INTRODUCTION

In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the Libya Cash Working Group (CWG) in June 2017. The initiative is guided by the CWG Markets Taskforce, led by REACH and supported by the CWG members. It is funded by OFDA and UNHCR.

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 food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).

ASSESS LOCATIONS

METHODOLOGY

• Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations.
• 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 KoBoCollect mobile application.
• Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market.
• More details are available in the Methodology section of the Appendix.

KEY FINDINGS

• During the whole of May, Tripoli coped with ongoing clashes between armed groups. The median cost of the MEB in the city rose by only 3.6% with the peripheral regions outside of Tripoli being the most affected.
• The conflict forced the roads leading south of Tripoli to close, but the coastal roads leading both east and west remained open. This may partially explain the differences in changes in the median cost of the MEB since April between coastal towns, such as Janzour (-2.5%) and Zliten (-5.7%), and cities south of Tripoli, such as Ashshgega (+42.3%).
• Driven by large changes in the median prices of fresh vegetables, such as tomatoes (+33.3%) and peppers (+20.0%), the overall cost of the MEB in Libya reached its highest point since December 2018 at 813.69 LYD.
• Overall, a large proportion of Libya’s farms are located in baladiyas south of Tripoli. The conflict has had an effect on agricultural productivity, on the grounds that the region suffered from indiscriminate shelling and disruptions to water supplies. Furthermore, a reduced influx of migrants may be driving up labour costs, as the agricultural sector relies heavily on a foreign workforce.
• Due to transport security issues, there is a continuing lack of subsidized fuel in south Libya, thus stimulating a larger demand for black market fuel. The increase in demand may explain the 100% increase of the median price of unofficial cooking fuel (LPG). Similarly, the south has poor access to liquidity due to cash shipments being halted as a result of shifting lines of control.
• A drop in the price of the median MEB (-1.5%) was recorded in the east, with the exception of Benghazi which experienced an increase of 13.1%. The overall reduction could be a price correction, as the previous month indicated a 7.5% increase in the cost of MEB in the east of Libya.

MARKET SHORTAGES

None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month
MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)

Key Elements: Food Items
- Bread: 38 kg
- Rice: 12.5 kg
- Pasta: 11 kg
- Couscous: 6.5 kg
- Beans: 7 kg
- Chicken: 9 kg
- Tuna: 4.5 kg
- Eggs: 4.5 kg
- Milk: 10 L

Cost of MEB (LYD)
- Ashshgega: 1007.59
- Nalut: 900.63
- Tarhuna: 804.19
- Bani Waleed: 797.81
- Tripoli: 794.70
- Masallata: 777.75
- Yeften: 777.30
- Alkhums: 777.35
- Yefren: 777.30
- Bani Waleed: 777.30
- Tripoli: 777.30
- Msallata: 777.30
- Zliten: 769.89
- Janzour: 769.89
- Msrata: 739.02
- Median West: 785.75
- Benghazi: 820.85
- Alkufra: 794.28
- Eidabia: 785.10
- Derna: 740.06
- Ghat: 1242.17
- Tripoli: 740.72

Location
- Ashshgega
- Nalut
- Tarhuna
- Bani Waleed
- Tripoli
- Masallata
- Yeften
- Alkhums
- Yefren
- Bani Waleed
- Tripoli
- Msallata
- Zliten
- Janzour
- Msrata
- Median West
- Benghazi
- Alkufra
- Eidabia
- Derna
- Ghat

Change since April 2019
- ▲ 27.95 LYD (+3.6%)

Since May 2018
- ▲ 31.30 LYD (+4.0%)

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person Libyan household for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB’s contents were defined by the CWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

Only the MEB’s key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB
813.69 LYD

Change since April 2019
- ▲ 27.95 LYD (+3.6%)

Change since May 2018
- ▲ 31.30 LYD (+4.0%)

MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost of MEB (LYD)</th>
<th>Since April 2019</th>
<th>Since May 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ashshgega</td>
<td>1007.59</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nalut</td>
<td>900.63</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarhuna</td>
<td>804.19</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bani Waleed</td>
<td>797.81</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>794.70</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masallata</td>
<td>777.75</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeften</td>
<td>777.30</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkhums</td>
<td>777.35</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yefren</td>
<td>777.30</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bani Waleed</td>
<td>777.30</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripoli</td>
<td>777.30</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msallata</td>
<td>777.30</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zliten</td>
<td>769.89</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janzour</td>
<td>767.88</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msrata</td>
<td>739.02</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median West</td>
<td>785.75</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benghazi</td>
<td>820.85</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkufra</td>
<td>794.28</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>-18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eidabia</td>
<td>785.10</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>14.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derna</td>
<td>740.06</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
<td>-25.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkhums</td>
<td>775.38</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zliten</td>
<td>769.89</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janzour</td>
<td>767.88</td>
<td>-5.7%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msrata</td>
<td>739.02</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median East</td>
<td>747.61</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>-5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghaf</td>
<td>1242.17</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ubari</td>
<td>1214.30</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alghroun</td>
<td>1192.99</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murzuq</td>
<td>1111.00</td>
<td>-4.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aljufra</td>
<td>1013.07</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sebha</td>
<td>880.70</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>-8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brak</td>
<td>845.70</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median South</td>
<td>1069.60</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Overall</td>
<td>813.69</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME

Since September 2018

MEB PRICE INDEX
Since May 2018 (normalised, May 2018 = 1.00)
Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

Minimum cost: 700 LYD (Albayda)

Maximum cost: 1242 LYD (Ghat)

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 30 April - 8 May 2019

Libya Cash Working Group

MEB cost

Libya

Ghat 1242 LYD

Derna 740 LYD

Benghazi 821 LYD

Albayda 700 LYD

Ejdabia 785 LYD

Alkufra 794 LYD

Nalut 901 LYD

Brak 846 LYD

Sebha 881 LYD

Aljufra 1013 LYD

Ubari 1214 LYD

Aljufra 1013 LYD

Murzuq 1111 LYD

Algatroun 1133 LYD

Ghat 1242 LYD

Algatroun 1133 LYD

Tripoli 795 LYD

Janzour 768 LYD

Tripoli Area

Ashshgega 1008 LYD

Msallata 778 LYD

Zliten 770 LYD

Misrata 739 LYD

Bani Waleed 798 LYD

Yefren 777 LYD

Tarhuna 804 LYD

Msr 770 LYD

Janzour 768 LYD

Tripoli 795 LYD

Alkhums 775 LYD

Libya

Derna 740 LYD

Ghat 1242 LYD

Albayda 700 LYD

Ejdabia 785 LYD

Alkufra 794 LYD

Nalut 901 LYD

Brak 846 LYD

Sebha 881 LYD

Aljufra 1013 LYD

Ubari 1214 LYD

Algatroun 1133 LYD

Ghat 1242 LYD

Algatroun 1133 LYD

Tripoli 795 LYD

Janzour 768 LYD

Tripoli Area

Ashshgega 1008 LYD

Msallata 778 LYD

Zliten 770 LYD

Misrata 739 LYD

Bani Waleed 798 LYD

Yefren 777 LYD

Tarhuna 804 LYD

Msr 770 LYD

Janzour 768 LYD

Tripoli 795 LYD

Alkhums 775 LYD
**PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Median price (LYD)</th>
<th>Change since April 2019</th>
<th>Change since May 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
<td>77.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>-35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>10.50</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>-17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>500 g</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed milk</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>-9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb meat</td>
<td>5 pieces</td>
<td>39.50</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>-5.9%</td>
<td>-6.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black tea</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>-2.1%</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couscous</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>30 eggs</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
<td>-25.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-37.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>200 g</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato paste</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>33.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>200 ml</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green tea</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>-3.7%</td>
<td>-35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned tuna</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hygiene items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary pads</td>
<td>10 pads</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>-12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>5.63</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwashing liquid</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>1.40</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-44.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby diapers</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>-33.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>1 brush</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
<td>-19.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry detergent</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
<td>-31.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry powder</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
<td>-30.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
<td>3.88</td>
<td>-22.5%</td>
<td>-35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing soap</td>
<td>1 bar</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>-23.5%</td>
<td>-18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled water</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-10.0%</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOOD PRICES OVER TIME**

Selected items (normalised, May 2018 = 1.00)

**HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME**

Selected items (normalised, May 2018 = 1.00)

**BREAD PRICES OVER TIME**

(normalised, August 2018 = 1.00)

**PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS**

(since August 2018, non-normalised)

**NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES**

- Unofficial LPG ▲ +100.0%
- Tomatoes ▲ +33.3%
- Sugar ▲ +25.0%
- Handwashing soap ▼ -23.5%
- Toothpaste ▼ -22.5%

**MARKET SHORTAGES**

None reported
Distribution of Prices in Libya

**FOOD ITEMS**

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

**ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES**

**How to read a boxplot**

- The 'location median' is calculated by first finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 30 April - 8 May 2019

Libya Cash Working Group
### What is the CWG?

The Libya Cash Working Group (CWG), established in August 2016, is a community of humanitarian actors that support and coordinate cash-based interventions in Libya. The CWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR and co-led by Mercy Corps.

### Methodology (cont. from page 1)

The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or baladiya.

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfill criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

### Analyses

The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or mahalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as MEB and price index calculations, are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB’s 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 2. In cases where no median price is available for an item in a particular location, the median price for that item across the region (west, east, or south) is substituted.

### Challenges and limitations

- **Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.**
- **The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the mantika (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities with substantial variation in neighbourhoods’ socioeconomic levels.**
- **The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.**
- **The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.**

### Endnotes

1. REACH, South Libya Rapid Situation Overview, (June 2019)
3. REACH, Market Systems in Libya, (October 2017)
5. The ‘Optional Elements’ section of the MEB includes basic expenditures that are incurred by some, but not all, Libyan households, as well as expenditures that extend beyond basic survival and dignity needs. They are not included in the JMMI’s MEB calculations.
6. The 20% float includes expenses on healthcare, medicine, education, utilities, transportation, and communications.
7. The MEB price index was normalised by setting May 2018 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in May.
8. The food and hygiene prices were normalised by setting May 2018 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in May.
9. The bread prices were normalised by setting August 2018 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in August.