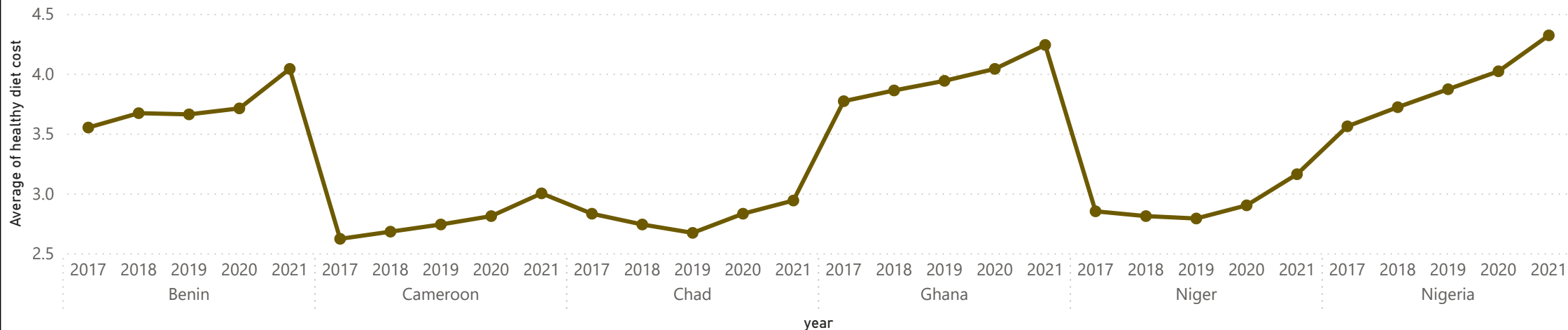


The Impact of Food Prices on Health - Nigeria and its Neighboring Countries

Countries

- Benin
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Ghana
- Niger
- Nigeria

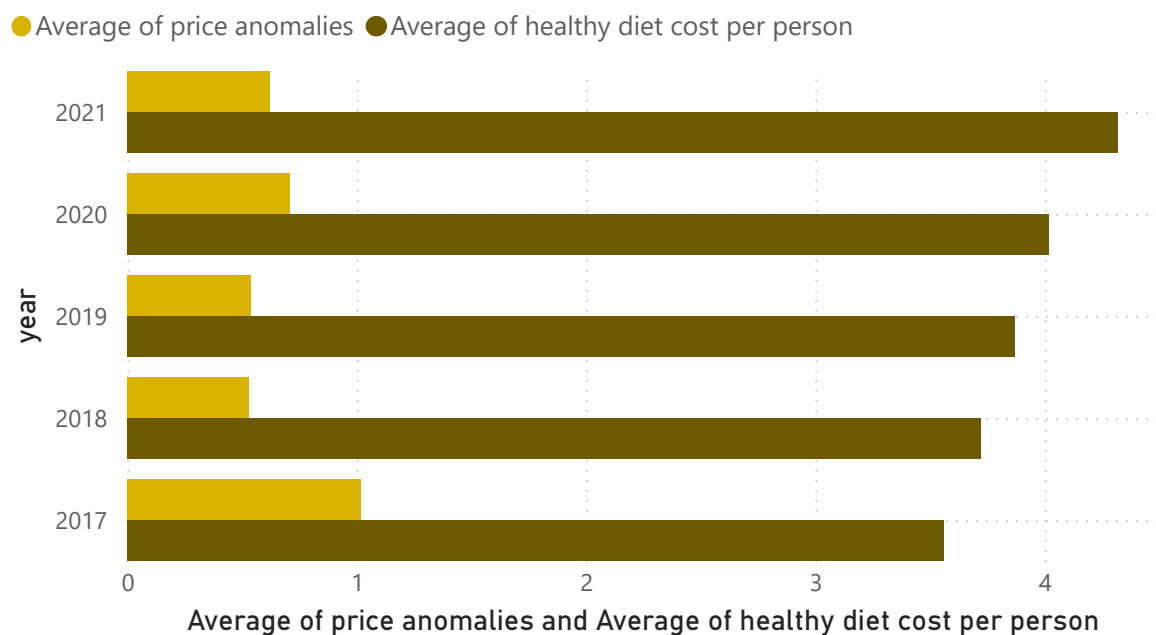
Daily cost of a healthy diet over time (USD)



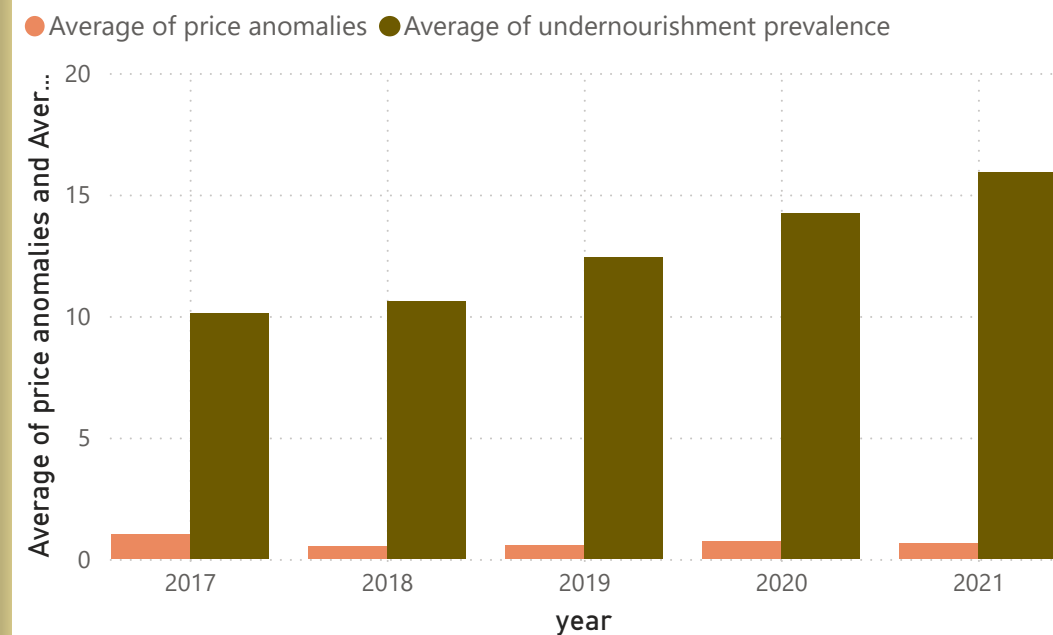
Countries

- Benin
- Cameroon
- Ghana
- Niger
- Nigeria

Food price anomalies by healthy diet cost

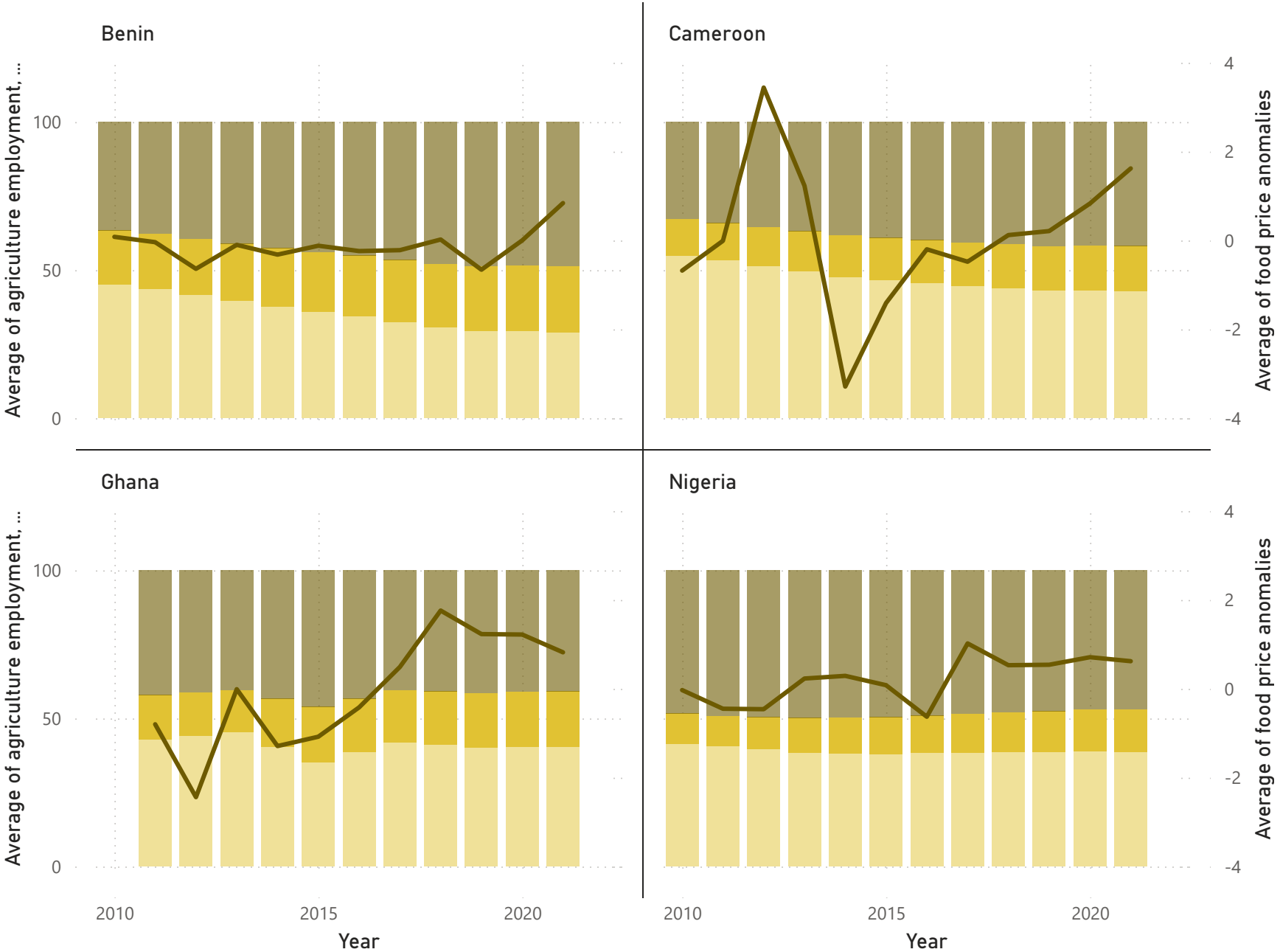


Food price anomalies by undernourishment prevalence



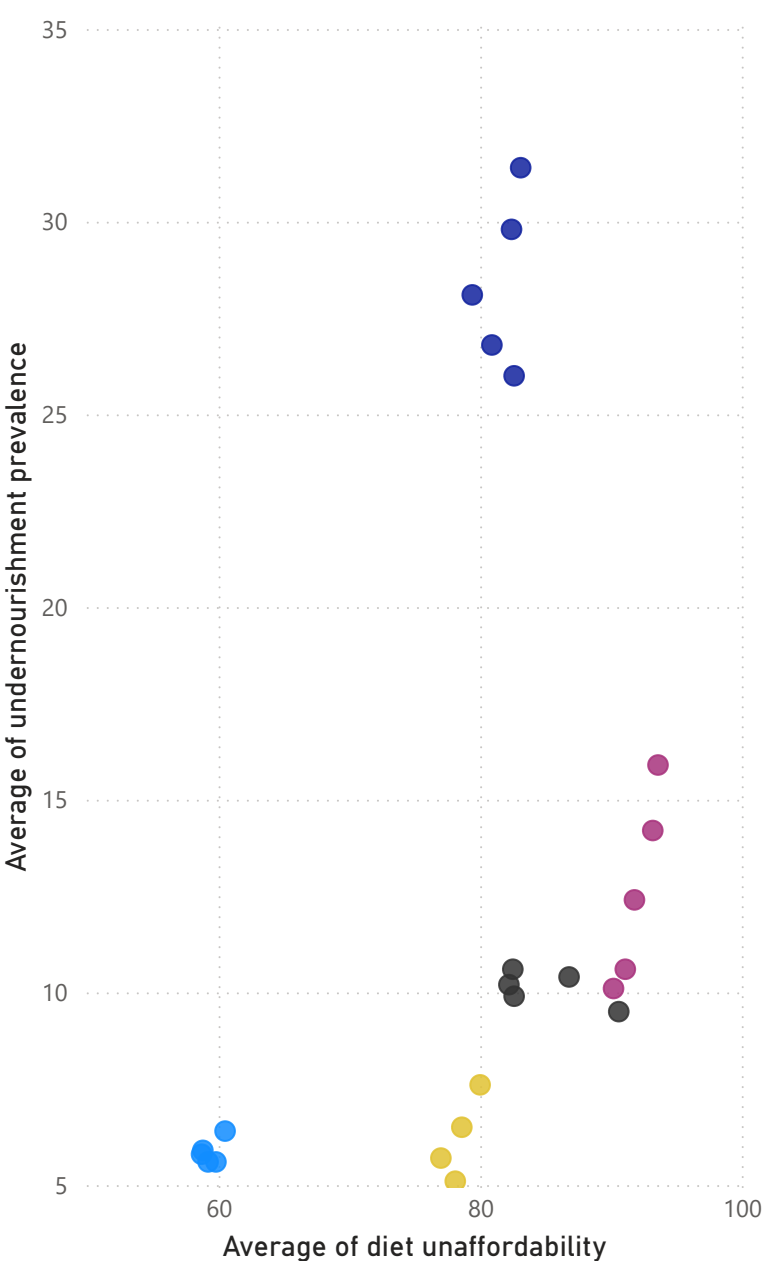
Employment sectors by food price anomalies (2010 - 2021)

Average of agriculture employment Average of industrial employment Average of services employment Average of food price anomalies



Diet unaffordability by undernourishment prevalence

entity Benin Cameroon Chad Ghana Nigeria



OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS

1. The average affordability cost for Nigeria rises consistently over the years, starting from 3.56 in 2017 to 4.32 in 2021. This trend indicates a steady increase in the cost of a healthy diet. This problem may be due to factors like inflation, food price volatility, and economic conditions that drive up costs. The government of Nigeria should adopt people-friendly policies to reduce the cost of healthy diets.
2. By 2021, Nigeria and Ghana have the highest healthy diet costs among the listed countries, followed by Benin, while Chad, Cameroon, and Niger maintain more affordable diet costs.
3. For Nigeria and its neighbors, the cost of a healthy diet tends to increase over time regardless of fluctuations in food price anomalies. This means that other underlying factors, such as inflation or structural issues in the food system, may have a stronger impact on the rising costs of healthy diets than short-term price anomalies.
4. In Nigeria, the percentage of employment in agriculture decreased slightly over the years, from 41.35% in 2010 to 38.55% in 2021. Food price anomalies (IFPA) also showed fluctuations, with higher positive anomalies in recent years (1.02 in 2017, 0.71 in 2020). Agricultural workers may face financial instability, if prices fluctuate unpredictably.
5. Higher food price anomalies (2017 at 1.02 and 2020 at 0.71) occurred during years when industry employment was growing but not exceptionally high. Despite fluctuations in food prices, industry employment continued to grow steadily. This implies that food price anomalies in Nigeria may not have direct impact on the industry employment percentage.
6. Similar to industry, the service sector's employment percentage did not show a direct correlation with food price anomalies.
7. In Nigeria, undernourishment prevalence rose from 10.1% in 2017 to 15.9% in 2021. Since undernourishment prevalence increased even in years when price anomalies were not at their peak, it indicates that there are other drivers of undernourishment beyond price anomalies alone. So, the government should improve food aid and their policies to mitigate the impact of price anomalies on undernourishment.
8. There is a possible relationship between rising price anomalies and undernourishment in some countries like Niger and Cameroon.