

## 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. 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 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 Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a Libyan household for one month. The MEB will be included and analysed once it has been endorsed by both the CMWG and the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).

## METHODOLOGY

Data collection for the JMMI occurs on a monthly basis, with factsheets and datasets published and distributed after every round. The April round of data collection was conducted between 1 and 7 April 2018, during which enumerators from 5 CMWG partners (ACTED, DRC, Mercy Corps, WFP & REACH) gathered price data for 33 basic items from 378 shops in 29 locations.

Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective location. Assessed shops

## ANALYSIS

### Flour distribution issues in east Libya

Shortages of subsidised wheat flour have been reported in several east Libyan cities, including Ajdabiya, Benghazi, Al-Baydah and Tobruk. These stem from difficulties within the Price Stability Fund (PSF), the government entity tasked with supplying subsidised food items to the population, which in turn have been attributed to delays in receiving letters of credit from the Central Bank of Libya (CBL).<sup>2</sup> The PSF's supplies have been irregular since 2014, and its effects are generally confined to the east, as the PSF is largely non-functional in the west and south.<sup>3</sup>

At the time of data collection, these shortages had resulted in a 12.5% month-on-month increase in the median price of wheat flour across eastern cities, from 2.000 to 2.250 LYD. Bread prices were mostly unaffected due to strict price controls, though bakeries were showing signs of strain. The lack of subsidised flour forced them to purchase flour from more expensive privately operated mills, which hit smaller bakeries hardest due to their difficulty buying in bulk.

To continue operating while maintaining the mandated price of bread, bakery owners reportedly compensated in various ways. Some stopped producing certain varieties of bread, and others began to bake smaller loaves for sale at the same price. In Ajdabiya in particular, some bakeries reportedly suspended their operations as they

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.

waited to regain access to subsidised flour.

### Exchange rate movements and food price changes

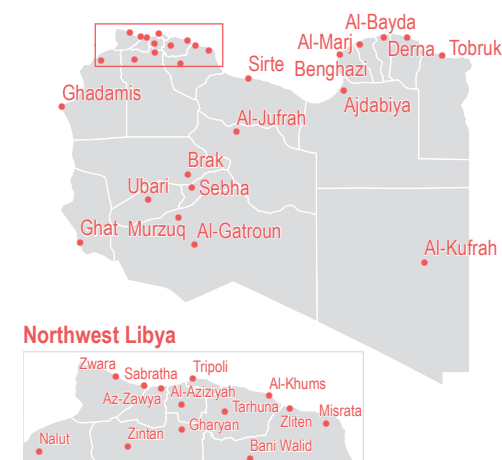
Following several months of volatility, major exchange rates for the Libyan dinar have remained steady since late February, with the parallel-market USD/LYD rate dropping by 1.3% since March (6.340 to 6.260 LYD).

Since early 2018, changes in food prices have corresponded closely with movements in the major parallel-market exchange rates. Hence, stable exchange rates between March and April led to a relatively small month-on-month change in the median food price index (median of +3.3% overall). The largest changes were to the median prices of tomatoes (+38%), milk (+21%) and flour (+12.5%).

### NFI price changes

NFI prices also followed parallel-market exchange rates, though with a lag, as stores tend to keep larger stocks of non-perishable NFIs and replenish them less frequently. In the west and east, small changes in the median NFI price index (-0.3% and +2.6%, respectively) were countered by a steep drop in the south (-14.1% since March and -25.3% since February). This drop mirrored the plunge in parallel-market exchange rates between December 2017 and January 2018, though with several months' delay due in part to the south's remoteness and the amount of time changes take to propagate.

## ASSESSED LOCATIONS



## ASSESSED ITEMS

### 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

Handwashing soap	Toothpaste
Laundry powder	Toothbrush
Laundry detergent	Sanitary pads
Shampoo	Baby diapers
Dishwashing liquid	

## APRIL FIGURES

- 29 assessed cities
- 378 assessed shops
- 33 assessed items

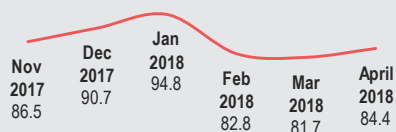
## EXCHANGE RATES<sup>1</sup>

<b>1.338</b>	<b>6.260</b>	<b>7.740</b>
<b>USD/LYD</b>	<b>USD/LYD</b>	<b>EUR/LYD</b>
-0.7%	-1.3%	-0.5%
<i>official</i>	<i>parallel market</i>	<i>parallel market</i>

## FOOD PRICE INDEX<sup>4</sup>

Location	Food Price Index (in LYD)	Change since Mar 2018 (in %)	Change since Oct 2017 (in %)
Ghat	121.5	+12.0%	+36.9%
Murzuq	109.6	+4.5%	+4.2%
Ubari	109.0	-3.0%	+10.2%
Al-Gatroun	109.0	+1.6%	+0.3%
Al-Kufrah	102.0	+0.7%	+17.1%
Nalut	94.1	+11.2%	+4.6%
Al-Jufrah	93.6	+6.5%	n/a
Sebha	92.4	-1.2%	+5.8%
Derna	88.9	n/a	-3.1%
Brak	88.4	+7.2%	+15.5%
Ghadamis	87.1	+5.9%	+10.2%
Tarhuna	86.2	+11.7%	+16.0%
Al-Bayda	85.3	+3.8%	+10.7%
Tripoli	84.7	+8.5%	+12.4%
Al-Marj	84.4	+6.5%	n/a
Bani Walid	83.4	+5.2%	n/a
Al-Khums	83.2	+0.7%	n/a
Zwara	83.0	+2.2%	-7.0%
Azzawya	81.6	+7.9%	n/a
Zliten	80.8	+5.0%	+5.3%
Zintan	80.1	-8.1%	-8.0%
Benghazi	79.9	-5.0%	+9.3%
Tobruk	79.3	-1.3%	-2.7%
Al-Aziziya	78.9	+4.1%	n/a
Gharyan	78.5	-0.9%	+3.6%
Sirte	78.3	+2.1%	-2.8%
Misrata	78.3	-3.1%	n/a
Sabratha	78.3	+4.0%	n/a
Ajdabiya	70.3	+9.4%	-8.1%
<b>Median West<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>+2.9%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>+3.2%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median East<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>+3.9%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>+6.5%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median South<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>109.0</b>	<b>+3.9%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>+16.1%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>84.4</b>	<b>+3.3%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>+3.6%<sup>7</sup></b>

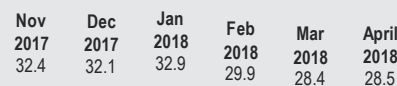
### MEDIAN FOOD PRICE INDEX OVER TIME<sup>8</sup>



## NFI PRICE INDEX<sup>4</sup>

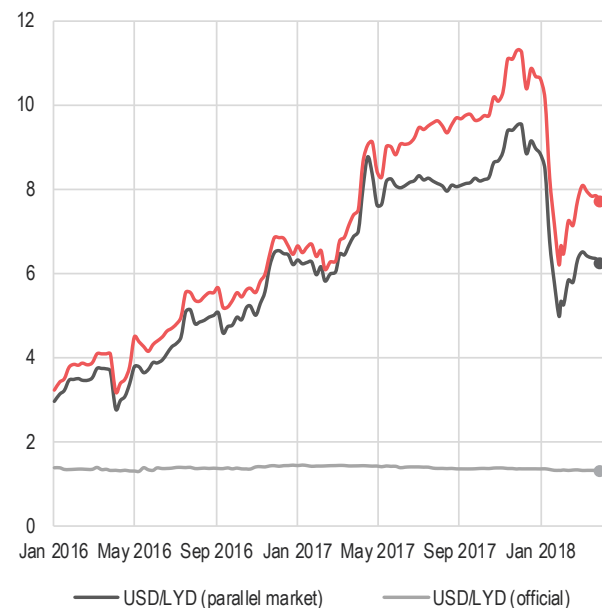
Location	NFI Price Index (in LYD)	Change since Mar 2018 (in %)	Change since Oct 2017 (in %)
Al-Kufrah	56.5	-3.1%	+100.8%
Ubari	38.6	-6.0%	-4.6%
Sebha	38.4	+2.6%	+9.2%
Al-Gatroun	37.9	+18.5%	-19.5%
Zliten	34.9	+0.8%	-1.9%
Al-Bayda	34.1	+6.7%	+32.1%
Bani Walid	33.5	+29.5%	n/a
Tobruk	32.8	+14.1%	-16.5%
Derna	32.3	n/a	+25.6%
Gharyan	31.4	+3.7%	-1.2%
Tarhuna	30.5	+12.5%	+29.1%
Benghazi	29.1	-12.8%	+10.7%
Al-Marj	29.1	-6.0%	n/a
Nalut	28.6	+1.5%	-6.7%
Sirte	28.5	-0.7%	-10.5%
Tripoli	27.7	-5.8%	-1.0%
Murzuq	27.5	+23.2%	+50.5%
Brak	27.4	+24.8%	-14.2%
Al-Jufrah	27.0	-22.3%	n/a
Zintan	27.0	-6.1%	+5.0%
Sabratha	26.8	+26.6%	n/a
Ghadamis	26.6	-1.4%	-14.8%
Zwara	26.4	+19.9%	-18.4%
Azzawya	26.0	+5.0%	n/a
Al-Aziziya	26.0	-5.1%	n/a
Ajdabiya	25.8	-6.8%	-0.9%
Ghat	25.5	-7.3%	-3.8%
Misrata	24.7	+2.0%	n/a
Al-Khums	24.1	-4.1%	n/a
<b>Median West<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>-0.3%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>-13.6%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median East<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>+2.6%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>+23.3%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median South<sup>5</sup></b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>-14.1%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>-18.1%<sup>7</sup></b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>+0.2%<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>-7.1%<sup>7</sup></b>

### MEDIAN NFI PRICE INDEX OVER TIME<sup>8</sup>

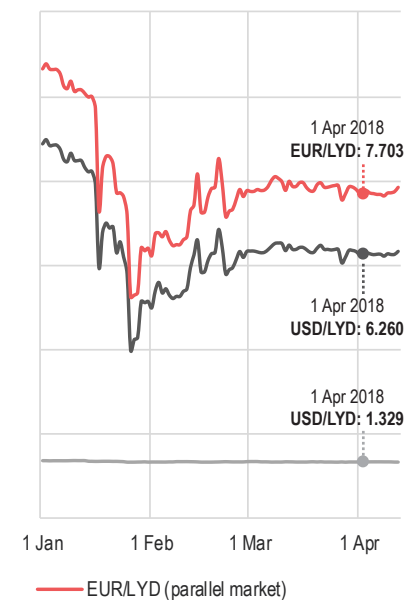


## EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME<sup>1</sup>

### Weekly rates since January 2016



### Daily rates since January 2018



## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Source: Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 April 2018) retrieved from [www.cbl.gov.ly](http://www.cbl.gov.ly); Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 April 2018), retrieved from [www.ewanlibya.ly](http://www.ewanlibya.ly). The rates from 1 March and 1 April 2018 were used to calculate monthly changes.

<sup>2</sup> Libya Observer (2 April 2018), Price Balancing Fund says CBL is refusing to allocate funds for food imports. Retrieved from [www.libyaobserver.ly](http://www.libyaobserver.ly).

<sup>3</sup> REACH/CMWG (October 2017), [Market Systems in Libya: Assessment of the Wheat Flour, Insulin, Tomato and Soap Supply Chains](#).

<sup>4</sup> 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 laundry detergent and baby diapers). Where the median value is not available, the average price across all locations was assumed for the calculation of the indices.

<sup>5</sup> East: Ajdabiya, Al-Bayda, Al-Kufrah, Al-Marj, Benghazi, Derna, Tobruk; West: Al-Aziziya, Az-Zawya, Al-Khums, Bani Walid, Ghadamis, Gharyan, Misrata, Nalut, Sabratha, Sirte, Tarhuna, Tripoli, Zintan, Zliten, Zwara; South: Al-Gatroun, Al-Jufrah, Brak, Ghat, Murzuq, Sebha, Ubari.

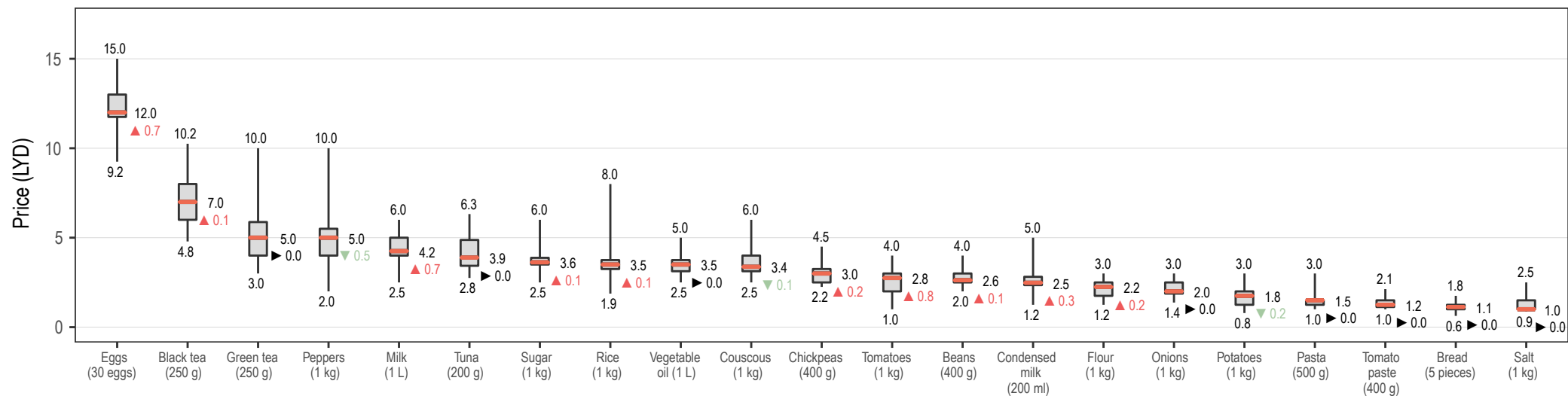
<sup>6</sup> Only includes locations with reference data from March and April 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Only includes locations with reference data from October 2017 and April 2018.

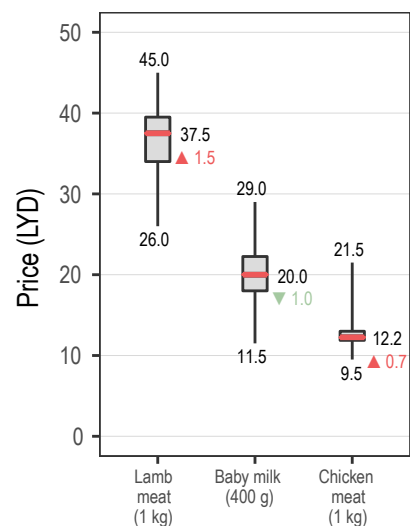
<sup>8</sup> Includes all locations assessed in a given month.

# Distribution of Prices in Libya

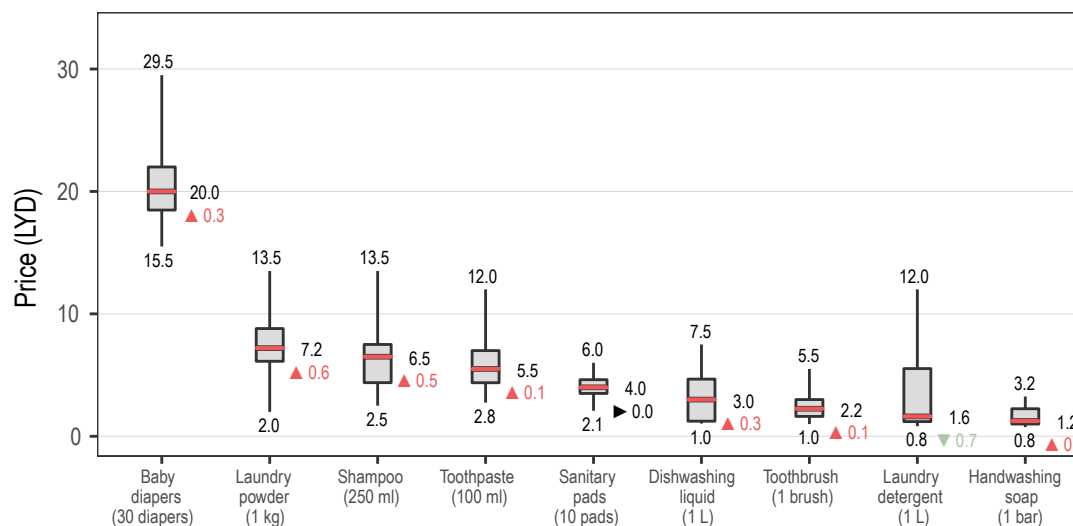
## FOOD ITEMS



## FOOD ITEMS CONT.



## NON-FOOD ITEMS



## How to read a boxplot

