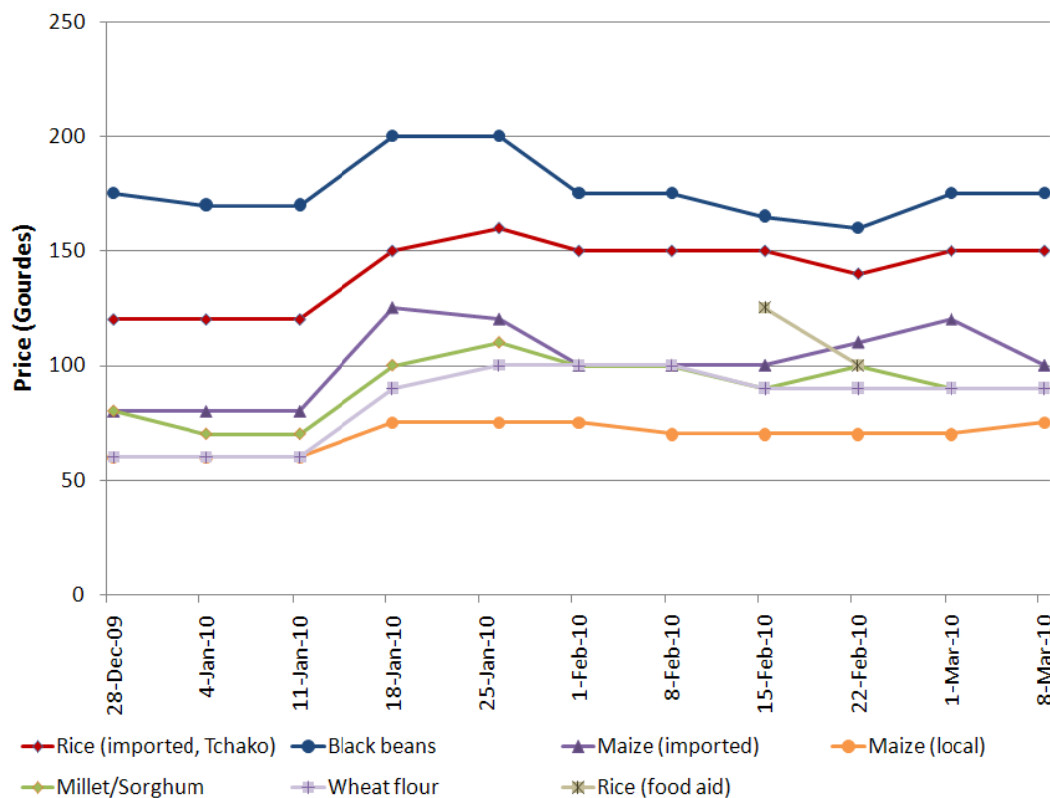


HAITI: Price Update for Port-au-Prince and Jacmel

March 9, 2010

- In Port-au-Prince, prices for the main staples (imported rice, black beans, imported and local maize, sorghum, and wheat flour) were stable from Monday, March 1 through Monday, March 8. Prices decreased two percent on average; however, this was essentially due to a 17 percent decrease in the price of imported maize.
- The price of these main staples has stabilized at a level on average 26 percent higher than before the earthquake (25 percent higher for imported rice).
- In Jacmel, prices for the main staple food products have not changed since last week, except for sorghum. The sorghum price has decreased by 20 percent, most likely due to the arrival of newly harvested sorghum or/and the release of stocks following a price increase over the preceding weeks.
- As in Port-au-Prince, prices in Jacmel have remained above their pre-earthquake level, 24 percent higher on average for all monitored commodities, and 36 percent higher for imported rice.
- As of March 8, prices for imported rice and black beans were 20 percent and three percent higher in Jacmel than in Port-au-Prince, respectively. For comparison, these price differentials were 17 percent and 21 percent, respectively, on average, over the five previous years. Thus, in the post-earthquake period, the relative price of imported rice in Jacmel is slightly higher than normal, whereas the relative bean price is much lower than normal. These changes are indicative of above-normal trade costs from bean-producing areas to Port-au-Prince.

Figure 1. Trends in staple food prices, Croix-des-Bossales market, Port-au-Prince



Source : FEWS NET

Table 1. Recent prices for staple commodities, Croix-des-Bossales market, Port-au-Prince (Gourdes)

| Commodity | Price 1/11/10 | Price 3/01/10 | Price 3/08/10 | Percent change, previous price collection to present (3/01 to 3/08) | Percent change, pre- earthquake to present (1/11 to 3/08) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Rice (imported) – 6 lbs | 120 | 150 | 150 | 0% | +25% |
| Rice (local) – 6 lbs | 240 | 200 | 200 | 0% | -17% |
| Rice (food aid) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Red beans – 6 lbs | 180 | 200 | 225 | +13% | +25% |
| Black Beans – 6 lbs | 170 | 175 | 175 | 0% | +3% |
| Maize (Imported) – 6 lbs | 80 | 120 | 100 | -17% | +25% |
| Maize (local) – 6 lbs | 60 | 70 | 75 | +7% | +25% |
| Small millet/Sorghum – 6 lbs | 70 | 90 | 90 | 0% | +29% |
| Wheat flour – 6 lbs | 60 | 90 | 90 | 0% | +50% |
| Bulgur wheat – 6 lbs | 90 | 100 | 100 | 0% | +11% |
| Salt | 20 | 20 | 25 | +25% | +25% |
| Sugar (white) | 130 | 150 | 150 | 0% | +15% |
| Sugar (unrefined) | 120 | 125 | 125 | 0% | +4% |
| Cooking Oil (Alberto brand) – 1 gal | 250 | 250 | 250 | 0% | 0% |
| Cooking Oil (Rika brand) – 1 gal | 250 | 250 | 250 | 0% | 0% |
| Spaghetti (imported) - 175 g bag | 12 | 12 | 12 | 0% | 0% |
| Charcoal - Large bag | 600 | 600 | 600 | 0% | 0% |

Table 2. Recent prices for staple commodities, Jacmel market, Department of the South-East (Gourdes)

| Commodity | Price 1/11/10 | Price 3/01/10 | Price 3/08/10 | Percent change, previous price collection to present (3/1 to 3/08) | Percent change, pre- earthquake to present (1/11 to 3/08) |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---|---|
| Rice (imported) – 6 lbs | 132 | 180 | 180 | 0% | +36% |
| Rice (local) – 6 lbs | 360 | 300 | 275 | -8% | -24% |
| Red beans – 6 lbs | 210 | 240 | 270 | +13% | +29% |
| Black beans – 6 lbs | 150 | 180 | 180 | 0% | +20% |
| Maize (imported) – 6 lbs | 90 | 120 | 120 | 0% | +33% |
| Maize (local) – 6 lbs | 60 | 72 | 72 | 0% | +20% |
| Small millet/Sorghum – 6 lbs | 90 | 150 | 120 | -20% | +33% |
| Wheat flour – 6 lbs | 120 | 120 | 120 | 0% | 0% |
| Bulgur wheat – 6 lbs | 120 | 120 | 120 | 0% | 0% |
| Salt | 45 | 45 | 45 | 0% | 0% |
| Sugar (white) | 150 | 180 | 180 | 0% | +20% |
| Sugar (unrefined) | 132 | 144 | 144 | 0% | +9% |
| Cooking Oil (Alberto brand) – 1 gal | 250 | 275 | 275 | 0% | +10% |
| Cooking Oil (Rika brand) – 1 gal | 275 | 265 | 265 | 0% | -4% |
| Spaghetti (imported) - 175 g bag | 13 | 15 | 15 | 0% | +20% |
| Charcoal - Large bag | 300 | 300 | 300 | 0% | 0% |