FACTSHEET

Joint market monitoring initiative (JMMI)

March, 2023
Ukraine

KEY MESSAGES

- **Essential items**, such as food and hygiene items, remained widely available. In March, customers reporting full availability of medications decreased from 94% in February to 92%. Lack or limited availability of medications, food and hygiene items was more prevalent in **Khersonska oblast.**
- **Median price of the full JMMI basket rose notably** in almost all macro regions, especially in the **North (by 16%)**. **The most expensive set of JMMI basket items (1266 UAH) was in the South.** Moreover, according to 39% of retailer KIs surveyed in Sumska oblast, prices in their stores have increased for each food and non-food item in the JMMI basket.
- **Affordability** remained a key issue, with **53% of customers** reporting **price increases** as their main financial barrier to access goods, and 27% of retailers noting **supplier price increases**. Moreover, 53% and 42% of retailers anticipated that, respectively, **increases in prices** and **decreases in customers' purchasing power** would be the main challenges in the coming months.
- The percentage of retailers reporting **difficulties in keeping their stores operational and well-stocked** decreased from 47% in February to 37% in March. Retailers everywhere, except in the West and Center, faced difficulties more frequently. The main reported challenge was **high supplier prices.**
- **Access to banks and ATMs remained an issue for a high share of customer KIs in areas close to hostilities or affected by air attacks,** especially **in the South,** and in Chernihiv and Kharkiv oblasts.

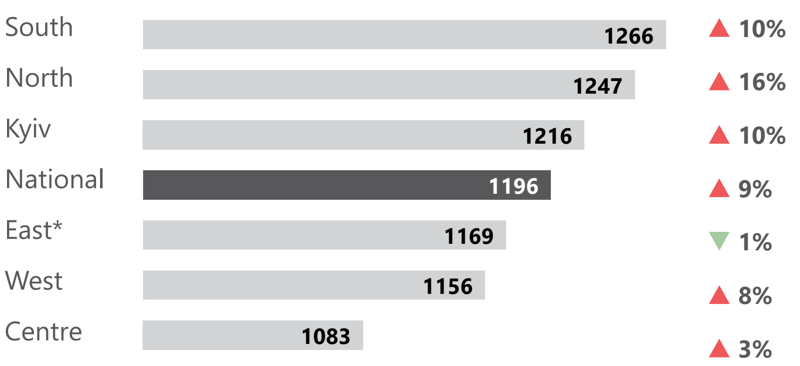
CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Since 24 February 2022, the full-scale war across Ukraine has prompted mass displacement and humanitarian crisis. Given the prominence of multi-purpose cash as a modality for assistance, market monitoring is a key initiative to ensure humanitarian intervention is effective, sustainable and does not harm local markets. Due to the widening of areas beyond the control of the Government of Ukraine, humanitarian market data from conflict-affected areas is limited and incomplete. The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative seeks to fill this information gap by providing useful and timely data on price trends and market functionality indicators.

1196 UAH **Cost of JMMI basket**

31.13 USD (▲ 13%) 29.28 EUR (▲ 13%)

Median values of the full JMMI baskets in March 2023



JMMI in March 2023:

10 participating partners
1316 interviews conducted
__620__ retailers surveyed
__696__ customers surveyed (__40%__ men and __60%__ women)
23 oblasts monitored
139 hromadas monitored

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

- Track prices and availability of basic commodities in Ukraine markets on a monthly basis.
- Assess the impact of the current humanitarian crisis on market systems in Ukraine.
- Contribute to a broader understanding of the market environment in Ukraine for the benefit of humanitarian actors across all sectors.

METHODOLOGY:
Marketplaces across Ukraine are assessed on a monthly basis. In each location, field teams record prices and other market indicators through retailer and customer key informants (KIs) interviews that characterize monthly changes in the local markets.**

*East includes Kharkivska, Luhanska, and Donetska oblasts.
**Please find the methodology overview on page 12

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

AVAILABILITY OF GOODS

Food items

In March, 99% of customers reported full availability of food items, whereas for 1% food items were still in limited availability (Figure 1). The highest proportion of such respondents was in the newly accessible areas of Khersonska oblast (13%, as in the previous month), a region, that at the time of data collection was experiencing ongoing ground shelling.

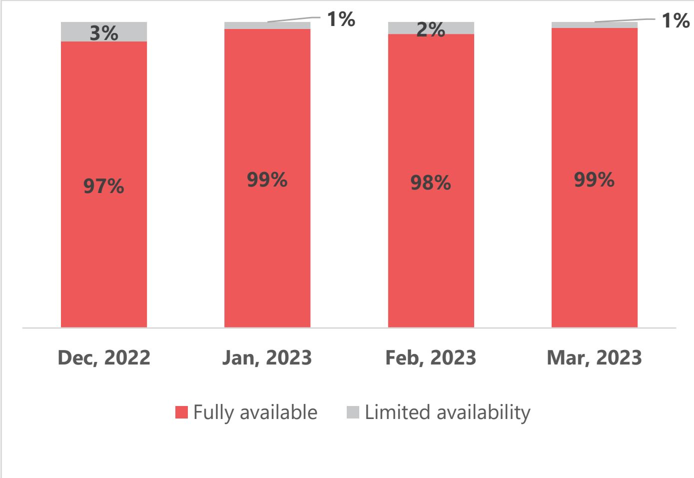
According to the JMMI retailer KIs survey, among the items in the JMMI food basket, only wheat flour and sunflower oil were fully available at the interviewed retailers' stores. Full availability of other JMMI items varied from 91% reported by retailer KIs for complementary cereal for babies to 99% reported for bread, eggs (chicken), rice, buckwheat, and drinking water.

Retailers in Khersonska oblast reported a lack or limited availability of food items they normally sell more frequently than retailers in other oblasts of Ukraine. Vegetables included in the JMMI food basket, such as cabbage, carrots or onions were out of stock in the stores of every second retailer surveyed in Khersonska oblast. In addition, 36% of retailers in that region reported the unavailability of milk, and 20% noted the absence of potatoes. Chicken (legs) was either unavailable or in limited availability according to 26% of retailer KIs. Eggs, buckwheat, rice and complementary cereal for babies were in limited availability in the stores of 10% of interviewed retailers, and 20% of them reported limited availability of drinking water.

Hygiene items

As in the previous month, in March 99% of customers reported the full availability of hygiene items (Figure 2). However, limited availability of hygiene items remained an issue in the South, with 17% of customers in Khersonska oblast reporting limited availability in their local stores and marketplaces. Furthermore, 10% of customers in Volynska, 4% in Poltavska, and 3% in Kharkivska oblasts also indicated limited availability of hygiene items.

Figure 1: % of customer KIs reporting availability of food items, national



Source: JMMI

According to the retailer KIs, diapers for infants were the lowest available item among the JMMI`s hygiene basket. Nationally-wide only 91% of surveyed retailers reported their full availability. The lowest level of full availability of diapers was observed in Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, and Chernihiv oblasts (36%, 50%, and 75% respectively).

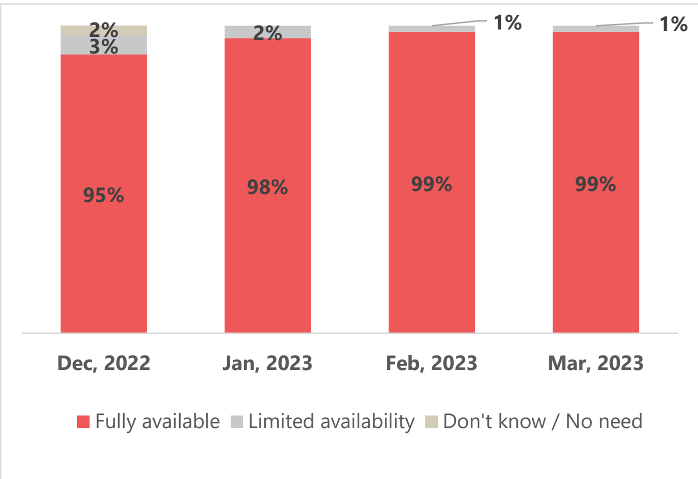
Toothpaste was not available in the stores of 22% surveyed retailers in Rivnenska and 10% retailers in Khersonska oblast. Additionally, 33% of surveyed respondents in Khersonska oblast had this item in their stores in limited availability.

In Rivnenska oblast, 11% of retailer KIs mentioned the lack of sanitary pads and body soap. In Khersonska oblast, 23% of respondents noted the limited availability of sanitary pads in their stores and 10% reported limited availability of washing powder.

Medications

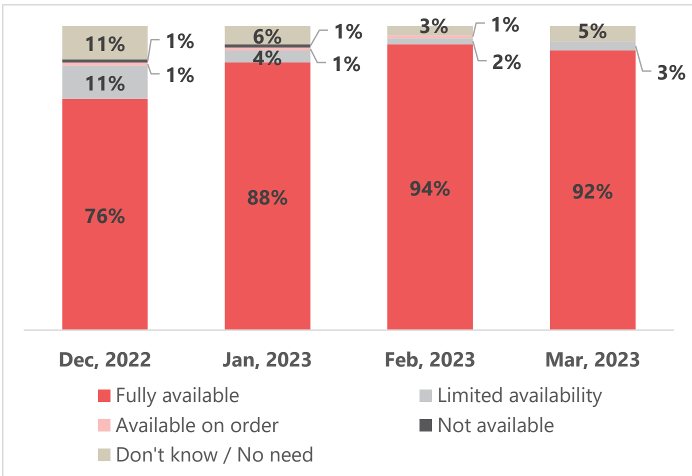
In March, 92% of customer KIs reported availability of over-the-counter medications, whereas the percentage was 94% in February (Figure 3).

Figure 2: % of customer KIs reporting availability of hygiene items, national



Source: JMMI

Figure 3: % of customer KIs reporting availability of over-the-country medication, national



Source: JMMI

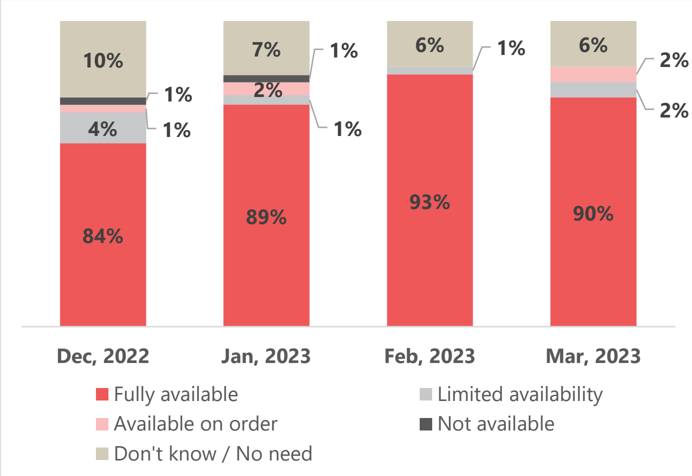
Limited access to medicines was an issue for customer KIs in Khersonska, Volynska and Vinnytska oblasts, where 39%, 25% and 13% of respondents indicated limited availability of medication, respectively.

Warm clothes

With the ending of the cold season, the availability of warm clothes for customer KIs has not improved. While in February 93% of customers reported full availability of warm clothes, in March this percentage dropped to 90% (Figure 4). Furthermore, 2% of customer KIs found limited availability of warm clothes in the stores or marketplaces in their hromadas, and the same percentage could only buy these items by order.

The issue with warm clothes was particularly acute for Khersonska oblast, where 13% of customer KIs reported limited availability and an equal percentage of respondents in this region could buy them only by order, as well as for Kharkivska oblast, where 9% and 6%, respectively, had limited access or access only by order.

Figure 4: % of customer KIs reporting availability of warm clothes, national



Source: JMMI

AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND MARKET PRICES

Availability

Less than half of the surveyed customer KIs (42%) regularly purchased vehicle fuel for household or professional use. It mostly consisted of petrol, diesel and natural gas. Only a very limited number of respondents indicated they made use of electrically powered cars.

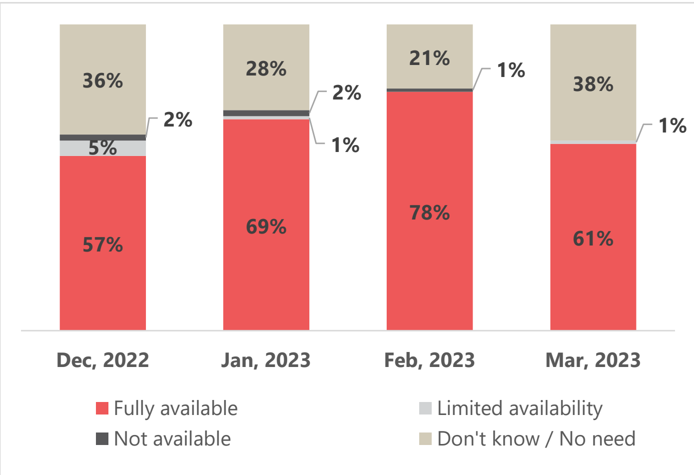
For the majority of customers KIs (61%) in March vehicle fuel was fully available (Figure 5), while in February this percentage was 78%. The decrease in this figure was probably due to an increase from 21% to 38% of the respondents who answered “Don`t know / No need”.

It should be noted that there were some issues with availability of vehicle fuel in Rivnenska oblast, with 5% of customer KIs unable to buy fuel for their vehicles, in Vinnytska and Khersonska oblasts, where 8% and 4% of respondents respectively reported a limited availability of fuel, and in Zaporizka oblast, where 13% of customer KIs could only buy this item by order.

With the warm season approaching, the percentage of customer KIs who were not concerned about the availability of fuel for heating has increased. Moreover, the share of those who answered “Don`t know / No need” rose from 11% in February to 26% in March, which in turn has affected the decrease in the proportion of customer KIs who reported full availability of heating fuel from 83% in February to 71% in March (Figure 6).

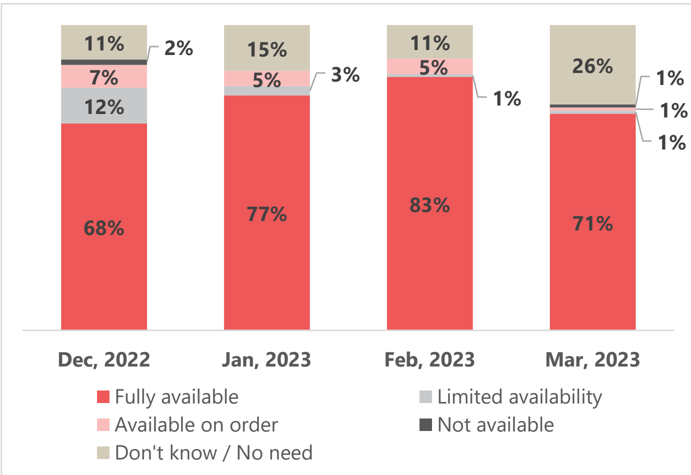
However, unavailability or limited availability of fuel was reported, respectively, by 3% and 6% of customer KIs in the East. Also, 5% of customer KIs in the North indicated that they could only buy heating fuel by order.

Figure 5: % of customer KIs reporting availability of vehicle fuel, national



Source: JMMI

Figure 6 % of customer KIs reporting availability of heating fuel, national



Source: JMMI

Market prices

The growth rate of fuel prices declined rapidly due to substantial stocks and a decline in global oil prices in annual terms[1].

In March, the average consumer prices for all types of fuel for vehicles were lower compared to February. The average price of liquefied petroleum gas for automobiles (LPG) fell the most (by 9%), the price of diesel fuel decreased by 5%, the price of petrol A-92 decreased by 3% and the one for petrol A-95 - by 2% (Figure 7)[2]. However, vehicle fuel prices were still above pre-war levels. For instance, in March 2023 the price of diesel was 61% higher than in January 2022, the prices for petrol A-92 and petrol A-95 were 50% higher, and for LPG it was 19% higher.

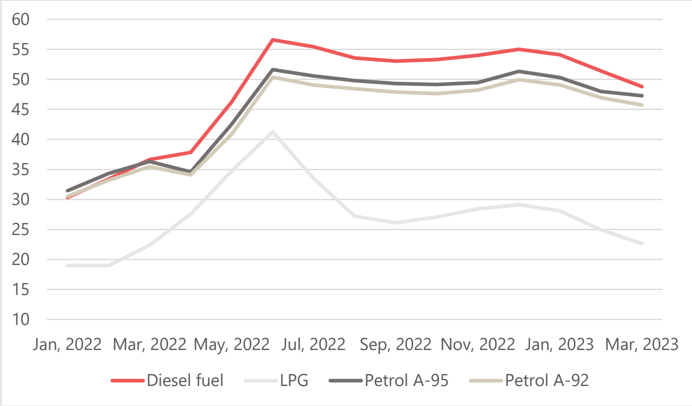
According to the JMMI customer KIs survey, the estimated price of petrol purchased through unofficial sources was equal to the estimated price of that purchased through official sources, and the estimated price of diesel fuel purchased through unofficial sources was slightly lower than the estimated price of that purchased through official sources. Thus, respondents could buy diesel through official sources for 50 UAH per liter, through unofficial sources for 46 UAH per liter, and concerning petrol - for 48 UAH both through official and unofficial sources.

The growth in administered prices continued to be restrained by the moratorium on increases in utility tariffs for households[3]. As a consequence, the prices of electricity and natural gas used by customers to heat their houses have remained unchanged since the beginning of the full-scale war.

Natural gas in all regions of Ukraine was available to the residents at a price of 8 UAH per cubic metre, and the price of electricity varied across the country from 1.44 UAH to 1.68 UAH per kWh depending on the amount of electricity consumed.

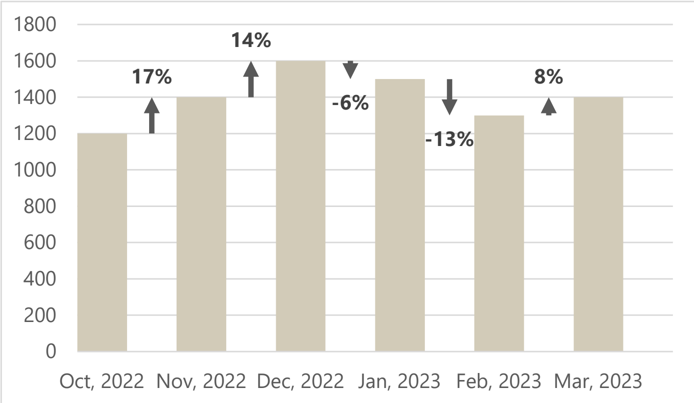
In March, customer KIs in the South used coal for heating at a price of 12 thousand UAH per ton, and in the Centre - at a price of 6 thousand UAH per ton.

Figure 7: Average consumer price for vehicle fuel, national, UAH per liter



Source: SSSU

Figure 8: Estimated firewood price, national, UAH per cubic metre



Source: JMMI

The price of firewood increased gradually. In March customer KIs reportedly could buy firewood for 1,400 UAH per cubic metre on average, 8% higher than in February (Figure 8).

JMMI BASKET

Food

Bread	500 g
Buckwheat	1 kg
Cabbage	1 kg
Carrots	1 kg
Chicken (legs)	1 kg
Complementary cereal for babies	200 g
Drinking water	1 bottle (1.5 L)
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs
Milk (2.5%)	900 ml
Oil (sunflower)	900 ml
Onion	1 kg
Potato	1 kg
Rice (round)	1 kg
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg

Non-food items (NFIs)

Body soap	1 bar (75 g)
Diapers (infant size 3)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)
Washing powder (machine)	1 box (500 g)

THE BASKET

Median value of the full JMMI basket

The JMMI Basket is a subset of the 335-item consumer set of representative goods (and services) maintained by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU), focusing on core food and hygiene items that an average household must purchase on a regular basis. The JMMI Basket was defined in consultation with the Ukraine Cash Working Group. Trends in the price of the basket are indicative of consumer price inflation.

In March, the cost of the full JMMI basket increased by 9% and amounted to 1196 UAH. The biggest rise in value occurred in the North (by 16%), the South (by 10%), and in Kyiv (by 10%). At the same time, the cost of JMMI basket in the East has slightly decreased (by 1%).

JMMI items remained more costly in the southern (1266 UAH) and northern (1247 UAH) regions, whereas the lowest prices (1083 UAH) were observed in the central part of the country.

At oblast level, the highest cost of the JMMI basket was found in Sumska (1338 UAH), Kyivska (1312 UAH) and Mykolaivska (1296 UAH) oblasts. Moreover, according to 39% of retailer KIs surveyed in Sumska oblast, prices in their stores have increased for each food and non-food item in the JMMI basket.

Prices

The increase in prices for all items in the JMMI basket was also reported by 25% of retailer KIs in Ternopilska, 20% in Odeska, 18% in Ivano-Frankivska, 15% in Khmelnytska, 11% in Rivnenska, 9% Dnipropetrovska, 8% in Poltavska and 2% in Kharkivska oblast.

In March, the cost of the food basket increased in all regions (by 7% on average across the country), with the largest increase occurring in the North (by 11%). The most expensive food baskets were registered in Kyiv (664 in the South (656 UAH) and in the North (644 UAH), while the cheapest was in the East (595 UAH).

As expected, at the beginning of spring prices of vegetables have risen sharply. For instance, in March cabbage became more expensive with an increase in price of 69%, carrots - of 44% and onions - of 22%.

For customer KIs, some other food items such as drinking water, chicken (legs), eggs (chicken), bread and milk were also available at a higher price than in the previous month.

In addition, the price of complementary cereal for babies increased notably in the East and North (by 14%).

The cost of the non-food (hygiene) basket rose sharply (by 12% countrywide) due to an increase in the prices of all the items it contains. The price of diapers increased the most (by 15%).

Among the regions, **the highest increase in the cost of the basket in March was observed in the North (by 22%),** and the highest values - in the South (609 UAH) and North (603 UAH).

Map 1: Median values of food and non-food items in March 2023, by oblast

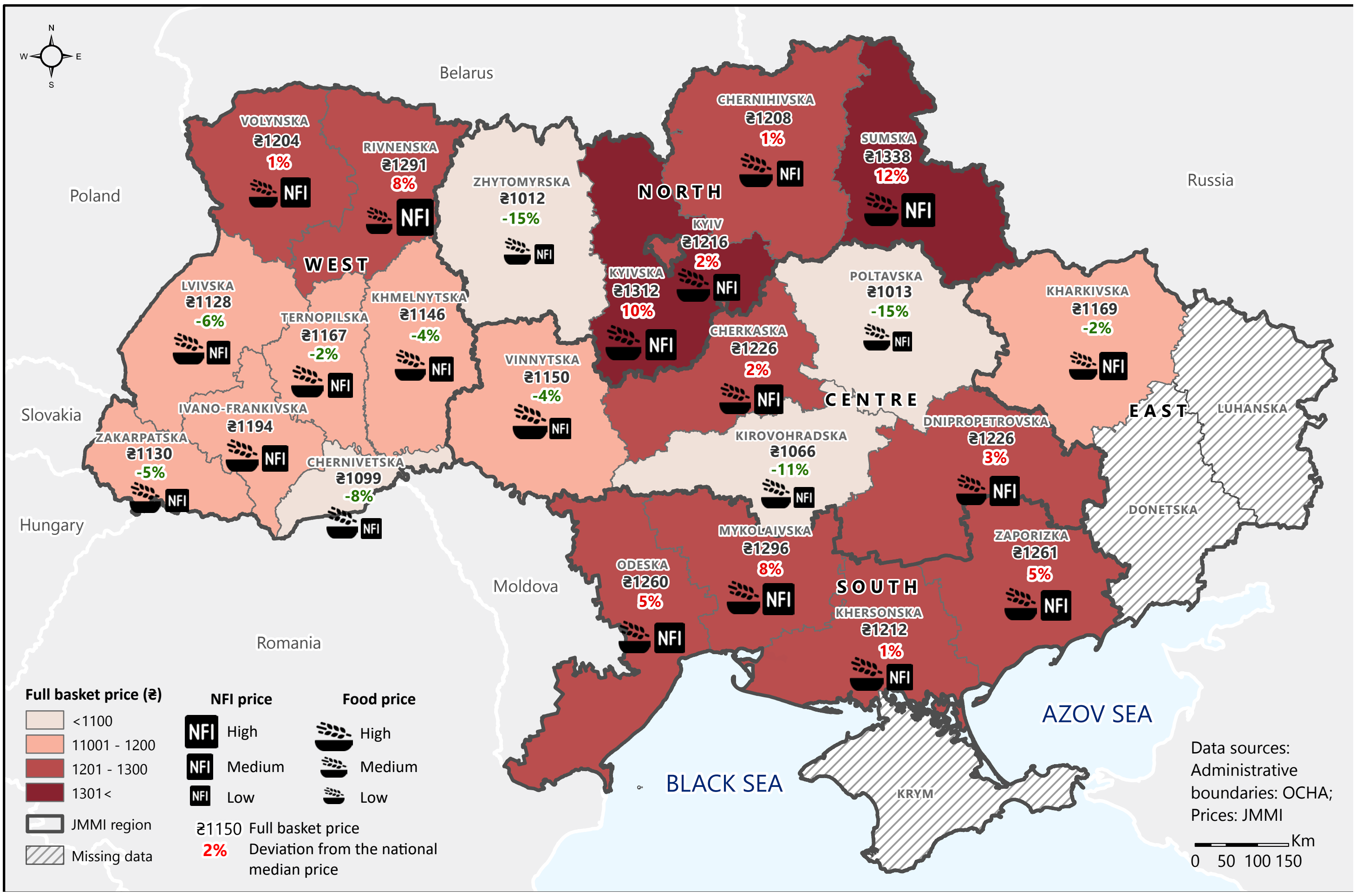


Table 1: Median prices of food items in March 2023 by region, UAH

Item	Unit	West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
		Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change
Bread	500 g	20	11%	18	2%	20	3%	19	15%	18	-5%	15	6%	18	3%
Buckwheat	1 kg	61	-7%	57	-6%	69	-1%	65	0%	64	-4%	57	-15%	62	-5%
Cabbage	1 kg	25	75%	24	63%	24	47%	24	75%	25	79%	24	33%	24	69%
Carrots	1 kg	39	30%	43	41%	43	42%	43	46%	44	47%	43	20%	43	44%
Chicken (legs, fresh)	1 kg	91	-5%	100	-1%	89	6%	99	16%	117	16%	80	7%	95	5%
Complementary cereal	200 g	80	-3%	78	3%	75	0%	80	14%	75	-1%	78	14%	78	4%
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs	64	4%	62	4%	70	5%	64	6%	64	2%	59	-2%	64	5%
Milk (2.5%, fresh)	900 mL	31	0%	31	-3%	34	-6%	33	3%	34	8%	32	8%	32	3%
Oil (sunflower, refined)	900 mL	58	-1%	60	-4%	69	4%	62	-2%	63	0%	61	-5%	62	-2%
Onions	1 kg	53	21%	54	20%	54	23%	53	23%	57	29%	53	13%	54	22%
Potatoes	1 kg	8	6%	9	-11%	13	4%	9	5%	10	12%	9	-14%	9	-6%
Rice (round)	1 kg	59	-5%	59	1%	61	1%	57	-4%	59	-1%	53	-10%	59	-2%
Water	1.5 L	15	7%	12	-6%	16	2%	16	22%	15	6%	15	-13%	15	7%
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg	19	0%	18	0%	20	0%	20	5%	19	4%	17	-11%	19	0%
Total		**622**	**3%**	**626**	**4%**	**656**	**7%**	**644**	**11%**	**664**	**9%**	**595**	**2%**	**634**	**7%**

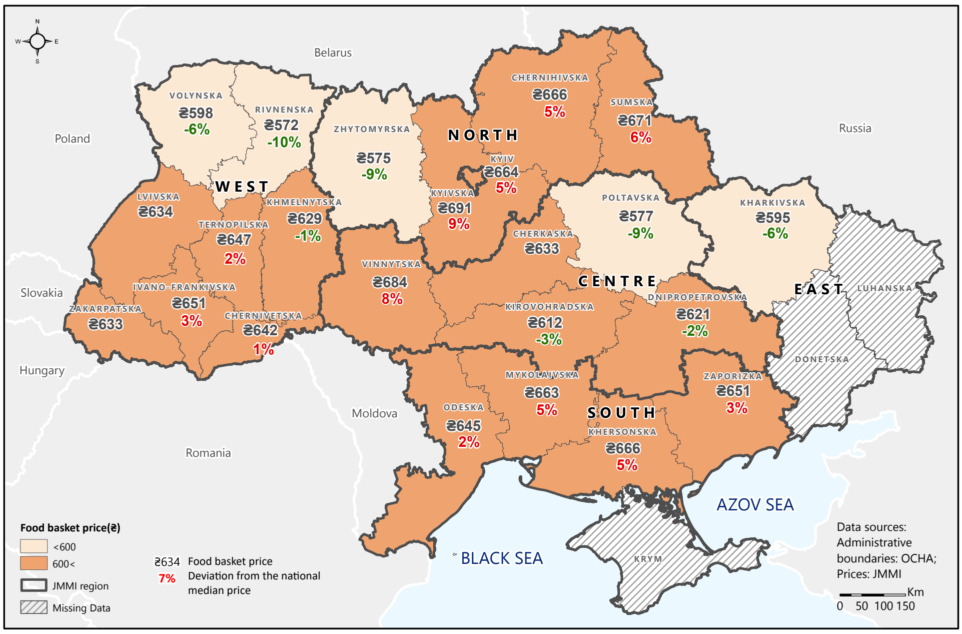
Source: JMMI

Table 2: Median prices of non-food (hygiene) items in March 2023 by region, UAH

Item	Unit	West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
		Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change	Median price	1 month change
Body soap	1 bar (75 g)	16	13%	12	2%	14	-7%	14	12%	13	7%	13	-6%	13	2%
Diapers (infant, 5-9 kg)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)	372	19%	317	5%	444	18%	438	25%	393	12%	414	-4%	404	15%
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)	39	4%	36	-1%	40	1%	39	13%	39	5%	41	0%	39	5%
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)	20	0%	19	1%	22	-1%	21	-9%	23	8%	21	4%	21	2%
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)	40	12%	31	-7%	37	0%	47	49%	36	9%	36	-1%	36	5%
Washing powder	1 box (500 g)	48	4%	42	-4%	53	9%	45	0%	49	6%	49	-5%	49	5%
Total		**534**	**15%**	**457**	**2%**	**609**	**13%**	**603**	**22%**	**553**	**10%**	**574**	**-4%**	**562**	**12%**

Source: JMMI

Map 2: Median values of food items in March 2023, by oblast



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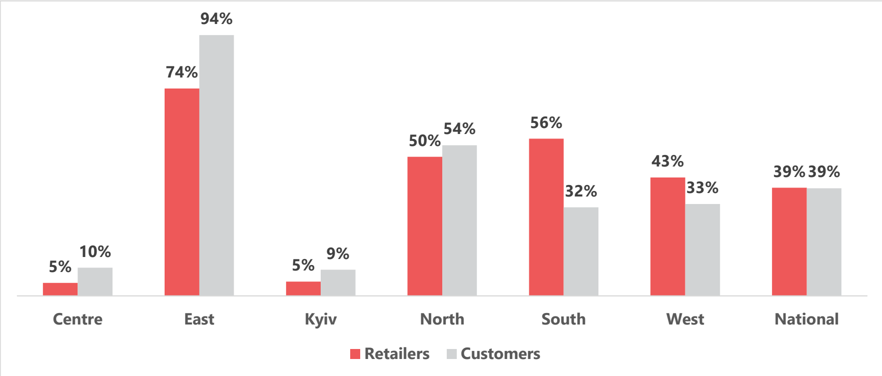
ACCESS TO STORES

Physical access to stores

In March, 39% of both customer and retailer KIs indicated that the full-scale war was affecting their ability to physically access stores or marketplaces. The highest percentages were observed in the East, where 94% of customer KIs and 74% of retailer KIs reported difficulties in accessing shops (Figure 9). The main reported reasons across the country were air alerts (21% of customer KIs surveyed) and prolonged power outages (11%). Air attacks affected all custmomer KIs, mostly northern (41%), western (33%), eastern (28%) and southern (13%) customers. The lack of electricity in stores affected access for customer KIs in the East (38%) and North (24%).

Figure 9: % of customer and retailer KIs reporting that the full-scale war has affected the ability to access shops, by regions



Source: JMMI

Nineteen percent of customer KIs in the East, 14% of the South and 11% of the North felt unsafe while in the stores or traveling towards those due to the fear of being targeted.

Additionally, customer KIs in the East and South indicated that movement restrictions related to martial law (38% and 15% , respectively), active fighting or shelling in their areas (34% and 25%), damage to buildings or infrastructure in their stores or marketplaces (25% and 22%), and the lack of transportation (19% and 15%) impacted their ability to access stores and marketplaces.

Moreover, 14% of customer KIs in the South were affected by damage or blockages on roads leading to the store or marketplace.

Financial factors

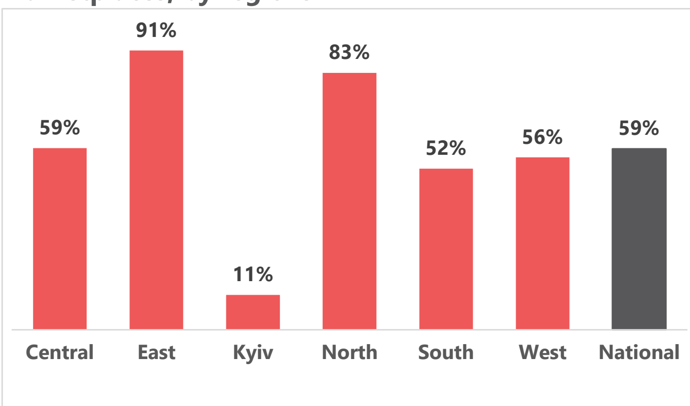
Financial factors continued to negatively affect customer KIs' access to stores or marketplaces across Ukraine, as it was reported by 59% of respondents in March (Figure 10). The main reasons were price increases (53%) and the inability to afford items (20%).

Considerably higher percentages were observed in the East (91%) and North (83%), where the vast majority of customer KIs reported that financial factors had affected their access to stores or marketplaces (Figure 10).

Eighty-four percent of customers KIs in the East, 79% in the North, 54% in the Centre and 50% in the West reported the increase of prices as their main financial constraint. Moreover, 53% of customer KIs in the East, 22% in the South and 21% in the North indicated that they could not afford items.

Public transportation was too expensive for 28% of customer KIs in the East, 16% in the South and 15% in the North. High cost of fuel for a personal vehicle negatively affected 19% of costumer KIs in the East, 18% in the North and 16% in the Central part of Ukraine.

Figure 10: % of customer KIs reporting that financial factors has affected their access to stores or marketplaces, by regions



Source: JMMI

Additionally, 19% of customers KIs in the South did not have enough physical cash, and vendors there were reluctant to accept other options. For 13% of customers in the East, items were unavailable in stores or markets.

As a consequence, **the issue of affordability remains crucial, especially in the East and North** (as in previous months), where it represents a huge barrier to accessing markets.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

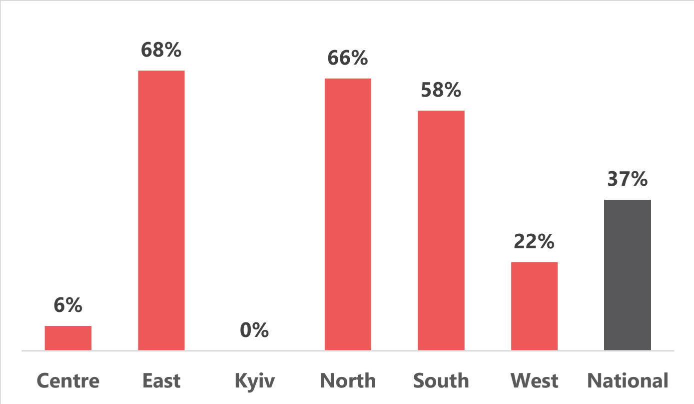
The percentage of retailer KIs reporting difficulties in keeping their stores operational and well-stocked decreased from 47% in February to 37% in March (Figure 11, following page). Retailer KIs from the East, North and South faced difficulties more frequently than in other Ukrainian regions (68%, 66% and 58%, respectively).

The greatest challenges in this regard were related to high supplier prices (reported by 27% of retailer KIs nationwide).

In addition to the difficulties mentioned above, 34% of retailer KIs in the East and 26% in the South were affected by movement restrictions; whereas 22% of retailer KIs in the North and 13% in the East faced difficulties related to the storage of goods during the power outages.

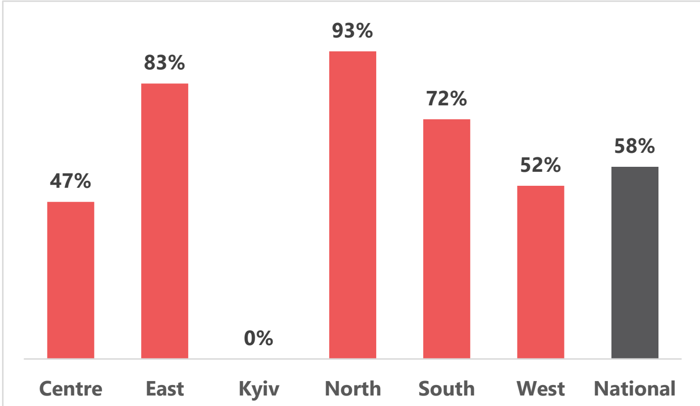
Moreover, 26% of retailers surveyed in the East were impacted by the dangerous conditions in their area, and 35% of those surveyed in the South had difficulty accessing money and cash to pay suppliers.

Figure 11: % of retailer KIs reporting difficulties in keeping their store operational and well-stocked, by region



Source: JMMI

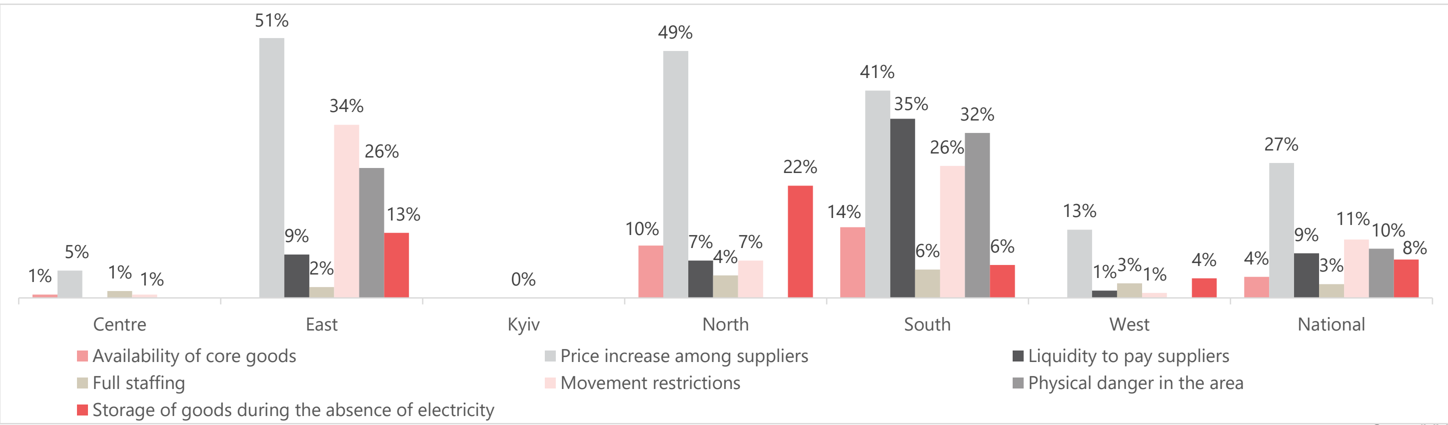
Figure 12: % of retailer KIs reporting anticipating new challenges due to the war, by region



Source: JMMI

It should be noted that the percentage of retailer KIs expecting new difficulties in the near future due to the full-scale war was 58% nationwide (in February - 62%). Among the most anticipated difficulties were rising prices (53%), with the highest percentage in the North (91% of those surveyed in that region) and in the East (81%), as well as declining customer purchasing power (42%). Mostly due to the very high intensity of missile and artillery attacks, every third retailer KIs in the East and South expected reduced customer mobility. Thirty percent of retailers surveyed in the East and 23% in the South anticipated reduced availability of cash. Additionally, 16% of retailers KIs in the North expected a decrease in the availability of items in the marketplace.

Figure 13: % of retailer KIs reporting on new challenges faced since the start of the full-scale war, by type of challenge and region



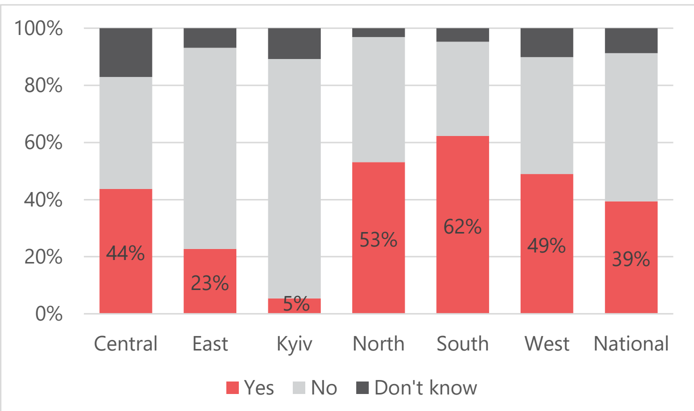
Source: JMMI

SUPPLY

In March, 39% of retailer KIs noted that their business depended on a single food supplier. This is a potential source of vulnerability for the stores, as it could compromise their ability of maintaining adequate stock. The greatest risks were faced by retailer KIs in the Southern regions (Figure 14).

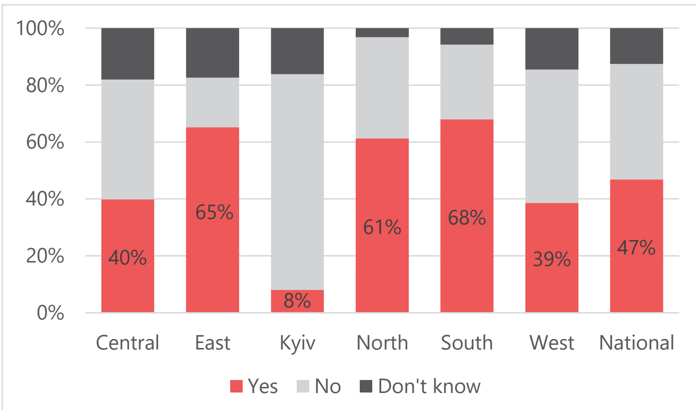
The proportion of retailer KIs whose businesses mostly relied on a single supplier of core hygiene items was slightly higher (47% country wide). The greatest challenges in this regard were observed in the southern, eastern and northern regions, where this figure was 68%, 65% and 61%, respectively.

Figure 14: % of retailer KIs reporting that they mostly rely on a single supplier for food items, by region



Source: JMMI

Figure 15: % of retailer KIs reporting that they mostly rely on a single supplier for hygiene items, by region



Source: JMMI

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The stabilization of the situation in the energy sector has reduced the impact of power outages on the functioning of banks, ATMs and Ukrposhta.

Banks

In March, only 66% of customer KIs reported full availability of functioning full-service bank branches. This figure was the lowest in the East (47% of those surveyed in that area), the North and the South (58% in each region). Twenty-four percent of customer KIs indicated that bank branches were unable to provide their usual services during an air alert, with the highest proportion in the East (53%).

As in the previous month, banks remained unavailable to a considerable portion of customers in the South (28%), most of them located in Mykolaivska (52% of customers surveyed in that region) and Khersonska (35%) oblasts. Moreover, 43% of customer KIs in Khersonska, 27% in Zaporizka and 25% in Chernihivska oblast only had access to banks in other settlements. In addition, 23% of customer KIs in Zhytomyrska oblast could only use mobile bank offices.

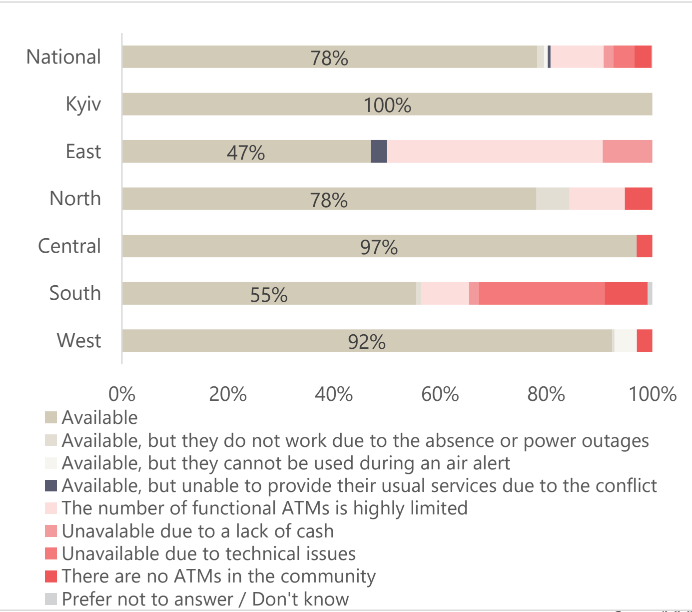
ATMs

According to 10% of customer KIs across the country the number of functional ATMs was highly limited. This was an issue especially in the East (41%), in the North (10%) and in the South (9%). For instance, 43% of customers surveyed in Khersonska, 41% in Kharkivska and 38% in Zhytomyrska oblast reported a limited number of ATMs.

Across the country, 3% of customer KIs reported the absence of ATMs in their hromadas, of which the highest percentage was in Zaporizka (33%) and Chernihivska (25%) oblast.

In addition, in the South, 24% of customer KIs reported that ATMs were not working due to technical problems or other issues. All of them were in Mykolaivska (36%) and Khersonska (48%) oblasts. Twenty-nine percent of customer KIs in Rivnenska and 15% in Volynska oblasts reported not being able to use ATMs during an air alert.

Figure 16: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning ATM, by regions



Source: JMMI

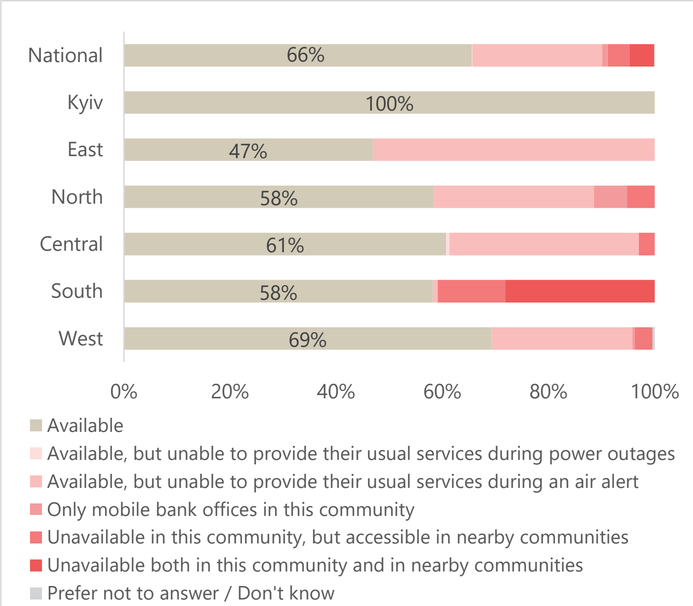
Ukrposhta

Nationwide, 62% of customer KIs reported that Ukrposhta offices worked daily and provided all of their usual financial services regularly. At the same time, 18% of customer KIs noted that Ukrposhta offices were unavailable during air alerts. For 4% of customer KIs, only mobile post offices were accessible in their communities, with the highest percentage (21%) in the South.

Payment modalities

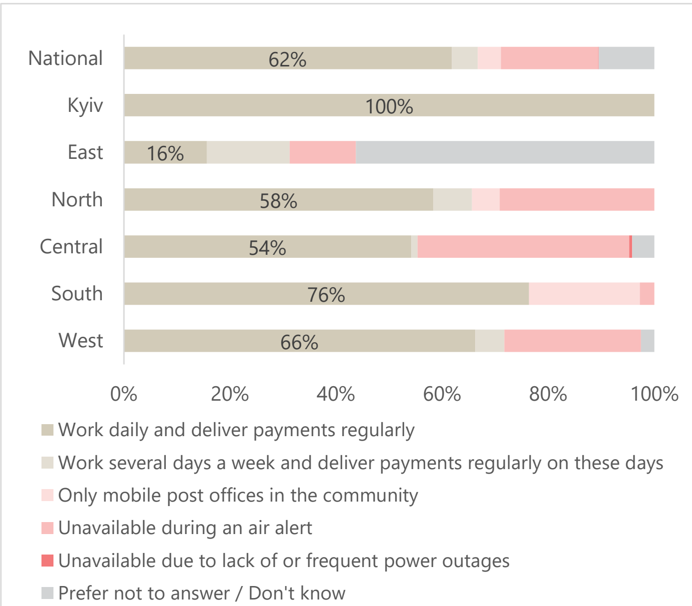
The main payment modalities accepted by retailer KIs in March were cash (100%), credit cards (84%), debit cards (72%), mobile apps (56%), and vouchers from the UN and NGOs (2%).

Figure 17: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning bank branches, by regions



Source: JMMI

Figure 18: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning Ukrposhta offices, by regions



Source: JMMI

MACROECONOMICS

Inflation

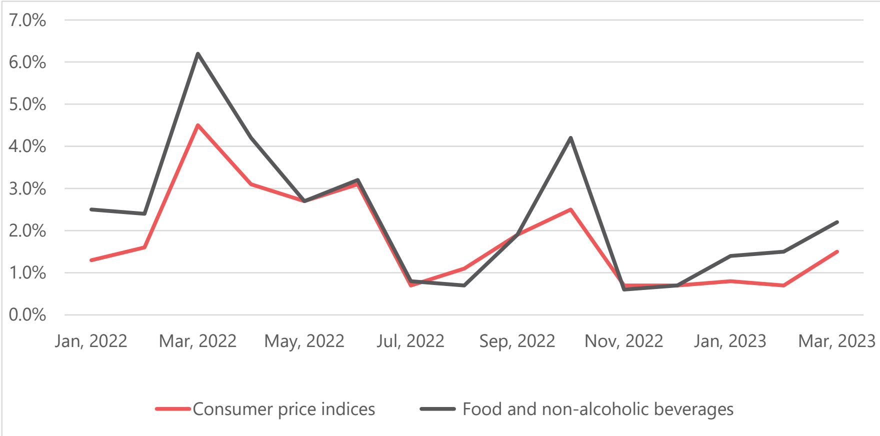
In March, inflation in the consumer market was 1.5% higher compared to February (Figure 19). Prices for food and non-alcoholic beverages increased by 2.2%[2].

Vegetable prices rose sharply in March (by 17.3%), which, as expected, mainly reflected the waning of the temporary effects of the warm winter weather in the previous months. Prices for garments and footwear increased by 12.5% and 12.4%, respectively.

The stabilization of fuel prices contributed to a decline in the growth rate of transportation prices. At the same time, price for passenger transportation by rail rose by 5.3%.

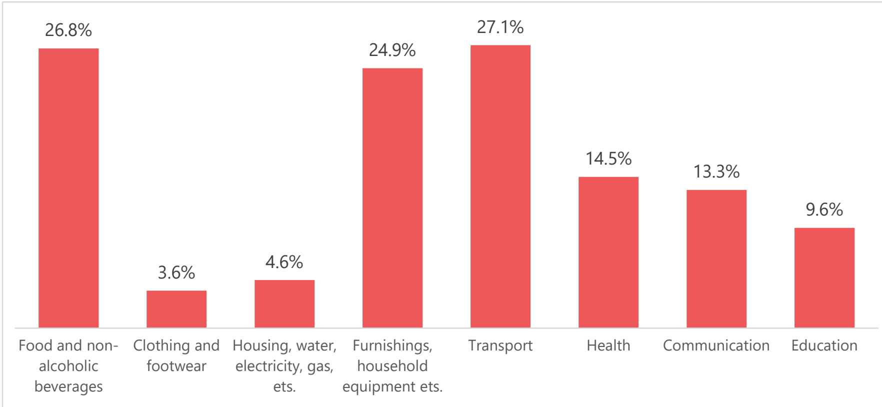
In March 2023, prices had increased by 21.3% compared to March 2022 according to the 12-month percentage of change in the consumer price index. Prices for transport, food and non-alcoholic beverages, furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance in the house increased the most over the year (by 27.1%, 26.8%, and 24.9%, respectively), as shown in Figure 20.
Inflation in Ukraine has been relatively severe due to full-scale war and supply chain disruptions.

Figure 19: Monthly inflation rate, %



Source: SSSU

Figure 20: Consumer price changes for selected groups of food and services, from March 2022 to March 2023, %

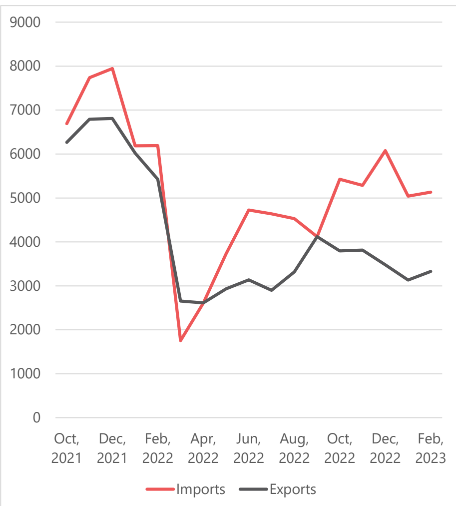


Source: SSSU

Economic activity

In March, economic activity continued its recovery, in particular thanks to more benign situation in the energy sector. Improved business and consumer sentiments supported activities in a number of industries, retail, trade, and services sectors. Despite the uncertainty regarding the "grain corridor", the transport of agricultural goods and iron ore to the western borders supported the transport sector. Meanwhile, sowing is complicated by a shortage of personnel, rising costs, as well as by the need for quick tillage after corn and sunflower (as of 09.03.23, 4% of the corn area has not been harvested)[3].

Figure 21: Changes in gross value of exports and imports of Ukraine, by million USD

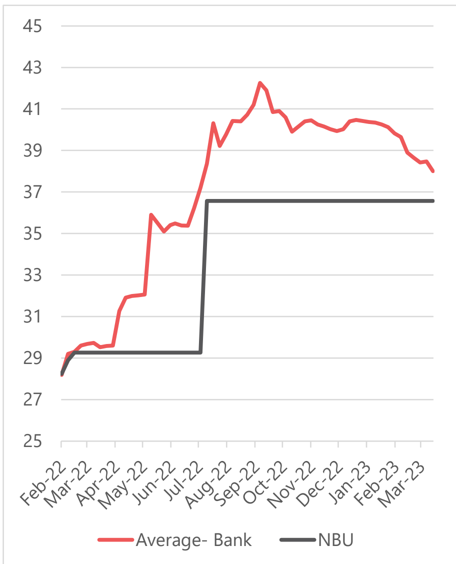


Source: SSSU

The labor market also continued to recover in March, with the number of job openings growing faster than the number of applicants. However, employment remained low, holding back households' income growth, which was only partially offset by the indexation of pensions. The number of migrants abroad increased further, as did their adaptation.

In February, the merchandise trade deficit narrowed on the back of increased exports of grains and lower energy imports. Together with more grants received, this ensured the narrowing of the current account deficit. At the same time, as fewer loans were received, net outflow of capital took place under the financial account which led to a temporary decrease in reserves to USD 28.9 bn as of the end of February.

Figure 22: Mid-market exchange rate for the US Dollar (USD)



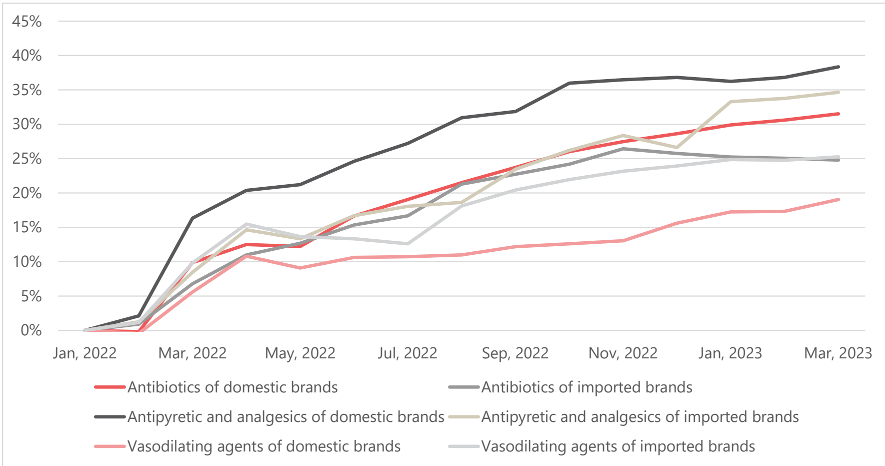
Source: MINFIN

MEDICINE

Compared to February 2023, there were no considerable fluctuations in the prices of medicines in March.

Compared to January 2022, the prices of antipyretics and analgesics of domestic brands were higher by 38%, for antipyretics and analgesics of imported brands - by 35%, for antibiotics of domestic brands - by 32%, for antibiotics of imported brands and for vasodilating agents of imported brands - by 25%, for vasodilating agents of domestic brands - by 19% (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Cumulative price increase of selected medicines, national average, as % from January 2022



Source: SSSU

RENT

Rental prices for one-bedroom apartments in Ukraine continued to rise.

In March 2023, the average rent for a one-room apartment was 38% higher than in January 2022. The largest increase in renting prices as compared with January 2022 was recorded in Zakarpatska (by 204%), Lvivska (by 108%), Ivano-Frankivska (by 86%), Chernivetska (by 63%), Kirovohradska (by 60%) and Khmelnytska (by 59%) oblasts (Figure 24).

The highest rental price was found in Zakarpatska oblast (13123 UAH), whereas the lowest - in Sumska (2687 UAH), Zaporizka (2769 UAH) and Khersonska (2960 UAH) oblast[2].

Figure 24: Oblasts by increase of rent for a one-room apartment, from January 2022 to March 2023

	Rent for 1-room apartment, UAH	Change in price, %
Zakarpatska	13123	204%
Lvivska	11329	108%
Ivano-Frankivska	4879	86%
Chernivetska	7095	63%
Kirovohradska	4552	60%
Khmelnytska	7071	59%
Cherkaska	6131	58%
Dnipropetrovska	6131	40%
Ukraine	**6032**	**38%**
Volynska	5536	38%
Poltavska	5811	33%
Ternopilska	4047	33%
Vinnytska	5259	32%
Zhytomyrska	4976	20%
Rivnenska	5711	19%
Sumska	2687	9%
Kyivska	4189	8%
Mykolaivska	3432	4%
Khersonska	2960	4%
Chernihivska	3740	1%
Odeska	4648	-8%
Zaporizka	2769	-8%
Kyiv City	7384	-13%
Kharkivska	3531	-29%

Source: SSSU

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

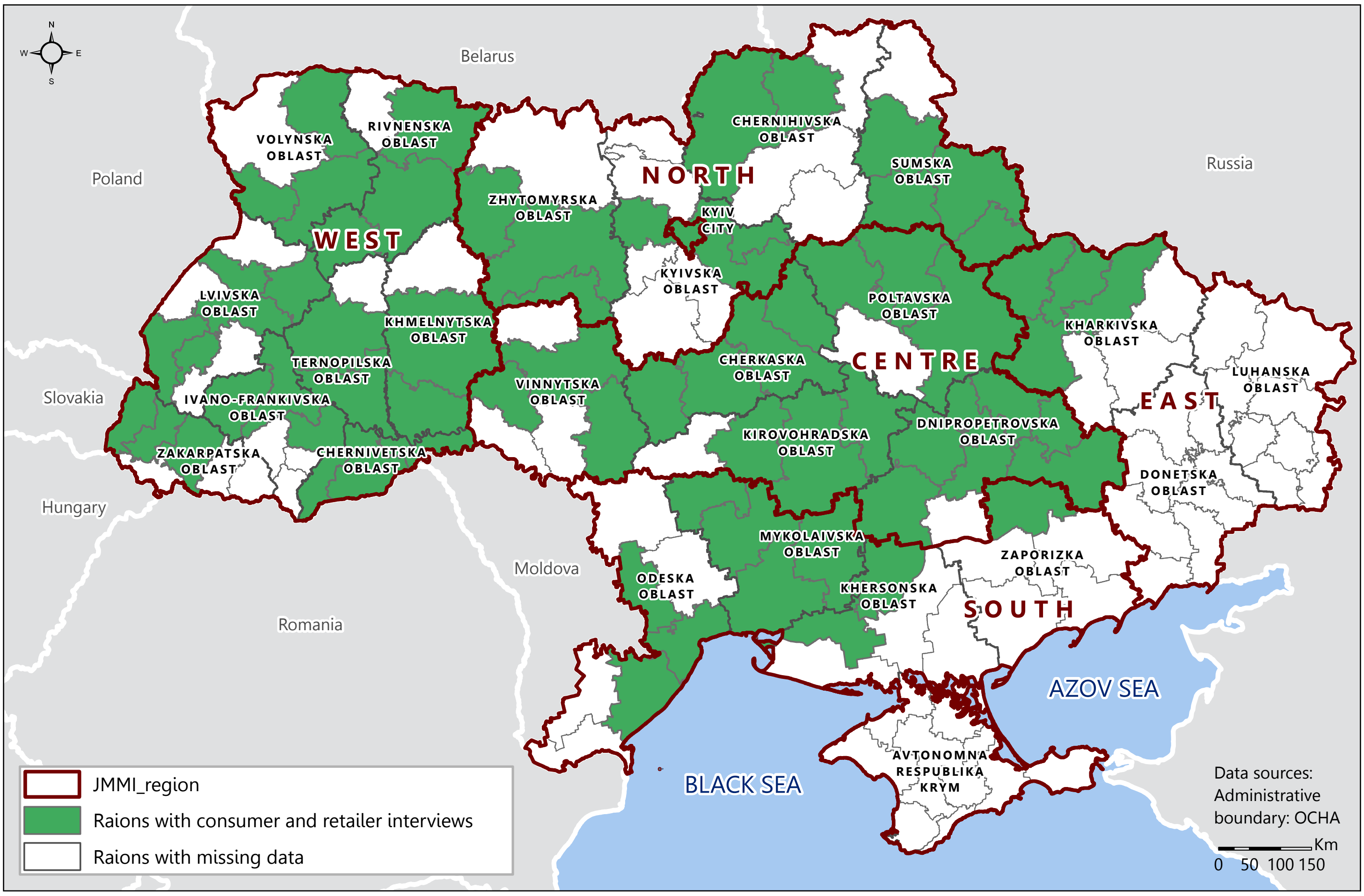
Data collection is a joint, partner-led exercise carried out once per month by participating CWG members across the country. The methodology for collecting primary data focuses on quantitative, structured interviews with purposively sampled interviewees. Two harmonized questionnaires are used: one targeting retail market traders who act as key informants (KIs) for their respective markets, and another targeting customers in monitored stores and marketplaces for individual interviews.

Field teams must aim to collect a minimum of three prices per item per assessed hromada, interviewing retailer KIs until this threshold is met, and must also submit a minimum of five customer KI interviews per assessed hromada. Only the price of the least expensive commonly purchased brand or variety is recorded for each item. All data is collected by field staff trained on the common JMMI methodology and tools; it is then submitted to a common CWG KoBo server and is cleaned and analyzed by REACH on behalf of the CWG.

Secondary data, in particular data from the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, are also integrated into the JMMI and used for triangulation where possible.

The prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimize the effects of outliers and unequal numbers of prices submitted from diverse locations. First, the median prices of each assessed item is calculated within each assessed hromada; then, for each item, REACH calculates the median of this list of hromada-level medians across larger geographical areas (raions, oblasts, regions, and the whole of Ukraine).

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

As the JMMI relies on purposive sampling methodologies, the results must be regarded as indicative and not representative. Furthermore, results are indicative only of market conditions during the time frame in which they were collected.

The JMMI methodology records the price of the least expensive commonly purchased brand or variety available in the store for each item. As brand availability may vary from area to area, price comparisons across areas may sometimes be based on slightly varying products.

In some cases, partners were unable to collect the minimum number of retailer KI or customer KI interviews required by the JMMI methodology. Where necessary, imputation from raion-level or oblast-level medians was used to compensate for missing prices and enable the cost of the JMMI basket to be calculated.

While the JMMI's remote monitoring methodology produces reliable data on prices and availability, further data on market functionality cannot be collected using this methodology.

As the JMMI continues to expand into new hromadas, some changes in the overall median prices may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than by true price coverage rather than by true price.

ENDNOTES

[1] National Bank of Ukraine 'Monthly Macroeconomic and Monetary Review, April 2023', 5 April 2023, available **here**

[2] State Statistics Service of Ukraine 'Average consumer prices for goods (services) in Ukraine in 2023", 12 April 2023, available **here**

[3] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Consumer price indices for goods and services in 2023", 12 April 2023, available **here**

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ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).