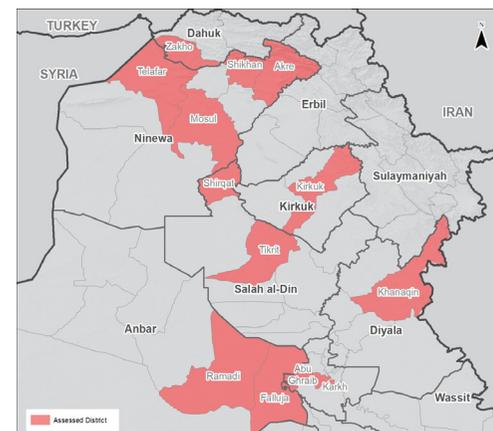


Monthly Factsheet: CWG Iraq - Joint Price Monitoring Initiative

October 2017



ASSESSED DISTRICTS



INTRODUCTION

The Joint Price Monitoring Initiative (JPMI) was developed by the Cash Working Group in Iraq (CWG) and REACH Initiative (REACH) to conduct harmonized monthly price monitoring activities among all cash actors in Iraq. In each assessed market, JPMI field teams recorded the prices of selected food and non-food items (NFIs) sold by local retailers. Monitored commodities have been identified by the CWG based on what is typically available, sold and used by an average Iraqi household. All assessable commodities of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), as defined in Table 1, were included. The SMEB represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a six-person Iraqi household for one month, as defined by the CWG.

This factsheet provides an overview of price ranges and medians for key foods, NFIs and types of fuel across the areas assessed. In order to illustrate variation in prices and availability, REACH utilized the collected data to map the price of a SMEB in each district. Cleaned data sets are distributed to CWG partners, clusters and key stakeholders.

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

DRC	ACTED
IRC	GRC/IRCS
NRC	Mercy Corps
REACH Iraq	Oxfam GB
Relief Int	TdH
Tearfund	PIN
WHH	
World Vision	

METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the JPMI occurs on a monthly basis, with associated factsheets and datasets published after every round. Data collection for the twelfth round of the JPMI was conducted between 22 October and 2 November, during which time enumerators from 14 participating partner agencies (ACTED, DRC, GRC/IRCS, IRC, Mercy Corps, NRC, Oxfam GB, PIN, REACH Iraq, Relief International, TdH, Tearfund, WHH and World Vision) gathered price data in 243 shops from 57 markets in 13 districts across Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Dohuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. In addition, to calculate average monthly rent, transportation and communication costs, the CWG compiled post-distribution monitoring data provided by partner agencies and UNHCR.

Eligible markets are divided into central and secondary markets. Central markets are defined as permanent areas of commerce large enough to host at least three wholesalers providing bulk goods to retailers, and diverse enough to provide access to a variety of food and non-food items (NFIs).¹ Secondary markets are defined similarly, but are not large enough to host wholesalers. Within each assessed district, central markets and secondary markets were selected for data collection.² Markets were selected by partner agency field staff, in order to ensure that localized knowledge was taken into consideration. Partner staff were instructed to select the primary central and secondary markets within their selected districts, to ensure relevant price data were collected.

1. In districts with limited market capacity, some markets with 1-2 wholesalers were categorized as Central Markets.
2. Although the JPMI aims to cover three central and three secondary markets for each district, this is not always possible due to partner coverage or security restrictions.

In line with the purpose of the SMEB, only the lowest available prices were recorded for each item. All data collection was conducted through a KoBo-based mobile data collection tool. Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices and cross-checking outliers. The cleaned data were then analysed by commodity and by district. In addition, REACH calculated and mapped the average cost of a SMEB in each district. Prices were also gathered for an additional set of food and NFI goods not included in the SMEB, but which are staple components of the Iraqi consumer economy. All reported prices are averages.

CHALLENGES & LIMITATIONS

The geographic coverage for data collection was limited by the security context in several governorates. This affected market selection within districts, as certain identified central and secondary markets remained inaccessible to partner enumerator teams due to security concerns. As in September, data collection in October was made more challenging due to ongoing political events. This prevented sufficient data from being collected in Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates, which resulted in the previously assessed districts of Daquq, Hamdaniya and Tilkaif not being included this month. Coverage was also reduced in several of the included districts for this round, most notably

JPMI KEY FIGURES

- 14** Participating Partner Agencies
- 6** Assessed Governorates
- 13** Assessed Districts
- 57** Markets Assessed
- 243** Shops Assessed

TABLE 1: SURVIVAL MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (SMEB)

	Item	Quantity
Food Items	Lentils	10.8 kg
	Rice	40.5 kg
	Sugar	5.94 kg
	Vegetable Oil	5.94 L
	Wheat Flour	40.5 kg
Non-Food Items	Bath Soap	8 x 125 g
	Toothbrush	4 units
	Toothpaste	2 x 75 ml
	Shampoo	2 x 500 ml
	Disinfectant Solution	1 L
	Sanitary Napkins	1 pack (20)
	Garbage Bags	1 pack (20)
Fuel	Butane	10.5 kg
	Kerosene	16.67 L
Other	Sub-standard Rent	Family of 6 (avg.)
	Transportation	Family of 6 (avg.)
	Communication	Family of 6 (avg.)
	Health*	7% of 70% of total

** Health values are not included in the total calculation of the SMEB within this factsheet

in Mosul.

Some items have proven difficult for partner enumerators to find – especially butane and kerosene. To supplement incomplete price data for these goods, partner enumerators were instructed to survey retailers in assessed markets to determine the local prices for both items. As both butane and kerosene prices are relatively stable within the localized context, this methodology returned results consistent with prices collected from butane and kerosene vendors.

Collected price data is representative at the district level. In addition, all data is gathered by partner agencies of the JPMI - as such, the geographic coverage of the JPMI was determined by partner capacity, interest and access, and can shift over time. For this round of data collection, three previously assessed districts – Daquq, Hamdaniya and Tilkaif – became inactive due to the security situation during the data collection period. While these districts will not be included in the comparative analysis for this round, they will likely be included in future rounds as the security situation changes and partners become available.

For this round of the JPMI, only 12 of 13 assessed districts have comparable price data for September, as Kirkuk was not included in the previous round due to the security situation. Thus, this district is not included in the sections of the analysis below that concern percentage change from last month, however the district is included in the sections of the analysis that cover the highest and lowest prices for food and NFIs.

Non-consumable SMEB components such as rent, transportation and communication costs are based on Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) data provided by partners. Due to data gaps for Akre, Khanaqin and Ramadi districts, data from neighbouring districts was used to supplement.

In reporting on percentage changes in price data, it is important to note that while the reported changes

are representative of the assessed markets, it is possible for particularly small changes in percentage to fall within the margin of error of the assessment.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

In October, overall prices saw a small increase of +1.5%. This means that October is the second consecutive month in which prices have increased, after having fallen in each month between March and August 2017. Across the 12 assessed districts with comparable data from September, six saw overall price increases and six saw overall price decreases. Of those districts experiencing increases, the largest were reported in Karkh (+12.1%), Khanaqin (+10.5%) and Shirqat (+9.1%). Of those districts reporting a fall in prices, the largest were in Tikrit (-13.7%), Shikhan (-11.5%) and Telafar (-11.4%).

PRICES OF FOOD ITEMS

Overall, prices for the five assessed SMEB food items (lentils, sugar, rice, vegetable oil and wheat flour) also increased in six of the districts and decreased in six of the districts for which there is comparable data from September. This amounted to a +0.5% net increase. The most notable increases in average food prices were in Falluja (+7.5%) and Khanaqin (+7.9%). In Falluja, this rise was driven by a +19.5% increase in the price of lentils, while in Khanaqin it was mainly caused by a +22.3% increase in the price of rice. Out of the districts that reported price decreases for food, the largest were reported in Tikrit (-12.3%), Shikhan (-8.1%) and Abu Ghraib (-6.1%). Tikrit and Shikhan both saw a drop in the price of wheat flour, by -28.6% and -25.7% respectively, while Abu Ghraib saw a -10.4% fall in the price of lentils. In September, food prices increased in the majority of districts for the first time since April, whereas in October there was an even split between districts reporting increases and decreases for food prices.

KEY AVERAGE PRICE CHANGES OF ASSESSED GOODS BY DISTRICT

TIKRIT	-13.7%	↓
KARKH	+12.1%	↑
TELAFAR	-11.5%	↓

In October, as in the previous two months, Karkh recorded the highest food prices, followed by Falluja and Khanaqin. Karkh reported the highest price for rice (1,740.00 IQD/kg), vegetable oil (1,670.00 IQD/L) and wheat flour (1,191.67 IQD/kg), while Falluja and Khanaqin, although recording the second and third highest prices overall, did not record the highest price for any particular item. Out of the 13 districts covered in October, Shikhan recorded the lowest price for food, followed by Shirqat and Tikrit. Shikhan recorded the lowest price for lentils (1,216.67 IQD/kg) and sugar (860.00 IQD/kg). Shirqat had the lowest prices for rice (739.67 IQD/kg) and vegetable oil (1,286.25 IQD/L). Lastly, Ramadi reported the lowest price for wheat flour (475.00 IQD/kg). As in all previous rounds, the food item with the most significant variation in price between the districts was wheat flour, with a 716.59 IQD difference between the highest price (1,191.67 IQD/kg) in Karkh and the lowest price (475.00 IQD/kg) in Ramadi.

PRICES OF NFI ITEMS

Out of the 12 districts for which there is comparable data from September, seven saw overall NFI price decreases and five saw NFI price increases. This amounted to a +3.9% net increase. For the districts that saw decreases, the largest were seen in Ramadi (-12.1%) and Shikhan (-5.6%). In Ramadi this was driven by a -21% fall in the price of disinfectant solution, while in Shikhan the decrease was largely caused by a -17.0% fall in the price of shampoo. For those districts that saw overall NFI

prices rise, the largest were recorded in Falluja (+23.2%) and Karkh (+10.0%). Both districts saw a large increase in the price of toothbrushes, by 64.6% and 45.3% respectively. In October for both NFI and food goods, a roughly even number of districts reported increases or decreases in overall prices, meaning that there is no cross-district trend in terms of price change this month.

In October, the highest prices for NFIs were reported in Karkh, followed by Falluja and Ramadi. Karkh recorded the highest price for toothbrushes (1,078.33 IQD/unit). Falluja had the highest price for sanitary napkins (250.00 IQD/unit), while Ramadi, as in all previous months in which the district was included, recorded the highest prices for shampoo (3,041.67 IQD/500ml). The lowest overall prices for NFIs were found in Shirqat, Shikhan and Tikrit. Shirqat reported the lowest price for bath soap (207.75 IQD/unit) and shampoo (1,100.00 IQD/500ml), Shikhan had the lowest price for toothbrush (453.13 IQD/unit) and Tikrit, although recording the third lowest prices overall, did not record the lowest price for any particular item. As has been the case in all previous months, NFIs saw more significant variation in price than food items, with six of seven items reporting a 100% or greater difference between the most expensive and least expensive average prices recorded across all assessed districts.

PRICES OF FUEL ITEMS

Fuel prices in October saw a -5.3% decrease,

OVERALL CHANGES IN AVERAGE PRICES OF GOODS

FUEL	- 5.3%	↓
NFIs	+ 3.9%	↑
FOOD	+ 0.5%	↑

which partially counterbalances the +6.6% increase recorded in September. Butane prices decreased by -5.1%. This change mostly offsets the +6.4% increase reported last month. As was the case with the increase in price reported last month, this month's decrease in butane prices was driven by Mosul, which reported a -39.3% fall in price. By contrast, kerosene reported a +9.8% increase, driven primarily by a +80.9% increase in price recorded in Shirqat. Thus, this is the second consecutive month in which localized price hikes in a fuel item price have been recorded - last month for butane in Mosul and this month for kerosene in Shirqat.

DOMESTIC VS. IMPORTED GOODS

For food and NFIs, enumerators recorded whether the item was imported or domestically produced. The overwhelming majority of both NFI and food items were imported - 98.0% of NFIs and 95.9% of food items respectively. For most assessed items, prices for imported and domestic goods were similar, although for the majority domestic items were slightly cheaper.

CENTRAL VS. SECONDARY MARKETS

Overall, 8 of 13 districts (Abu Ghraib, Akre, Falluja, Karkh, Ramadi, Shikhan, Shirqat and Telafar) reported higher prices in secondary markets. One district (Mosul) reported higher prices in central markets and four districts (Kirkuk, Khanaqin, Tikrit and Telafar) recorded no difference in overall prices between the two market types.

In terms of items, in October, all were generally more expensive at secondary markets, except Kerosene which recorded no difference in overall prices between the two types of market.

SHORTAGES

For every surveyed item, retailers were asked whether there had been a shortage of that item within the past 30 days. For October, no shortages were reported in any of the assessed districts.

SMEB CALCULATION

The total SMEB values were calculated using the quantities defined by the CWG (as shown in Table 1). These values were calculated per district (see Table 2).

TABLE 2: AVERAGE SMEB VALUES

District	IQD	USD ³
Falluja	748,582.33	640.90
Ramadi ⁴	706,856.55	605.18
Karkh	659,228.23	564.40
Abu Ghraib	521,490.56	446.48
Kirkuk	439,115.26	375.95
Khanaqin ⁴	409,208.18	350.35
Akre ⁴	400,403.58	342.81
Sumel	379,262.09	324.71
Shikhan	376,154.12	322.05
Mosul	340,188.68	291.25
Telafar	335,139.12	286.93
Tikrit	331,004.14	283.39
Shirqat	308,205.51	263.87

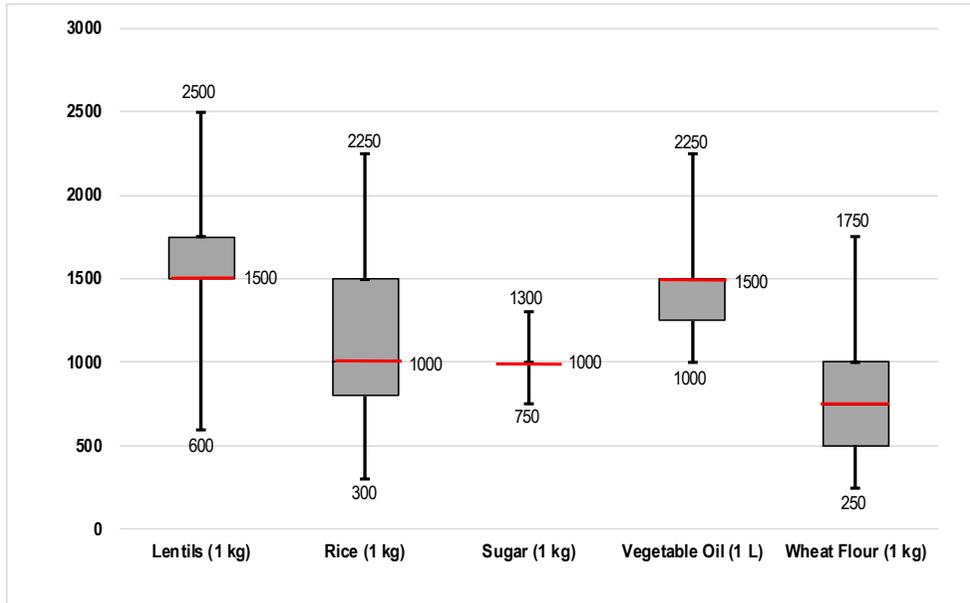
PERCENT OF GOODS IMPORTED

NFIs	98.0%
FOOD	95.9%

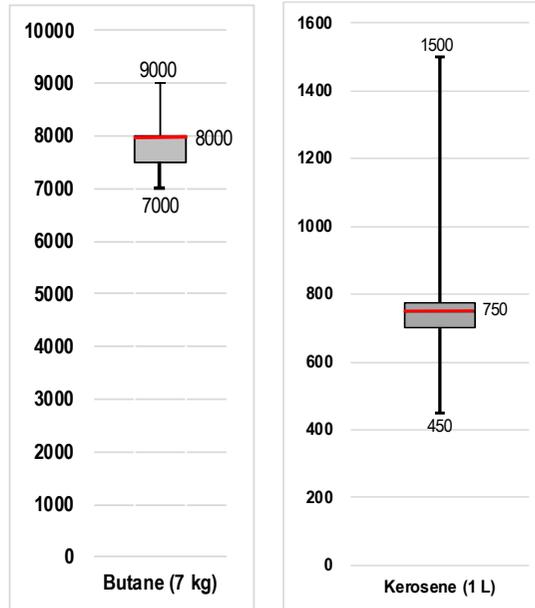
3. Exchange rate of 1 USD 1,168.01 IQD retrieved from www.xe.com on 19 November 2017.

4. Average PDM data from neighbouring districts used to supplement.

FOOD ITEMS

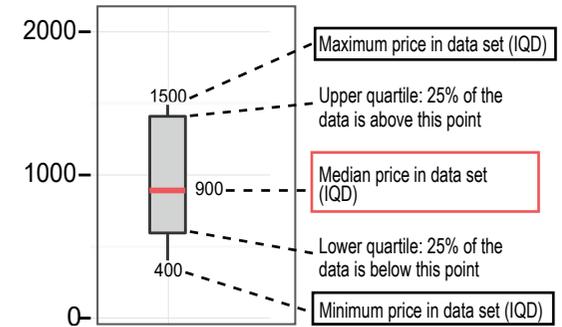


FUEL

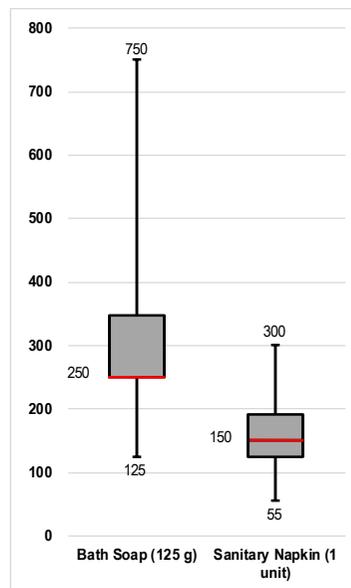
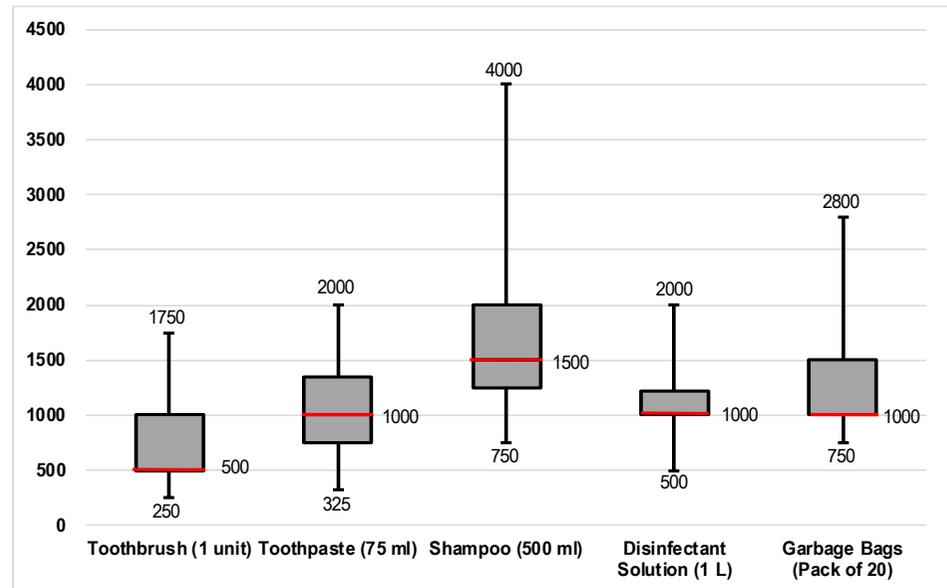


How to Read a Boxplot

Boxplots provide a variety of data to aid in understanding the distribution of the dataset. All prices are in IQD unless otherwise specified.



NON-FOOD ITEMS



CWG - Iraq JPMI Average District SMEB Values (October 2017)

