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 (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and availability of basic food and non-food items (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets.

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

- The parallel market USD/LYD exchange rate dropped by 5.3% from November to December 2019. It was the lowest rate since June 2016. The appreciation of the LYD against the dollar may explain the drop in the cost of the MEB.
- Consequently, the largest price changes in December were for imported goods, such as chickpeas (-14.3%), beans (-13.3%) and green tea (-11.1%).
- Comparing data from the past 12 months, the cost of the MEB was found to be cheaper in most cities, possibly as a result of the September 2018 economic reforms.
- Misrata witnessed the largest drop in prices since January 2019 compared to any other market, with the price of the MEB decreasing by 24%. The coastal city is also the main port for importing food/NFI products, thus the changes in exchange rates may have had a more direct influence on prices in the city. Conflict related logistical disruptions are less likely to affect pricing in this region, since goods arrive by container ships, which are not directly affected by the conflict.
- 100% of cities in the east and the south have a cheaper overall MEB than in January 2019. The only cities that have a more expensive MEB are Azzintan (+7%), Ghiryan (+8%) and the sub-district in Tripoli, Abusliem (+5%). The first two cities are located in the southern parts of west Libya, where the supply routes run close to the logistically disruptive conflict and check points that often require fines to cross over.¹
- According to an IOM/ WFP study, over 52% of migrants in Libya voiced their concern about not having enough food to eat, compared to 25% of Libyan residents. Further analysis shows that 19% of migrants find food prices to be too high, compared to 6% of Libyan residents.² These results suggest that migrants could be facing higher risks of food insecurity as a result of high food prices compared to non-migrant population.

MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

- West: 717.30 LYD
- East: 785.66 LYD
- South: 668.15 LYD

MARKET SHORTAGES

No shortages reported

Access the JMMI online dashboard

Access the REACH online dashboard

Exhibit the JMMI online dashboard

Footnotes:

1. The first two cities are located in the southern parts of west Libya, where the supply routes run close to the logistically disruptive conflict and check points that often require fines to cross over.

2. These results suggest that migrants could be facing higher risks of food insecurity as a result of high food prices compared to non-migrant population.
**Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 8 December 2019**

Libya Cash Working Group

**Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 8 December 2019**

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**Location**

**Cost of MEB (LYD)**

**Since Nov 2019**

**Since Jan 2019**

- **Nalut**: 806.6 (-1.0%) 0.1%
- **Azzintan**: 800.3 (0.6%) 6.8%
- **Gharyan**: 798.5 (2.2%) 8.3%
- **Ashahgiga**: 710.7 (-1.1%) no data
- **Yefren**: 706.8 (1.1%) no data
- **Zliten**: 697.9 (-5.2%) -1.6%
- **Tripoli**: 693.8 (-4.7%) -8.5%
- **Msallata**: 669.7 (-0.8%) no data
- **Azzawya**: 650.4 (2.8%) -13.2%
- **Tarhuna**: 646.6 (-5.8%) -9.6%
- **Misrata**: 642.2 (-16.6%) -24.1%
- **Janzour**: 639.5 (-6.7%) no data
- **Sabratha**: 626.7 (-3.4%) -18.0%
- **Al Aziziya**: 626.0 (-12.0%) -13.6%
- **Bani Waleed**: 623.6 (-5.3%) -12.3%
- **Sirt**: 620.6 (-11.5%) no data
- **Zwara**: 607.6 (-17.6%) no data
- **Median West**: 668.1 (-10.3%) no data
- **Median East**: 679.5 (-17.2%) -12.7%
- **Median South**: 877.9 (-12.1%) -12.7%
- **Median Overall**: 717.3 (-6.9%) no data

**MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION**

**EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME**

**January 2016-September 2018**

**Since September 2018**

**MEB PRICE INDEX**

**Since January 2019 (normalised, January 2019 = 1.00)**

**COST OF MEDIAN OVERALL MEB**

**717.30 LYD**

**Change since November 2019**: ▼ ▼ 11.33 LYD (-1.6%) 50.80 LYD (-6.9%)
Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

Minimum cost: 608 LYD (Zwara)
Maximum cost: 1096 LYD (Algatroun)
LIBYA JOINT MARKET MONITORING INITIATIVE (JMMI)

Libya Cash Working Group

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 8 December 2019

PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Median price (LYD)</th>
<th>Change since Nov 2019</th>
<th>Change since Jan 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peppers</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb meat</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>37.00</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td>5 pieces</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>9.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couscous</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.25</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>30 eggs</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-9.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onions</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasta</td>
<td>500 g</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomato paste</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>2.13</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-15.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black tea</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>5.25</td>
<td>-2.3%</td>
<td>-22.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable oil</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
<td>-7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canned tuna</td>
<td>200 g</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
<td>-20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condensed milk</td>
<td>200 ml</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td>-30.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>-6.3%</td>
<td>-16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>-8.3%</td>
<td>-8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green tea</td>
<td>250 g</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>-11.1%</td>
<td>-22.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>-13.3%</td>
<td>-35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickpeas</td>
<td>400 g</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
<td>-40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry detergent</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>100 ml</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>-16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary pads</td>
<td>10 pads</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>-4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dishwashing liquid</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing soap</td>
<td>1 bar</td>
<td>1.63</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>-18.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo</td>
<td>250 ml</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>-32.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothbrush</td>
<td>1 brush</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby diapers</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>14.63</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>-5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laundry powder</td>
<td>1 kg</td>
<td>6.75</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
<td>-10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottled water</td>
<td>1 L</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Official LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unofficial LPG</td>
<td>11 kg</td>
<td>19.84</td>
<td>-16.8%</td>
<td>98.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2019 = 1.00)

HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2019 = 1.00)

MARKET SHORTAGES

None reported
Distribution of Prices in Libya

**FOOD ITEMS**

- **Black tea (250 g)**: 8.50
- **Vegetable oil (1 L)**: 6.00
- **Peppers (1 kg)**: 4.50
- **Tuna (200 g)**: 6.43
- **Rice (1 kg)**: 6.00
- **Potatoes (1 kg)**: 4.50
- **Couscous (1 kg)**: 5.00
- **Green tea (250 g)**: 7.75
- **Milk (1 L)**: 7.00
- **Onions (1 kg)**: 4.00
- **Tomatoes (1 kg)**: 3.50
- **Sugar (1 kg)**: 5.00
- **Tomato paste (400 g)**: 4.00
- **Flour (1 kg)**: 3.00
- **Condensed milk (200 mL)**: 5.00
- **Chickpeas (400 g)**: 3.00
- **Beans (400 g)**: 3.00
- **Pasta (500 g)**: 3.00
- **Bread (5 pieces)**: 2.00
- **Salt (1 kg)**: 1.00
- **Water (1 L)**: 1.12

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

- **Laundry powder (1 kg)**: 25.00
- **Shampoo (250 mL)**: 8.75
- **Toothpaste (100 mL)**: 10.12
- **Sanitary pads (10 pads)**: 7.38
- **Dishwashing liquid (1 L)**: 7.00
- **Toothbrush (1 brush)**: 4.00
- **Handwashing soap (1 bar)**: 3.50

**ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES**

- **Lamb meat (1 kg)**: 44.00
- **Unofficial LPG (11 kg)**: 37.00
- **Baby diapers (30 diapers)**: 24.82
- **Eggs (30 eggs)**: 16.00
- **Chicken meat (1 kg)**: 13.00
- **Official LPG (11 kg)**: 8.00

**How to read a boxplot**

- **Overall median price across location medians (LYD)**
- **Maximum location median in dataset (LYD)**
- **Upper quartile: 25% of location medians are above this point**
- **Overall median price across location medians (LYD)**
- **Lower quartile: 25% of location medians are below this point**
- **Minimum location median in dataset (LYD)**

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Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1 - 8 December 2019

Libya Cash Working Group
Main Food and Fuel Supply Routes

This map indicates the source and flow of transported fuel and food products according to the shop owner and vendor KIs. The arrow sizes are determined by the quantity of responses and provide an indicative scale of the supply routes.

The routes show the flow of goods from mantika to mantika, but does not show the proportion of goods that are sourced locally.
Appendix

PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factsheets</th>
<th>Datasets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>August</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>June</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>April</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MARK-UPS FOR ALTERNATIVE MODALITIES

| E-cards (credit, debit) | NA |
| Certified cheques       | 0-30% |
| Mobile money            | 0% |

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 fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criterion (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.

The CWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

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 manitka (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 Effects of the Tripoli Conflict on South Libya, REACH, June 2019
2 Hunger, displacement and migration: A joint innovative approach to assessing needs of migrants in Libya. JMMI and WFP, November 2019
4 Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 December 2019), retrieved from www.ewanlibya.ly
5 The rates from 1 November 2019 and 1 December 2019 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.
6 The cooking fuel price is calculated by taking the average of the official LPG median and the unofficial LPG median
8 Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 December 2019), retrieved from www.ewanlibya.ly
9 The rates from 1 November 2019 and 1 December 2019 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.
10 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.
11 The 20% fuel includes expenses on healthcare, medicine, education, utilities, transportation, and communications.
12 The MEB price index was normalized by setting January 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in January 2019.
13 Ibid.
14 The food and hygiene prices were normalised by setting January 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in January 2019.
15 The fuel, food and hygiene prices were normalised by setting January 2019 as the baseline and dividing each month’s price by the price in January 2019.

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI): 1st – 8 December

Libya Cash Working Group

REACH informing more effective humanitarian action

REACH is a program of ACTED. It strengthens evidence based decision-making by humanitarian actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis in contexts of crisis.

ACTED is an international NGO. Independent, private and non-profit. ACTED respects a strict political and religious impartiality, and operates following principles of non-discrimination, and transparency. Since 2011, ACTED has been providing humanitarian aid and has supported civil society and local governance throughout Libya, from its offices in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi.