

Market Monitor Report

MAF | GDS | WFP RAM | Food Security Analysis

Timor-Leste | Week 27/28 2021 (5th-18th July)

Highlights

- Local rice supply continues to improve seasonally as harvests continue in several municipalities. As such on the back of relatively above average harvest, a further weakening or stable grain prices are expected in a couple of weeks.
- Seasonal demand for local rice on the local market remains low. As institutional purchases from National Logistic Centre (NLC) are yet to peak and Cesta Basika has just been completed. In addition, farming households have become less reliant on local markets and now turn to consumption from their own production.
- Price of imported rice continue to trend above last year's level but on a downward course.

Retail price trend of

Since end-March, local rice grain prices have reverted to a downward trend. National average price in week 27 & 28 was at US\$ 1.29 per kilogram on the local markets. At this level, grain prices are 2 percent lower than the same time last month and 8 percent lower than the same time last year. Across the monitored markets, prices ranged from US\$ 0.97 to US\$ 1.62 per kilogram (Map 1).

During the week under review, imported rice prices averaged US\$ 0.58 per kilogram, almost the same as observed in the previous fortnight. The current national average prices continue to trend above their respective 2020 levels but remain on a downward course.

Fig. 1: Price trend of local rice (US\$/kg)

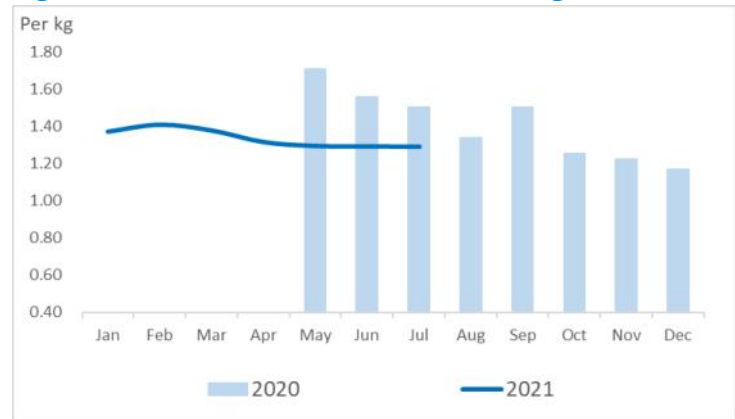


Fig. 2: Price trend of imported rice (US\$/kg)



At municipal level, the prices ranged from US\$ 0.54 to US\$ 0.65 per kilogram with relatively lower prices in the capital Dili due to lower transmission costs as the hub for dispatch to the rest of the municipalities.

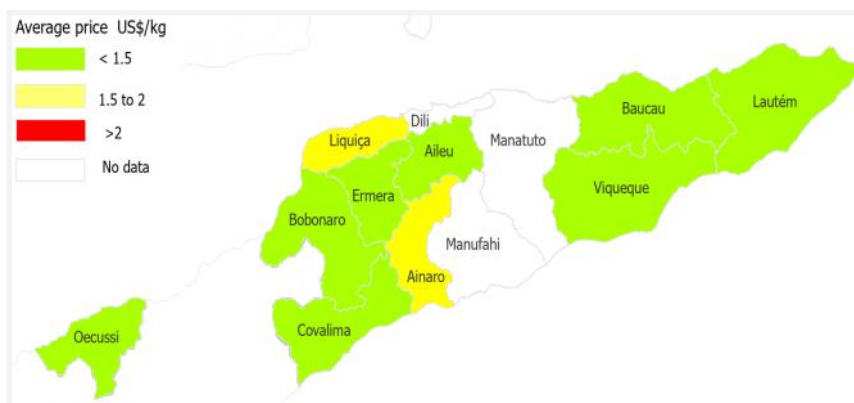
On the international market, the FAO ALL Rice Index (2014-2016) continued to decrease since March reaching 101.2 points in July 2021. This may signal a good moment to import as the Index curve is on a downward trajectory.

Maize prices continue to remain relatively stable amid domestic availabilities; and the price of wheat flour also remains subdued.

Retail price trend of non-cereals

During the week under review, the price of non-cereals had mixed observations. Compared to a fortnight ago, notable increases were observed for beans, onion, vegetable oil and Chili; decreases for sweet potatoes (US\$ 0.93/kg), potatoes (US\$ 1.29 /kg), Tomatoes (US\$1.75/ kg); and prices were subdued for taro, chicken, salt, sugar, cooking oil, and beans (Table 1).

Map. 1. Average price of local rice (US\$/kg)



Map. 2: Average price of imported rice (US\$/kg)



Table. 1: Price trend for non-cereals (US\$/

	Current Price	% Change from previous period		
	US\$/kg	2 W	1 M	1 Y
Sweet Potato	0.93	↓ -3	↓ -4	↓ -26
Potato	1.29	↓ -3	↑ 4.0	↑ 16
Taro	0.85	↓ -1	↓ -6	↓ -22
Beans	2.35	↑ 4	↑ 4	↑ 16
Egg	0.18	↓ -2	↑ 6	↑ 6
Chicken	3.04	↑ 1	↓ -20	↓ -5
Tomato	1.79	↓ -4	↓ -5.8	↑ 3
Onion	2.55	↑ 6	↑ 14	↓ -14
Cooking Oil	1.25	↑ 4	↑ 2	↑ 16
Chili	3.45	↑ 4	↓ -1	↑ 4
Sugar	0.98	↑ 1	↑ 1	↑ 4
Salt	0.60	↑ 1	↑ 1	↑ 2



Open market-Oecusse



Open Market-Ainaro



Open Market-Oecusse



Open market-Aileu

Methodology : To monitor the impact of COVID-19 on market prices, WFP in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the General Directorate of Statistics collect food price data on a weekly basis across the country's main markets from 12 municipalities (Ainaro, Aileu, Bobonaro, Baucau, Dili, Ermera, Lautem, Liquica, Manatuto, Viqueque, Covalima and Oecusse). On average, around 6 traders per market are surveyed, targeted food commodities weighed, and its price averaged per kilogram. Imported rice price are based on the most consumed brand per retailers.

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