

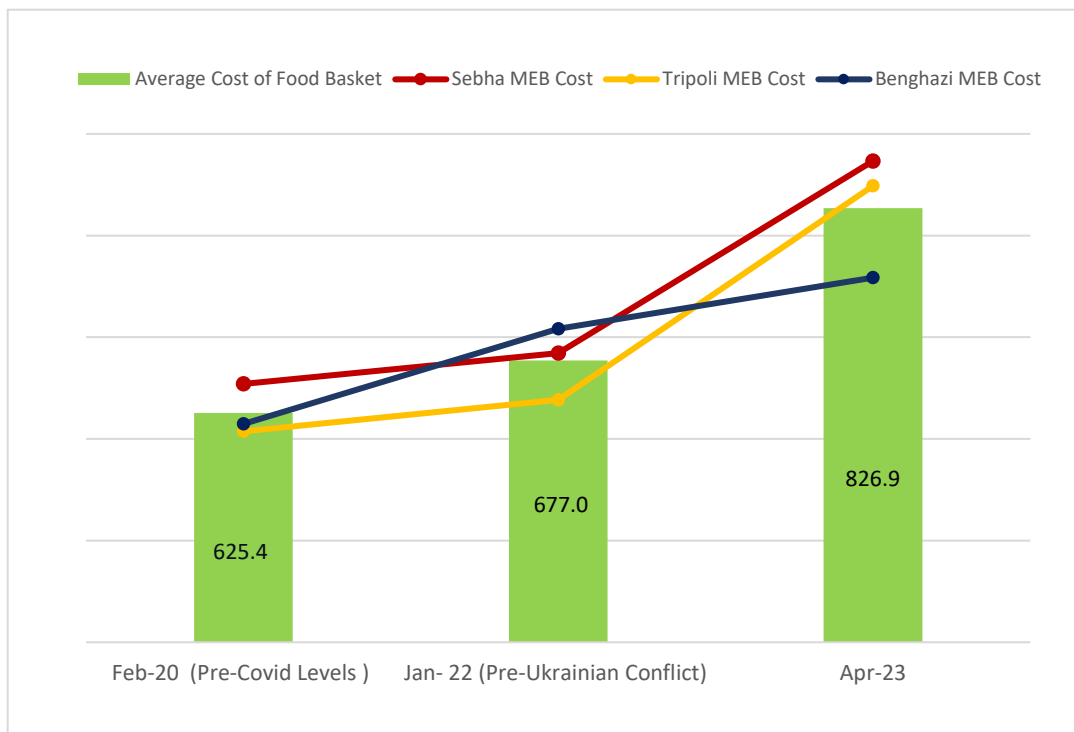
Libya Market Price update April 2023

Highlights:

- During April 2023, due to accessibility challenges, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) covered retailers in 3 municipalities, namely Sebha in the South, Tripoli in the West, and Benghazi in the East. This market brief is based on local prices in these monitored municipalities which had been collected through REACH JMMI.
- The median overall cost of Food Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) in Sebha, Benghazi, and Tripoli has increased from 796.6 LYD in March to 826.9 LYD in April **(+4%, +30.3 LYD)** while the median cost of total MEB (food and non-food) has increased from 890.3 LYD in March to 938.3 LYD in April **(+5%, +48 LYD)**.
- The cost of MEB and food component of MEB in monitored municipalities has increased by **+30%** and **+32%**, respectively in April 2023 compared to pre-COVID levels in February 2020 and by **+22%** and **+22%** since the pre-Ukrainian conflict period in January 2022.

Minimum Expenditure Basket:

Figure1: Price Evolution Food MEB Cost (LYD)

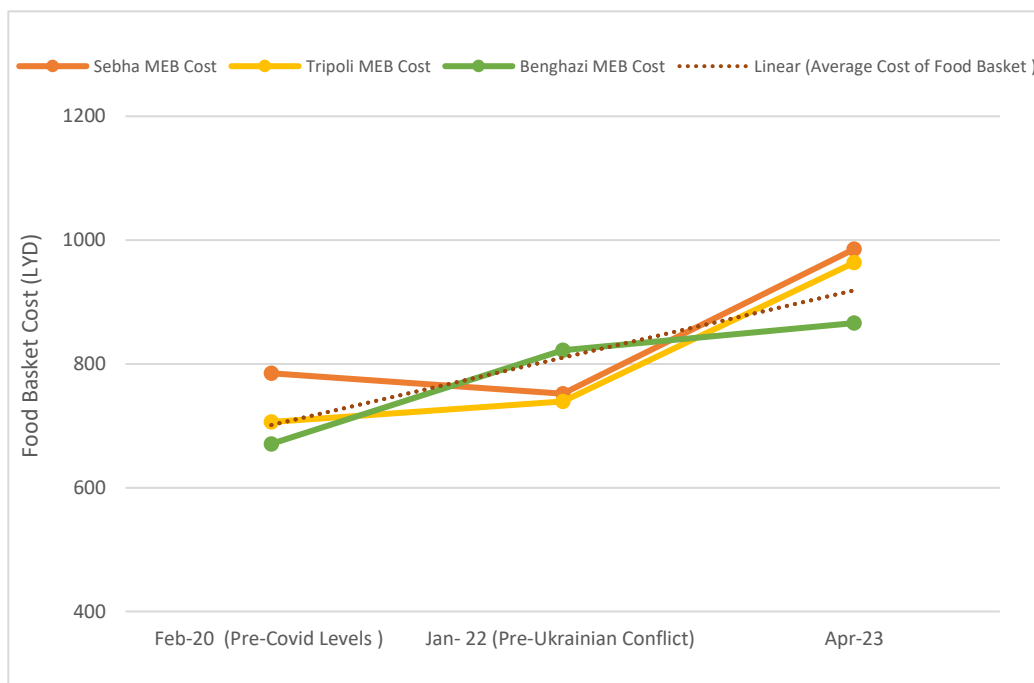


The MEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month. The cost of the MEB is used as a proxy for the financial burden facing households.

The impact of the pandemic, and the Ukrainian conflict continues to contribute to the price evolution across all food groups, figure 1 shows that the median cost of food component of the MEB in monitored municipalities has increased from 625.4 LYD in February 2020 (Pre-Pandemic) to 826.9 LYD most recently in April 2023 (+32% increase since the pandemic) and from 677 LYD in January 2022 (Pre-Ukrainian Conflict) to 826.9 LYD in April 2023 (+22% increase since Ukrainian conflict). This increase is observed to be highest in Sebha municipality in the south (+6% higher than average cost of food basket in April 2023). Cities of southern Libya are the most affected by the high cost of living, this is relatively due to the high imposed transportation fees on imported goods on road check points between south areas, additionally retailers tend to impose high prices on key commodities to prevent smuggling of goods through southern borders, the cost of a basket of basic foods for a family of five for a month ranges between 900-1,000 dinars in the south which weakness household’s purchasing power of essential goods.

Similarly, the cost of food basket in Tripoli municipality in the West has increased from 607.4 LYD in February 2020 (Pre-Pandemic) to 848.9 LYD most recently in April 2023 (+40% increase since the pandemic), and from 638.4 LYD in January 2022 (Pre-Ukrainian Conflict) to 848.9 LYD in April 2023 (+33% increase since Ukrainian conflict). In Benghazi municipality in the East, the cost of the food basket has increased from 614 LYD February 2020 (Pre-Pandemic) to 758.6 LYD in April 2023 (+23% increase since the pandemic) and from 708 LYD to 758.6 LYD in April 2023 (+7% increase since Ukrainian Conflict).

Figure2: Price Evolution Total MEB (Food and Non-Food) Cost (LYD)



The total Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) consists of food and nonfood items including hygiene and pharmaceutical items. Figure 2 shows that the median cost of the MEB in monitored municipalities has increased from 720.7 LYD in February 2020 (Pre-Pandemic) to 938.3 LYD in April 2023 (+30% increase since the pandemic), and from 771 LYD in January 2022 to 938.3 LYD in April 2023 (+22% increase since Ukrainian Conflict)

Food Prices Outlook:

Table1: Average price change in MEB food commodities in Sebha, Tripoli, and Benghazi

Food Basket Components	Price (LYD)	Price Change %		
	Apr-23	% Since March 2023 (Monthly Change)	% Since January 2022 (Pre-Ukrainian Conflict)	% Since February 2020 (Pre-COVID)
Rice (1kg)	4.67	7%	10%	56%
Pasta (500g)	2.69	2%	20%	108%
Couscous (1kg)	6.83	6%	48%	125%
Beans (400g)	2.88	0%	-5%	103%
Chicken (1kg)	13.07	4%	25%	44%
Tuna (200g)	5.70	13%	55%	74%
Eggs (30 eggs)	15.50	1%	4%	31%
Milk (1L)	4.96	14%	10%	43%
Tomatoes (1kg)	2.83	21%	42%	21%
Potatoes (1kg)	3.08	-1%	48%	-3%
Onions (1kg)	3.21	-23%	61%	13%
Peppers (1kg)	4.75	4%	36%	12%
Tomato paste (400g)	4.00	9%	30%	100%
Black tea (250g)	6.75	0%	-4%	32%
Vegetable oil (1L)	9.80	5%	23%	110%
Flour (1kg)	3.13	-7%	-7%	67%
Sugar (1kg)	3.79	0%	-2%	72%
Salt (1kg)	1.29	14%	10%	40%
Food Basket (MEB)	826.90	4%	22%	32%

Table1 shows that the average price of main staple commodities has been witnessing an increase since the previous month (March 2023) and since the onset of the Ukrainian Crisis, and the pre-COVID period, this is especially the case for cereal groups like Couscous which increased by (+48%), and Pasta (+20%) and cooking oils such as vegetable oil (+23% since the Ukrainian conflict). This increase is more significant when compared to pre-COVID levels, the price of vegetable oil has increased by +110%, Flour by +67%, Pasta by +108%, and Couscous by +125%

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