

# Libya Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

1 - 15 April 2022

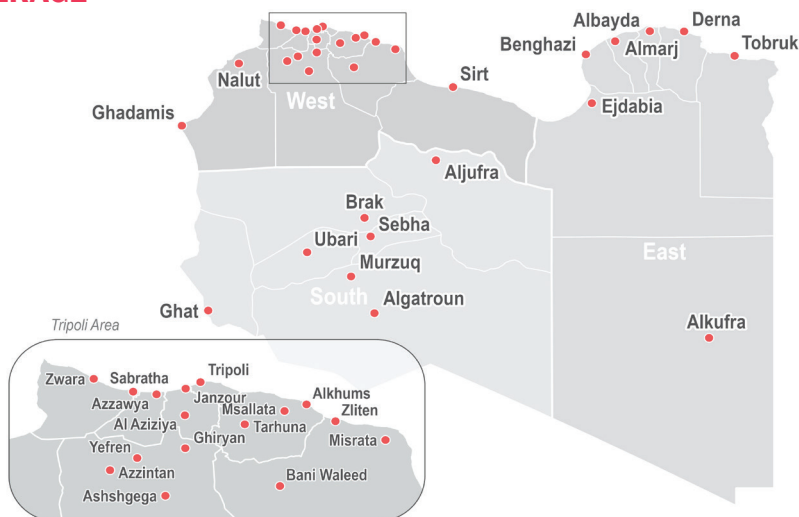
## INTRODUCTION

- 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 (BHA) 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).

## 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.
- During the April 2022 round, a collection of liquidity items was done. Enumerators have surveyed both vendors and customers from a number of shops to ask questions focused on access to cash and alternative payment modalities.
- Following data collection, REACH compiled and cleaned all partner data, normalised prices, cross-checked outliers and calculated the median cost of the MEB in each assessed market. Qualitative information was also gathered from both local sources and economic experts through key informant (KI) interviews.
- REACH also extracted rent prices on a daily basis from the website "Open Souq" and conducted KI interviews with property market professionals to better understand the rental market in Libya.
- More details are available in the Methodology section of the Appendix.

## COVERAGE



## Libya Cash Working Group

**REACH** Informing  
more effective  
humanitarian action

## JMMI KEY FINDINGS

- The cost of the MEB across Libya increased overall by **+16.1%** between March and April 2022. The overall increase in April 2022 was mainly driven by an increase in the cost of the fuel proportion of the MEB (**+25.0%**) and the food proportion of the MEB (**+17.1%**).
- The cost of the MEB showed an increase in all the East (**+14.5%**), West (**+14.1%**), and South (**+14.1%**). The cost of the MEB as of April 2022 is **+53.6%** higher than pre-COVID levels (March 2020).
- Between March and April 2022, the increase in the price of the food portion of the MEB was driven by an increase in the price of tomatoes (**+72.7%**), couscous (**+52.9%**), potatoes (**+40.0%**), peppers (**+38.5%**), and tomato paste (**+33.3%**) (see page 3).
- The prices of hygiene items increased by **3.4%**. This was mainly driven by the increase in prices of some items such as shampoo (**36.5%**), toothbrushes (**20%**), sanitary pads (**12%**), and handwashing soap (**6.1%**).
- Between March and April 2022, pharmaceutical items such as Paracetamol increased in price (**+6.1%**), while others, such as Vitamin B decreased in price (**-11.1%**) (see page 3).
- The cost of the cooking fuel proportion in the overall MEB showed an increase in price from March to April 2022 (**+25%**). The price of the cooking fuel component of MEB shifted from **20.00 LYD** in March to **25.00 LYD** in April 2022.

## JMMI KEY FIGURES

Data collection from 1 - 15 April 2022

3 participating agencies: (REACH, WFP, DRC)  
33 assessed cities  
56 assessed items  
662 assessed shops

## EXCHANGE RATES<sup>1</sup>

**4.674**  
USD/LYD  
official  
▲ +1.2%

**4.935**  
USD/LYD  
parallel market  
▲ +0.1%

**5.370**  
EUR/LYD  
parallel market  
▼ -1.3%

## KEY MONTHLY CHANGES IN MEB

### Median cost of overall MEB

966.93 LYD ▲ +134.07 LYD ▲ +16.1%

Food items	Hygiene items	Fuel
▲ +17.1%	▲ +3.4%	▲ +25.0%

## MEDIAN COST OF MEB BY REGION

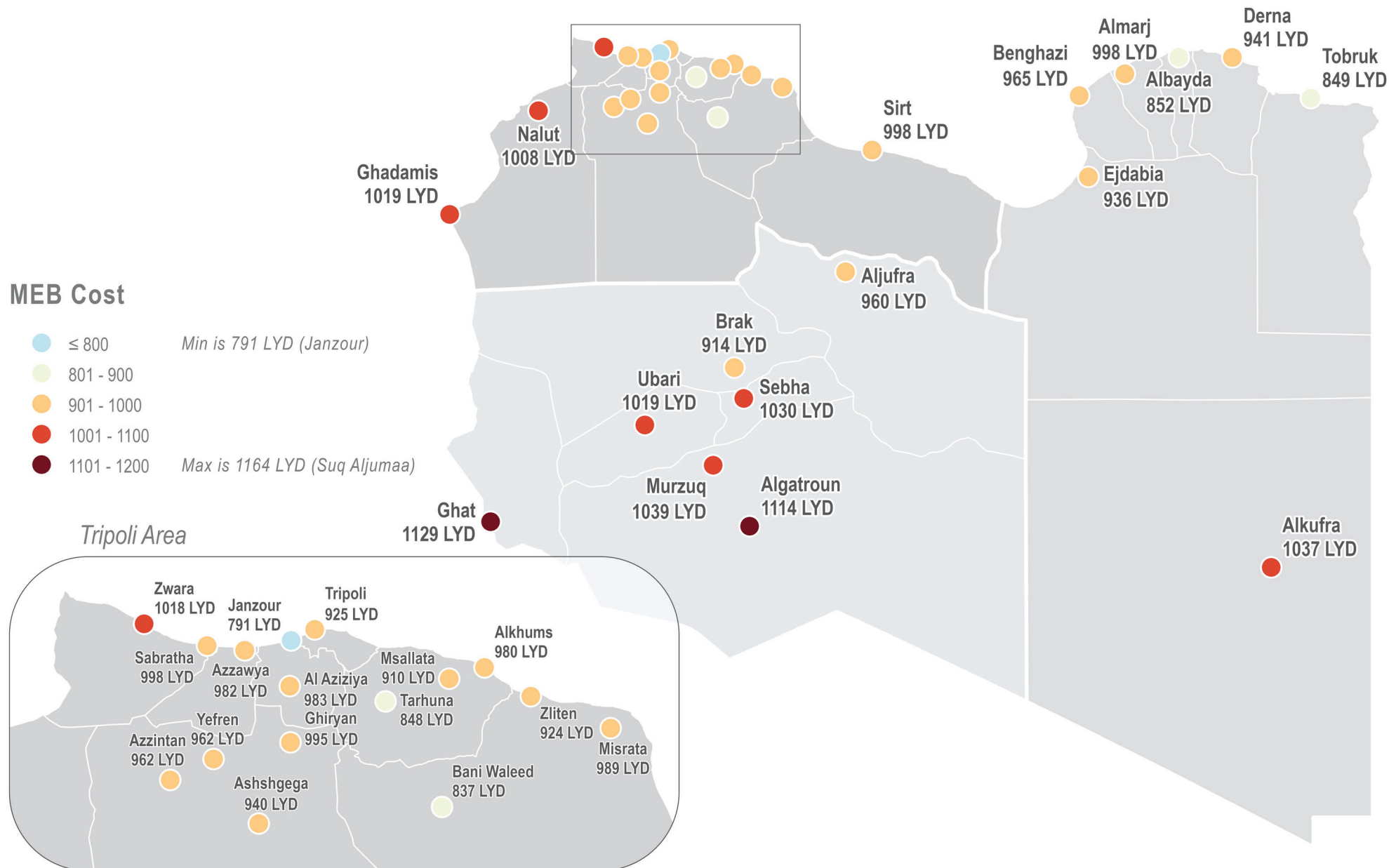
Region	Median Cost (LYD)	Change (%)
West	986.86	▲ +14.1%
East	959.03	▲ +14.5%
South	1023.47	▲ +14.1%

## MARKET SHORTAGES

- None reported

Reported changes are month-on-month

## Cost of MEB Key Elements by Location

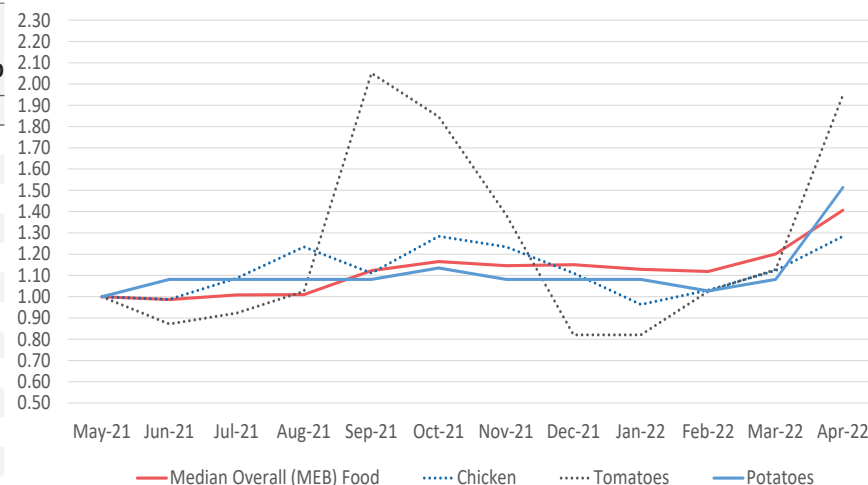


## PRICES OF MONITORED ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price	Change since March 2022	Change since March 2020
<b>Food items</b>				
Tomatoes	1 kg	4.75	+72.7%	+137.5%
Green tea	250 g	5.00	+2.6%	+66.7%
Vegetable oil	1 L	11.38	+25.8%	+152.8%
Black tea	250 g	6.50	+2.6%	+30.0%
Onions	1 kg	3.25	+30.0%	+8.3%
Rice	1 kg	4.88	+2.6%	+50.0%
Eggs	30 eggs	13.75	-12.7%	+37.5%
Pasta	500 g	2.95	+18.1%	+96.8%
Milk	1 L	4.88	+8.3%	+39.3%
Beans	400 g	2.63	+5.0%	+61.5%
Bread	5 pieces	1.46	+16.8%	+29.8%
Chickpeas	400 g	2.50	0.0%	+66.7%
Peppers	1 kg	9.00	+38.5%	+125.0%
Potatoes	1 kg	3.50	+40.0%	+16.7%
Sugar	1 kg	4.13	+6.5%	+73.7%
Tomato paste	400 g	4.00	+33.3%	+100.0%
Tuna	200 g	5.57	+11.3%	+85.5%
Condensed Milk	200 mL	2.08	0.0%	+4.0%
Couscous	1 kg	6.50	+52.9%	+85.7%
Lamb meat	1 kg	47.25	+6.2%	+33.1%
Flour	1 kg	3.63	+8.2%	+81.3%
Chicken meat	1 kg	13.00	+14.3%	+38.7%
Salt	1 kg	1.00	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Hygiene items</b>				
Toothbrush	1 brush	3.00	+20.0%	+50.0%
Laundry detergent	1 L	5.69	+2.2%	+152.8%
Toothpaste	100 mL	6.00	0.0%	+50.0%
Baby diapers	30	17.00	-11.7%	+13.3%
Handwashing soap	1 bar	2.18	+6.1%	+45.0%
Laundry powder	1 kg	7.00	+6.7%	+7.7%
Sanitary pads	10 pads	4.41	+12.0%	+26.0%
Shampoo	250 mL	7.89	+36.5%	+55.5%
Bleach	1 L	8.86	-14.5%	No data
Hand Sanitiser	1 L	25.00	-9.1%	No data
Dishwashing liquid	1 L	1.60	-23.8%	-40.2%
<b>Other items</b>				
Water	1 L	0.29	0.0%	0.0%

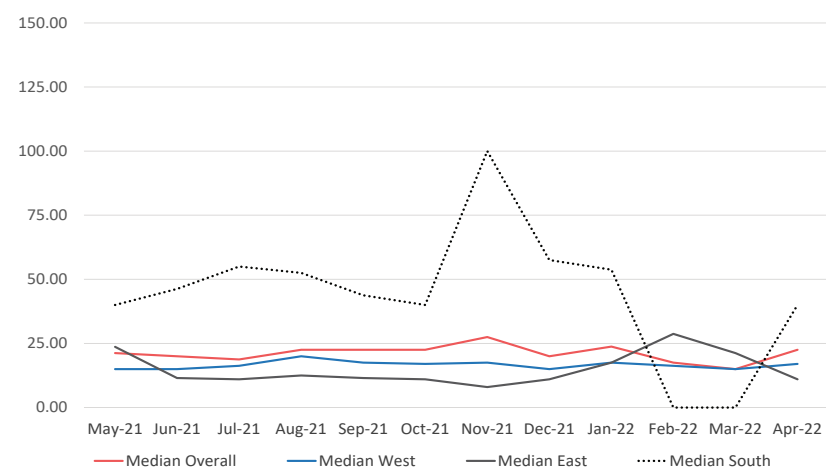
## FLUCTUATION OF FOOD PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, May 2021 = 1.00)<sup>3</sup>



## PRICES FROM UNOFFICIAL COOKING FUEL VENDORS (11 KG LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDER)

(Since May 2021, non-normalised)



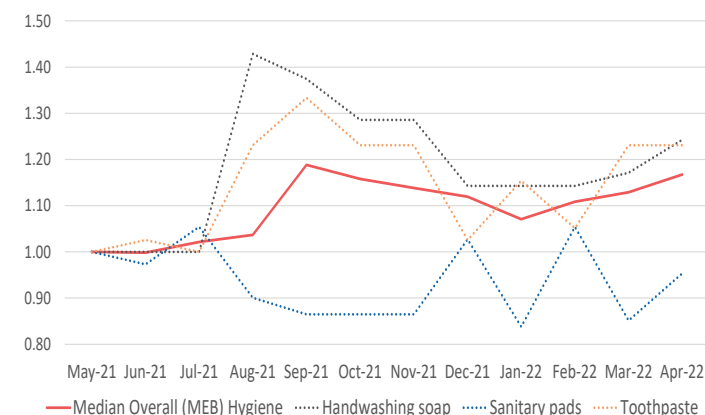
## PRICES OF FUEL AND HEALTH ITEMS

Item	Unit	Median price (LYD)	Change since March 2022	Change since March 2020
<b>Fuel items</b>				
Unofficial LPG	11 kg	20.00	+33.3%	-42.9%
Unofficial Gasoline	1 Litre	0.55	-25.4%	No data
Official LPG	11 kg	5.00	0.0%	0.0%
Official Gasoline	1 Litre	0.15	0.0%	No data

<b>Pharmaceutical items</b>				
Paracetamol	400mg [20 pack]	7.50	+6.1%	+8.1%
Vitamin B	[40 pack]	16.00	-11.1%	+56.1%
Amoxicillin	500mg [21 pack]	10.50	+2.4%	+16.7%
Metoclopramide	10mg [40 pack]	15.15	0.0%	+51.5%
Ibuprofen	400mg [20 pack]	5.88	+0.7%	+6.8%

## FLUCTUATION OF HYGIENE ITEM PRICES OVER TIME

Selected items (normalised, May 2021 = 1.00)<sup>2</sup>

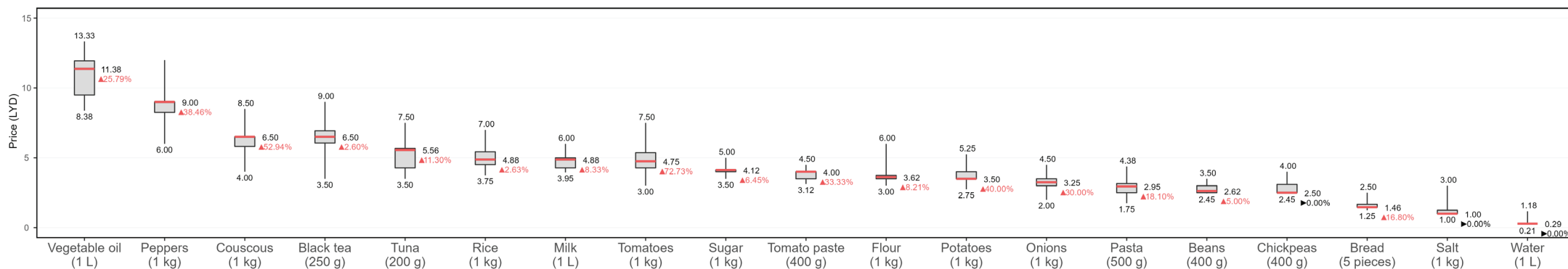


## NOTABLE MONTH-ON-MONTH CHANGES

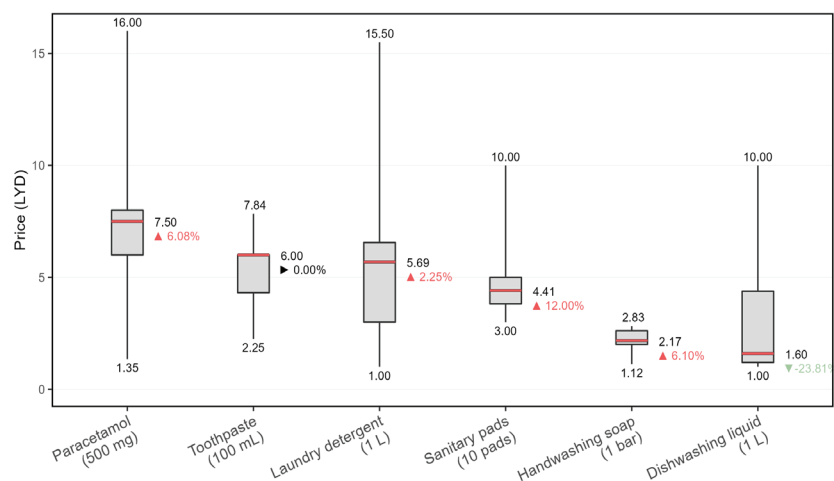
Unofficial LPG	▲ +33.3%
Chicken meat	▲ +14.3%
Eggs	▼ -12.7%

# Distribution of Prices in Libya

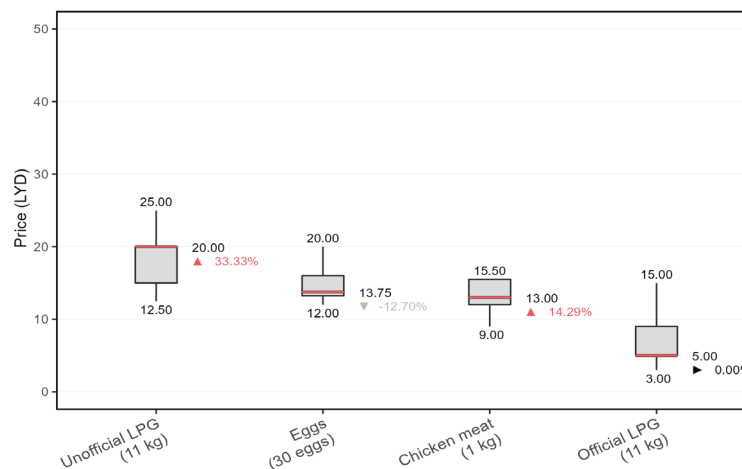
## FOOD ITEMS



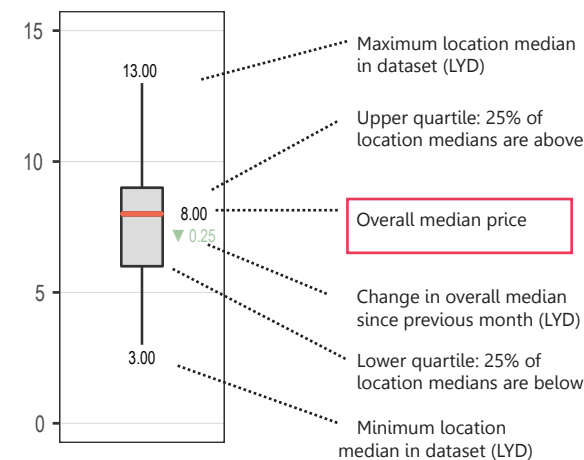
## HYGIENE AND HEALTH TEMS



## ITEMS WITH HIGHEST PRICES



## How to read a boxplot



The 'location median' is calculated by first finding the median price of a given item in each assessed location, then taking the median of the resulting set of median prices.

# Rent Monitoring

## Introduction

- Ever since the onset of the conflict in and around Tripoli and Murzuq in April 2019, Tripoli has been a key displacement destination for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). Furthermore, conflict-related political tensions in West Libya have led large numbers of IDPs to move to eastern cities, especially Benghazi.
- REACH is therefore including rent monitoring as part of the JMIMI, in order to provide humanitarian actors with a more accurate overview of key expenditures faced by IDPs in Tripoli and Benghazi.

## Methodology

- From May 2020 onwards, in addition to the price monitoring of key items (MEB), REACH began analyzing rental prices, which were extracted on a daily basis from the website 'Open Souq'. In March 2022, 2644 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi. In April 2022, 1717 rental prices were collected in Tripoli and Benghazi. The price change findings are indicative.
- 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.

## Key Findings

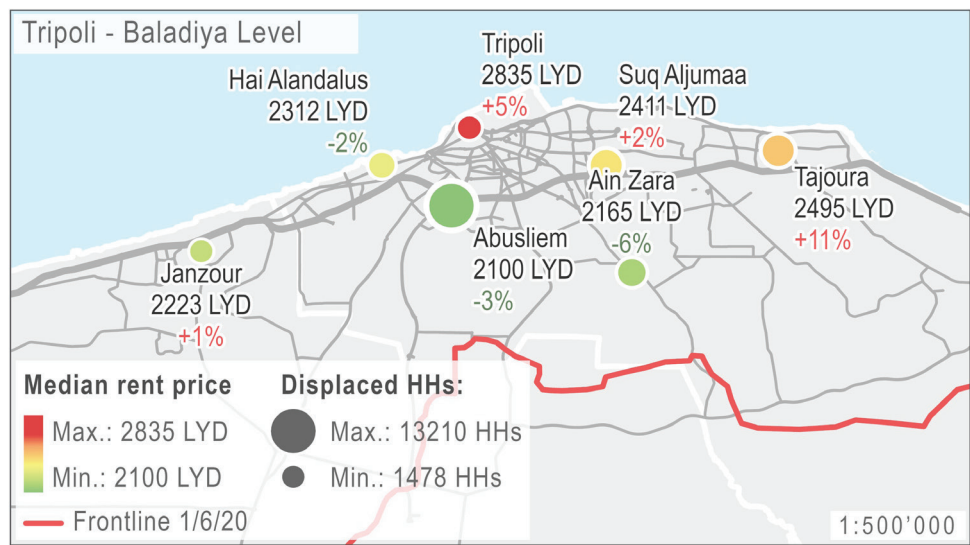
- In April 2022, rental prices were found to have decreased in both locations compared to the previous month (Tripoli **-1%**, Benghazi **-7%**). (See maps below representing the rent monitoring in April 2022).
- Between February and April 2022, IDP numbers\* decreased by **-29%** in Tripoli, while remaining stable in Benghazi. No change was recorded in the number of returnees\*\* in Tripoli or Benghazi.

\* Change in the number of IDPs and returnees are derived from the latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) (Round 40) from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).  
\*\* Numbers based on IOM-DTM numbers as well.

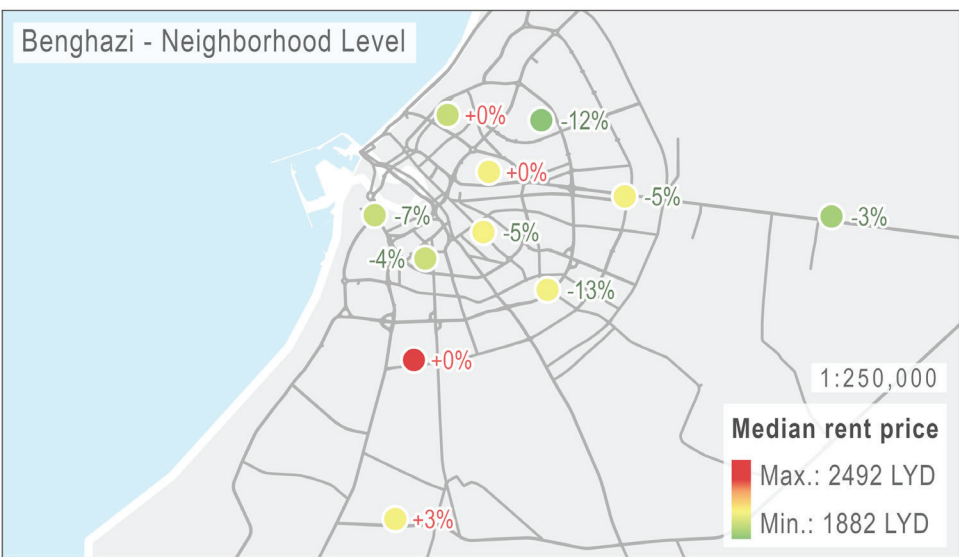
## Standardised rental prices April 2022

Location	Standard price (LYD)	Since March 2022	Since May 2020
Municipality			
Abusliem	2201	+2.5%	-17.9%
Ain Zara	2213	+5.1%	-24.2%
Hai Alandalus	2307	+2.9%	-13.9%
Janzour	2042	0.0%	-11.3%
Suq Aljumaa	2307	-5.8%	-13.9%
Tajoura	2207	-3.0%	-6.3%
Tripoli Center	2542	-6.3%	-14.8%
Tripoli Overall	2213	-1.3%	-17.4%
Benghazi Overall	1861	-7%	-6.0%

% rental price changes in April from March 2022, Tripoli



% rental price changes in April from March 2022, Benghazi





## 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

### 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

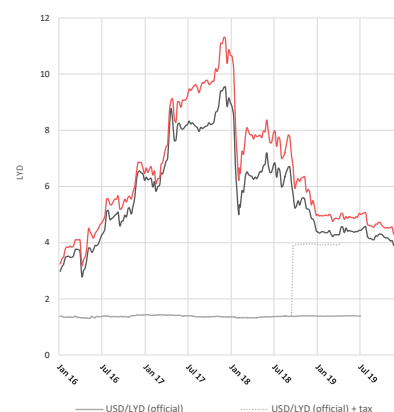
Water (drinking use only)	458 L
Median rent for 3-rm flat	1 month

## MEDIAN MEB COST BY LOCATION

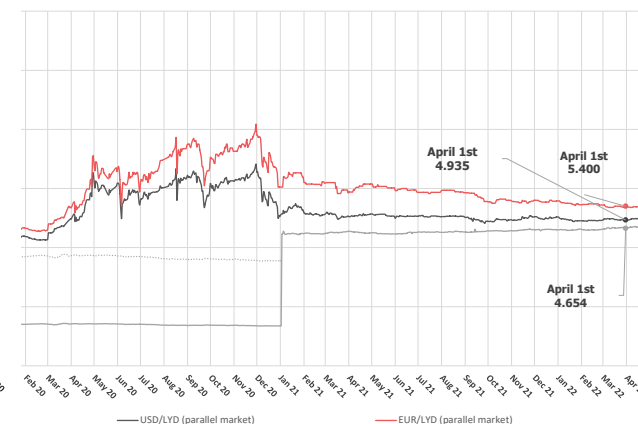
Location	Cost of MEB (LYD)	Since December 2021	Since March 2020
Nalut	1007.95	+12.1%	+37.7%
Azzintan	962.06	+2.5%	+41.4%
Ghiryen	995.17	+9.2%	+42.6%
Zwara	1017.53	+17.7%	+86.0%
Ghadamis	1019.30	+13.8%	+49.2%
Sabratha	998.21	+14.9%	+79.1%
Azzawya	982.17	+14.3%	+79.9%
Sirt	997.75	+10.5%	+64.8%
AlKhums	979.76	+10.0%	+81.4%
Misrata	988.73	+14.3%	+76.3%
Al Aziziya	982.67	+14.3%	+79.5%
Ashshgega	940.06	+16.6%	+45.5%
Zliten	923.75	+5.8%	+50.1%
Yefren	961.96	+19.9%	+46.7%
Tripoli	924.61	+10.2%	+41.2%
Msallata	909.81	+13.3%	+52.6%
Tarhuna	848.00	+8.8%	+44.1%
Bani Waleed	837.00	+8.0%	+40.1%
Janzour	790.70	+17.8%	+33.3%
<b>Median West</b>	<b>986.86</b>	<b>+14.1%</b>	<b>+58.0%</b>
Benghazi	965.25	+14.9%	+57.7%
Ejdabia	935.94	+11.8%	+44.2%
AlMarj	998.25	+5.1%	+56.0%
AlKufra	1037.02	+18.3%	+58.9%
Tobruk	848.72	+10.3%	+35.0%
AlBayda	847.31	+13.0%	+31.3%
Derna	927.58	+18.9%	+52.4%
<b>Median East</b>	<b>959.03</b>	<b>+14.5%</b>	<b>+52.2%</b>
Algatroun	1114.50	+8.7%	-1.5%
Ghat	1128.90	+6.1%	-1.4%
Wadi Etba	No data	No data	No data
Ubari	1018.59	+11.3%	-6.6%
Aljufra	959.52	+15.9%	+24.4%
Brak	914.29	+13.7%	+25.4%
Sebha	1029.77	+24.9%	+36.3%
<b>Median South</b>	<b>1023.47</b>	<b>+14.1%</b>	<b>+16.4%</b>
<b>Median Overall</b>	<b>966.93</b>	<b>+16.1%</b>	<b>+53.6%</b>

## EXCHANGE RATES OVER TIME<sup>4</sup>

January 2016-January 2020



Since February 2020

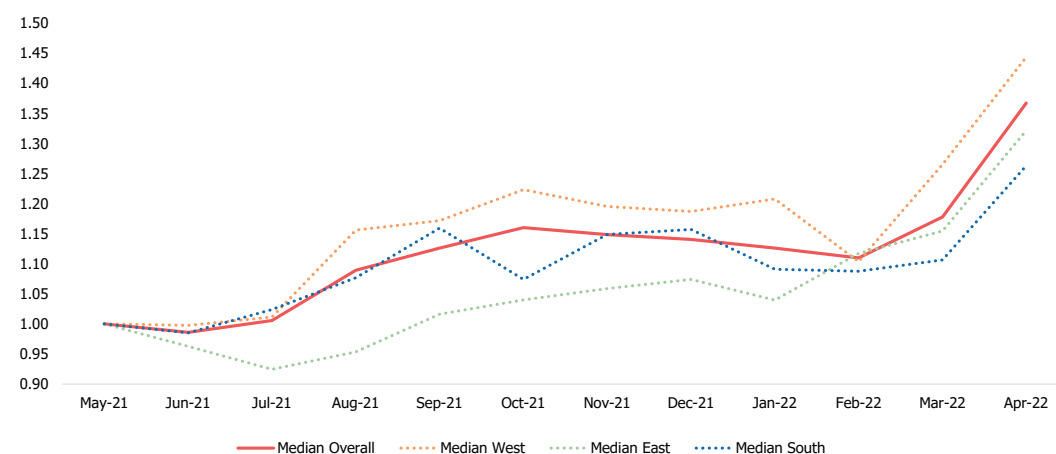


**The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** represents the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a five-person Libyan household (HH) for one month. The cost of the MEB can be used as a proxy for the financial burdens facing households in different locations. The MEB's contents were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

## MEB PRICE INDEX

Since May 2021 (normalised, May 2021 = 1.00)<sup>5</sup>



PREVIOUS JMMI OUTPUTS

Factsheets

Datasets

2022

March  
February  
January

March  
February  
January

2021

December  
November  
October  
September  
August  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

December  
November  
October  
September  
August  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

2020

December  
November  
October  
September  
August  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

December  
November  
October  
September  
August  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

2019

December  
November  
October  
September  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

December  
November  
October  
September  
July  
June  
May  
April  
March  
February  
January

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 CMWG, based jointly in Tripoli and Tunis, is currently led by UNHCR.

Methodology (cont. from page 1)

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 CMWG, 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 CMWG 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 CMWG 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.

In addition, in order to obtain a median price for an item in Tripoli, an aggregation of the median prices of that specific item in Abuselim, Ain Zara, Tajoura and Suq Aljumaa is done when Hai Alandalus, Tripoli center and Qasr ben Ghashir are excluded temporarily.

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 muhalla); then, REACH calculates the median of this list of medians. All boxplots, as well as the 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 6.

In cases where no median price is available for an item in a city then the price from the nearest city is imputed (using google maps). For example, for a city X, if the median cost of salt is missing, imputation happens: in other words, X takes the value of the median price of salt of the closest city geographically.

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 where there is 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.

Rent Price Monitoring

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.

Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 April 2022). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 April 2022). The rates from 1 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

<sup>3</sup> The food prices were normalised by setting May 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in May 2021.

<sup>2</sup> The hygiene prices were normalised by setting May 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in May 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Official rate: Central Bank of Libya (1 January 2021). Parallel market rates: Ewan Libya (1 January 2021). Both the official and the parallel market rates from January 2021 were used for the calculation of the monthly changes.

<sup>5</sup> The MEB price index was normalised by setting May 2021 as the baseline and dividing each month's price by the price in May 2021.

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.