

Introduction

This report provides an update on food basket commodities availability and prices. It covers the period from the 6th to 10th July 2020 and is based on interviews with 333 traders across 19 districts (12 rural and 7 urban). Annexes 1 to 3 explain the trends arrows in the highlights.

Remote monitoring: 87% **Face to face: 13%**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions most of the data collection is virtual. In the current week remote monitoring improved from 83% reported last week to 87% of the total interview. Due to increasing number of COVID 19 cases, partners are starting to revert back to remote monitoring as a precautionary measure.

Economic Update

The week was characterised by generally declining prices in local currency driven by a reduction (appreciation) of the Zimbabwe dollar against stronger currencies on both the formal and informal markets. The Zimbabwean dollar was trading at an average price of **ZWL90.00:1USD** down from **ZWL100:1USD** in the previous week, while the highest bid on the foreign currency exchange auction was **ZWL90.00** and the lowest was **ZWL30.00**. The weighted average was **ZWL\$65.88** an increase from last week's **ZWL63.70**. The amount being traded on the auction system declined by **17%** week-on-week which could point to reduction in cash availability in the country.

The week also saw the central bank announcing a move to have all local payments being routed through ZimSwitch a move that is likely to increase charges when transacting on mobile platforms such as EcoCash and One money. Additionally, the ZSE which was closed in the previous reporting week opened this week, however of note is the absence of Old Mutual on the bourse. Anecdotal evidence points to the fungibility¹ of the company. As the largest trading company on the ZSE (by market capitalisation) this is of grave concern as its expulsion may have detrimental effects on the economy should it be forced to liquidate.

Maize Grain - Availability and Prices

- ◆ Maize grain was only available in two urban districts (Mutare urban and Norton) and one (1) rural district (UMP) during the current reporting week.
- ◆ The price of maize grain in USD in Norton and Mutare Urban was **US\$0.30/kg** which is comparable to last week's price. Compared to last week, the prices recorded in Norton increased slightly by **13%** for bond payments and **14%** for mobile money payments.. The average selling price in local currency for maize grain in Mutare urban district was **ZWL16.70/kg** which is **7%** lower than **ZWL17.80/kg** reported last week. Traders were reportedly not accepting any other form of payment but cash.
- ◆ The current USD price of maize grain in UMP is comparable to the three month average of **US\$0.30/kg** as well as the 2 year average price of **US\$0.29/kg**. The price in local currency was reported to be **ZWL20.90/kg** which is comparable to the price reported in Norton during the same period. The commodity remains scarce on the market with no signs of improvement. Farm gate sales although reported to be the more common trading place for the commodity remain low both in volume and expanse. (See Annex 5 and 6)

Maize Meal - Availability and Prices

Availability and prices of unrefined maize meal were unchanged from last week at **45%** of the markets and being sold at an average price of **ZWL43.80/kg** in rural and urban districts.



¹In economics, fungibility is the property of a good or a commodity whose individual units are essentially interchangeable, and each of its parts is indistinguishable from another part.

Highlights

Maize Grain

Price: **↑** ZWL 20.90/kg
Previous Price: ZWL 18.90/kg
Availability: **↔** 3%

Sugar beans

Price: **↔** ZWL 178.80/kg
Previous price: ZWL 172.80/kg
Availability: **↔** 57%

Maize Meal

Price: **↔** ZWL 43.80/kg
Previous price: ZWL 44.80/kg
Availability: **↔** 45%

Cooking oil

Price: **↓** ZWL 146.70/L
Previous Price: ZWL 166.90/L
Availability: **↔** 93%

Exchange rate: Zimbabwean dollar to USD

Upper rate: ZWL 90.00 Midrate: ZWL 65.88 Lower Rate: ZWL 30.00

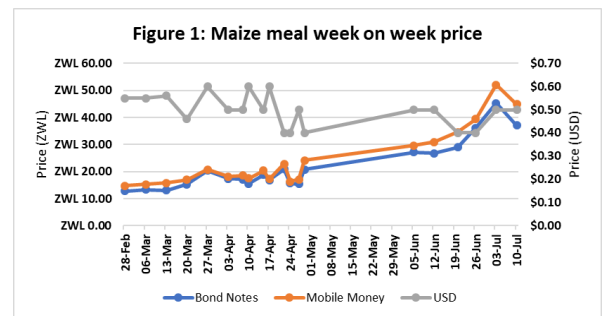
Fuel

Diesel: **↔** ZWL 62.77/US\$1.09 Blend: **↔** ZWL 71.62/US\$1.28

Maize Meal - Availability and Prices

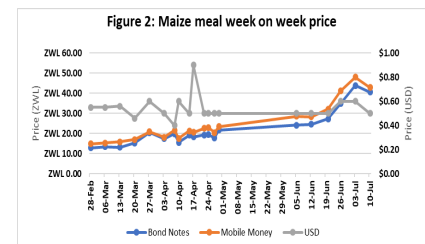
Urban Domains

- ◆ Maize meal was available in **58%** of the monitored markets which is relatively comparable to the **61%** reported last week.
- ◆ There was an **18%** and **14%** reduction in price of maize meal in the current week for mobile and bond note payments (**figure 1**) as a result of a drop in exchange rates.



Rural Districts

- ◆ There was a slight increase (**9%**) in maize meal availability in rural areas, being available in **41%** of the markets monitored.
- ◆ For the same reasons mentioned above, there was a notable decrease in rural maize meal prices. Consumers were paying **7%** and **11%** less for bond note and mobile money payments respectively (**figure 2**). (See annex 5)



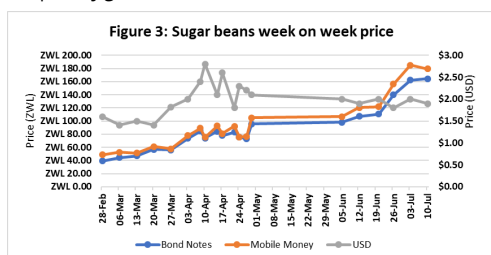


Sugar beans - Availability and Prices

Similar to last week sugar bean was available for sale in **57%** of the markets surveyed. The commodity was retailing at an average price of **ZWL178.80/kg** which is comparable to **ZWL172.80/kg** reported last week.

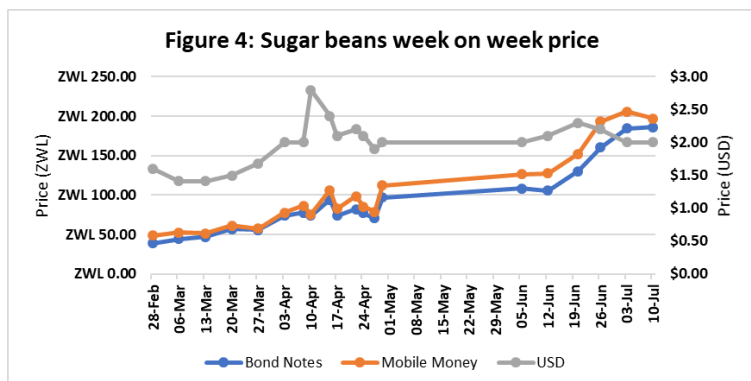
Urban Domains

- ◆ Availability of sugar beans in urban areas improved by **7%** in the current reporting at **69%** of monitored markets. .
- ◆ Week-on-week, the average price of sugar beans is relatively stable from last week's price (**figure 3**). (See annex 10)



Rural Districts

- ◆ Week on week availability and prices of sugar beans in rural areas remained stable and comparable to those recorded last week (**figure 4**). (See annex 9)



Background

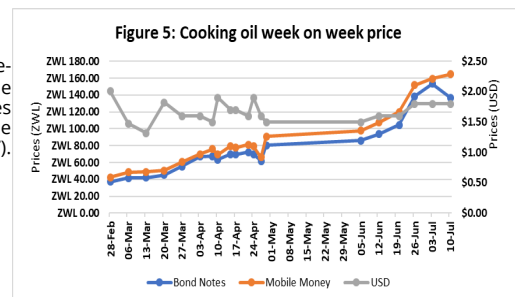
The harmonised weekly market monitoring is being conducted by WFP in partnership with members of the Cash Assistance Working Group (CWG), including World Vision International, CARE, Oxfam, Aquaculture Zimbabwe, Caritas Zimbabwe, Christian Aid, GOAL Zimbabwe, HOCIC, Mercy Corps, IRC, ORAP, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, Action Aid, LEAD, LGDA, CAFOD, AfriCare, CTDO, ADRA, MDTC, Plan International and WeEffect.

Cooking Oil - Availability and Prices

Cooking oil availability has remained relatively stable over the past eight (8) weeks with at least **93%** of the monitored market reporting availability of the commodity this week. Prices took a **12%** dive from the average prices reported last week. This is likely as a result of the appreciation of the Zimbabwe dollar against stronger currencies in the week under review.

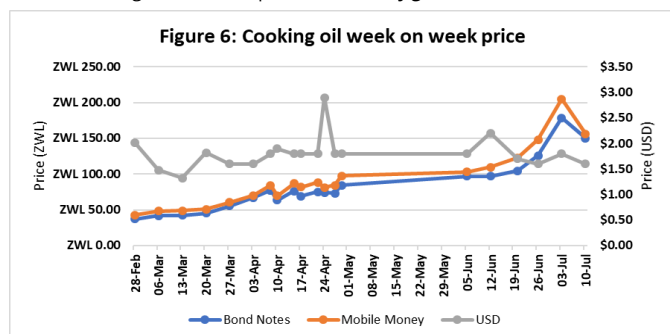
Urban Domains

- ◆ Cooking oil availability in urban areas remained stable being available in **93%** of the markets. This represents a marginal increase of **2%** from availability recorded last week.
- ◆ Bond note prices decreased by **11%** while mobile money prices remained relatively stable week on week (**figure 5**). (See annex 12)



Rural Districts

- ◆ Cooking oil was available in **88%** of the monitored markets slightly down from **91%** reported last week.
- ◆ In rural areas prices decreased by **16%** and **24%** for bond note and mobile money payments respectively. Local currency price changes are likely a result of changes in the exchange rate on the parallel market (**figure 6**). (See annex 11)



Approach

Checking Availability at market level: If any of the interviewed traders in a market reports having sold a commodity within the last week, the commodity is considered available in this market. Availability at country-level (district-level) is calculated as the share of markets with commodity availability across the country (across districts). Missing data indicate that none of the interviewed traders generally trades the commodity.



ANNEXES




Annex 1: Key to food commodity Price trends

 (< 0% Decreasing)  (>= 0% and < 5% Stable)  (>= 5% and < 10% Slight Increase)  (>= 10% Increasing)

Annex 2: Key to food commodity availability trends

 (Decreasing)  (Increasing)

Annex 3: Key to Fuel price and Exchange rates

 (Decreasing)  (Stable)  (Increasing)

ANNEXES

Annex 5 - Table 2: Maize grain Availability and Prices in Rural districts

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Bulilima								
Binga	0%	0%						
Chipinge								
Chiredzi		0%						
Marondera	0%							
Hwange		0%						
Masvingo	0%	0%						
Matobo	0%	0%						
Mbire	0%							
Mount darwin	0%	0%						
Mudzi	0%	0%						
Mutare								
Mwenezi	0%	0%						
Rushinga	0%	0%						
Zvishavane	0%	0%						
Nkayi	0%							
UMP	3%		ZWL 19.40			ZWL 22.20	14%	\$0.40
District average	0%	0%	ZWL 19.40			ZWL 22.20	14%	ZWL 0.40

Annex 6 - Table 2: Maize grain Availability and Prices in Urban districts

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
URBAN DISTRICT								
Bulawayo	0%	0%						
Chiredzi Urban		33%		ZWL 16.70				
Epworth		0%						
Harare Urban		0%						
Hwange urban		0%						
Marondera Urban	0%	0%						
Masvingo Urban	0%	0%						
Mutare Urban	25%	25%	ZWL 16.70	ZWL 17.80	-6%			\$0.30
Norton	38%	31%	ZWL 22.00	ZWL 19.40	13%	ZWL 26.50	20%	\$0.30
Rusape Urban	0%	14%		ZWL 20.00				
Zvishavane Urban	0%							
District average	9%	10%	ZWL 19.35	ZWL 18.48	4%	ZWL 26.50	20%	\$0.30

Annex 7 - Table 4: Maize Meal Availability and Prices in Rural

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Binga	33%	67%	ZWL 57.50	ZWL 49.50	16%			\$0.70
Bulilima								
Chipinge								
Chiredzi		100%		ZWL 30.00				
Hwange		33%		ZWL 40.00				
Mangwe								
Marondera	0%							
Masvingo	40%	17%	ZWL 47.00	ZWL 45.00	4%	ZWL 57.50	22%	\$0.50
Matobo	65%	65%	ZWL 40.30	ZWL 40.20	0%	ZWL 41.00	2%	
Mbire	24%		ZWL 38.30			ZWL 38.50	1%	\$0.40
Mount darwin	0%	19%		ZWL 40.00				
Mudzi	50%	33%	ZWL 51.00	ZWL 61.00	-16%	ZWL 53.00	4%	\$0.60
Mutare								
Mwenezi	69%	0%	ZWL 34.00			ZWL 38.60	14%	\$0.40
Nkayi	39%		ZWL 63.00					\$0.60
Rushinga	0%	0%						
Tsholotsho	62%		ZWL 38.70			ZWL 42.00	9%	\$0.40
Zvishavane	0%	0%						
District average	32%	33%	ZWL 46.23	ZWL 43.67	1%	ZWL 45.10	8%	\$0.51

Annex 8 - Table 3: Maize Meal Availability and Prices in Urban Domains

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
URBAN DISTRICTS								
Bulawayo	66%	61%	ZWL 40.10	ZWL 39.40	2%	ZWL 47.00	17%	\$0.50
Chiredzi Urban		67%		ZWL 45.00				
Epworth		100%						
Harare Urban		50%						
Hwange Urban		100%		ZWL 31.70				
Marondera Urban	14%	50%		ZWL 48.50		ZWL 45.30		\$0.50
Masvingo Urban	50%	80%	ZWL 30.90	ZWL 82.20	-62%	ZWL 33.00	7%	\$0.50
Mutare Urban	100%	100%	ZWL 33.20	ZWL 36.60	-9%	ZWL 44.70	35%	\$0.40
Norton	71%	58%	ZWL 33.60	ZWL 36.90	-9%			\$0.50
Rusape Urban	0%	0%						
Zvishavane Urban	100%		ZWL 46.40					
District average	57%	67%	ZWL 36.84	ZWL 45.76	-20%	ZWL 42.50	20%	\$0.48

Annex 9 - Table 6: Sugar beans Availability and Prices in Rural Districts

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Binga	67%	100%	ZWL 195.00	ZWL 230.00	-15%			\$2.00
Bulilima								
Chipinge								
Chiredzi		0%						
Hwange		67%		ZWL 175.00				
Marondera	100%		ZWL 160.00					\$1.60
Masvingo	80%	100%	ZWL 192.90	ZWL 178.30	8%	ZWL 243.30	26%	\$2.10
Matobo	56%	47%	ZWL 165.10	ZWL 169.80	-3%	ZWL 177.30	7%	
Mbire	20%		ZWL 172.50			185	7%	\$1.80
Mount Darwin	0%	10%		ZWL 150.00				
Mudzi	68%	60%	ZWL 225.00	ZWL 191.10	18%	ZWL 345.00	53%	\$2.30
Mutare								
Mwenezi	85%	57%	ZWL 185.10	ZWL 148.90	24%	ZWL 202.40	9%	\$1.40
Nkayi	92%		ZWL 176.00					\$2.10
Rushinga	100%	71%	ZWL 185.20	ZWL 185.90	0%	ZWL 185.20	0%	\$1.90
UMP	13%		ZWL 136.00			ZWL 162.00	19%	\$1.60
Zvishavane	35%	33%	ZWL 236.70	ZWL 230.00	3%			
District average	60%	54%	ZWL 184.50	ZWL 184.33	5%	ZWL 214.31	18%	\$1.87

Annex 10 -Table 6: Sugar beans Availability and Prices in Urban Districts

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
URBAN DISTRICT								
Bulawayo	81%	80%	ZWL 171.60	ZWL 171.90	0%	ZWL 183.40	7%	\$1.90
Chiredzi Urban		67%		ZWL 140.90				
Epworth		25%						
Harare Urban		0%						
Hwange Urban		100%		ZWL 141.00				
Marondera Urban	71%	50%	ZWL 118.70	ZWL 155.00	-23%	ZWL 138.70	17%	\$1.00
Masvingo Urban	83%	90%	ZWL 191.60	ZWL 177.10	8%	ZWL 191.60	0%	\$2.20
Mutare Urban	50%	75%	ZWL 165.00	ZWL 144.70	14%	ZWL 130.00	-21%	\$2.00
Norton	58%	42%	ZWL 148.50	ZWL 162.70	-9%	ZWL 192.30	29%	\$2.10
Rusape Urban	29%	43%	ZWL 142.40	ZWL 101.30	41%	ZWL 142.40	0%	\$2.20
Zvishavane Urban	100%		ZWL 205.30					
District average	68%	57%	ZWL 163.30	ZWL 149.33	5%	ZWL 163.07	5%	\$1.90

Annex 11 - Table 8: Cooking oil Availability and Prices in Rural Districts

District	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
RURAL DISTRICTS								
Binga	100%	100%	ZWL 235.00	ZWL 286.70	-18%	ZWL 260.00	11%	\$2.30
Bulilima								
Chipinge								
Chiredzi		100%		ZWL 105.00				
Hwange		100%		ZWL 137.00				
Mangwe								
Marondera	100%		ZWL 150.00			ZWL 173.90	16%	\$1.30
Masvingo	100%	100%	ZWL 148.20			ZWL 143.30	-3%	\$1.60
Matobo	94%	97%	ZWL 135.90	ZWL 144.90	-6%	ZWL 172.40	27%	
Mbire	100%		ZWL 179.90			ZWL 122.50	-32%	\$1.80
Mount darwin	57%	52%	ZWL 128.00	ZWL 120.00	7%	ZWL 161.30	26%	\$1.60
Mudzi	100%	80%	ZWL 153.60	ZWL 201.70	-24%			\$1.50
Mutare								
Mwenezi	95%	96%	ZWL 145.30	ZWL 205.30	-29%	ZWL 153.60	6%	\$1.50
Nkayi	100%		ZWL 172.70					\$1.90
Rushinga	100%	100%	ZWL 145.40	ZWL 251.30	-42%	ZWL 140.50	-3%	\$1.50
UMP	95%		ZWL 133.50			ZWL 161.40	21%	\$1.40
Zvishavane	88%	83%	ZWL 152.90	ZWL 154.00	-1%			
District average	94%	91%	ZWL 156.70	ZWL 178.43	-16%	ZWL 165.43	7%	\$1.64

Annex 12 - Table 8: Cooking oil Availability and Prices in Urban Districts

Districts	Availability		Prices					
	Availability current week	Availability previous week	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar
URBAN DISTRICTS								
Bulawayo	97%	96%	ZWL 147.40	ZWL 181.80	-19%	ZWL 169.70	15%	\$1.90
Chiredzi Urban		67%		ZWL 136.00				
Epworth		100%						
Harare Urban		100%						
Hwange Urban		0%						
Marondera urban	100%	88%	ZWL 111.00	ZWL 140.20	-21%	ZWL 109.80	-1%	\$1.50
Masvingo Urban	83%	100%	ZWL 149.80	ZWL 165.40	-9%	ZWL 177.00	18%	\$1.60
Mutare Urban	100%	100%	ZWL 127.50	ZWL 121.20	5%	ZWL 137.50	8%	\$1.50
Norton	83%	81%	ZWL 126.10	ZWL 108.00	17%	ZWL 178.60	42%	\$1.80
Rusape Urban	100%	86%	ZWL 135.90	ZWL 141.20	-4%	ZWL 150.50	11%	\$1.70
Zvishavane Urban	100%		ZWL 138.70					
District average	94%	82%	ZWL 133.77	ZWL 141.97	-5%	ZWL 153.85	15%	\$1.67