Tomato relents a tad

- In August, the cost of a household thali declined marginally on-month on a high base and was elevated on-year for the second time this fiscal, primarily because of firm tomato prices.
- The cost of a vegetarian thali rose 24% and a non-vegetarian thali 13% on-year in the month.
  - Of the 24% rise in the vegetarian thali cost, 21% can be attributed solely to the price of tomato, which rose 176% on-year to Rs 102/kg in the month vs Rs 37/kg a year ago.
  - The prices of onion rose 8%, chili 20% and cumin 158% on-year, accounting for ~1% increase in the cost of vegetarian thali.
  - For non-vegetarian thali, the cost increase was slower as the price of broilers, which form more than 50% of the cost, is estimated to have risen a moderate 1-3% on-year.
  - A 17% on-year decline in the price of vegetable oil and 14% in potato cushioned the cost of both the thalis to some extent.
- The costs could see some pull back in September as tomato retail price has halved on-month to Rs 51/kg. Also, the cost of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder, which was Rs 1,103 in August has been brought down to Rs 903 per cylinder from September. This will also come as a relief for consumers.

Cost of veg and non-veg thalis up 24% and 13%, respectively, on-year in Aug; rise softens to 10% and 6% in the last week due to a sharp decline in tomato price.

Note: Numbers indicate cost per thali. A veg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato, and potato), rice, dal, curd, and salad. For non-veg thali, the constituents remain same but for dal, which is replaced by chicken; broiler price for August 2023 is estimated (E)

Elevated tomato prices
Elevated broiler prices
Softening of onion, tomato, and oil prices
Elevated wheat and palm oil prices
Softening of onion, tomato and oil prices
Elevated tomato prices
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