

Weekly Market Monitor

FAFEN'S OBSERVATION OF AVAILABILITY & PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES

Despite no wide-scale shortage of essential commodities reported in the country, sporadic incidents of lax enforcement of officially notified prices, and unavailability of government rate lists compromises the government's resolve to ensure basic provisions to citizens at affordable rates, says Weekly Market Monitor issued by Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN).

The provincial governments need to reinforce the existing market monitoring mechanisms at district level to ensure that citizens are not fleeced under the garb of lockdown especially during Ramzan. Nevertheless, district administrations have effectively ensured the essential food supplies in most parts of country during pre-Ramzan pandemic period. However, unavailability of official rate lists remains a major issue in several districts of Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Sindh. The technological solutions for making official price lists available to public – such as 'Darust Daam' and 'Qeemat Punjab' apps – can help tackling this issue.

FAFEN's market survey suggests that the disruptions in flour supply due to restrictions on inter-province movement of wheat affected the prices in wholesale market in various districts. In Punjab, the flour prices were as high as Rs. 830 in Gujranwala and Sialkot against the official price of Rs. 805 for a 20 kilogram bag. In Sindh, a 20 kilogram wheat bag was sold at Rs. 1,000 in wholesale markets of Kashmore, Jacobabad and Dadu against an official price of around Rs. 900. Similar was the situation in Khuzdar and Dera Bugti where a 20 kilogram flour bag was sold at Rs. 1,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the highest flour price for a 20 kilogram bag was Rs. 975 in Lower Kohistan while the province had an official price around Rs. 800.

Official sugar prices oscillated between Rs. 70 and Rs. 83 in Punjab. FAFEN observer from Bahawalpur noted markets charging Rs. 10 above officially notified per kilogram price of sugar in the district, which is the highest difference between official and wholesale price in the province. Similarly, Sindh reported official sugar prices varying between Rs. 64 in Karachi to Rs. 70 in Kashmore. The highest difference between official and wholesale price was reported Rs. 9



Introduction and Methodology

Country-wide lockdown and restrictions on movement to contain the COVID-19 pandemic may adversely affect the food supply chains resulting in a shortage of essential commodities and inflated prices, which can further stress the middle and low income households. United Nations World Food Program (WFP) has already warned of a looming food crisis and a "hunger pandemic". United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has also noted that food prices may rise locally, despite no imminent threats to global food security, due to local logistical issues.

Last month, the residents of several districts of the Punjab province, known as the wheat basket of the country, grappled with flour crisis despite the official claims of adequate supplies. Realizing the need for an independent and regular assessment of the availability of essential commodities across the country, TDEA-FAFEN is generating a weekly market monitor covering 22 essential kitchen items including basic groceries such as wheat, pulses, oil, sugar and perishable commodities such as meat, and vegetables. A list of these items is annexed to the report. The Weekly Market Monitor will provide an overview of the availability, and prices –

from Tando Muhammad Khan. Observers from KP reported that sugar was sold at Rs. 85 in Abbottabad and Lower Dir while its official prices remained between Rs. 70 and Rs. 81 in the province. Balochistan markets also fared the same with highest wholesale price of Rs. 85 reported from Khuzdar and Kohlu.

The biggest difference between official and market prices of chicken in Punjab was Rs. 20, reported from Gujranwala. In the rest of the province, no major deviation from official rates was reported. Minimum poultry price remained Rs. 100 and maximum Rs. 146 per kilogram in the province. The market price of chicken was higher than official price in Balochistan's district Dera Bugti as well. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Lower Kohistan and Upper Dir sold chicken at Rs. 10 above the official per kilogram price. In Karachi, market price of chicken was reported to be Rs. 14 above the official price.

The enforcement of officially notified prices of routine vegetables varied across the country. FAFEN observers noted potatoes being sold at increased prices in Shikarpur, Dadu, Badin, Okara, Gujranwala, Lower Kohistan, and South Waziristan. The market prices of potatoes were Rs. 10 to Rs.14 higher than the official prices in these districts. Similarly, the observers reported onion being sold at costly prices in Gujranwala, Sialkot, Hafizabad, Dera Bugti, Kohlu, Dadu, Shikarpur, D.I. Khan and South Waziristan. Their market prices were up from the official prices by Rs. 5 to Rs. 22 per kilogram. The highest difference in onion prices were reported from Gujranwala and Sialkot. Tomatoes' official prices, however, were largely enforced with exception of some parts of KP including Lower Dir, Upper Dir, Mansehra and Charsadda. The prices of pulses and meat also remained unregulated at various places. Mutton, and Daal Masoor were sold at much higher prices than the official prices across the country.

Following are given province-wise details of the each commodity's availability and enforcement of its officially notified prices. The district-wise information on enforcement of official prices, and province-wise maximum and minimum prices of essential commodities included in this analysis are annexed to the report.

Wheat

The 20 kilogram bag of wheat flour was being sold at its regular price in 18 districts – 14 of Punjab and two each of KP and Sindh. However, its market prices were found higher than the officially notified prices in 13 districts – seven of Punjab, three each of KP and Sindh. The observers could not fetch the official prices or market prices in the remaining 17 districts. Three districts – one in Punjab and two in Sindh – reported a shortage or limited supply of wheat flour.



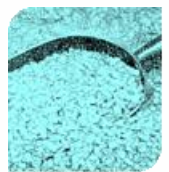
Eggs:

Eggs were being sold at regular price in 19 districts – 14 of Punjab, four of KP and one of Balochistan. However, their market price was higher than the officially notified price in 11 districts – six of Punjab, three of KP and two of Sindh. As many as 18 districts – 9 of Sindh, four of KP, three of Balochistan and one of Punjab – did not have an official price for eggs. One district in Punjab also reported limited supply of eggs.



Daal Mona

Daal Mong was sold at, or below official price in 11 districts – eight of Punjab, and one each in the rest of three provinces. It was priced higher than the official rate in 27 districts – 13 of Punjab, seven of KP, six of Sindh and one of Balochistan. The remaining 10 districts – four each of KP and Sindh and two of Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. One KP district reported shortage of this commodity.



officially notified and wholesale – of these commodities at the district level. It also notes the level of enforceability of the officially notified prices of essential items.

The first Weekly Market Monitor comprises of the market survey conducted in 48 districts – 21 in Punjab, 12 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 in Sindh and four in Balochistan on Thursday April 23, 2020. The official prices were taken from the district administration, or market committees while the wholesale prices were gathered through a market survey. In case of Punjab, the government price app “Qeemat Punjab” was also used to fetch the officially notified prices.

This first Monitor will also serve as a baseline for analyzing the fluctuation in the commodities' prices in subsequent weeks. The report

Daal Mash

Daal Mash was sold at, or below official price in 10 districts – seven of Punjab, and one each in rest of the three provinces. It was priced higher than the official rate in 26 districts – 13 of Punjab, seven of KP, and six of Sindh. The remaining 12 districts – four each of KP and Sindh and three of Balochistan and one of Punjab – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. A KP district reported shortage of this commodity.



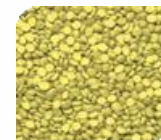
Daal Masoor

Daal Mash was sold at, or below official price in only seven districts – six of Punjab, and one of KP. It was priced higher than the official rate in 29 districts – 15 of Punjab, seven of KP, five of Sindh and two of Balochistan. The remaining 12 districts – six of Sindh, four each of KP and two of Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. Two districts – one each in KP and Sindh – reported shortage of this commodity.



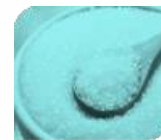
Daal Channa:

Chana was being sold at, or below official price in 11 districts – eight of Punjab, two of KP and one of Balochistan. However, their market price was higher than the officially notified price in 26 districts – 13 of Punjab, seven of Sindh and six of KP. As many as 11 districts – four each of Sindh and KP and three of Balochistan – did not have an official price for the commodity.



Refined

Sugar was sold at regular price in only seven districts – six of Punjab, and one of Sind. It was priced higher than the official rate in 21 districts – 13 of Punjab, four of Sindh and two each of KP and Balochistan. The remaining 20 districts – 10 each of KP, six of Sindh, two each of Punjab and Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison.



Milk:

Milk was sold at regular price in only 25 districts – 15 of Punjab, seven of KP, two of Balochistan and one of Sindh. It was priced higher than the official rate in 12 districts – five each of Sindh and Punjab and one each of KP and Balochistan. The remaining 11 districts – five of Sindh, four of KP and one each of Punjab and Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. A KP district reported shortage of milk.



Yogurt:

Yogurt was sold at regular price in only 24 districts – 13 of Punjab, six of KP, three of Balochistan and two of Sindh. It was priced higher than the official rate in nine districts – five of Punjab and two each of KP and Sindh. The remaining 15 districts – seven of Sindh, four of KP, three of Punjab and one of Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. A KP district reported shortage of yogurt.



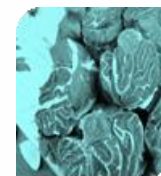
Chicken

Chicken (Live) was sold at regular price in 24 districts – 16 of Punjab, five of KP, two of Sindh and one of Balochistan. It was priced higher than the official rate in ten districts – five of Punjab and three of KP and one each of Sindh and Balochistan. The remaining 14 districts – eight of Sindh, four of KP and two of Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison.



Beef:

Beef was sold at regular price in 18 districts – 13 of Punjab, three of Balochistan and two of KP. It was priced higher than the official rate in 16 districts – seven of Punjab, five of KP and three of Sindh and one in Balochistan. The remaining 14 districts – eight of Sindh, five of KP and one of Punjab – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. A KP district also reported shortage of beef.



Mutton:

Mutton was sold at regular price in 16 districts – 14 of Punjab and one each of Balochistan and KP. It was priced higher than the official rate in 16 districts – six of Punjab, four of KP and three each of Sindh and Balochistan. The remaining 16 districts – eight of Sindh, seven of KP and one of Punjab – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison. Five districts of KP district also reported shortage of mutton.

**Potatoes:**

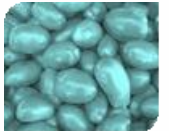
Potatoes were being sold at regular price in 26 districts – 14 of Punjab, seven of KP, four of Sindh and one in Balochistan. It was priced higher than the official rate in 14 districts – six of Punjab, four of Sindh, three of KP and one of Balochistan. The remaining eight districts – three of Sindh, two each of KP and Balochistan and one of Punjab – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison.

**Onions**

Onions were being sold at regular price in 26 districts – 15 of Punjab, seven of KP, four of Sindh. It was priced higher than the official rate in 15 districts – six of Punjab, four of Sindh, three of KP and two of Balochistan. The remaining seven districts – three of Sindh, two each of KP and Balochistan – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison.

**Tomatoes**

Tomatoes were being sold at regular price in 24 districts – 12 of Punjab, six of KP, five of Sindh and one in Balochistan. It was priced higher than the official rate in 14 districts – seven of Punjab, four of KP and three of Sindh. The remaining ten districts – three each of Balochistan and Sindh and two each of KP and Punjab – did not notify any official price that could be used for comparison.



Annex-I: Enforcement of Officially Notified Prices of Essential Commodities¹

District	Wheat Flour	Eggs	Mong	Mash	Masoor	Chana	Sugar	Milk	Yogurt	Chicken (Live)	Beef	Mutton	Potatoes	Onions	Tomatoes
Dera Bugti	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	IP	RP	RP	IP	IP	NA
Khuzdar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	RP	RP	NA	RP	IP	NA	NA	NA
Kohlu	NA	RP	RP	NA	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	IP	IP	RP	IP	RP
Loralai	NA	NA	IP	RP	IP	NA	IP	RP	RP	NA	RP	IP	NA	NA	NA
Abbottabad	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	RP	RP	RP	NA	IP	RP	RP	RP
Bajaur	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Charsadda	NA	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	RP	RP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	IP
D. I. Khan	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP	RP	NA	RP	RP	IP	NA	NA	IP	IP	RP
Lower Dir	NA	IP	IP	IP	NA	RP	NA	RP	RP	NA	RP	NA	RP	RP	IP
Lower Kohistan	NA	NA	NA	NA	IP	IP	NA	NA	NA	IP	RP	NA	IP	RP	RP
Malakand	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Mansehra	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	IP
Peshawar	RP	IP	NA	NA	NA	NA	IP	IP	IP	NA	IP	IP	RP	IP	RP
South Waziristan	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	NA	NA	RP	IP	RP	NA	NA	IP	IP	RP
Swat	RP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	RP	RP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP
Upper Dir	NA	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	NA	NA	IP	IP	NA	RP	RP	IP
Bahawalnagar	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	RP	IP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Bahawalpur	RP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	IP
Bhakkar	RP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Chakwal	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP
Gujranwala	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP
Gujrat	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP

¹ In this annexure, RP means regular prices and denotes that a commodity was sold in wholesale market at, or below the officially notified price of that commodity. IP means inflated price and denotes that a commodity was sold in wholesale market above the officially notified price of that commodity. NA represents that the official price of a commodity was not notified, or was not publicly available in a district.

District	Wheat Flour	Eggs	Mong	Mash	Masoor	Chana	Sugar	Milk	Yogurt	Chicken (Live)	Beef	Mutton	Potatoes	Onions	Tomatoes
Hafizabad	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	IP	IP
Jhelum	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP
Khushab	RP	IP	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP	RP	NA	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Lahore	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Layyah	RP	RP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Lodhran	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	RP
Mianwali	IP	IP	IP	NA	IP	IP	IP	NA	NA	RP	RP	RP	NA	RP	RP
Multan	RP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP
Muzaffargarh	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP
Okara	RP	RP	IP	IP	IP	RP	NA	RP	NA	RP	IP	IP	IP	RP	NA
Rahim Yar Khan	RP	NA	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	NA	NA	RP	IP	IP
Rawalpindi	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	IP
Sheikhupura	RP	IP	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	NA
Sialkot	IP	RP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	RP	IP	IP	RP	IP	RP
Vehari	IP	RP	RP	IP	RP	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP	RP
Badin	RP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	NA	IP	NA	RP	RP	RP
Dadu	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	IP	IP	IP
Jacobabad	RP	NA	IP	RP	IP	IP	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Kamber Shahdadkot	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	RP	NA	NA	RP	RP	RP
Karachi South	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP	IP	NA	IP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP
Kashmore	IP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	IP	IP	RP	RP	RP
Larkana	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Matiari	NA	NA	RP	IP	NA	IP	NA	IP	NA	RP	NA	NA	RP	RP	RP
Shikarpur	IP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	IP	NA	IP	IP	IP	IP	RP
Tando Muhammad Khan	NA	IP	IP	IP	NA	IP	IP	RP	RP	NA	NA	NA	IP	IP	IP
Tharparkar	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

Essential Commodities/Provinces	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa				Punjab				Sindh				Balochistan			
	Official Rates		Wholesale Rates		Official Rates		Wholesale Rates		Official Rates		Wholesale Rates		Official Rates		Wholesale Rates	
	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max
Wheat Flour (20 Kg bag)	808	950	780	975	795	805	750	830	900	1000	800	1000	NA	NA	820	1000
Eggs (Dozen)	100	120	85	130	96	110	90	120	80	100	88	130	120	120	80	120
Daal Mong (Per Kg)	120	270	120	320	130	290	150	300	120	205	126	320	160	270	170	300
Daal Mash (Per Kg)	120	225	140	280	183	260	185	3s00	105	205	70	260	160	160	160	250
Daal Masoor (Per Kg)	105	160	100	170	100	249	102	250	73	180	88	200	120	165	130	170
Daal Chana (Per Kg)	120	142	130	180	115	153	110	180	102	130	115	160	150	150	100	160
Sugar Refined (Per Kg)	70	81	70	90	67	83	70	83	64	74	60	80	70	80	79	85
Fresh Milk (Per Liter)	80	120	80	120	70	90	50	110	82	90	70	100	90	100	90	110
Yogurt (Per Kg)	90	120	85	130	80	110	70	120	100	120	80	160	90	120	80	120
Chicken (Per Kg)	115	220	115	220	100	146	120	146	132	145	124	180	125	160	140	160
Beef (Per Kg)	300	400	350	470	350	450	350	550	340	400	250	500	350	550	360	550
Mutton (Per Kg)	570	750	670	1000	650	900	670	1100	740	790	800	1250	800	900	900	1000
Potatoes (Per Kg)	60	70	50	70	30	64	30	65	30	50	35	50	35	50	40	60
Onions (Per Kg)	50	80	50	80	30	60	30	62	30	55	30	60	40	50	50	60
Tomatoes (Per Kg)	30	50	30	50	10	40	9	40	6	40	5	40	40	40	20	40