

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

The overall year on year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 9.2 per cent, in February 2023. As presented in Tables 1 and 2, the rise in inflation was largely due to increase in prices of commodities under food and non-alcoholic beverages (13.3%); housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (7.6%); and transport (12.9%) between February 2022 and February 2023. These three divisions account for over 57 per cent of the weights of the 13 broad categories. Prices of commodities under furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance recorded an increase of 8.8 per cent over the period.

The CPI increased by 0.6 per cent from an index of 129.29 in January 2023 to 130.13 in February 2023. The month-to-month Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 1.2 per cent between January 2023 and February 2023.

Table 1: Overall CPI and Rates of Inflation

Month	Overall CPI	Base Feb 2019=100
		Inflation Rate
February 2022	119.13	5.1
March 2022	120.14	5.6
April 2022	122.17	6.5
May 2022	123.12	7.1
June 2022	124.22	7.9
July 2022	125.05	8.3
August 2022	125.58	8.5
September 2022	126.73	9.2
October 2022	127.86	9.6
November 2022	128.31	9.5
December 2022	128.99	9.1
January 2023	129.29	9.0
February 2023	130.13	9.2

Table 2: One and Twelve-Month Changes in the Consumer Price Indices

	Weight %	% Change on last month (February 2023/ January 2023)	% Change on same month of the previous year (February 2023/ February 2022)
13 COICOP Divisions			
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.9094	1.2	13.3
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.3289	0.7	8.5
Clothing and Footwear	2.9914	0.1	3.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.6124	0.4	7.6
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.7372	0.3	8.8
Health	2.9116	0.1	2.2
Transport	9.6468	0.0	12.9
Information and Communication	7.7840	0.1	1.2
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.7219	0.7	6.2
Education Services	5.5620	0.5	2.5
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.0991	0.3	6.7
Insurance and Financial Services	2.2423	0.0	1.3
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.4532	0.6	7.8
Total	100.00	0.6	9.2

Prices of most vegetables increased in February 2023 relative to January 2023. As shown in Table 3, the prices for cabbages and carrots each increased by 11.3 per cent. In addition, prices of kale-*Sukuma wiki* and tomatoes increased by 11.0 and 7.8 per cent, respectively. During the same period, prices of mangoes, sugar and fortified maize flour dropped by 4.8, 3.2 and 2.5 per cent, respectively.

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price February 2022	Average Price January 2023	Average Price February 2023	% Change over last month February 2023/ January 2023	% Change over last year February 2023/ February 2022
Cabbages	1	Kilogramme	49.82	53.78	59.86	11.3	20.2
Carrots	1	Kilogramme	83.08	85.43	95.07	11.3	14.4
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1	Kilogramme	60.10	60.25	66.86	11.0	11.2
Tomatoes	1	Kilogramme	103.39	105.25	113.47	7.8	9.7
Oranges	1	Kilogramme	73.11	75.06	77.14	2.8	5.5
Fresh unpacketed cow milk / Fresh Cream	1	Litre	60.84	71.27	72.71	2.0	19.5
Wheat Flour-White	2	Kilogramme	144.95	192.10	187.51	(2.4)	29.4
Fortified Maize flour	2	Kilogramme	148.14	184.59	179.98	(2.5)	21.5
Sugar	1	Kilogramme	131.25	158.66	153.62	(3.2)	17.0
Mangoes	1	Kilogramme	105.92	115.83	110.27	(4.8)	4.1
Gas/LPG	13	Kilogramme	2,659.70	2,961.93	3,101.94	4.7	16.6
House rent - single room	1	Per Month	3,802.51	3,908.15	3,920.64	0.3	3.1
Kerosene/Paraffin	1	Litre	108.46	146.86	146.86	-	35.4
Electricity	200	Kilowatts	4,373.12	5,278.44	5,125.84	(2.9)	17.2
Electricity	50	Kilowatts	796.83	1,023.16	985.01	(3.7)	23.6
Petrol	1	Litre	130.54	178.05	178.05	-	36.4
Diesel	1	Litre	111.51	162.91	162.91	-	46.1

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 0.4 per cent between January 2023 and February 2023. This was mainly due to increase in prices of gas/LPG which rose up by 4.7 per cent between January 2023 and February 2023. Notable, the prices of electricity decreased during the period under review.

The Transport Index remained the same between January 2023 and February 2023. Further, just as observed in recent periods, the prices of diesel and petrol remained unchanged in February 2023.



**Macdonald G. Obudho, MBS
DIRECTOR GENERAL**