MARKET MONITORING

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World Food Programme

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WFP VAM | Food Security Analysis

HAITI | April-May 2026

Cost of the Food Basket

Between April and May 2026, the cost of the food basket increased by **4 percent at the national level,** rising from 21,541 to 22,320 gourdes. Notable decreases were observed in **the Centre (-8%)** and the **North (-5%)**, while moderate increases were recorded in **Artibonite (+1%), the South (-1%), and Nippes (+3%)**

Regional Variations

The strongest variation was recorded in the **North-East (+18%)** and the **South-East (+7%),** two states located along the border with the Dominican Republic, where proximity to the frontier amplifies pressures on food prices through cross-border trade and fluctuations in the neighboring market

OCHA Pooled Funds Targeted Communes

Decrease in the cost of the food basket in communes targeted by OCHA (21,271 gourdes in April, **-1%** versus national; 21,868 in May, **-2%** compared to the national figure of 22,320), reflecting stronger resilience to inflationary pressures as a possible result of humanitarian assistance

Food Price Dynamics

Increase in the price of **maize (+8%)** and imported/processed products, notably spaghetti (+6%, with extreme peaks) and sardines (+9%, +87% in the South), while staple goods remain stable, **reflecting dependence on imports and global logistical costs.**

Food Commodity Availability

Wide availability of staple products, though **red beans remain limited,** highlighting specific market tensions despite relative stability among other commodities.

Inflation (CPI: Consumer Price Index)

The CPI rose from 590.6 in March to 610.5 in April, reflecting a **monthly acceleration of 3.4% (compared to 0.8% previously),** driven by high petroleum prices and global disruptions, while the year-on-year rate remains elevated but stable (21.0% versus 20.6%) (Ref: IHSI, 2026)

Food Commodity Availability – May 2026

The analysis highlights a generally satisfactory availability of staple food commodities such as wheat flour, rice, maize, sugar, vegetable oil, and black beans, with traders reporting only minor proportions of unavailability. In contrast, **red beans** stand out for their pronounced scarcity: **more than half of traders (52%)** reported absence or limited availability, underscoring their vulnerability within market equilibrium and their critical role in household diets.

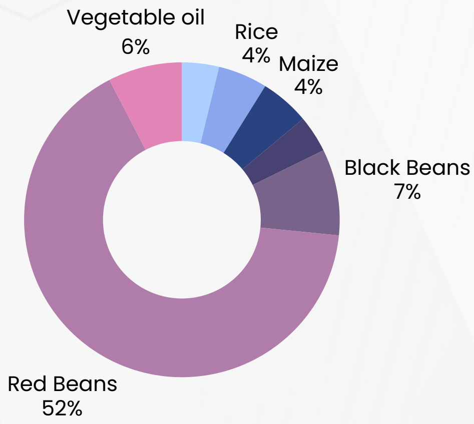
At the state level, staple food availability remains broadly stable, but red beans concentrate the most acute tensions. T**he Nippes (87.5%), North-East (84.6%), South-East (64.7%), North (60%), as well as Artibonite and West (over 40%) display critical levels of unavailability**. This pattern contrasts sharply with black beans, which remain widely accessible across most departments, except in the Centre and Grand'Anse where occasional limitations were observed.

Beyond beans, certain commodities reveal specific regional fragilities. **Salt** shows high unavailability in **Artibonite (36.1%)** and **Nippes (31.25%)**, while **eggs** are constrained in **Nippes (25%)** and South-East (17.65%). Processed imports such as **spaghetti** also face localized shortages, notably in the Centre **(8.3%) and North-East (7.7%).**

The South-East emerges as the most vulnerable department with elevated unavailable rates across nearly all surveyed products thus reflecting structural weaknesses in its local market and heightened exposure to supply chain disruptions.

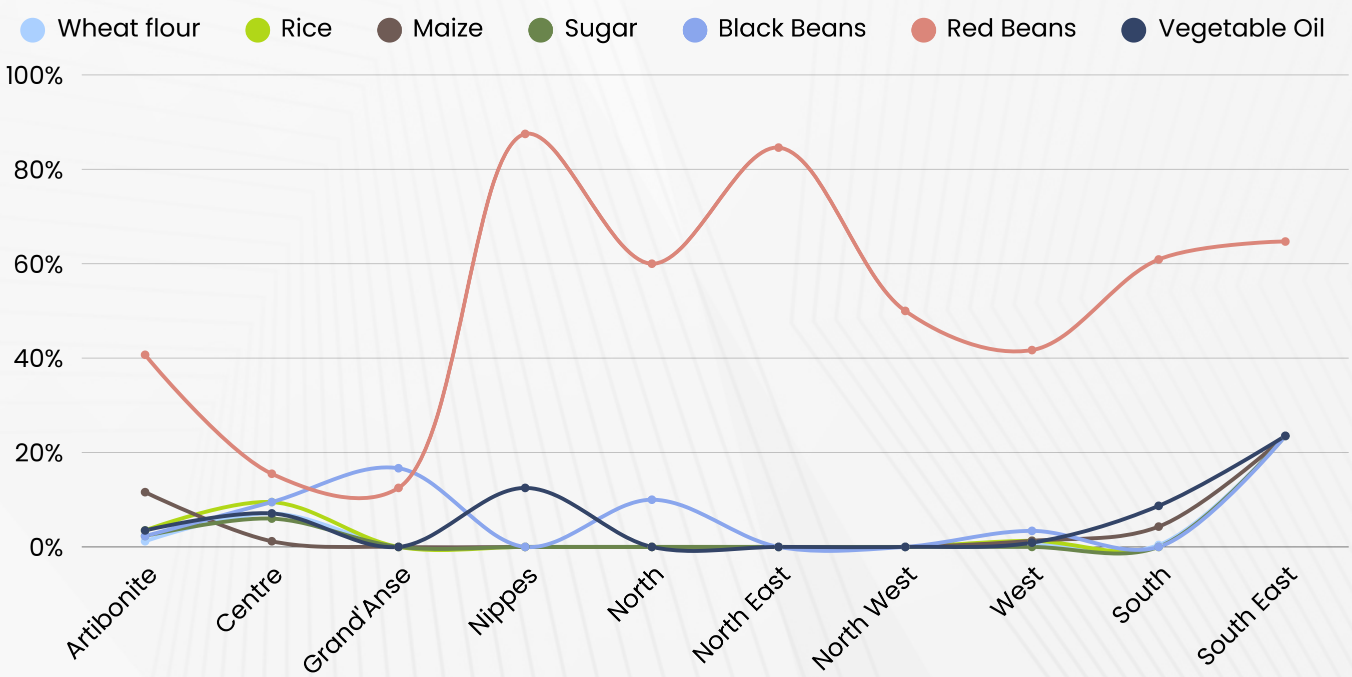
These findings point to a dual reality: while the national food system maintains a relatively stable supply of core staples, the persistent scarcity of red beans and other commodities expose structural vulnerabilities. These imbalances highlight the need for targeted interventions to stabilize availability, particularly in departments where deficits are most severe.

***Figure 1:** Proportion of traders reporting limited availability of food products*



Source: WFP, 2026

***Figure 2:** Proportion of traders by department reporting limited availability of food products*



Source: WFP, 2026

Price trends for staple foods – April-May 2026

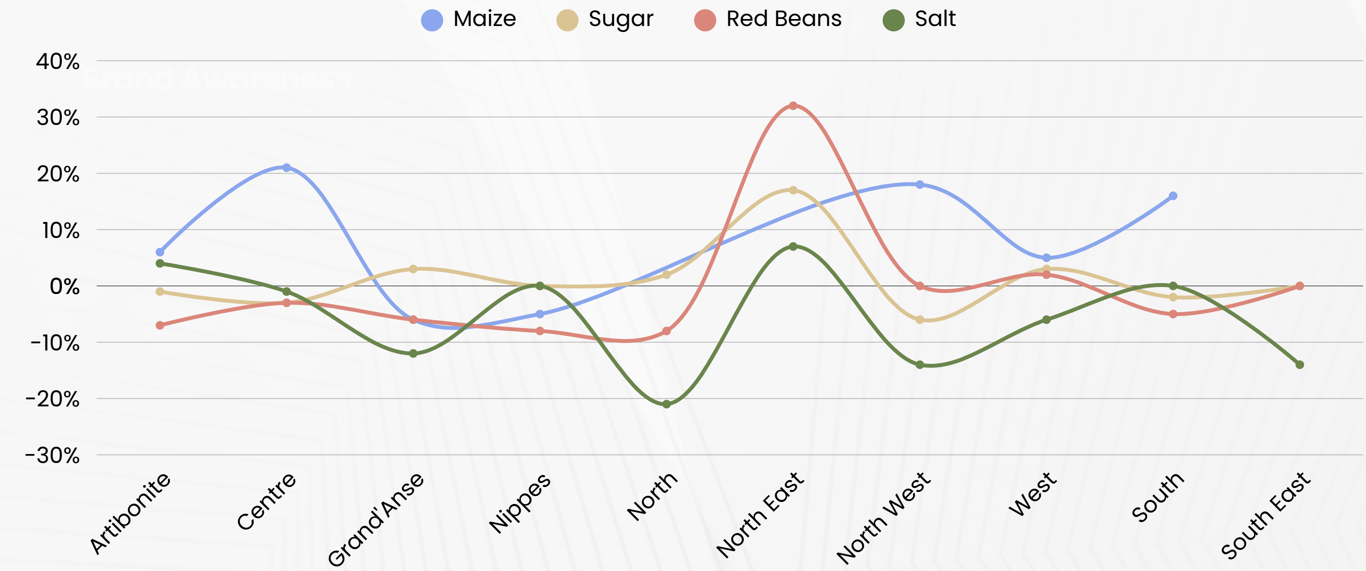
The analysis of price variations between April and May 2026 highlights a dual dynamic. On the one hand, staple products such as **wheat flour, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, and salt** show an overall trend of **decline or stability**, which helps to limit inflationary pressure on households. **Black beans** decreased slightly, while **red beans increased marginally**, though with **significant regional disparities.** This relative stability reflects sufficient availability and a certain balance in the markets for essential goods.

On the other hand, some commodities **are experiencing marked increases** that are directly linked to fuel inflation. **Maize rose by an average of +8%,** with peaks in the **Centre (+21%), North-East (+17%), North-West (+18%), and South (+16%).** Imported and processed products are particularly volatile: **spaghetti increased by +6%** overall but surged in the **West (+54%).** Sardines follow the s**ame pattern (+9%), driven by a sharp increase in the South (+87%)**. These price increase reflects a strong dependence on external markets and logistical costs, increasing household vulnerability to global shocks.

From a strategic perspective, these findings suggest that **inflationary pressure is driven primarily by imported and processed products**, while local staple goods partly cushion the impact. To contain inflation, it would be crucial to strengthen national production of cereals and legumes, diversify sources of supply, and implement price regulation mechanisms for sensitive imported goods.

At the same time, reinforce and monitor regional market prices to anticipate imbalances and protect household food security.

***Figure 3:** Price variation of food commodities, April–May 2026 (four commodities with significant changes)*

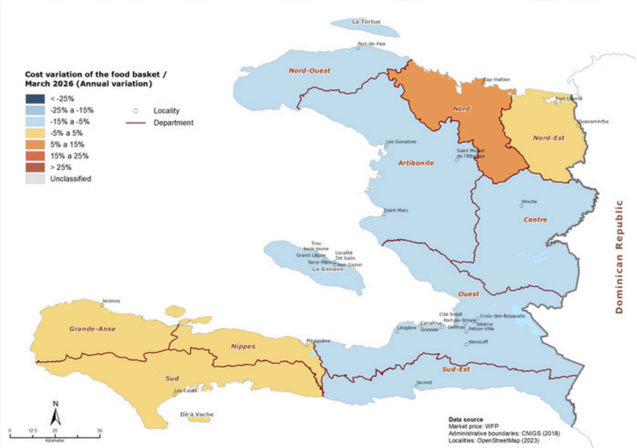


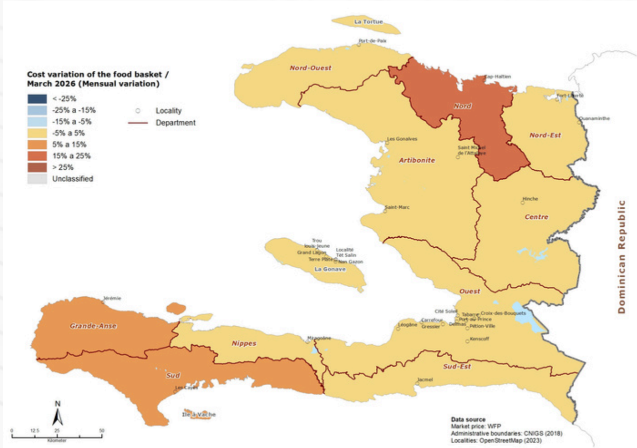
Department	Wheat flour		Rice		Maize		Sugar		Black beans		Red beans		Vegetable Oil		Salt		Pasta		Sardine		Eggs	
Artibonite	185	▼ -1%	205	▼ -2%	193	▲ +6%	184	▼ -1%	354	▲ +2%	532	▼ -7%	1219	▼ -1%	171	▲ +4%	100	▶ 0%	256	▼ -4%	621	▼ -1%
Centre	186	▼ -4%	238	▼ -5%	206	▲ +21%	219	▼ -3%	335	▼ -4%	349	▼ -3%	1059	▼ -2%	172	▼ -1%	200		246	▲ +6%	545	▼ -3%
Grand'Anse	175	▶ 0%	192	▶ 0%	307	▼ -6%	177	▲ +3%	365	▼ -1%	439	▼ -6%	1246	▲ +1%	150	▼ -12%	86	▲ +2%	269	▶ 0%	750	▶ 0%
Nippes	184	▲ +4%	190	▼ -1%	268	▼ -5%	172	▶ 0%	406	▼ -1%	556	▼ -8%	1344	▲ +3%	150	▶ 0%	90	▼ -5%	248	▼ -1%	650	▶ 0%
North	190	▼ -5%	235	▲ +2%			210	▲ +2%	373	▼ -2%	573	▼ -8%	1220	▲ +2%	113	▼ -21%	110	▲ +10%	228	▼ -1%	540	▶ 0%
Northeast	238	▲ +6%	229	▼ -1%	201		241	▲ +17%	434	▲ +8%	1159	▲ +32%	1204	▼ -2%	133	▲ +7%	88	▼ -12%	202	▲ +8%	504	▲ +1%
Northwest	169	▶ 0%	192	▶ 0%	205	▲ +18%	179	▼ -6%	316	▼ -2%	625	▶ 0%	1181	▼ -4%	150	▼ -14%	100	▶ 0%	200	▶ 0%	600	▶ 0%
West	202	▼ -1%	206	▲ +4%	293	▲ +5%	182	▲ +3%	352	▼ -1%	519	▲ +2%	1195	▼ -3%	225	▼ -6%	121	▲ +54%	249	▲ +2%	609	▲ +1%
South	168	▼ -4%	186	▼ -3%	252	▲ +16%	156	▼ -2%	339	▼ -16%	528	▼ -5%	1291	▼ -1%	200	▶ 0%	216		468	▲ +87%	751	▼ -16%
Southeast	303	▶ 0%	215	▼ -8%	253		209	▶ 0%	411	▼ -4%	478	▶ 0%	1111	▼ -13%	262	▼ -14%	86	▼ -3%	275	▼ -9%	557	▼ -2%

increase ▲
decrease ▼
stable ▶

Source: WFP, 2026

Food basket– April-May 2026





Source: WFP, 2026

Between April and May 2026, the cost of the food basket **increased by a national average of 4%,** rising from 21,541 to 22,320 gourdes, with significant regional disparities: some areas such as the **Centre (-8%) and the North (-5%)** recorded declines, while other departments witnessed moderate increases, such as **Artibonite (+1%), the South (-1%), and Nippes (+3%)**. However, the most marked changes were observed in the North-East (+18%) and the South-East (+7%), two departments bordering the Dominican Republic. This suggests that their proximity to the border has amplified pressure on food prices, likely linked to cross-border trade, the availability of imported goods, and food price fluctuation in the neighboring market. This dynamic explains why, despite an overall upward trend, some border regions are experiencing much sharper increases than the rest of the country.

In April, the food basket in **communes targeted by the OCHA pooled funds** stood at **21,271 gourdes**, representing a **1% decrease** compared to the national average (21,541 gourdes). In May, the gap widened to **2%,** with **21,868 gourdes in OCHA pooled fund intervention communes compared to 22,320 gourdes at the national level.**

This trend shows that communes targeted by the OCHA pooled funds may benefit from increased resilience to inflation, thanks to better stabilization of food prices. Strategically, this should highlight the importance of humanitarian funding in cushioning price increases and reducing household vulnerability

Description of Methodological approach of market monitoring

The methodology used is that of the Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) for harmonization purposes within the systems used by other actors in the Cash Working Group (CWG).

- Data are collected twice a month (1st and 4th weeks of the month) through face-to-face interviews with five (5) traders per product in each market. In total, 534 traders across 71 markets were surveyed.
- All ten (10) departments were covered by the data collection, including the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area.
- A minimum of six (6) markets per department were selected based on their level of importance.

Selection of products and units of measurement

The selection of products included in the food basket is based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB). It focuses on seven (7) staple products that make up the food basket of Haitian households, taking into account the energy needs of a household of five (5) people (2,100 kcal requirement).

- Wheat flour (30 kg);
- Rice (20 kg); maize meal (10 kg);
- Sugar (3 kg);
- Black beans (10 kg);
- Red beans (10 kg);
- Vegetable oil (1.5 gallons).
- Additionally, other products are included based on their regular consumption by households, namely: salt, spaghetti, sardines, and eggs. Data collection is conducted on a monthly basis.

Data collection tools

Mobile Operational Data Acquisition (WFP Data Collection Platform).

Limitations and challenges

The limited availability of certain traders, especially wholesalers during periods of high demand for specific products in certain markets may have hindered the ability to reach the planned sample sizes in some areas, thereby reducing the accuracy of the estimates

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