

Kurdistan Regional Government

Ministry of Planning

Kurdistan Region Statistics Office



**A study on the impact of COVID-19 on changes in prices of basic commodities in Iraq and Kurdistan Region (comparison between February and March 2020)**

## **Introduction**

The world has encountered an unexpected economic and social crisis due to the outbreak of corona virus. It has spread in over 192 countries and affected a large number of people. Due to the drop in oil prices, the effect of corona virus in Iraq is overwhelming. It had a negative impact on people's life, especially after imposing curfew (lockdown) in an attempt to prevent the spread of corona virus. As a consequence, most of economic activities were suspended, in addition to increase in the prices of some basic needs as well as affecting income of families specially those working in private sector.

The CPI statistics department of Iraq central statistics organization in cooperation with CPI statistics department in Kurdistan region statistics office conducted a study throughout Iraq on the impact of corona virus on changes of prices of consumers' basic needs. It was conducted through a comparison between item's prices in February and March. It is worth mentioning that in Kurdistan region the data on prices were collected at district level through either field visit or phone calls.

## **The beneficiaries of the study:**

1. The executives and the legislating Authorities.
2. Policy and decision makers.
3. International organizations.
4. Researchers and academics.

## **The objective of the study**

The aim of the study is to calculate the rate of prices change of the essential consumers' goods at the time of COVID-19, which can be used by policy and decision makers to take measures against high prices to financially support low- income people and who lost their jobs due to confinement measures.

## **Data sources**

The data was obtained through telephone call with a number of commercial centers. For this purpose, a questionnaire was designed, prepared and sent by e-mail to all governorates, including the Kurdistan region to collect the prices of a number of essential goods in February and March and study the prices changes. The materials or goods were divided into four main groups: food, vegetables and fruit group, medical supplies and disinfectants group, the group of washing powders and soaps, and the group of paper napkins and baby napkins.

## **The schedule table for carrying out the study**

<i>series</i>	<i>Time of conducting the study</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	
<i>1</i>	<i>Questionnaire preparation</i>	<i>27-31 March, 2020</i>		
<i>2</i>	<i>Field data collection</i>		<i>1-7 April, 2020</i>	
<i>3</i>	<i>Analyzing and releasing results</i>			<i>8-15 April, 2020</i>

## Teamwork

Series	Name	position	Governorate
1	Dr. Zina Akram Abdel-Latif	Director of CPI department	Baghdad
2	Alaa Ismail Mohammed Jawad	Directorate of International Comparison Department	Baghdad
3	Sundus Saber Nasser	Directorate off the Economic Activities Department	Baghdad
4	Susan Kanan Alwan	CPI department	Baghdad
5	Taha AzharNazem	CPI department	Baghdad
6	Rawa Adnan Kazim	CPI department	Baghdad
7	Habah Yousf Hashem	General Directorate for Technical Affairs	Logistical support
8	Shahla Hani Ali	Director of CPI department, KRSO	Erbil
9	Azad Hasan Jasem	Enumerator Duhok	Duhok
10	Dlzar Aref Jarjis	Director of CPI department, Erbil directorate	Erbil
11	Satar Mohammad Olghader	Director of CPI department, Sulaimani directorate	Sulaimani
12	Omar Addl Mahi	Salahaddin Statistics directorate	Saldhaddin
13	Majidah Sabri Baker	CPI Supervisor	Salahaddin
14	Nofel Sulaiman Taleb	Nainawa Statistics directorate	Nainawa
15	Yaser Mohammad Mostafa	CPI Supervisor	Nainawa
16	Abbas Tami Anad	Karbala Statistics directorate	Karbala
17	Jawad Kazem Mohammad	CPI Supervisor	Karbala
18	Shahdi Abdul Alamir Majed	Basra Statistics directorate	Basra
19	Misa Abdilkarim Abduljabbar	CPI Supervisor	Basra
20	Khalid Ahmad Farhan	Zighar Statistics directorate	Zighar
21	Mohammad Falih Hasan	CPI Supervisor	Zighar
22	Fazek Abed Alhor	Najaf Statistics directorate	Najaf
23	Saham Talib Shahab	CPI Supervisor	Najaf
24	Anmar Talib Salih	Mothanna Statistics directorate	Mothanna
25	Ali Jodah	CPI Supervisor	Mothanna
26	Ali Aoryan	Misan Statistics directorate	Misan
27	Sabih Sharati Hafiz	CPI Supervisor	Misan

28	Sajih Sabih Karim	CPI Supervisor	Misan
29	Darya Abdiljalil Mohammad	Kirkuk Statistics directorate	Kirkuk
30	Ammar mohammad Fozi	CPI Supervisor	Kirkuk
31	Hannsn Sharafddin Ghader	CPI Department	Kirkuk
32	Sarah Samir Hanna	CPI Department	Kirkuk
33	Drin yojel Ahmad	CPI Department	Kirkuk
34	Ahnad Ismail Ibrahim	Baghdad Statistics directorate	Baghdad
35	Ali Abdulkarim Ibrahim	CPI Supervisor	Baghdad
36	Adil Latif Ghafel	Wasit Statistics directorate	Wasit
37	Foziyah Ali Sharghi	CPI Supervisor	Wasit
38	Mohammad Abed Morshed	Ghadesiyah Statistics directorate	Ghadesiyah
39	Khtam Swadi Kshmet	CPI Supervisor	Ghadesiyah
40	Ali Fakhri Abdilmalik	Anbar Statistics directorate	Fallujah
41	Asil Abulrahim Abdilhadi	CPI Supervisor	Fallujah
42	Sror Jasim Mohammad	CPI department	Fallujah
43	Alaa Hosen Hamid Alshokri	Babel Statistics directorate	Babel
44	Iftekhar Ali Omran Albyati	CPI department	Babel
45	Jasim Saeed Hosen	Diyalah Statistics directorate	Diyalah
46	Mohammad Ahmad Salem	CPI Supervisor	Diyalah

Table 1: Governorates and districts covered in the study for the whole of Iraq  
February and March 2020

Series of district in governorates	Governorate	District	Environment
1	Nainawa	Nineveh District Center	Urban
			Rural
2		Telkef district	Urban
3		Talafar district	Urban
4		Alhamdaniah district	Urban
5		Sinjar district	Urban
6	Alhazar district	Urban	
1	Kirkuk	Kirkuk district center	Urban
1	Dyala	Alkhaless	Urban
			Rural
2		Almaghdadiyah	Urban
			Rural
3		Khanaghin	Urban
			Rural
4	Kfri	Urban	
		Rural	
5	Baghobah	Urban	
		Rural	
6	Baladroz	Urban	
		Rural	
1	Anbar	Anbar district center (Romadi)	Urban
			Rural
2		Falojah District	Urban
			Rural
1	Baghdad	Baghdad district center	Urban
2		Altifiyah district	Urban
3		Abogharib district	Urban
1	Babel	Alkelah district center	Urban
			Rural
2		Almahawil	Urban
			Rural
3		Almasib	Urban
			Rural
4	Alhashemiyah	Urban	
		Rural	
1	Karbala	Karbala district center	Urban
			Rural

2		Ainoltamar	Urban
			Rural
3		Al-hendiyah	Urban
			Rural
1	Wasit	Alkot district center	Urban
			Rural
2		Al-aziziah district	Urban
			Rural
1	Salahaddin	Takrit	Urban
2			Urban
3			Urban
			Rural
4			Urban
5			Urban
6		Urban	
1	Alnajaf ashraf	Najaf district center	Urban
			Urban
1	Alghdisiyah	Al-ghadesiyah district center	Urban
			Rural
2		Afk	Urban
			Rural
3		Al-shamiyah	Urban
		Rural	
4		Al-hamzah	Urban
			Rural
1	Almothannah	Samawa district center	Urban
			Rural
2		Al-khezer district center	Urban
			Rural
3		Alramisa district center	Urban
			Rural
4		Akwarka district center	Urban
			Rural
1	Zighar	Zighar center	Urban
2			Rural
1	Misan	Al-Amara	Urban
			Rural
2		Al- mojralkabirah district center	Urban
			Rural
1	Basra	Shat Al-Arab district	Rural
2			Rural
3			Rural

4		Alghrna	Urban
5		Basra district center	Urban
6		Alhares	Urban
1	Duhok	Duhok district center	Urban
			Rural
2		Akre	Urban
			Rural
3		Bardarash	Urban
			Rural
4		Zakho	Urban
			Rural
5		Semel	Urban
			Rural
6	Shekhan	Urban	
		Rural	
7	Amedi	Urban	
		Rural	
1	Erbil	Shaghlawa district	Urban
			Rural
2		Dashti Hawler	Urban
			Rural
3		Erbil district center	Urban
			Rural
4		Soran	Urban
			Rural
5		Koya	Urban
			Rural
1	Sulaimani	Sulaimani district center	Urban
2		Ranya district	Urban



## **Results of the study**

The study was done in all governments of Iraq including Kurdistan region and the results are as follows:

### **Price changes at the Iraq level**

Increase observed in the prices of some items in March comparing to February 2020. The items are as follows:

1. Some items in food group like imported commercial rice by 6.7%, baby milk powder by 5.3%, dry onion by 61.2%, dry garlic by 34.4%, Tomato by 41.6% and lemon by 67%.
2. Some items in the group of medical supplies and disinfectants like ordinary face masks by 283.3% face masks with filter by 244.8%, medical gloves by 72.2%, and disinfectants by 28.9%.
3. Some items in the group of washing powders and soaps like Dettol soap by 40.4% and bottle of bleach by 23.1%.
4. Some items in the group of tissues and baby napkins, paper towels by 5.7%, and baby napkins by 5.1%.

### **Price changes at the level of Kurdistan region**

In the Kurdistan region, the study covered the districts of Erbil and Duhok governorates in both rural and urban areas in these governorates. As for Sulaimani governorate, it covered center district and Ranya district only. The results of this research are as follows:

The increase observed in the prices of some items in March comparing to February 2020. The items are as follows:

1. Some items in the food group like imported commercial rice by 5.9%, dry onion by 59.3%, dry garlic by 80.8%, tomato by 40.2%, and lemon by 55%.
2. Some items in the group of medical supplies and disinfectants: ordinary face masks by 401.4%, face masks with filter by 292.5%, medical gloves by 71.8%, and disinfectants by 49.9%.
3. Some items in the group of washing powders and soaps: bottle of bleach by 4.5%, and Dettol soap by 99.4%, and
4. Some items in the group of tissues and baby napkins: paper towels by 8%, and baby napkins by 5.9%.

Figure 1: Comparison between price change in Iraq and Kurdistan region

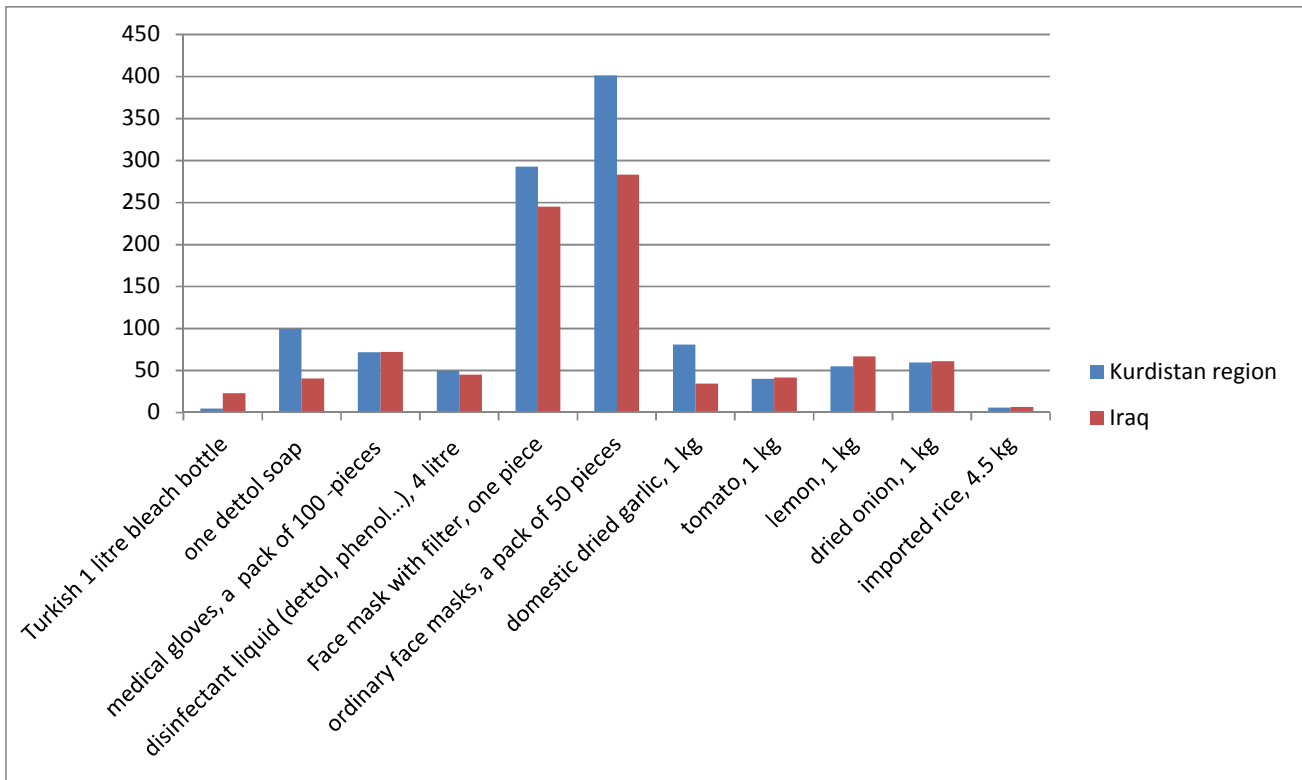
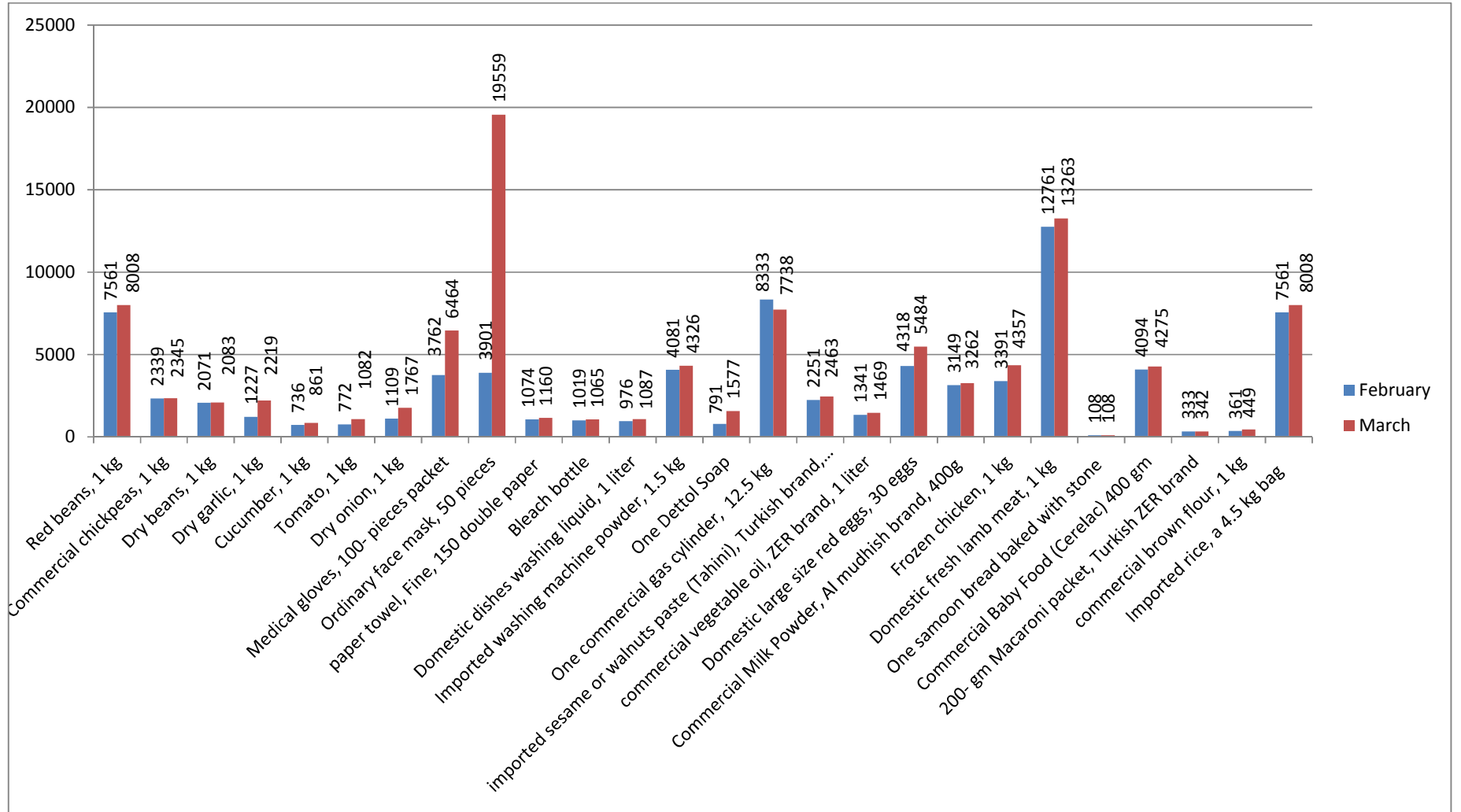


Table 2: percentage rate of monthly change of necessary items collected in the Kurdistan Region  
markets

Series	Item	Average price for February (ID)	Average price for March (ID)	Price percentage change
1	Imported rice, a 4.5 kg bag	7561	8008	5.9
2	Domestic rice, 1 kg	3025	3350	10.7
3	commercial brown flour, 1 kg	361	449	24.4
4	Commercial white wheat flour, Turkish ZER brand,1 kg	897	1066	18.8
5	200- gm Macaroni packet, Turkish ZER brand	333	342	2.7
6	200-gm spaghetti packet , Turkish ZER brand	250	257	2.8
7	Commercial Baby Food (Cerelac) 400 g	4094	4275	4.4
8	One oven bread	164	164	0.0
9	One samoon bread baked with stone	108	108	0.0
10	One samoon bread baked with electric power	118	118	0.0
11	Domestic fresh lamb meat, 1 kg	12761	13263	3.9
12	Domestic fresh Beef (without bone, 1 kg	13274	13789	3.9
13	Frozen chicken, 1 kg	3391	4357	28.5
14	Live chicken, 1 kg	2565	2682	4.6
15	Commercial Milk Powder, Al mudhish brand, 400g	3149	3262	3.6
16	Diyalak baby milk powder, 400 g	5491	5780	5.3
17	Domestic large size red eggs, 30 eggs	4318	5484	27.0
18	Iranian large size white eggs, 30 eggs	4069	5464	34.3
19	commercial vegetable oil, ZER brand, 1 liter	1341	1469	9.5
20	Domestic sesame or walnuts paste (Tahini), 1 kg	5807	5974	2.9
21	imported sesame or walnuts paste (Tahini), Turkish brand, 300 g	2251	2463	9.4
22	Domestic molasses, Bayader, 430 g	1845	1952	5.8

<b>23</b>	<b>One commercial gas cylinder, 12.5 kg</b>	<b>8333</b>	<b>7738</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>One ordinary toilet soap</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>One Dettol Soap</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>1577</b>	<b>99.4</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Ordinary imported washing powder, 480g</b>	<b>1833</b>	<b>2083</b>	<b>13.6</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Imported washing machine powder, 1.5 kg</b>	<b>4081</b>	<b>4326</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>Imported washing machine liquid, 1.5 liter</b>	<b>3500</b>	<b>3649</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Domestic dishes washing liquid, 1 liter</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>1087</b>	<b>11.4</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Imported dishes washing liquid, al wazirah, 800 ml</b>	<b>1616</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>9.3</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Bleach bottle</b>	<b>1019</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>4.5</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Imported toilet paper, Fine, 4 rolls</b>	<b>1921</b>	<b>1943</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>33</b>	<b>Paper towel, Fine, 150 double paper</b>	<b>1074</b>	<b>1160</b>	<b>8.0</b>
<b>34</b>	<b>Imported Pamper baby napkin, 18 pieces, medium size</b>	<b>5220</b>	<b>5528</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>Ordinary face mask, 50 pieces</b>	<b>3901</b>	<b>19559</b>	<b>401.4</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>A filter face mask</b>	<b>1570</b>	<b>6162</b>	<b>292.5</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Medical gloves, 100- pieces packet</b>	<b>3762</b>	<b>6464</b>	<b>71.8</b>
<b>38</b>	<b>Disinfectants bottle (Dettol, phenol...), 4 liters</b>	<b>2738</b>	<b>4103</b>	<b>49.9</b>
<b>39</b>	<b>Dry onion, 1 kg</b>	<b>1109</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>59.3</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Lemon, 1 kg</b>	<b>1614</b>	<b>2501</b>	<b>55.0</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Tomato, 1 kg</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>1082</b>	<b>40.2</b>
<b>42</b>	<b>Potato, 1 kg</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>24.0</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Cucumber, 1 kg</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>861</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>Eggplant,1 kg</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>1065</b>	<b>18.2</b>
<b>45</b>	<b>Dry garlic, 1 kg</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>2219</b>	<b>80.8</b>
<b>46</b>	<b>Turkish ZER tomato paste, 800 g</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>1787</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Dry beans, 1 kg</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>2083</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Commercial halved chickpeas, 1 kg</b>	<b>2041</b>	<b>2167</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Commercial chickpeas, 1 kg</b>	<b>2339</b>	<b>2345</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Commercial lentils, 1 kg</b>	<b>1438</b>	<b>1542</b>	<b>7.2</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>Red beans, 1 kg</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2088</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Dry broad beans, 1 kg</b>	<b>1663</b>	<b>1792</b>	<b>7.8</b>

Figure 2: Comparison between average price in February and March 2020 in Kurdistan region



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