

Syria | Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

6-17 April 2025

MARKET OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The JMMI monitors the availability and prices of essential goods typically purchased by Syrian households, including food, water, hygiene items, fuel, and internet access. Of these, 24 monitored items make up the 18 components of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which represents the minimum culturally appropriate goods required to sustain a household of six for one month.

Until March 2025, the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) was conducted separately in northeastern and northwestern Syria by the respective Cash Working Groups (NES CWG and NWS CWG), in collaboration with local and international NGOs. **In April 2025, as part of the ongoing shift toward a unified, nationwide humanitarian coordination structure, REACH, in coordination with both CWGs, implemented the first unified JMMI covering the entire Syrian national territory.**

For additional information on the SMEB composition, please refer to the [SMEB contents](#) section.

Coverage

12 Assessed governorates

47 Assessed districts

110 Assessed sub-districts

190 Assessed communities

4058 Surveyed shops

88 Sub-districts with complete SMEB calculation

For additional information on the geographical coverage of April 2025 round, please refer to the [Coverage map](#).

KEY INDICATORS

Median cost of **national SMEB**

1,785,846 SYP

165 USD

Median cost of **national SMEB Food**

1,298,270 SYP

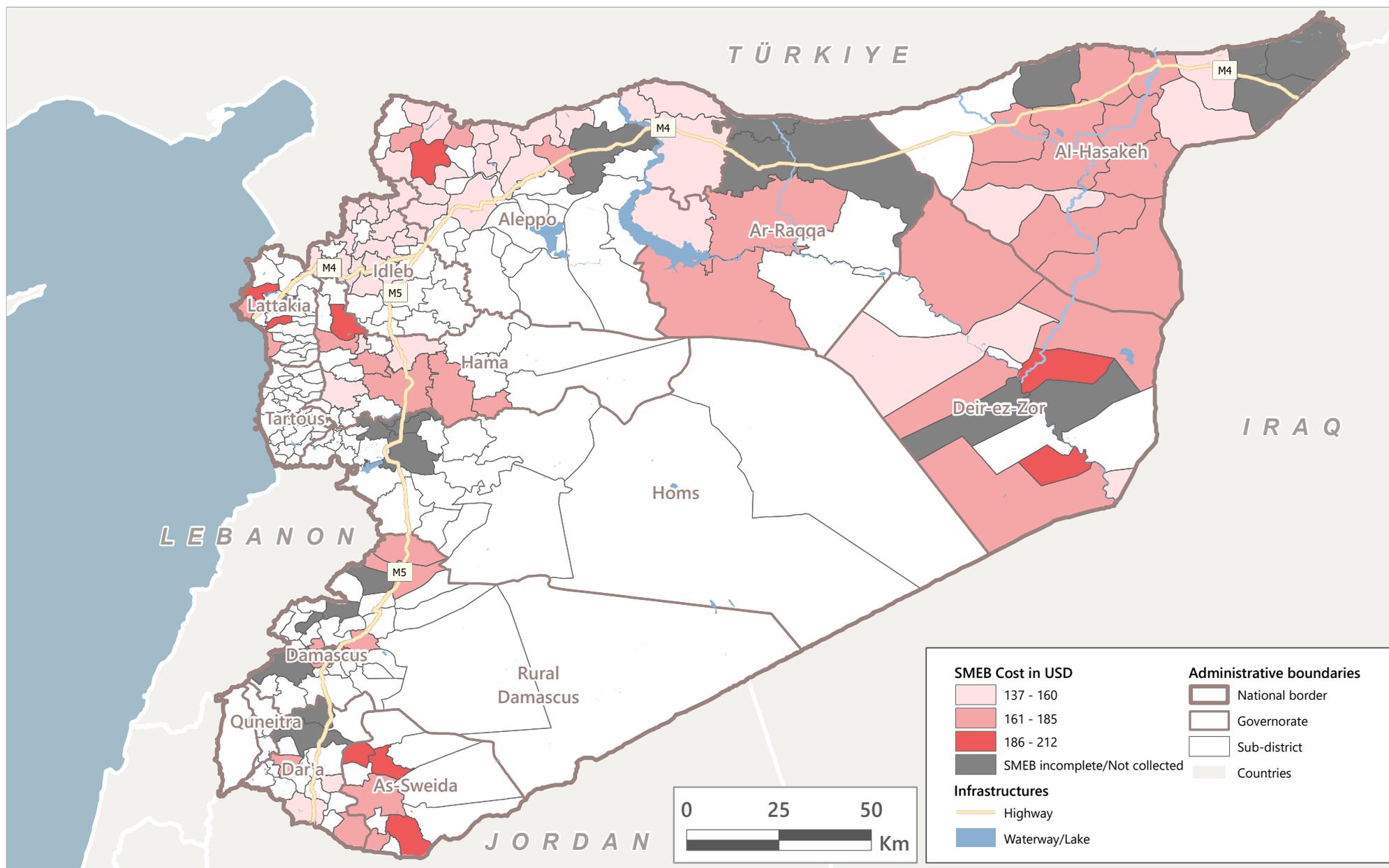
120 USD

Median national **USD/SYP** informal exchange rate
10,800 SYP

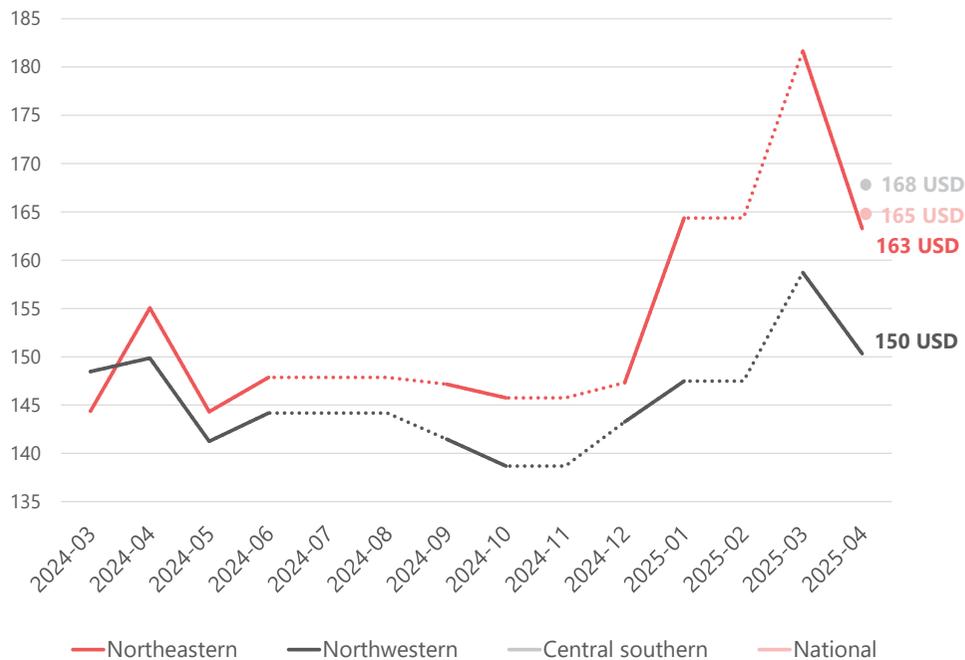
KEY FINDINGS

- In April 2025, the national median cost of the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) was 165 United States Dollars (USD), equivalent to 1,785,846 Syrian Pounds (SYP). Between March and April 2025 both northeastern and northwestern Syria recorded declines in SMEB costs when expressed in USD: by 11% and 5%, respectively.** Similar downward trends were observed in local currencies: a 7.6% decrease in SYP in northeastern Syria, and a marginal 1% drop in Turkish Lira (TRY) in northwestern Syria.
- Both the SYP and TRY depreciated against the USD between March and April 2025.** In northeastern Syria, the informal SYP/USD exchange rate weakened by 2%. In northwestern Syria, the TRY depreciated by 4.6%, reaching an all-time high of 39 TRY/USD, continuing its broader annual decline.
- The overall decline in SMEB costs in northern Syria was primarily driven by reductions in the food component.** Across both regions, decreases in the prices of key vegetables and poultry items were observed, likely tied to changing supply patterns and seasonal factors such as the onset of local harvests.
- In April 2025, while most SMEB food items were widely available across markets in Syria, subsidized bread stood out as an exception, with 27% of bakeries reporting it as completely unavailable.** This issue was especially acute in northwestern Syria, where 55% of bakeries reported complete unavailability. Furthermore, the phasing out of bread subsidies announced by the Syrian Interim Government in January 2025 likely contributed to the **42% and 50% rise in subsidized bread prices observed respectively in northwestern and northeastern Syria.**
- Fuel items, both for cooking and transportation, were the most frequently reported as completely unavailable among all SMEB components monitored.** Availability varied significantly by region and fuel type, reflecting broader supply disruptions and fragmented market systems.
- Cash remains the predominant, and in many cases the only, form of payment among assessed vendors. Nevertheless, there is evidence of a **growing use of the SYP in northwestern Syria, where the share of vendors accepting SYP rose by 23 percentage points, reaching 33% of respondents.**
- Physical access to markets remained largely unimpeded, with few structural or security-related constraints reported. However, **economic barriers continue to restrict household access to markets**, with unaffordability of goods cited as a widespread challenge. Vendors also reported **persistent operational constraints**, including rising supplier costs, limited capital, currency volatility, and liquidity shortages, which collectively affect market reliability and stability.

Overview of the April 2025 median SMEB price range in USD, by assessed sub-districts



National¹ and regional median SMEB prices, USD



SMEB and foreign exchange rate trends

165 USD

The cost of the **national median SMEB**

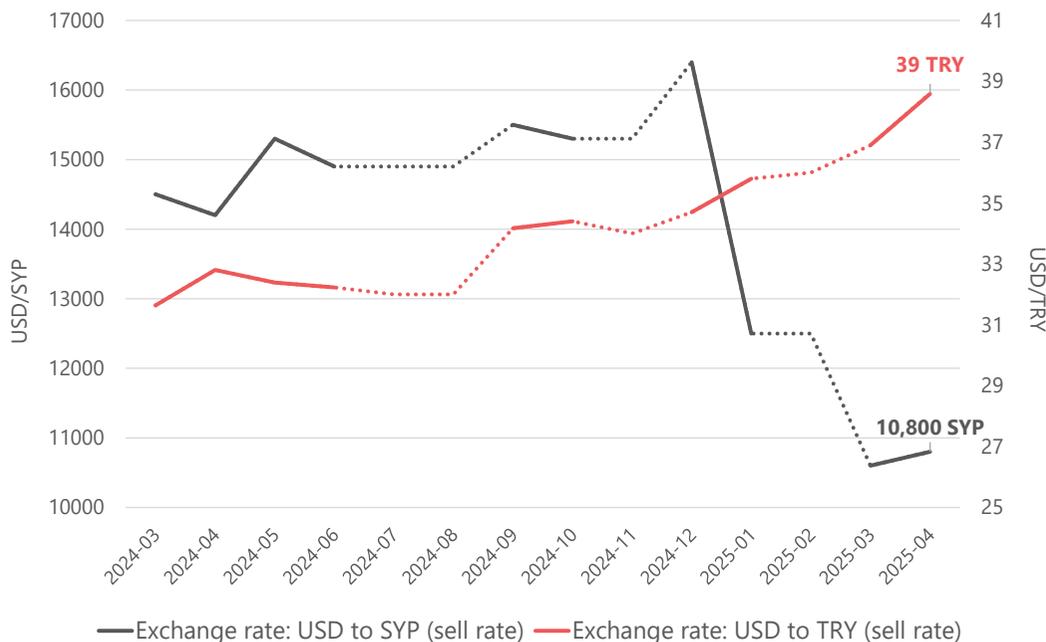
In April 2025, the national median cost of the SMEB stood at **165 USD**, equivalent to 1,785,846 SYP. Among the three regions, central and southern sub-districts recorded the highest median SMEB cost at **168 USD**, followed by northeastern Syria at **163 USD**, and northwestern Syria at **150 USD** (see [Annex 1](#) for the regional classification of governorates and sub-districts).

Both northeastern and northwestern regions recorded a notable decrease in the median SMEB price expressed in USD compared to March 2025, by 11% and 5% respectively.

Both SYP and TRY experienced depreciation over the same period. In northeastern Syria, the informal exchange rate of the SYP against the USD experienced a slight depreciation of 2% between March and April 2025, reaching 10,700 SYP per USD. This marks a reversal of the appreciation trend that had persisted for four consecutive months since December 2024,² likely influenced by liquidity-retention measures implemented by the Central Bank.³ In northwestern Syria, the TRY continued its annual depreciation trajectory, weakening by an additional 4.6% to reach a new high of 38.5 TRY per USD.

Despite the depreciation of both currencies, which would typically reduce purchasing power and contribute to price increases, **median SMEB prices declined in both regions when expressed in local currencies.** In northeastern Syria, the SMEB decreased by 7.6% in SYP terms, while in northwestern Syria, the TRY-denominated SMEB declined marginally by 1%. This latter trend is particularly noteworthy given the recent imposition of tariffs on Turkish imports by the Syrian Interim Government,⁴ which had contributed to price increases in the March 2025 JMIMI round.⁵

National median USD/SYP and USD/TRY informal exchange rate trends



The concurrent drop in SMEB prices across both regions and in all currency denominations (SYP, TRY, and USD) points to a real decline in the cost of some essential goods, beyond currency effects. While the observed decrease in SMEB prices may indicate improved household purchasing power or market conditions, it is essential to disaggregate the change to understand which components are driving it and to account for potential short-term factors such as seasonal fluctuations or speculative pricing dynamics.

11% ▼

The **northeastern Syria median SMEB in USD decreased** by 11% in the last month

2% ▼

The **SYP has lost 2% of its value against the USD** over the past month

7.6% ▼

The **northeastern Syria median SMEB in SYP decreased** by 7.5% in the last month

5% ▼

The **northwestern Syria median SMEB in USD decreased** by 5% in the last month

4.6% ▼

The **TRY has lost 4.6% of its value against the USD** over the past month

1% ▼

The **northwestern Syria median SMEB in TRY decreased** by 1% in the last month



Food: economic accessibility

120 USD

The cost of the **national median SMEB Food component**

In April 2025 the national median price of the SMEB Food component was 120 USD, or 1,298,270 SYP. Mirroring the overall SMEB, the regional SMEB food component price was highest in central and southern Syria, at 122 USD, followed by northeastern Syria at 118 USD, and northwestern Syria at 112 USD.

The observed decline in SMEB prices across northern Syria between March and April 2025 are mostly attributed to reductions in the SMEB food component in both regions and, in northeastern Syria, also to a drop in monitored fuel prices. Over this period, the median cost of the SMEB food component fell by 5% in northeastern Syria and 4% in northwestern Syria. The simultaneous decline in food prices across both regions and across all currency denominations (SYP, TRY, and USD) indicates an **actual reduction in the cost of essential food items, independent of exchange rate fluctuations.**

Across both regions, the decrease in the SMEB food component was mostly driven by falling prices of key monitored vegetables and poultry items. This trend may be linked changing supply patterns and seasonal factors such as the onset of local harvests.

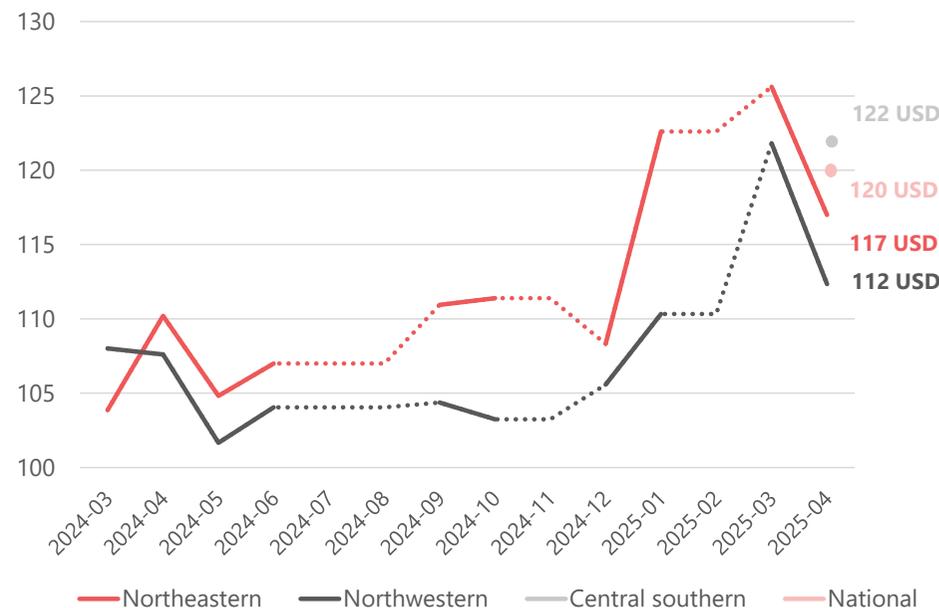
A seasonal agricultural outcome may explain the vegetables price drop, supported by historical trends: similar declines in the vegetable component of the SMEB were recorded across both regions by the JMMI in May 2024 and May 2023, respectively by 27% and 38% in districts in northwestern Syria,⁶ and by 4% and 28% in districts in northeastern Syria.⁷ The earlier onset of the decline recorded in 2025 may be associated with an accelerated harvest timeline, potentially driven by water scarcity and abnormally dry conditions during the 2024–2025 winter season,^{8,9} which could have hastened crop maturation and entry into local markets.

For poultry items, on the other hand, no clear seasonal or structural explanation has been identified for the observed price decrease; further investigation may be required to determine whether the trend reflects temporary market fluctuations, changes in supply chains, or other short-term factors.

Regional monthly price changes of median SMEB food components between March and April 2025

SMEB food component	Northeastern Syria (SYP)	Northwestern Syria (TRY)
SMEB bulk food	-3.5% ▼	+2% ▲
SMEB vegetables	-16.5% ▼	-13% ▼
SMEB chicken	-11.5% ▼	-15% ▼
SMEB eggs	-7% ▼	-19% ▼
SMEB cooking oils	+1% ▲	+7.5% ▲
SMEB bread	-20% ▼	0%

National and regional median SMEB food prices, USD

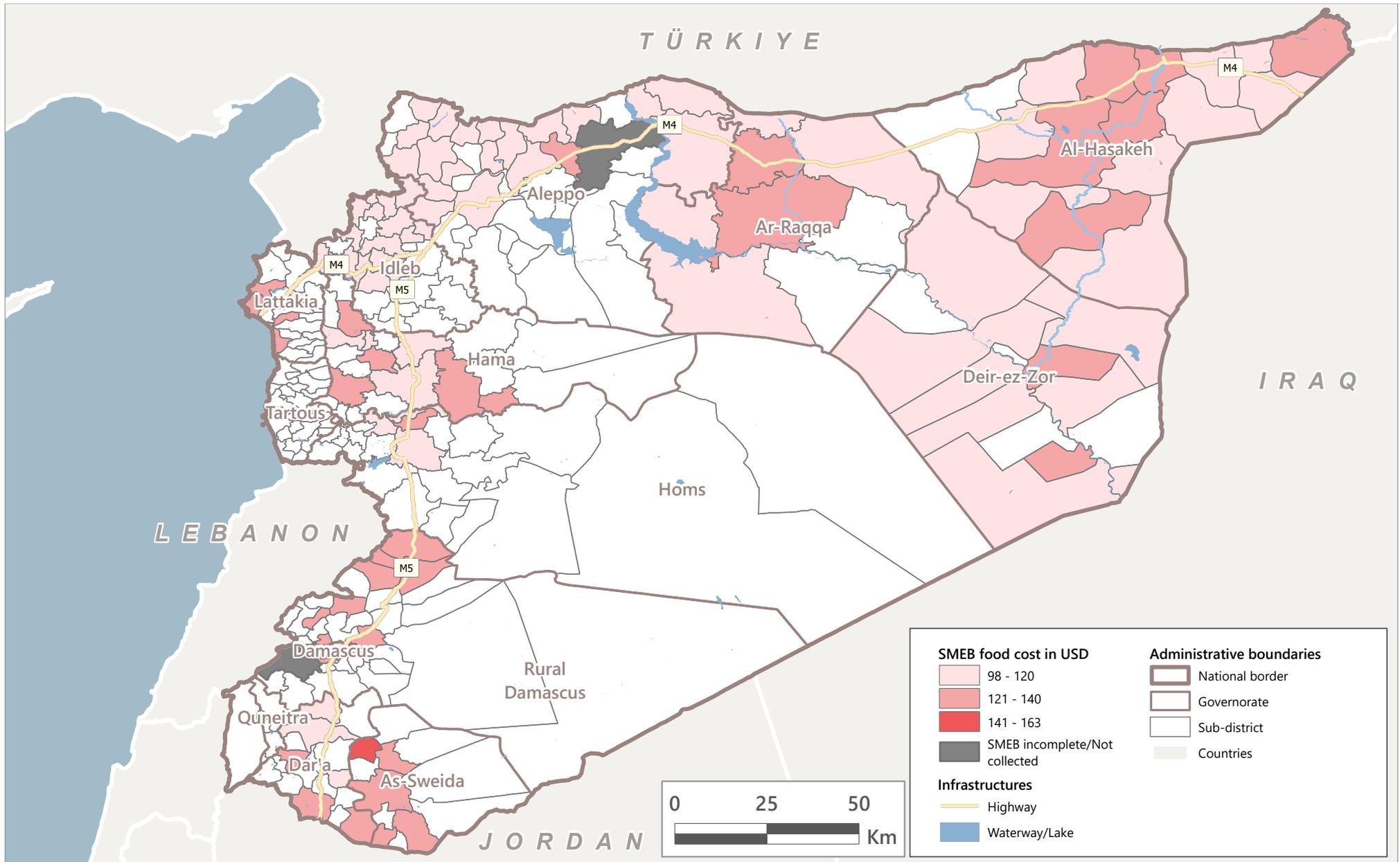


Subsidised bread: economic accessibility and availability

All food items monitored by the JMMI were generally reported as widely available across Syria, with no major shortages observed, except for subsidised bread. Nationally, 27% of interviewed bakeries reported its complete unavailability in local markets. This issue was particularly pronounced in northwestern Syria, where 55% of bakeries reported complete unavailability. This was followed by 12% in central and southern Syria and 3% in northeastern Syria. Although subsidised bread remains less available in northwestern Syria compared to other regions, its availability has improved, with the share of vendors reporting availability of subsidised bread rising to 45% in April 2025, up from 2% in March 2025, 40% in January 2025, and 37% in September 2024.

Secondary sources indicate that government-fixed prices for subsidised bread have long remained below production costs, discouraging bakeries from selling through official channels and pushing them toward informal markets where higher prices could be charged, ultimately reducing availability through formal outlets.¹⁰ The situation likely worsened in December 2024, when Russia, previously the main wheat supplier to the Government of Syria, suspended wheat shipments following the change in governance,¹¹ potentially shrinking state wheat reserves and contributing to upward pressure on subsidised bread prices. In January 2025, the Syrian Interim Government announced plans to phase out bread subsidies within two months,¹² a policy shift that likely contributed to the 42% and 50% increase in median subsidised bread prices recorded in respectively in northwestern and northeastern districts between March and April 2025. While the sharp price increase likely placed additional pressure on household purchasing power, it may have also incentivized vendors to re-engage with formal sales channels, contributing to a modest improvement in availability.

Overview of the April 2025 median SMEB Food component price range in USD, by assessed sub-districts



Non-food items: economic accessibility

Between March and April 2025, the median national cost of the SMEB non-food items (NFI) component, which includes essential hygiene items such as toothpaste, sanitary pads, body soap, washing powder, and dishwashing liquid, was **10.8 USD, or 116,182 SYP**. Regionally, the cost of the SMEB NFI basket in USD saw only marginal increases: 0.01% in northeastern Syria and 0.03% in northwestern Syria. However, when expressed in SYP and TRY, the regional increase was more noticeable: 1.5% in northeastern and 8% in northwestern Syria, reflecting fluctuations in exchange rates.

None of the items in the SMEB NFI bundle were reported as completely unavailable in local markets by any interviewed vendors nationwide, indicating consistent market supply of basic hygiene goods despite currency-related price pressures.

Transportation and cooking fuels: economic accessibility and availability

13.4 USD

In April 2025 the national median price of the SMEB cooking fuel component was **13.4 USD, or 144,919 SYP**. The regional SMEB cooking fuel component price was highest in central and southern Syria, at 14 USD, followed by northeastern and northwestern Syria both at 12 USD.

The cost of the national median SMEB cooking fuel component

Fuel items, across both cooking and transportation categories, were the most frequently reported as completely unavailable among all SMEB components monitored by the JMMI. Reported availability, however, varied significantly by region, reflecting divergent supply dynamics and access conditions.

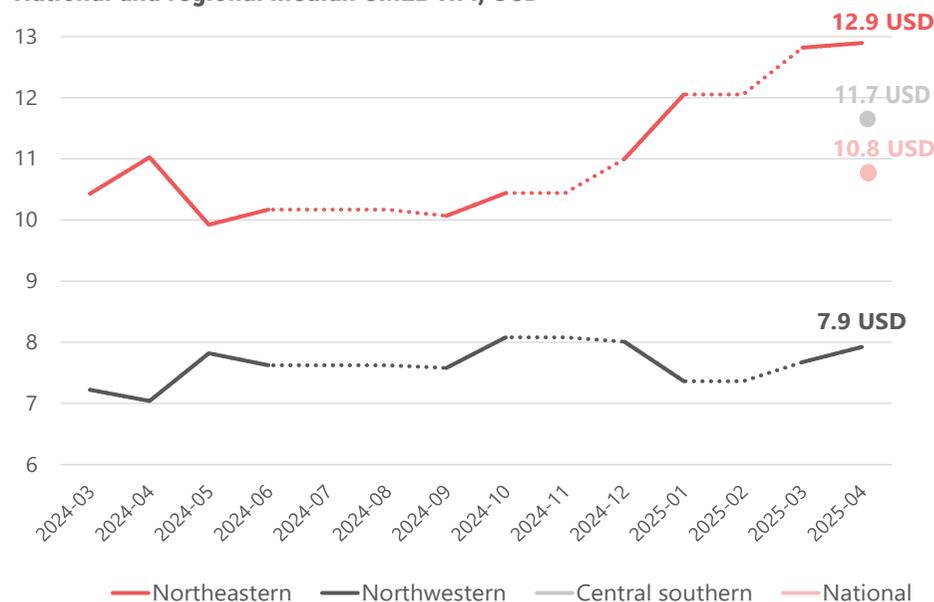
Northwestern Syria consistently recorded the highest or near-highest unavailability rate for most fuel types, especially for subsidised fuels. Conversely, northeastern Syria recorded improved availability across most fuel categories. Exceptions were noted for imported fuel types, which, while reportedly more accessible than in previous rounds, remained limited in overall availability.

These availability trends were accompanied by regionally distinct price movements. Between March and April 2025, the SMEB cooking fuel component (based on LPG prices) increased by 6% in TRY in northwestern Syria, suggesting persistent supply pressures. In contrast, the same component decreased by 17% in SYP in northeastern Syria, potentially indicating improved supply conditions or reduced procurement costs.

These developments are likely influenced by the ongoing fragmentation of fuel markets in Syria, particularly following the disruption of Iranian fuel inflows.¹³ Distinct sourcing routes were found to underpin each region's supply of imported fuels: central and southern areas primarily rely on fuel entering through Lebanon and Türkiye; northwestern Syria through Türkiye; and northeastern Syria through both Türkiye and Iraq.

Additionally, anecdotal evidence gathered through the JMMI in April 2025 corroborates earlier reports¹⁴ of an active fuel smuggling economy from Lebanon to central and southern Syria. Multiple vendors in central and southern governorates reported sourcing fuel via informal networks, highlighting the presence of a parallel market operating alongside formal supply systems. This hypothesis is further supported by the relatively low rates of reported unavailability for black market fuel types in the central-southern region, suggesting comparatively higher availability and the possible role of informal cross-border inflows in stabilizing access.

National and regional median SMEB NFI, USD



% of fuel vendors reporting complete unavailability in the 7 days prior to data collection in their community in April 2025 by fuel type, national and regional levels

	Central southern	Northeast	Northwest	National
Diesel - Black market	9%	1%	35%	5%
Diesel - Imported	19%	58%	0%	13%
Diesel - Not subsidised	43%	8%	58%	47%
Diesel - Subsidised	43%	32%	85%	68%
Kerosene - Black market	53%	10%	50%	20%
Kerosene - Not subsidised	77%	21%	82%	79%
Kerosene - Subsidised	82%	23%	85%	82%
LPG - Black market	0%	4%	0%	3%
LPG - Not subsidised	0%	0%	0%	0%
LPG - Subsidised	27%	0%	89%	74%
Petrol - Black market	9%	1%	45%	6%
Petrol - Imported	21%	44%	1%	12%
Petrol - Not subsidised	45%	5%	71%	55%
Petrol - Subsidised	49%	13%	91%	70%

Water trucking: economic accessibility and availability

8.7 USD

The cost of the national median SMEB water trucking component

Water trucking services were reported as widely available and operational across most of Syria, with the exception of Damascus and Homs governorates. In these two locations, vendors largely cited the reliance on public water network connections as the primary reason for the absence of water trucking activity.

However, this reported availability contrasts with recent secondary reporting highlighting a worsening water crisis in Damascus city: critically low supply levels within the public water network, due to severe drought conditions recorded over the 2024-2025 winter and rainfall season, have prompted the local water directorate to declare a state of emergency and implement water rationing measures.¹⁵ In the absence of supplementary services like water trucking, households may be exposed to disruptions in daily water availability, potentially impacting hygiene practices, increasing reliance on stored water, or pushing demand toward informal and unregulated sources.

Markets: physical accessibility

Physical access to markets was generally reported to be adequate across all assessed governorates, with 94% of surveyed vendors indicating no physical barriers to reaching marketplaces. Similarly, 96% of vendors—consistently across governorates—reported no instances of discriminatory restrictions preventing specific population groups from accessing markets. Security-related constraints were slightly more prevalent but still limited overall, with 92% of respondents reporting no such concerns. However, this figure revealed localised variations: in As-Sweida and the areas of Deir-ez-Zor under Autonomous Administration control, one-third of vendors (33%) identified security issues as a barrier to market access. Among these, incidents of violence were the most frequently reported, cited by 29% of vendors in As-Sweida and 19% in Deir-ez-Zor.



92% of surveyed vendors in April indicated that there were no security issues in or near the marketplace

Markets: financial accessibility

In contrast to physical and security-related access, financial barriers to market access were significantly more widespread, with 56% of all surveyed vendors across Syria reporting one or more economic constraints affecting customers' ability to access goods in the marketplace. The highest proportions of vendors reporting such barriers were observed in Homs (91%), As-Sweida (81%), and Al-Hasakeh (81%). In contrast, the lowest shares were recorded in Dar'a (21%) and Rural Damascus (30%).

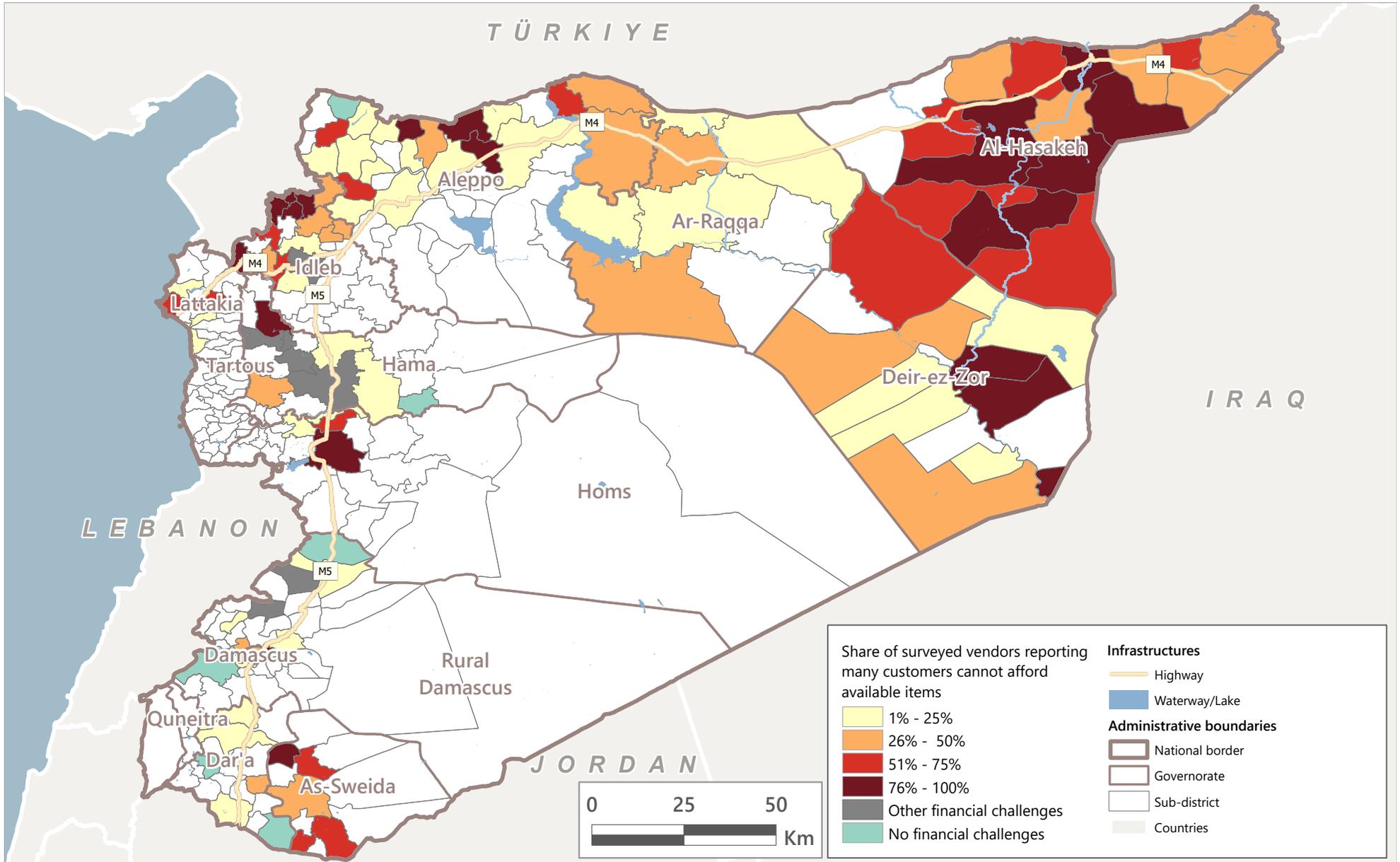
Top three financial barriers limiting customers' access to markets, as % of surveyed vendors across Syria

Many customers cannot afford the items available	44%
Many customers are unable to make payments using your accepted methods	16%
Many customers lack sufficient cash on hand due to liquidity constraints	13%

Top three operational challenges reported by vendors as barriers to keeping their shops open and sufficiently stocked during the seven days prior to data collection, as % of surveyed vendors by region and governorate

	No difficulties	Price increases / high prices from suppliers	Lack of funds	Disrupted / unreliable electricity services
Central southern region	61%	17%	19%	12%
As-Sweida	45%	27%	20%	3%
Damascus	49%	28%	20%	13%
Dar'a	86%	10%	0%	1%
Deir-ez-Zor	66%	11%	14%	16%
Hama	53%	8%	39%	9%
Homs	41%	26%	13%	27%
Lattakia	67%	15%	14%	1%
Rural Damascus	72%	18%	15%	16%
Northeastern region	48%	34%	22%	7%
Aleppo	60%	23%	6%	12%
Al-Hasakeh	20%	57%	42%	11%
Ar-Raqqqa	63%	16%	18%	1%
Deir-ez-Zor	48%	45%	13%	9%
Northwestern region	65%	26%	14%	1%
Aleppo	56%	31%	25%	3%
Idlib	71%	23%	8%	0%
Overall	58%	26%	18%	6%

Overview of the share of vendors per assessed sub-district reporting many customers cannot afford available goods, alongside sub-districts reporting only other financial challenges or no financial challenges



Payment methods

Payment modalities across Syria remain limited, with cash continuing to dominate. In April 2025, all interviewed vendors (100%) reported accepting cash payments, while 19% also offered informal credit, allowing customers to defer payments. Mobile and electronic payment methods remain virtually absent, with only 3% of vendors—consistently across all regions and governorates—reporting acceptance of such options.

There is evidence of a growing use of the Syrian Pound (SYP) in northwestern Syria. Historically, the TRY has been the primary currency used in this area, but a comparison of JMMI data from October 2024, January 2025, and April 2025 indicates an increasing acceptance of the SYP among vendors in northwestern Syria. **Between January and April 2025 the share of vendors in the region who reported accepting SYP increased by 23 percentage points.**

Acceptance of payment currencies in northwestern Syria, as percentage of interviewed vendors

	October 2024	January 2025	April 2025
SYP	2%	10%	33%
TRY	99%	98%	95%
USD	37%	59%	50%

Liquidity shortages



67%

of surveyed vendors providing currency exchange services reported shortages of USD banknotes

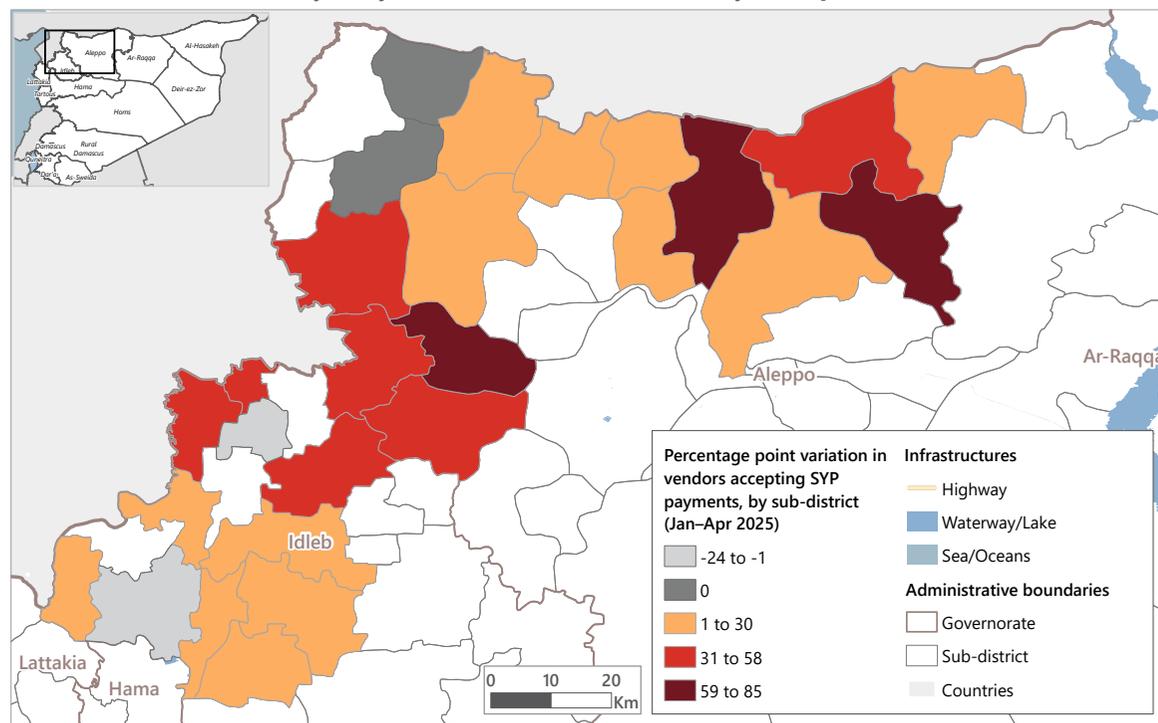
Ongoing liquidity shortages remained a key constraint to market functionality in Syria in April 2025, with the majority (67%) of interviewed vendors providing currency exchange services reporting shortages in at least one denomination of USD banknotes during the seven days preceding data collection. Reported shortages were most pronounced in the northeast and northwest, with 82% of vendors in northeastern Syria and 73% in northwestern Syria, indicating limited USD availability. In comparison, only 45% of vendors in central and southern Syria reported similar issues.

Changes in vendor-reported USD shortages since March 2025 round indicate diverging trends across regions. In northwestern Syria, the share of vendors reporting USD shortages declined slightly from 82% to 73%. In contrast, conditions deteriorated in northeastern Syria, where the proportion rose from 70% to 82%, suggesting increasing pressure on foreign currency circulation in the region.

Vendor-reported shortages occur within the context of a broader and protracted national liquidity crisis. Since December 2024, the interim government has enacted liquidity-retention policies through the Central Bank, with the aim of consolidating national and foreign currency reserves to meet public budget commitments.¹⁶ However, this approach has reportedly reinforced market liquidity constraints, suppressed consumer demand, and slowed market recovery. Anecdotal evidence from secondary sources suggests that some merchants have been lowering prices or offering promotions to stimulate demand and generate short-term liquidity.¹⁷

To partially ease pressure on liquidity circulation, the Syria Interim Government implemented new measures in March and April 2025, including an increase in the daily cash withdrawal cap from 200,000 to 500,000 SYP.¹⁸ Furthermore, it introduced the Sham Cash mobile application to facilitate public sector salary payments via digital channels.¹⁹ Under this system, salaries are disbursed through the app and can be withdrawn in cash through International Money Transfer Agencies (IMTAs), thereby shifting the logistical and financial burden away from the public banking sector and toward private or semi-private intermediaries with comparatively stronger access to cash reserves.

Overview of the percentage points change in the share of vendors accepting SYP as a payment method in northwestern Syria by sub-district, between January and April 2025²⁰



Regional median prices of all JMIMI-monitored items and monthly change (March–April 2025), in SYP, USD, and TRY where applicable

Item	Unit	South Central areas		Northeastern Syria			Northwestern Syria			
		SYP	USD ²¹	SYP	Monthly change (SYP)	USD	TRY	Monthly change (TRY)	USD	SYP
SMEB bulk foods										
Bulgur	1kg	8,000	0.73	9,000	0%	0.84	26	+4% ▲	0.67	7,286
Red lentils	1kg	10,625	0.97	10,375	+4% ▲	0.97	35	0%	0.91	9,818
Rice	1kg	10,000	0.92	10,313	+3% ▲	0.96	35	+3% ▲	0.91	9,818
Wheat flour	1kg	6,375	0.58	6,500	-7% ▼	0.61	18	+6% ▲	0.47	5,049
Salt	500g	1,500	0.14	1,500	-14% ▼	0.14	5	0%	0.13	1,403
Sugar	1kg	8,250	0.76	9,000	0%	0.84	29	0%	0.75	8,135
Tomato Paste	1kg	15,000	1.38	12,275	+2% ▲	1.15	59	+7% ▲	1.53	16,524
SMEB vegetables										
Tomatoes	1kg	5,250	0.48	6,000	-14% ▼	0.56	19	-24% ▼	0.49	5,330
Potatoes	1kg	4,625	0.42	4,598	-3% ▼	0.43	15	+23% ▲	0.38	4,138
Cucumbers	1kg	7,250	0.67	6,750	-32% ▼	0.63	25	-29% ▼	0.65	7,013
Onions	1kg	4,500	0.41	5,000	0%	0.47	15	+21% ▲	0.38	4,068
SMEB cooking oils										
Ghee	1kg	26,375	2.42	20,000	0%	1.87	79	+9% ▲	2.06	22,260
Vegetable oil	1L	18,500	1.70	17,875	+2% ▲	1.67	66	+6% ▲	1.72	18,584
SMEB poultry										
Chicken	1kg	28,000	2.57	23,000	-12% ▼	2.15	95	-15% ▼	2.47	26,719
Eggs	1kg	24,000	2.20	28,000	-7% ▼	2.62	86	-19% ▼	2.22	23,984
Bread										
Non-subsidised bread	8pc	5,750	0.53	5,000	+4% ▲	0.47	11.4	0%	0.30	3,260
Subsidised	8pc	3,000	0.28	3,000	+50% ▲	0.28	9.7	+42% ▲	0.25	2,714
SMEB NFI										
Bathing soap	1pc	2,500	0.23	4,900	+9% ▲	0.46	9.5	+65% ▲	0.25	2,665
Sanitary pads	10pc	10,000	0.92	6,000	0%	0.56	15	0%	0.39	4,208
Toothpaste	100g	10,250	0.94	9,583	-4% ▼	0.90	28	-5% ▼	0.73	7,855
Laundry powder	1kg	15,000	1.38	13,500	-5% ▼	1.26	35	+5% ▲	0.91	9,818
Dish soap	1L	10,000	0.92	10,500	-4% ▼	0.98	15	-50% ▼	0.39	4,208
SMEB cooking fuels										
Kerosene	1L	7,000	0.64	No	No data	No data	33	No data	0.86	9,257
LPG gas	1L	21,429	1.97	17,857	+16% ▲	1.67	66	+6% ▲	1.72	18,554
SMEB water										
Water trucking	1L	20	0.0018	25	-27% ▼	0.0023	0.055	+14% ▲	0.0014	15
Internet										
Mobile data	1gb	9,000	0.83	3,111	-2% ▼	0.29	72	No data	1.86	20,104
Transportation fuels										
Imported diesel	1L	10,750	0.99	No	No data		37	+6% ▲	0.96	10,379
Imported petrol	1L	12,145	1.11	15,660	0%	1.46	43	+6% ▲	1.11	12,034
Manually refined diesel	1L	10,550	0.97	4,000	0%	0.37	33.5	+17% ▲	0.87	9,409
Manually refined petrol	1L	11,900	1.09	4,000	0%	0.37	34	-3% ▼	0.88	9,496
Subsidised diesel	1L	10,450	0.96	4,000	78% ▲	0.37	34	No data	0.88	9,456
Subsidised petrol	1L	12,000	1.10	No	No data		39	No data	1.01	10,929
Black market diesel	1L	10,500	0.96	5,500	-8% ▼	0.51	34	No data	0.88	9,538
Black market petrol	1L	12,000	1.10	7,000	0%	0.65	35	No data	0.91	9,818

Methodology

The JMMI aims to inform market-based programming in Syria.

Coverage

Coverage is determined through a combination of identifying key market hubs and partners' field capacity. Firstly, key market hubs are identified using the [Humanitarian Situation Overview in Syria](#) (HSOS), classifying all communities that 5 or more other communities report to rely on for markets as a key market hub. Secondly, these "key market hubs" are reviewed by the field teams for validity purposes. In this step, additional important markets in communities are included. These could be communities that either a) have significant markets but were not included in HSOS coverage, or b) communities that have markets that are important for people living in camps. Finally, we compare the ideal coverage with the capacity of partners and aim to ensure that key market hubs are covered. The actual coverage is, therefore, restricted to the capacity of partners.

Data Collection

In each assessed location, at least 3 prices (ideally 4) for all SMEB items need to be collected from different traders to ensure the quality and consistency of the collected data. In line with the purpose of the JMMI, only the prices of the cheapest, most commonly bought type of item are recorded for each product, except in cases where otherwise indicated. For example, certain NFI items specific products are monitored at the request of the shelter cluster.

SMEB Calculation

The cost of the SMEB is determined by multiplying the median price of each item in the respective location by the quantity listed in the table to the right.

Identification of traders

Field teams identify traders to assess based on the following criteria:

- Traders are retailers selling directly to consumers.
- Traders need to be representative of the local price level.
- Traders have knowledge of the shop operations.

To the extent possible, the same traders are revisited in every data collection round.

Enumerators and training

The data are collected by field staff familiar with local market conditions. They undergo training on the methodology and tools provided by REACH. Training sessions occur each time a new partner joins the JMMI, at partner request, and at scheduled intervals throughout the year, such as when the assessment undergoes changes. Additionally, field teams are equipped with a JMMI Standardised Operational Procedure (SOP) offering guidance on market identification, trader assessment, and pricing. The REACH JMMI team manages the integration of partner feedback on the JMMI SOP, sharing updates, and conducting re-training with the field, as needed. Data collection is carried out using the KOBO Collect mobile application.

Data cleaning and analysis

After data collection, REACH compiles and cleans all partner data, standardizing prices, cross-checking outliers, and calculating the median cost of prices in each assessed location. Follow-ups are initiated with field teams to address data queries, including outliers, missing data, and incorrect entries. The median item prices reported in this factsheet are 'location medians,' designed to mitigate the impact of outliers and variations in data quantity among assessed locations.

Aggregation

The published data is disaggregated at the community, sub-district, district, governorate, and regional levels. The lowest administrative level at which the SMEB is calculated is the sub-district. Item-level medians are computed at the sub-district level, provided that at least three price points are available per item. If this threshold is not met, the sub-district median is imputed using the corresponding district-level item median.

Following imputation, medians at the district, governorate, and regional levels are derived exclusively from sub-district-level medians; that is, higher-level aggregates are based on sub-district values rather than by calculating medians of medians.

Challenges and limitations

- Price data reflects only the specific timeframe in which it was collected. Variations in coverage may occur between data collection rounds, and any comparisons should be

regarded as indicative.

- The JMMI data collection tool requests the cheapest, most commonly bought type of each item to be recorded, as availability varies across regions. Therefore, price comparisons across regions may be based on slightly varying products.
- With current coverage, data is mostly collected from main markets, which may not be representative of rural areas.
- As the JMMI continues to expand and is extended to additional locations, the reported changes in the overall median prices may be driven by shifts in coverage rather than actual price changes.
- Data collection in March 2025 faced significant limitations due to access challenges and a suspension of funding. As a result, REACH was unable to gather a sufficient number of surveys to enable detailed analysis of the different SMEB components at the governorate or sub-district level. Consequently, the findings from this round should be interpreted with caution, with reduced coverage affecting their reliability compared to previous and upcoming rounds.

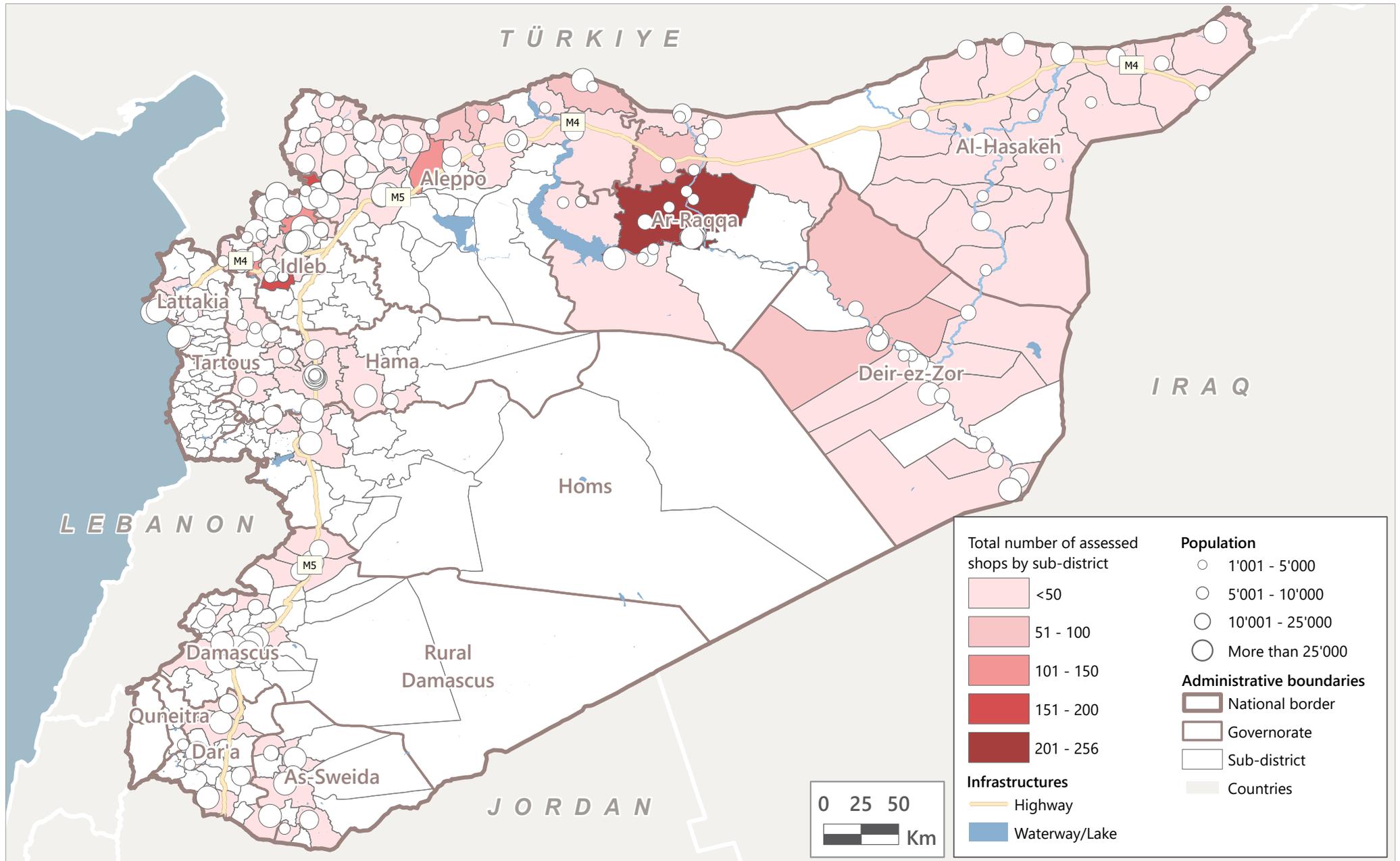
JMMI data is updated monthly through the [Interactive Dashboard](#) where users can filter for SMEB components of interest, currencies, and assessed areas.

Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)

The SMEB is a tool designed by the Cash-based responses Technical Working Group (CBR-TWG) for Northern Syria. The [first version of the SMEB](#) was developed in 2014 and formed the basis of the northern Syria joint market monitoring, a partnership between CBR-TWG member NGOs & REACH. The current SMEB is based on the [2017 Revision](#). The SMEB is designed as an indicator of the cost of the minimum, culturally-appropriate items that a family of 6 needs to survive for one month, while meeting basic standards for nutritious food, water use and hygiene in Northern Syria. The cost of the SMEB can be used as a proxy for understanding the financial burdens that households face in different locations.

SMEB bulk foods	
Bulgur	15kg
Red lentils	15kg
Rice	19kg
Wheat flour	1kg
Salt	1Kg
Sugar	5kg
Tomato Paste	6kg
SMEB vegetables	
Tomatoes	12kg
Potatoes	
Cucumbers	
Onions	
SMEB cooking oils	
Ghee / Vegetable oil	7kg/L
SMEB poultry	
Chicken	6kg
Eggs	6kg
Bread	
Non-subsidised bread	37 Kg
SMEB NFI	
Bathing soap	12pc
Sanitary pads	40pc
Toothpaste	2pc
Laundry powder	3kg/L
Dish soap	
SMEB cooking fuels	
Kerosene	25L
LPG gas	
SMEB water	
Water trucking	4,500L
Internet	
Mobile data	1GB

Geographic coverage of the April 2025 JMMI



Annex 1

Regional classification of assessed governorates and sub-districts

Central southern	
Governorate	Sub-district
As-Sweida	Ariqa
	As-Sweida
	Salkhad
	Shahba
	Thibeen
Damascus	Damascus
Dar'a	As-Sanamayn
	Busra Esh-Sham
	Dar'a
	Ghabagheb
	Hrak
Deir-ez-Zor	Nawa
	Abu Kamal
	Al Mayadin
	Deir-ez-Zor
	Jalaa
Hama	Muhasan
	As-Salamiyeh
	As-Suqaylabiyah
	Eastern Bari
	Hama
	Karnaz
	Madiq Castle
	Masyaf
	Muhradah
	Suran
Homs	Ar-Rastan
	Homs
	Talbiseh
	Taldu
Lattakia	Al-Haffa
	Ein El-Bayda
	Fakhura
	Jablah
	Lattakia
Rural Damascus	An Nabk
	Arbin
	Deir Attiyeh
	Duma
	Harasta
	Jaramana
	Madaya
	Markaz Darayya
	Qatana
	Qudsiya
	Rankus
Yabroud	

Northwestern	
Governorate	Sub-district
Aleppo	Afrin
	Aghtrin
	Al Bab
	A'rima
	Ar-Ra'ee
	Atareb
	A'zaz
	Bulbul
	Daret Azza
	Ghandorah
	Jandairis
	Jebel Saman
	Ma'btali
	Mare'
	Menbij
	Nabul
	Sharan
Idleb	Suran
	Ariha
	Badama
	Bennsh
	Dana
	Darkosh
	Ehsem
	Harim
	Idleb
	Jisr-Ash-Shugur
	Kafr Takharim
	Maaret Tamsrin
	Mhambal
Qourqeena	
Salqin	
Teftnaz	

Northeastern	
Governorate	Sub-district
Aleppo	Ain al Arab
	Al Bab
	Ghandorah
	Lower Shyookh
	Mare'
	Menbij
	Sarin
	Sharan
Al-Hasakeh	Al-Hasakeh
	Al-Malikeyyeh
	Amuda
	Areeshah
	Be'r Al-Hulo Al-Wardeyyeh
	Darbasiyah
	Hole
	Jawadiyah
	Markada
	Qahtaniyyeh
	Quamishli
Ar-Raqqa	Shadadah
	Tal Hmis
	Tal Tamer
	Ya'robayah
	Al-Thawrah
	Ar-Raqqa
	Ein Issa
Jurneyyeh	
Mansura	
Suluk	
Tell Abiad	

Endnotes

- 1 The JMMI data collection conducted in April 2025 marked the first time data was gathered across the entire Syrian national territory, expanding coverage to include the central and southern regions. As a result, REACH does not have historical JMMI data for either the central and southern regions or for the national-level territory prior to this round.
- 2 Levant 24 (January 2025), "[Syrian Transitional Government Implements New Customs Tariffs](#)".
- 3 REACH (March 2025), "[Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) - Northeastern Syria Situation Overview](#)", REACH resource centre.
- 4 Crisis Analysis Syria (February 2025), "[Syria's liquidity crunch](#)".
- 5 REACH (March 2025), "[Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) - Northwestern Syria Situation Overview](#)", REACH resource centre.
- 6 REACH (March 2025), "[Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) - Northwestern Syria - Dataset](#)", REACH resource centre.
- 7 REACH (March 2025), "[Joint Market Monitoring Initiative \(JMMI\) - Northeastern Syria - Dataset](#)", REACH resource centre.
- 8 REACH (April 2025), "[Northern Syria Climate Hazards Monitoring](#)", Dashboard.
- 9 Crisis Analysis Syria (April 2025), "[Drought in focus](#)".
- 10 News Feed (January 2025), "[Voices from the new breadlines in Syria: Who's waiting? And why?](#)".
- 11 Reuters (March 2024), "[Exclusive: Russian grain exports to Syria suspended due to uncertainty](#)".
- 12 Al Mayadeen (January 2025), "[Bread subsidies to be lifted within 2 months: Syrian Trade Minister](#)".
- 13 Atlantic Council (January 2025), "[Syria's energy sector and its impact on stability and regional developments](#)".
- 14 The Guardian (April 2025), "[Border wars: Syria's new authorities grapple with Lebanese smugglers](#)".
- 15 Crisis Analysis Syria (February 2025), "[Syria's liquidity crunch](#)".
- 16 Crisis Analysis Syria (April 2025), "[Syria Monthly Report - April 2025](#)".
- 17 The Syrian Observer (April 2025), "[Despite lower prices, Syrian markets remain deserted amid cash shortages](#)".
- 18 The Syrian Observer (March 2025), "[Syrian Commercial Bank raises weekly withdrawal limit to reduce ATM congestion](#)".
- 19 Crisis Analysis Syria (April 2025), "[Syria Monthly Report - April 2025](#)".
- 20 While only sub-districts with at least 10 respondents per data collection round were included, it is important to note that the number of respondents per sub-district varied significantly between January and April 2025. As such, results should be interpreted with caution given these sampling variations.
- 21 Each regional item median was converted to USD using the corresponding regional median informal exchange rate.



About the CWG

The JMMI exists within the framework of the Syria Cash Working Group (CWG). Regional CWGs were established in both northeastern and northwestern Syria in May 2014 to analyze the effects of the ongoing conflict on local markets and to support the design and implementation of humanitarian cash and voucher assistance in those areas.

For more information about the CWG in northeastern Syria, please contact the coordinator at cashcoordnes@gmail.com.

For inquiries regarding the CWG in northwestern Syria, please contact cbr.twg@gmail.com.

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).