

## 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 7 FIGURES

**24** assessed cities  
**257** assessed shops  
**32** assessed items

## EXCHANGE RATES

<b>1.362</b>	<b>9.550</b>	<b>11.313</b>
<b>USD/LYD</b>	<b>USD/LYD</b>	<b>EUR/LYD</b>
- 0.9%	+10.0%	+12.1%
<i>official<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>parallel market<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>parallel market<sup>2</sup></i>

## METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the JMMI occurs on a monthly basis, with associated factsheets and datasets published and distributed after every round. The seventh round of data collection for the JMMI was conducted between 1 and 7 December 2017, during which enumerators from 5 CMWG partners (ACTED, DRC, Mercy Corps, WFP & REACH) gathered price data for 32 basic items from 257 individual shops. For the December round, no data was collected from Murzuq, while 3 new locations were added to the coverage of the JMMI (Al-Aziziyah, Al-Marj and Sabratah), increasing the number of assessed locations to 24.

Field staff familiar with the local market conditions

## ANALYSIS

### Libyan dinar kept depreciating

Since November, the Libyan dinar has lost 9.1% against the US dollar on the parallel market, after already having depreciated by 4.8% in the previous month, which has created further inflationary pressures.

### Food items rose by 6.0% since November

Following the recent increases in the parallel market exchange rates, food prices across Libya have been moving upwards. Among the assessed locations, food prices rose by 6.0% since November. In the east (+10.3%), food prices were found to have increased more than in the west (+4.4%), while food prices decreased slightly (-3.4%) in the south. Significant changes to overall food prices were reported in Tobruk (12.5%) and Zwara (+13.9%).

Notable price changes since November were registered for fresh vegetables, namely tomatoes (+25.0%), onions (+20.0%) and peppers (+12.5%). These increases were likely driven by seasonal factors. Most locations furthermore saw a rise in sugar (+12.5%) and chicken meat (+9.1%) prices. Across many assessed locations, shop owners reported a shortage of lamb meat in the market. While the shortage has not affected availability

identified shops representative of the general price 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.

of lamb meat, prices have increased by 9.9% since November.

### NFI prices remained stable

Unlike the parallel exchange rate and food prices, NFI prices have fallen slightly since November (-0.6%). In the South, a notable decrease (-6.7%) of NFI prices was recorded. The NFI price index rose by 20.2% in Gharyan, and fell by 21.8% in Zliten. For specific NFIs, no notable price changes since November were reported.

### All assessed items were available in shops

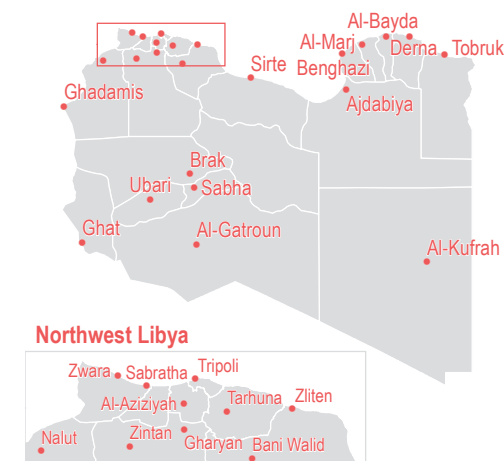
No availability issues were reported in December. Both food and non-food items were readily available.

### Shop owners generally paid suppliers in cash

As in the previous month, the JMMI registered the accepted payment modalities in the assessed shops and found that non-cash payment modalities remain rarely used in the Libyan context (see chart on page 2: Accepted Payment Modalities in Assessed Shops).

In addition, shop owners were questioned about payment modalities used to pay their respective suppliers. All respondents reported that they used cash, while only 11.9% handle their payments with cheques, and 7.1% with bank transfers.

## ASSESSED LOCATIONS



## ASSESSED ITEMS

	Item	
<b>Food Items</b>	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	
<b>Non-Food Items</b>	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 Nov 2017 (in LYD)	Change since Nov 2017 (in %)	Change since Jun 2017 (in LYD)	Change since Jun 2017 (in %)
Ubari	110.2	+6.0	+5.8%		
Al-Gatroun	109.5	-1.9	-1.7%		
Zwara	101.9	+12.4	+13.9%		
Ghat	99.9	-3.5	-3.4%		
Al-Kufrah	98.5	-0.4	-0.4%		
Derna	97.2	+1.6	+1.7%	18.1	22.9%
Zintan	96.4	+6.3	+7.0%	20.6	27.2%
Sabha	93.5	+5.0	+5.6%	13.3	16.6%
Ghadamis	93.1	+4.8	+5.4%		
Gharyan	92.5	+6.6	+7.7%	10.1	12.3%
Tobruk	91.3	+10.1	+12.5%		
Sabratah	91.1				
Al-Bayda	90.3	+6.9	+8.2%		
Bani Walid	88.5	+6.9	+8.5%		
Brak	88.4	+1.6	+1.9%	1.1	1.2%
Nalut	88.0	+1.9	+2.1%	16.5	23.0%
Tripoli	87.8	+5.1	+6.2%		
Tarhuna	87.1	+5.1	+6.2%		
Al-Marj	85.9				
Sirte	85.6	+3.6	+4.4%	13.1	18.1%
Benghazi	84.3	+4.1	+5.1%		
Al-Aziziya	84.3				
Ajdabiya	83.4	+5.3	+6.8%		
Zliten	81.8	-1.3	-1.6%		
<b>Median West</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>+3.7<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>+4.4%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median East</b>	<b>90.3</b>	<b>+8.5<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>+10.3%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median South</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>-3.5<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-3.4%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>90.7</b>	<b>+5.1<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>+6.0%<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>+13.4<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>+16.9%<sup>4</sup></b>

### MEDIAN FOOD PRICE INDEX OVER TIME<sup>4</sup>

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
79.1	76.0	79.3	82.3	87.1	86.8	92.5



## NFI PRICE INDEX

Location	NFI Price Index (in LYD)	Change since Nov 2017 (in LYD)	Change since Nov 2017 (in %)	Change since Jun 2017 (in LYD)	Change since Jun 2017 (in %)
Zwara	50.8	+7.6	+17.5%		
Sabha	47.3	+5.8	+13.9%	+17.9	+61.0%
Ubari	42.4	+1.8	+4.4%		
Al-Gatroun	37.2	-2.7	-6.7%		
Gharyan	37.0	+6.2	+20.2%	0.3	0.7%
Brak	36.1	+2.4	+7.1%	1.1	3.1%
Al-Kufrah	35.1	-2.4	-6.3%		
Al-Marj	35.0				
Al-Bayda	34.3	+1.9	+5.8%		
Ajdabiya	32.6	-0.8	-2.4%		
Ghat	32.5	-6.6	-16.9%		
Bani Walid	32.2	+0.1	+0.4%		
Benghazi	32.0	-1.1	-3.4%		
Derna	31.9	+0.4	+1.4%	+6.1	+23.5%
Tarhuna	31.5	+1.0	+3.4%		
Sirte	29.8	-2.2	-6.8%	-2.8	-8.6%
Tripoli	29.6	-0.1	-0.4%		
Nalut	29.3	-0.8	-2.7%	-1.3	-4.1%
Zintan	29.2	+2.7	+10.2%	+7.2	32.4%
Zliten	28.3	-7.9	-21.8%		
Tobruk	27.9	-4.5	-13.9%		
Ghadamis	27.4	-2.6	-8.8%		
Sabratah	27.1				
Al-Aziziya	26.5				
<b>Median West</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>-1.0<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-3.2%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median East</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>-0.5<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-1.4%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median South</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>-2.7<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-6.7%<sup>3</sup></b>		
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>-0.2<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>-0.6%<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>+1.3<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>+4.1%<sup>4</sup></b>

### MEDIAN NFI PRICE INDEX OVER TIME<sup>4</sup>

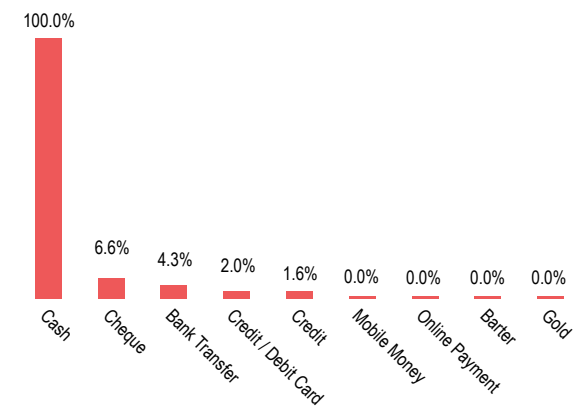
Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
30.6	28.3	27.3	30.5	31.8	31.4	31.9



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.

## PAYMENT MODALITIES

### ACCEPTED PAYMENT MODALITIES IN ASSESSED SHOPS (% of total assessed shops<sup>5</sup>)



## 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 is as accurate as possible.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Source: Central Bank of Libya (2017, Dec 3). Retrieved from [www.cbl.gov.ly](http://www.cbl.gov.ly). The rates from 3 December and 2 November were used for the calculation of the monthly change.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Ewan Libya (2017, Dec 3). Retrieved from [www.ewanlibya.ly](http://www.ewanlibya.ly). The rates from 3 December and 2 November were used for the calculation of the monthly change.

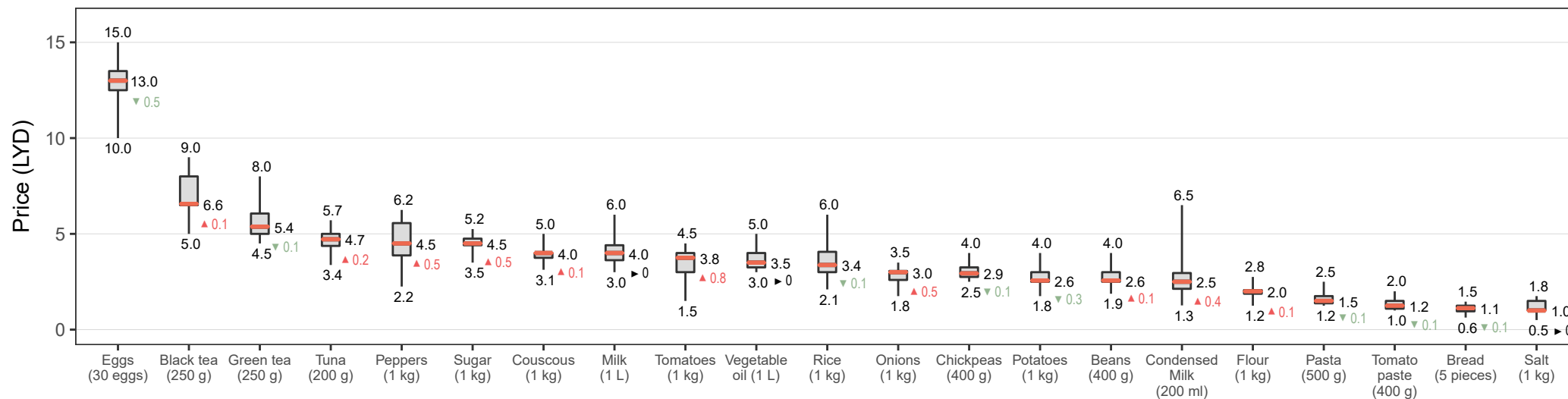
<sup>3</sup> Only includes locations with reference data from November and December.

<sup>4</sup> Only includes locations with reference data from June (Brak, Derna, Gharyan, Nalut, Sabha, Sirte and Zintan).

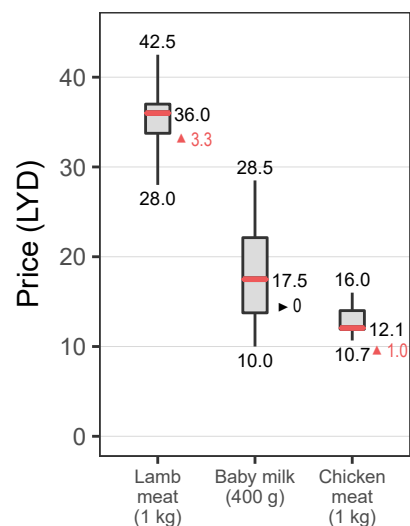
<sup>5</sup> Out of the 257 shops surveyed in the December round, data from 256 is available on payment modalities.

# Distribution of Prices in Libya

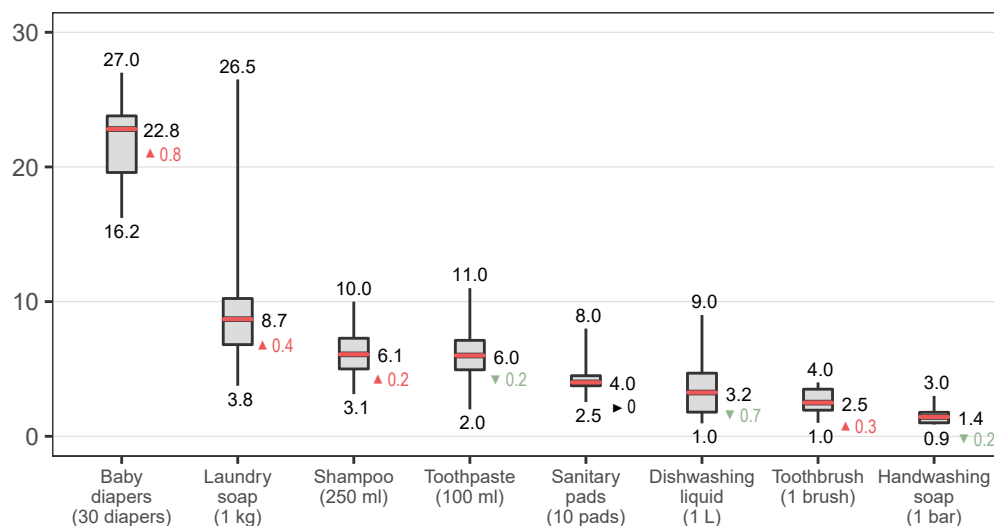
## FOOD ITEMS



## FOOD ITEMS CONT.



## NON-FOOD ITEMS



## How to read a boxplot

