Supplemental Table 1: South African food basket prices.

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|  | **High SEA** | **Middle SEA** | **Low SEA** |  |
| **South African food basket items** | Lowest Price (ZAR) | Lowest Price (ZAR) | Lowest Price (ZAR) | P-value |
|  | Median (Range) | | | |
| Apple (1kg) | 13.0 (13.0-13.0) | 15.0 (9.0-17.0) | 11.5 (7.0-14.0) | 0.17 |
| Banana (1kg) | 19.0 (19.0-19.0) | 15.0 (8.0-17.0) | 17.0 (16.0-20.0) | 0.07 |
| Cabbage (1kg) | 15.0 (13.0-17.0) | 15.0 (8.0-15.0) | 14.0 (8.0-15.0)\_ | 0.77 |
| Onions (1kg) | 8.5 (8.0-9.0) | 8.0 (7.0-10.0) | 7.5 (6.0-10.0) | 0.47 |
| Orange (1kg) | 15.5 (15.0-16.0) | 22.5 (13.0-25.0) | 20.0 (15.0-25.0) | 0.59 |
| Potatoes (1kg) | 14.5 (13.0-16.0) | 10.0 (4.3-23.0) | 8.5 (5.7-17.00) | 0.48 |
| Tomatoes (1kg) | 15.5 (15.0-16.0)\_ | 19.5 (15.0-20.0) | 13.5 (12.0-22.0) | 0.41 |
| Beef (stewing) (1kg) | 71.0 (63.0-79.0) | 75.0 (70.0-76.0) | 67.5 (65.0-70.0) | 0.57 |
| Chicken fresh (2kg) | 44.0(44.0-44.0) | 40.0 (37.0-44.0) | 41.5 (40.0-44.0) | 0.12 |
| Chicken frozen (2kg) | 27.5(26.0-29.0) | 30.0 (25.0-50.0) | 28.1(17.0-39.0) | 0.50 |
| Canned fish (425g) | 16.0 (16.0-16.0) | 16.8 (15.0-17.0) | 16.8 (15.0-27.0) | 0.71 |
| Baked beans (410g) | 7.2 (7.0-7.5) | 7.0 (7.0-11.0) | 7.1 (7.0-7.5) | 0.81 |
| Eggs (18s) | 30.0 (30.0-30.0) | 29.0 (24.0-30.0) | 22.0 (17.4-29.0) | 0.06 |
| Margarine (500g) | 8.5(8.0-9.0)\_ | 10.0 (8.0-13.0) | 10.5 (9.0-13.0) | 0.19 |
| Sunflower oil (750g) | 18.0 (18.0-18.0) | 17.0 (14.0-18.0) | 18.0 (14.0-18.0) | 0.22 |
| Peanut butter (400g) | 24.0 (24.0-24.0) | 24.0 (20.0-26.0) | 22.0 (18.0-27.0) | 0.89 |
| Brown bread (1loaf) | 9.0 (8.0-10.0) | 9.5( 8.5-10.0) | 9.5 (8.8-10.0) | 0.88 |
| White bread (1loaf) | 10.2 (9.0-11.5) | 11.5 (11.0-12.0) | 11.7 (10.0-12.0) | 0.48 |
| Mealie meal (5kg) | 44.0 (40.0-48.0) | 50.0 (37.0-50.0) | 40.0 (37.0-55.0) | 0.84 |
| Rice (2kg) | 20.0 (20.0-20.0) | 17.0 (16.0-18.0) | 20.0 (18.0-29.0)\_ | 0.02 |
| Milk (1 litre) | 11.4 (9.8-13.0) | 8.8 (8.5-12.0) | 11.5 (9.8-13.0) | 0.33 |
| Coffee (750g) | 83.0 (83.0-83.0) | 69.0 (60.0-83.0) | 67.5 (60.0-80.0) | 0.37 |
| Tea (62.5g) | 9.6 (6.3-13.0) | 15.0 (6.0-19.0) | 15.0 (13.0-19.0) | 0.43 |

 Kruskal–Wallis tests (P-value =0.002 for the difference in medians among groups after Bonferroni correction)

Abbreviation: kg: Kilograms; g: grams