Both veg and non-veg thalis prepared at home get a second helping in October as potato, tomato and broiler prices drop

- The cost of a representative, home-cooked vegetarian and non-vegetarian thali dipped 5% and 7% on-year, respectively, in October 2023, CRISIL M&A Research estimates show
- The dip was due to a significant 21% and 38% on-year decline in the prices of potato and tomato, respectively, in the month
- The cost of non-veg thali declined faster as the price of broiler (~50% share in the thali cost) softened an estimated 5-7% on-year on a high base
- The cost of fuel, which accounts for ~14% and ~8% of the total cost of the veg and non-veg thali, respectively, declined ~14% on-year as the price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder fell from Rs 1,053 to Rs 903
- Further decline in thali prices was capped by a rise in onion prices in the second half of the month to Rs 40/kg on average from Rs 34/kg in the first half, trading 25% higher on-year in the second half owing to a lower kharif output estimated in 2023
- Thali prices are expected to inch up in November if higher prices of onion — which accounts for ~10% of the total cost of a veg thali — persist
- Price of pulses, accounting for 9% share in the total cost of a veg thali, increased 19% on-year. This too kept the thali cost from falling further

Note: Numbers indicate cost per thali. A veg thali comprises roti, vegetables (onion, tomato, and potato), rice, dal, curd, and salad. The non-veg thali has the same elements as the veg thali, except that dal is replaced by chicken (broiler); broiler prices for October 2023 are estimated.
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