

INFORMAL CROSS BORDER FOOD TRADE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



KEY MESSAGES

April to September 2015



- The minimum volumes of maize traded regionally through monitored borders have been 16 percent below average while rice and bean volumes have been more than 30 percent above average. Regional 2015 maize harvests are estimated to be more than fifteen percent below the five-year average, with many countries registering maize deficits except for South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania. Rice volumes traded have been above average due to intensified production in Tanzania over the past years. Dry bean production increased slightly in Malawi and Tanzania resulting in increased trade volumes.
- Maize exports have generally been lower than average across exporting countries with the exception of Zambia which has been the largest informal exporter with outflows accounting for 57 percent all the maize traded. Exports of maize by Zambia have been 131 percent above average and 310 percent higher than respective 2014 levels due to substantial carry-over stocks and lower prices in comparison to other exporter countries. Zambia has exported maize to Malawi (67 percent), DRC (18 percent) and Tanzania (12 percent). Maize flows from Zambia to Malawi have been atypically high, driven by large cereal deficits faced by Malawi.
- South Africa and Mozambique previously the largest informal exporter, has had maize exports 21 and 34 percent below average respectively; this has been a result of below average 2015 harvests. However, South Africa's maize exports primarily to Zimbabwe have been 16 percent higher than 2014 levels due to higher than average demand in Zimbabwe. Malawi which normally exports significant amounts of grain to Tanzania and Mozambique, has been a net importer as its maize exports have been nominal. The country was hard hit by drought and floods during the 2014/15 production season resulting in significantly below average 2015 harvests.
- Imports by all countries have been significantly lower than average except for Malawi which has remained the largest informal maize importer, with inflows 117 percent above average and 195 percent higher than respective 2014 levels. Malawi's imports have predominantly been from Zambia and Mozambique.
- Rice exports have been significantly above average by about 33 percent but slightly less than respective 2014 levels. Exports by all countries have been above average with the exception of Malawi which has had exports 18 percent below average. Tanzania has remained the largest rice exporter and most of its outflows have been to Zambia which has also been the largest importer. Part of the rice imported by Zambia has been for re-export to DRC.
- Volumes of dry beans traded have been 17 percent and 37 percent above average and 2014 levels respectively. Exports by Malawi have been atypically high registering 294 percent above average while exports by Mozambique and South Africa were 39 and 10 percent lower than average respectively. Increased exports by Malawi mostly to Mozambique and Zambia could have been driven by the need for income to purchase maize grain which has been highly priced. Tanzania has remained the largest dry bean exporter exporting mostly to Zambia.



Maize including grain and flour

Source	Destination	Volumes in MT			Percentage changes		Direction of change	
		Apr-Sep 15	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average
Zambia	Malawi	18,784	170	3,906	10961%	381%	▲	▲
Mozambique	Malawi	12,099	14,535	17,651	-17%	-31%	▼	▼
Zambia	DRC	4,993	3,971	5,491	26%	-9%	▲	▼
South Africa	Zimbabwe	4,034	3,479	5,135	16%	-21%	▲	▼
Zambia	Tanzania	3,358	2,463	1,964	36%	71%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Zambia	1,862	2,551	2,591	-27%	-28%	▼	▼
Mozambique	Zambia	1,544	2,244	2,761	-31%	-44%	▼	▼
Tanzania	Malawi	941	0	8	-	116%	▲	▲
Zambia	Mozambique	702	198	684	254%	3%	▲	▶
Malawi	Mozambique	564	461	9,454	22%	-94%	▲	▼
Malawi	Zambia	21	1,157	481	-98%	-96%	▼	▼
Mozambique	Zimbabwe	9	2,244	161	-100%	-95%	▼	▼
Malawi	Tanzania	0	3,519	8,242	-100%	-100%	▼	▼

Rice

Source	Destination	Volumes in MT			Percentage changes		Direction of change	
		Apr-Sep 15	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average
Tanzania	Zambia	4,281	5,217	2,035	-18%	110%	▼	▲
Malawi	Tanzania	1,474	1,629	2,359	-10%	-38%	▼	▼
Zambia	DRC	1,057	837	887	26%	19%	▲	▲
South Africa	Zimbabwe	626	173	336	262%	86%	▲	▲
Mozambique	Malawi	480	834	371	-42%	29%	▼	▲
Malawi	Mozambique	418	388	300	8%	40%	▲	▲
Malawi	Zambia	394	413	129	-5%	206%	▼	▲
Zambia	Zimbabwe	52	54	129	-5%	-60%	▼	▼
Mozambique	Zambia	11	7	9	49%	14%	▲	▲

Dry beans

Source	Destination	Volumes in MT			Percentage changes		Direction of change	
		Apr-Sep 15	Apr-Sep 14	Jul-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average	Apr-Sep 14	Apr-Sep average
Tanzania	Zambia	4,866	5,274	2,637	-8%	85%	▼	▲
Malawi	Mozambique	3,070	1,426	624	115%	392%	▲	▲
Zambia	DRC	1,845	1,717	1,839	7%	0%	▲	▶
Mozambique	Malawi	1,010	217	1,624	365%	-38%	▲	▼
Zambia	Tanzania	309	199	160	55%	93%	▲	▲
Malawi	Zambia	231	98	92	136%	151%	▲	▲
Tanzania	Malawi	222	490	1,151	-55%	-81%	▼	▼
South Africa	Zimbabwe	79	53	88	48%	-10%	▲	▼
Zambia	Mozambique	61	54	76	13%	-19%	▲	▼
Mozambique	Zimbabwe	23	257	74	-91%	-69%	▼	▼
Zambia	Zimbabwe	19	25	55	-23%	-65%	▼	▼
Malawi	Tanzania	0	222	121	-	-100%	▼	▼