

INTRODUCTION

In an effort to better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was initiated by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is guided by the CMWG Markets Taskforce, led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members.

Markets in key urban areas across Libya are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFI) sold in local shops and markets.

This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key foods and NFIs in the assessed areas. The cleaned data sets are available on the [REACH Resource Centre](#) and distributed to CMWG partners, as well as to the broader humanitarian community.

In future rounds, the factsheet will include a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a Libyan household for one month. The prices associated with the SMEB will illustrate variations in prices across assessed locations. The SMEB will be included once it has been agreed upon by all partners and may not contain all items assessed in the previous rounds.

ROUND 5 FIGURES

21 assessed cities
255 assessed shops
32 assessed items

EXCHANGE RATES

1.371 USD/LYD +0.8% <i>official¹</i>	8.280 USD/LYD +1.3% <i>parallel market²</i>	9.700 EUR/LYD +0.5% <i>parallel market²</i>
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METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the JMMI occurs on a monthly basis, with associated factsheets and datasets published and distributed after every round. The fifth round of data collection for the JMMI was conducted between 1 and 8 October 2017, during which enumerators from 5 CMWG partners (ACTED, DRC, Mercy Corps, WFP & REACH) gathered price data for 32 basic items from 255 individual shops. For the October round, 11 new locations were added to the coverage, increasing the number of assessed cities to 21.

Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price

ANALYSIS

Food items

The newly added locations of Algatroun, Murzuq and Ubari in the south were found to have the highest food prices overall. Prices in those locations exceeded levels in Derna, which had previously been the most expensive location before the coverage expansion as a result of the city's military encirclement. The relatively high prices in the south are likely driven by the remoteness of the area and challenging transportation routes. Further research needs to be conducted to determine why Murzuq and Algatroun, a city with significant smuggling activity, are found to have such high prices, even relative to other locations in the Fezzan.

Significant median price changes compared to September were found for sugar (+10.7%), couscous (+10.1%), baby milk (+24.6%) and peppers (+29.2%). Price increases for those items were reported in nearly all locations with reference data from September.

Food prices have continuously increased over the past months (see graph in the appendix). Since June 2017, food prices have risen by 10.7% on average across locations with available reference data.

NFIs

The most expensive location in terms of NFIs was

level in their respective location. Assessed shops include supermarkets, bakeries, vegetable sellers and butchers, as well as central markets. At least four prices per assessed item were collected within each location. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the price of the cheapest available brand was recorded for each item.

Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBo mobile application. Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers.

Algatroun, followed by Ubari and Tobruk.

The volatile NFI prices have significantly risen in Zliten since September (+49.9%). Even though NFI prices have generally been fluctuating heavily over the past months, no notable change in the average NFI price index has been registered (+0.4%) since June 2017.

Tripoli

In Tripoli, the JMMI covers four *baladiyet*³ to test for variance within the city, namely Tripoli Centre, Abusliem, Hai Alandalus and Suq Aljumaa. While the food and NFI prices were generally found to be fairly similar across *baladiyet*, Hai Andalus reported the highest median prices and Abusliem, which hosts large numbers of IDPs, the lowest.

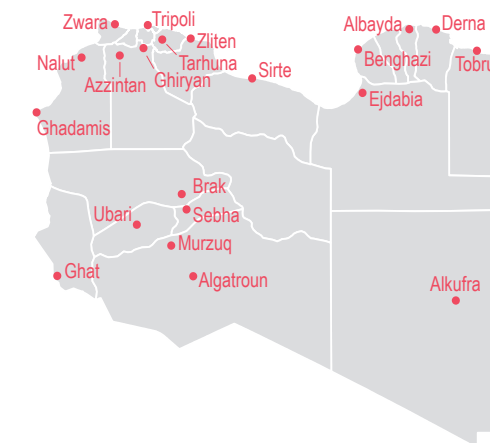
Shortages

In Ubari, dishwashing liquid was not available. There were no reported shortages in any of the other locations. In Derna, wheat flour was available again after shops had run out in September.

Exchange Rates

The Libyan dinar has slightly depreciated against foreign currencies since September. After previously having been in a downward spiral, the Libyan dinar has remained fairly stable on the parallel market over the past 6 months.

ASSESSED LOCATIONS



ASSESSED ITEMS

	Item	
Food Items	Salt	Vegetable oil
	Sugar	Green tea
	Wheat flour	Black tea
	Rice	Canned tuna
	Pasta	Eggs
	Couscous	Chicken meat
	Tomato paste	Lamb meat
	Chickpeas	Bread
	Beans	Tomatoes
	Milk	Onions
	Condensed milk	Peppers
	Baby milk	Potatoes
Non-Food Items	Hand washing soap	
	Laundry soap	
	Shampoo	
	Dishwashing liquid	
	Toothpaste	
	Toothbrush	
	Sanitary pads	
	Baby diapers	

FOOD PRICE INDEX

Location	Food Price Index (in LYD)	Change since September (in LYD) ⁴	Change since September (in %) ⁴	Change since June (in LYD) ⁴	Change since June (in %) ⁴
Algatroun	108.6				
Murzuq	105.3				
Ubari	98.9				
Derna	91.8	-0.2	-0.3%	+13.8	+17.6%
Nalut	90.0	+7.6	+9.3%	+21.1	+30.7%
Zwara	89.3				
Ghat	88.8				
Sebha	87.3	-1.3	-1.5%	+8.9	+11.4%
Azzintan	87.1	+3.5	+4.2%	+13.8	+18.8%
Alkufra	87.1				
Ghadamis	84.5				
Tobruk	81.5				
Sirte	79.8	+4.2	+5.6%	+9.9	+14.1%
Albayda	77.0				
Zliten	76.7	-14.2	-15.6%		
Brak	76.5	-2.9	-3.7%	-8.6	-10.1%
Ghiryian	75.8	+0.3	+0.3%	-2.2	-2.8%
Tripoli	75.4	-1.4	-1.9%		
Ejdabia	75.1				
Tarhuna	74.3				
Benghazi	73.1	+1.9	+2.6%		
AVERAGE	84.9	-0.3⁵	-0.3%⁵	+8.1⁶	+10.7%⁶

NFI PRICE INDEX

Location	NFI Price Index (in LYD)	Change since September (in LYD) ⁴	Change since September (in %) ⁴	Change since June (in LYD) ⁴	Change since June (in %) ⁴
Algatroun	47.1				
Ubari	40.5				
Tobruk	39.3				
Zliten	35.6	+11.9	+49.9%		
Sebha	35.2	+3.5	+11.1%	+5.8	+19.7%
Zwara	32.4				
Brak	32.0	-3.6	-10.0%	-3.1	-8.7%
Ghiryian	31.8	-1.0	-3.1%	-4.8	-13.2%
Sirte	31.8	+1.6	+5.3%	-0.8	-2.4%
Ghadamis	31.3				
Nalut	30.6	+0.2	+0.5%	+0.2	+0.6%
Tripoli	28.5	+0.4	+1.4%		
Alkufra	28.1				
Ghat	26.5				
Benghazi	26.3	+4.3	+19.8%		
Ejdabia	26.0				
Albayda	25.8				
Azzintan	25.7	-4.4	-14.7%	+3.7	+16.6%
Derna	25.7	-1.9	-6.9%	-0.1	-0.4%
Tarhuna	23.6				
Murzuq	18.3				
AVERAGE	30.6	+1.1⁵	+3.8%⁵	+0.1⁶	+0.4%⁶

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

Coordinating a price monitoring exercise via remote management is inherently challenging, as issues of enumerator training, consistent communication and verification of results are harder to resolve from afar. The CMWG has sought to overcome these issues by harmonising procedures and data collection tools to ensure that the data uploaded are as accurate as possible.

ENDNOTES

¹ Source: Central Bank of Libya (2017, Oct 5). Retrieved from <https://cbl.gov.ly>. The rates from 5 October and 7 September were used for the calculation of the monthly change.

² Source: Afrigatenews (2017, Oct 5). Retrieved from <http://www.afrigatenews.net>. The rates from 5 October and 7 September were used for the calculation of the monthly change.

³ Municipalities in the Libya context are commonly referred to as *baladiyet*.

⁴ The corresponding reference data of empty cells is not available.

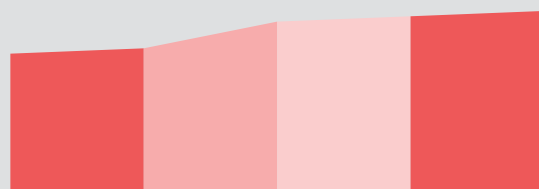
⁵ Only includes locations with reference data from September.

⁶ Only includes locations with reference data from June (Azzintan, Brak, Derna, Ghiryian, Nalut, Sebha and Sirte).

⁷ Since the October round, the boxplots and overall medians are built with city level medians. In previous rounds, the boxplots had taken into account the full dataset, i.e. data from each individual shop.

AVERAGE FOOD PRICE INDEX OVER TIME⁶

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
75.9	76.7	82.0	82.5	84.0



AVERAGE NFI PRICE INDEX OVER TIME⁶

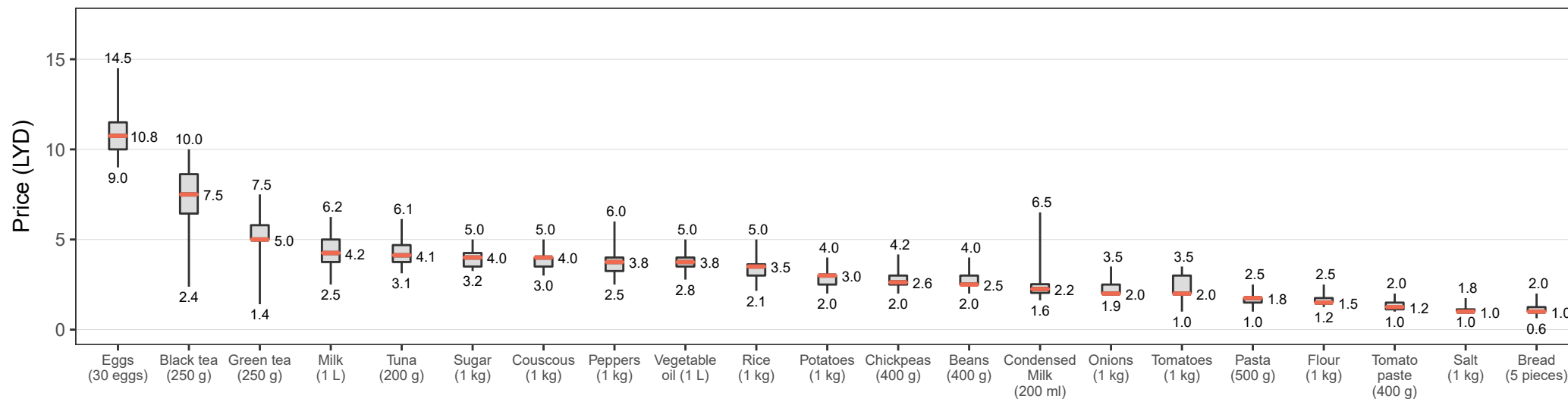
Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
30.3	28.5	27.7	31.2	30.4



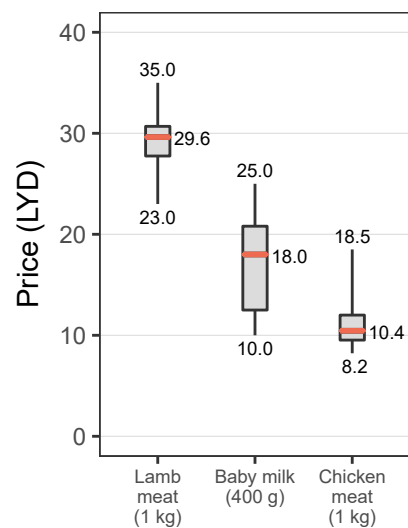
The food price index was calculated by adding up the median prices of one unit of each food item (excluding baby milk and lamb meat), the NFI price index by adding up the median prices of one unit of each non-food item (excluding baby diapers). Where the median value is not available, the average price across all locations was assumed for the calculation of the indices.

Distribution of Prices in Libya⁷

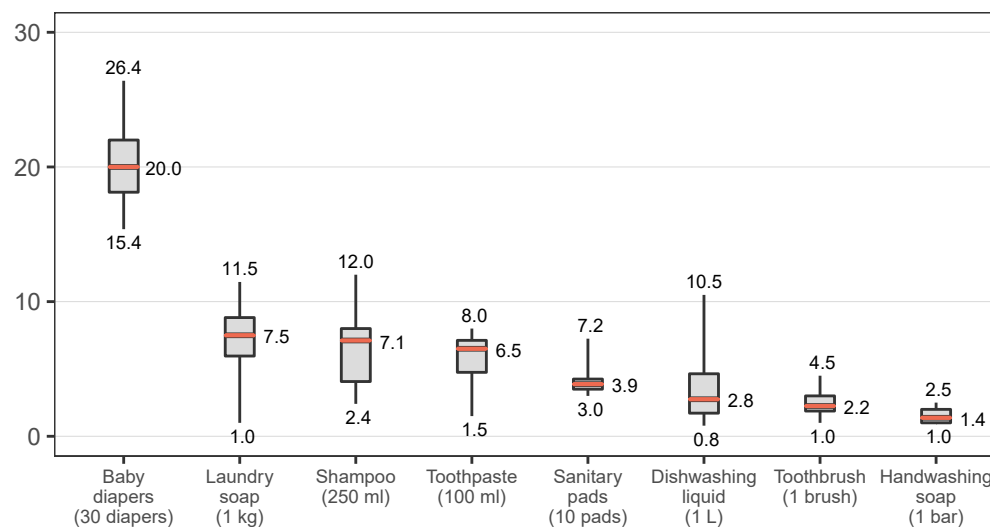
FOOD ITEMS



FOOD ITEMS CONT.



NON-FOOD ITEMS



How to read a boxplot

