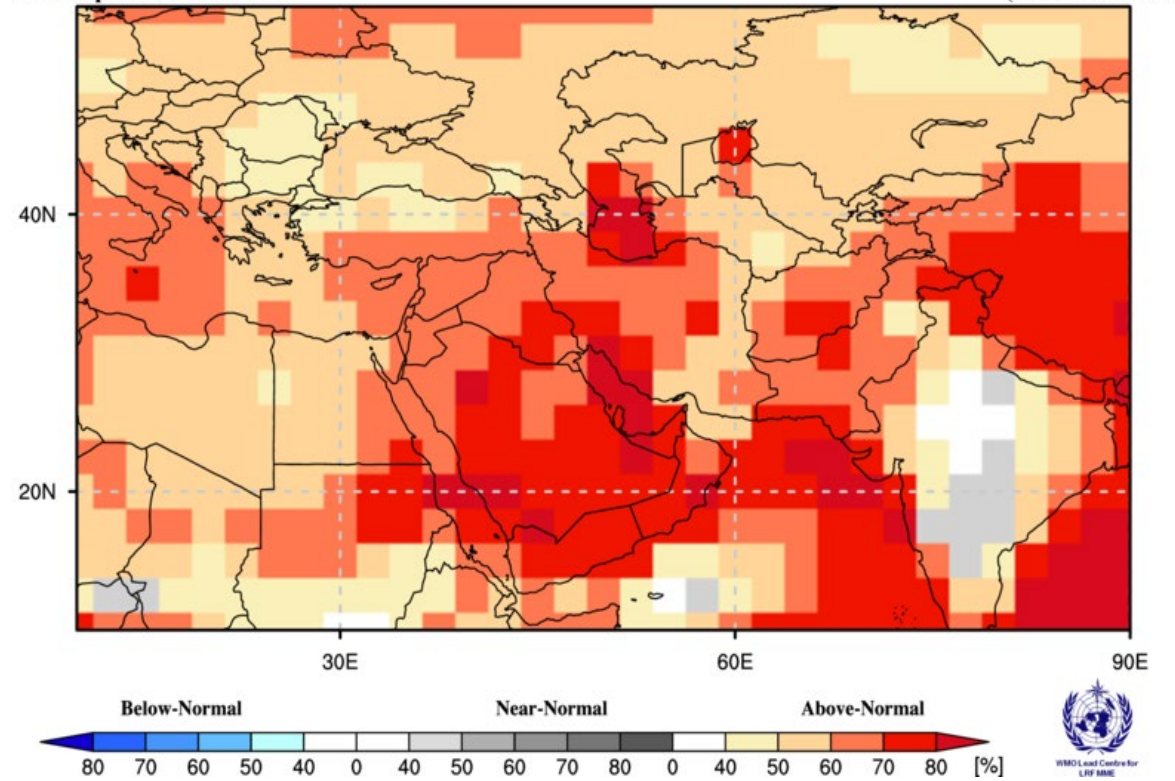


Probabilistic Multi-Model Ensemble Forecast

Beijing, Montreal, Seoul, Washington

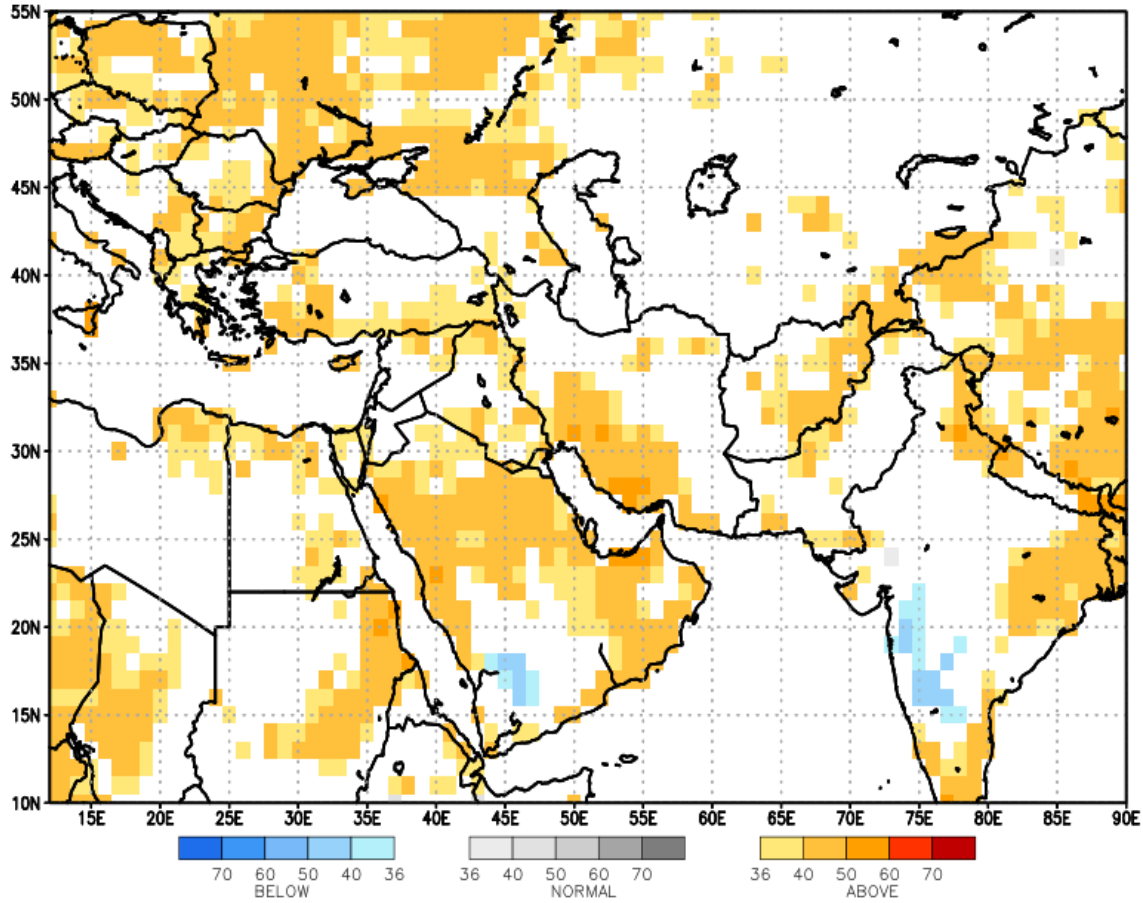
2m Temperature : ASO2021

(issued on Jul2021)



# Temperature: November- January

NMME 2m Air Temp Prob. JulIC Nov2021-Jan2022 Fcst

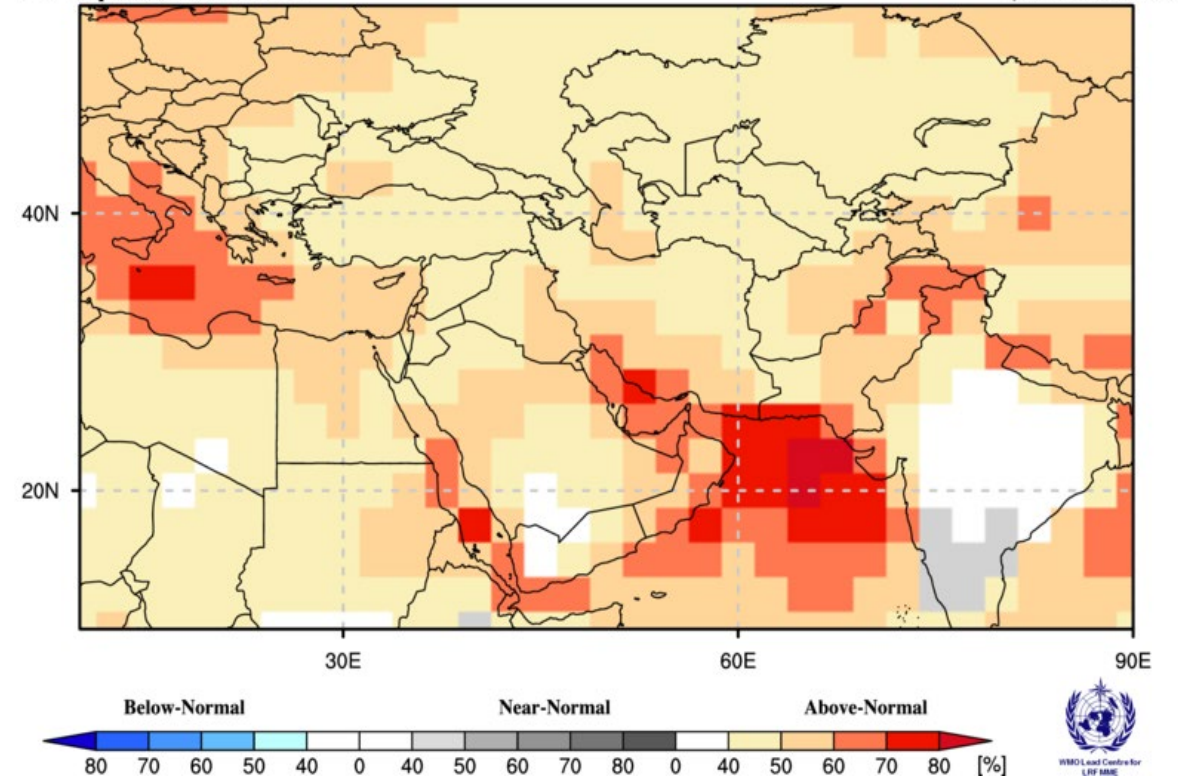


Probabilistic Multi-Model Ensemble Forecast

Beijing, Montreal, Seoul, Washington

2m Temperature : NDJ2021

(issued on Jul2021)



## Assumption 2: snow water volume

Snowpack and snow water volumes are expected to continue to decline through around September/October in northeastern basins with annual cycles, as is typical, and remain below average. Continued snowmelt and early depletion of snow is likely to reduce water availability in downstream areas for the main season and will limit water availability for second season crops.

## Assumption 3: dry season precipitation

According to C3S, NMME, and WMO ensemble forecasts, precipitation during the dry season period from June to September 2021 is most likely to be average across most of the country.

## Assumption 4: late 2021 precipitation

According to NMME and WMO ensemble forecasts, precipitation during the beginning of the 2021/22 precipitation season from October 2021 to January 2022 is most likely to be below average across most of the country. However, given the long lead time, a variety of outcomes are possible.

## Assumption 5: rangeland vegetative conditions

In most lower elevation areas and in some higher elevation areas where NDVI values are predominantly below average, rangeland vegetative conditions are likely to remain below average through January 2022 given expectations for above-average temperatures through January 2022 and below-average precipitation during the beginning of the 2021/22 precipitation season. In higher elevation areas where NDVI values are predominantly above average, above-average temperatures and early snowmelt are likely to contribute to average pasture conditions emerging during the summer dry season, with below-average conditions likely to emerge in the October to January 2022 period given the below-average rainfall forecast.



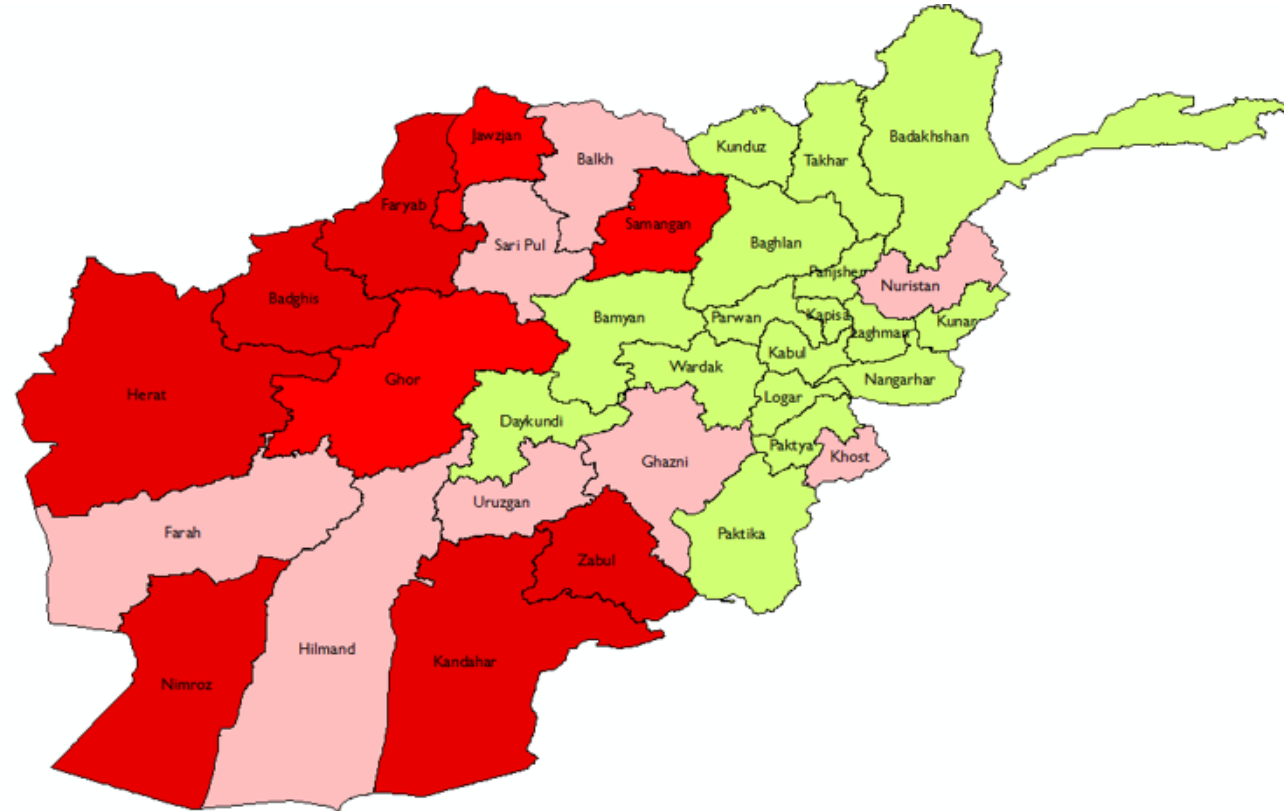
## Assumption 6: drought conditions

Based on most recent [18-pentad SPI+forecast](#), [seasonal SPI+forecast for April 1 to July 25](#), current [soil moisture](#) conditions, and current NDVI values, meteorological and agricultural drought conditions are likely ongoing across parts of the west, south, southeast, and north and are likely to continue through September 2021.

## Assumption 7: wheat production

Wheat production is most likely to be below average across most of the country but near average in central and eastern parts of the country, though some exceptions are anticipated.

# Wheat production prospects



Loss in wheat production (with respect to 5-year average, 2016-2020)

- More than 30 percent loss
- 20 to 30 percent loss
- 5 to 20 percent loss
- Average to above-average

Source: FEWS NET

# Questions

# Noor Habib Arwall

Deputy Country Representative – Afghanistan

[narwall@fews.net](mailto:narwall@fews.net)

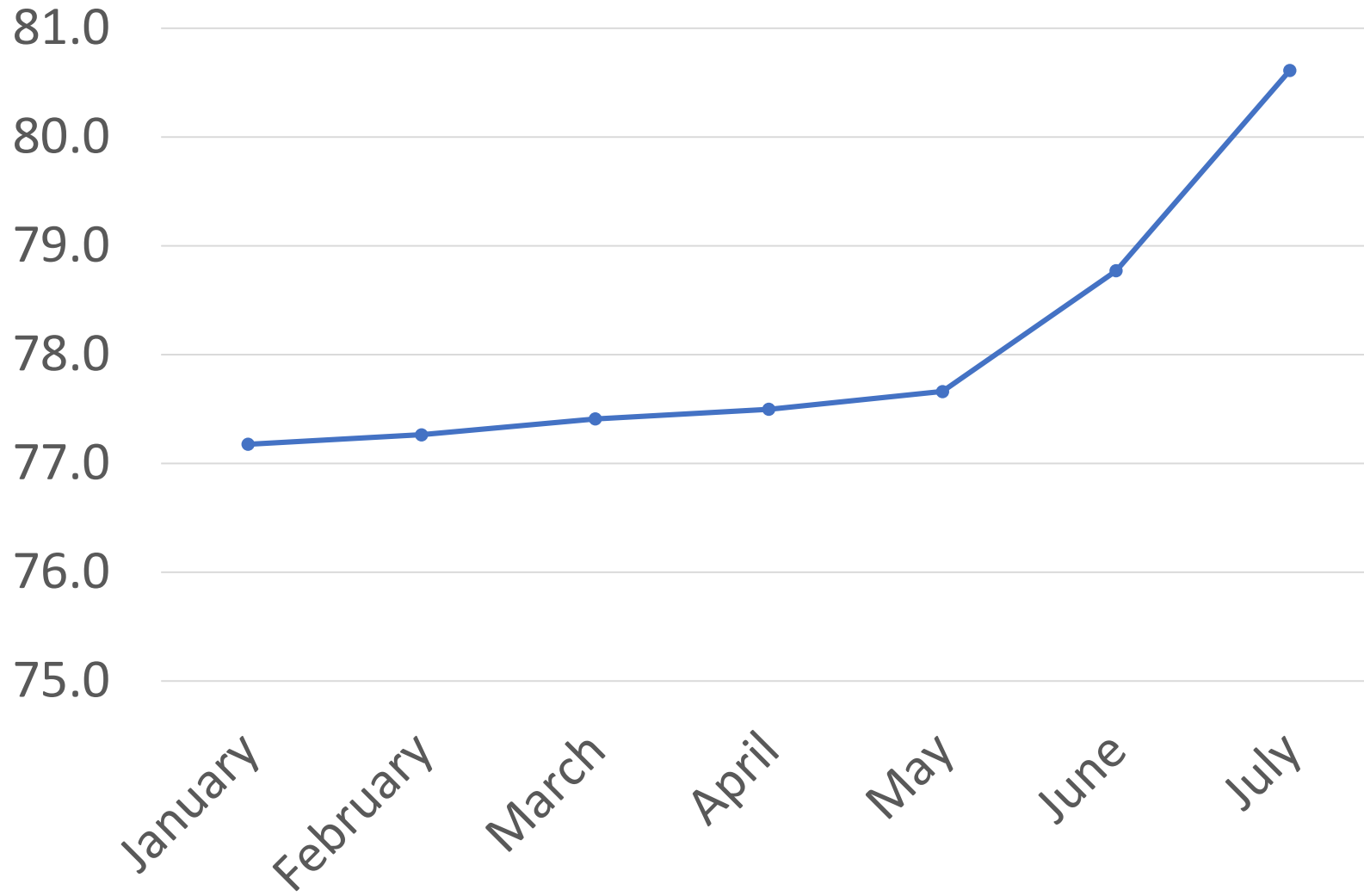
**United Nations World Food Program**



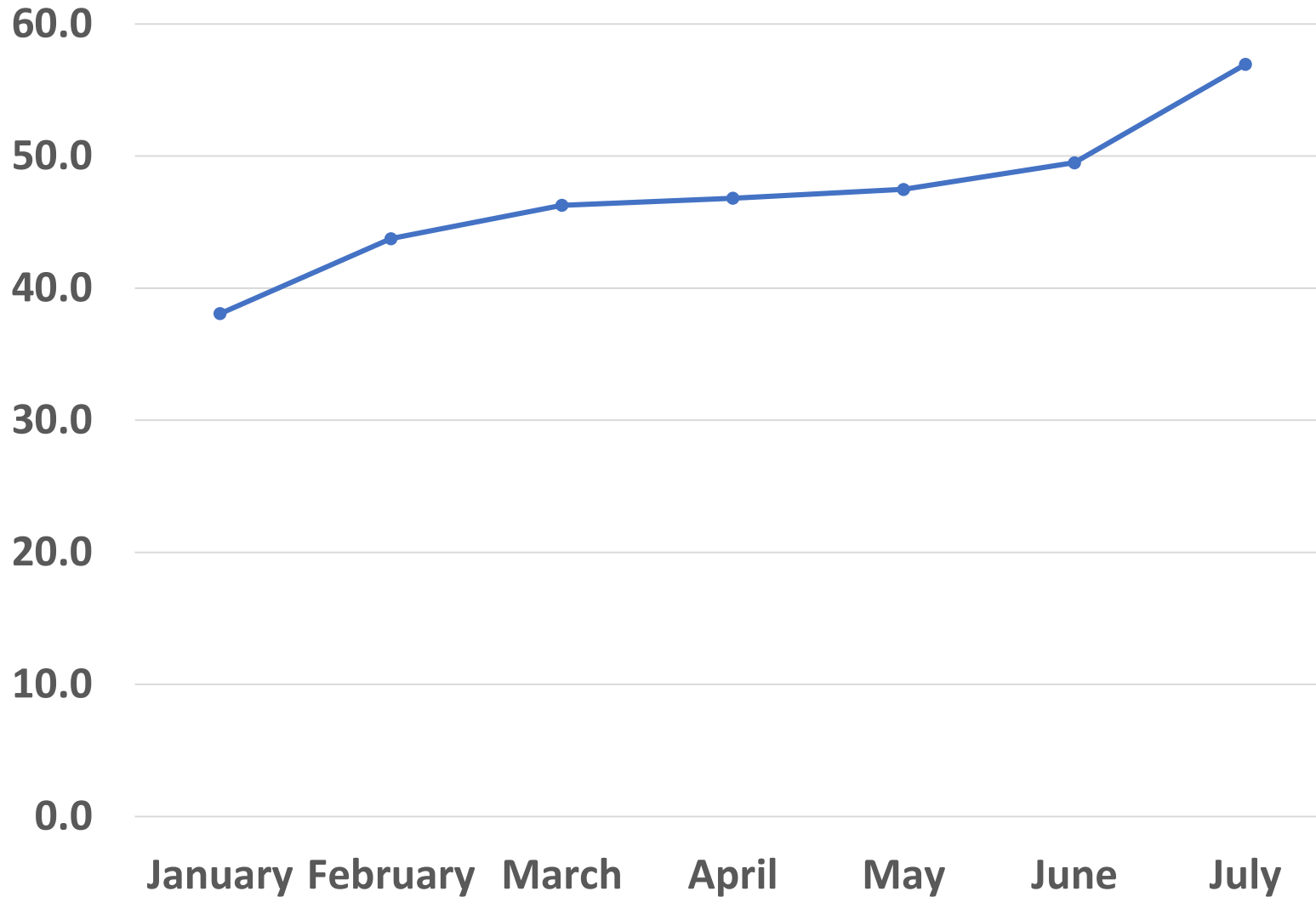
**vam**  
food security analysis

**Market Price Update  
July 2021**

# Exchange Rate, 2021



- **2% above June 2021**
- **5% above July 2020**
- **7% above pre-Covid**
- **10% above 5-year average, main cities.**

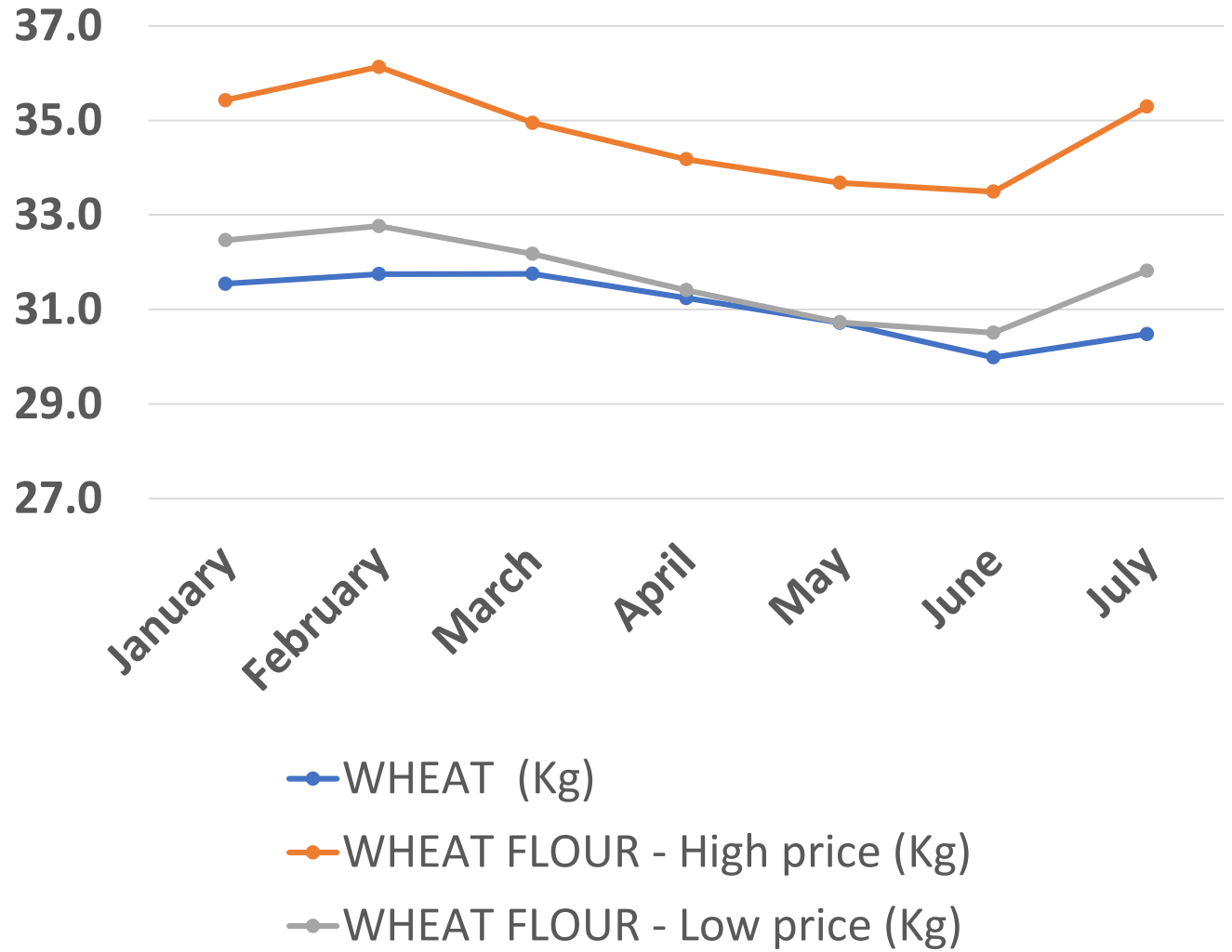


## Diesel, 2021

- **53% higher than July 2020**
  - **15% higher than June 2021**
  - **27% higher than pre-Covid**
- ☐ **43% above 5-year average, main cities**



# Wheat and Wheat flour Price, 2021



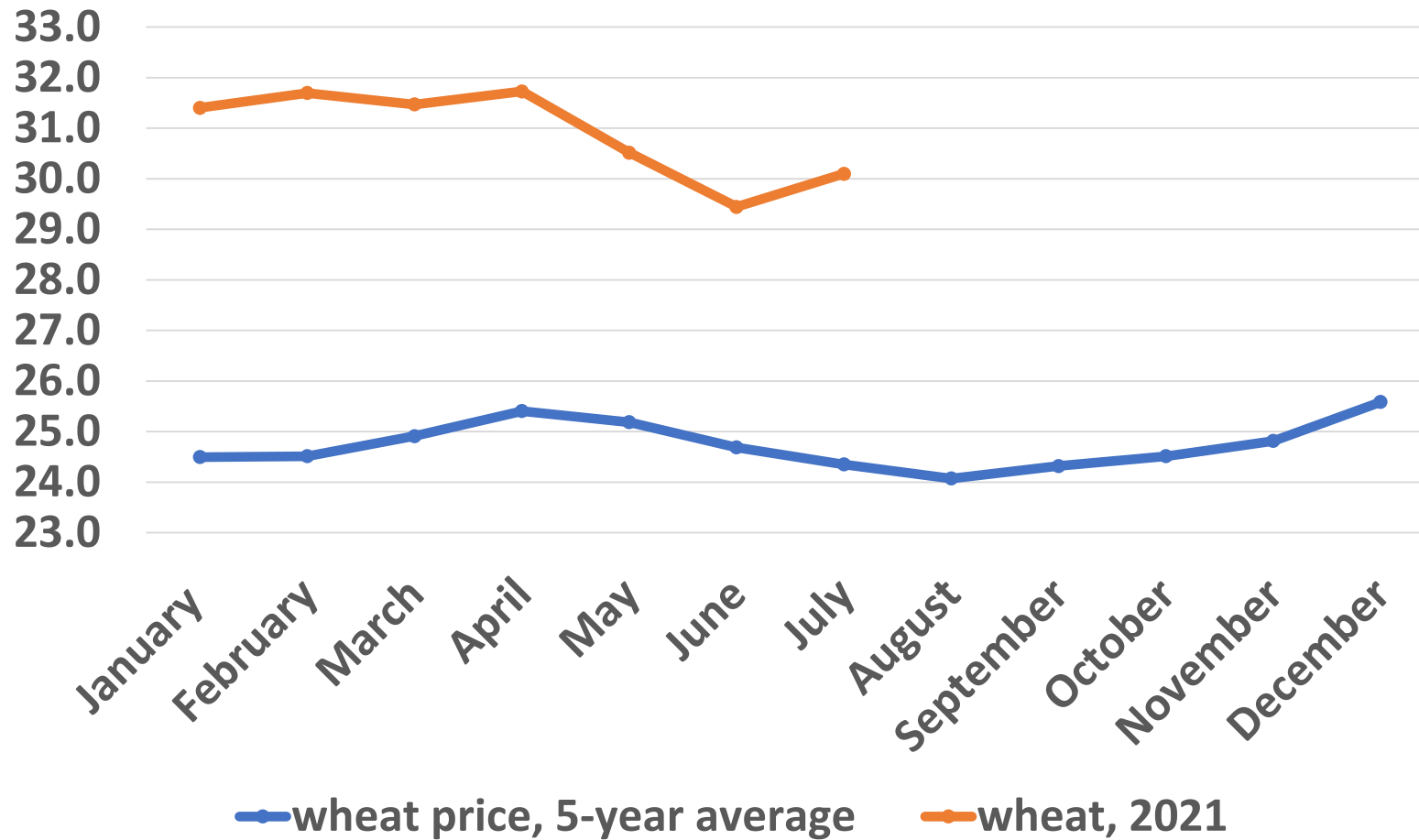
## Monthly Difference

- Wheat; +2%
- Wheat flour; +5%

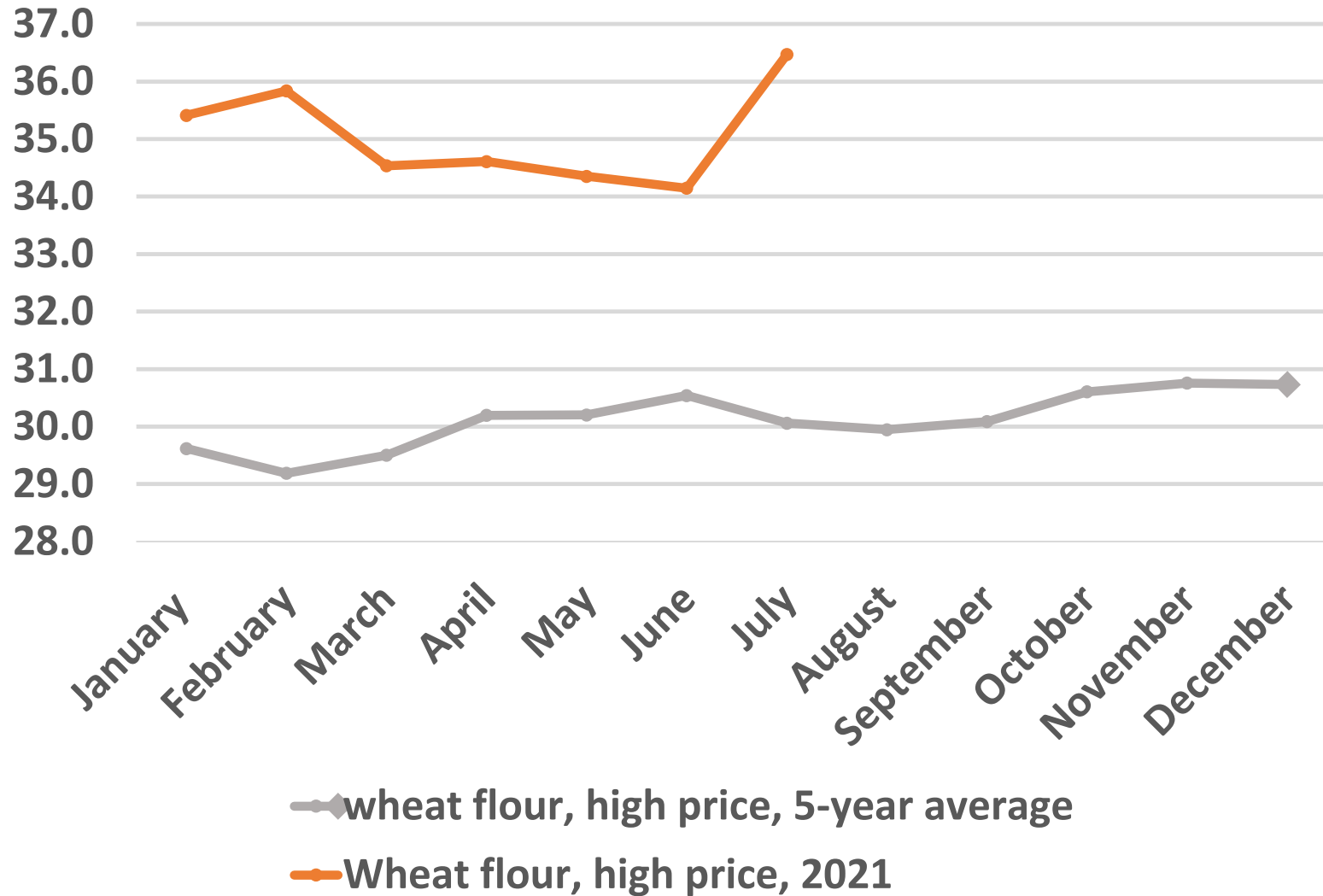
## above the Pre-covid time

- Wheat; 21%
- Wheat flour; 11%

# Wheat price, 8 Main cities



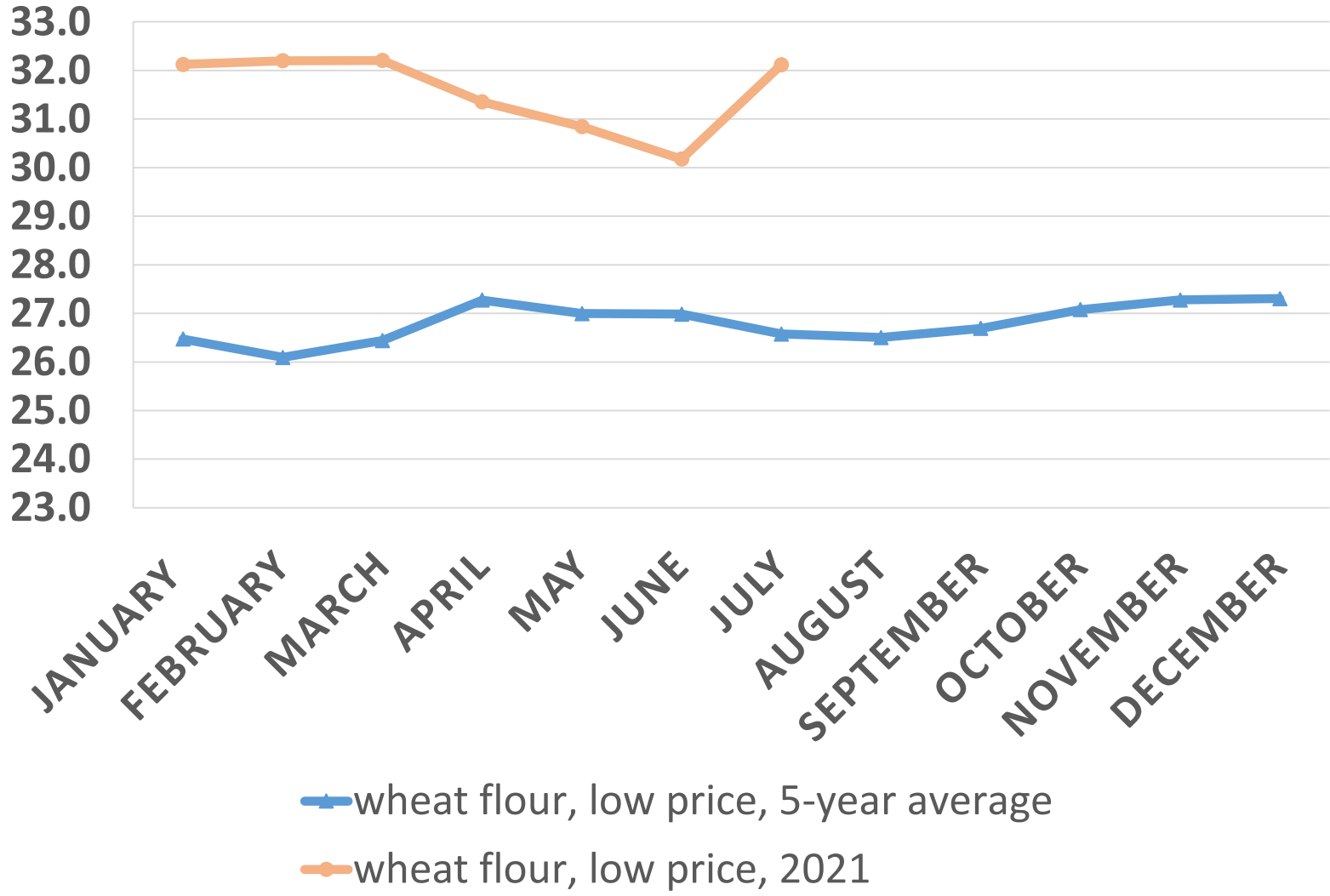
□ July price is 24% Above the 5-year Average prices, main cities



## Wheat Flour, high price, 8 Main cities

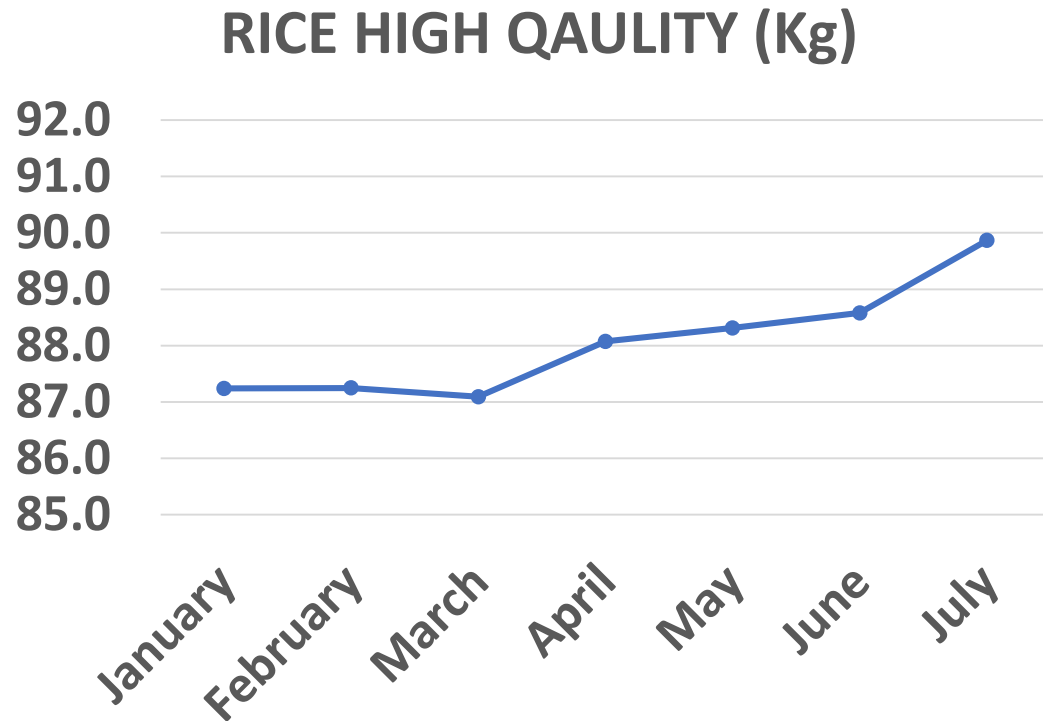
□ 21% higher  
than the 5-year  
average prices,  
main cities

# Wheat Flour, Low Price, 8 Main Cities



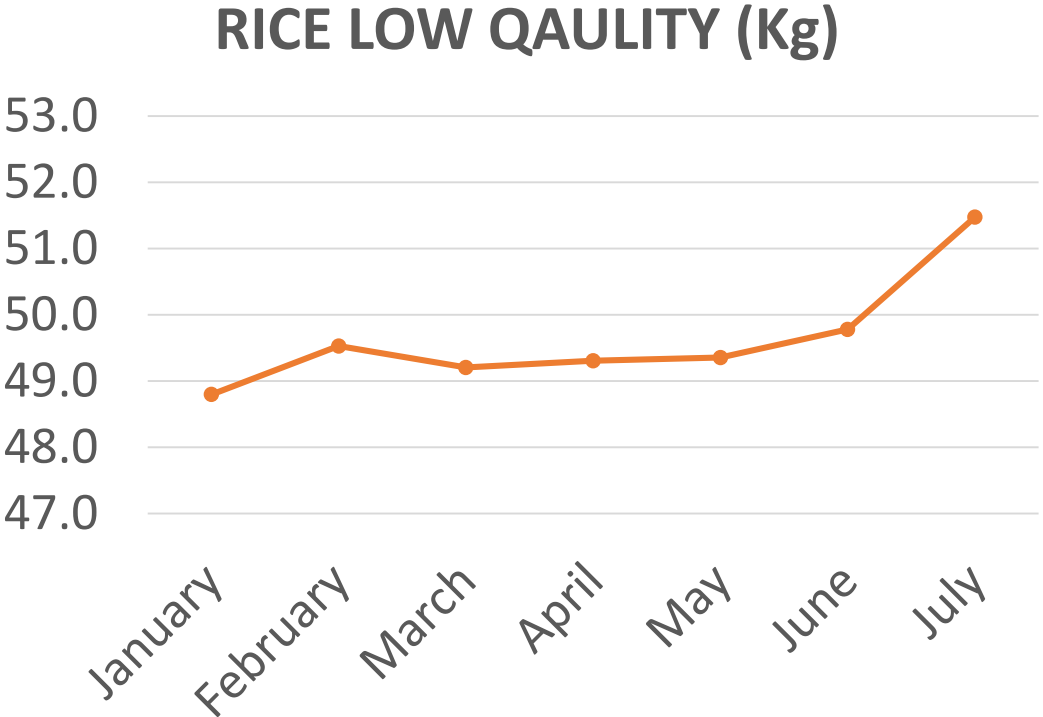
**July Price is  
21% higher  
than the 5-  
year average  
prices**

# Rice



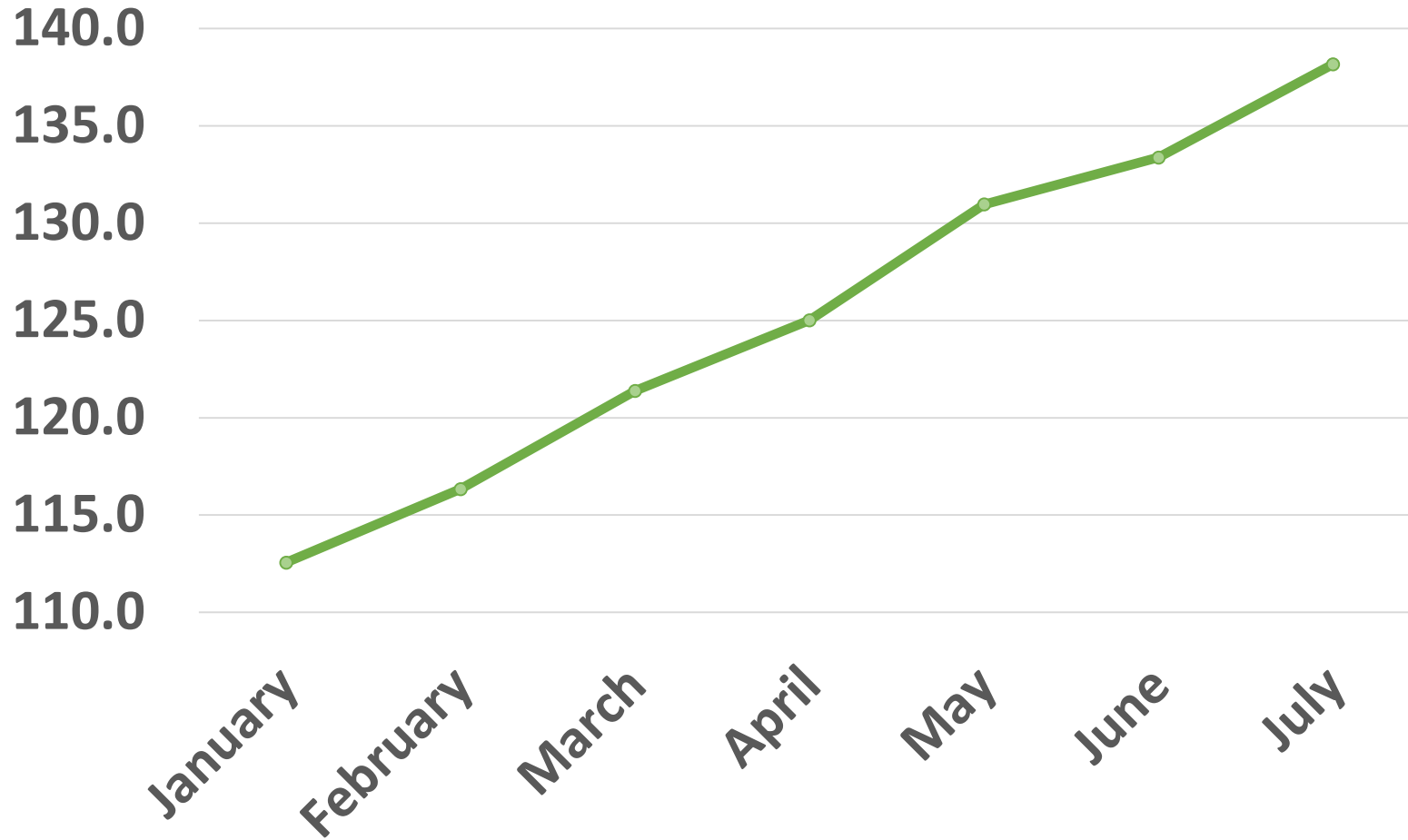
- **1.5% above June price**
- **3% above July 2020**
- **11% above pre-Covid**

# Rice



- **3% above June Price**
- **5% above July 2020**
- **25% above Pre-covid**

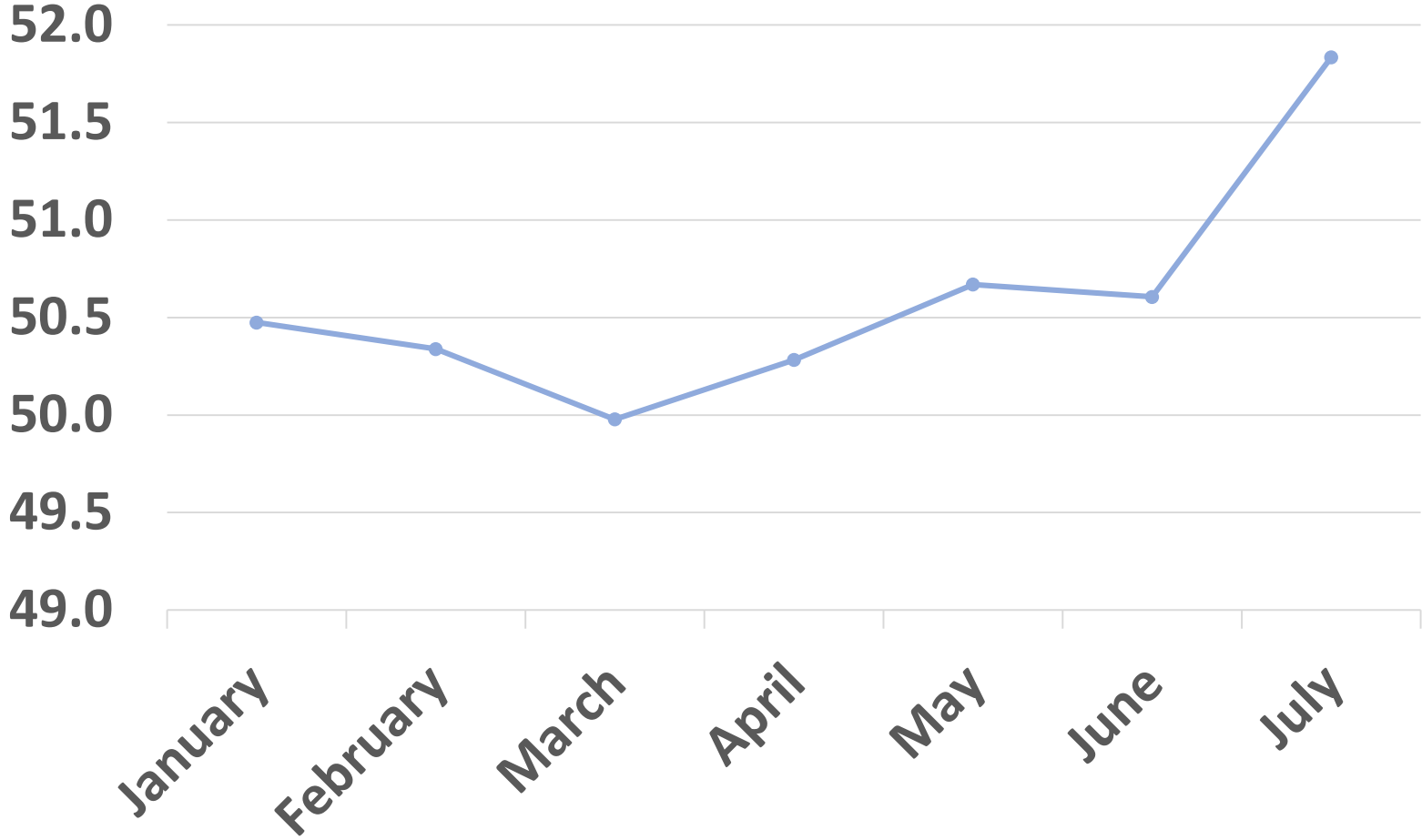
## cooking oil price, 2021



## Cooking Oil

**4% above June  
Price  
80% above pre-  
Covid**

# SUGAR (Kg)



## Sugar Price, 2021

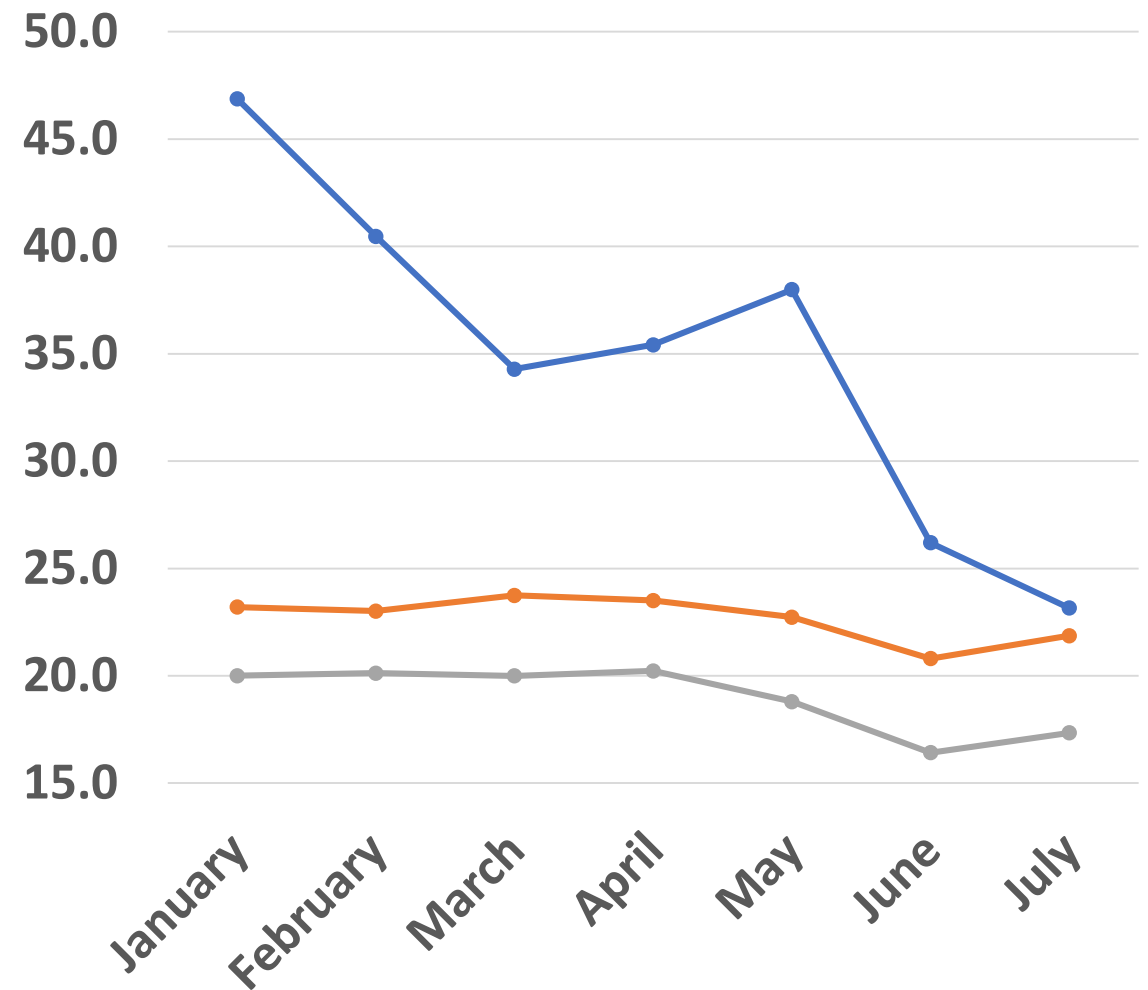
**2% higher than  
June Price  
25% higher than  
Pre-covid**



# Tomato, Potato and Onion

## Monthly difference

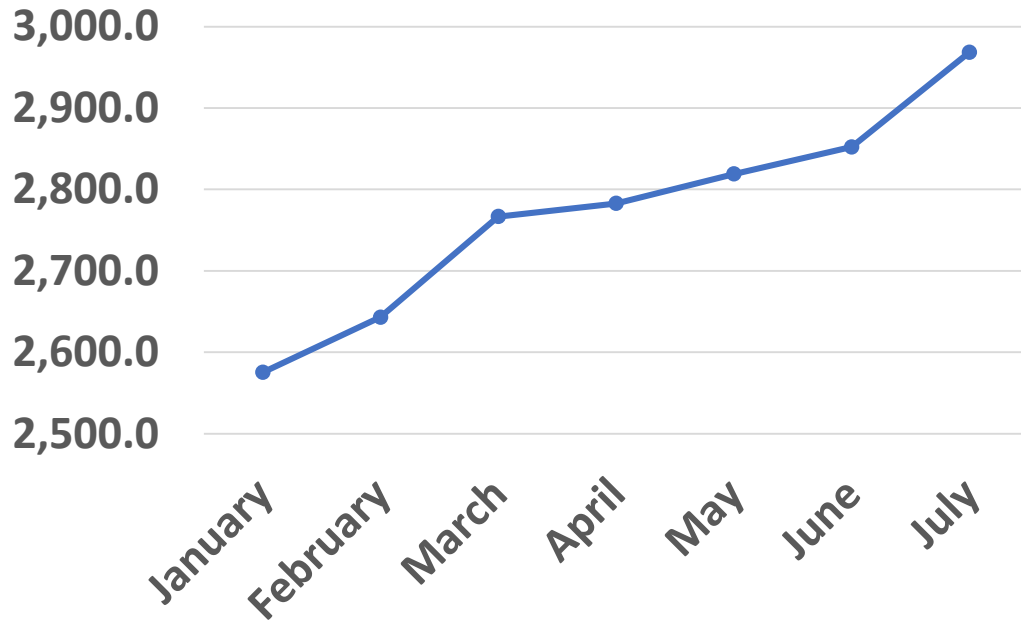
- Tomato; - 12%
- Potato; +5
- Onion ; +6%



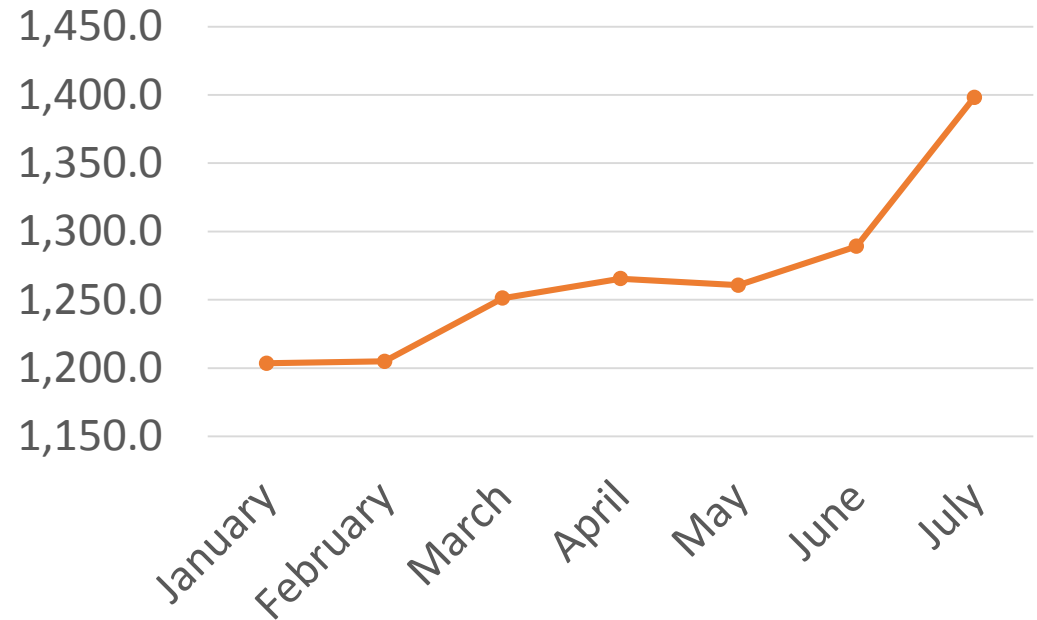
# Fertilizer

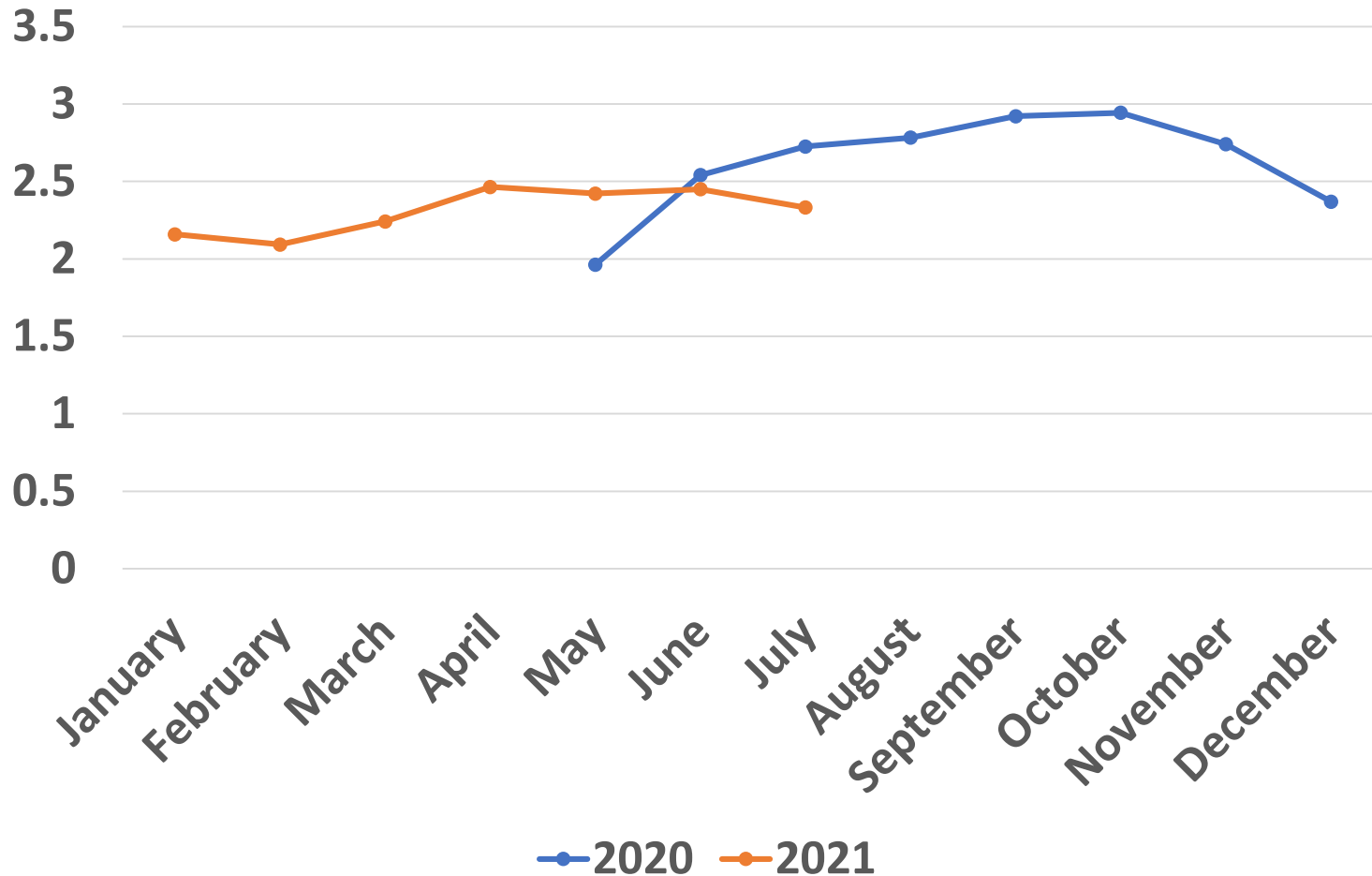
- DAP; 4%
  - UREA; 8%
- monthly growth

FERTILIZER (DAP) - 50 Kg



FERTILIZER (UREA) - 50 Kg

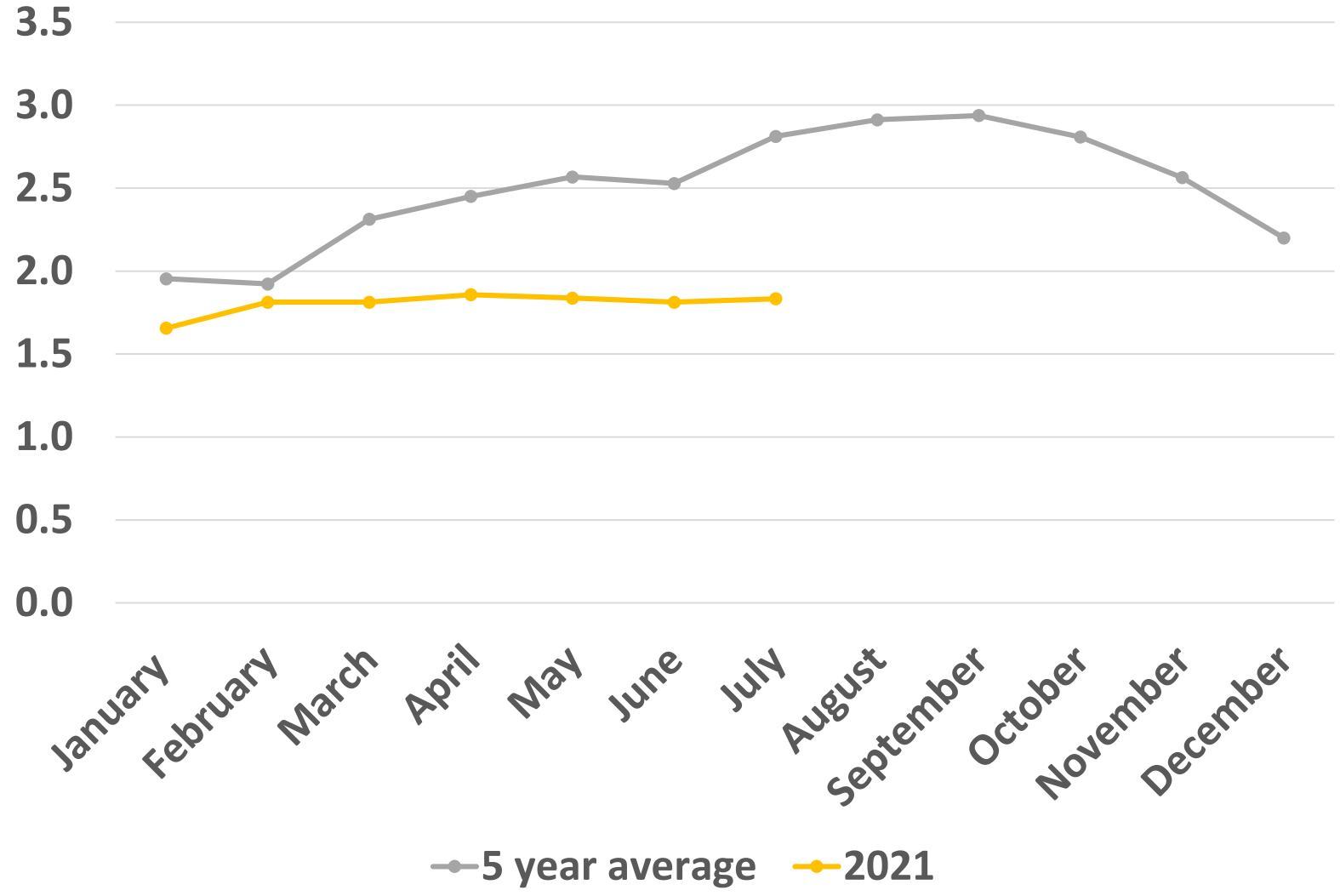




## Number of Days work is available

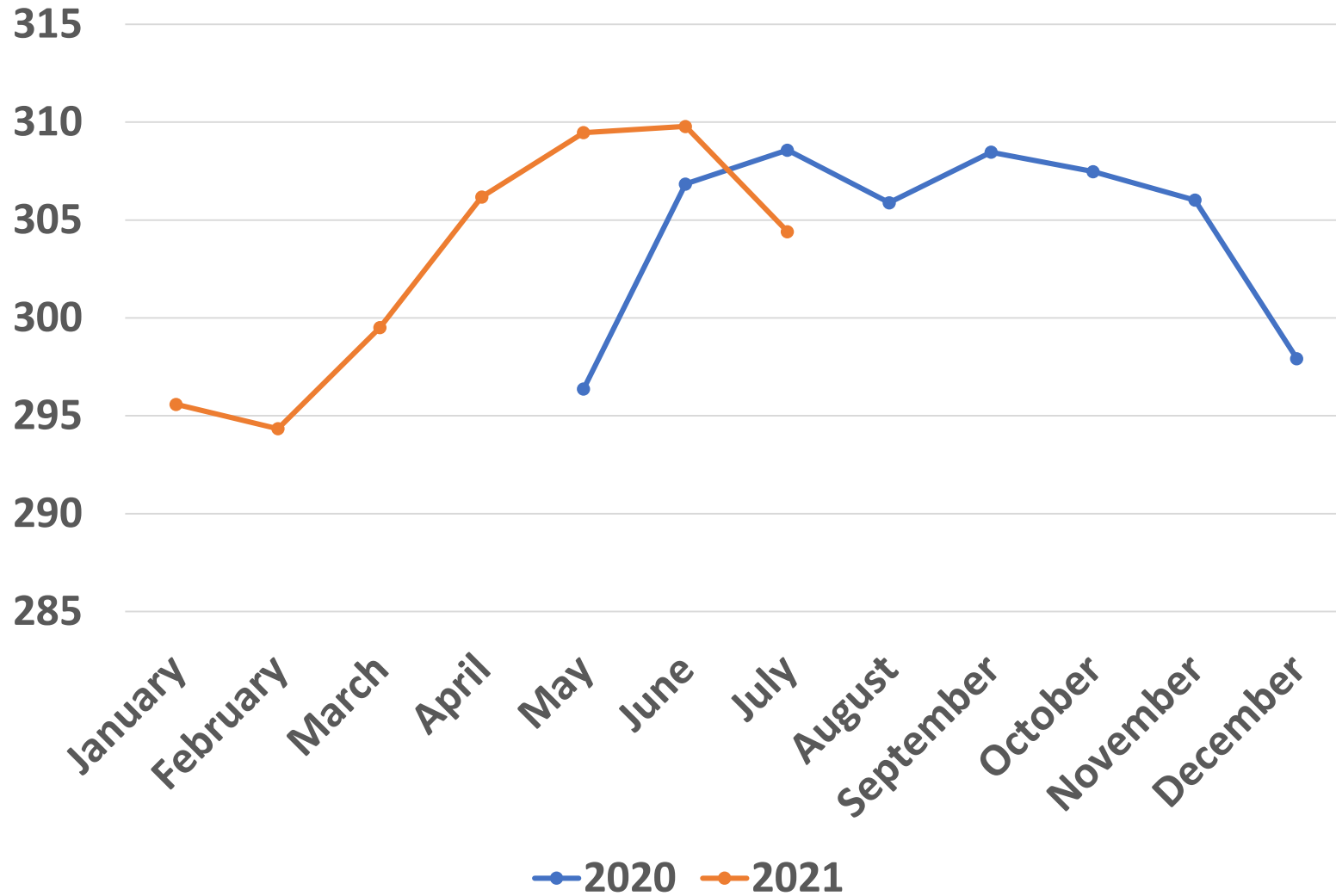
- 5% less than June 2021
- 14% less than the same time in July 2020
- 17% less than pre-Covid

# Work availability, 8 Main cities

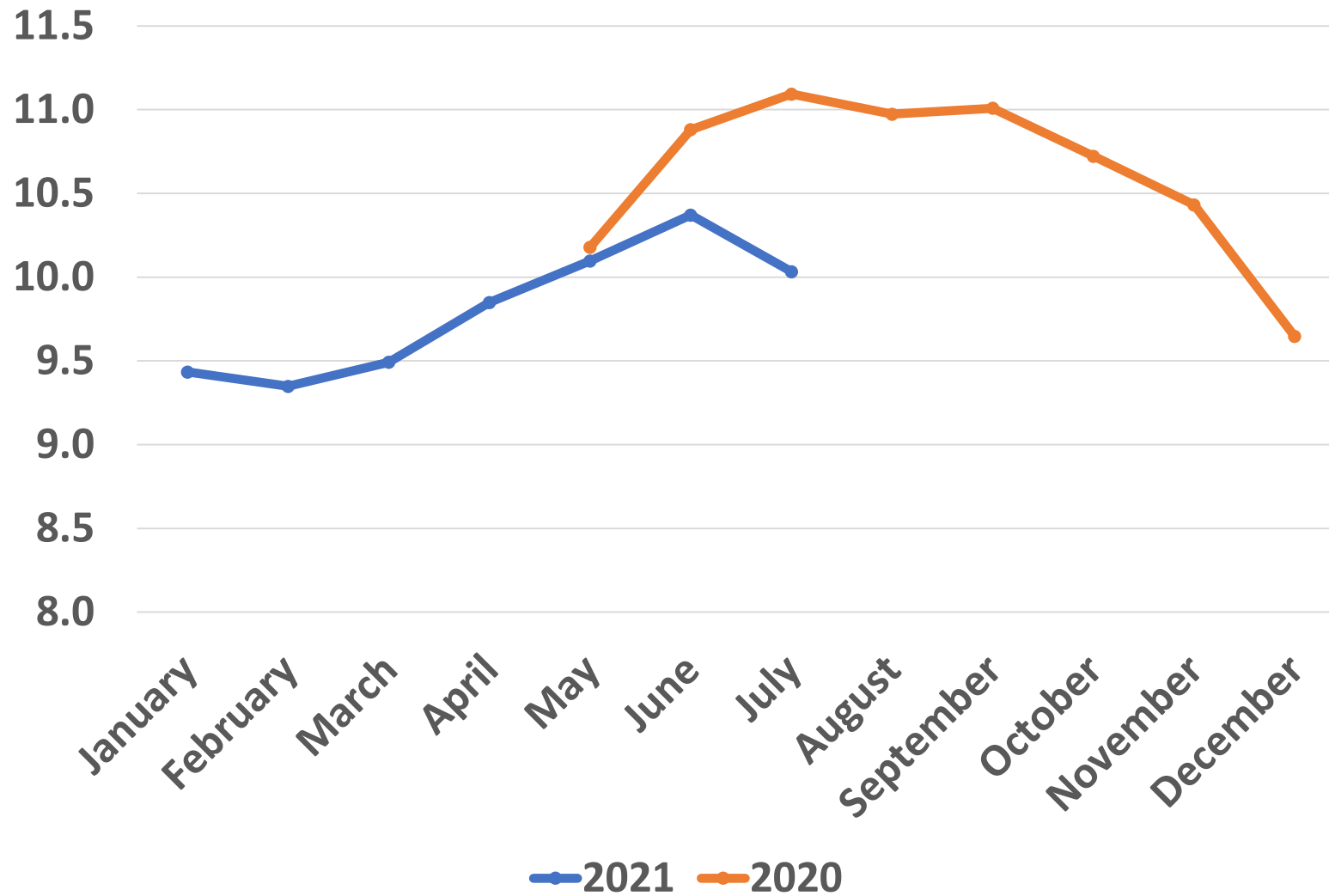


35% less than 5-year average, main cities

# National Labor Wages, Unskilled

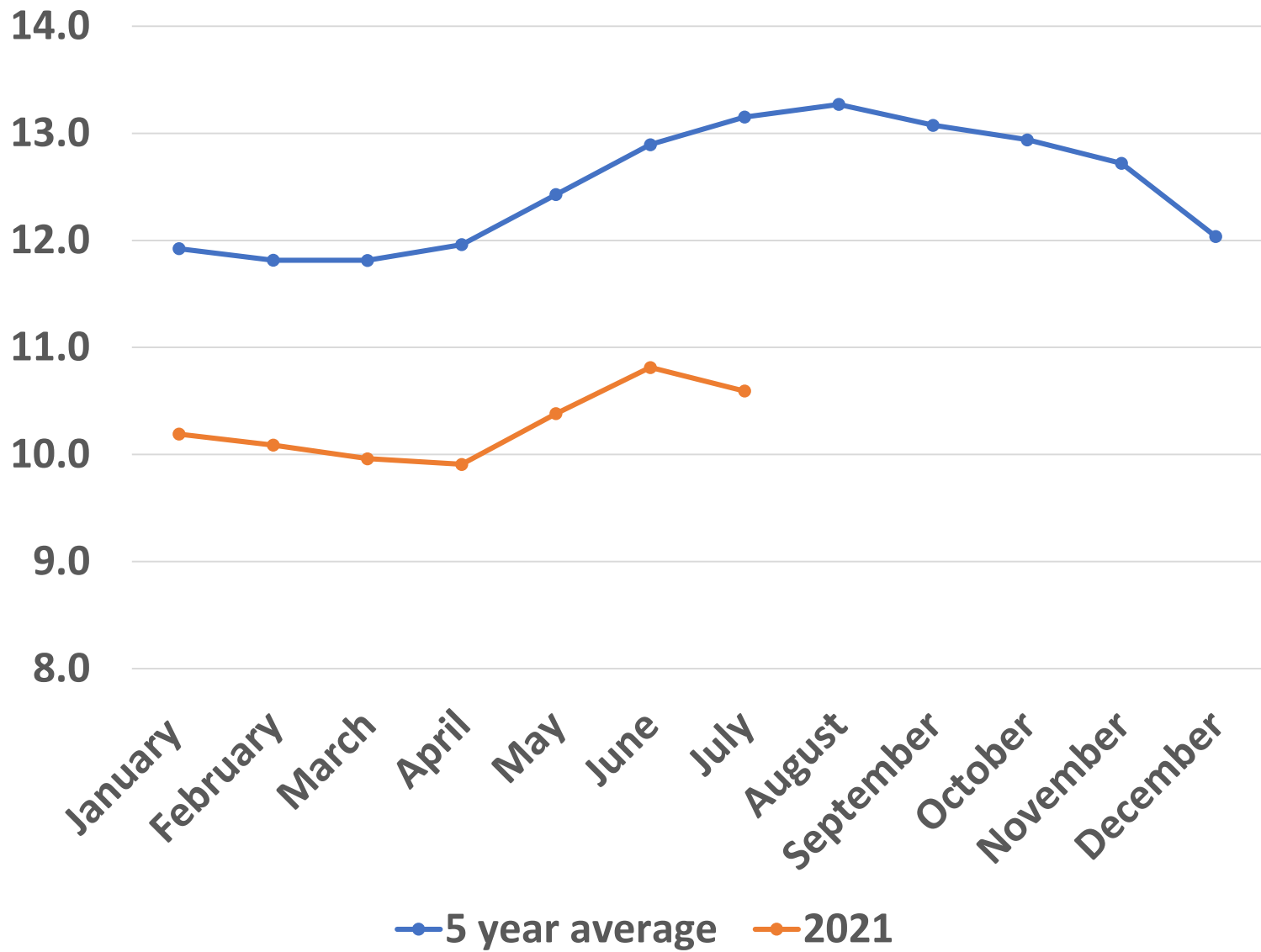


- **2% below than June 2021**
- **5% above than pre-Covid**



## Casual Labor/ wheat ToT

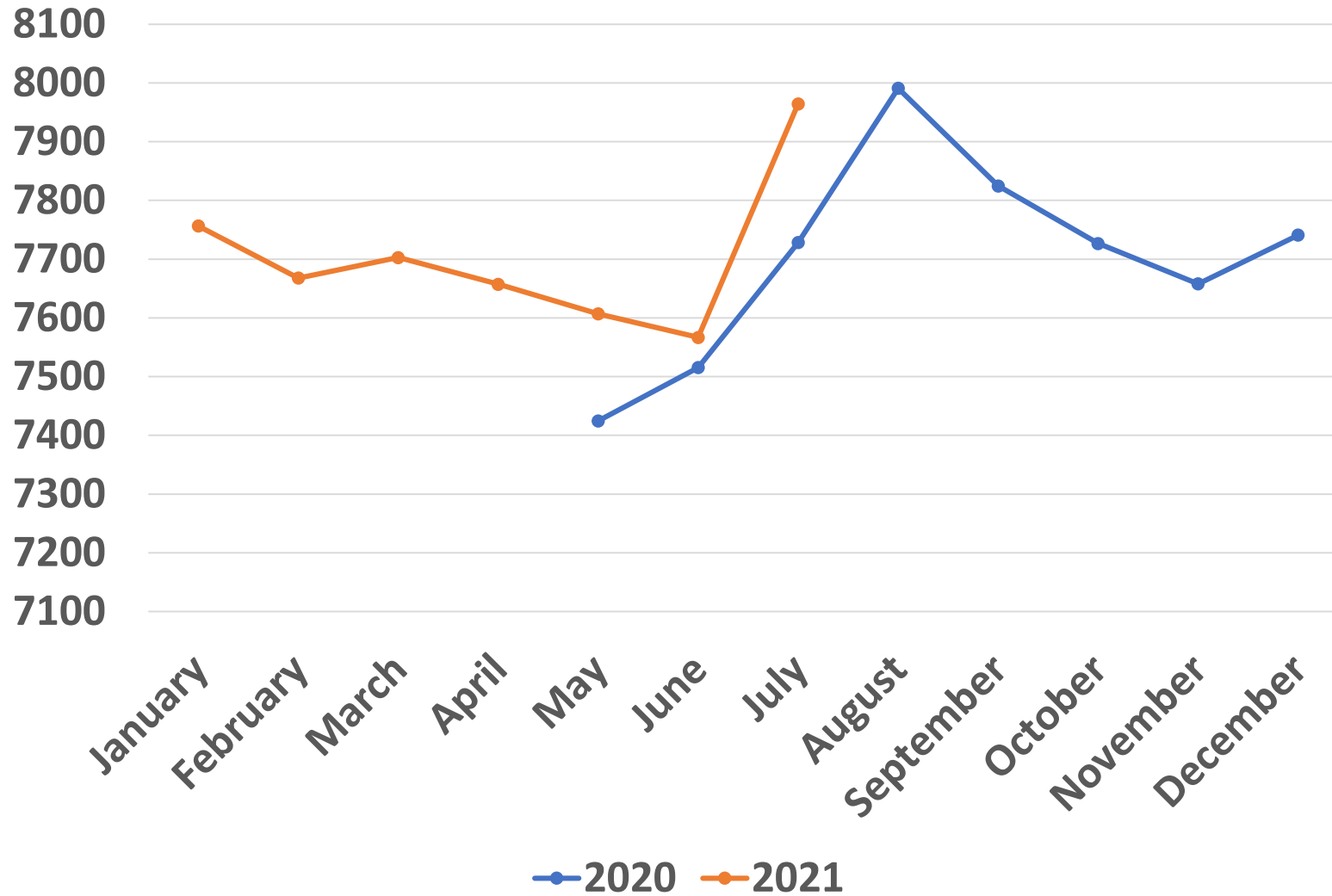
- **3% below the number in June**
- **13% below pre-Covid**
- **10% below July 2020**



# Casual Labor/ wheat ToT, 8 Main Cities

19% Below 5-  
year average,  
main cities

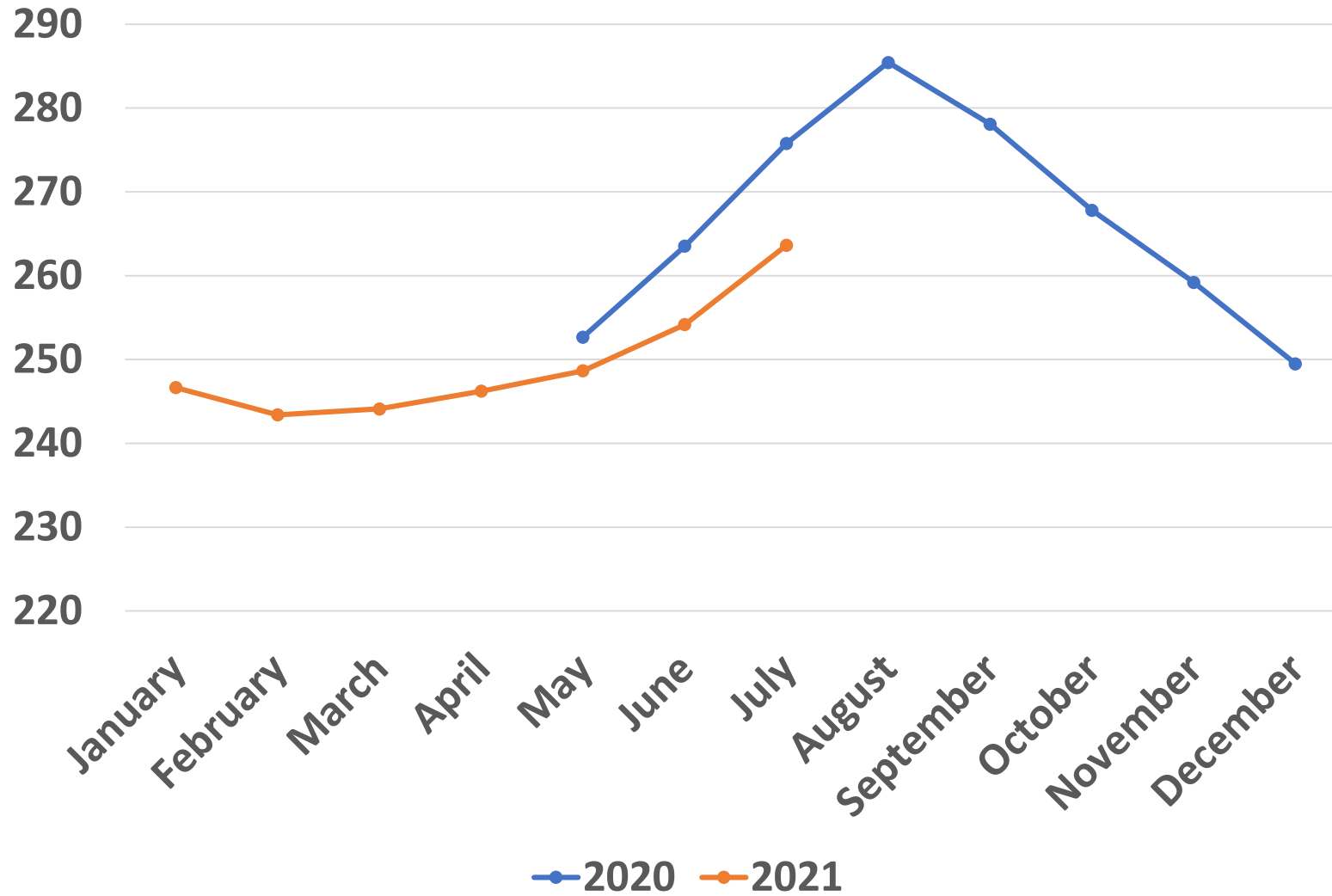




## Sheep Price

- 5% higher than June price
- 7% higher than pre-Covid

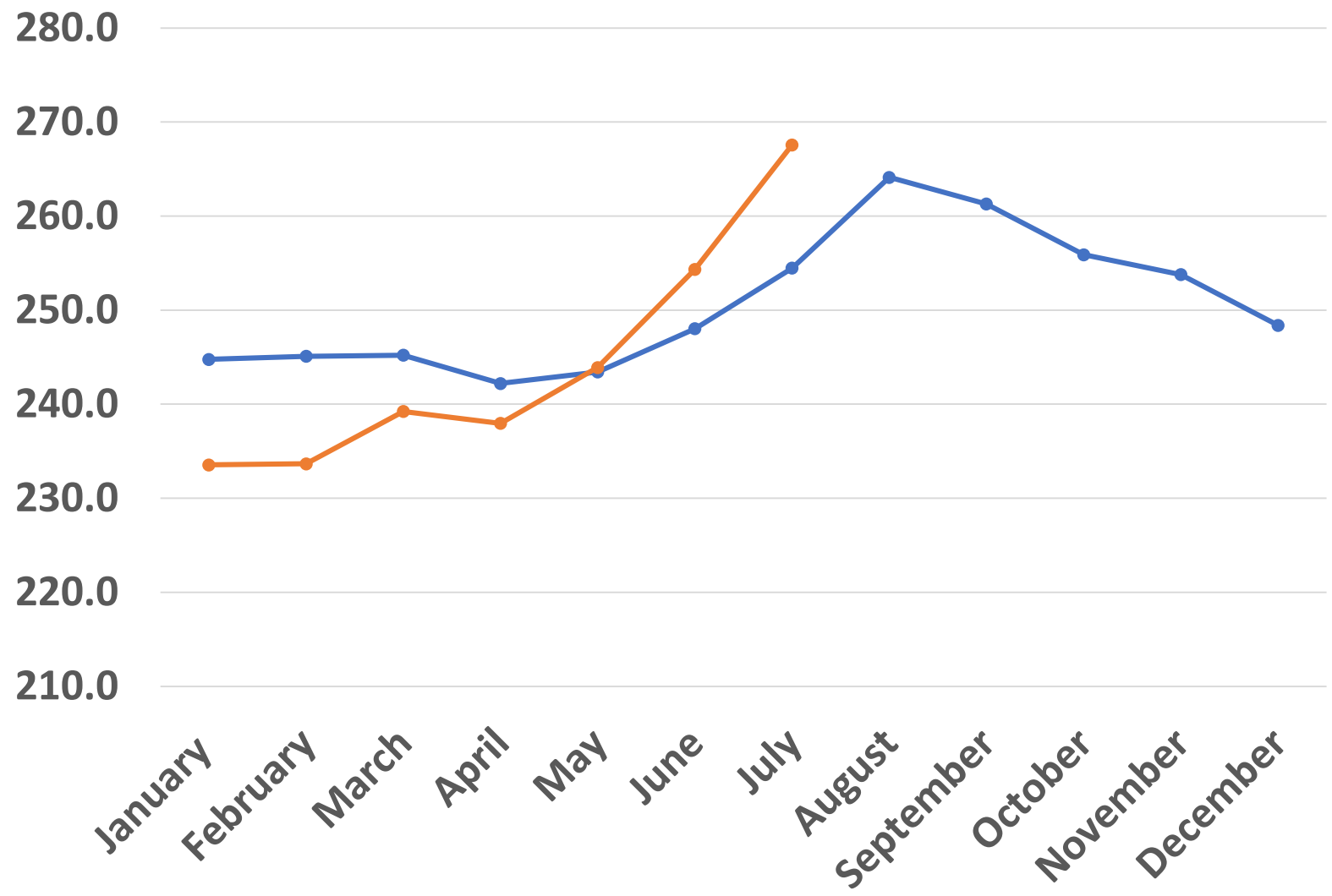




## Pastoralist ToT

- +4% monthly improvement due to Eide-Qurban
- -13% lower than pre-Covid

# Pastoralist ToT, 8 main cities



□ 5% above 5-year average, main cities

# Conclusion

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**Foreign exchange rate and diesel price considerably rose in early July.**

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**This caused increases in the price of food items, specifically imported items.**

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**Intensified conflicts also caused supply disruption in some regions and increased the market prices.**

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**Market of some provinces such as Badghis was totally closed for the last two weeks.**

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**Work availability and casual labour wheat deteriorated over July,**

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**Pastoralist ToT temporarily improved due to increased demand due to Eide- Qurban**

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Question?

# Update on Seasonal Food Security Assessment



# Gender Inclusive Humanitarian Response Guidance Note

## **Background**

- Security concerns, socio – cultural barriers
- Affect on overall response quality and effectiveness
- Requiring to travel with a family member as Mahram

## **Purpose**

- Facilitate women's mobility and travel to field sites
- Promote secure access and acceptance by the communities

## **Definition of Mahram**

- A male relative who is often required to accompany women when travelling or moving outside the home
- Mahram can be husband, father, grandfather, son, grandson, brother, son- in-law, father-in-law, uncle or nephew, sometimes this role is also carried out by mothers, grandmothers or elder sisters
- Mahram is to honour, protect and provide special care to women



## **Mahram Criteria**

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be physically and mentally prepared and understand the obligations of being a mahram
- Have the required documentation to facilitate travel (identity docs) and the female personnel should independently confirm their desire to have the person join them in their work
- Have the relevant training (security awareness, a briefing on humanitarian principles, PSEA & other safeguarding obligations)
- Consent to undertake the responsibilities of a Mahram

## **Administrative Procedures**

- Field/Country level HR/Admin recording the desire of the female personnel to be accompanied Mahram, the agreed name of the personnel's Mahram and validating the relationship between them
- Signing a travel waiver/disclaimer form releasing the organisation from any liability claims related to accidents or security, prior to their travel
- Clarification of exclusion from medical allowance or health coverage
- Signing of PSEA and Child Safeguarding policies prior to any travel to field locations

## **Organisational Policies & Budgets**

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Domestic flight/car
- Meals and Incidentals
- PPE for COVID-19 considerations

## **Rules to be followed by Mahram/commitment form**

- Not allowed to participate in official meetings, seminars and workshops
- Observe organization's code of conduct and security measures
- Cannot be armed during accompaniment to, during or from, humanitarian activities
- Comply with humanitarian principles
- Not disclose that information, in case of exposure to confidential information about individuals or organizations
- Not act as organization's representative
- Not interfere with the integrity of humanitarian work being undertaken

# AOB

- FAO Data in Emergency Hub Introduction
- Updates on MoU
- Date of next meeting

# Updates on MoU

- Ban on NGO's MoU has removed
- UN Joint Humanitarian Appeal
- Temporary basis, to support the delivery of basic and humanitarian services to the people affected
- NGOs are required to agree on a code of conduct in the next six months
- On the Government part, Presidential guidance will be communicated with all relevant Government agencies the soonest possible.
- For official tracking purposes, NGOs can note the following:
  - Presidential Order No: 2155
  - Dated: 3/5/1400/ or 27/July/2021

# Thanks 😊

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