



Jointly produced by:
WFP-World Food Programme, Evidence, Policy and Innovation Unit, Nepal
MoALD-Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD), Department of Agriculture (DoA), Market Development, Economic Analysis and Statistics Section
FNCCI/AEC-Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries/Agro Enterprise Centre
CIPF-Consumer's Interest Protection Forum



Market Watch 91

April 2019†

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In April 2019, retail prices of most food commodities monitored in 15 major markets across Nepal showed a marginal increase or held relatively stable, due to sufficient availability of food products in rural markets.**
- **The overall inflation rate in April 2019 was 4.4 percent. The food and beverage group was stable at 2.4 percent, although several sub-groups were relatively higher: ghee and oils (8.5%), spices (8.5%), and cereal grains and their products (6.0%).**

Prices

Retail prices of most food commodities monitored in 15 major markets across Nepal showed a marginal increase in April 2019 (see **Fig. 1**):

- On a month-on-month basis, retail prices of coarse rice, wheat flour, black gram and soybean oil increased by 1.8, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.0 percent respectively, while that of broken lentil remained relatively stable. The retail price of red potatoes decreased by 1.2 percent.
- Compared to three months earlier, most prices showed a downward trend with the exception of the price of wheat flour and soybean oil (which went up). The largest change was in red potato (-11.6 percent).
- On a year-on-year basis, most prices showed a decreasing trend (with the exception of wheat flour and soybean oil). The largest change was black gram (-15 percent).

Factors behind current price trends include the regular supply of food and non-food commodities associated with stable transportation services and seasonal fluctuations.

Retail prices in regional markets (see **Fig. 2**) mostly showed a different trend as compared to the national averages. Compared to last month, the prices of food commodities mostly showed an increasing trend in all markets with the exception of a decreasing trend of the price of broken lentil in the mountain and hill markets. Similarly, the price of wheat flour indicated an increasing trend, while that of broken lentil showed a declining trend in all markets. The price of coarse rice showed an increasing trend in the major consumer markets of Kathmandu, Pokhara and Surkhet, while in the Terai, and mountain & hill markets, the price of coarse rice indicated a declining trend.

Wholesale prices monitored in the Kalimati Fruits and Vegetables Market showed relatively high month-on-month fluctuations (see **Table 1**): prices of tomato, carrot, pumpkins, cabbage, cauliflower, French bean, radish, brinjal, cucumber and christophine increased by more than 35 percent due to reduction in supply as compared to demand, while that of bitter gourd, pointed gourd, okra and cow pea decreased by more than 5 percent due to a surge in supply from the harvest season.

The overall consumer price index (CPI) released by Nepal Rastra Bank was 124.8 in April 2019, an increase of 0.6 percent month-on-month. The inflation rate, as measured by the year-on-year increase in the CPI, was 4.4 percent. The food and beverage group of the CPI was 118.2, an increase of 1.4 percent month-on-month and 2.4 percent year-on-year; several sub-groups showed relatively high year-on-year increases: ghee and oils (8.5%), spices (8.5%), and cereal grains and their products (6.0%). The non-food and services group of the CPI was 130.2, a decrease of 0.02 percent month-on-month and an increase of 5.7 percent year-on-year.

Supply

The overall supply of food and non-food commodities is so far good and stable across the country due to sufficient availability from regular imports, and stable transportation services.

Outlook

Most food prices are expected to increase in the next two months with the start of lean season of most food commodities.

The outlook for the harvest of winter crops, mainly wheat is estimated to increase compared to last year due to favourable weather during growing and maturity period.

Commodity	Price NPR/kg or liter	% change 1 month	Observations
Tomato, carrot, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, French bean, radish, brinjal, cucumber and christophine	various	> 35	Decrease in supply due to lean season
Bitter gourd, pointed gourd, okra and cow pea	various	> -5	Increase in supply due to harvest season

Figure 1: Average retail price over 12-month period*

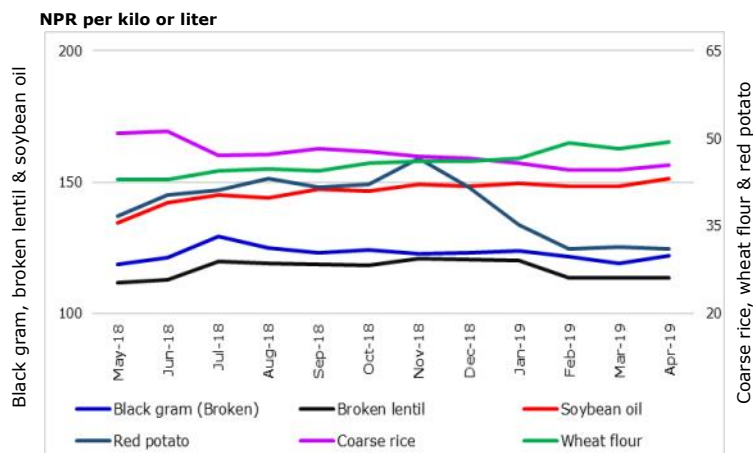
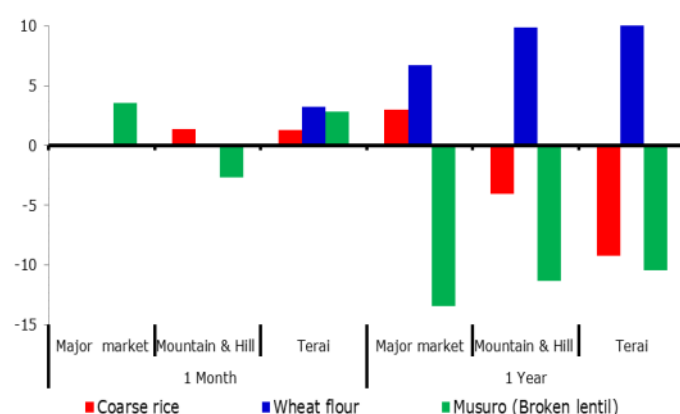


Figure 2: Percentage change in retail prices (1 month & 1 year)**



† Prices related to the Nepali month of Chaitra 2075.

* Prices are from markets listed on the back of this report, not including 'Hill & Mountain - No Road' markets.

** Change in price considers all markets shown in this report.

Market	Commodity	Current price (NRS per Kg/ Lt.)	Change in price (%)*			Average change over		
			1 m	3 m	1 yr	1m	3m	1yr
Major consumer markets								
Kathmandu	Coarse rice	47.0	0.0	-14.5	-2.1	▶	▼	▶
	Wheat flour	46.0	0.0	-4.2	-8.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	160.0	6.7	-3.0	-15.8	▲	▶	▼
	Chicken	350.0	6.1	6.1	2.9	▲	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	95.0	5.6	-17.4	-58.7	▲	▼	▼
	Potato	30.0	0.0	-33.3	-25.0	▶	▼	▼
	Pokhara	Coarse rice	50.0	0.0	-2.0	0.0	▶	▶
Wheat flour		55.0	0.0	10.0	14.6	▶	▶	▶
Soybean oil		135.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	▶	▶	▶
Chicken		390.0	-4.9	18.2	-13.3	▶	▲	▶
Broken lentil		105.0	5.0	10.5	-25.0	▶	▲	▼
Potato		35.0	-7.9	-22.2	-22.2	▼	▼	▼
Surkhet		Coarse rice	50.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	8.7	13.6	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	160.0	0.0	6.7	6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	350.0	2.9	2.9	2.9	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	30.0	-33.3	0.0	20.0	▼	▶	▲
Regional Terai markets								
Biratnagar	Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	52.0	4.0	15.6	15.6	▶	▲	▲
	Soybean oil	135.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	320.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	-18.2	-18.2	▶	▼	▼
	Potato	20.0	0.0	0.0	-20.0	▶	▶	▼
Janakpur	Coarse rice	42.0	0.0	0.0	-6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	11.1	11.1	▶	▲	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	0.0	-6.7	-3.4	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	300.0	0.0	-6.3	-6.3	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	110.0	10.0	-8.3	-24.1	▶	▶	▼
	Potato	20.0	0.0	-20.0	-25.9	▶	▼	▼
Biratnagar	Coarse rice	41.0	2.5	-8.9	2.5	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	45.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	3.7	-6.7	-6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	330.0	3.1	10.0	10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	20.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0	▶	▼	▶
Dhangadhi	Coarse rice	40.0	5.3	5.3	-11.1	▲	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	40.0	17.6	17.6	17.6	▲	▲	▲
	Soybean oil	150.0	7.1	7.1	15.4	▲	▶	▲
	Chicken	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	110.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	30.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	▶	▶	▲
Nepalgunj	Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	0.0	-25.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	48.0	-2.0	2.1	12.9	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	-3.4	0.0	-3.4	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	320.0	-4.5	6.7	6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	85.0	-5.6	-15.0	-22.7	▼	▼	▼
	Potato	22.0	22.2	-12.0	10.0	▲	▼	▶

Market	Commodity	Current price (NRS per Kg/Lt.)	Change in price (%)*			Average change over		
			1 m	3 m	1 yr	1m	3m	1yr
Hill and Mountain markets with road access								
Bhairahawa	Coarse rice	37.0	0.0	-2.6	-26.0	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	45.0	0.0	7.1	28.6	▶	▶	▲
	Soybean oil	135.0	-1.5	1.5	22.7	▶	▶	▲
	Chicken	320.0	-1.5	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	80.0	2.6	3.9	2.6	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	25.0	0.0	-37.5	0.0	▶	▼	▶
	Makwanpur	Coarse rice	44.0	-2.2	-12.0	4.8	▶	▼
Wheat flour		42.0	-8.7	-4.5	-6.7	▼	▶	▶
Soybean oil		156.0	-2.5	-2.5	-13.3	▶	▶	▶
Chicken		350.0	9.4	6.1	9.4	▲	▶	▶
Broken lentil		90.0	2.3	-5.3	-57.1	▶	▶	▼
Potato		25.0	-10.7	-37.5	-28.6	▼	▼	▼
Dhankuta		Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	0.0	-11.1	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	340.0	6.3	9.7	-5.6	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	-10.0	-14.3	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	25.0	13.6	0.0	-16.7	▶	▶	▼
Rolpa	Coarse rice	43.0	0.0	0.0	-18.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	52.0	-5.5	0.0	30.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	150.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	350.0	0.0	4.5	2.9	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	115.0	-4.2	-4.2	-4.2	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	38.0	-5.0	-5.0	8.6	▶	▶	▶
Sanfebagar	Coarse rice	43.0	4.9	10.3	7.5	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	49.0	8.9	8.9	22.5	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	160.0	-3.0	0.0	-3.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	400.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	130.0	-18.8	-21.2	-23.5	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	45.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶
Jumla	Coarse rice	55.0	0.0	0.0	-26.7	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	180.0	12.5	12.5	28.6	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	450.0	4.7	4.7	4.7	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	150.0	-6.3	-6.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	35.0	0.0	0.0	-	▶	▶	-
Bajura	Coarse rice	45.0	7.1	12.5	25.0	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	4.2	8.7	19.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	170.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	440.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	40.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
Mountain markets without road access								
Dolpa	Coarse rice	80.0	0.0	0.0	-42.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	90.0	-5.3	-5.3	-30.8	▶	▶	▼
	Soybean oil	180.0	0.0	0.0	-18.2	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	500.0	-16.7	-16.7	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	200.0	0.0	0.0	-13.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	40.0	0.0	0.0	-20.0	▶	▶	▶
Humla	Coarse rice	150.0	0.0	-	-9.1	▶	-	▶
	Wheat flour	140.0	0.0	-6.7	-17.6	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	260.0	0.0	0.0	-13.3	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	50.0	0.0	0.0	-16.7	▶	▶	▶

▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation
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 Price fluctuation is considered normal if the price change is within 5% for 1 month, or within 10% for 3 months or within 15% for one year.

Market	Commodity	Current price (NRS per Kg/Lt.)	Change in price (%)*			Average change over		
			1 m	3 m	1 yr	1m	3m	1yr
Major consumer markets								
Kathmandu	Coarse rice	47.0	0.0	-14.5	-2.1	▶	▼	▶
	Wheat flour	46.0	0.0	-4.2	-8.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	150.0	0.0	-9.1	-21.1	▶	▶	▼
	Chicken	330.0	0.0	0.0	-2.9	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	-21.7	-60.9	▶	▼	▼
	Potato	30.0	0.0	-33.3	-25.0	▶	▼	▼
	Pokhara	Coarse rice	50.0	0.0	-2.0	0.0	▶	▶
Wheat flour		55.0	0.0	10.0	14.6	▶	▶	▶
Soybean oil		135.0	0.0	0.0	3.8	▶	▶	▶
Chicken		410.0	0.0	24.2	-8.9	▶	▲	▶
Broken lentil		100.0	0.0	5.3	-28.6	▶	▶	▼
Potato		38.0	0.0	-15.6	-15.6	▶	▼	▼
Surkhet		Coarse rice	50.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	8.7	13.6	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	160.0	0.0	6.7	6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	340.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	130.0	0.0	-7.1	8.3	▶	▶	▶
Potato	45.0	0.0	50.0	80.0	▶	▲	▲	
Regional Terai markets								
Biratnagar	Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	5.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	11.1	11.1	▶	▲	▶
	Soybean oil	135.0	0.0	0.0	8.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	320.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	-18.2	-18.2	▶	▼	▼
	Potato	20.0	0.0	0.0	-20.0	▶	▶	▼
Janakpur	Coarse rice	42.0	0.0	0.0	-6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	11.1	11.1	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	0.0	-6.7	-3.4	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	300.0	0.0	-6.3	-6.3	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	100.0	0.0	-16.7	-31.0	▶	▼	▼
	Potato	20.0	0.0	-20.0	-25.9	▶	▼	▼
Biratnagar	Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	-11.1	0.0	▶	▼	▶
	Wheat flour	45.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	135.0	0.0	-10.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	320.0	0.0	6.7	6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	20.0	0.0	-50.0	0.0	▶	▼	▶
Dhangadhi	Coarse rice	38.0	0.0	0.0	-15.6	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	34.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	0.0	0.0	7.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	30.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	▶	▶	▲
Nepalgunj	Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	0.0	-25.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	49.0	0.0	4.3	15.3	▶	▶	▲
	Soybean oil	145.0	0.0	3.6	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	335.0	0.0	11.7	11.7	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	90.0	0.0	-10.0	-18.2	▶	▶	▼
	Potato	18.0	0.0	-28.0	-10.0	▶	▼	▶
Hill and Mountain markets with road access								
Bhairahawa	Coarse rice	37.0	0.0	-2.6	-26.0	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	45.0	0.0	7.1	28.6	▶	▶	▲
	Soybean oil	137.0	0.0	3.0	24.5	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	325.0	0.0	1.6	1.6	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	78.0	0.0	1.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	25.0	0.0	-37.5	0.0	▶	▼	▶
	Makwanpur	Coarse rice	45.0	0.0	-10.0	7.1	▶	▶
Wheat flour		46.0	0.0	4.5	2.2	▶	▶	▶
Soybean oil		160.0	0.0	0.0	-11.1	▶	▶	▶
Chicken		320.0	0.0	-3.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
Broken lentil		88.0	0.0	-7.4	-58.1	▶	▶	▼
Potato		28.0	0.0	-30.0	-20.0	▶	▼	▼
Dhankuta		Coarse rice	40.0	0.0	0.0	-11.1	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	50.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	140.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	320.0	0.0	3.2	-11.1	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	100.0	0.0	-4.8	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	22.0	0.0	-12.0	-26.7	▶	▼	▼
Rolpa	Coarse rice	43.0	0.0	0.0	-18.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	55.0	0.0	5.8	37.5	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	150.0	0.0	0.0	15.4	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	350.0	0.0	4.5	2.9	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	120.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	40.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	▶	▶	▶
Sanfebagar	Coarse rice	41.0	0.0	5.1	2.5	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	45.0	0.0	0.0	12.5	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	165.0	0.0	3.1	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	400.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	160.0	0.0	-3.0	-5.9	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	45.0	0.0	12.5	0.0	▶	▶	▶
Jumla	Coarse rice	55.0	0.0	0.0	-26.7	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	55.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	160.0	0.0	0.0	14.3	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	430.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	160.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	35.0	0.0	0.0	-	▶	▶	▶
Bajura	Coarse rice	42.0	0.0	5.0	16.7	▶	▶	▶
	Wheat flour	48.0	0.0	4.3	14.3	▶	▶	▶
	Soybean oil	170.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	440.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	170.0	0.0	0.0	-5.6	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	40.0	0.0	14.3	0.0	▶	▶	▶
Mountain markets without road access								
Dolpa	Coarse rice	80.0	0.0	0.0	-42.9	▶	▶	▼
	Wheat flour	95.0	0.0	0.0	-26.9	▶	▶	▼
	Soybean oil	180.0	0.0	0.0	-18.2	▶	▶	▼
	Chicken	600.0	0.0	0.0	20.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	200.0	0.0	0.0	-13.0	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	40.0	0.0	0.0	-20.0	▶	▶	▶
Humla	Coarse rice	150.0	0.0	-	-9.1	▶	-	▶
	Wheat flour	140.0	0.0	-6.7	-17.6	▶	▶	▼
	Soybean oil	260.0	0.0	0.0	-13.3	▶	▶	▶
	Chicken	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	▶	▶	▶
	Broken lentil	300.0	0.0	-14.3	-21.1	▶	▶	▶
	Potato	50.0	0.0	0.0	-16.7	▶	▶	▶

▲ Price increase above normal price fluctuation

▶ Normal price fluctuation

▼ Price decrease below normal price fluctuation

Price fluctuation is considered normal if the price change is within 5% for 1 month, or within 10% for 3 months or within 15% for one year.