



**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Ministry of Counter Narcotics**



UNODC
United Nations Office on
Drugs and Crime

December 2010 مطابق جدی ۱۳۸۹ هجری-شمسی

Afghanistan Opium Price Monitoring Monthly Report



**Ministry of Counter Narcotics, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Kabul
And
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Kabul**

Summary

- Opium prices are collected from 15 of 34 provinces. The prices are collected for dry and fresh opium from traders (Trader prices) and farmers (farm gate prices). Heroin and cannabis resin prices also are collected from six province of Afghanistan and hashish price collected from Peshawar, the nearest town in Pakistan. However the prices of heroin and hashish could not be collected from Peshawar for this month.

- Dry opium prices**

Dry Opium	Dec-09	Dec-10	Increase/ Decrease (%)
Farm gate price (US\$/Kg)	83	241	190%
Trader price (US\$/Kg)	90	257	186%

- Fresh opium prices**

Fresh Opium	Dec-09	Dec-10	Increase/ Decrease (%)
Farm gate price (US\$/Kg)	58	223	284%
Trader price (US\$/Kg)	65	223	243%

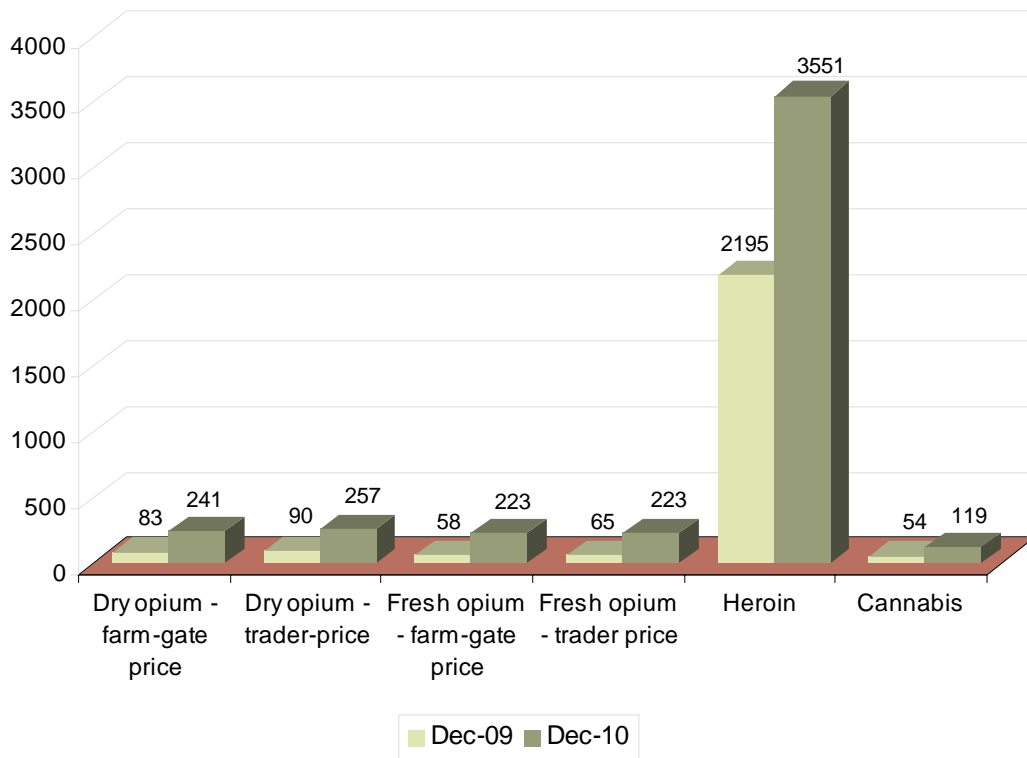
- Heroin and cannabis resin prices in Afghanistan**

Afghanistan	Dec-09	Dec-10	Increase/ Decrease (%)
Heroin (US\$/Kg)	2195	3551	62%
Cannabis (US\$/Kg)	54	119	120%

- Heroin and Hashish prices in Peshawar, Pakistan**

Peshawar, Pakistan	Dec-09	Dec-10	Increase/ Decrease (%)
Heroin (US\$/Kg)	2234	NA	
Hashish (US\$/Kg)	200	NA	

Graph 1: Price change of dry opium, Fresh opium, Heroin and Cannabis between December 2009 and December 2010



DRY OPIUM:

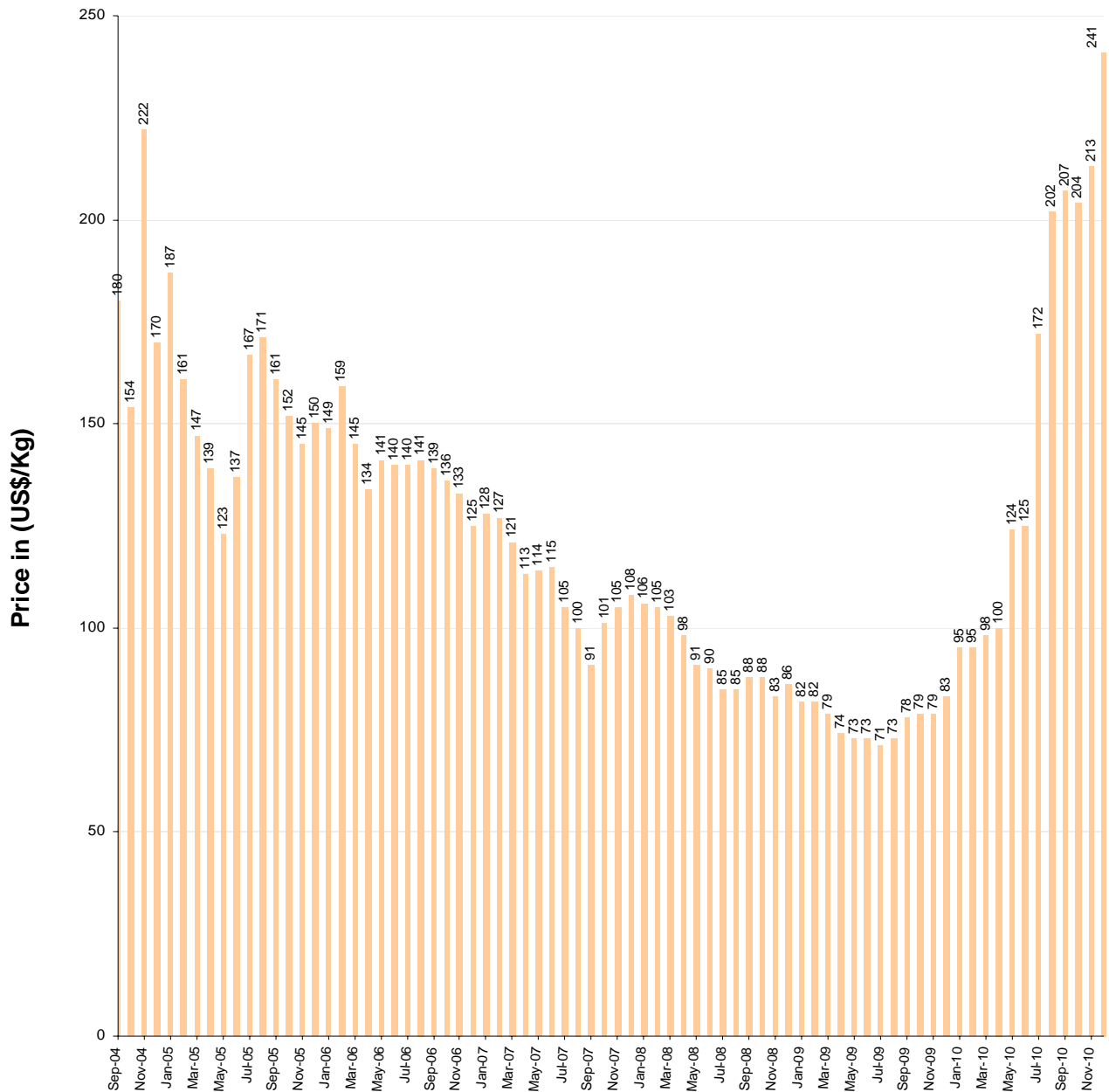
FARM GATE PRICE:

At the end of December 2010, the national average price for one kilogram of dry opium in Afghanistan at the farm gate level was **US\$ 241/kg** with 13% increase compared to price reported in November 2010 (**US\$ 213/kg**). The dry opium price at the farm gate level has increasing trend since July 2009. The farm-gate price has crossed the highest price reported since September 2004 which was in November 2004 (**US\$ 222/kg**).

The further increase in the price of dry opium at the farm-gate level is due to very high demand, low opium production during last year and speculation of further increase in prices of opium in the market.

The average dry opium price is **190%** higher than the price reported in December 2009 which was **US\$ 83/kg**.

Graph 2: ¹ Average price of dry opium from September 2004 to December 2010



TRADER PRICE:

At the end of December 2010, the national average dry opium price collected from traders was **US\$ 257/kg** with **13%** increase compared to the price reported in November 2010 (**US\$ 228/kg**).

The average dry opium price is **186%** higher than the price reported in December 2009 which was **US\$ 90/kg**.

Dry opium price collected from traders has increased by **9%, 33%, 11%, 8%** and **1 %** in Eastern, Southern, Western, North-eastern and Northern regions respectively.

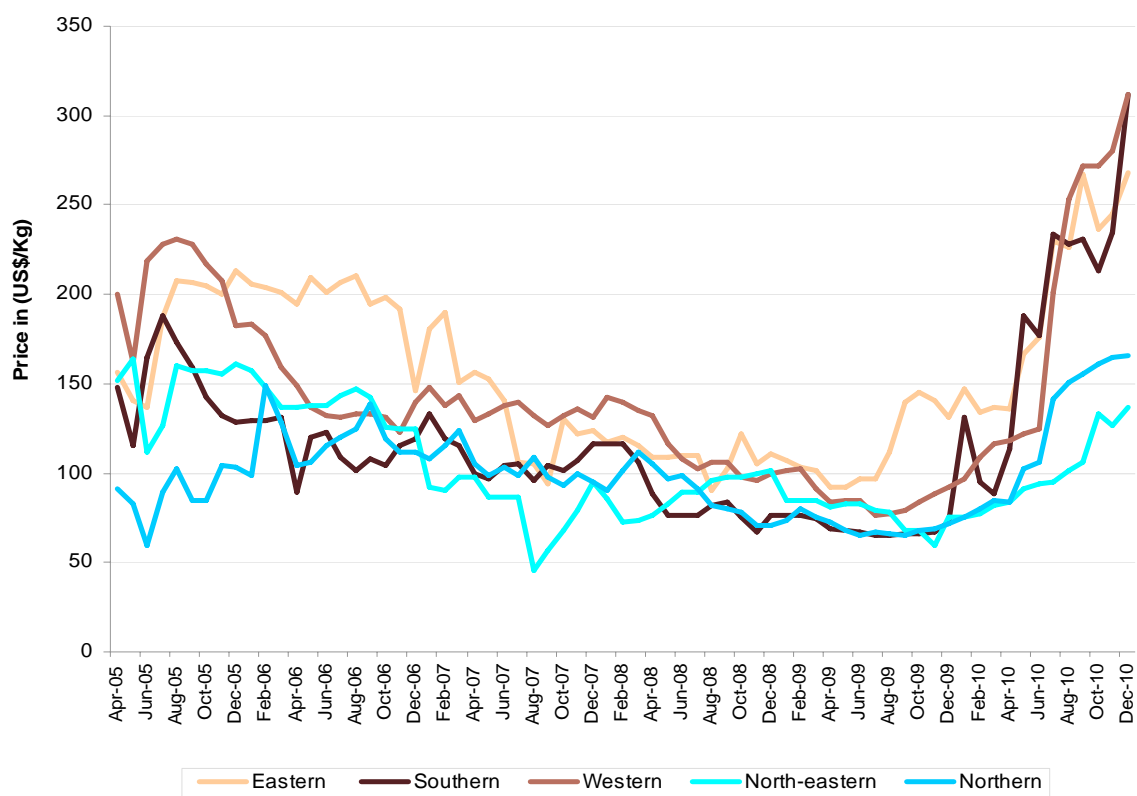
The further increase in the price of dry opium at the farm-gate level is due to very high demand, low opium production during last year and speculation of further increase in prices of opium in the market.

¹ Simple average of all observations

Table 1: Regional average² price of dry opium collected from traders (US\$/Kg)

Region	Price of Dry Opium (USD/Kg)		
	Nov-10	Dec-10	Change
Eastern region (Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar)	245	268	9%
Southern region (Hilmand, Kandahar)	235	312	33%
Western region (Badghis, Farah, Ghor, Hirat, Nimroz)	280	312	11%
North-eastern region (Badakhshan, Takhar)	127	137	8%
Northern region (Balkh, Faryab, Kunduz)	165	166	1%
Average	228	257	13%

Graph 3: Regional average² price of dry opium from traders (January 2005 to December 2010)



² Simple average of all observations

Graph 4: Provincial ³average price of dry opium collected from traders, US\$/Kg (Jan 2010 - December 2010)

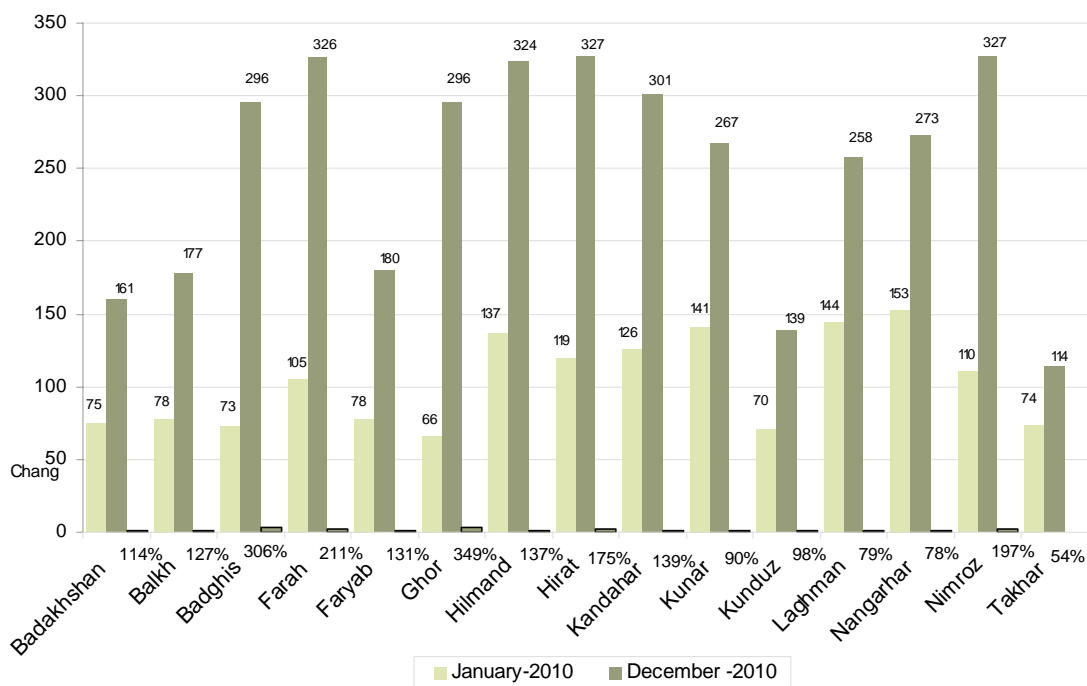


Table 2: Price of Afghanistan dry opium in Peshawar, Pakistan (US\$/Kg):

	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Dry Opium	153	139	198	207	213	326	233	291	289	350	NA	364	NA

The price of Afghanistan dry opium in Peshawar could not be collected this month.

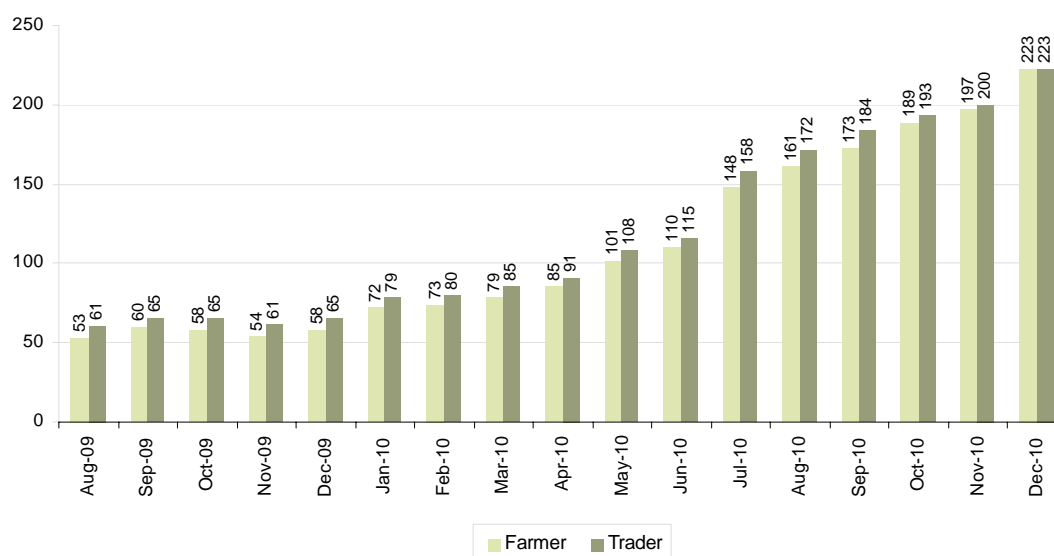
³ Simple average of all observations

FRESH OPIUM:

At the end of December 2010, the national average price of fresh opium was **US\$ 223/kg** at farm gate level and at trader level with **13%** and **12%** increase respectively compared to the prices reported last month (**US\$ 197/kg** and **US\$ 200/kg**) respectively. Fresh opium has increasing trend since November 2009.

After the harvest season there is no fresh opium available, but farmers keep their fresh opium in plastic bags or dishes covered with leaves in order to preserve moisture. This opium is referred as fresh opium.

Graph: 5 National ⁴average price of fresh opium price, US\$/kg (August 2009 to December 2010)



HEROIN:

MCN (Ministry of Counter Narcotics) and UNODC regional offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan reported the prices for Heroin as below (prices of best quality considered).

Table 3: Heroin Price in Afghanistan and Pakistan (US\$/Kg)

Afghanistan	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Badakhshan	2539	2633	2610	2595	2664	2736	2743	2715	2816	2813	2983	2979	3300
Balkh	2800	3000	3100	3150	3300	3900	4000	4169	4322	4540	4541	4539	4490
Hirat	1509	1514	1539	1535	1505	1602	1650	1905	2115	2184	2083	2121	2150
Nangarhar	1769	1847	2510	2541	2186	2517	2955	3194	3278	3456	4050	4070	4334
Kandahar	2320	2640	3200	2990	2280	2310	2350	3023	3020	3700	3650	3680	4170
Takhar	2234	2317	2296	2226	2326	2586	2592	2602	2707	2658	2761	2759	2860
Average	2195	2325	2543	2506	2377	2609	2715	2935	3043	3225	3345	3358	3551

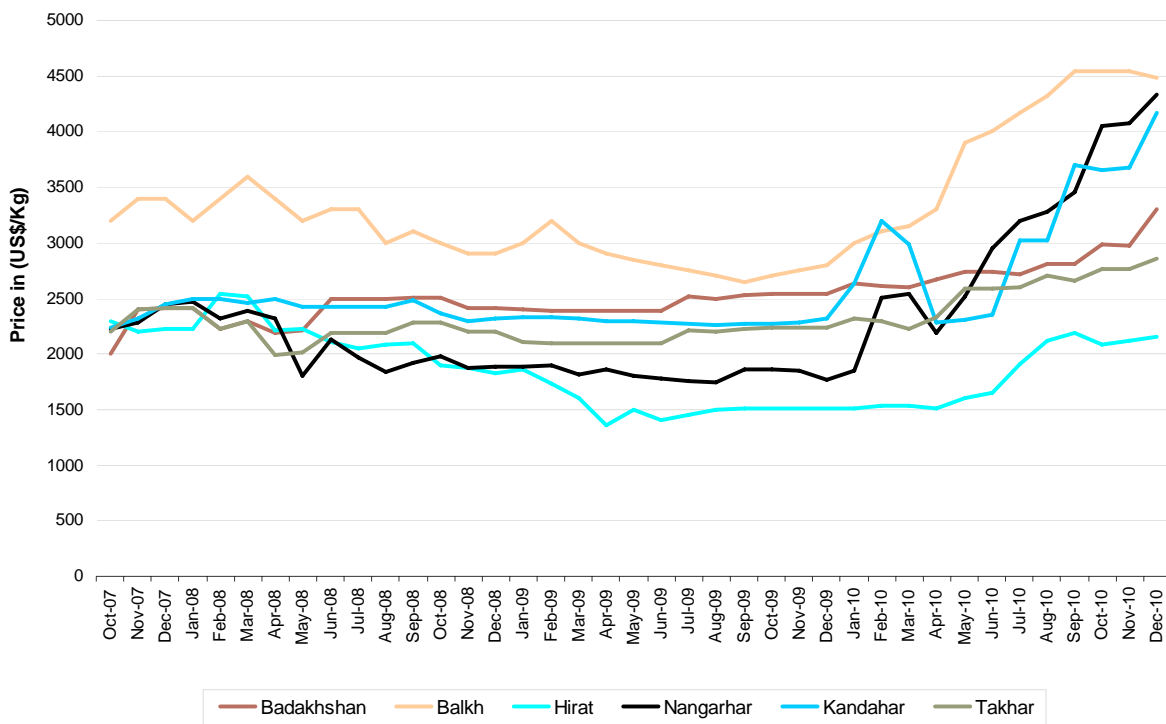
Heroin price has increasing trend since April 2010 in Afghanistan.

Pakistan	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Peshawar	2234	2251	2568	2364	2479	2909	2909	3255	4276	4437	NA	4226	NA

Heroin price could not be collected in Peshawar this month.

⁴ Simple average of all observations

Graph: 6 Monthly whole sale price of best quality of heroin, US\$/kg (October 2007 to December 2010)



CANNABIS RESIN:

MCN (Ministry of Counter Narcotics) and UNODC regional offices in Afghanistan and Pakistan reported the prices for cannabis resin and hashish respectively as below (prices of best quality considered).

Table 4: Cannabis resin price in Afghanistan (US\$/Kg)

Afghanistan	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Badakhshan	65	67	67	71	72	78	86	96	109	133	155	177	176
Balkh	75	105	94	72	148	172	183	182	192	206	210	199	142
Hirat	50	50	60	59	58	58	58	57	63	63	60	64	64
Nangarhar	59	49	58	59	84	98	99	124	123	149	116	100	82
Kandahar	28	27	32	40	45	50	55	53	68	90	103	107	115
Takhar	47	48	48	54	56	58	65	69	98	111	110	132	132
Average	54	58	60	59	77	86	91	97	109	125	126	130	119

The decrease in the price of cannabis in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces is due to the harvest season of cannabis and availability of more cannabis in the market.

Graph 7: ⁵ Average price of cannabis resin, US\$/Kg (October 2007 to December 2010)

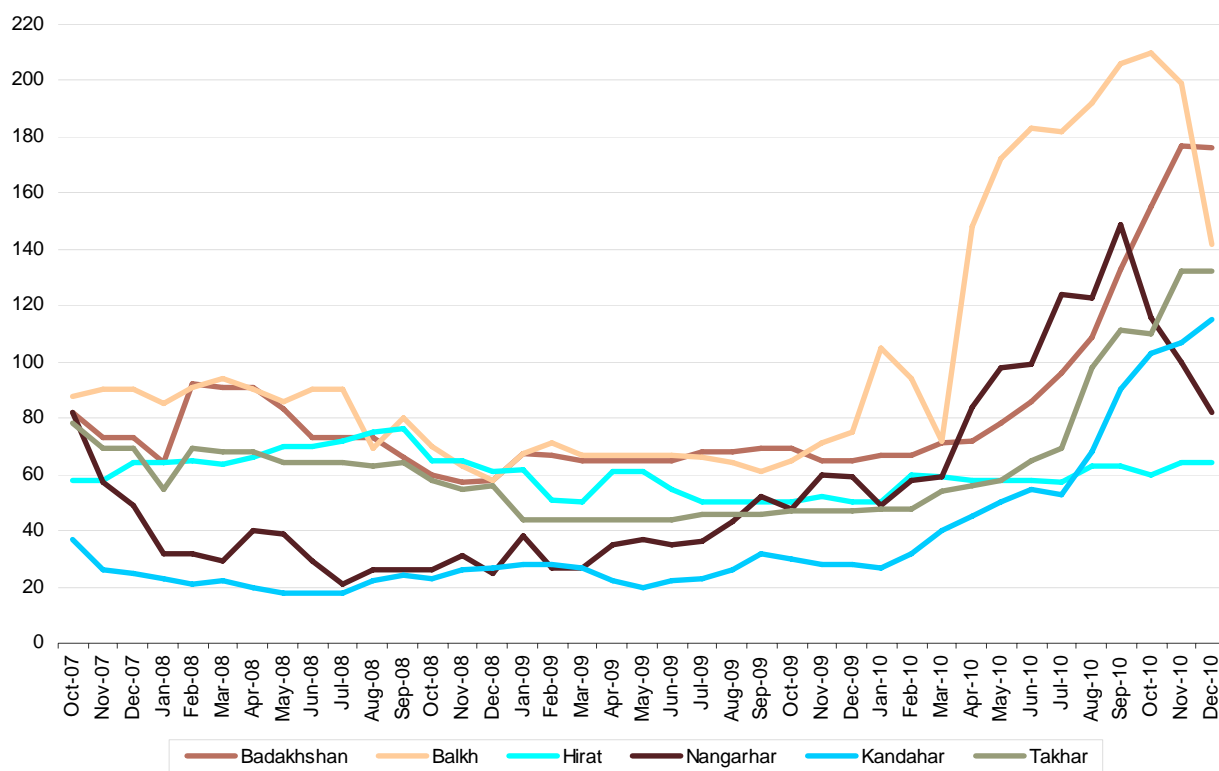


Table 5: Hashish price in Peshawar, Pakistan (US\$/Kg)

Pakistan	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10	Apr-10	May-10	Jun-10	Jul-10	Aug-10	Sep-10	Oct-10	Nov-10	Dec-10
Peshawar	200	254	374	473	531	582	582	523	624	677	NA	681	NA

The price of hashish in Peshawar could not be collected this month.

Table 6: Number of observations of dry and fresh opium prices

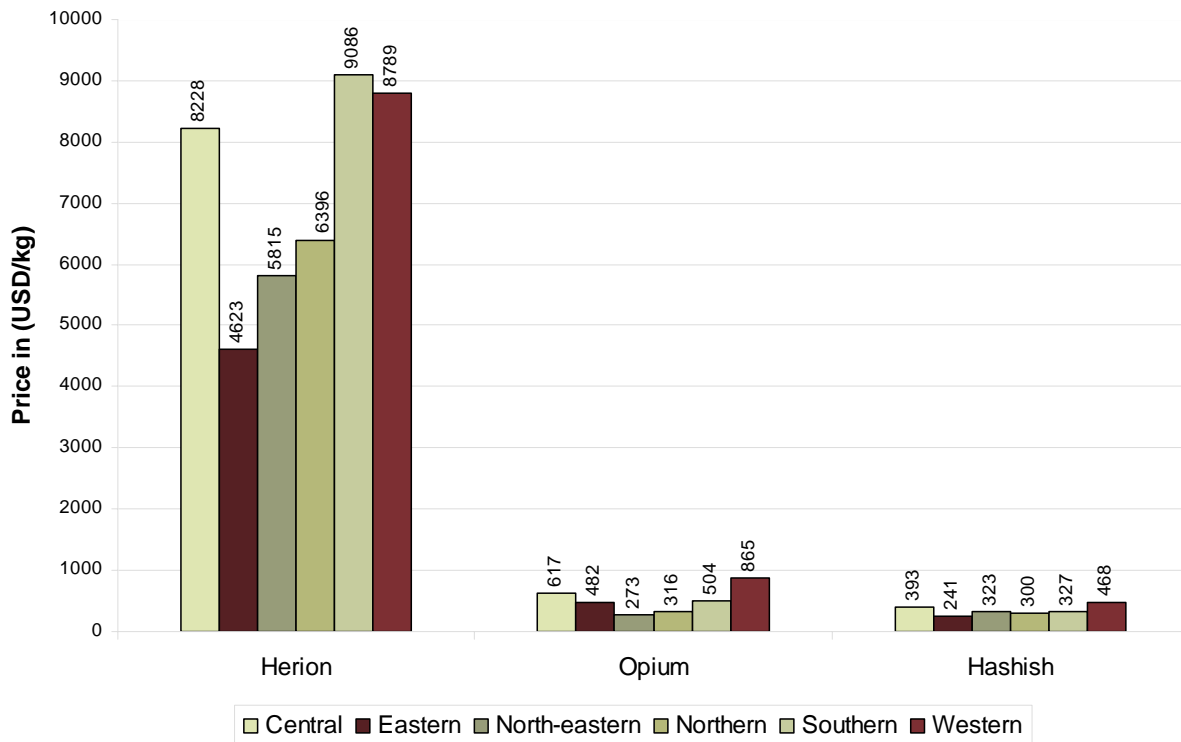
	Number of observations (n)		Number of provinces price collected
	Farm-gate price	Trader price	
Dry Opium	199	187	15
Fresh Opium	120	132	9

⁵ Simple average of all observations

Consumer price:

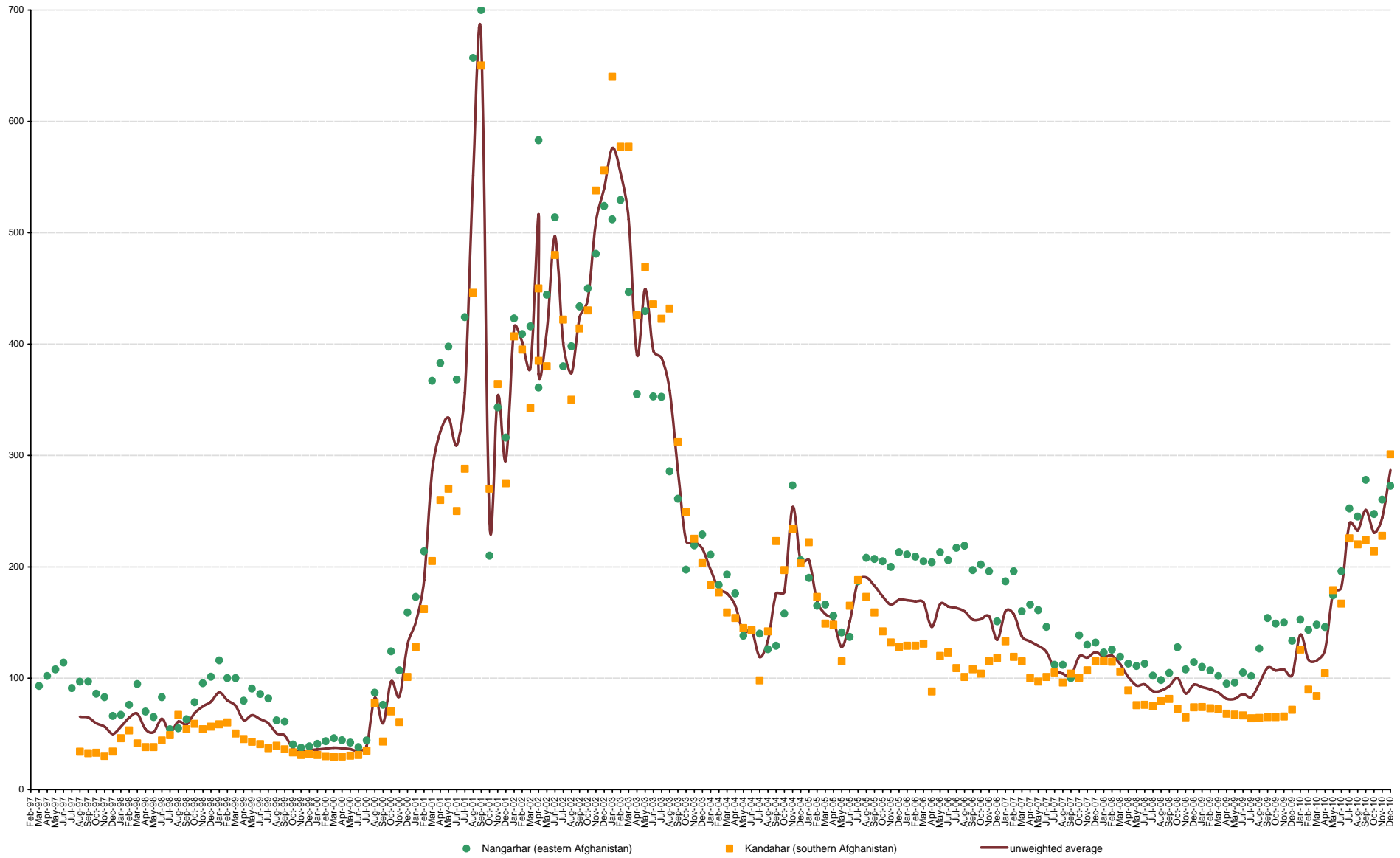
The consumer prices of heroin, opium and hashish collected from different regions of Afghanistan are as below. The quality of product varies in different regions.

Graph 6: Regional consumer price of Heroin, Opium and Hashish in US\$/Kg



Graph 7:

Average price of dry opium in Nangarhar and Kandahar provinces collected from traders (US\$/kg), March 1997 - December 2010



Regional grouping of provinces for the opium poppy survey in Afghanistan



Source: Government of Afghanistan - National monitoring system implemented by UNODC

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.