FOOD SECURITY PORTAL FACILITATED BY IFPRI

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FOOD PRICE MONITOR: KENYA

JUNE 2025

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

- Price Margins: Variations in price margins across commodities ranged between 14% and 60%, driven by market demand, the role of intermediaries, and elevated fuel and transport costs. Notably, dry white maize, Pakistan rice, and Pishori Grade 2 had the highest margins (46–60%).
- Regional Disparities: Price differences across regions were influenced by location-specific supply conditions, demand levels, transport costs, and dependency on imports. Urban centers like Mombasa and Eldoret experienced higher prices, especially for rice and wheat, due to logistical and import-related expenses.
- Dry Beans: Prices remained relatively low in producing regions like Nakuru and Eldoret due to seasonal availability following April harvests. However, prices were higher in Kisumu and Nairobi. Most bean varieties showed stable or declining trends across the month.
- Maize: White maize prices remained elevated in non-producing urban areas like Mombasa and Kisumu, largely due to seasonal scarcity, high transport costs, and dependency on external supply. In Nairobi and Nakuru, prices declined slightly, reflecting recent harvest inflows.
- Irish Potatoes: Urban centers such as Nairobi and Nyeri reported high potato prices due to strong demand, perishability, and long transport distances from production areas. However, producing counties like Nakuru and Eldoret recorded declining prices due to better local supply.
- Rice: High prices persisted across all regions, particularly in Eldoret and Mombasa, driven by reliance on imports. Price differences were notable across varieties, with imported Pishori and Pakistan rice registering the widest margins. Local irrigation schemes helped stabilize supply but not pricing.
- Wheat: Prices remained high nationwide due to Kenya's heavy reliance on imports. Eldoret and Mombasa recorded the highest prices, influenced by global trade dynamics, transport expenses, and urban consumption demand.
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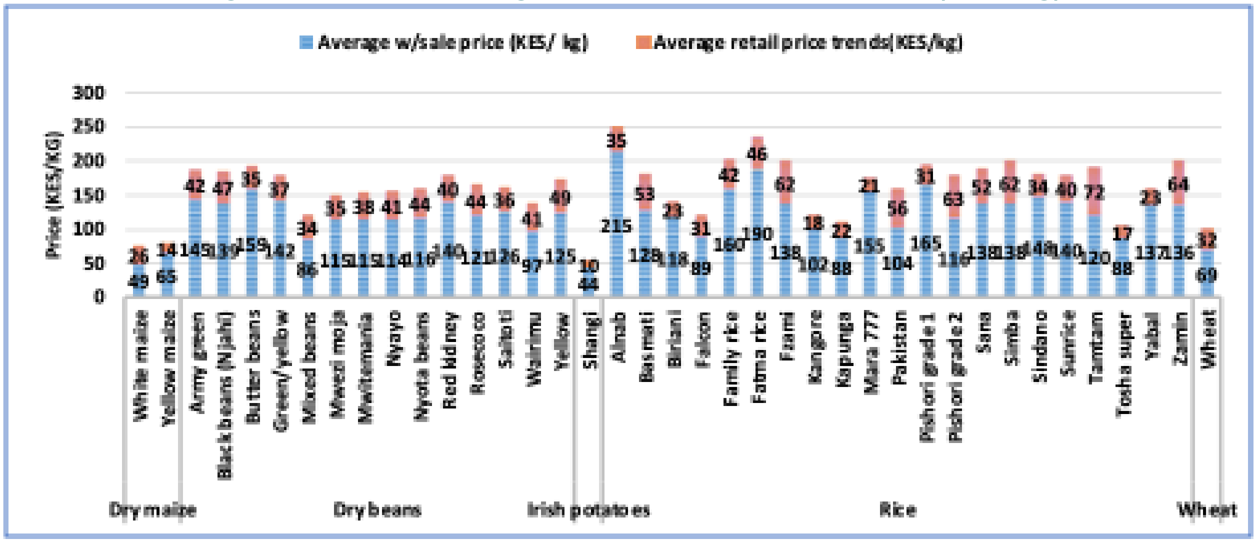
Overall Wholesale and Retail Prices for June

Figure 1 presents wholesale and retail prices for maize, beans, potatoes, rice, and wheat in major Kenyan markets during June 2025. Price margins for certain commodities such as yellow beans, butter beans, Shangi potatoes, and specific rice varieties (Alnab, Biriani, Fatma, Kangowe, Kapunga, Mara 777, Pishori Grade 1, Tosha, and Yabal) ranged between 14% and 25%. In contrast, most dry beans and several rice types recorded wider margins of 26% to 45%. Higher margins, ranging from 46% to 60%, were observed for dry white maize, Pakistan rice, Pishori Grade 2, Tamtam, Zamin, and dry wheat. These price variations were likely influenced by market demand and supply conditions, the role of intermediaries, and elevated transport and fuel costs.

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



Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of June 2025

Wholesale and Retail Commodity Prices

A variety of dry bean types were observed across different regions in Kenya. Njahi (black beans), Nyayo, Rosecoco, and Wairimu beans were commonly available in all the surveyed regions. Green Yellow and Mwitemania beans were found in all areas except Kisumu, while Mixed beans and yellow beans were absent only in Nairobi. Some varieties were region-specific, for example, Mwezi Moja and Nyota beans were available only in Eldoret, while Red Kidney beans were exclusive to Nakuru. Eldoret and Nakuru recorded the highest number of bean varieties, attributed to their status as key production zones. Most bean varieties were in season during June (see Table 1).

As expected, retail prices for all bean varieties were higher than wholesale prices. Kisumu recorded higher retail prices for most bean types compared to the national average, while Nairobi reported higher wholesale prices. In contrast, Nakuru, Eldoret, and Nyeri had relatively lower retail and wholesale prices due to regional surplus and availability. Price variations were largely influenced by seasonality, market dynamics, and bean variety.

Dry white maize was reported to be available in all regions, while yellow maize was only reported in Kisumu and Nyeri. Wholesale prices were highest in Kisumu (64 KES/kg), Nakuru (55 KES/kg), and Nyeri (54 KES/kg), all above the national average of 49 KES/kg. At the retail level, Mombasa recorded the highest price at 111 KES/kg, compared to the national average of 75 KES/kg. These elevated prices, particularly in urban centers like Mombasa and Kisumu, are attributed to high demand, limited local production, and increased transportation, storage, and distribution costs. As noted in the June 2025 Soko Directory, such non-producing regions rely heavily on external maize supplies, making them more vulnerable to logistical cost pressures and seasonal fluctuations.

Some regions recorded higher wholesale and retail prices for Irish potatoes compared to the national averages of 44 KES/kg and 54 KES/kg, respectively. In Nairobi, prices stood at 70 KES/kg (wholesale) and 75 KES/kg (retail), while Nyeri reported 59 KES/kg and 65 KES/kg. Mombasa also showed a slightly elevated retail price of 54 KES/kg. These higher prices in urban centers such as Nairobi, Nyeri, and Mombasa were likely driven by increased demand, supply chain constraints, and possible climate-related disruptions affecting production. Additionally, the perishable nature of Irish potatoes and the distance from producing regions may have contributed to the price hikes. In contrast, most producing areas enjoyed lower prices due to favorable seasonal availability.

All regions reported the availability of Biriani and Pishori rice, while Basmati rice was common across the country except in Nakuru and Nyeri. Sindano rice was available in all regions except Nairobi. Mombasa offered additional varieties such as Tamtam, Family Rice, and Sunrice, while Falcon rice was uniquely found in Eldoret. Eldoret recorded the highest wholesale and retail prices for the most common rice varieties. This was largely due to its heavy reliance on imported rice, which increases costs due to importation and transportation expenses. Compared to Nairobi, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Mombasa, rice prices in Eldoret were notably higher because of these added logistical and market pressures.

Dry wheat was available across all regions. The highest wholesale and retail prices were recorded in Eldoret at 78 KES/kg and 122 KES/kg, and in Mombasa at 74 KES/kg and 119 KES/kg, respectively—both exceeding the national wholesale average of 69 KES/kg and matching or surpassing the national retail average of 119 KES/kg. These elevated prices are attributed to a mix of factors, including increased demand in urban centers, dependence on imports, and possible disruptions in the supply chain. While Eldoret is a major wheat-producing area, higher prices may result from regional demand pressures and logistical challenges in distribution. In contrast, Mombasa, being a coastal city and import hub, relies heavily on imported wheat, making it more susceptible to global price fluctuations and higher importation and handling costs.

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

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price per kg						Average retail price per kg						Total average w/sale price per kg	Total average retail price per kg
		Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri	Eldoret	Kisumu	Mombasa	Nairobi	Nakuru	Nyeri		
Dry beans	Army green	141		155		155	128	201		200		190	157	145	187
	Black beans (Njahi)	150	200	132	162	99	92	230	274	152	180	150	130	139	186
	Butter beans				194	125					217	170		159	194
	Green/yellow	133		153	148	145	134	200		185	167	173	170	142	179
	Mixed beans	85	90	75		80	100	98	150	100		120	130	86	120
	Mwezi moja	115						150						115	150
	Mwitemania	124		100	146	100	105	160		149	166	150	138	115	153
	Nyayo	117	103	94	144	110	118	152	167	144	165	150	150	114	155
	Nyota beans	116						160						116	160
	Red kidney					140						180		140	180
	Rosecoco	133	117	77	147	120	135	190	170	158	170	150	150	121	165
	Saitoti	119		100	146	140		160		142	166	180		126	162
	Wairimu	97	96	100	94	98	98	123	160	150	120	143	135	97	138
	Yellow	128	153	120		105	119	170	250	150		150	150	125	174
Dry maize	White maize	40	64	33	47	55	54	70	72	111	60	76	60	49	75
	Yellow maize		74				56		79				80	65	79
Irish potatoes	Shangi	29	32	38	70	41	59	36	35	56	75	55	65	44	54
Rice	Alnab					215						250		215	250
	Basmati	146	90	140	134			214	153	197	160			128	181
	Biriani	120	180	111	103	93	102	160	200	119	120	128	120	118	141
	Falcon	89						120						89	120
	Family rice			160						202				160	202
	Fatma rice	200		180				280		191				190	236
	Fzami	138						200						138	200
	Kangore						102						120	102	120
	Pakistan		74				134		160				160	104	160
	Pishori grade 1	173		151	175	178	161	225		183	190	215	180	165	196
	Pishori grade 2	133	100					194	163					116	179
	Sana	148				128		220				160		138	190
	Simba	138						200						138	200
	Sindano	152	166	156		139	128	203	200	198		168	140	148	182
	Sunrice			140						180				140	180
	Tamtam			120						192				120	192

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of June 2025

Wholesale and Retail Price Trends by Region

During the first four weeks of monitoring, while various regions experienced notable price fluctuations, Eldoret generally recorded stable or declining commodity prices, with only a few exceptions. For instance, wholesale prices of dry beans dropped by 0.3% to 6.3%, while varieties such as Njahi, Mixed beans, Mwezi Moja, and Rosecoco remained stable, and Wairimu saw a slight increase of 9%. Retail bean prices remained stable. Maize retail prices rose by 12%, whereas wholesale prices stayed unchanged. Shangi Irish potatoes registered price reductions of 8% (retail) and 35% (wholesale). Most rice varieties maintained stable retail prices, except Pishori Grade 2, which rose by 5%, while wholesale prices were stable except for slight increases in Pishori Grade 1 and 2 (2% and 6%, respectively). Wheat prices were stable at the wholesale level but declined by 6% in retail. The observed price stability and declines in Eldoret are mainly attributed to adequate commodity availability and seasonal production cycles that eased supply pressures.

In Kisumu, commodity prices showed mixed trends between week 1 and week 4. Most available dry beans—Mixed, Rosecoco, Wairimu, and yellow beans—recorded stable retail prices, while Njahi and Nyayo experienced price declines of 4% and 6%, respectively. Retail prices for white and yellow dry maize increased significantly by 18% and 19%. Shangi Irish potatoes saw a notable price drop of 20%, while rice varieties such as Biriani, Pakistan, and Sindano maintained stable prices. Wheat also recorded stable retail prices. The observed stability and decline in retail prices for several commodities can be attributed to the steady supply of food from neighboring counties and cross-border imports from Tanzania and Uganda. In contrast, the sharp rise in dry maize prices is likely due to seasonal fluctuations, supply chain disruptions, and increased demand—factors compounded by Kisumu's status as a non-producing region for maize.

In Mombasa, a comparison of wholesale and retail prices between weeks 1 and 4 reveals that most retail prices declined, while wholesale prices remained largely stable across commodities. Among wholesale prices, all available bean varieties were stable except for Njahi and Green Yellow beans, which declined by 1.4% and 3.5%, respectively. Dry white maize and dry wheat maintained stable wholesale prices. Shangi Irish potatoes experienced a significant wholesale price drop of 23%, while all available rice varieties were stable, except for slight increases in Biriani (0.43%) and Pishori Grade 1 (0.78%). The observed price stability and declines are largely attributed to food imports from Tanzania, Uganda, and Pakistan, as well as consistent supply from nearby producing regions.

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

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

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

In the Nairobi region, most commodities recorded either declining or stable prices over the four-week period. A comparison of wholesale price trends between week 1 and week 4 shows that all available dry bean varieties experienced price reductions ranging from 2% to 7%. Similarly, prices for dry maize, Irish potatoes, and wheat fell by 12%, 9%, and 4%, respectively. Among rice varieties, Basmati remained stable, Biriani declined by 4%, while Pishori Grade 1 saw a slight increase of 0.4%. These price declines and stability are likely attributed to increased agricultural output, favorable weather conditions, and government interventions such as subsidized fertilizer programs.

A comparison of wholesale and retail prices between week 1 and week 4 in Nakuru revealed overall price stability across most commodities. Most dry bean varieties recorded stable retail prices, while Army Green, Green Yellow, and Wairimu beans declined by 9%, 10%, and 17%, respectively. Wheat prices remained stable, whereas maize and Shangi Irish potatoes saw significant retail price drops of 12% and 20%. Rice varieties exhibited mixed trends, with some maintaining stable prices, others declining, and a few registering slight increases. The general stability and decline in prices can be attributed to the steady availability of food commodities, as Nakuru is one of Kenya's key agricultural production regions.

A comparison of prices between week one and week four in Nyeri revealed a mix of stability and decline across both wholesale and retail markets. At the wholesale level, all available bean varieties recorded price declines ranging from 2% to 11%, except for mixed beans, which remained stable. Prices for white and yellow dry maize were stable, while Shangi Irish potatoes experienced a significant decline of 28%. All available rice varieties maintained stable prices, except Biriani, which saw a slight increase of 1%. Dry wheat also recorded a slight increase of 1%. The overall low prices were largely driven by the harvest season and increased supply. The long rains planting season created favorable conditions for crops like Irish potatoes and beans, resulting in higher yields and greater market availability. This abundance naturally exerted downward pressure on prices compared to previous months when supply was lower.

Comparison of National Average Prices between May and June

A comparison of national average commodity prices between May and June 2025 shows overall price stability or a downward trend. Most wholesale and retail prices remained within a stable range of -2% to +2%, while a few commodities experienced notable declines ranging from -3% to -20% (see Table 2). This general stability or reduction is likely driven by sufficient food supply from major production zones, complemented by imports from neighboring East African countries and international sources such as Pakistan, Thailand, and India..

Table 2: Comparison of May and June prices

	Variety	Average Wholesale Price (Kes/Kg)			Average Retail Price (Kes/ Kg)		
		May-25	Jun-25	Percentage change	May-25	Jun-25	Percentage change
Dry beans	Army green	150	145	-3%	197	187	-5%
	Black beans (Njahi)	137	139	1%	187	186	-1%
	Butter beans	166	159	-4%	195	194	-1%
	Green/yellow	152	142	-7%	184	179	-3%
	Mixed beans	86	86	0%	118	120	2%
	Mwezi moja	117	115	-2%	153	150	-2%
	Mwitemania	117	115	-2%	152	153	1%
	Nyayo	119	114	-4%	154	155	1%
	Nyota beans	120	116	-3%	160	160	0%
	Red kidney	140	140	0%	180	180	0%
	Rosecoco	127	121	-5%	164	165	1%
	Saitoti	129	126	-2%	162	162	0%
	Wairimu	98	97	-1%	142	138	-3%
	Yellow	123	125	2%	167	174	4%
Dry maize	White maize	48	49	2%	74	75	1%
	Yellow maize	64	65	2%	113	99	-12%
Irish potatoes	Shangi	50	44	-12%	70	64	-9%
Rice	Basmati	194	168	-13%	220	181	-18%
	Biriani	117	118	1%	162	141	-13%
	Falcon	108	89	-18%	120	120	0%
	Family rice	160	160	0%	111	122	10%
	Fatma rice	190	190	0%	241	236	-2%
	Fzami	166	138	-17%	260	220	-15%
	Kangora	102	102	0%	120	120	0%
	Kapunga	88	88	0%	110	110	0%
	Mara 777	155	155	0%	183	176	-4%
	Pakistan	105	104	-1%	162	160	-1%
	Pishori grade 1	164	165	1%	198	196	-1%
	Pishori grade 2	115	116	1%	179	179	0%
	Sana	138	138	0%	190	190	0%
	Sindano	148	148	0%	181	182	1%
	Sunrice	140	140	0%	217	180	-17%
	Tamtam	120	120	0%	232	192	-17%
	Tosha super	89	88	-1%	105	105	0%
	Yabal	136	137	1%	160	160	0%
	Zamin	137	136	-1%	194	192	-1%
Wheat	Wheat	70	69	-1%	102	101	-1%

Key

<2 but >-2	Stable
>-2 but <-13	Slight Decrease
>-13but <-20	Significant Decrease

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of June 2025

Outlook for the Month of July

- Dry Beans: Prices are expected to remain stable or rise slightly as local stocks diminish and demand stays high, especially with limited availability from recent harvests. While imports from Uganda and other regional suppliers will help cushion the gap, they may not fully meet market needs.
- Maize: Prices are likely to remain stable or decline modestly, supported by recent harvests in high-production zones and steady inflows from Uganda and Tanzania. An adequate local supply is expected to ease pressure on households and stabilize market conditions.
- Rice: Prices are projected to stay high but relatively stable. Continued imports from key global suppliers such as Pakistan, India, and Thailand, alongside output from domestic irrigation schemes, will help meet national demand but won't significantly lower market prices.
- Irish Potatoes: Prices may remain elevated due to constrained supply from major producing highland areas and the absence of efficient storage facilities. Post-harvest losses and inconsistent market inflows are likely to sustain the upward price trend.
- Wheat: A slight increase in wheat prices is anticipated, driven by global price trends, currency fluctuations, and limited domestic production. As Kenya remains heavily dependent on imports, any changes in international supply chains may affect local markets.
- While maize prices may bring some relief to consumers, continued upward pressure on the prices of dry beans, Irish potatoes, and wheat may keep household food expenditures elevated in some areas, particularly urban and non-producing zones. Price stability for rice will depend largely on the efficiency of import logistics and foreign exchange conditions.

FOCUS ON NAKURU REGION

Nakuru County, situated in the central Rift Valley region of Kenya, covers approximately 7,495.1 square kilometers. It shares borders with seven counties, including Baringo to the north, Laikipia to the northeast, and Narok to the south. The county is characterized by diverse landscapes—ranging from fertile highlands to expansive plains—and is home to major geographical features. With a population exceeding 2.1 million, it is one of Kenya's most densely populated counties, comprising both dynamic urban centers and active rural communities.

Agriculture is the cornerstone of Nakuru's economy. The county is a leading producer of cereals such as maize, beans, and wheat, as well as Irish potatoes, thanks to its fertile soils and favorable climate. Agribusiness ventures—including dairy farming, floriculture, and horticulture—further bolster its economic output. Nakuru plays a critical role in the national food supply, serving key markets such as Nairobi and Mombasa through its strong transport infrastructure. In turn, it sources commodities like rice, vegetables, and tropical fruits from areas such as Mwea, Kisumu, and the coast.

Nakuru hosts several prominent food commodity markets, including Wakulima, Molo, and Naivasha markets, which are central to food trade and distribution. Between Week 1 and Week 4, food commodity prices in Nakuru either remained stable or declined—largely due to steady supply from nearby regions.

Table 3: Average Wholesale and Retail Prices, Nakuru Region

Product	Variety	Average w/sale price (KES/kg)				Average retail price (KES/kg)				Average w/sale price (KES/kg)	Average retail price (KES/kg)
		Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4		
Dry beans	Army green	180	150	160	134	200	180	200	183	155	190
	Black beans (Njahi)	97	100	100	100	150	150	150	150	99	150
	Butter beans	125	125	125	125	170	170	170	170	125	170
	Green/yellow	160	140	150	133	180	170	180	163	145	173
	Mixed beans	80	80	80	80	120	120	120	120	80	120
	Mwitemania	100	100	100	100	150	150	150	150	100	150
	Nyayo	110	110	110	110	150	150	150	150	110	150
	Red kidney	140	140	140	140	180	180	180	180	140	180
	Rosecoco	120	120	120	120	150	150	150	150	120	150
	Saitoti	140	140	140	140	180	180	180	180	140	180
	Wairimu	100	100	100	91	150	150	150	124	98	143
	Yellow	100	100	100	117	150	150	150	150	105	150
Dry maize	White maize	56	60	54	51	80	80	77	70	55	76
Irish potatoes	Shangi	39	39	42	44	50	50	58	60	41	55
Rice	Ainab	213	215	215	215	250	250	250	250	215	250
	Biriani	93	93	93	91	130	130	130	121	93	128
	Mara 777	151	151	151	150	170	170	170	170	151	170
	Pishori grade 1	170	180	180	180	200	220	220	220	178	215
	Sana	128	128	128	128	160	160	160	160	128	160
	Sindano	140	140	140	136	170	170	170	161	139	168

Source: Daily Market Survey for the month of June 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 Kenya[1].

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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