

MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS
Consumer Affairs Division
Chicken Prices October, 2010

Average Live Weight¹ price per pound: **\$6.05**
 Live Weight prices ranged between: **\$5.19 - \$7.00**
 Average Pluck and Gut fee: **\$9.43**
 Pluck and Gut prices ranged between: **\$6.00 - \$14.00**

Final Price to Consumer

Based on a 20% loss, an average live weight price per lb of \$ 6.05 and an average pluck and gut price of \$ 9.43 the following final/dressed weight² prices were arrived at:

Table 1: Projected Prices at different weights given the average price of live weight

Live Weight	Average price per lb	Price per bird inclusive of pluck and gut*	Dressed weight (20% loss)	Final price per lb to consumer
	\$	\$		\$
6 lbs	6.05	45.73	4.8 lbs	9.53
5 lbs	6.05	39.68	4.0 lbs	9.92
4 lbs	6.05	33.63	3.2 lbs	10.51

* \$9.43 pluck and gut

Average price per pound:

This month prices on average **increased** by approximately 2.5% or \$0.15 over the period September 19, 2010 to October 24, 2010 as shown in Table 2. This further compounds the now ever increasing food inflation rate in the country for which the category ‘meat’ had the highest contribution of an increase of 2.19% for the period September to October 2010. Given that the majority of meat consumed in the country is derived from ‘chicken’, there seems to be an indirect relationship between the increasing price of chicken and current inflation rates.

Currently the price of chicken has **increased by 62%** from January to October 2010. The Industry players had indicated that the increases in May-September were as a result of

¹ The ‘live weight’ price is the price before the chicken has been plucked and gutted. It is estimated that on average, 20% of this live weight is lost in the pluck and gut process for which an additional fee is charged.

² The ‘dressed weight/final’ price is the live weight per pound plus the pluck and gut fee.

supply shortages caused by unusually high demand due to the two national elections and the FIFA Under 17 Women’s World, and an unexpected fall in the supply of imported chicken which was reflected in the smaller chicken sizes sold at poultry depots. However, according to the Daily Express on Thursday 30th September, 2010, Mr. Robin Phillips of the local chicken producer, Arawak, was noted as saying that “most chicken producers have increased production levels”. The market has since adjusted to the increased demand and this is reflected in the larger size of chicken being sold at the poultry depots.

On the other hand, the price of grains, like corn have increased on the world market and corn is a major ingredient in chicken feed which has translated into higher costs for local chicken producers.

Average pluck and gut fee:

The average pluck and gut fee showed no change in price over the period September 19, 2010 to October 24, 2010.

The following table shows the trends in the average price of live and pluck and gut chicken for the year;

Table 2: Movement in the Average Price of Live Chicken 2010

Months	Average Price Live Weight \$	Percentage Change in Live Weight Price %	Average Price Pluck & Gut \$	Percentage Change in Pluck and Gut Price %
January 23- 24, 2010	3.73	(27)	9.16	3.74
February 20- 21, 2010	4.09	9.65	9.01	(1.64)
March 20- 21, 2010	4.22	3.1	8.96	(0.55)
April 17- 18, 2010	4.33	2.6	9.23	3
May 22- 23, 2010	4.93	13.9	9.31	0.87
June 19- 20, 2010	5.43	10.14	9.38	0.75
July 24- 25, 2010	5.60	3.13	9.50	1.28
August 21- 22, 2010	5.71	1.96	9.42	0.84
September 18- 19, 2010	5.90	3.3	9.43	0.11
October 23-24, 2010	6.05	2.54	9.43	0