



January 2025

CRISIL's monthly food plate cost tracker

The average cost of preparing a thali at home is calculated based on input prices prevailing in north, south, east and west India. The monthly change reflects the impact on the common man's expenditure. The data also reveals the ingredients (cereals, pulses, broilers, vegetables, spices, edible oil and cooking gas) driving the change in the cost of the thali.

Broiler on the boil

- The rise in vegetarian thali cost was driven by an increase in tomato and potato prices, which collectively account for ~24% of the cost of a thali
 - Tomato price rose 24% to Rs 47/kg in Dec'24 from Rs 38/kg in Dec'23
 - Potato price surged 50% on a low base last year to Rs 36/kg in Dec'24 from Rs 24/kg in Dec'23 due to an estimated 6% on-year decline in production
 - Adding to the cost was a 16% on-year jump in vegetable oil prices due to import-duty hike, coupled with higher demand during the festive and wedding seasons
- However, an 11% on-year drop in LPG fuel cost (to Rs 803 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder in Delhi from Rs 903 last year) provided a partial offset
- The increase in non-vegetarian thali cost was driven by an estimated 20% on-year rise in the price of broiler, which accounts for ~50% of a non-vegetarian thali cost. The sharp surge in broiler prices is attributable to a low base of last year, when production was high.

On-month, the cost of a vegetarian thali declined 3% in Dec'24, while the cost of a non-vegetarian thali is estimated to have increased at a similar pace:

- Tomato prices fell 12% on-month, helped by fresh supplies from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat
- A 2% and 12% on-month drop in potato and onion prices, respectively, further supported the price decline
- The cost of non-vegetarian thali grew at a faster pace due to an estimated 11% on-month increase in broiler prices on a dip in production triggered by a cold wave in the north. This, coupled with a rise in festive- and wedding-season demand, along with an elevated feed cost, exacerbated the woes.

Higher input costs drove up thali prices in December; non-veg thali twice as fast as veg



Note: A veg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato and potato), rice, dal, curd and salad. A non-veg thali has the same elements except for dal, which is replaced by chicken (broiler); broiler prices for December are estimated figures; weightage of ingredients does not vary based on volatility in commodity prices



Analytical contacts

Pushan Sharma

Director
Research
CRISIL Market Intelligence
and Analytics
pushan.sharma@crisil.com

Priyanka Uday

Associate Director
Research
CRISIL Market Intelligence
and Analytics
priyanka.uday@crisil.com

Drishti Parmar

Analyst
Research
CRISIL Market Intelligence
and Analytics
drishti.parmar@crisil.com

Media contacts

Ramkumar Uppara

Media Relations
CRISIL Limited
M: +91 98201 77907
ramkumar.uppara@crisil.com

Roma Gurnani

Media Relations
CRISIL Limited
M: +91 70662 92142
roma.gurnani@ext-crisil.com

Sanjay Lawrence

Media Relations
CRISIL Limited
M: +91 89833 21061
sanjay.lawrence@crisil.com

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