



The Food Price Monitor: Kenya is a monthly report developed for the Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by IFPRI, with the goal of providing clear and accurate information on commodity price trends and variations in selected markets throughout Kenya. The reports are intended as a resource for those interested in agricultural commodity markets in Kenya, namely producers, traders, consumers, or other agricultural stakeholders.

Highlights

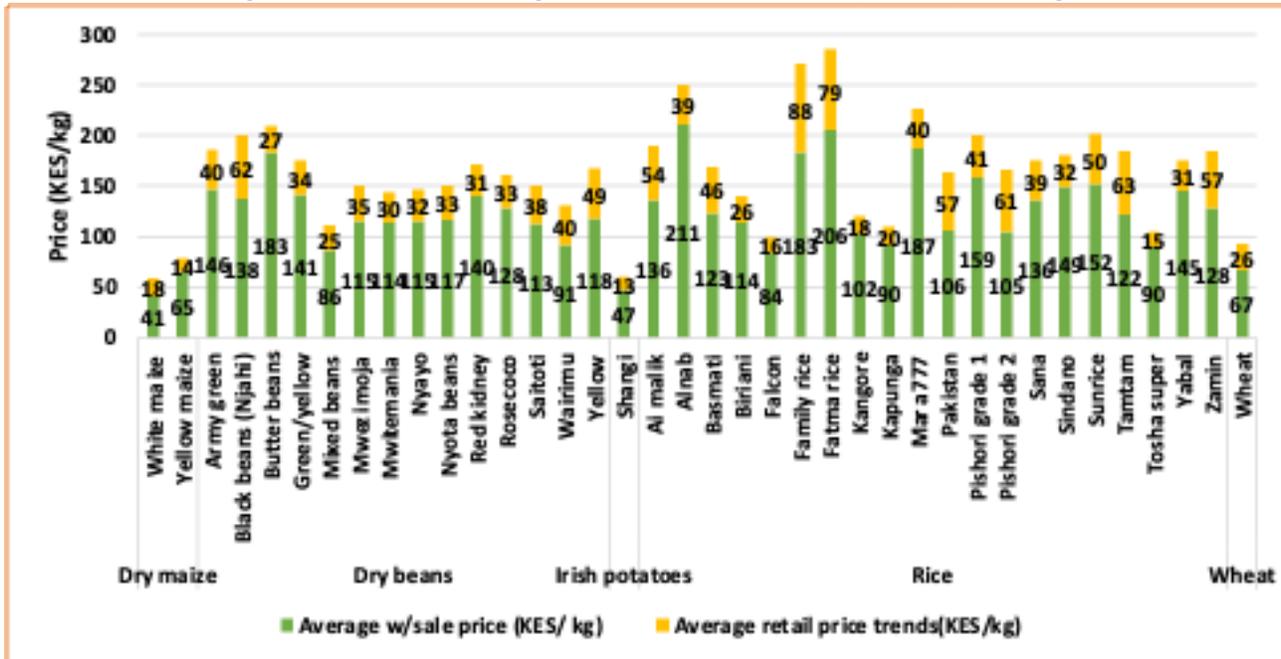
- ▶ Dry maize prices dropped in February 2025 due to a bumper harvest towards the end of last year, oversupply, reduced export demand, and increased imports.
- ▶ Bean prices remained high in Nairobi due to its large population and lack of local production.
- ▶ Irish potato prices increased in densely populated areas due to high demand, perishability, middlemen influence, and rising transport costs.
- ▶ Rice prices remain high due to import reliance, limited local production, growing demand, supply chain inefficiencies, transportation costs, taxes, and global price fluctuations.
- ▶ Dry wheat prices rose in some regions due to high demand, limited supply, transport and storage costs, middlemen influence, milling expenses, and inflation.
- ▶ Overall, price fluctuations were influenced by supply-demand shifts, fuel and transport costs, market inefficiencies, intermediaries, seasonal variations, market speculation, harvest timing, storage issues, and regional trade dynamics.

Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for February

In February 2025, Figure 1 illustrates the average wholesale and retail prices of maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat across major markets in Kenya. Some commodities, such as yellow dry maize, dry beans (Butter, Green Yellow, and Red Kidney), and rice (Alnab, Biriani, Falcon, Kangore, Kapunga, and Mara 777), exhibited price differentials ranging from 14% to 15%. Most food commodities, particularly select dry beans (Army Green, Mixed, Mwezi Moja, Mwitmania, Nyayo, Nyota, Rosecoco, and Saitoti), Shangi Irish potatoes, and rice varieties (Basmati, Fatma,

Pishori, Sana, and Sunrice), as well as wheat, experienced price differences between 26% and 39%. In contrast, some commodities recorded even higher price variations, exceeding 40%, including white dry maize (44%), Black Beans (Njahi) (45%), Wairimu beans (44%), Pakistan rice (54%), Yellow Beans (42%), Family Rice (48%), and Pishori Grade 2 rice (58%). These fluctuations in wholesale and retail prices are primarily driven by factors such as seasonal supply variations, higher fuel and transportation costs, regional demand differences, import reliance, market inefficiencies, the presence of intermediaries, and increasing local demand, which can further strain available supply..

Figure 1: Overall average wholesale and retail prices (KES/Kg)



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2025

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

Various bean varieties were reported across different regions, with common ones including Black Beans (Njahi), Green/Yellow, Mwitmania, Nyayo, Rosecoco, Saitoti, Army green, mixed and Wairimu. Unique varieties such as Mwezi moja beans were found in Eldoret, while Butter Beans were only reported in Nairobi and Nakuru. Eldoret and Nakuru reported the highest accessibility to bean varieties as they are the country's major production areas, while Nyeri and Nairobi had the least variety. As anticipated, retail prices for all bean varieties were higher than wholesale prices. Compared to the national wholesale average, wholesale prices for most bean varieties were higher in Nairobi, while retail prices were higher in Eldoret, and Kisumu. Bean prices remained high in Nairobi city likely due to the region being non producing and populous hence high demand. These price variations can be attributed to market factors such as supply and demand, the presence of intermediaries, and increased transportation costs due to rising fuel prices.

All regions reported having dry white maize, except for Kisumu, which had both dry white and yellow maize. Compared to the national average wholesale price of 41

KES/kg and retail price of 59 KES/kg for dry white maize, Nyeri (48 KES/kg) recorded the highest wholesale price, while Mombasa (79 KES/kg) had the highest retail price, well above the total retail average. The low dry maize prices in most regions of Kenya in February 2025 were driven by a bumper harvest that led to an oversupply in local markets, reduced export demand, and increased maize imports, all contributing to price declines.

Irish potatoes were significantly more expensive in Nairobi, with a wholesale price of 76 KES/kg and a retail price of 84 KES/kg, compared to the national average of 47 KES/kg (wholesale) and 60 KES/kg (retail). These price increases in densely populated areas can be attributed to several factors, including higher demand, the perishable nature of the commodity leading to limited supply, the influence of middlemen, and increased transportation costs due to rising fuel prices.

All regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice, while Sindano rice was found in all regions except Nairobi and Basmati available in all regions except Nakuru. Mombasa also had varieties such as Tamtam, Fatma, and Sunrice; Eldoret had Falcon; and Kisumu featured Pakistan rice. Pishori grade 1 rice had particularly high wholesale prices in Nakuru (172 KES/kg) and Nairobi (177 KES/kg), compared to the national average of 159 KES/kg. Retail

prices were also higher in Eldoret (225 KES/kg) and Nairobi (200 KES/kg) compared to the national average of 200 KES/kg. Although rice is the third most consumed cereal in Kenya, following maize and wheat, it is the least cultivated crop. The high cost of rice in Kenya is due to heavy reliance on imports, limited local production, growing demand, supply chain inefficiencies, high transportation costs, taxes and import duties, and global price fluctuations.

Eldoret (72 KES/kg) and Mombasa (76 KES/kg) reported higher wholesale prices for wheat compared to the national average of 67 KES/kg for dry wheat. Similarly, retail prices

in Eldoret (125 KES/kg) were above the national average of 93 KES/kg. Despite Kenya's heavy reliance on imports to meet domestic wheat demand, Eldoret, a key wheat-producing area, often experiences local shortages and price hikes because a large portion of its wheat is sold directly to millers or traders. Kisumu, in contrast, faces high demand and depends largely on supplies from other regions, contributing to increased prices. Additional factors driving up prices in these two regions include high demand and limited supply, high transportation and storage costs, the role of middlemen, elevated local milling costs, and regional economic conditions like inflation.

Table 1: Average wholesale and retail prices (kes/kg) by region for February

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/ kg)							Average retail price (KES/ kg)							Total average w/sale price (KES/ kg)	Total average retail price (KES/ kg)
		Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri				
Dry beans	Army green	139		155	158	140	136	208		200	181	173	170	146	186		
	Black beans (Njahi)	150	200	108	163	90	118	244	300	176	180	145	156	138	200		
	Butter beans				200	165					220	200		183	210		
	Green/yellow	135		139	155	136	139	200		154	171	170	180	141	175		
	Mixed beans	85	103	75		68	99	108	131	90		95	131	86	111		
	Mwezi moja	115						150						115	150		
	Mwiternaria	125		101	146	86	111	158		116	170	138	140	114	144		
Nyayo	115	100	90	151	120	117	148	150	113	172	150	150	115	147			
Rosecoco	128	117	108	156	114	143	177	170	134	173	150	161	128	161			
Saitoti	117		121	147	76		150		138	170	150		113	151			
Wairimu	89	98	78	97	81	105	128	150	111	120	120	160	91	131			
	Yellow	133	127	120		95	115	180	200	155		150	150	118	167		
Dry maize	White maize	38	47	34	41	39	48	43	60	79	50	60	60	41	59		
	Yellow maize		65						79					65	79		
Irish potatoes	Shangi	33	34	46	76	44	49	40	38	65	84	65	62	47	60		
Rice	Basmati	141	90	144	134		104	213	170	182	160		120	123	169		
	Biriani	111	180	112	100	82	100	150	200	128	120	120	120	114	140		
	Falcon	84						100						84	100		
	Family rice			183						271				183	271		
	Fatma rice	200		212				280		289				206	285		
	Pakistan		80				132		165				160	106	163		
	Pishori grade 1	170		137	177	163	172	225		190	196	200	200	159	200		
	Pishori grade 2	110	101					175	157					105	166		
	Sana	144				128		200				151		136	175		
	Sindano	149	176	152		140	128	198	200	198		170	140	149	181		
Sunrice			152						202				152	202			
Tamtam			122						185				122	185			
Wheat	Wheat	72		76	64	50	71	125		89	80	80	90	67	93		

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2025

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

Between the first week and weeks two through four, there were significant weekly price fluctuations across various regions. In Eldoret, most commodities experienced rising wholesale and retail prices, while a few saw declines. For wholesale prices, dry beans such as Army Green, Butter, Mwezi Moja, Nyota, Wairimu, and White Rosecoco (Alulu) showed price increases ranging from 3% to 25%. Shangi Irish potatoes saw a 17% increase, while certain dry rice varieties, including Basmati, Biriani, Falcon, Pishori, and Sindano, experienced declining wholesale prices between 13% and 19%. Dry white maize (3%), dry wheat (20%), and a few dry beans such as Green Yellow, Mwitmania, Nyayo, and Saitoti (with price drops between 5% and 9%) also saw decreases in wholesale prices. Retail prices followed a similar trend, with dry beans and Irish potatoes increasing by 2% to 20%, while dry rice, wheat, and maize prices dropped by 4% to 18%. These price fluctuations were likely driven by a combination of supply and demand dynamics, heavy rains causing transportation and logistical challenges, market speculation, the harvest period and storage issues, and the effects of regional competition and cross-border trade.

In Kisumu, most food commodities experienced price decline between week 1 and week 4, with only a few showing stable or increased prices. Wholesale prices for all dry bean varieties except for Black (Njahi), Purple, and yellow beans recorded declines ranging from 1% to 15%, while retail prices for beans declined by 2% to 14%. Dry white and yellow maize prices dropped by 6% and 10% at both wholesale and retail levels, while most rice varieties, including Ahero, Biriani, Pakistan, and Pishori, saw wholesale price decreases between 0.6% and 17%, with retail prices dropping by similar margins. The decline in food commodity prices in Kisumu is attributed to increased supply, heightened market competition, and the influx of cheaper imports due to cross-border trade.

In Mombasa, food commodity prices fluctuated rather than remaining stable. While some commodities saw no significant changes, Shangi Irish potatoes recorded wholesale price increases of 10%, with retail prices rising by 3%. Additionally, dry maize and rice varieties like Biriani and Sindano experienced fluctuations, with wholesale prices declining by 2% to 8% and retail prices following similar trends. These price changes in Mombasa can be linked to transportation and storage challenges, limited local production, increased demand, and market speculation.

FOCUS ON WHEAT ACROSS SELECTED REGIONS

Wheat is a vital staple crop in Kenya, contributing significantly to the country's daily calorie intake. It is the second most widely grown cereal after maize, with its importance rising due to population growth and urbanization. Changing food preferences have increased the demand for convenient wheat-based products such as bread, biscuits, pasta, and noodles. However, local wheat production remains insufficient to meet domestic demand, resulting in a heavy reliance on imports. This production shortfall is due to low yields, inefficient farming practices, and poor post-harvest management, particularly during wet harvest conditions. As a result, Kenya has yet to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat production, leading to a growing supply-demand gap. To bridge this deficit, the country primarily imports wheat from Austria, Russia, Argentina, Ukraine, and Canada.

Wheat farming in Kenya is concentrated in the Rift Valley region, including Narok, Nakuru, Uasin Gishu, Trans Nzoia counties, and Nanyuki. The crop thrives in dry climates with well-drained soils, performing best under moderate rainfall conditions. The primary wheat variety grown in Kenya is Durum, alongside other varieties such as Kenya Kingbird, Kenya Eagle, KS-Chui, Robin, Pasa, Kenya Chirika, KS Mwamba, KS Farasi, Mbega, Ngamia, Duma, Kenya Tembo, Kenya Mbweha, Kenya Nungu, Kenya Kulungu, Kenya Paka, Kenya Nyangumi, Kenya Nyambu, Kenya Kongono, Kenya Fahari, Kenya Popo, Mbuni, and Kenya Kwale, among others.

Wheat was available in several regions, with Eldoret, Mombasa, and Nyeri reporting higher wholesale prices than the national average of KES 67 per kg. Conversely, Mombasa, Nairobi, and Nakuru recorded lower retail prices compared to the total average retail price of KES 93 per kg. Price variations across regions were influenced by factors such as local supply-demand imbalances, transportation costs, climate conditions affecting yields, government policies, and market speculation.

Figure 1: Average wholesale and retail prices of wheat (KES/kg) in selected regions

Region	Average wholesale price (KES/ kg)					Total average wholesale price (KES/kg)
	Eldoret	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	
Wheat price	72	76	64	50	71	67
Region	Average retail price (KES/kg)					Total average retail price (KES/kg)
	Eldoret	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	
Wheat price	125	89	80	80	90	93

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2025.

In Nairobi, most food commodities experienced declining prices, while a few showed stable or increasing wholesale and retail prices. Comparing week 1 to week 4, commodities such as dry beans (Njahi, Mwezi Moja, Nyayo, Rosecoco, and Saitoti) saw wholesale price declines ranging from 2% to 7%, with retail prices dropping by 1% to 6%. Butter beans and Wairimu beans had stable prices, whereas Green Yellow beans and Wairimu beans experienced slight increases in wholesale prices by 1% and 2%, respectively. Dry maize prices dropped by 6%, while certain rice varieties, such as Basmati and Biriani, saw declines of 25% and 3%, respectively, at both wholesale and retail levels. Wheat prices fell by 3%. These price movements are attributed to the availability of food commodities from various producing regions within the country and imports from neighboring countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, and Pakistan.

Between week one and week four, Nakuru's wholesale and retail prices for food commodities mostly showed steady or declining trends. Wholesale prices for dry beans (Njahi, Butter beans, and Wairimu) fell by 1% to 5%, maize dropped by 5%, Biriani rice by 0.5%, and dry wheat by 7%. Retail prices followed a similar trend, with maize, beans, and rice prices declining by 2% to 6%. On the other hand, prices remained stable for dry beans (Mwezi Moja, Mwitmania,

Nyayo, and Rosecoco), Shangi Irish potatoes, Basmati rice, and Pishori grade 1 rice. The stability and decline in prices can be attributed to Nakuru's role as a major producing region, surrounded by other agricultural areas.

In Nyeri, wholesale and retail prices for food commodities showed a mix of increasing, stable, and declining trends. Retail prices remained stable for dry beans (Njahi, Green Yellow, and Mwitmania) and rice varieties (Basmati and Pishori). However, some commodities experienced price increases, such as Wairimu beans (0.3%), Shangi Irish potatoes (3%), and certain rice varieties, which saw price hikes ranging from 0.5% to 1%. Retail prices for some food commodities, including maize and wheat, declined by 2% to 6%. These price fluctuations could be due to varying supply levels from different producing regions, changes in transportation costs, seasonal variations in demand.

Comparison of National Average Prices between January and February

A comparison of overall national average prices for all commodities between January and February 2025 indicates that wholesale and retail prices remained stable or declined (see Table 2). Most commodities recorded price decreases ranging from -8% to -25%, while some experienced more significant declines of -25% to -46%. This trend is largely driven by a consistent supply of food commodities from key production regions and imports from neighboring East African countries and beyond.

Table 2: Comparison of January and February prices

Product	Variety	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)			Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		
		Jan-25	Feb-25	Percentage change	Jan-25	Feb-25	Percentage change
Dry Beans	Army green	172	146	-15%	185	186	1%
	Black beans (Njahi)	171	138	-19%	198	200	1%
	Green/yellow	164	141	-14%	187	175	-6%
	Mixed beans	108	86	-20%	109	111	2%
	Mwezi moja	155	115	-26%	180	150	-17%
	Mwitmania	145	114	-21%	165	144	-13%
	Nyayo	150	115	-23%	175	147	-16%
	Nyota beans	150	117	-22%	170	150	-12%
	Red kidney	131	140	7%	177	171	-3%
	Rosecoco	160	128	-20%	186	161	-13%
	Saitoti	140	113	-19%	156	151	-3%
Dry Maize	White maize	59	41	-31%	72	59	-18%
	Yellow maize	68	65	-4%	76	79	4%
Irish potatoes	Shangi	49	47	-4%	66	60	-9%
Rice	Basmati	162	123	-24%	195	169	-13%
	Biriani	132	114	-14%	160	140	-13%
	Falcon	150	84	-44%	160	100	-38%
	Fatma rice	260	206	-21%	300	285	-5%
	Pakistan	137	106	-23%	151	163	8%
	Pishori grade 1	171	159	-7%	201	200	0%
	Pishori grade 2	184	105	-43%	209	166	-21%
	Sindano	160	149	-7%	195	181	-8%
Wheat	Wheat	260	152	-42%	300	202	-33%
	Wheat	71	67	-6%	87	93	7%

Key	
<8 but >8	Stable
>8 but >25	Decrease
>25 but <-46	Major decrease

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of February 2025

Outlook for the Month of March

- ▶ **Dry Maize:** Prices may remain stable or decline in Eldoret and Nakuru due to local harvests, while Kisumu, Nairobi, and Mombasa could see slight increases due to higher demand.
- ▶ **Dry Beans:** Prices could drop in Eldoret and Nakuru but rise slightly in Kisumu, Nairobi, and Mombasa due to increased demand and reliance on external supply.
- ▶ **Dry Wheat:** Prices are expected to remain stable or slightly increase nationwide, influenced by global imports and transportation costs.
- ▶ **Rice:** Stability is expected across regions, with minor price increases in Nairobi, Kisumu, and Mombasa due to reliance on imports.
- ▶ **Irish Potatoes:** Prices may decline in Eldoret and Nakuru due to fresh supplies, while Kisumu, Nairobi, and Mombasa could experience slight increases due to transport costs.

FOCUS ON NAIROBI REGION

Nairobi's food supply comes from various regions within Kenya and imports from neighboring East African countries and international sources. Pricing data for key agricultural commodities in Nairobi is collected from two major wholesale markets: Nyamakima and Wakulima (Marikiti). Nyamakima market, operating from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, is a central hub for grain trading, while Wakulima market specializes in fresh produce.

Maize in Nairobi is sourced from regions such as Kitale, Nakuru, Narok, Busia (at the Kenya-Uganda border), and Namanga (at the Kenya-Tanzania border). Beans are primarily supplied from Busia, Nakuru, Narok, Taita Taveta, Meru, and Namanga. Rice varieties, especially Basmati and Biriani, are imported from Pakistan via Mombasa and sourced locally from Kirinyaga County, home to the Mwea irrigation scheme. Wheat is mainly produced in Narok, Taita Taveta, and Namanga. Irish potatoes are predominantly traded at the Marikiti wholesale market, which operates throughout the day for retailers and from 3 to 5 a.m. for wholesalers.

Traders in these markets pay fees to the city council, including those for food hygiene, business permits, clearance certificates, and monthly rents. The market attracts a wide range of participants, including farmers, wholesalers, brokers, retailers, vendors, and porters transporting goods to various bus stops. Irish potatoes mainly come from Narok, Nakuru, Kinangop, and Nyahuru counties.

In February 2025, Nairobi experienced mixed price trends, with notable increases in wholesale and retail prices for dry beans (3%–25%) and Shangi Irish potatoes (17%). In contrast, dry rice varieties (Basmati, Biriani, Falcon, Pishori, Sindano) saw wholesale price declines of 13%–19%, while dry white maize and wheat dropped by 3% and 20%, respectively. Retail prices followed a similar pattern, with beans and potatoes rising (2%–20%) and rice, wheat, and maize decreasing (4%–18%). These fluctuations were driven by supply-demand dynamics, transportation challenges, market speculation, and cross-border trade competition.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Nairobi Region

Product	Variety	Average wholesale prices (KES/ kg)				Average wholesale price (KES/ kg)	Average retail price (KES/ per kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Arny green	143	138	138	135	139	200
	Black beans (Njahi)	150	150	150	150	150	244
	Green/yellow	140	133	133	133	135	200
	Mwezi moja	115	115	115	115	115	160
	Mwitemema	126	126	126	126	126	168
	Rosescoco	130	130	130	131	128	177
Dry maize	Saltin	120	120	115	113	117	160
	Wai'ru.	89	90	90	85	89	128
	White maize	40	40	36	36	38	48
Irish potatoes	Shangi	35	34	33	32	33	40
	Basmati	141	141	141	141	141	218
Rice	Birani	109	112	112	112	111	160
	Phallon grade 1	170	170	170	170	170	225
	Phallon grade 2	114	115	115	115	115	175
	Sindano	149	149	149	149	149	198
Wheat	Wheat	72	72	72	72	92	125

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of January 2025.

ABOUT THIS SERIES

The Food Security Portal (FSP), facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), aims to improve food security for the world's poor and increase the resilience of global food systems against food and financial crisis. The project brings together international, regional, and country-level data, news, and research aimed at meeting countries' immediate food security needs and building long-term global food security. The FSP is designed to pool information in structured ways to ensure high-quality, timely, and relevant data and to provide the opportunity for collaboration among policymakers, development professionals, and researchers.

This report is part of the FSP's efforts to monitor country-level food prices in order to improve the governments' ability to respond to and prevent food crises. It presents monthly price trends and movements for key food commodities, including dry beans, dry maize, rice, wheat, and Irish potatoes, in selected major regions and markets in Kenya.

DATA COLLECTION AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in the Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, and Nyeri regions of Kenya. These regions comprise the key markets in major urban centers. The five selected commodities comprise the major staple foods in Kenya¹.

Data assistants, some of whom were traders, collected average daily wholesale and retail prices from the main markets of the selected regions. Data was collected daily for six days (Mondays to Saturdays) from stockists/wholesalers and traders in the morning hours.

During the last week of the month, the following qualitative data were captured:

- General observations on food prices during the month, including price variations and the lowest, highest, and prevailing wholesale and retail prices
- The source of food commodities and their availability throughout the month
- The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as government restrictions including curfews and cessation of movement, on food prices and availability (both supply and demand)
- Traders' adaptation strategies to the COVID-19 pandemic, including sourcing and selling

Additional secondary data was obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya Government Food Security War Room (FSWR), Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (MoALF), and Regional Agriculture Trade Intelligence Network (RATIN).

¹ NB: While the report covers wheat, consumption of that commodity in Kenya is comprised mainly of wheat products (flours, pastries, and highly processed foods) rather than raw wheat itself.

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