

Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 9 December 2020

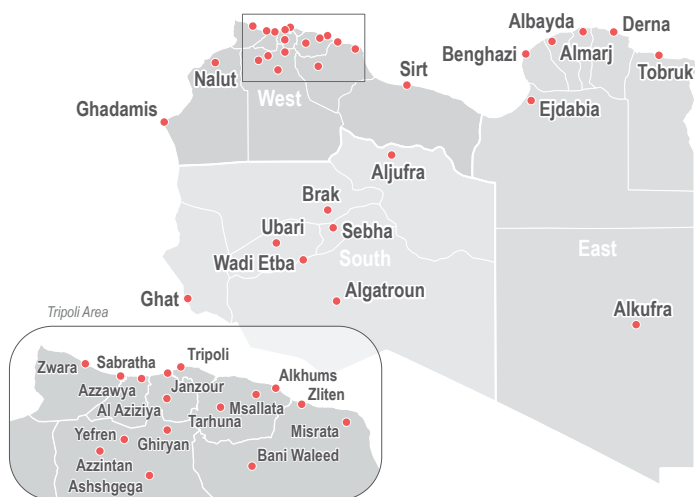
INTRODUCTION

- The December JMMI round will not include any key findings, as the January Factsheet will contain comprehensive price analysis.
- In an effort to inform cash-based interventions and better understand market dynamics in Libya, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was created by the Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG) in June 2017. The initiative is led by REACH and supported by the CMWG members. It is funded by the Office of U.S. Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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 (NFIs) sold in local shops and markets. This factsheet presents an overview of price ranges and medians for key food items and NFIs in the assessed areas, as well as the costs associated with key elements of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
- REACH has also conducted analysis highlighting economic vulnerability for at-risk population groups that can be accessed through an [interactive dashboard](#).

METHODOLOGY

- Field staff familiar with the local market conditions identified shops representative of the general price level in their respective locations.
- 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 KoBoCollect mobile application.
- Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market.
- Qualitative information is also gathered from local sources and economic experts through key informant (KI) interviews.
- More details are available in the Methodology section of the [Appendix](#).

COVERAGE



Libya Cash Working Group

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from **1 - 9 December 2020**

2 participating agencies
(REACH, WFP)
33 assessed cities
45 assessed items
624 assessed shops

EXCHANGE RATES¹

1.356
USD/LYD
official
▼ -1.3%

6.550
USD/LYD
parallel market
▲ +5.0%

7.800
EUR/LYD
parallel market
▲ +7.4%

KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

Median cost of overall MEB

710.2 LYD ▼ 18.9 LYD ▼ -2.6%

Food items ▼ -3.9%
Hygiene items ▲ +10.2%
Cooking fuel.⁹ ▼ 0.0%

MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

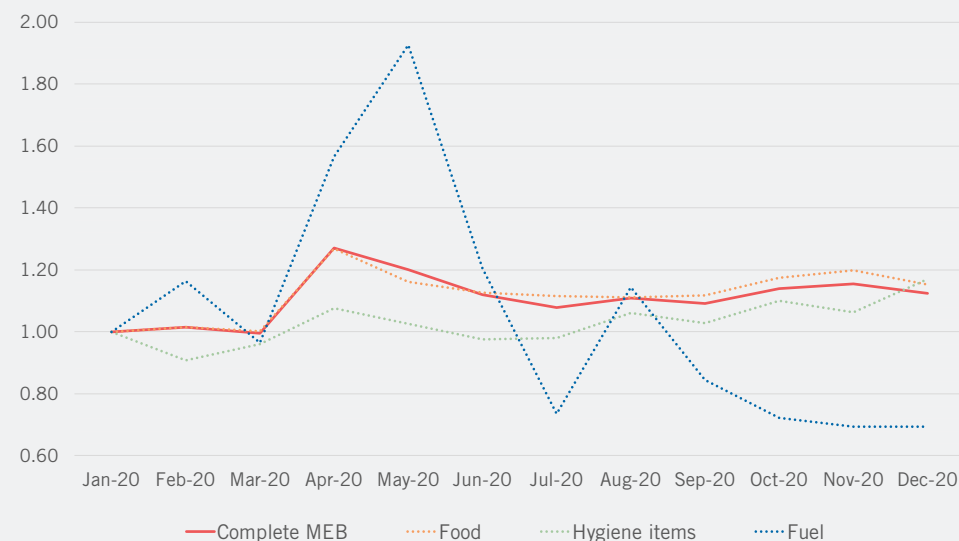
West 658.1 LYD ▼ -7.8%
East 755.4 LYD ▲ +0.2%
South 856.7 LYD ▼ -3.0%

MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

HYGIENE, FOOD AND FUEL ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Since January 2020 (normalised, January 2020 = 1.00)³



Access the [JMMI online dashboard](#)

MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB)

Key Elements: Food Items

Bread	32 kg	Tomatoes	10 kg
Rice	10.5 kg	Potatoes	12 kg
Pasta	9.5 kg	Onions	7 kg
Couscous	5.5 kg	Peppers	4.5 kg
Beans	6 kg	Tomato paste	6 kg
Chicken	7.5 kg	Black tea	2 kg
Tuna	4 kg	Vegetable oil	5 L
Eggs	4 kg	Sugar	2 kg
Milk	8.5 L	Salt	1 kg

Key Elements: Non-Food Items

Bathing soap	1.4 kg (9 150-g bars)
Toothpaste	0.5 kg (5 100-g tubes)
Laundry detergent	1.3 L
Dishwashing liquid	1.3 L
Sanitary pads	4 packs of 10
Cooking fuel (LPG)	22 kg (2 11-kg refills)

Optional Elements

Water (drinking use only)	458 L
Median rent for 3-rm flat	1 month
Float	20% of key elements

The **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were defined by the CMWG in consultation with relevant sector leads.

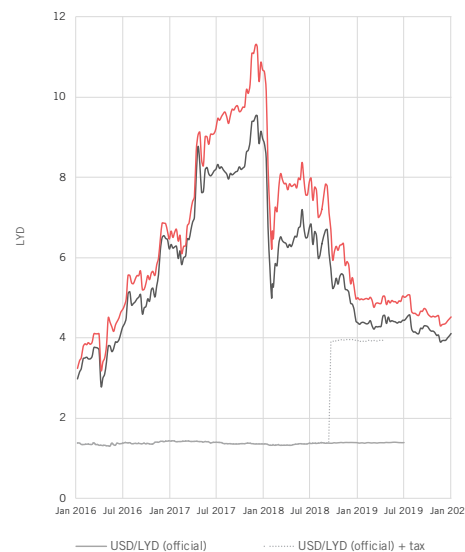
Only the MEB's key elements (food and non-food items) were incorporated into the calculations in this factsheet.

MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since Nov 2020	Since March 2020
Ghiryen	789.8	-2.7%	13.2%
Nalut	785.5	-3.0%	7.3%
azzintan	775.9	-5.8%	14.0%
Zwara	711	-6.0%	30.0%
Ghadamis	701.3	-4.2%	2.6%
Zliten	698.4	-5.5%	13.5%
Sabratha	687.4	-6.6%	23.3%
Ashshgega	681.7	-6.3%	5.5%
Azzawya	680.1	-7.1%	24.6%
Al Aziziya	660.9	-8.3%	20.8%
Tripoli	656	-6.1%	0.2%
Yefren	654.4	-8.0%	-0.2%
Sirt	647.6	-4.1%	7.0%
Bani Waleed	636.2	-6.5%	6.5%
Msallata	631.9	-20.7%	6.0%
Tarhuna	626.8	-7.0%	6.5%
AlKhums	598.2	-9.4%	10.8%
Janzour	569.4	-8.0%	-4.0%
Misrata	553.6	-14.3%	-1.3%
Median West	658.1	-7.8%	5.4%
AlBayda	915.2	3.7%	41.8%
Benghazi	793.7	-1.7%	29.7%
Ejdabia	779.1	-7.5%	20.0%
AlKufra	740.9	0.6%	13.5%
AlMarj	735.3	5.3%	14.9%
Derna	694.2	-3.1%	14.1%
Tobruk	671	-1.8%	6.7%
Median East	755.4	0.2%	19.9%
Ghat	1242	4.7%	8.5%
Ubari	1144.7	1.4%	4.9%
Algatroun	1072.7	-4.3%	-5.2%
Wadi Etba	942.6	-1.6%	12.2%
Brak	813.1	2.3%	11.5%
Sebha	808.6	-0.4%	7.0%
AlJufra	760.9	-3.3%	-1.4%
Median South	856.7	-3.0%	-2.5%
Median Overall	710.2	-2.6%	12.8%

EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME⁴

January 2016-January 2020

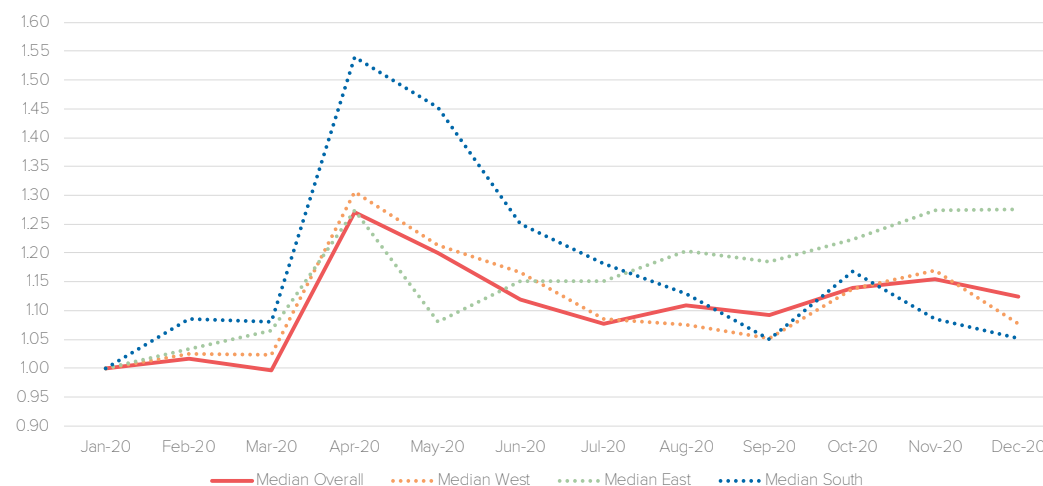


Since February 2020

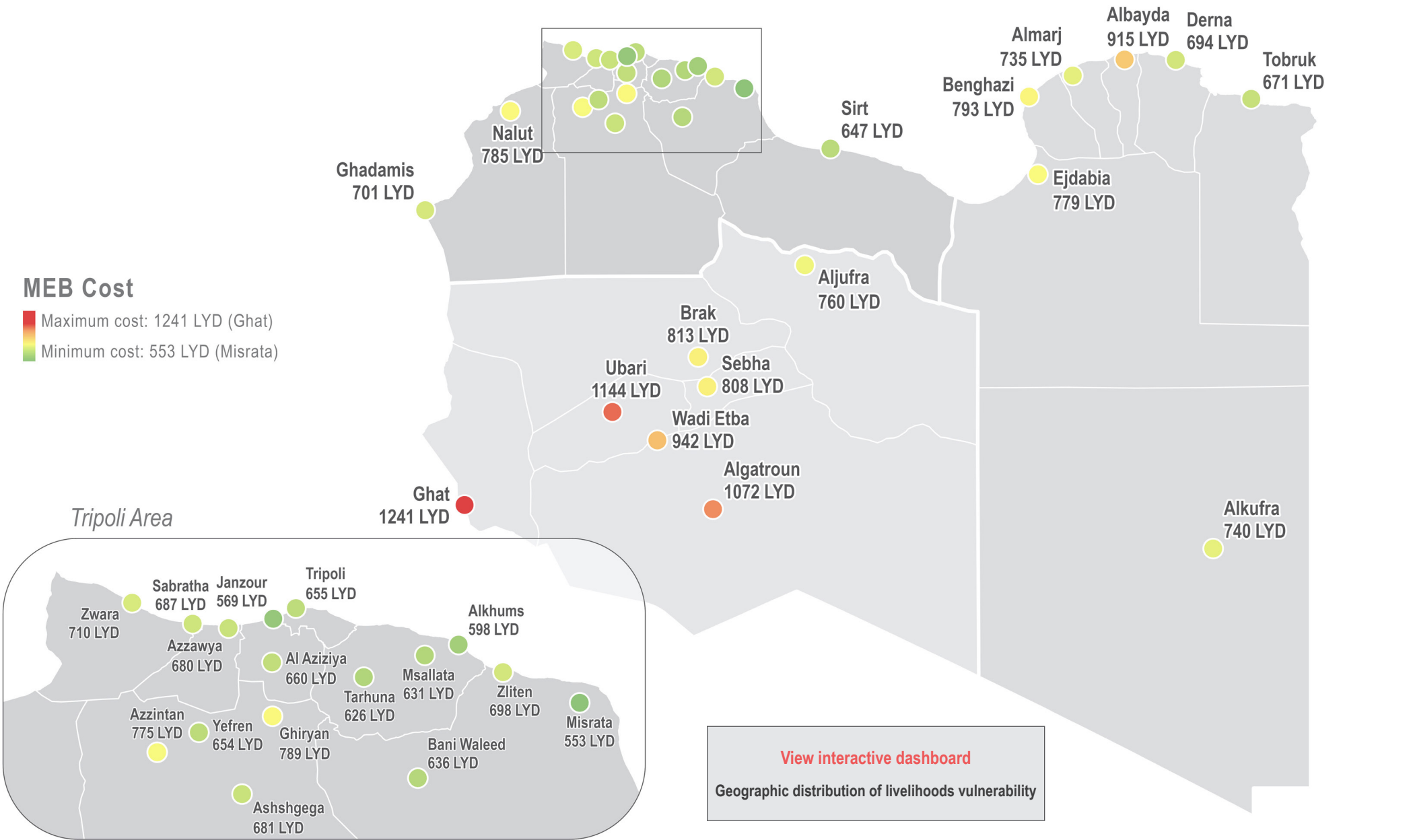


MEB PRICE INDEX

Since January 2020 (normalised, January 2020 = 1.00)⁵



Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

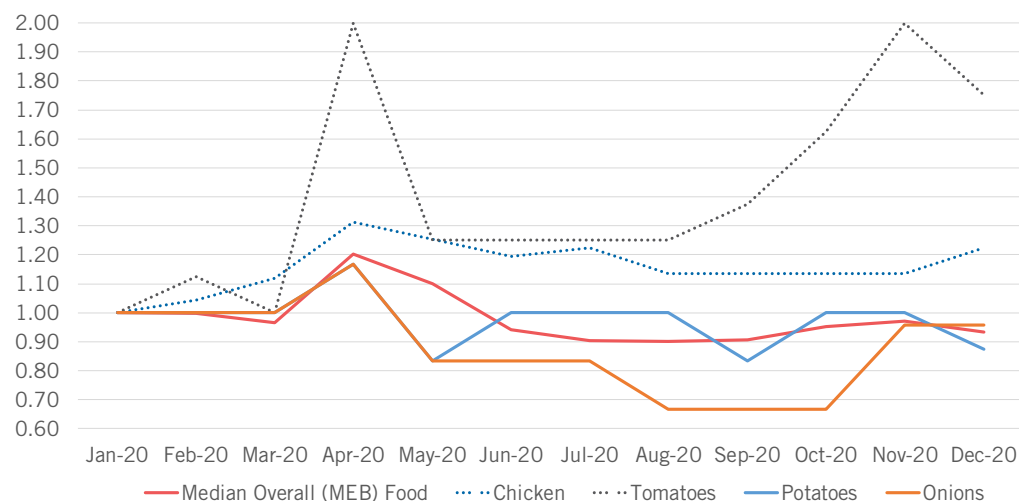


PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

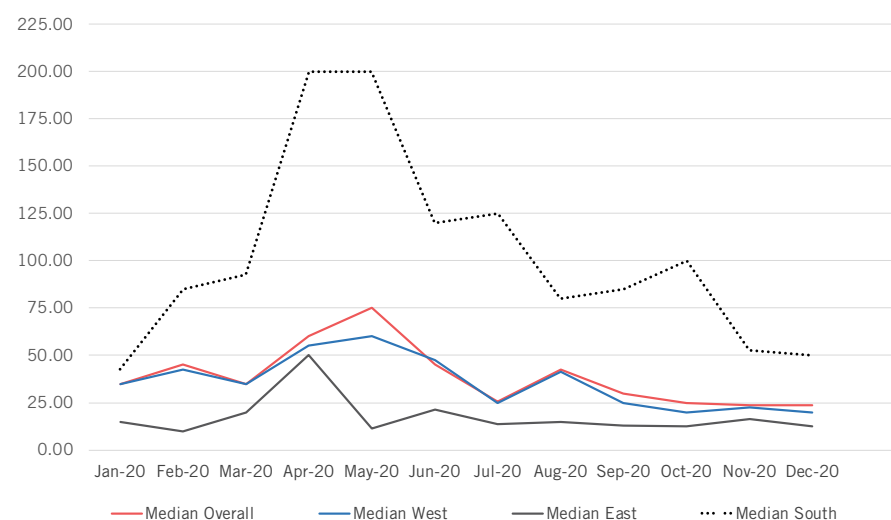
Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Nov 2020	Change since March 2020
Food items				
Salt	1 kg	1.50	20.0%	50.0%
Vegetable oil	1 L	5.00	11.1%	11.1%
Chicken meat	1 kg	10.25	7.9%	9.3%
Tomato paste	400 g	2.50	5.3%	25.0%
Milk	1 L	4.00	3.2%	14.3%
Beans	400 g	2.00	0.0%	23.1%
Black tea	250 g	6.00	0.0%	20.0%
Bread	5 pieces	1.25	0.0%	11.1%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.00	0.0%	33.3%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.50	0.0%	25.0%
Flour	1 kg	2.50	0.0%	25.0%
Green tea	250 g	3.75	0.0%	25.0%
Onions	1 kg	2.88	0.0%	-4.2%
Tuna	200 g	3.50	0.0%	16.7%
Lamb meat	1 kg	37.50	0.0%	5.6%
Pasta	500 g	1.88	-3.1%	25.3%
Sugar	1 kg	2.50	-4.8%	5.3%
Rice	1 kg	3.25	-7.1%	0.0%
Peppers	1 kg	3.88	-8.8%	-3.1%
Eggs	30 eggs	13.00	-10.3%	30.0%
Potatoes	1 kg	2.62	-12.5%	-12.5%
Tomatoes	1 kg	3.50	-12.5%	75.0%
Couscous	1 kg	4.00	-40.7%	14.3%
Hygiene items				
Hand Sanitiser	1 L	43.50	45.0%	No data
Laundry detergent	1 L	2.33	17.7%	3.3%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.50	12.5%	28.6%
Toothpaste	100 mL	5.00	11.1%	25.0%
Laundry powder	1 kg	6.88	7.8%	5.8%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	1.75	7.7%	16.7%
Shampoo	250 mL	5.25	5.0%	3.4%
Baby diapers	30	16.88	2.3%	12.5%
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	3.00	0.0%	12.1%
Bleach	1 L	12.50	-3.8%	No data
Toothbrush	1 brush	2.00	-20.0%	0.0%
Other items				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2020 = 1.00)⁶



PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LPG CYLINDER) (since January 2020, non-normalised)

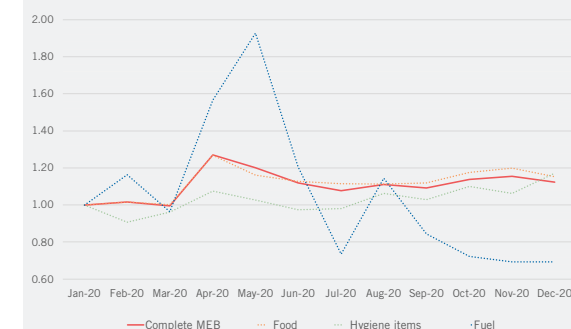


PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since Nov 2020	Change since March 2020
Fuel items				
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	23.75	0.0%	-32.1%
Official LPG	11 kg	5.00	0.0%	0.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	1.50	-25.0%	No data
Pharmaceutical items				
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	11.75	13.3%	17.5%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	12.25	11.4%	19.5%
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	7.12	1.8%	29.5%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	10.00	0.0%	11.1%
Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	6.25	-1.0%	-9.9%

HYGIENE, FOOD AND FUEL ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, January 2020 = 1.00)⁷

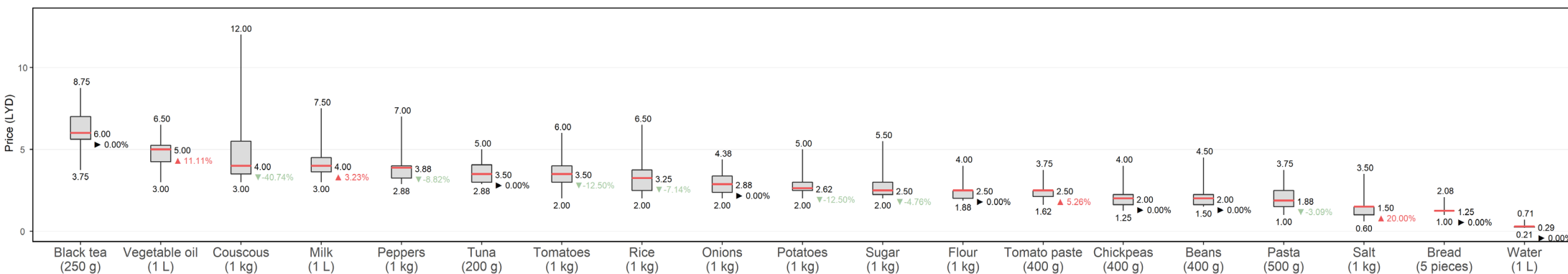


NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

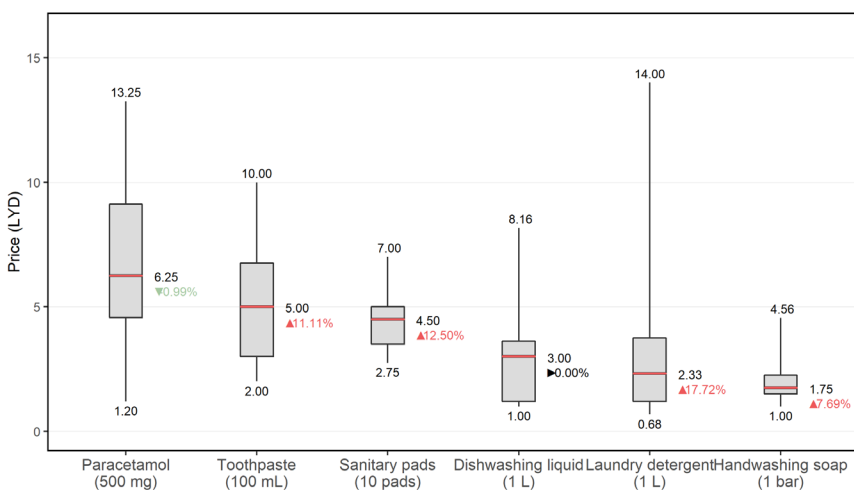
Hand Sanitiser	▲ +45.0%
Couscous	▼ -40.7%
Unofficial Gasoline	▼ -25.0%

Distribution of Prices in Libya

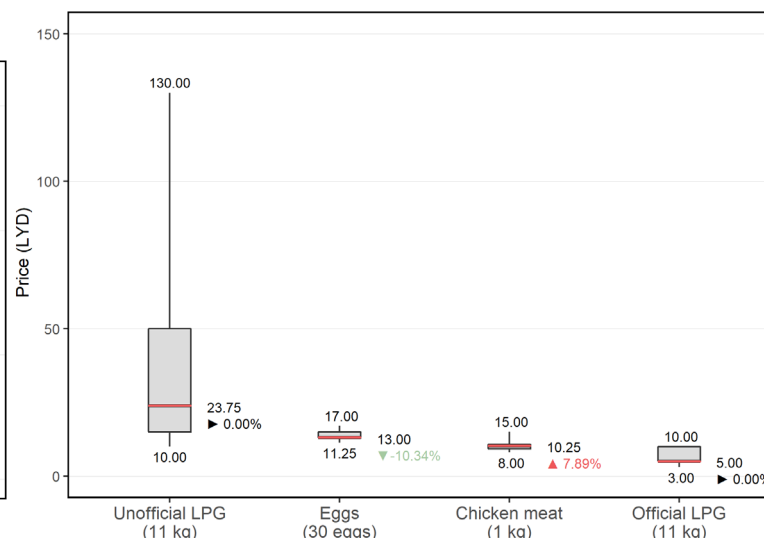
FOOD ITEMS



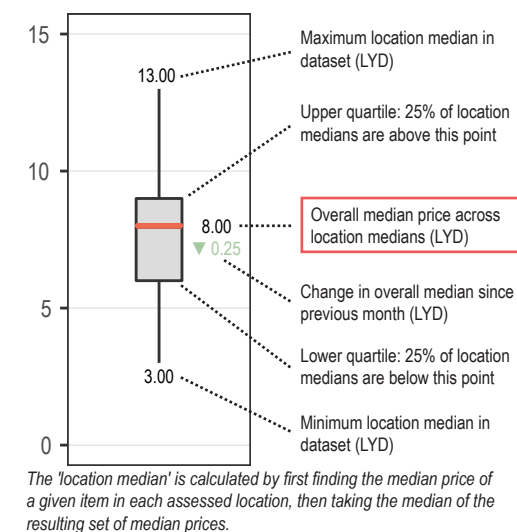
HYGIENE ITEMS



ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



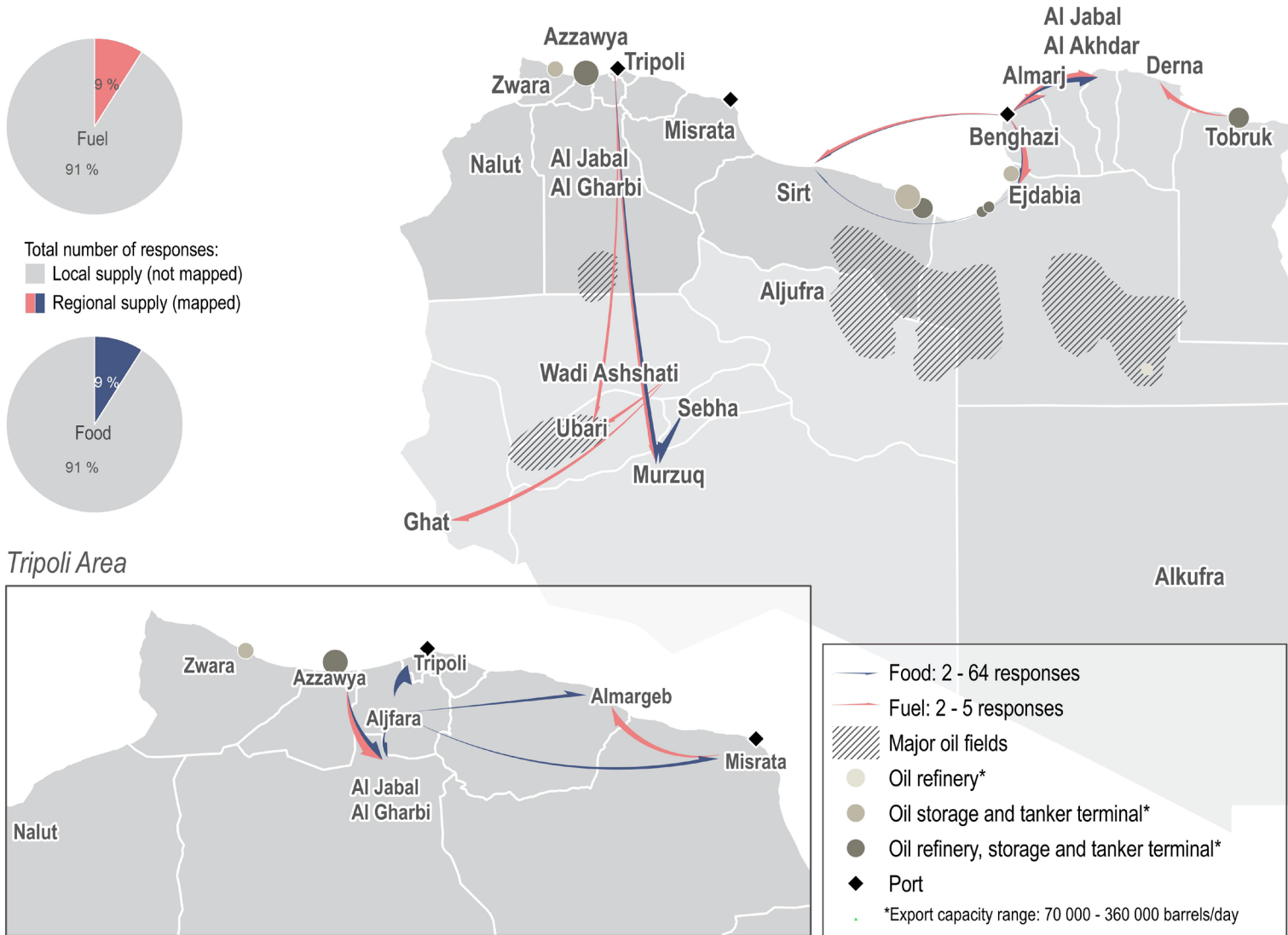
How to read a boxplot



Main Food and Fuel Supply Routes

This map indicates the source and flow of transported fuel and food products according to the shop owner and vendor KIs. The arrow sizes are determined by the quantity of responses and provide an indicative scale of the reported supply routes.

The indicated supply routes only visualize the flow of goods between mantikas (on a regional level), the map does not show the trajectory of goods that are sourced more locally.



PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets	Datasets
2020	
November	November
October	October
September	September
August	August
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February
January	January
2019	
December	December
November	November
October	October
September	September
September	September
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February
January	January
2018	
December	December
November	November
October	October
September	September
September	September
July	July
June	June
May	May
April	April
March	March
February	February

What is the CMWG?

The Libya Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG), established in September 2016, is a community of humanitarian actors that support and coordinate cash-based interventions in Libya. The CWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR and co-led by Mercy Corps.

Methodology (cont. from page 1)

Enumerators were trained on methodology and tools by REACH. Data collection was conducted through the KoBoCollect mobile application.

Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalising prices, cross-checking outliers and calculating the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market.

The methodology for the JMMI is based on purposive sampling. In each assessed market, at least four prices per item need to be collected from different shops to ensure the quality and consistency of collected data. Partner field teams, in coordination with the CWG, identify shops to assess based on the following criteria:

- 1. Shops need to be large enough to sell all or most assessed items.
- 2. Prices in these shops need to be good indicators of the general price levels in the assessed area.
- 3. Shops should be located in different areas within the assessed city or baladiya.

In locations where it is not possible to identify four large markets that fulfil criterion (1), smaller shops, such as grocery shops, vegetable vendors, butchers and bakeries, are added to the shop list, as long as they fit criteria (2) and (3), in order to guarantee at least four prices per item of interest. Each month, price data is collected from the same shops whenever possible to ensure comparability across months.

The CWG primarily targets urban areas throughout Libya, aiming to ensure coverage of markets that serve as commercial hubs for surrounding regions.

Data is collected via the KoBo mobile data collection application. The CWG maintains a joint KoBo account for the JMMI. The data collection tool is published alongside the dataset every month and disseminated to the humanitarian community.

Analyses

The median prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians', designed to minimise the effects of outliers and differing amounts of data among assessed locations. First, the

median prices of all assessed items are calculated within each assessed location (city or mahalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as MEB and price index calculations, are created using this method.

The cost of the MEB is calculated by multiplying the median price of each item in the MEB's 'Key Elements' section by the quantity listed in the table on page 2. In cases where no median price is available for an item in a particular location, the median price for that item across the region (west, east, or south) is substituted.

Challenges and limitations

Price data is only indicative for the time frame within which it was collected. Prices may vary during the weeks between adjacent data collection rounds.

The data is only indicative of the general price levels in each assessed location. Representativeness on the mantika (district) level cannot be claimed. Even on the city level, price data must be interpreted with caution, particularly in larger cities with substantial variation in neighbourhoods' socioeconomic levels.

The JMMI data collection tool requires enumerators to record the cheapest available price for each item, but does not require a specific brand, as brand availability may vary. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slight variants of the same product.

The JMMI does not intend to measure general inflation levels on Libyan markets. As per JMMI methodology, only the cheapest available price per item is collected, meaning that changes in middle-market and upmarket goods are not captured.

Rental Prices

In order to standardise property prices, key features were isolated through consultation with KIs to identify the average apartment specification for typical HHs in Tripoli and Benghazi. The average apartment for typical HHs was found to be a furnished, 3-bedroom apartment with 1 bathroom. All rental prices presented in this report have been standardised to this accommodation type.

Benghazi consists of only one municipality, therefore neighbourhoods across the city were grouped together into 11 area units.

Limitations: the data collected are new offers presented by Open Souq, therefore they may not represent the rental expenses of all IDPs, as tenants may receive cheaper offer through informal channels.

Liquidity Crisis

The respondents were vendors and customers from market places already monitored by the JMMI. Respondents were selected purposively, with an average number of 8 customers and 4 vendors per region.

The findings are indicative and not statistically representative. The sample from south Libya is disproportionately large, therefore national level data may be skewed towards southern Libyan respondent findings.

Endnotes

¹ Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 December 2020). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 December 2020). The rates from 1 December 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

² The cooking fuel price is calculated by taking the average of the official LPG median and the unofficial LPG median.

³ The MEB price index was normalised by setting January 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2020 .

⁴ Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 December 2020). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 December 2020). The rates from 1 December 2020 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

⁵ The MEB price index was normalised by setting January 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2020 .

⁶ The food prices were normalised by setting January 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2020.

⁷ The hygiene prices were normalised by setting January 2020 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in January 2020.

REACH is a program of ACTED. It strengthens evidence based decision-making by humanitarian actors through efficient data collection, management and analysis in contexts of crisis.

ACTED is an international NGO. Independent, private and non-profit, ACTED respects a strict political and religious impartiality, and operates following principles of non-discrimination, and transparency. Since 2011, ACTED has been providing humanitarian aid and has supported civil society and local governance throughout Libya, from its offices in Tripoli, Sebha and Benghazi.