



World Food Programme

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Cambodia

Food price update - June 2020

Focus: Effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on food prices

Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Unit - Cambodia Country Office

Preface

The COVID-19 pandemic has been rapidly evolving across the globe since the beginning of 2020. On 11 March, the World Health Organization (WHO) categorized it as a global pandemic. As of 30 June, according to WHO, there were more than 11 million reported cases and more than 500,000 deaths worldwide; in Cambodia, since the first reported case on 27 January, there have been a total of 141 cases and no deaths (as of 30 June).

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the global economy. Trade and travel have been severely restricted, and many countries, including Cambodia and others across Asia, have instituted lockdown measures to contain the spread.

In order to understand if the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted food availability and access at markets in Cambodia, the World Food Programme (WFP) monitors the retail and wholesale prices of key food commodities, including mixed rice, fish, vegetables and vegetable oil, in 45 urban and rural markets across the country (*see the Methods section for more details*). An average of 340 traders and market chiefs are interviewed every two weeks, through a call center contracted by WFP. In addition to prices, market chiefs are also interviewed to assess market functionality, including supply and demand issues. Additional information is used to interpret the results and understand the broader context.

The June update is based on market data collected in the first and third weeks of June 2020; additional information is as of 30 June.

This system is based on long-term cooperation between WFP and the Agricultural Marketing Office (AMO) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

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Key findings



COVID-19 Global Outlook

The COVID-19 pandemic has spread rapidly since January and has had a severe impact on economic activities across the world. Cambodia has a highly open economy, with close trade ties with neighboring countries, China, the European Union, and the United States, among others, so **it is expected that global economic impacts will also have major consequences for Cambodia.**

For the global food trade, COVID-19 has impacted both supply and demand. Several Southeast Asian countries imposed border controls, which disrupted the flow and prices of commodities. Cambodia is a net rice exporter, so a reduction in demand and restrictions on exports may disrupt exports while helping to stabilize prices domestically. The Government ban on rice exports, put in place in early April, was lifted on 20 May. Rice exports for the first five months of 2020 increased by **42%** compared to the same period last year.



Longer-Term Trend Analysis (Nov 2019 - June 2020)

In Cambodia prices have remained fairly stable for most key food commodities over the past 7 months. There was a spike in prices, particularly for vegetables (**up to +60%** for some items), duck eggs (**+14.5%**) and pork (**+5.7%**) at the end of March and beginning of April. Some of this was likely related to the increase of COVID-19 cases and subsequent border closures which restricted cross-border trade. Other food commodities, such as mixed rice and snake fish, remained stable during this period, while vegetable oil has had a downward trend for the last two months.

Markets have also continued to function well throughout this period. At the end of June roughly two-thirds (**61%**) of market chiefs reported no change in customers visiting markets in the past two weeks, though **22%** reported a slight increase, **6%** reported a major increase and **11%** reported a slight decrease. Furthermore, nearly all market chiefs (**94%**) reported no problems in supply, although **6%** reported issues with the supply of food commodities due to price increases at their source or a decrease in supply.



Monthly Food Price Change (May - June 2020)

In June, prices appear to have stabilized for most commodities. Whilst a few vegetables, such as morning glory, still display major fluctuations, the size of these fluctuations have reduced and appears to be more due to seasonal factors.

In rural and urban areas there was some price fluctuations of key food commodities and the direction of price changes in both rural and urban areas were similar except for fish and pork.

At the provincial level on the whole, as expected, more remote provinces, such as Koh Kong and the mountainous areas in the North and Northeast, had higher prices of some food commodities, such as mixed rice, fish, eggs and vegetable oil.

Further seasonal fluctuations in food prices are expected in the coming months with the end of the dry season and start of monsoon rains across much of Cambodia.

Conclusion

Whilst there was a spike in retail food prices for some fresh commodities in late March/early April 2020, by June much of this fluctuation has reduced and prices have stabilized, keeping prices within expected seasonal changes for key commodities in Cambodia. Markets also appear on the whole to be functioning well, despite the reports of new cases in Cambodia between 22 May and 28 June. So far, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security is more likely to come from the demand side, with many households suffering economically with a loss of livelihoods and income as a result of the crisis, which in turn restricts their ability to afford a sufficient and diverse basket of nutritious foods.

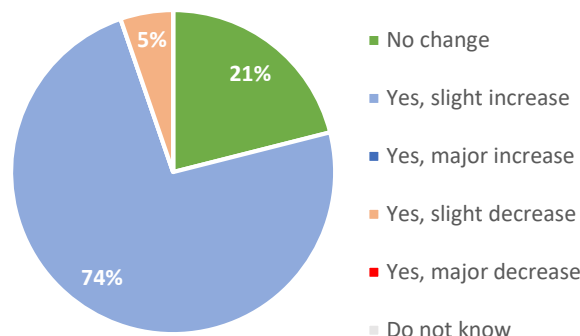
Market functionality

In markets monitored across the country, market chiefs were interviewed in the first and third weeks of June*. All respondents reported that markets were open as usual.

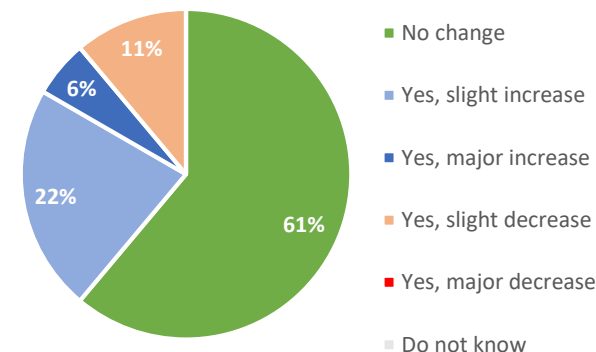
Overall, the number of customers visiting markets appears to have increased in early June and stabilized or continued to increase in late June. In late June nearly two-thirds (61%) of market chiefs reported no change in the number of customers visiting the market, while 22% reported a slight increase, 6% reported a major increase and 11% reported a slight decrease. By comparison, in early June, three-fourths (74%) of market chiefs reported a slight increase in the number of customers visiting the market and 21% reported no change.

Overall, the supply of food to markets appears normal. In late June, 94% of the market chiefs reported no problem with the food supply to their market compared to 89% in early June. In late June a small percentage of market chiefs reported having some market supply problems, for example, 3% reported a decrease in supply and 3% reported an increase in supply prices; by contrast, in early June, 11% reported an increase in supply prices.

Change in Customers Visiting Markets in the Past 2 Weeks in June 2020

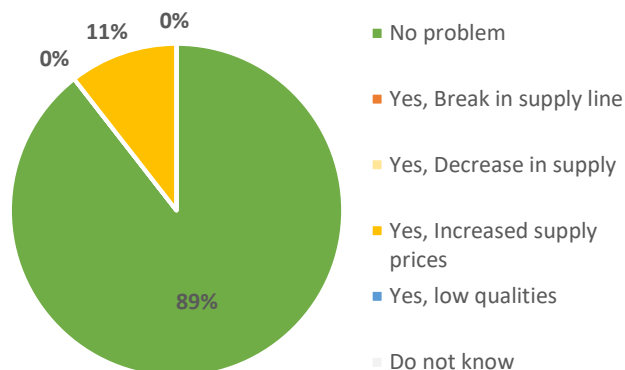


June 2020, Week 1 (n=19)

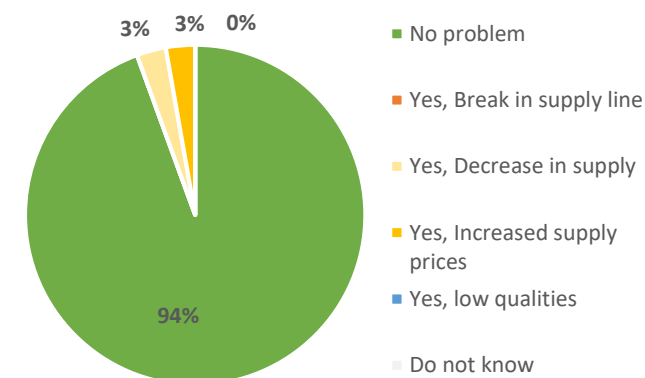


June 2020, Week 3 (n=18)

Change in Supply in the Past 2 Weeks in June 2020



June 2020, Week 1 (n=19)



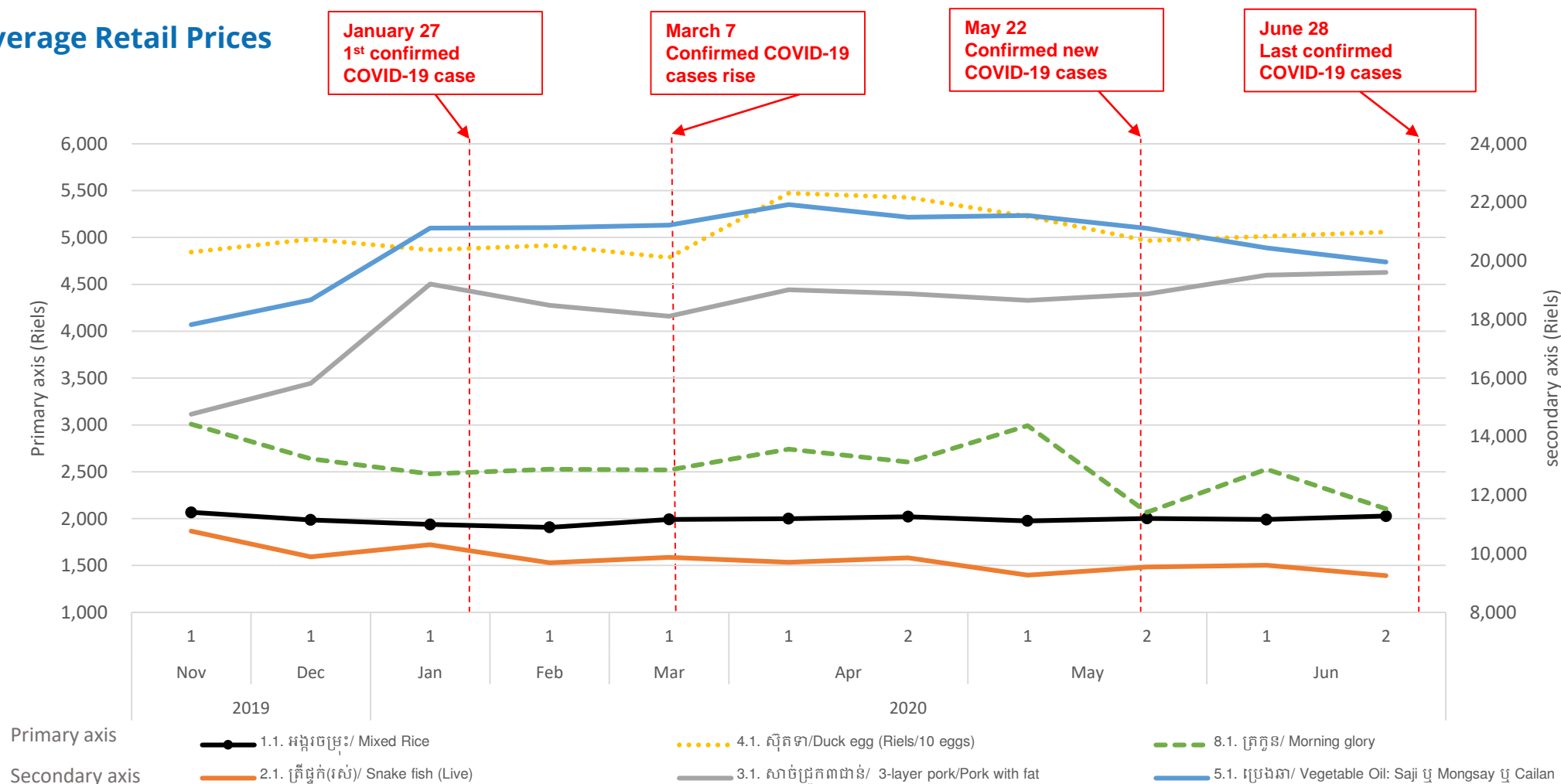
June 2020, Week 3 (n=18)

*Call center operators were unable to contact all market chiefs during the data collection rounds.

National: Longer-term price trends

Longer-term trends of six commonly consumed food commodities (mixed rice, duck egg, morning glory**, snake fish, pork and vegetable oil) in 14 urban and rural markets*** in 7 provinces (Battambang, Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Thom, Odtar Meanchay, Siem Reap, Preah Vihear and Stung Treng) indicate that whilst there was a slight spike in prices in early April, on the whole prices have remained fairly stable until June. The prices of mixed rice and duck egg in June were relatively stable while prices of snake fish, morning glory and vegetable oil had a downward trend in the second half of June. The trend of those prices were in line with normal seasonal fluctuations. In contrast, prices of pork have had an upward trend since the second half of May.

Average Retail Prices



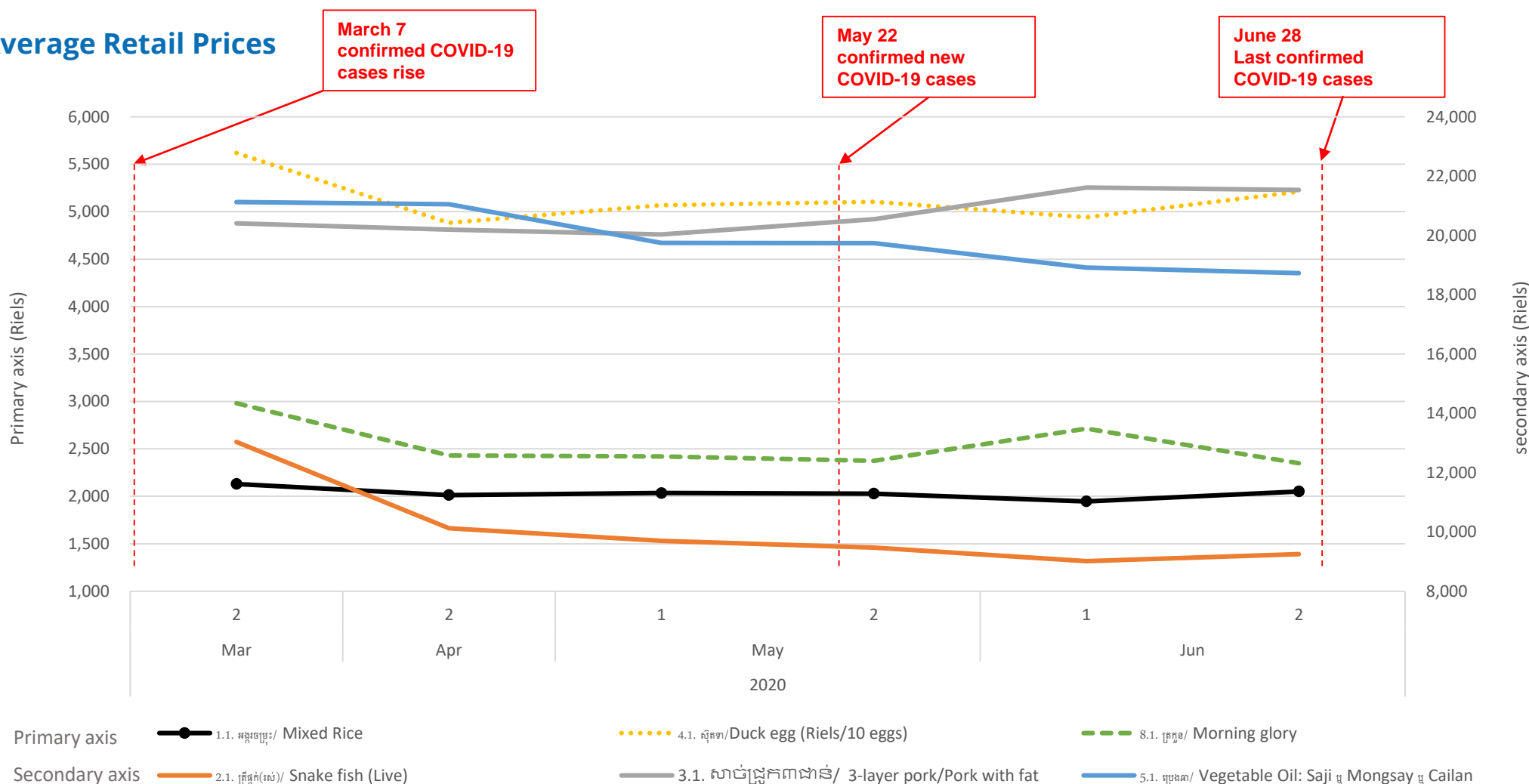
** Morning glory is commonly eaten in Cambodia and its price trend does not always indicate price fluctuations of other vegetables in the Annexes.

***Note: Data is from 14 markets that have been monitored since November 2019. See the Methods section for more details.

National: Short-term price trends

Short-term trends of six commonly consumed food commodities (mixed rice, duck egg, morning glory, snake fish, pork and vegetable oil) in 31 urban and rural markets**** in 16 provinces (Banteay Meanchey, Kampong Cham, Tboung Khoum, Kampong Speu, Kampot, Kandal, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kratie, Phnom Penh, Prey Veng, Pursat, Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Svay Rieng, and Takeo) indicate that most prices remained stable between the second half of April and late May. In early June, prices of pork and morning glory increased while the other four commodities decreased. In contrast, in the second half of June, prices of mixed rice, snake fish and duck egg had an upward trend, whereas prices of pork, morning glory and vegetable oil decreased.

Average Retail Prices



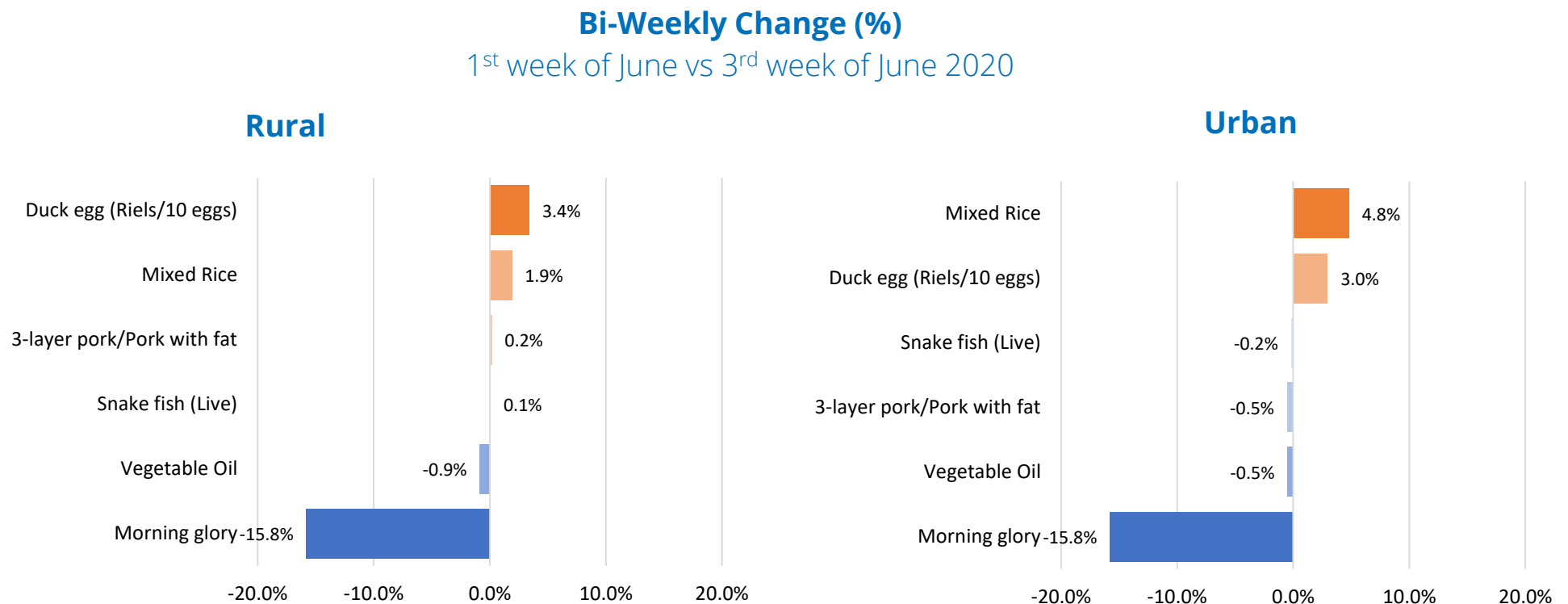
****Note: Data is from the expanded list of markets that have been monitored since March 2020. See the Methods section for more details.

Sub-national: Price trends in urban and rural areas

In the third week of June, there were some differences in food price trends between rural and urban areas. For instance, the prices of mixed rice, snake fish, pork and vegetable oil were lower in rural areas than in urban areas while the price of morning glory was higher in rural areas than in urban areas.

The price change of mixed rice, duck egg, morning glory and vegetable oil in rural and urban areas followed the same direction while the price change of pork and snake fish followed a different direction though this was small.

Between the first and third weeks of June, the price of mixed rice increased by 1.9% in rural areas and 4.8% in urban areas and the price of duck egg rose by 3.4% and 3% in rural and urban areas, respectively. In contrast, the price of morning glory decreased significantly (-15.8% in both rural and urban areas), followed by a small decrease in the price of vegetable oil (-0.9% and -0.5% in rural and urban areas, respectively).



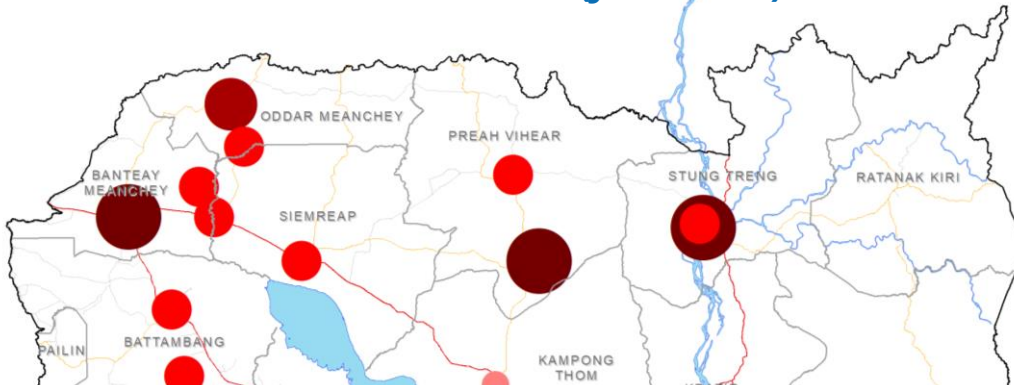
Note: Data is from all 45 markets. See the Methods section for more details.

Sub-national: Price trends of mixed rice & snake fish

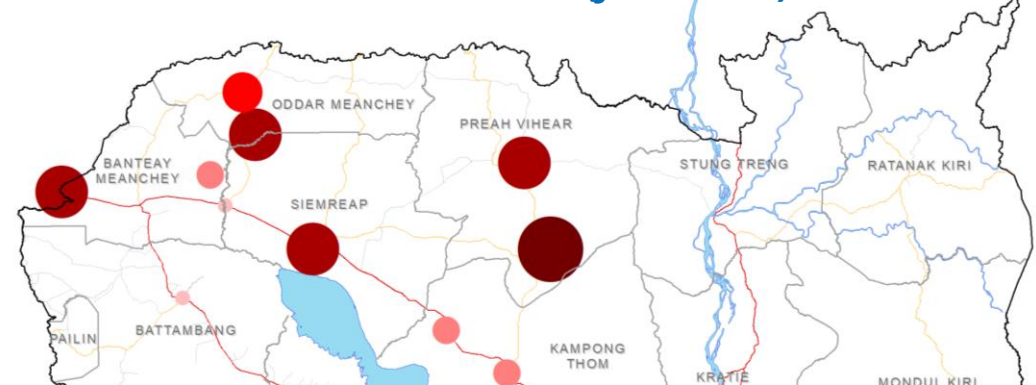
In late June 2020, the national average retail price of mixed rice was **2,041 riels/kg**. Serei Saophoan market in Banteay Meanchey reported the highest average retail rice price (2,700 riels), which was higher than the price in the end of May. The second highest price of rice (2,500 riels) was in Leu market in Preah Sihanouk, which was also an increase compared to the end of May. The lowest prices in late June were in Soung market in Tboung Khmoum (1,650 riels), which was a slight decrease from the end of May and early June, and Pha Oav market in Kampong Cham (1,750 riels), which was a slight increase compared to the last two weeks and a month ago.

In late June 2020, the national average retail price of snake fish (live) was **9,251 riels/kg**. The highest price was in Dang Tong market in Koh Kong (14,500 riels) and this price was higher than at the end of May and early June. The price in Rovieng market in Preah Vihear was 12,000 riels and this has been stable since late May. The lowest prices were in Pha Oav market in Kampong Cham and Doun Keo market in Takeo (7,000 riels) and they were lower than the end of May and first week of June.

Mixed Rice Prices (June 2020)



Snake Fish Prices (June 2020)



预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_3450

