

The Market Monitor

WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis

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Highlights



In Q4-2019, strong domestic demand coupled with elevated regional demand from Sahelian countries contributed to the rising price of maize in Benin.

Similarly, Malawi experienced unusually high market demand for maize both domestically and regionally. This coincided with a shortfall in local supplies, which in combination led to significantly above-average prices of cereals.



Food basket costs were also severely impacted by strong domestic and regional demand (Benin, Tanzania), lower domestic supplies on top of weak national currency (Zambia), heavy rains impeding transportation (Tanzania), conflicts in border areas restraining food supply in the markets (Niger), high import prices of wheat flour (Tajikistan), and adverse weather conditions leading to short supplies of beans (Honduras).

[Food price trends: View more](#)

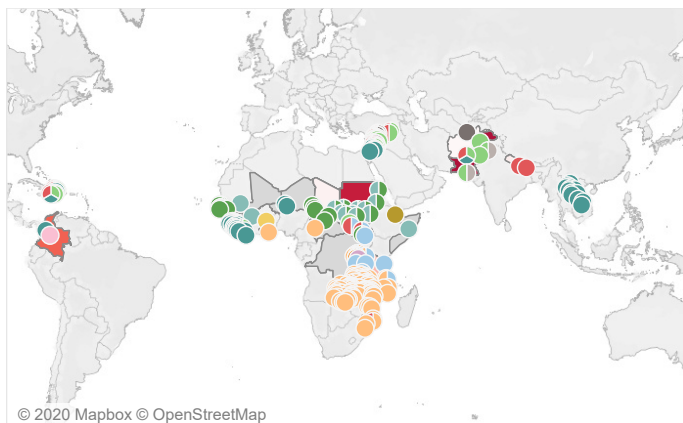


Weak national currency resulted in a peak in year-on-year headline and food inflation in Zimbabwe, up to 483 and 674 percent respectively, and headline inflation remained above 50 percent for Argentina in Q4-2019. Furthermore, the Venezuelan Bolivar and Angolan Kwanza lost value over the last quarter of 2019, by 98.8 and 32 percent, respectively.

[Inflation and currency: View more](#)

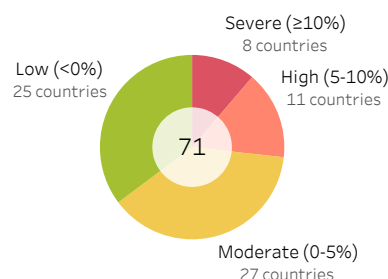
Food Price Hotspots - ALert for Price Spikes

In Q3-2019, the ALert for Price Spikes (ALPS) indicator detected price spikes at crisis level for the two most important staples in 22 countries.



[ALert for Price Spikes indicator: View more](#)

Impact of Staple Food Price Trends on Cost of the Food Basket..



The cost of the basic food basket increased severely (>10 percent) in **eight** countries during Q4-2019: Benin, Chad, Honduras, Malawi, Niger, Tanzania, Tajikistan, and Zambia.

High increases (5-10 percent) were seen in Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Laos, Lebanon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Syria, and Uganda.

[Food basket cost changes: View more](#)

International Prices

Global Indices

In Q4-2019, the FAO Food Price Index increased by almost 4 percent from previous quarter, and by 9.2 percent from its value one year ago, driven by prices of vegetable oils and sugar.

Cereal Prices

Maize

The international price of maize continued decreasing slightly during Q4-2019, going down by 1.6 percent from last quarter.

[Global cereal market: View more](#)

Fuel Prices

The real price of crude oil increased slightly by 1.6 percent compared to previous quarter, reflecting the rising global oil demand during the last months of 2019, while being almost 9 percent lower year-on-year.

[Fuel prices: View more](#)