FACTSHEET

Joint market monitoring initiative (JMMI)

August, 2023
Ukraine

KEY MESSAGES

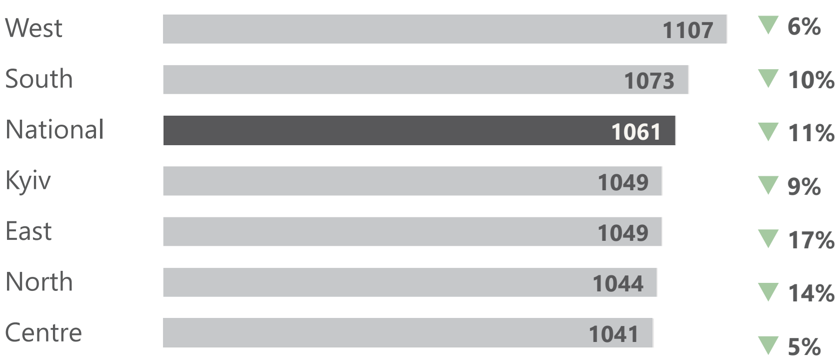
- **The median price of the full JMMI basket decreased nationwide (by 11%) and across all macro-regions,** with the most significant price declines in the East (17%) and North (14%). This decline was primarily attributed to a large seasonal supply of vegetables.
- **Affordability remained a key issue, with the proportion of customer Key Informants (KIs) citing increased prices as their primary financial barrier to accessing goods rising from 52% in July to 59% in August.** The most concerning situation was found in Chernihivska oblast, where 92% of respondents indicated challenges related to increased prices, while 52% mentioned their inability to afford items.
- **Retailers in the North were reportedly most concerned about rising prices (64%) and a decline in customers' purchasing power (58%) in the coming months.** This concern was particularly high in Kyivska and Chernihivska oblasts.
- **Security-related factors limited retailers' activity in the South, especially in areas closer to the frontline, such as Khersonska, and Zaporizka oblasts.** Air attacks primarily impacted customers' access to shops in the North. In contrast, customers in the South and East, especially in Khersonska, Donetska, and Kharkivska, were more prone to report active fighting or shelling, restricted movement, and feeling unsafe in shops or on the roads.
- **Prices for all fuels continued to rise in August, limiting market access for 21% of customers.** Diesel prices increased by 9%, while petrol A-95 and petrol A-92 saw an 8% increase.
- **Customer KIs in the South faced challenges in accessing financial services,** primarily due to the scarcity of banks and ATMs, prolonged interruptions in the operation of existing ones, caused by air alerts, as well as issues related to the availability of cash, and technical issues with ATMs.

1061 UAH

Cost of JMMI basket

28.43 USD (▼ 11%) 25.78 EUR (▼ 10%)

Median values of the full JMMI baskets in August 2023, UAH



JMMI in August 2023:

- **11** participating partners
- **1240** interviews conducted
  - **562** retailers surveyed
  - **678** customers surveyed (**43%** men and **57%** women)
- **24** *oblasts* monitored
- **139** *hromadas* monitored

* East includes Kharkivska, Luhanska, and Donetska oblasts.
** Please find the methodology overview on page 13.

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 (JMMI) seeks to fill this information gap by providing useful and timely data on price trends and market functionality indicators.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

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.

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.**

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

AVAILABILITY OF GOODS

Food and hygiene items

In August, food and hygiene items were reported to be widely available, with only 1% of surveyed customers across the country reporting limited availability (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). These shortages were predominantly noted by customer KI in the eastern region (4%).

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, 91% of surveyed retailers reported that complementary cereal for babies was fully available, and 92% reported full availability of diapers for infants. The availability for these items was reported to be the most limited in the South, particularly in Zaporizka oblast (28% for complementary cereal and 35% for diapers) and Khersonska oblast (60% for both items).

The results of the retailer KIs survey indicate **some access issues to vegetables included in the JMMI basket in Zaporizka oblast.** Fourteen percent of interviewed retailers in this oblast reported the absence or shortage of carrots in their stores, 13% of potatoes, and 8% of onions and cabbage.

Medications

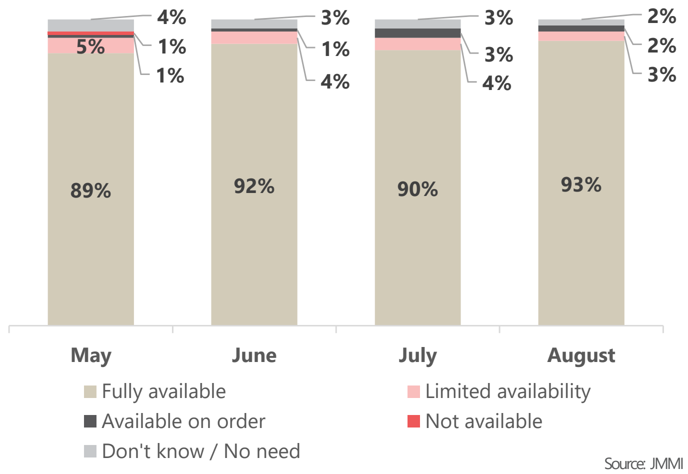
The availability of over-the-counter medication has shown a slight improvement compared to the previous month. In July, 90% of customer KIs reported full availability of medication, and this proportion increased to 93% in August (as shown in Figure 3).

The highest proportions of customer KIs reporting insufficient quantities of these items in their place of residence were in Khersonska (18%), Rivnenska (17%), and Vinnytska (13%) oblasts. Additionally, in Kharkivska oblast, 9% of customer KIs reported that they could only purchase medication through ordering.

Warm clothes

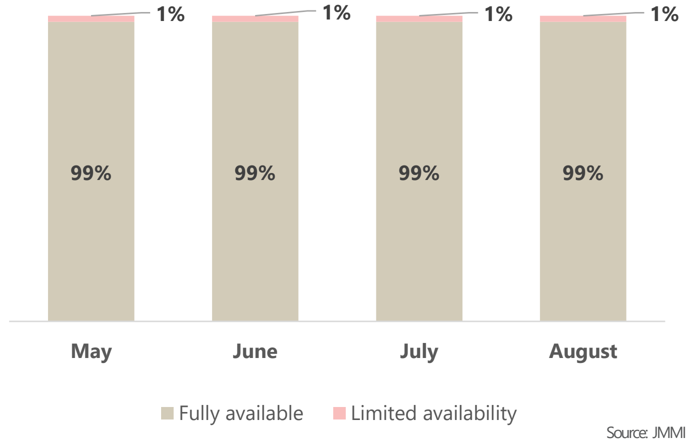
The survey findings indicate **ongoing challenges in accessing warm clothes in the East and South,** which is crucial as the colder season approaches.

Figure 3: % of customer KIs reporting availability of over-the-counter medications, national



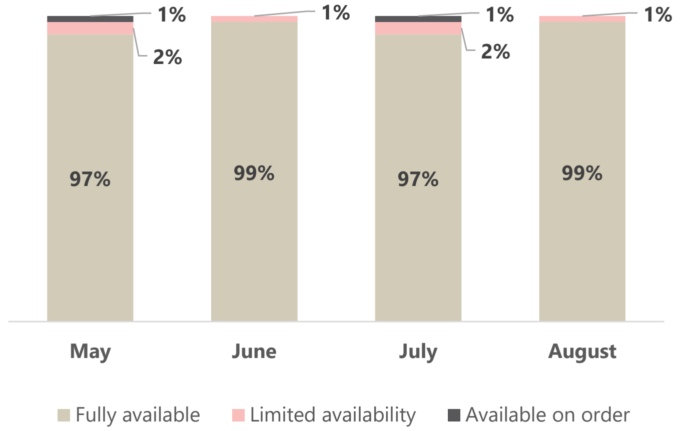
Source: JMMI

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



Source: JMMI

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

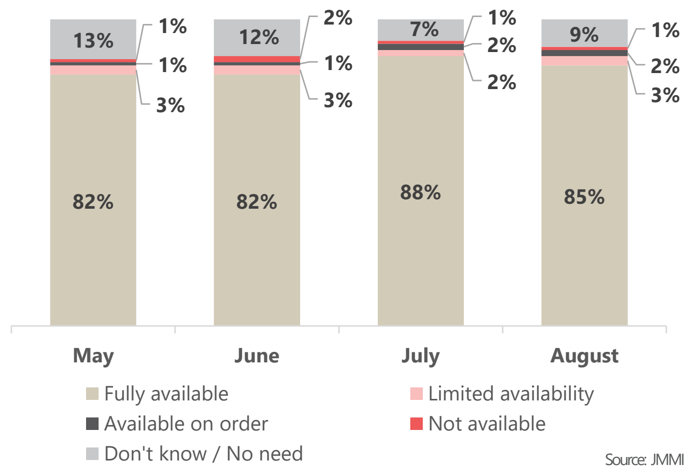


Source: JMMI

In August, issues with the availability of warm clothes such as lack of or limited availability in shops and the option to purchase only via ordering, were cited by 17% of customers surveyed in the East and 10% in the South, with the highest percentages in Khersonska (30%) and Kharkivska (21%) oblasts.

Moreover, respondents in western and central oblasts also mentioned difficulties accessing warm clothes in their local stores or markets. These challenges were particularly prevalent among residents of Zakarpatska (25%), Vinnytska (13%), and Rivnenska (11%) oblasts.

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



Source: JMMI

AVAILABILITY OF ENERGY RESOURCES AND MARKET PRICES

Availability

Due to sufficient market supply, vehicle fuel was reported as fully available nationally by most of the customer KIs (79%) in August (as shown in Figure 5).

However, some availability issues were observed in specific regions. In Zaporizka oblast, 20% of respondents indicated either the absence of fuel or limited availability. In Vinnytska oblast, 13% of respondents reported its absence. Additionally, in Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts, 12% and 11% of respondents, respectively, noted limited availability.

Regarding heating fuel, the situation has slightly deteriorated compared to the previous month. In July, 85% of customer KIs reported that heating fuel was fully available. However, this proportion decreased to 78% in August (as displayed in Figure 6).

Limited availability of heating fuel was mostly reported in Kyiv (18%), followed by Donetska (10%), Kharkivska (7%) and Khersonska (7%). Similar to previous months, in Chernihivska oblast, 20% of customer KIs could only purchase heating fuel through ordering.

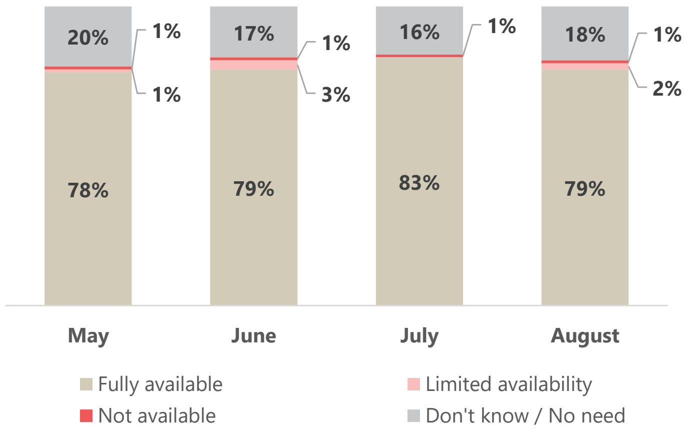
Market prices

Fuel prices continued to rise in August compared to July as the full taxation was reintroduced*. However, the decline in global oil prices in the previous months, large fuel stocks, and increased competition in the retail market were restraining factors behind the rise in fuel prices[1].

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine (SSSU)[2], compared to July, average consumer prices for diesel rose by 9%, while petrol A-92 and petrol A-95 experienced an 8% increase. Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) became more expensive, with a 2% increase of its price.

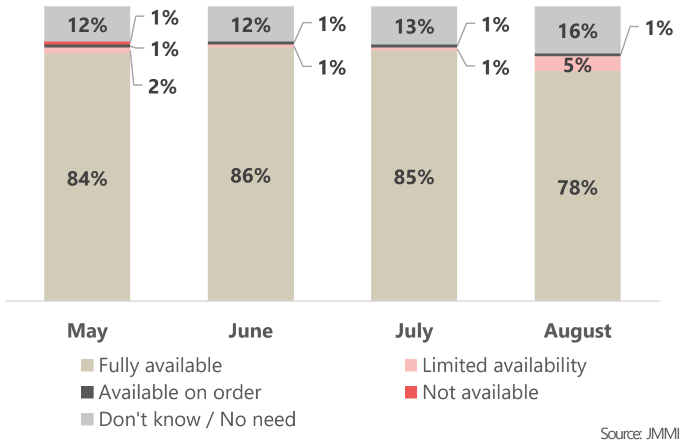
According to the JMMI customer KIs survey, respondents reported that the estimated prices of petrol and diesel purchased through unofficial sources were lower than those obtained through official sources. Specifically, they indicated that petrol and diesel could be bought through official sources at 52 UAH per liter. In contrast, through unofficial sources, petrol was priced at 51 UAH per liter, and diesel was priced at 48 UAH per liter.

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



Source: JMMI

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

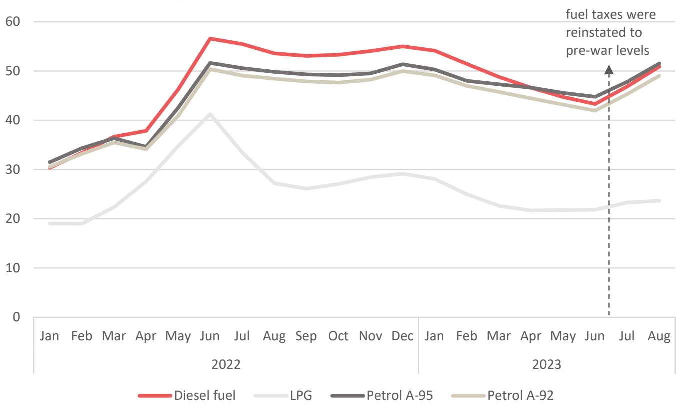


Source: JMMI

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

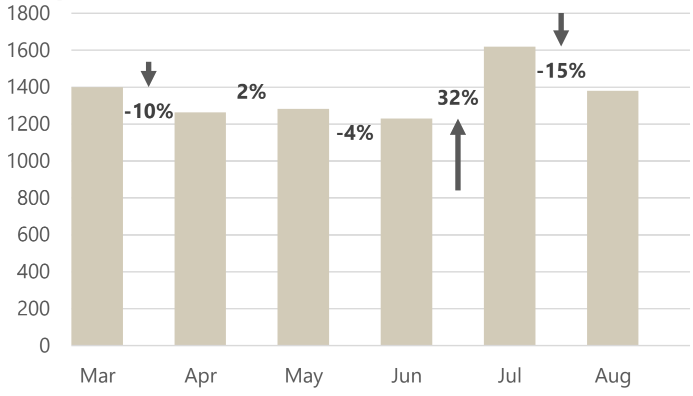
In August, the median price of firewood decreased by 15% compared to July, reaching 1,380 UAH per cubic metre (as shown in Figure 8). The highest prices were observed in the South, where firewood was priced at 2,000 UAH per cubic metre.

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



Source: SSSU

Figure 8: Median price for firewood, national, UAH per cubic metre



Source: JMMI

* On July 1st, fuel taxes were reinstated to pre-war levels. Thus, the VAT rate on petroleum products was increased from 7% to 20%, the excise tax on petrol was set at 213€ per 1,000 liters, and on diesel fuel at 140€ per 1,000 liters.[3]

THE BASKET

The median value of the full JMMI basket

The JMMI Basket is a subset of the 335-item consumer set of 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).

In August, compared to July, **the cost of the full JMMI basket decreased in all regions**, with the most significant price declines occurring in the East (-17%) and North (-14%).

The national-level calculation of the full JMMI basket in August revealed an 11% decrease compared to July, though it remained 4% higher than the prices in August 2022 (as shown in Figure 9).

The most expensive JMMI basket was calculated based on prices reported in the West (1107 UAH), followed by the South (1073 UAH), whereas JMMI basket prices were reported to be the lowest in the Centre (1041 UAH).

At the oblast level, the highest costs of the JMMI basket were reported in Volynska (1329 UAH), Khersonska (1209 UAH), and Rivnenska (1188 UAH) oblasts.

Despite the overall downward trend, 50% of retailer KIs in Donetska, 42% in Rivnenska, and 25% in Zaporizka oblasts reported an increase in prices for all items within the JMMI basket.

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 cost of the food basket markedly decreased in all regions, with the most significant decreases observed in the East and Centre (14% in each region). Nationally, it amounted to 530 UAH, which is a 13% decrease compared to July.

The decline in food prices was primarily attributed to a decrease in the prices of vegetables, namely: carrots (by 64%), cabbage (by 54%), onions (by 47%), and potatoes (by 38%). These vegetables became more affordable due to an increase in supply. This year, vegetable production saw an increase thanks to favorable weather conditions and higher production levels in some regions[1].

Meanwhile, egg prices increased by 8% across the country.

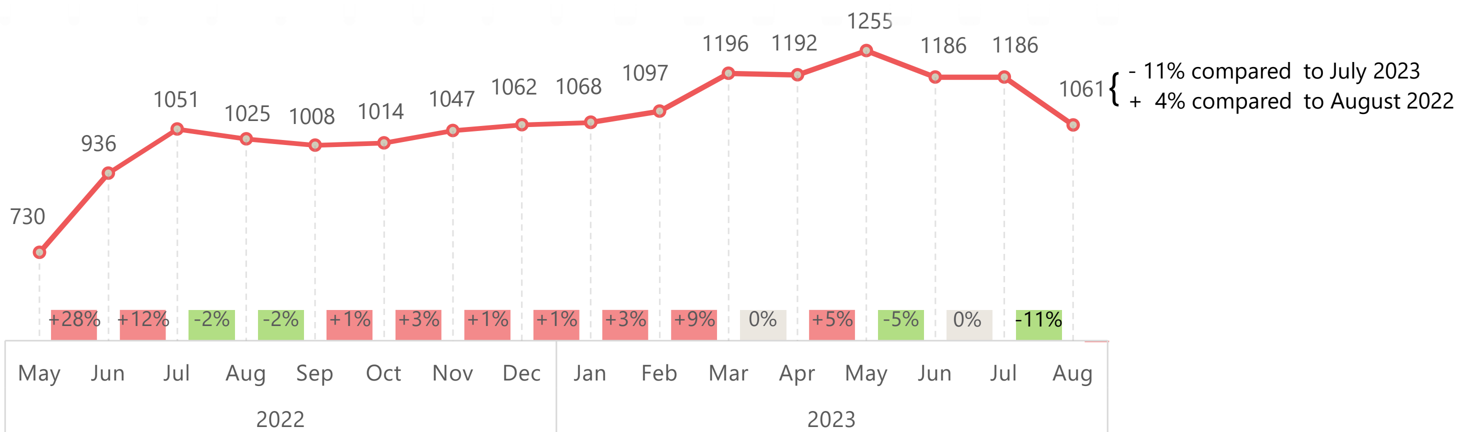
The most expensive food basket was calculated based on prices reported by retailers in Kyiv (562 UAH), while the cheapest was in the Centre (508 UAH).

The cost of the non-food (hygiene) basket amounted to 531 UAH across the country in August, representing an 8% decrease compared to July. This reduction in the cost of the NFI basket was observed in all regions, except for the Centre, where it increased by 6%.

The most expensive NFI basket was recorded in the West, totaling 569 UAH, while the least expensive one, amounting to 487 UAH, was found in Kyiv.

Prices

Figure 9: Monthly evolution of the JMMI basket price (in UAH)



Source: JMMI

Map 1: Median prices (UAH) of food and non-food baskets in August 2023, by oblast

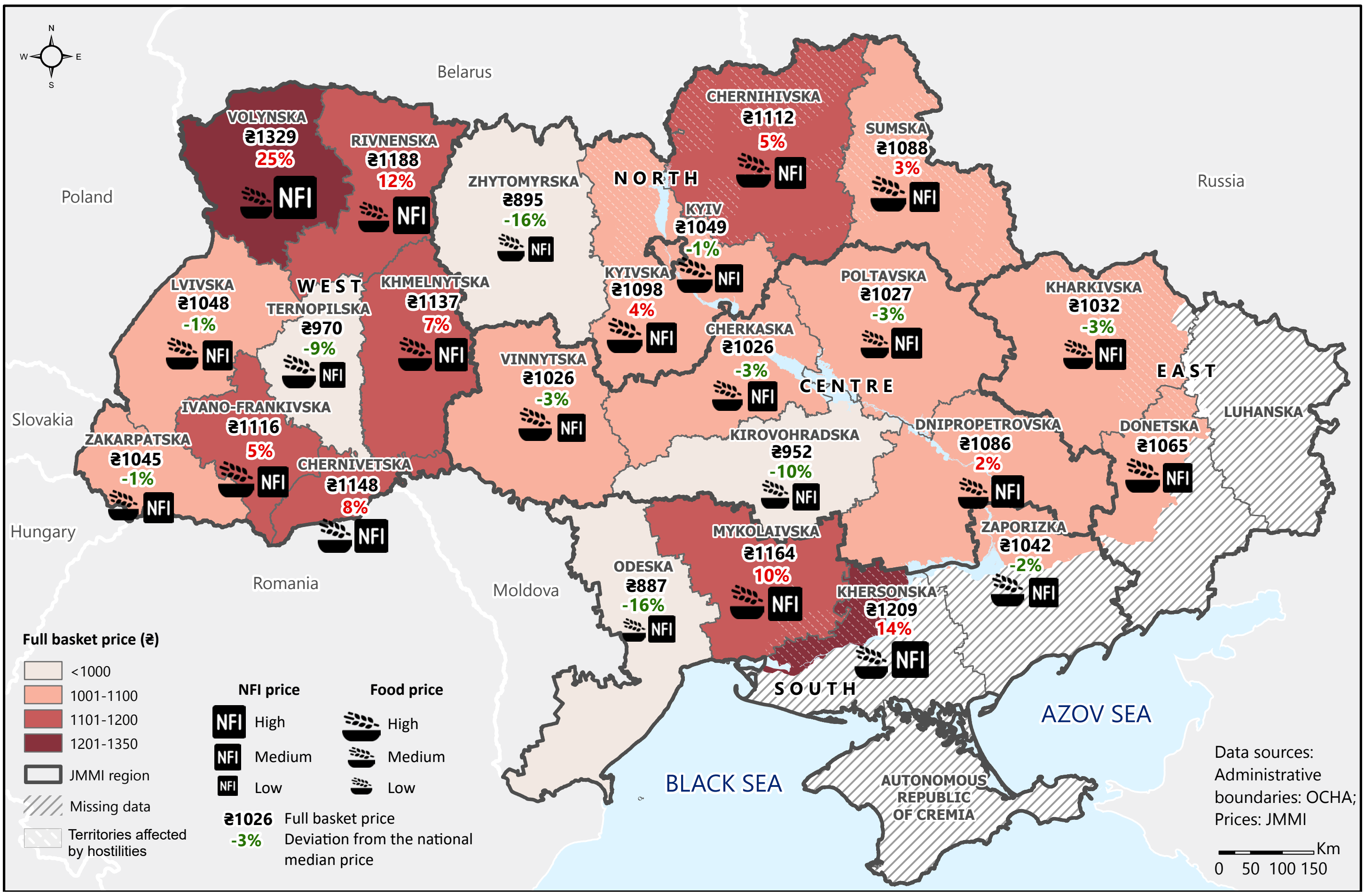


Table 1: Median prices (UAH) of food basket in August 2023 by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	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	18	-6%	17	-1%	19	5%	19	14%	21	-2%	18	-3%	18	1%
Buckwheat	1 kg	42	-8%	44	-7%	57	-5%	48	-8%	45	-1%	44	-7%	45	-5%
Cabbage	1 kg	11	-46%	11	-50%	12	-54%	11	-58%	13	-46%	16	-36%	12	-54%
Carrots	1 kg	20	-64%	16	-67%	16	-68%	18	-65%	20	-57%	18	-66%	18	-64%
Chicken (legs, fresh)	1 kg	107	0%	110	-5%	95	-1%	106	-3%	124	3%	96	0%	107	-2%
Complementary cereal	200 g	98	9%	86	-8%	65	7%	90	-2%	96	-2%	83	1%	88	-3%
Eggs (chicken)	10 pcs	39	10%	37	9%	44	-2%	38	6%	38	8%	39	10%	39	8%
Milk (2.5%, fresh)	900 ml	31	1%	32	1%	34	1%	32	-1%	30	0%	34	-9%	32	0%
Oil (sunflower, refined)	900 ml	50	6%	50	-1%	58	-2%	57	1%	50	-5%	56	-10%	53	-3%
Onions	1 kg	21	-48%	17	-49%	16	-51%	19	-52%	20	-44%	21	-44%	19	-47%
Potatoes	1 kg	12	-39%	11	-41%	12	-34%	12	-46%	13	-33%	15	-24%	12	-38%
Rice (round)	1 kg	55	3%	50	-3%	55	-6%	53	1%	57	2%	52	-6%	54	-1%
Water	1.5 L	15	-11%	13	-15%	16	-8%	17	1%	15	1%	15	-15%	15	-12%
Wheat flour (white)	1 kg	18	-1%	15	1%	19	-4%	20	4%	20	0%	16	-19%	19	-3%
Total		538	-10%	508	-14%	518	-13%	539	-13%	562	-9%	523	-14%	530	-13%

Source: JMMI

Map 2: Median prices (UAH) of food baskets in August 2023, by oblast

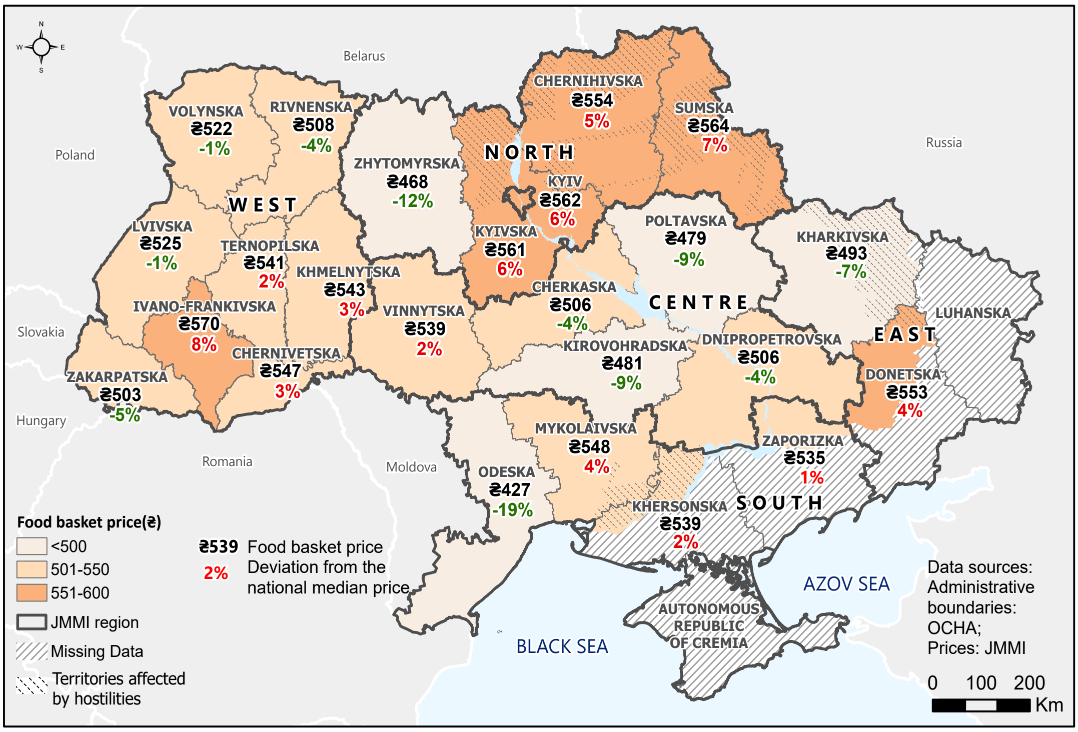


Table 2: Median prices (UAH) of non-food (hygiene) basket in August 2023 by region

		West		Centre		South		North		Kyiv		East		National	
Item	**Unit**	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)	15	0%	12	-2%	16	8%	14	4%	12	0%	13	-17%	13	-3%
Diapers (infant, 5-9 kg)	1 pack (40-60 pcs)	399	-2%	381	6%	398	-9%	349	-18%	343	-10%	375	-23%	378	-9%
Hygiene/sanitary pads	1 pack (10 pcs)	43	0%	39	-2%	34	-6%	38	-1%	38	-15%	39	-9%	38	-7%
Laundry soap	1 bar (200 g)	20	0%	20	9%	22	2%	20	-9%	23	3%	21	-17%	21	-5%
Toothpaste	1 tube (75 ml)	42	-3%	36	15%	33	-10%	38	-9%	30	-3%	32	-13%	34	-7%
Washing powder	1 box (500 g)	51	-5%	45	4%	51	1%	48	-4%	42	-5%	44	-1%	46	-2%
Total		**569**	-2%	**532**	6%	**555**	-7%	**506**	-14%	**487**	-9%	**526**	-20%	**531**	-8%

Source: JMMI

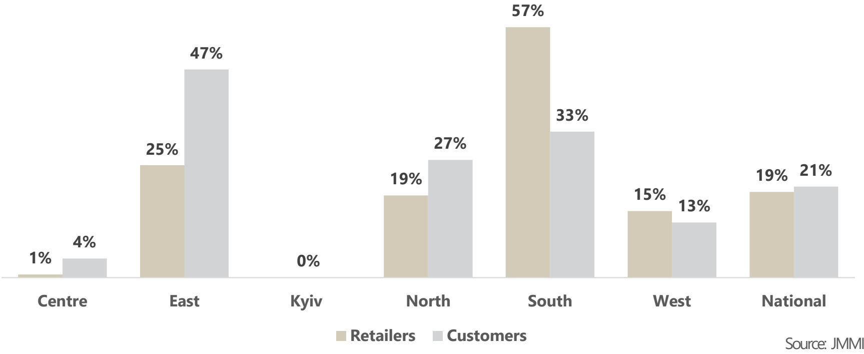
ACCESS TO STORES

Physical access to stores

In August at the national level, **21% of customer KIs indicated that the full-scale war was affecting their ability to physically access shops** (among retailer KIs, the figure was slightly lower, i.e. 19%). The highest percentages were found in the East and South, where 47% and 33% of customer KIs, respectively, reported difficulties in accessing shops. Additionally, in the South, 57% of retailers KIs reported this issue too. (see Figure 10).

The primary reason for the difficulty in accessing markets across the country was air alerts, indicated by 10% of the surveyed customers, with the highest percentage in the North (26%). Notably, all surveyed customers in Chernihivska oblast mentioned that stores or marketplaces in their area faced temporary interruptions due to air alerts.

Figure 10: % of customer and retailer KIs reporting that the full-scale war has affected the ability to access shops, by region



Source: JMMI

Security-related factors had a significant impact on customer KIs' access to stores in southern and eastern areas near the frontline. Specifically, active fighting or shelling was reported by 45% of surveyed customers in Khersonska and 30% in Donetska oblasts, while movement restrictions related to martial law were indicated by 34% of respondents in Khersonska and 23% in Kharkivska oblast. Sixteen percent of respondents in Khersonska and Kharkivska oblasts, as well as 10% in Donetska oblast, reported limiting their access to local shops and markets in August due to feeling unsafe while being in or approaching shops due to the fear of being targeted.

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

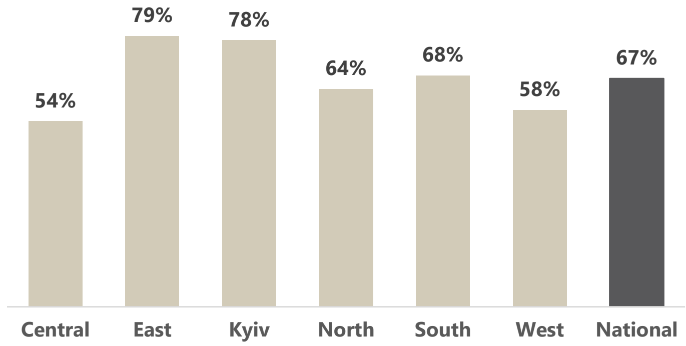
Lack of transportation was an additional factor that physically limited the ability of 23% of surveyed customers in Kharkivska oblast to reach shops or markets in their communities.

Financial factors

Financial factors continued to have a negative impact on customer KIs' access to stores and marketplaces across Ukraine, with 67% of respondents reporting this obstacle in August.

While commodity prices showed a downward trend in August, they remained relatively high, presenting challenges for customers' access to shops. More specifically, **59% of respondents nationwide identified increased prices in shops and markets as a barrier to shopping access**, a notable increase from the 52% reported in July. The highest percentage was reported in Kyiv (72%). Additionally, **16% of surveyed customers mentioned their inability to afford items** in the stores or marketplaces, with the highest proportion reported in the East (32%).

Figure 11: % of customer KIs reporting that financial factors have affected their access to stores or marketplaces, by region



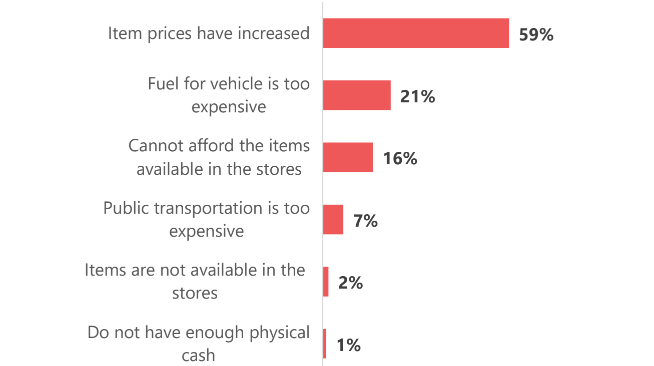
Source: JMMI

However, at the oblast level, **the most concerning situation was reported in Chernihivska oblast, where 92% of respondents indicated challenges related to increased prices, while 52% mentioned their inability to afford items**.

The increase in fuel prices during July and August* had repercussions for customers, with **21% of survey respondents citing high fuel prices for their cars as one of the factors that limited their access to shops and markets**. Additionally, the **high cost of public transport also served as a constraint,** particularly in the West (reported by 13% of respondents), as well as in the North and East (9% in each region).

As a consequence, the issue of affordability remains crucial, especially in Chernihivska oblast, where it represents a barrier to accessing markets.

Figure 12: Main financial barriers to accessing stores reported by customer KIs, national**



Source: JMMI

* Please see "Market prices" on the page 3.
** The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

MARKET FUNCTIONALITY

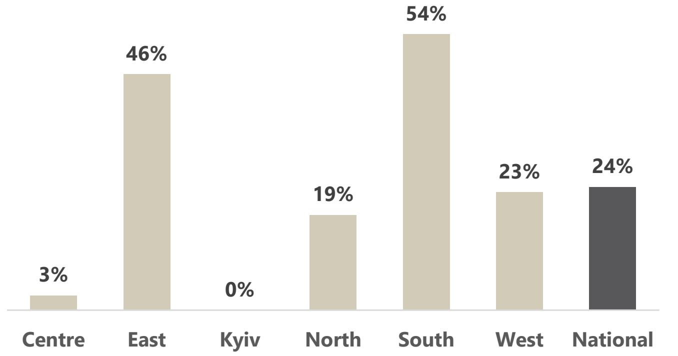
In August, fewer retailers reported difficulties in maintaining operational and well-stocked stores compared to July. Specifically, 33% of retailer KIs reported such issues in July, which decreased to 24% in August. Retailer KIs from the South and East reported to face difficulties more frequently than those in other regions of Ukraine (54% and 46%, respectively), as shown in Figure 13.

The main difficulty reported by retailers nationwide was high prices charged by suppliers (16%), with this being most frequently reported in the East (41%), South (20%), West (18%), and North (16%).

Physical hazards mainly affected retailers in the South, especially in areas throughout the frontline such as Zaporizka and Khersonska oblasts. Specifically, 29% of retailers in the South reported difficulties related to physically dangerous conditions, while movement restrictions limited activities for 26% of retailer KIs in this region.

Additionally, retailers in the South faced various other challenges, including accessing money to pay suppliers (30%), storing goods during power outages (19%), difficulties with core goods' availability (8%), and stocking shortages (7%).

Figure 13: % of retailer KIs reporting difficulties in keeping their store operational and well-stocked, by region



Source: JMMI

In August, 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, it ranged from 25% to 50% in the South and from 50% to 75% in the East. The national range was from 50% to 75%.

Map 3: Approximated percentage of working retailers in August 2023 from the pre-war level, reported by retailer KIs, by hromada

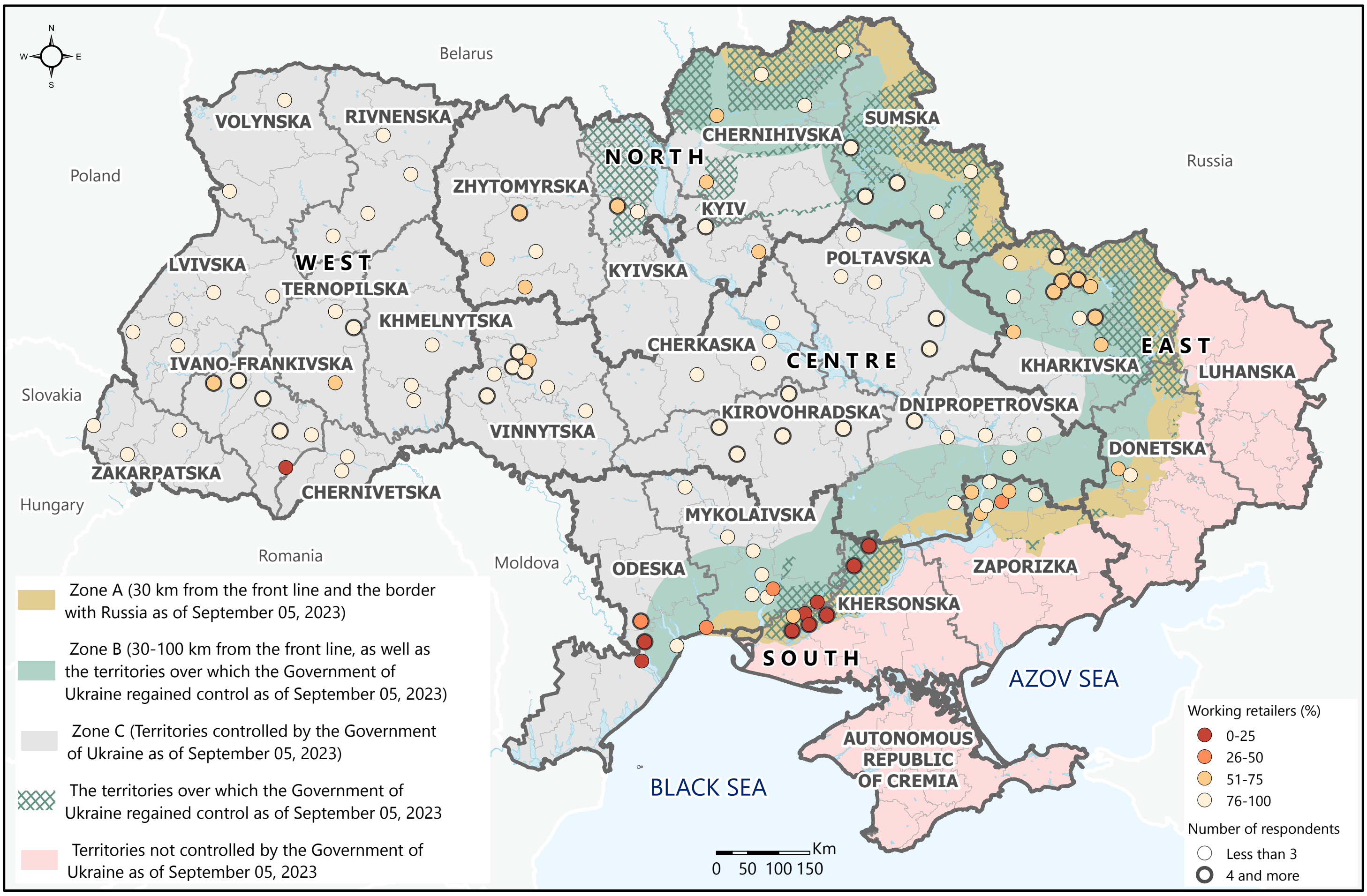


Table 3: % of retailer KIs reporting on new challenges faced since the start of the full-scale war in February 2022, by type of challenge and region*

Type of challenge	Centre	East	Kyiv	North	South	West	National
Availability of core goods				5%	8%	4%	3%
Price increase among suppliers	2%	41%		16%	20%	18%	16%
Liquidity to pay suppliers					30%	3%	6%
Full staffing	1%	2%		6%	3%	1%	2%
Movement restrictions		3%		1%	26%	1%	5%
Physical danger in the area		2%			29%		5%
Storage of goods during the absence of electricity					19%	2%	4%
Enough stock				1%	7%	2%	2%
Other						1%	

* The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

Source: JMMI

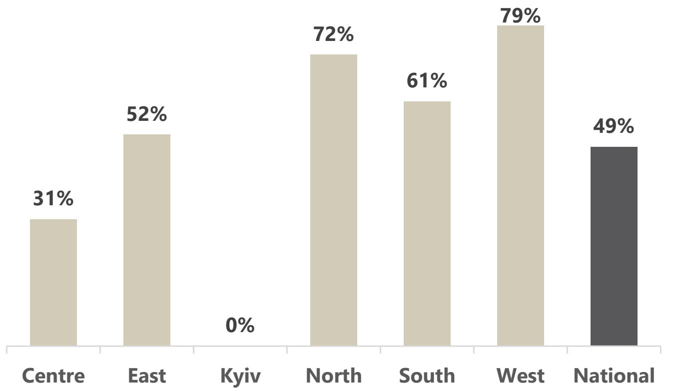
The survey findings indicate that **49% of retailers surveyed nationwide expected new difficulties in the near future due to the full-scale war** (Figure 14).

Among the most often anticipated challenges reported nationally were rising prices (39%), as well as declining customer purchasing power (32%). For these two challenges, at the level of regions, they were mostly reported in the North - 64% for rising prices and 58% for customer purchasing power. Survey findings showed a concerning situation in Kyivska and Chernihivska oblasts, where every retailer interviewed (n=23/23 in Kyivska, and n=15/15 in Chernihivska) expects higher prices from suppliers and 87% of retailer KIs anticipate a decline in customer purchasing power.

Additionally, 26% of retailer KIs in the South and 19% in the North expected reduced customer mobility.

Moreover, 25% of retailer KIs in the South anticipated a reduced availability of cash.

Figure 14: % of retailer KIs reporting anticipating new challenges due to the war, by region



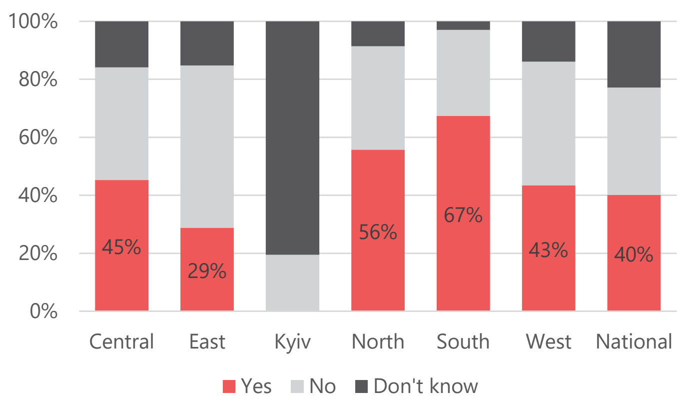
Source: JMMI

SUPPLY

In August, 40% of retailer KIs noted that their business depended on a single food supplier. The proportion of retailer KIs whose businesses mostly relied on a single supplier for core hygiene items was slightly higher (45% countrywide). The dependence on a single food supplier represents a potential source of vulnerability for the stores, as it could compromise their ability to maintain adequate stock.

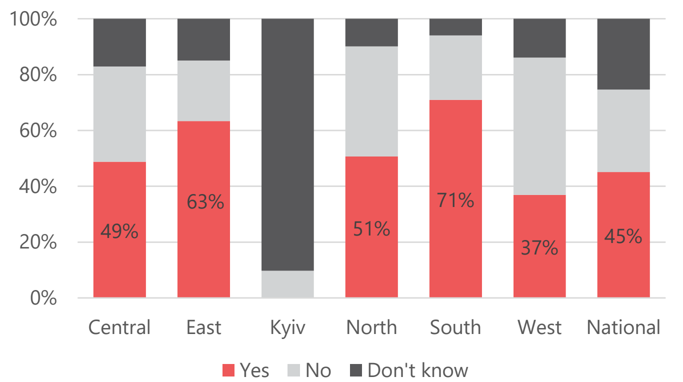
The greatest challenges in this regard were reported in the South (Figure 15 and Figure 16). **The southern region seemed to be particularly exposed to that supply concern**, with 67% of retailers reporting that they mostly relied on one supplier for food items, and 71% for non-food items. Moreover, **retailers in Mykolaivska oblast were most at risk, as 100% of retailer KIs (n=24/24) indicated to rely only on one supplier, for both food and non-food items.**

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



Source: JMMI

Figure 16: % of retailer KIs reporting that they mostly rely on a single supplier for non-food (including hygiene) items, by region



Source: JMMI

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Banks

In August, 68% of customer KIs reported the full availability of bank branches offering all their services, compared to 75% in July (Figure 18).

Air attacks reportedly continued to restrict the opening hours of bank branches across the country. Twenty-three percent of customer KIs indicated that bank branches were unable to provide their usual services during air alerts, with the highest proportion reported in the Centre (48%) and North (34%).

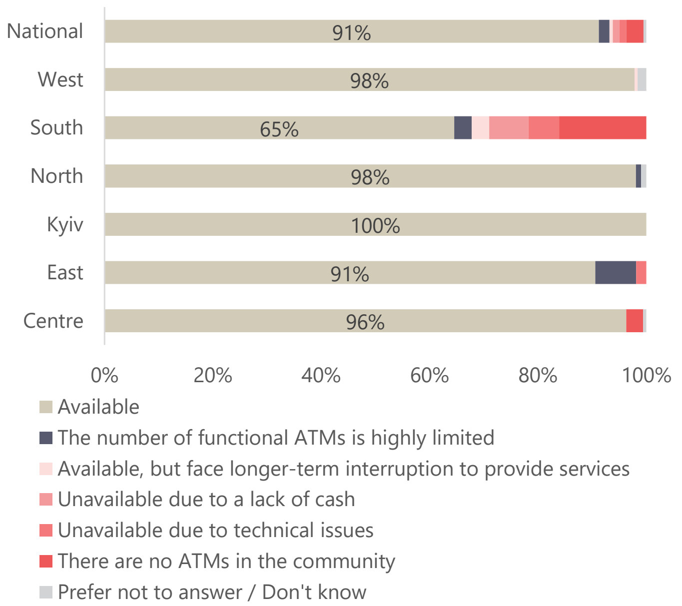
As in the previous months, **the greatest difficulties in accessing the full spectrum of banking services were experienced by respondents in the South.** In this region, 36% of the surveyed customers indicated the absence of functioning banks in their communities, and a further 6% noted that existing branches were facing longer-term interruptions in providing services such as currency exchange, issuance of loans, and acceptance of deposits. These challenges were primarily reported by residents of Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka oblasts.

ATMs

The percentage of customer KIs reporting the full availability of functioning ATMs remained nearly unchanged throughout the summer months, standing at 91% in August.

The most notable access issues were observed in the South, where 16% of customer KIs reported the absence of ATMs in their communities, and 13% noted that available ATMs were not functioning due to a lack of cash, technical issues, or other problems. These challenges were primarily faced by residents of Khersonska, Mykolaivska, and Zaporizka oblasts. Additionally, 15% of customer KIs in Odeska oblast indicated that ATMs in their communities experienced long-term interruptions in services, such as cash withdrawals.

Figure 17: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning ATM, by region



Source: JMMI

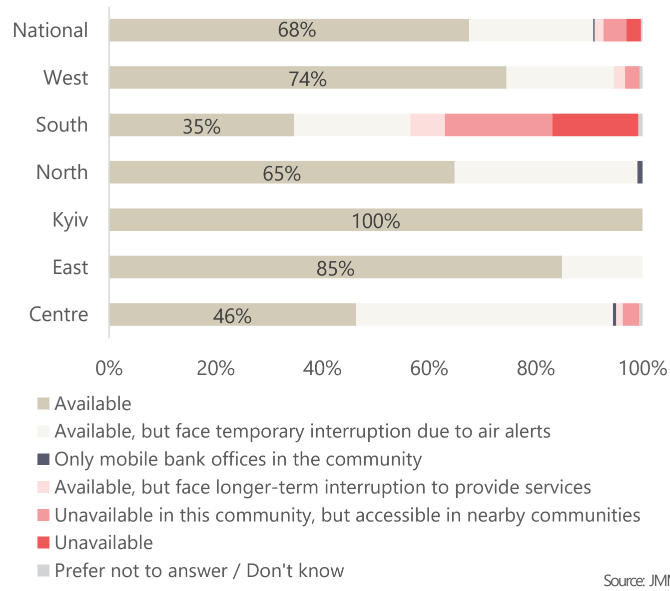
Ukrposhta*

Nationwide, 77% of customer KIs reported that Ukrposhta offices operated daily and provided all of their regular financial services, compared to 83% in July. As in the previous month, **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, which mostly affected customers surveyed in the Centre (41%) and North (27%).

Payment modalities

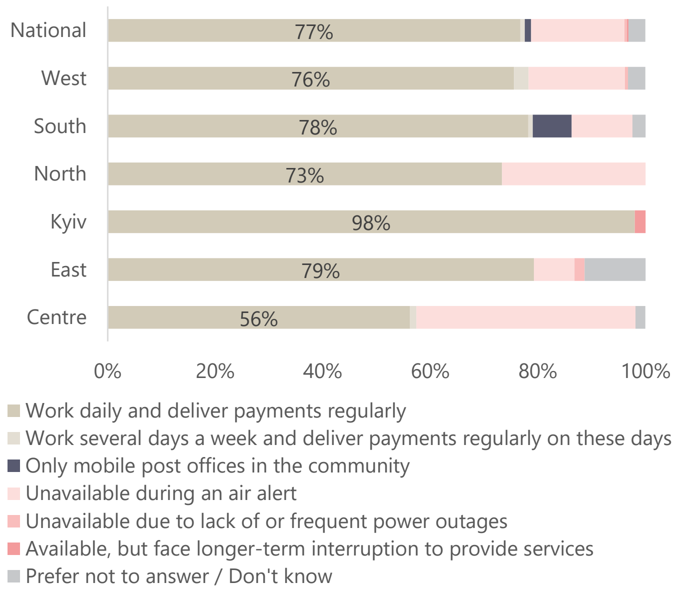
The main payment modalities accepted by retailer KIs in August were cash (100%), credit cards (94%), debit cards (73%), mobile apps (56%), and vouchers from the UN or

Figure 18: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning bank branches, by region



Source: JMMI

Figure 19: % of customer KIs reporting availability of functioning Ukrposhta offices, by region



Source: JMMI

* Ukrposhta is Ukraine's national post.
** The percentages were obtained from multi-choice question.

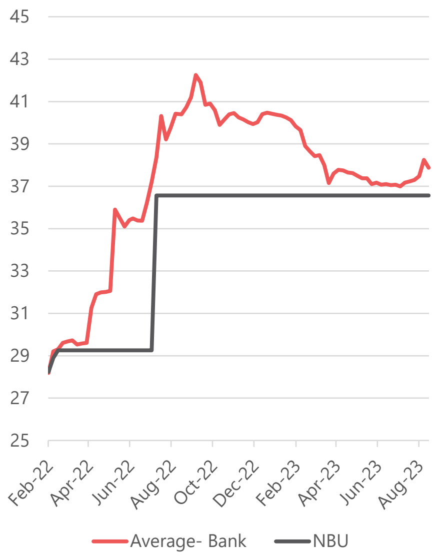
MACROECONOMICS

Inflation

The consumer price index decreased by 1.4% in August compared to July, meeting expectations, marking the biggest drop since the war started (Figure 21). However, it remained 2.5% higher than at the beginning of the year and 8.6% higher than in August 2022[4].

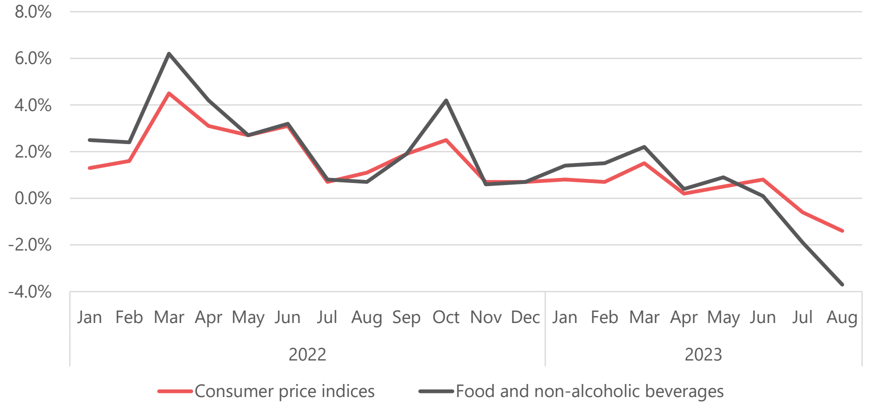
The deceleration in inflation was primarily driven by a larger supply of raw food, in particular newly harvested vegetables and fruits, as well as improved inflation and exchange rate expectations[1].

Figure 20: Mid-market exchange rate for the US Dollar (USD)



Source: MINFIN

Figure 21: Monthly inflation rate (%)



Source: SSSU

Economic activity

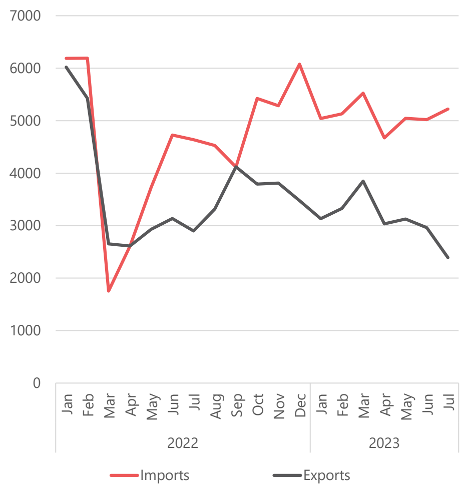
In August, the economy was supported by active fieldwork to harvest early grain and leguminous crops, which were larger than last year. Increase of budget funding for infrastructure restoration and defense objectives stimulated construction works and industrial production. The contribution of trade and freight transportation was also significant[5].

Russia's withdrawal from the "grain corridor" agreement reduced exports from Ukraine[6]. In July, exports fell by 574 million USD, primarily due to a 332 million USD decline in cereal exports[7,8].

Moreover, over the past two months, Russia has launched a wave of drone attacks on Ukraine's Danube ports, resulting in the destruction of 280,000 tonnes of Ukrainian grain[9]. While alternative transportation routes provide vital economic support, they also imply significant additional costs.

Experts predict that the high costs of alternative routes will undermine Ukrainian grain production and cause exports to halve to around 35 million tonnes in 2024 from last year's level[9].

Figure 22: Changes in gross value of exports and imports of Ukraine (million USD)



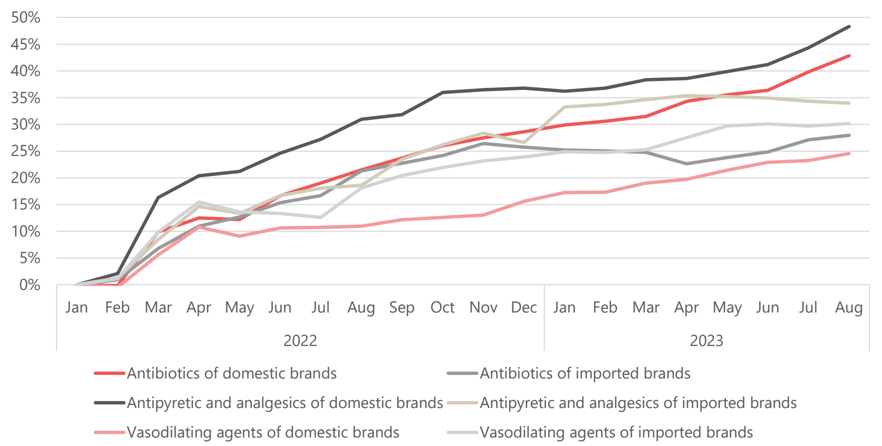
Source: SSSU

MEDICINE

According to the SSSU[2], in August, the average prices for basic medicines, such as antipyretic and analgesics of domestic brands, witnessed a 3% increase. Similarly, prices for antibiotics of domestic brands increased by 2% (Figure 23).

In a year-to-year comparison with August 2022, average prices for antibiotics of domestic brands showed a significant increase of 18%, followed by a 13% increase for both domestic and imported brands of antipyretic and analgesics.

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



Source: SSSU

RENT

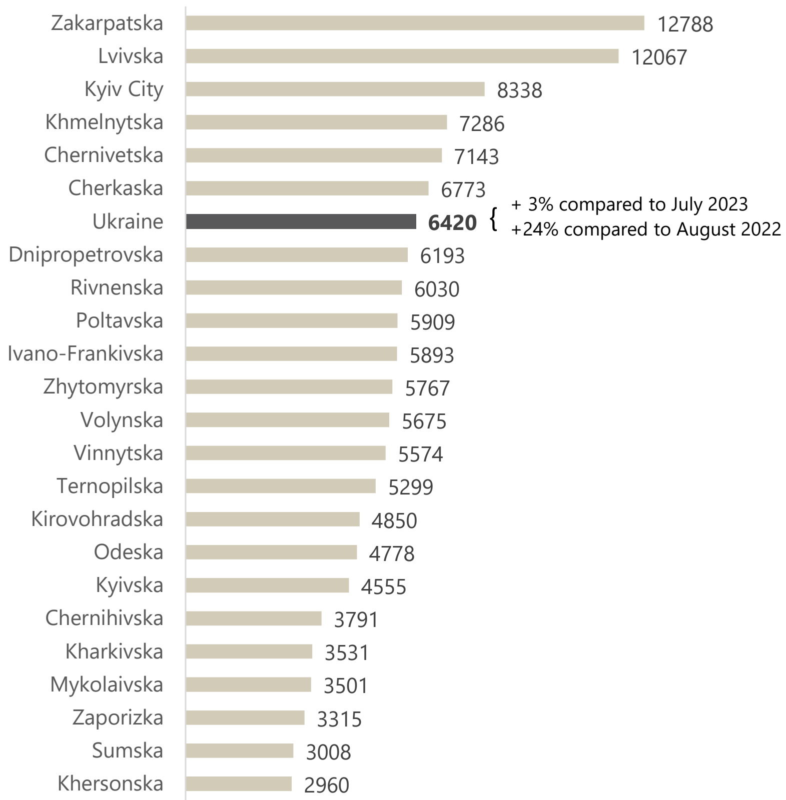
Rental prices for one-bedroom apartments in Ukraine continued to rise in August.

According to the data from the SSSU[2], during that month, the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment increased by 3% compared to July. The most substantial price increases were recorded in Ternopilska (17%), Ivano-Frankivska (8%), and Kyivska (7%) oblasts.

In a year-to-year comparison with August 2022, rental prices showed a significant overall increase of 24%, with the most remarkable increases occurring in Zakarpatska (125%), Lvivska (65%), and Ivano-Frankivska (55%) oblasts. However, it is worth noting that rental prices in Kharkivska and Odeska oblasts decreased by 35% and 4%, respectively.

The highest rental prices were observed in western oblasts, such as Zakarpatska (12,788 UAH) and Lvivska (12,067 UAH). In contrast, the lowest rental prices were found in areas close to the frontline or affected by ground shelling, such as Khersonska (2,960 UAH), Sumska (3,008 UAH), and Zaporizka (3,315 UAH).

Figure 24: Average monthly rent for a one-bedroom apartment (UAH) in August 2023, by oblast



Source: SSSU

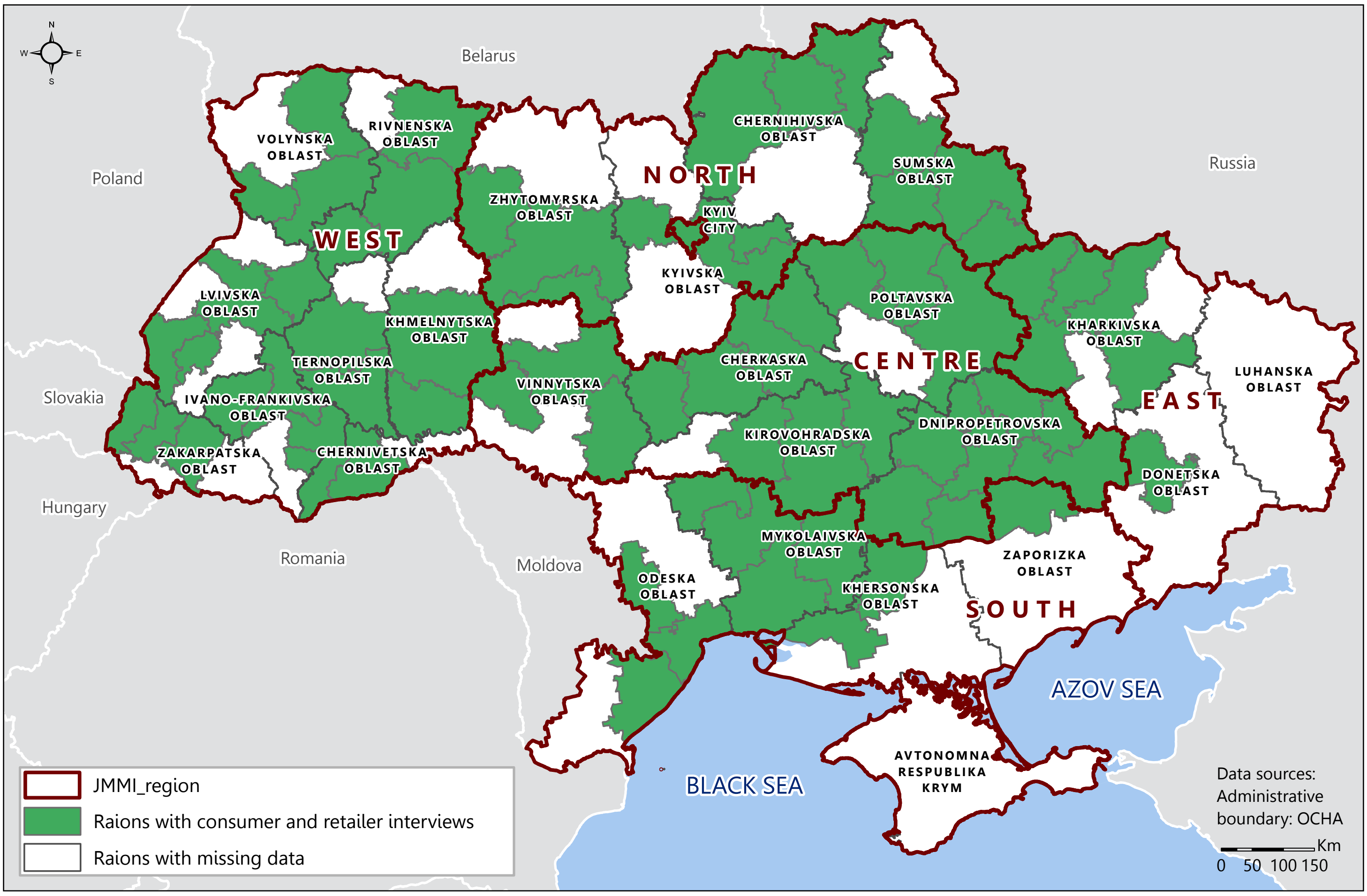
METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

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.

ENDNOTES

[1] National Bank of Ukraine "NBU August 2023 Inflation Update", 14 September 2023, available **here**

[2] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Average consumer prices for goods (services) in Ukraine in 2023", 13 September 2023, available **here**

[3]UKRAINE BUSINESS NEWS " Ukraine has returned to pre-war tax rates for fuel and other oil products", 3 July 2023, available **here**

[4] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Price indices", 9 September 2023, available **here**

[5] National Bank of Ukraine "Monthly Macroeconomic and Monetary Review, September 2023", 6 September 2023, available **here**

[6]XINHUANET " World Insights: Ukraine exploring ways to maintain food exports after grain deal collapse", 5 August 2023, available **here**

[7] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in January-July 2023", 14 Septembe 2023 r, available **here**

[8] State Statistics Service of Ukraine "Ukraine's foreign trade in goods in January-June 2023", 14 August 2023, available **here**

[9] Economic Truth "Russia has destroyed 280,000 tonnes of Ukrainian grain since leaving the grain initiative", 13 September 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).