



#### Maize Grain

Price: ↔ ZWL 6.09/kg

Availability: ↑ 10 %

#### Maize Meal

Price: ↑ ZWL10.84/kg

Availability: ↑ 60 %

#### Sugar beans

Price: ↑ ZWL39/kg

Availability: ↓ 58 %

#### Vegetable oil

Price: ↓ ZWL30.21/litre

Availability: ↑ 99 %

## Introduction

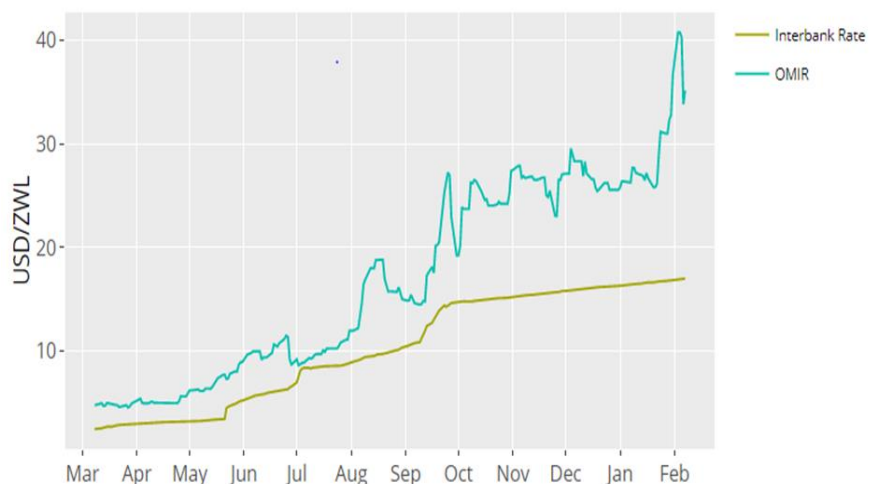
This weekly report outlines commodity availability and price fluctuations within the context of a deteriorating macro-economic environment and depressed domestic production levels. It aims to provide early warning indications of possible market changes likely to impact directly on vulnerable households or humanitarian programmes. It covers the period from the **3rd to 7<sup>th</sup> of February** and is based on interviews with **1056 traders** in **202 markets** across **45 rural and urban districts**<sup>1</sup>.

## Economic Conditions

The Zimbabwean RTGS Dollar continues its slow but steady loss of value, closing at **USD/ZWL 17.013 on 7<sup>th</sup> February, losing 1.2 percent of its value**, week-on-week, according to the Interbank rate. Measured via the Old Mutual Implied Rate (OMIR)<sup>2</sup> the currency marginally gained by 4 percent during the last week ( [Figure 1](#) )

Fuel prices remain at the same level as set by the energy regulatory authority on 17<sup>th</sup> January. Shortages are still prevalent in most parts of the country, affecting business and contributing to high production cost thus high prices.

Figure 1: Exchange rate, Zimbabwean RTGS Dollar per USD



Source: trading economics, <https://omir.today>

World Food Programme Zimbabwe

Eddie Rowe, Representative and Country Director

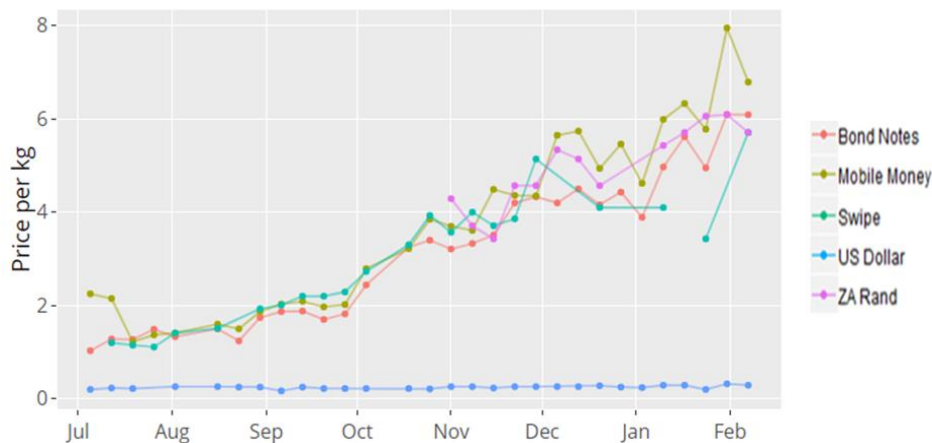
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<sup>1</sup> The harmonised weekly market monitoring is being conducted by WFP in partnership with members of the Cash Assistance Working group including World Vision International, CARE, Oxfam, Aquaculture Zimbabwe, Caritas Zimbabwe, Christian Aid, GOAL Zimbabwe, HOCIC, Mercy Corps, IRC, ORAP, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, Action Aid, LEAD, LGDA, CAFOD, AfriCare, CTDO, ADRA, MDTC, Plan International and WeEffect.

<sup>2</sup> Zimbabwe's RTGS dollar officially floats against other international currencies on the Interbank Foreign Exchange Market, on a willing seller-willing-buyer basis. However, a significant amount of transactions happens outside the official market, at an unofficial exchange rate. One of the few gauges of the Zimbabwe exchange rate is the so-called 'Old Mutual Implied Rate', a comparison of the price of shares of insurer Old Mutual Limited in London and Harare.

## Maize grain – availability<sup>3</sup> and prices

Figure 2: Price per kg of maize grain in different payment modalities

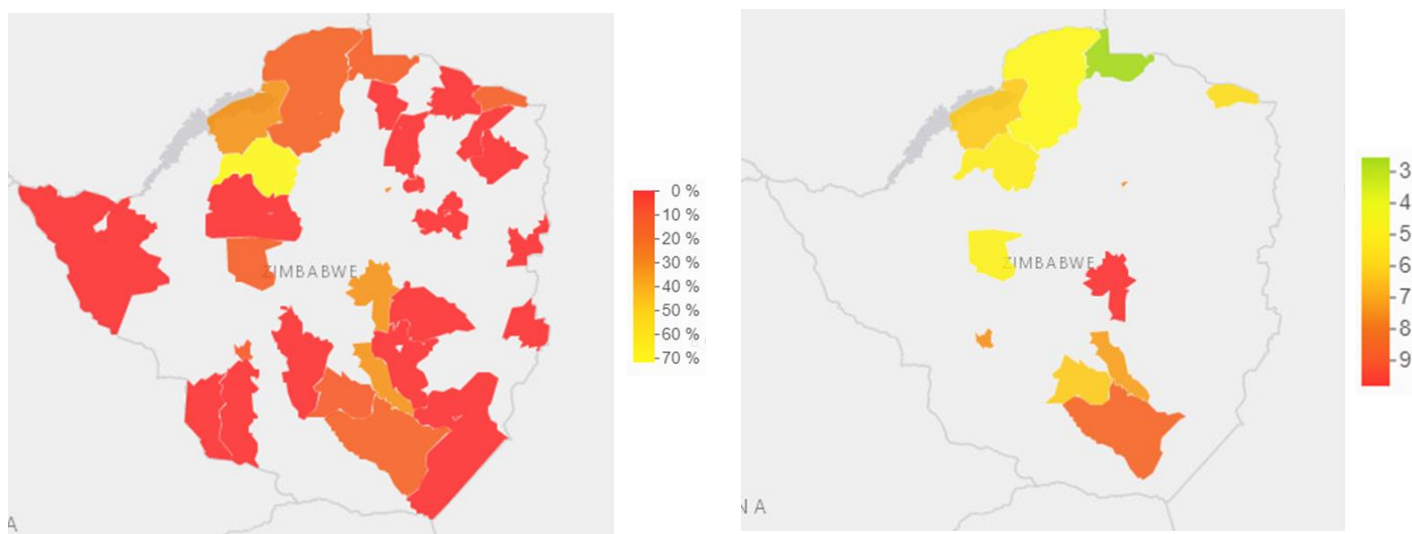


Maize grain is still scarce in Zimbabwe; only 10 percent of the monitored markets reported that they had grain stocks. This is a slight increase from the seven percent reported last week (Figure 2). Imports are still low, as a result of the continued poor supply of foreign currency in the country. Concerns remain that informal trading is prevalent, possibly contributing to increased prices; a matter which requires further research.

The highest prices were reported in Chirumhanzu district (ZWL 9.8/kg); Mwenezi (ZWL 8.75/kg) and Bulawayo (ZWL 7.43/kg) districts which also recorded high prices in previous weeks (Table 1). This is likely to reflect the current associated cost of marketing grain in these cereal deficit districts, as their primary source markets are further away. Mbire district reported the lowest average prices of about ZWL 2.57/kg (Figure 2)

Notes: Prices are country-wide averages across monitored markets whenever a price in the respective modality is reported.

Figure 3: Maize grain availability (left) and price in Bond Notes per kg (right)

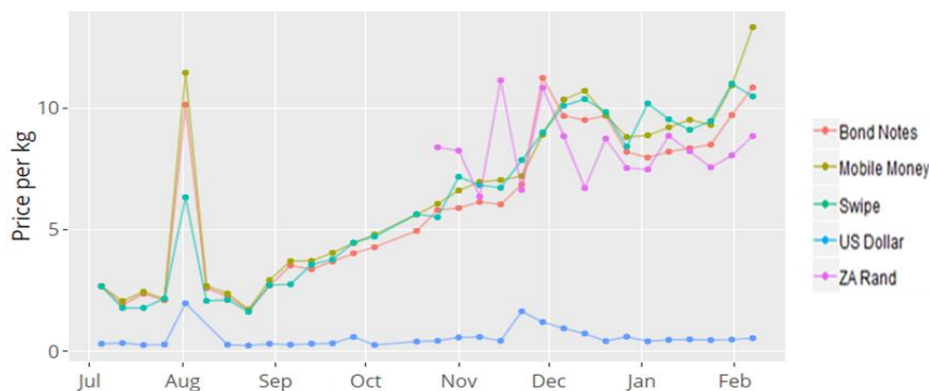


Notes: Monitored districts where no maize grain trader was interviewed are shown in dark red. No data has been collected in the light grey districts.

<sup>3</sup> 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 interviewees generally trades the commodity.

# Maize meal – availability and prices

Figure 4: Price per kg of maize meal in different payment modalities

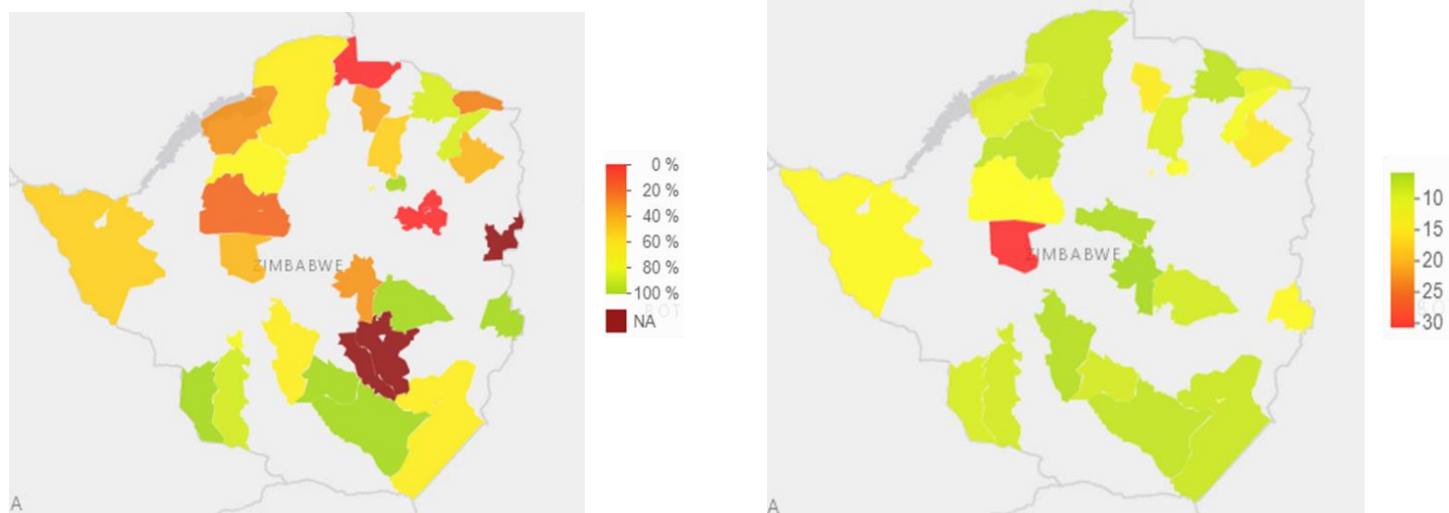


Notes: Prices are country-wide averages across monitored markets whenever a price in the respective modality is reported.

This could be attributed to the different brands and originating source of the maize meal expecting good quality maize meal and imported brands from neighbouring countries to be highly priced in local currency.

**Maize meal trade remains relatively stable across Zimbabwe;** 60 percent of all the surveyed rural and urban districts, had maize meal available on the markets. Availability varied across districts; some districts had markets which reported 100 percent availability, these include Mangwe, Gutu, Mberegwa, Mwenezi and Chimanimani. However, in Mbire and Marondera districts, there was no surveyed market in which traders reported to have maize meal stocks, in Gokwe South, only 20 percent of markets had maize meal and 29 percent in Rushinga. Markets in these districts also reported poor distribution of the available maize meal (Figure 5).

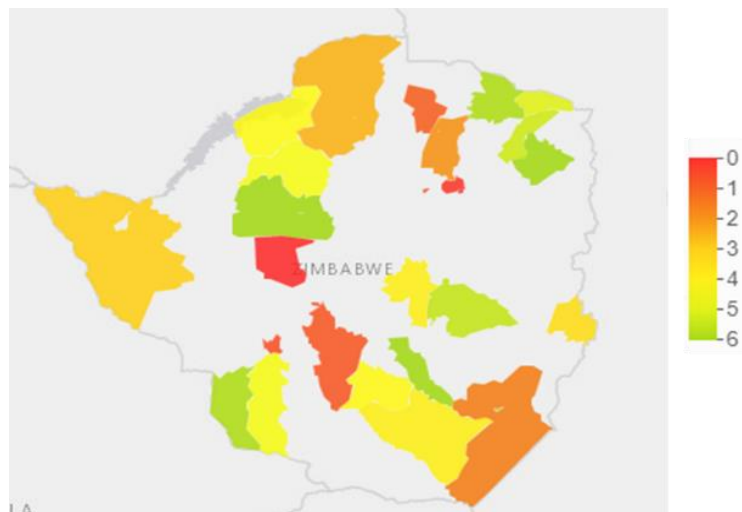
Figure 5: Maize meal availability (left) and price in Bond Notes per kg (right)



Notes: Monitored districts where no maize meal trader was interviewed are shown in dark red. No data has been collected in the light grey districts.

The national average price – per kilogram in bond notes – slightly increased, week on week, from ZWL 9.70 to ZWL 10.84; which can be partly attributed to price controls of the commodity by the government. There was price stability in purchases made using the USD (Figure 4). Prices at the districts level widely varied; for instance, out of the survey, the highest price was ZWL30/kg in Nkayi district and the lowest price – for the second consecutive week - was ZWL 5.94/kg in Chirumhanzu district (Table 2).

Figure 6: Maize market situation according to trader experience<sup>4</sup>



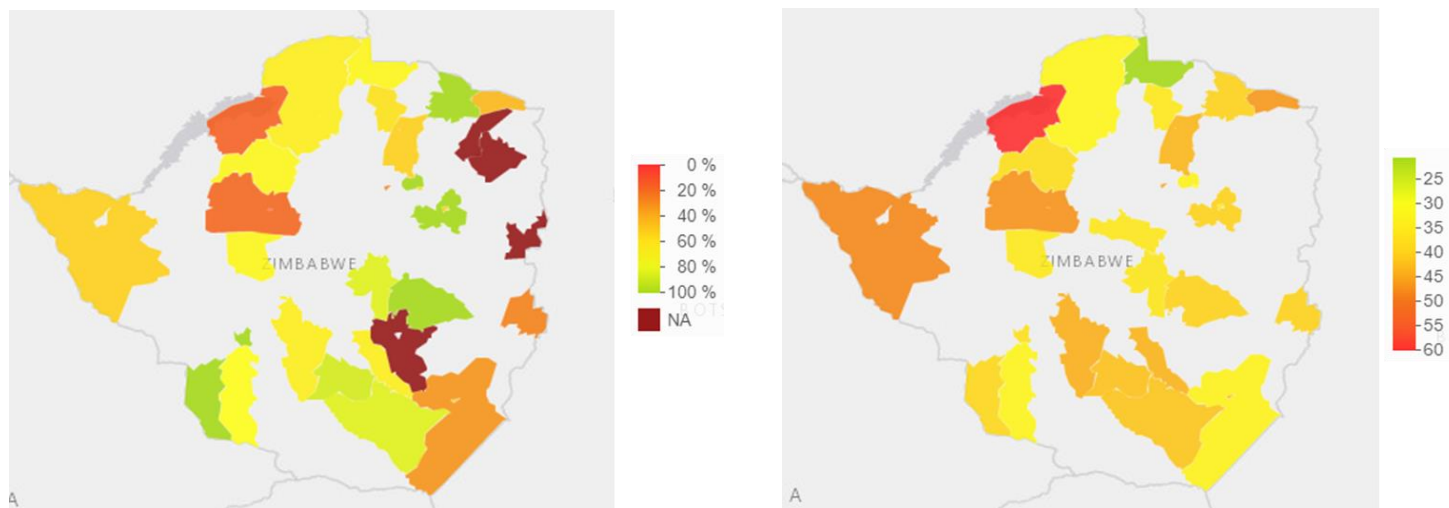
The trader experience indicator<sup>4</sup> highlights potential and actual low supply issues. This was the case in such districts as Harare, Norton, Bulawayo, Nkayi, Giruve, Insinza, and Chiredzi. Enumerators highlighted low demand and rising prices as contributory factors. (Figure 6).

Notes: A higher score indicates a better supply situation.

## Sugar beans – availability and prices

**Sugar beans availability has steadily decreased in the last three weeks;** Fifty eight percent of the monitored markets had traders who reported that they had stocked and are selling the commodity; this was about 4 percentage points, below the previous week (Figure 7). Variations in availability were recorded across the districts; Harare, Bulawayo, Mangwe, Gutu, Marondera and Mt. Darwin districts reported 100 percent availability. The lowest availability was reported in Kariba (17 percent of the monitored markets) and Gokwe south (20 percent of monitored markets)

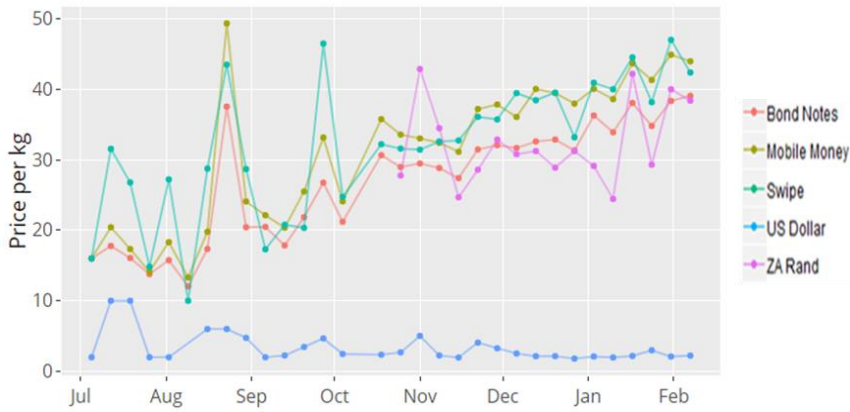
Figure 7: Sugar bean availability (left) and price in Bond Notes per kg (right)



Notes: Monitored districts where no sugar bean trader was interviewed are shown in dark red. No data has been collected in light grey districts.

<sup>4</sup> The trader experience score is based on a sequence of questions (Over the past week, were you ever worried that you would not be able to find enough maize grain or maize meal because of lack of supply? Last time you went to restock, did you have to move further out than your usual zone to find adequate supplies? Last time you went to restock, were you unable to find the type or brand of maize meal or the quality of maize grain that you were looking for because of lack of supply? Last time you went to restock, were you ever unable to find the volume of maize grain or maize meal that you wanted to source because of lack of supply? Over the past week, did you ever fail to meet customer demand for maize meal/maize grain because of lack of supply? Over the past week was there a time when your shop ran out of stock for maize meal/maize grain because of lack of supply?). Answering ‘yes’ to more of these is associated with an increasingly difficult supply situation for maize grain and meal. The score is calculated as the number of ‘no’ answers and ranges from zero (no availability) to six (good availability).

Figure 8: Price per kg of sugar beans in different payment modalities

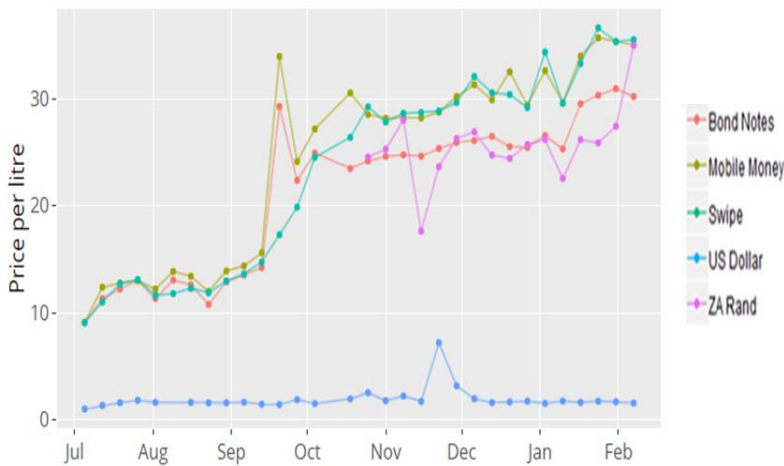


The national average price for sugar beans increased by about two percent, from the ZWL 38.34 per kilogram for Bond Notes – reported the previous week – to the current ZWL 39.06 per kilogram see **figure 8**. Districts driving the price increase were Kariba (ZWL 60/kg); Goromozi (ZWL 56/kg); Hwange (ZWL 48/kg) and Buhera district (ZWL 40/kg). (**Table 3**). Lowest prices were recorded in Mbire (ZWL 21/kg) and Rusape (ZWL 24/kg) districts.

Notes: Prices are country-wide averages across monitored markets whenever a price in the respective modality is reported.

## Cooking oil – availability and prices

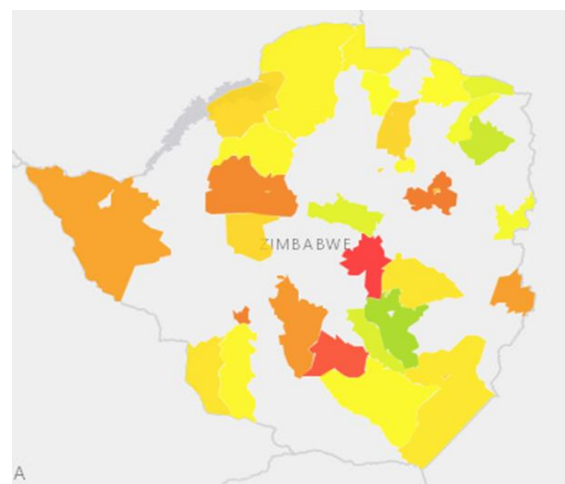
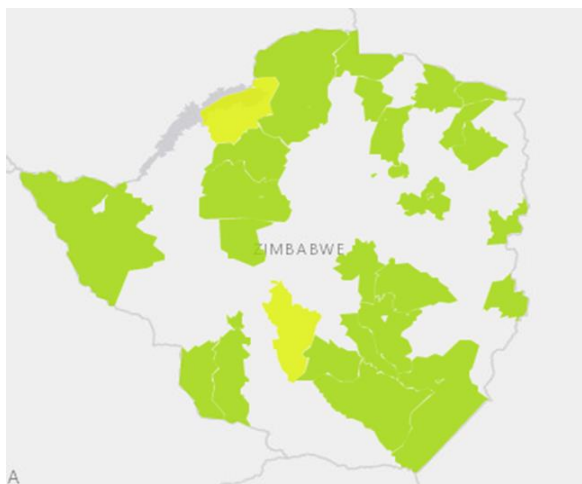
Figure 9: Price per litre of cooking oil in different payment modalities



Cooking oil was generally available in all monitored markets; maintaining the trend reported in previous weeks. The national average cooking oil price per litre remained stable at ZWL 30.21 per litre compared to the ZWL 30.94 per litre for Bond Notes – reported the previous week (**Figure 9**). Despite the high availability, 15 out of the 45 monitored districts, recorded average prices above ZWL 30 per Litre (**Figure 10**); typically, most of these districts are in the southern parts of the country, that mainly rely on cooking oil from neighbouring countries and the product is charged in foreign currency.

Figure 10: Cooking oil availability (left) and price in Bond Notes per litre (right)

Notes: Prices are country-wide averages across monitored markets whenever a price in the respective modality is reported.



Notes: No data has been collected in light grey districts.

## Tables

**Table 1: Maize grain prices by district**

District	Prices (per kg)							
	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond change (%) from previous week	Notes (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar	ZA Rand
Bulawayo	7.43	7.43						
Chirumhanzu	9.79	4.57	114.06%					
Chivi	7.14				10.00	40.00%		5.71
Gokwe North	5.06	4.88	3.49%		5.87	16.10%	0.25	
Goromonzi	5.14				5.71	11.11%	0.34	
Hurungwe	4.57				5.71	25.00%	0.23	
Kariba	6.29				6.86	9.09%		
Mberengwa	6.29	5.71	10.00%		7.43	18.18%		
Mbire	2.57				3.43	33.33%		
Mwenezi	8.57	6.29	36.36%					5.71
Nkayi	4.86							
Norton	7.71	4.64	66.15%				0.37	
Rushinga	5.71	6.17	-7.41%		8.00	40.00%	0.29	
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>6.24</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>37.11%</b>		<b>6.47</b>	<b>13.13%</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>5.71</b>

**Table 2: Maize meal prices by district**

District	Prices (per kg)							
	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond change (%) from previous week	Notes (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar	ZA Rand
Bindura	10.25				12.5	21.95%		
Bulawayo	8.93	7.51	18.95%		9.7	8.66%		11
Bulilima	8.83	9.75	-9.35%					7.46
Chikomba	8.5						0.5	
Chimanimani	12.71				14.64	15.17%		
Chiredzi	8.36	7.95	5.09%		9.52	13.86%		7.25
Chiredzi Urban	14.75	10.81	36.4%		14.75			
Chirumhanzu	5.94	6.5	-8.65%		6.83	15.09%		
Epworth	12.14	9.28	30.8%		12.67	4.35%		
Gokwe North	7.68	7.59	1.23%		8.14	5.96%	0.41	
Gokwe South	12.11	23.19	-47.78%		12.11			
Gokwe South Urban	18.62				18.62			
Goromonzi	9.5				9.5		0.6	
Guruve	14.5				14.75	1.72%	0.75	
Gutu	9				9.25	2.78%	0.57	9
Harare	11.94	10.41	14.73%		14.75	23.5%		
Hurungwe	8.38	7.83	6.91%		10.73	28.16%		
Hwange	12.67	10.55	20.06%		13	2.63%		
Insiza	6.82	8.83	-22.83%		10.5	54.03%	0.8	10.25
Kariba	10				13.12	31.25%		

Mangwe	9.4	7.39	27.2%				7.51
Matobo	8.94	9.36	-4.5%	10.59	18.54%	0.59	8.97
Mazowe	10	8.61	16.13%	14	40%	0.56	
Mberengwa	9	8.36	7.6%	10.37	15.24%		
Mhondoro-Ngezi	6.5			7	7.69%	0.4	
Mount Darwin	7.56	7.61	-0.66%	10.05	32.91%		
Mutare Urban	11.5						
Mutoko	14.89	8.57	73.8%	15.83	6.34%	0.78	
Mwenezi	7.72	7.51	2.77%	9.37	21.31%	0.4	6.83
Nkayi	30.6						
Norton	12.1	9.89	22.36%	14	15.7%		
Rusape	7.75			9	16.13%		
Rushinga	10.68	7.88	35.56%	16.7	56.49%	0.55	
Shurugwi	8.25			9	9.09%	0.5	
Tsholotsho	8						8.12
UMP	11.54	11.56	-0.13%	15.5	34.3%	0.6	
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>8.40</b>	<b>4.90%</b>	<b>11.59</b>	<b>14.91%</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>8.57</b>

**Table 3: Sugar Beans prices by district**

District	Prices (per kg)						
	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar	ZA Rand
Bindura	39			50.87	30.43%		
Bulawayo	37.12	35.03	5.96%	40.2	8.32%		42
Bulilima	41.33	42.16	-1.96%				37.33
Chimanimani	40			44	10%		
Chiredzi	33	32.22	2.41%	43.33	31.31%		32
Chiredzi Urban	44.59	38.8	14.92%	44.59			
Chirumhanzu	35.56	38.07	-6.58%				
Chivi	43.5						35
Epworth	30.5	40.3	-24.32%				
Gokwe North	37.28	39.82	-6.37%	40.82	9.49%	2.04	
Gokwe South	46.98	51.06	-8%	46.98			
Goromonzi	56			56		3	
Guruve	35.15			41.9	19.2%	1.92	
Gutu	40			44	10%	2	40
Harare	32.8	37	-11.35%				
Hurungwe	32.25	44	-26.7%	36.75	13.95%		
Hwange	48	44.28	8.4%	58	20.83%		
Insiza	44	39	12.82%			2.7	44
Kariba	60			77	28.33%	2.5	
Mangwe	38.6	33.09	16.65%	43.33	12.25%		32.84
Marondera	40	43	-6.98%	40			
Marondera Urban	35			40	14.29%		
Matobo	32.38	33.94	-4.61%	42.35	30.78%	2.1	33.56
Mazowe	43.2	23.5	83.83%	60.8	40.74%	2.4	
Mberengwa	41.94	38.42	9.15%	44.89	7.03%		

Mbire	20.7	44	-52.95%	25.2	21.74%	1.3	
Mhondoro-Ngezi	35.42	31.69	11.77%	52.65	48.66%	2.4	
Mount Darwin	40.05	32.17	24.5%	51.88	29.55%		
Mutare Urban	46.98			46.98			
Mwenezi	41.63	30.83	35.03%	56.61	35.98%	1.93	36.48
Nkayi	35.03			42	19.89%		
Norton	45.49	36.36	25.12%	51.49	13.19%		
Rusape	23.98			23.98			
Rushinga	46.44	37.78	22.94%	66.53	43.25%	2.07	
Shurugwi	34			45	32.35%	1.3	
Tsholotsho	42			47.33	12.7%		38.71
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>39.44</b>	<b>37.67</b>	<b>5.38%</b>	<b>45.90</b>	<b>18.73%</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>37.19</b>

**Table 4: Cooking oil prices by district**

District	Prices (per kg)						
	Bond Notes current week	Bond Notes previous week	Bond Notes change (%) from previous week	Mobile Money	Mobile Money Premium (%)	US Dollar	ZA Rand
Bindura	37.74			43.51	15.28%		
Bulawayo	34.74	37.27	-6.78%	37.7	8.5%		33.25
Bulilima	31.33	29.79	5.16%				26.5
Chikomba	32.5			35.88	10.38%	1.75	
Chimanimani	33.41			37.48	12.18%		
Chiredzi	28.66	25.4	12.83%	29.82	4.03		25.18
Chiredzi Urban	31.31	31.69	-1.2%	31.62	1%		
Chirumhanzu	39.07	34.27	14%	43.8	12.09%		53.33
Chivi	24.97			29.19	16.88%		23.08
Epworth	27.63	31	-10.88%	32.88	18.99%		
Gokwe North	27.34	25.61	6.75%	32.49	18.86%	1.55	
Gokwe South	34.44	32.63	5.56%	43.09	25.11%		
Gokwe South Urban	30.76						
Goromonzi	33.5			33.5		1.75	
Guruve	26.61	28.08	-5.24%	34.26	28.75%	1.43	
Gutu	29			35.33	21.84%	1.82	28.88
Harare	26.99	35.21	-23.33%	31.4	16.32%		
Hurungwe	27.44	26.84	2.25%	32.62	18.87%	1.48	
Hwange	33.12	34.67	-4.44%				
Hwedza	26.25	23.5	11.7%	28.25	7.62%	1.5	
Insiza	33.75	30.11	12.09%			1.67	31.42
Kariba	30.06			35.82	19.15%	1.76	
Mangwe	29.07	30.83	-5.7%	30.62	5.34%		25.31
Marondera	35	36.95	-5.29%	35			
Marondera Urban	31.69			34.06	7.5%		
Masvingo	22.5	28.5	-21.05%				20
Matobo	27.19	26.48	2.67%	37.51	37.96%	1.8	26.96
Mazowe	30.57	25.84	18.29%	46.63	52.56%	1.42	
Mberengwa	37.96	34.08	11.37%	44.62	17.57%		
Mbire	27.47	29.73	-7.6%	34.81	26.72%	1.75	
Mhondoro-Ngezi	25.26	27.11	-6.8%	30.99	22.66%	1.5	



Mount Darwin	26.87	25.57	5.1%	37.03	37.81%		
Mutare Urban	30.42			32.92	8.21%		
Mutasa	26.25	42.3	-37.94%	32.25	22.86%	1.5	
Mutoko	24.1	24.46	-1.47%	28.22	17.09%	1.5	
Mvurwi	25.89	24.5	5.66%	34.41	32.92%	1.42	
Mwenezi	27.04	26.24	3.05%	31.24	15.53%	1.38	25.06
Nkayi	30.37			36.15	19.03%		
Norton	30.01	29.61	1.37%	40.88	36.21%	1.3	
Rusape	28.57			33.07	15.75%	1.5	
Rushinga	25.49	24.55	3.84%	31.22	22.47%	1.48	
Shurugwi	27.2			32.02	17.7%	1.45	
Tsholotsho	36.36			47.39	30.32%		36.44
UMP	26.21	25.49	2.85%	32.25	23.03%	1.5	
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>29.82</b>	<b>29.61</b>	<b>-0.44%</b>	<b>34.95</b>	<b>17.99%</b>	<b>1.56</b>	<b>29.62</b>