Ukraine | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

10 - 20 October 2023

MARKET OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

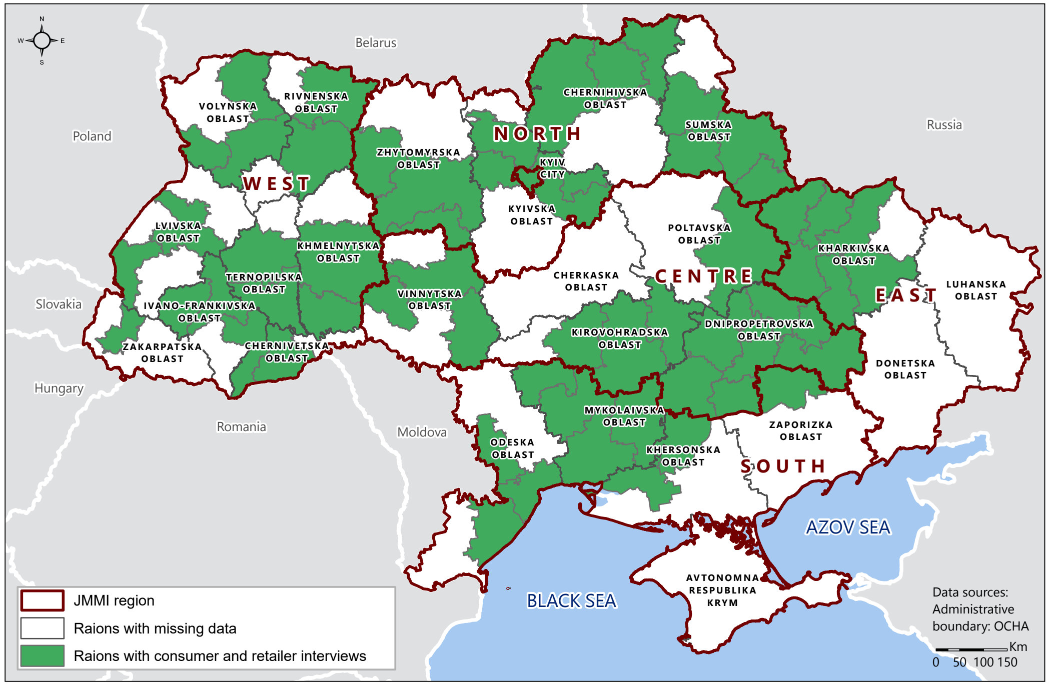
Since 24 February 2022, the full-scale war across Ukraine has prompted mass displacement and humanitarian crisis. Given the prominence of multi-purpose cash as a modality for assistance, market monitoring is a key initiative to ensure humanitarian intervention is effective, sustainable and does not harm local markets.

Due to the ongoing full-scale war in Ukraine, humanitarian market data is limited and incomplete, especially from conflict-affected areas. The Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) seeks to fill this information gap by providing useful and timely data on price trends and market functionality indicators.

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.

The goal of the JMMI is to: 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.

ASSESSMENT COVERAGE



KEY FINDINGS

- **Vehicle fuel prices rose at a higher rate in October** amid a rise in global oil prices in previous months and cross-border supply chain disruptions. The increase in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices was primarily due to new rules for customs clearance of fuel. **Excessively expensive car fuel limited access to shops for 19% of customer KIs.**
- **The issue of affordability remained crucial nationwide, with 53% of customer KIs reporting increased prices as their main barrier to accessing markets**, and 41% of retailer KIs, anticipating that it will be a challenge to maintaining operational stores in the coming months.
- **Access to winter essentials, like warm clothes, posed the most significant challenges in areas close to the frontline, such as Zaporizka and Khersonska oblasts,** with 42% and 24% of customer KIs reporting availability issues, respectively. Moreover, in Zaporizka oblast, 65% of customer KIs reported availability issues with heating fuel.
- **Security-related factors restricted customers' access to markets and impacted retailers' activity in the South and East,** particularly in areas closer to the frontline, such as Zaporizka, Khersonska, and Kharkivska oblasts.
- **Customers in the South reportedly faced challenges in accessing financial services, primarily due to the scarcity of functioning banks** (reported by 34% of customer KIs) **and ATMs** in their communities (22%). **At the same time, no significant restrictions on access to Ukrposhta were identified.**

KEY INDICATORS

Key Monthly Changes In JMMI Basket

Median cost of overall JMMI basket

1052 UAH	▼ -1.4%
27.79 USD	▼ -0.9%
26.05 EUR	▼ -0.2%

Food items	**Hygiene items**
▲ +0.7%	▼ –3.4%

Median Cost Of JMMI Basket By Region

West	1071 UAH	–6.2% ▼
East[1]	1069 UAH	+5.3% ▲
North	1068 UAH	–0.7% ▼
Kyiv	1058 UAH	–2.7% ▼
Centre	1032 UAH	+1.2% ▲
South	1020 UAH	–4.4% ▼

[1] East includes Kharkivska, Luhanska, and Donetska oblasts.

Exchange Rates[2]

36.39 **USD/UAH** *official*	37.85 **USD/UAH** *parallel market*	40.38 **EUR/UAH** *parallel market*
▼ –0.5%	▼ –0.6%	▼ –1.3%

[2] Median exchange rate on October 15, 2023. Data available at http://minfin.com.ua.

10	Participating partners
22	Assessed *oblasts*
105	Assessed *hromadas*
1003	Key informant interviews (KIIs)
448	Retailers surveyed
555	Customers surveyed
20	Commodities assessed

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JMMI BASKET

The JMMI basket is a subset of the 335-item set of consumer 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 regularly. The JMMI basket was defined in consultation with the Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG).

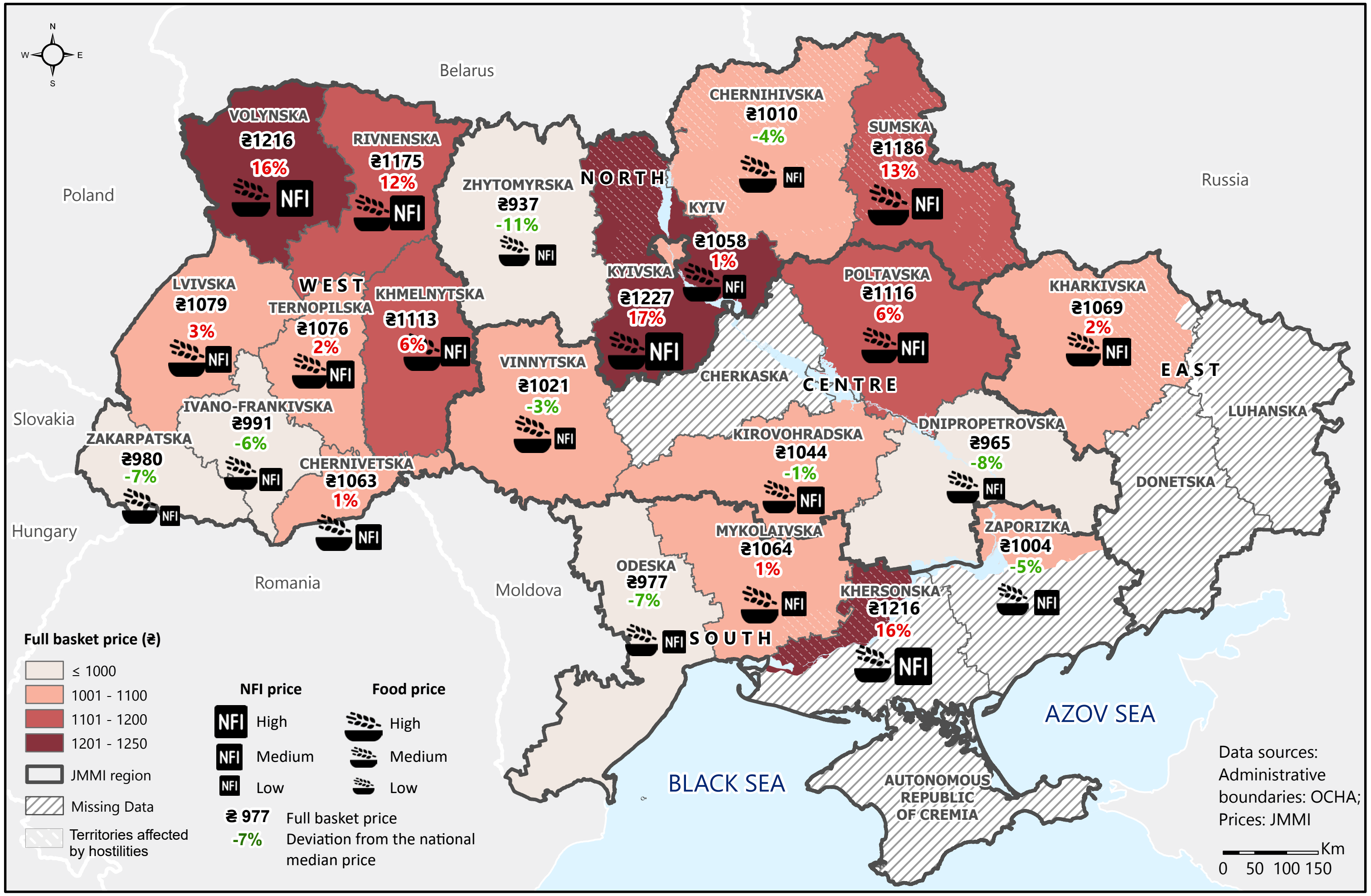
Food Items

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

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)

Map 2: Median prices (UAH) of food and non-food baskets in October 2023, by oblast



1052 UAH (▼ -1.4%)

Cost of JMMI basket in October 2023

JMMI basket primary trends

- In October, the cost of the full JMMI basket decreased in all regions compared to September, except in the East and Centre, where it increased by 5% and 1%, respectively.
- **The national-level calculation of the full JMMI basket in October revealed a 1% decrease compared to September, although it remained 4% higher than the prices in October 2022.**
- The most expensive JMMI basket was calculated based on prices reported in the West (1171 UAH), followed by the East (1069 UAH) and North (1068 UAH), whereas JMMI basket prices were reported to be the lowest in the South (1020 UAH).
- At the oblast level, the highest costs of the JMMI basket were reported in Kyivska (1227 UAH), Khersonska (1216 UAH), and Volynska (1216 UAH) oblasts.
- An increase in prices compared to the previous month for all items within the JMMI basket was reported by 15% of retailer KIs in Zaporizka, 13% in Volynska, and 11% in Chernivetska, Sumska, and Ternopilska oblasts.

Table 1: Median prices (UAH) of food basket in October 2023 by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023
Bread	500 g	19	▲2%	16	▼8%	19	▼1%	17	▼1%	21	▲2%	15	▼4%	18	▼2%
Buckwheat	1 kg	36	▼14%	36	▼7%	47	▼13%	41	▼8%	34	▼19%	34	▼7%	36	▼14%
Cabbage	1 kg	11	▲5%	8	▼13%	11	▼4%	10	▲11%	11	▲9%	9	▼6%	10	▲6%
Carrots	1 kg	14	▲10%	10	▼13%	14	▼4%	10	▼2%	10	▼8%	10	0%	10	▼11%
Chicken (legs, fresh)	1 kg	112	▲2%	114	▲5%	92	▼7%	114	▲2%	127	▼2%	102	▲16%	113	▲3%
Complementary cereal	200 g	87	▼3%	90	▲5%	56	▼21%	96	▲6%	94	▼6%	96	▲1%	92	▲2%
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs	54	▲15%	49	▲16%	50	▲11%	49	▲12%	48	▲8%	50	▲14%	49	▲12%
Milk (2.5%, fresh)	900 ml	32	▼1%	31	▼1%	33	▲1%	32	▲3%	30	▼1%	32	▲8%	32	▲2%
Oil (sunflower, refined)	900 ml	49	▼5%	50	▼1%	58	▲4%	49	▼5%	50	0%	51	▲3%	50	▼2%
Onions	1 kg	16	▲11%	14	▲18%	15	▲5%	13	▲7%	15	▲18%	15	▲32%	15	▲19%
Potatoes	1 kg	10	▼2%	9	▼13%	12	0%	8	▼16%	11	▼5%	9	▼8%	10	▼6%
Rice (round)	1 kg	51	0%	49	▼6%	56	▲3%	53	▼3%	57	▲6%	50	▲6%	52	▼2%
Water	1.5 L	15	▲2%	13	▼8%	15	▼11%	17	▲4%	15	▲3%	14	▼15%	15	▼5%
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg	18	▼3%	18	▲14%	19	▲2%	20	▲10%	20	▼3%	15	▼11%	19	▲1%
Total		**524**	**0%**	**507**	**▲2%**	**497**	**▼4%**	**529**	**▲2%**	**544**	**▼1%**	**501**	**▲5%**	**520**	**▲1%**

Table 2: Median prices (UAH) of non-food (hygiene) basket in October 2023 by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023	**Median Price** in UAH	**Change** since Sep 2023
Body soap	1 bar (75 g)	14	▼6%	14	▲16%	15	▼4%	13	▲7%	13	▲1%	12	▼3%	14	▲10%
Diapers (infant, 5-9 kg)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)	375	▼16%	369	▲1%	365	▼6%	377	▼5%	372	▼7%	417	▲5%	374	▼5%
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)	44	0%	41	▲2%	39	▲2%	41	▲5%	41	▲13%	41	▲12%	41	▲4%
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)	18	▼19%	20	▼2%	21	▲1%	22	▲6%	22	▲4%	18	▼12%	21	▼1%
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)	43	▲4%	37	▲3%	33	▼3%	37	▲7%	26	0%	35	▲34%	36	▲2%
Washing powder	1 box (500 g)	53	▲5%	44	▼8%	50	▼4%	48	▼7%	40	▼3%	45	▲8%	46	▼5%
Total		**547**	**▼12%**	**525**	**▲1%**	**523**	**▼5%**	**539**	**▼3%**	**514**	**▼4%**	**568**	**▲6%**	**531**	**▼3%**

Table 3: The median value of the full JMMI basket, by oblast

Location	JMMI Basket in UAH	Change since Sep 2023
Central		
Vinnytska	1021	▼4%
Dnipropetrovska	965	▼7%
Kirovohradska	1044	▲3%
Poltavska	1116	▲6%
Cherkaska	na	na
East		
Kharkivska	1069	▲5%
Donetska	na	na
Luhanska	na	na
Kyiv		
Kyiv city	1058	▼3%
North		
Zhytomyrska	937	▼5%
Kyivska	1227	▲13%
Sumska	1186	▼3%
Chernihivska	1010	▼8%
South		
Zaporizka	1004	▼3%
Mykolaivska	1064	▼5%
Odeska	977	▼2%
Khersonska	1216	▲3%
Autonomous Republic of Crimea	na	na
West		
Volynska	1216	▲24%
Zakarpatska	980	▼6%
Ivano-Frankivska	991	▼7%
Lvivska	1079	▼9%
Rivnenska	1175	▲1%
Ternopilska	1076	▼8%
Khmelnytska	1113	▼3%
Chernivetska	1063	▼10%
Overall	**1052**	▼1%

PRICES

The cost of the food basket increased in most regions, with the most significant increases observed in the East (by 5%). Nationally, it amounted to 520 UAH, representing a 1% increase compared to September.

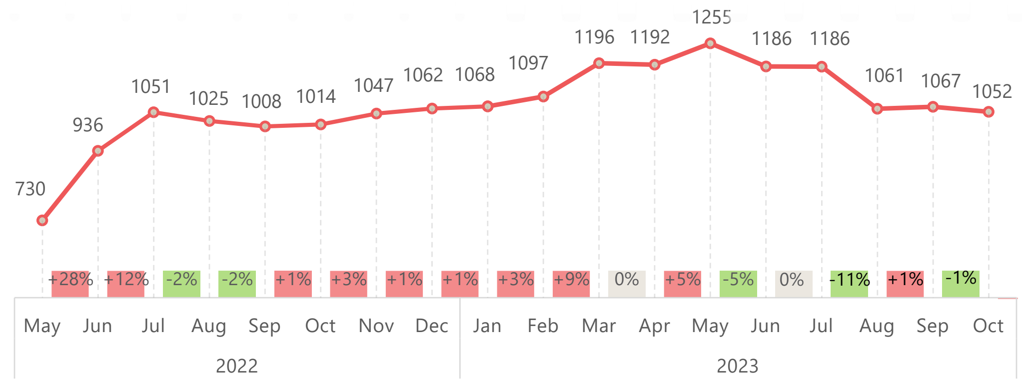
The increase in food prices was primarily attributed to an increase in the prices of some types of vegetables, namely onions (by 19%), and cabbage (by 6%), as well as eggs (by 12%). It should be noted, that **most vegetable prices remained lower than September 2022's prices, with carrots decreasing by 59%, onions by 56%, and cabbage by 40%. This could be attributed to a good harvest of most vegetables thanks to both favorable weather and the ramping up of production volumes in some regions.**

The most expensive food basket was calculated based on prices reported by retailers in Kyiv (544 UAH), while the cheapest was in the South (497 UAH).

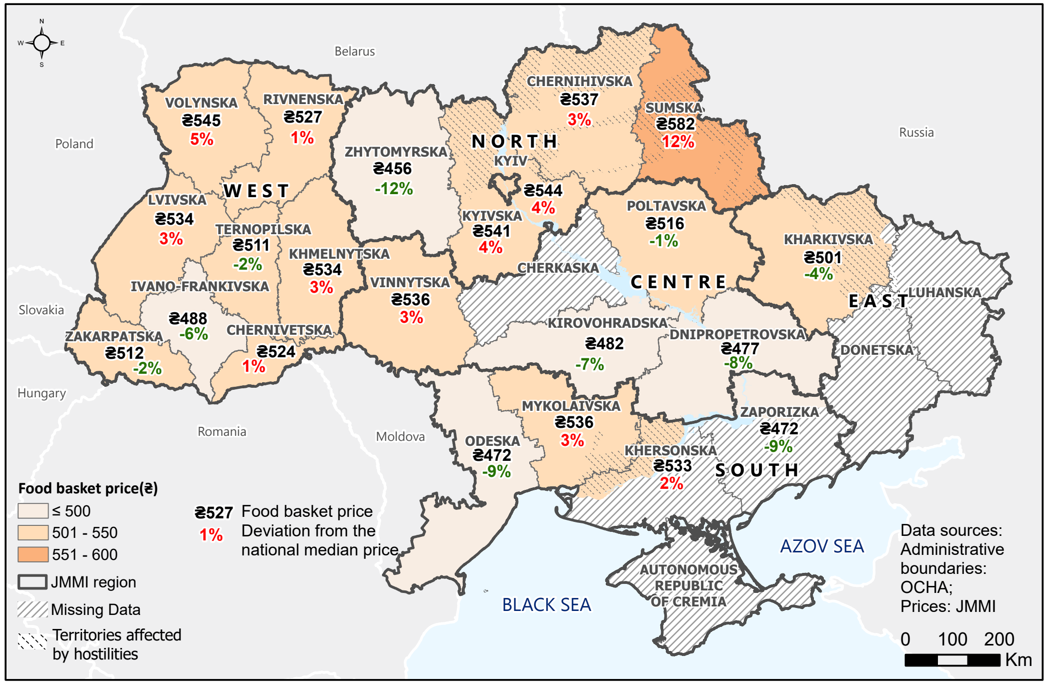
The cost of the non-food (hygiene) item (NFI) basket amounted to 531 UAH across the country in October, representing a 3% decrease compared to September. This reduction in the cost of the NFI basket was observed in all regions, except for the Centre and East, where it increased by 1% and 6%, respectively.

The most expensive NFI basket was recorded in the East, totaling 568 UAH, while the least expensive one, amounting to 514 UAH, was found in Kyiv.

Figure 1: Monthly evolution of the JMMI basket price (in UAH)



Map 3: Median prices (UAH) of food baskets in October 2023, by oblast



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AVAILABILITY OF GOODS

Food and hygiene items

In October, food and hygiene items were reported to be widely available, with only 1% and 2% of surveyed customers across the country reporting limited availability, respectively. **Customer KIs in the South noted higher shortages** (4% for food and 6% for hygiene items).

According to the JMMI retailer KIs survey, **complementary cereal for babies and diapers for infants were among the least available items in the JMMI basket.** Nationwide, 92% of retailer KIs reported full availability of complementary cereal for babies, and 91% reported the same for diapers for infants. However, the availability of these items was reported to be the most limited in the South, dropping to 72% for complementary cereal and 75% for diapers.

Figure 3: % of retailer KIs reporting availability of complementary cereal for babies, by region

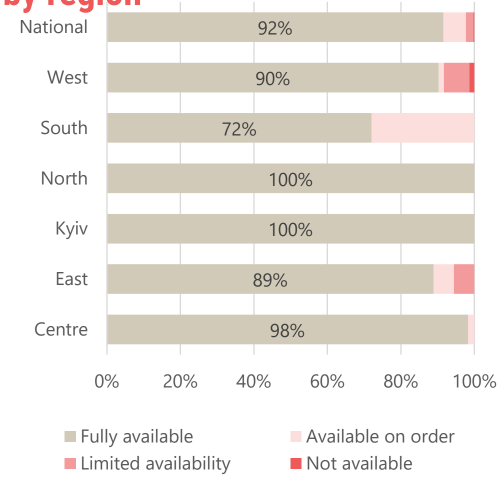
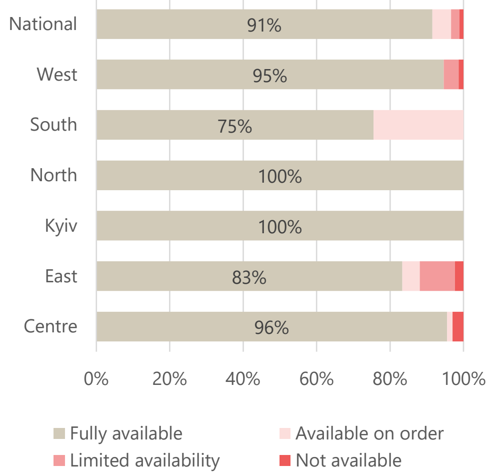


Figure 4: % of retailer KIs reporting availability of diapers for infants, by region

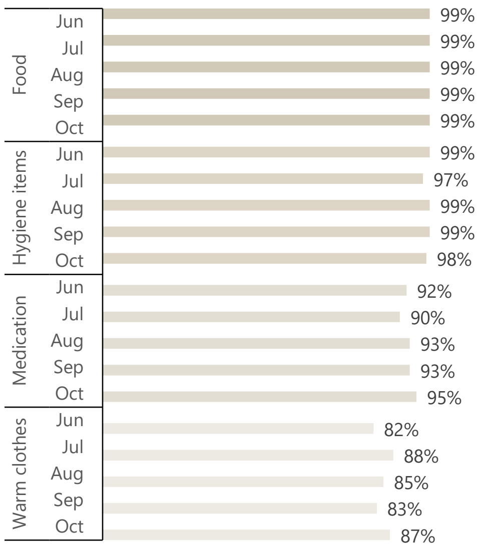


Warm clothes

The survey findings highlight persistent challenges in accessing warm clothes, especially in the South, which is crucial as the cold season sets in. Of particular concern is the situation in the areas near the frontline, such as Zaporizka and Khersonska oblasts, where 42% and 24% of customer KIs, respectively, indicated that warm clothes were not fully available to them in October.

Furthermore, respondents in eastern, western, and central oblasts also mentioned difficulties in accessing warm clothes in their local stores or markets. These challenges were notably prevalent among residents of Vinnytska (15%), Kharkivska (10%), Mykolaivska (6%), Ternopilska (6%), and Dnipropetrovska (3%) oblasts.

Figure 2: % of customer KIs reporting full availability of goods, nationally



Medications

Regarding over-the-counter medication, the situation has shown a slight improvement compared to the previous months. In August and September, 93% of customer KIs reported full availability of medication, and this figure increased to 95% in October.

However, some availability issues were observed in the South, Centre, and West, with 12%, 6%, and 5% of customer KIs respectively noting that medication was not fully available*.

The most concerning situation was found in Zaporizka and Volynska oblast, where the lowest percentage of full availability of medicines was reported, reaching 62% and 67%, respectively.

* ***Note:*** *This option includes the responses "not available", "limited availability", and "available on order".*

Figure 5: % of customer KIs reporting availability of warm clothes, by region

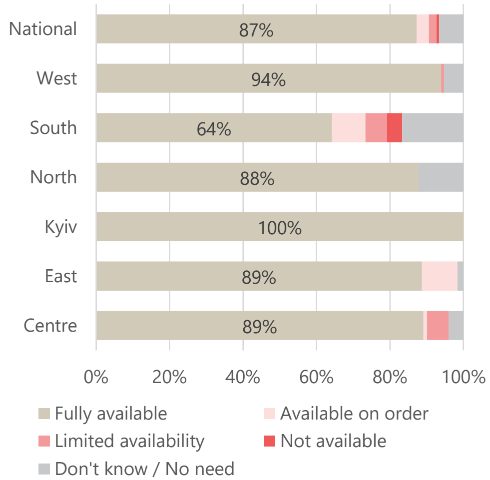
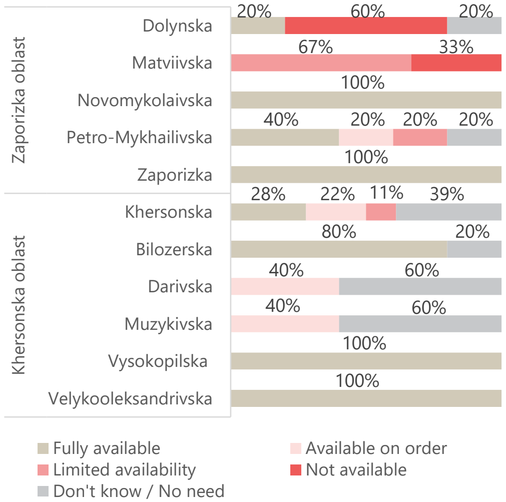


Figure 6: % of customer KIs reporting availability of warm clothes*, by hromadas



* In top 2 oblasts with the worst accessibility situation.

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AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND MARKET PRICES

Due to a sufficient market supply, the majority of customer KIs (78%) reported full national availability of vehicle fuel in October. However, three oblasts faced availability issues: in Vinnytska oblast, 15% of respondents indicated a lack of fuel; in Zaporizka oblast, 12% reported limited availability; and in Mykolaivska oblast, 6% noted either the absence or limited availability of vehicle fuel.

The situation regarding heating fuel slightly deteriorated nationwide compared to the previous month. In September, 82% of customer KIs reported a full availability of heating fuel, but this proportion decreased to 77% in October.

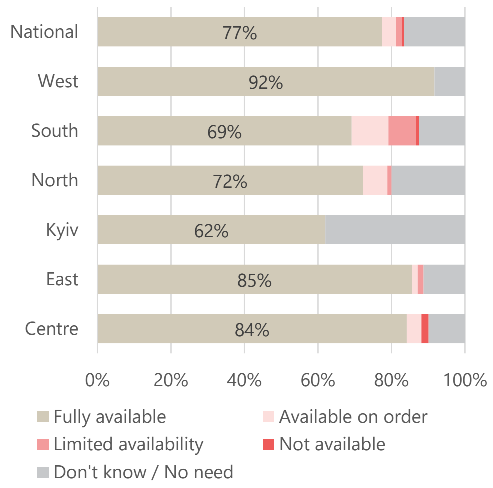
Availability issues were found in five oblasts - Zaporizka, Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Khersonska, and Kharkivska - due to their proximity to the frontline or constant ground shelling[1]. **Of particular concern, on the brink of winter, is the situation in Zaporizka oblast, where 19% of respondents reported a shortage of heating fuel, and another 46% indicated that they can buy it only through ordering.** Similar to the previous months, 30% of consumers surveyed in Chernihivska oblast could only receive heating fuel via ordering.

Market prices

Fuel prices rose at a higher rate in October amid a rise in global oil prices in previous months and disruptions to cross-border supply chain[2].

According to the SSSU[3], in October, compared to September, average consumer

Figure 7: % of customer KIs reporting availability of heating fuel, by region



prices for vehicle fuels such as petrol A-92 and petrol A-95 increased by 3%, while diesel fuel prices rose by 4%.

Starting from 17 October, new rules for fuel customs clearance came into force in Ukraine[4]. The changes are aimed at stopping imports of Russian-origin LPG to Ukraine, which could have accounted for up to 20% of the Ukrainian market. Daily customs clearance volumes fell by 12% in October compared to September. **As a result of delays at the border in October, the average retail price of LPG increased by 9%** to 28.19 UAH per litre, according to the "A-95" consulting group[5].

Experts predict that difficulties with border crossings and fuel shortages in Romania due to recent repairs by some oil companies will continue to drive up LPG prices. In November and December, its price is expected to rise to 30 UAH per litre.

According to the JMMI customer KIs survey, respondents reported that the estimated prices of petrol purchased through unofficial sources were equivalent to those obtained through official channels. However, the estimated price of diesel fuel purchased unofficially was slightly lower than that obtained through official sources. Specifically, respondents mentioned that both official and unofficial sources offered petrol at 55 UAH per liter. In contrast, diesel was priced at 56 UAH per liter through official sources and slightly lower at 54 UAH per liter through unofficial channels.

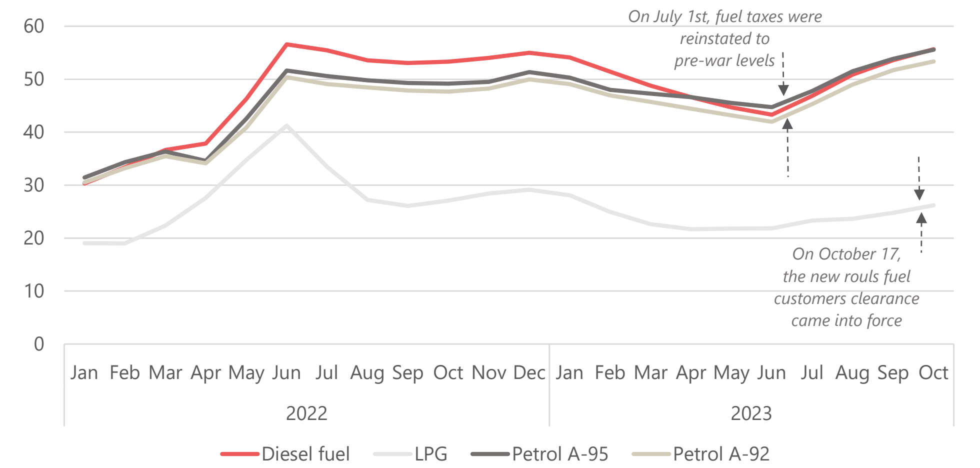
Since the beginning of the full-scale war in February 2022, the prices for natural gas, used by customers for heating and cooking, have remained stable at 8 UAH per cubic meter nationwide. Meanwhile, the price of electricity has held steady at 2.64 UAH per kWh, which is more than 1.5 times higher than it was at the beginning of the year.

In October, the median price of firewood increased by 4% compared to September, reaching 1,410 UAH per cubic metre. The highest prices were observed in the East and South, where firewood was priced at 1,900 UAH and 1,700 UAH per cubic metre, respectively.

It is important to highlight that residents in previously occupied areas, aiming to cut costs on purchasing firewood, venture into the forests to create their own supply, often encountering the hidden danger of landmines leftover from past conflicts[6,7].

__Note:__ the government has announced that free firewood will be provided to residents of the areas where hostilities are ongoing (with the help of international partners). In particular, this applies to the relevant areas (from the list of hromadas recognized by Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine as a combat zone) in 8 oblasts: Khersonska, Kharkivska, Donetska, Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Sumska, Chernihivska and Luhanska[8].

Figure 8: Average consumer price for vehicle fuel, national, UAH per litre



Source: SSSU

ACCESS TO STORES

Physical access to stores

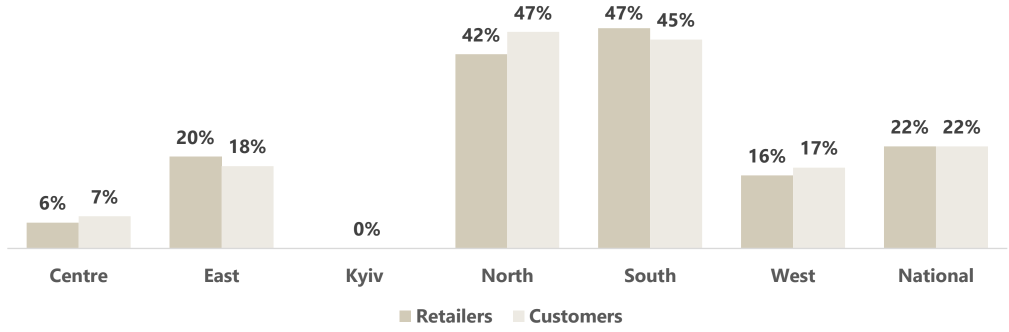
In October at the national level, **22% of both customer and retailer KIs indicated that the full-scale war was affecting their ability to physically access stores or marketplaces.** The highest percentages were found in the North and South, where 47% and 45% of customer KIs, respectively, reported difficulties in accessing shops.

The primary reason for the challenge in accessing markets across the country was air alerts, mentioned by 12% of the surveyed customers, with the highest percentage in the North (44%). Notably, all surveyed customers in Chernihivska oblast noted that stores or marketplaces in their area faced temporary interruptions due to frequent air alerts.

Security-related factors significantly impacted on customer KIs' access to stores in southern and eastern areas near the frontline. In these regions, customers reported active fighting or shelling (28% in the South), movement restrictions related to martial law (18% in the South and 15% in the East), and limited access to local shops and markets due to feeling unsafe while in or approaching shops due to the fear of being targeted (26% in the South and 11% in the East). **Residents of Zaporizka and Khersonska oblasts in the South were reportedly most affected** by these factors.

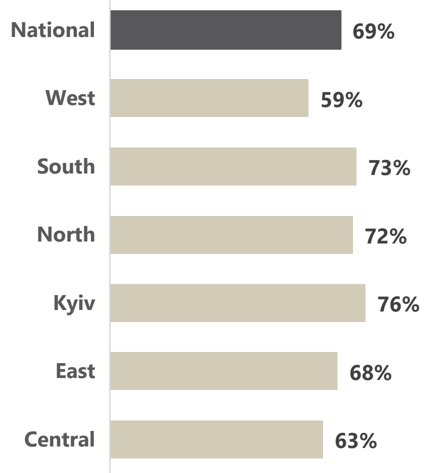
Additionally, customer KIs in Khersonska, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka oblasts reported **damage to buildings or infrastructure in stores or marketplaces, as well as damages or blockages on roads leading to these locations.**

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



Lack of transportation was an additional factor that physically limited the ability of 35% of customer KIs in Zaporizka, 21% in Khersonska, and 10% in Kharkivska oblasts to reach markets in their communities. Moreover, 15% of customers surveyed in Zaporizka and 10% in Kharkivska oblasts indicated **a temporary interruption in shop operations due to power outages.**

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



Financial factors

Financial factors continued to negatively impact customer KIs' access to goods in stores and marketplaces across Ukraine, as reported by 69% of respondents in October.

Rising prices were mentioned as the primary reason for these challenges, cited by 53% of customer KIs, with the highest percentages of respondents noting this obstacle in Kyiv (74%) and the North (53%).

Additionally, 35% of customer KIs in the South, 23% in the East, and 20% in the North indicated that they **could not afford to buy goods in stores. The most pressing situation was found in Zaporizka oblast, where this financial issue was noted by 65% of respondents.**

The ongoing increase in fuel prices* had an impact on customers, with 19% of respondents surveyed citing high fuel prices for their cars as one of the factors limiting their access to shops and markets.

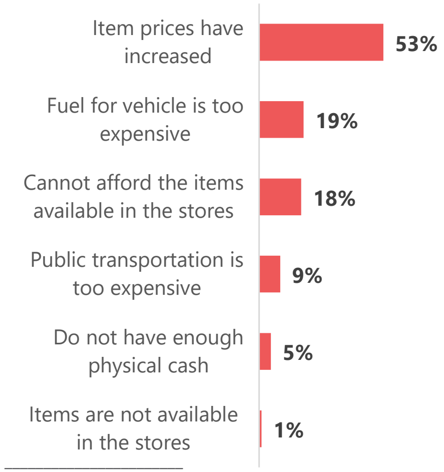
The influence of fuel prices increases was most pronounced in the East, where 29% of respondents mentioned that fuel for their cars was too expensive.

The high cost of public transport was also a constraint, particularly in the West (reported by 17% of respondents), as well as in the South (15%).

It is important to note that customer KIs in the South reportedly faced **payment issues,** as 24% of them noted that they did not have enough physical cash, and vendors were reluctant to accept other payment options.

As a consequence, **the issue of affordability remains crucial nationwide, but especially in areas previously occupied or now close to the frontline, where it represents a barrier to accessing markets.**

Figure 11: Main financial barriers** to accessing stores reported by customer KIs, national



** The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

* Please see "Market prices" on page 6.

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MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

Current difficulties

In October, 19% of retailer KIs reported challenges in maintaining operational and well-stocked stores, showing a slight improvement from 21% reported in September. **Retailer KIs in the South faced difficulties more frequently than those in other regions of Ukraine (39%), and the most challenging situation was reported in Zaporizka oblast (87%).**

Nationwide, the primary difficulty reported by retailers was high prices from suppliers (9%), with this being most frequently reported in Lvivska (50%), Chernihivska (42%), Zhytomirska, and Zaporizka (33%) in each oblasts.

Physical hazards predominantly affected retailers in the South and East, particularly in areas along the frontline such as Khersonska, Zaporizka, and Kharkivska oblasts. Specifically, 53% of retailers surveyed in Khersonska oblast cited difficulties related to physically dangerous conditions and movement restrictions. In Zaporizka oblast, 47% reported challenges due to dangerous conditions and 27% due to movement restrictions.

Additionally, **retailers in Zaporizka oblast noted difficulties related to the storage of goods during the absence of electricity (40%) and maintaining sufficient stock (20%). In Khersonska oblast, retailers mentioned challenges in accessing money to pay suppliers (35%).**

Map 4: Approximate percentage of working retailers in October 2023 from the pre-war level, reported by retailer KIs, by hromada

Table 4: % of retailer KIs reporting on new challenges faced since the start of the full-scale war in February 2022, by type of challenge and region*

Type of challenge	Centre	East	Kyiv	North	South	West	National
Availability of core goods		2%	2%	2%	3%		2%
Price increase among suppliers	4%	9%		14%	10%	19%	9%
Liquidity to pay suppliers	3%			1%	15%		3%
Full staffing	2%	2%		7%	3%	7%	4%
Movement restrictions	1%	12%		1%	22%		6%
Physical danger in the area		4%			27%		5%
Storage of goods during the absence of electricity	1%	4%			10%	2%	3%
Enough stock					5%	1%	1%
Other		1%		2%			1%

* The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

In October, retailer KIs were asked to estimate the percentage of retailers operating in their marketplace compared to pre-war levels. **In areas close to the frontline, the percentage of working retailers was reported to be slightly lower than in regions not directly impacted by ground military activities.**

Specifically, the percentage of working retailers ranged from 25% to 50% in certain hromadas of Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Odeska oblasts (see map 4). The estimated percentages at national level were indicated to vary from 75% to 100%.

Challenges in the coming months

The survey findings reveal that **49% of retailers surveyed nationally anticipated encountering new difficulties in the near future due to the full-scale war.**

Top 3 challenges retailer KIs expect to face in the coming months due to the war, national

1. 41% Rising prices
2. 37% Reduced purchasing power of customers
3. 8% Reduced mobility of customers

The most alarming situation was identified in Chernihivska oblast, where 100% of retailer KIs reported expecting an increase in prices, and 92% anticipated a decrease in the purchasing power of customers (n= 12).

Simultaneously, every second retailer surveyed in Khersonska oblast expected a decline in customers' mobility, and an equal proportion of retailer KIs surveyed in Zaporizka oblast anticipated a reduction in the availability of cash.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Banks

The percentage of customer KIs reporting the full availability of functioning bank branches offering all their regular services decreased from 69% in September to 64% in October.

Continuing air attacks reportedly restricted the opening hours of bank branches across the country, with the highest proportion of respondents noting this in the Centre (72%).

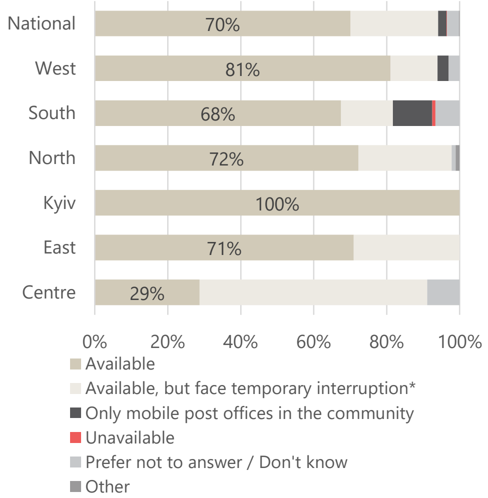
As in the previous months, the greatest difficulties in accessing the full spectrum of banking services were experienced by respondents in the South, with 34% of surveyed customers indicating the absence of functioning banks in their communities. These challenges were particularly reported in Zaporizka oblast (with 62% of respondents) and Khersonska (45%) oblasts.

ATMs

In October, 88% of customer KIs reported the full availability of ATMs, a figure nearly identical to the previous month's (89%).

Significant access issues were consistently observed in the South, where 22% of customer KIs in October reported the absence of ATMs in their communities. Moreover, 10% indicated their inaccessibility due to technical issues or other problems, and 5% noted a highly limited number of functional ATMs. Within this region, challenges with the absence of ATMs were particularly pronounced among residents of Zaporizka oblast (46%), followed by Khersonska (21%), and Mykolaivska (16%). Technical issues and a limited number of ATMs predominantly impacted respondents in Khersonska oblast (24% and 12%), respectively. Additionally, 12% of customer KIs in Zaporizka oblast indicated longer-term interruption in services such as cash withdrawal.

Figure 12: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning Ukrposhta offices, by region



Payment modalities

The main payment modalities accepted by retailer KIs in October were cash (100%), credit cards (86%), debit cards (71%), mobile apps (56%), and vouchers from the UN or NGOs (5%).

SUPPLY

The survey consistently reveals a concerning trend: a considerable number of businesses depend on a single supplier for either food or non-food items. This poses substantial risks in terms of sustaining the necessary stock levels.

The issue seems most pronounced in the North and South, with October survey findings indicating that 60% and 61% of retailer KIs in these regions, respectively, rely on a single supplier for food, as well as 63% and 54%, respectively, for hygiene items. This highlights a heightened vulnerability in the North's and South's supply chain dynamics.

Figure 13: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning banks, by region

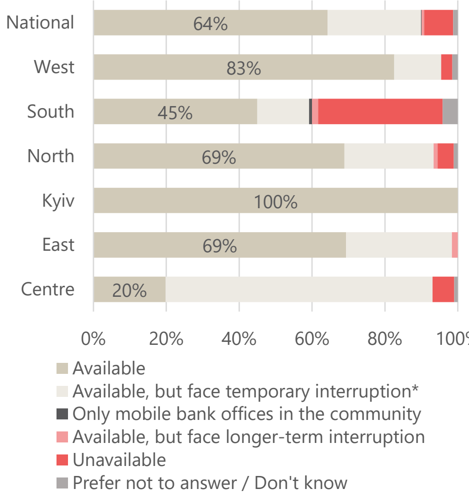
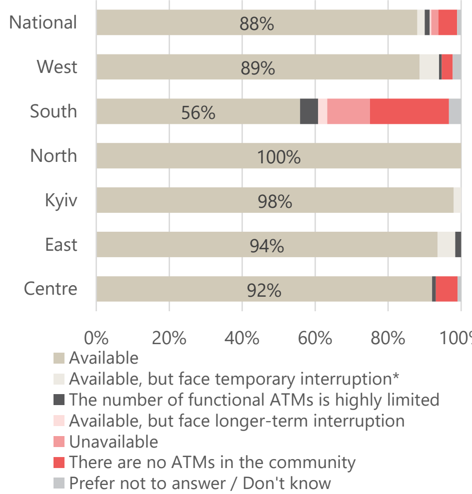


Figure 14: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning ATMs, by region



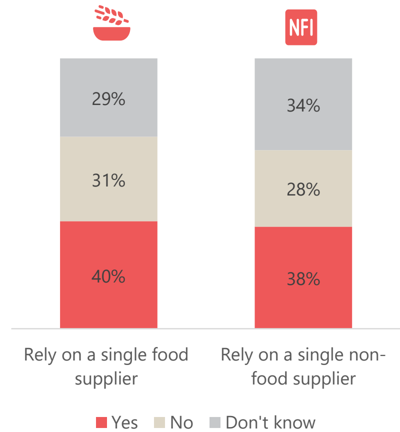
Ukrposhta**

In October, 70% of customer KIs reported that Ukrposhta offices operated daily and provided all of their regular financial services, compared to 78% in September.

Consistent with the previous months, **the survey findings did not indicate any significant restrictions on access to Ukrposhta branches.** The only point of inconvenience reported was that Ukrposhta offices did not operate during air alerts, primarily affecting customers surveyed in the Centre (62%), followed by the East (29%), and the North (26%). Additionally, 11% of customer KIs in the South mentioned the availability of only mobile post offices in their communities.

** Ukrposhta is Ukraine's national post.

Figure 15: % of retailer KIs reporting that they mostly rely on a single supplier, national



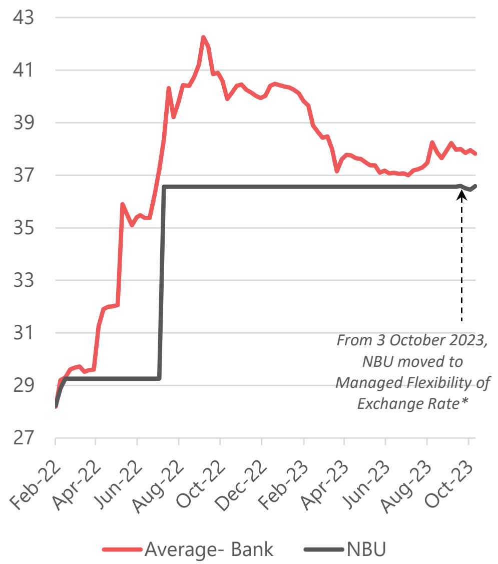
* Temporary interruptions during air alerts or power outages.

MACROECONOMICS

The consumer price index increased by 0.8% in October compared to September. Moreover, it remained 3.8% higher than at the beginning of the year and 5.3% higher than in October 2022[9].

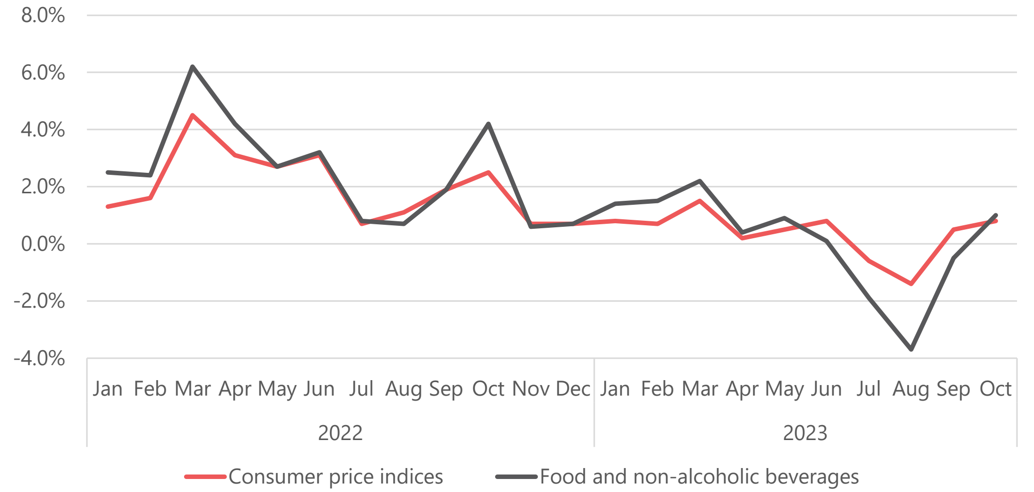
The slowdown in inflation was driven by a greater supply of newly harvested food products, including vegetables and fruits, grains, and oilseeds[2]. Inflation was also restrained by the effects of fixing certain utility tariffs and by improved exchange rate and inflation expectations amid stable foreign exchange (FX) markets, including due to the National Bank of Ukraine's (NBU) measures. At the same time, business expenses related to the war remain significant. The cost of energy and labour resources for businesses will continue to rise[10].

Figure 16: Mid-market exchange rate for the US Dollar (USD)



* As per the new regime, the official exchange rate will be shaped by the exchange rate used for transactions in the interbank FX market instead of being set by the NBU[11].

Figure 17: Monthly inflation rate (%)



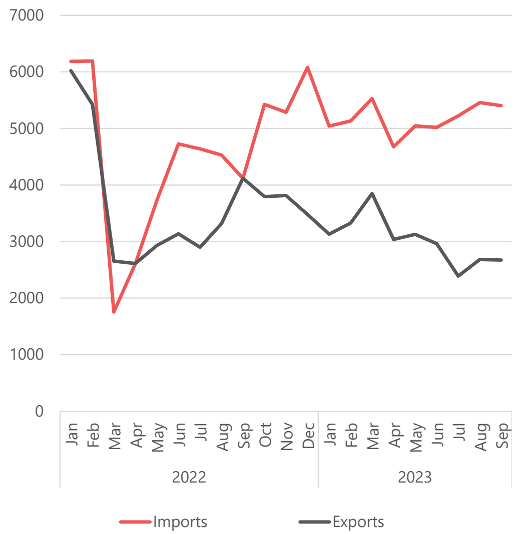
Source: SSSU

Economic activity was constrained by persisting considerable security risks, the destroyed production facilities of some companies, logistical hurdles faced by exporters, narrowing investment demand, rebounding fuel price growth, and substantial shortages of qualified staff.

According to the Monthly Business Outlook Survey by NBU, most respondents said they intended to raise their selling prices in response to rising raw material and supplies prices. Staff expectations have worsened. Respondents across all sectors declared intentions to reduce their workforces[12].

The negative balance of Ukraine's foreign trade of goods in January-September 2023 increased three times compared to the same period in 2022 (to $19.4 billion from $6 billion)[13]. According to the SSSU, Ukraine's exports of goods decreased by 17.8% to $27.1 billion in the period under review compared to January-September 2022, while imports increased by 19.2% to $46.5 billion.

Figure 18: Changes in gross value of exports and imports of Ukraine (million USD)



Source: SSSU

Table 5: Price increase of selected medicines, national

Representatives goods	Average consumer prices in UAH	Change since Sept 2023	Change since Oct 2022
Antibiotics of domestic brands	51.23	▲3%	▲20%
Antibiotics of imported brands	194.11	0%	▲4%
Antipyretic and analgesics of domestic brands	19.40	▲4%	▲16%
Antipyretic and analgesics of imported brands	25.99	▲1%	▲8%
Vasodilating agents of domestic brands	14.71	▲1%	▲12%
Vasodilating agents of imported brands	69.04	0%	▲6%

Source: SSSU

Table 6: Top 10 oblasts with the highest average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment (UAH) in October 2023

Oblast	Average rent in UAH	Change since Sept 2023	Change since Oct 2022
Zakarpatska	12788	0%	▲59%
Lvivska	11919	▲1%	▲33%
Kyiv City	8680	▲3%	▲14%
Khmelnytska	7528	0%	▲7%
Cherkaska	7168	▲5%	▲21%
Chernivetska	7143	0%	▲1%
Dnipropetrovska	6193	0%	▲5%
Ivano-Frankivska	6124	0%	▲28%
Rivnenska	6100	▲1%	▲17%
Zhytomyrska	6059	▲2%	▲37%
Ukraine	**6519**	**▲1%**	**▲19%**

Source: SSSU

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

Methodology

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).

More details on the methodology can be found in the JMMI terms of reference (ToR), available here.

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.

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

Endnotes

[1] TEXTY.ORG.UA "Under attack. What and when Russia shelled in Ukraine", 31 October 2023, available here

[2] National Bank of Ukraine "NBU October 2023 Inflation Update", 10 November 2023, available here

[3] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Average consumer prices for goods (services) in Ukraine in 2023", 14 October 2023, available here

[4] The State Customs Service of Ukraine "For the attention of foreign economic operators!", 16 October 2023, available here

[5] Forbes Ukraine "The cost of fighting Russian fuel. Autogas prices rise in Ukraine - what is the reason and where will prices stop", 1 November 2023, available here

[6] Statista "Number of civilian casualties caused by mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and handling explosions of military depots in Ukraine from April 2014 to September 2023" , available here

[7] Vesti UA "Gathering firewood: in the forest near Chernihiv, a father and his son blew themselves up on a stretching device", 16 October 2023, available here

[8] Slovo i Dilo: analytical portal "Vereshchuk told residents of which regions can get free firewood for the winter", 27 September 2023, available here

[9] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Price indices", 9 October 2023, available here

[10] National Bank of Ukraine "Inflation Report, October 2023", 2 November 2023, available here

[11] National Bank of Ukraine "NBU Introduces Managed Flexibility of Exchange Rate to Strengthen Resilience of the economy and the FX Market", 2 October 2023, available here

[12] National Bank of Ukraine "Monthly Business Outlook Survey, October 2023", 1 November 2023, available here

[13] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Ukraine's foreign trade in goods for 9 months of 2023", 13 October, available here

About the CWG

The Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG) was established in 2016 and is currently co-chaired by ACTED and OCHA. It is a technical working group within the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) under the overall strategic and programmatic direction of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The CWG focuses on the operational coordination of Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) programming and the support to the coherence of the use of cash as a modality in the wider humanitarian response.

Participating partners

Save the Children · International Rescue Committee · Eesti Pagulasabi · Mercy Corps · People in Need · acted · Action Against Hunger · Caritas Ukraine · KIIS · REACH

Donors

UHF Ukraine Humanitarian Fund · USAID From the American People