

Utility Store Corporation Increases Price Of 20-Kg Atta Bag by Rs90: Punjab

The Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has increased the price of 20-kg 'atta' bag by Rs90 through a notification issued. The new price of a 20-kg 'atta' bag is Rs735 against its previous price of Rs645. The Government of Punjab has increased the ex-mill rate of 20-kg 'atta' bag by Rs30, increasing its price from Rs618 to Rs648. Utility Stores Corporation (USC) Zonal Manager (ZM) Sardar Muhammad Khan said that they have raised the 'atta' price due to increase in the rate of wheat by Rs300 per 40 kilograms. He said that flourmills refused to provide 'atta' to the Utility Stores Corporation (USC) on previous rate.

The News – January 10, 2013

Weekly Inflation Goes Up: Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)

The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) for the week ending on January 10, 2013, for the lowest income group registered an increase of 1.17 percent as compared to the previous week. The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 186.45 points against 184.29 points registered in the previous week, according to provisional figures of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). The weekly SPI has been computed with its base year as 2007-2008, covering 17 urban centers and 53 essential items for all income groups combined. The SPI for the combined group increased by 0.76 percent as it went up from 190.35 points in the previous week to 191.79 points in the week under review. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 7.51 percent. Compared to last week, the SPI for the income groups of Rs 8001-12,000, 12,001-18,000, 18001-35,000 and above Rs 35,000 increased by 1.01percent, 0.90 percent, 0.77 and 0.54 percent respectively. During the week under review, average prices of 6 items registered a decrease, while that of 16 items increased with the remaining 31 items' prices remaining unchanged.

The items which registered a decrease in their prices during the week under review included:

- Eggs
- Hen (farm)
- Red chilies (powder)
- Garlic
- Potatoes
- Mustard oil and vegetable ghee (loose)

The items which recorded increase in their average prices included:

- Tomatoes
- Wheat
- LPG (11 kg cylinder)
- Wheat flour (bag)
- Onions
- Sugar

- Chicken live (farm)
- Gram pulse (washed)
- Gur
- Rice basmati (broken)
- Bananas
- Firewood
- Moong pulse (washed)
- Rice (irri-6)
- Mash pulse (washed)
- Masoor pulse (washed)

The items with no change in their average prices during the week under review included:

- Bread (plain)
- Beef
- Mutton
- Milk (fresh)
- Curd
- Milk (powdered)
- Cooking oil (tin)
- Vegetable ghee (tin)
- Salt (powdered)
- Tea (packet)
- Cooked beef
- Cooked pulse
- Tea (prepared)
- Cigarettes
- Long cloth
- Shirting, lawn
- Georgette
- Sandal (gents)
- Chappal (gents)
- Sandal (ladies)
- Electric charges
- Gas charges (up to 100 m3)
- Kerosene oil
- Energy savor (14 watts)
- Washing soap
- Match box
- Petrol
- Diesel
- Telephone local call
- Bath soap

Millers Agree To Cut Wheat Flour Price: CM Sindh, Sindh

In a move aimed at curbing flour price hike, the Sindh government decided to provide Rs680 million subsidy on wheat to bring millers round to reduce the ex-mill price of wheat flour across the province. The flour mills across the province agreed to sell wheat flour at the ex-mill rate of Rs33 a kilo after a detailed deliberation on the issue. The chief minister, said the Sindh government would provide Rs680 million subsidy on wheat for a couple of months to ensure availability of wheat flour at a reasonable rate in the province. However, he warned that severe action would be initiated against those found involved in profiteering, hoarding or illegal export of subsidized wheat. Mr Shah said the food department would provide wheat to flour mills on a subsidized rate and ensure that retail price of wheat flour remain Rs34.50 a kilo and the ex-mill price Rs33. He issued directives to the officials concerned that they must ensure availability of wheat flour in the market at the controlled price. He asked the commissioners to constitute special magisterial teams in this regard. He said the teams be tasked with keeping constant vigilance on supply of wheat flour to people on the fixed price and the traders found fleecing consumers be taken to task. Food Secretary Aftab Ahmed Memon informed the meeting that a total stock of 6, 80,239 tons of wheat was available with the food department.

Giving an area-wise position, he said that;

- 73,507 tons of wheat was available in the Karachi
- 95,977 tons in Hyderabad
- 352,123 tons in Sukkur
- 78,097 tons in Mirpurkhas and
- 80,534 tons in the Larkana

He informed the meeting that last month the price of a 100-kilo bag of wheat in the open market was between Rs3,100 and Rs3,150 against the price of Rs2,800 fixed by the government. Currently, he added, the price of a 100-kilo bag of wheat was between Rs3, 160 and Rs3, 480 in open market.

Dawn – January 17, 2013

Utility Store Corporation Further Raises Flour Prices by Rs 40 per Kg Bag: Sindh

An increase of Rs 40 per 10 kilogrammes (kg) flour bag was registered at more than 150 outlets of the Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan (USC) operating in Karachi which went up to the level of Rs 380 per 10 kg bag compared to old rates of Rs 340 for the same weight. But not contented with the previous increase of Rs 40 per 10 kg bag the concerned officials in the garb of increasing rates of wheat in the open market resorted to yet another upward revision in flour rates, which would now be available to buyers at Rs 390 per 10 kg bag.

Daily Times – January 22, 2013
