

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR OCTOBER 2021

The overall year on year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 6.45 per cent, in October 2021. This was mainly driven by increase in prices of commodities under: food and non-alcoholic beverages (10.60 per cent); transport (8.15 per cent); and housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (5.80 per cent) between October 2020 and October 2021, as presented in Tables 1 and 2.

The CPI increased by 0.51 per cent to 116.674 in October 2021. The month-to-month Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks' Index increased by 1.11 per cent between September 2021 and October 2021. This was mainly attributed to increase in the price of some food items, which outweighed the decrease in others.

Table 1: Overall CPI and Rate of Inflation

Base Feb 2019=100

Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
October 2020	109.604	4.84
November 2020	110.779	5.33
December 2020	111.866	5.62
January 2021	112.576	5.69
February 2021	113.365	5.78
March 2021	113.814	5.90
April 2021	114.746	5.76
May 2021	114.977	5.87
June 2021	115.110	6.32
July 2021	115.446	6.55
August 2021	115.710	6.57
September 2021	116.077	6.91
October 2021	116.674	6.45

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

	Weight %	% Change on last month October 2021/ September 2021	% Change on same month of the previous year October 2021 /October 2020
13 COICOP Divisions			
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.91	1.11	10.60
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.33	0.27	3.27
Clothing and Footwear	2.99	0.14	2.45
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.61	0.67	5.80
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.74	0.30	3.95
Health	2.91	0.07	2.32
Transport	9.65	-0.35	8.15
Information and Communication	7.78	0.13	2.91
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.72	0.13	1.23
Education Services	5.56	0.00	1.86
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.10	0.12	1.56
Insurance and Financial Services	2.24	0.03	1.03
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.45	0.06	3.10
Total	100.00	0.51	6.45

As shown in Table 3, relative to September 2021, prices of tomatoes, oranges and sugar increased by 3.53, 3.12 and 2.50 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, prices of spinach, beans and potatoes decreased by 2.73, 0.45 and 0.36 per cent, respectively. Overall, food prices in October 2021 were relatively higher compared with foods prices recorded in October 2020.

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price October 2020	Average Price September 2021	Average Price October 2021	% Change over last month September 2021/ October 2021	% Change over last Year October 2021/ October 2020
Maize Flour - Sifted	2	Kg	116.68	115.91	117.52	1.40	0.72
Beef - With Bones	1	Kg	438.85	481.45	485.15	0.77	10.55
Oranges	1	Kg	64.93	67.54	69.65	3.12	7.27
Spinach	1	Kg	54.04	65.49	63.70	-2.73	17.89
Tomatoes	1	Kg	85.32	99.50	103.01	3.53	20.74
Onion -Leeks and Bulbs	1	Kg	103.81	112.49	114.39	1.68	10.19
Potatoes (Irish)	1	Kg	64.60	68.70	68.45	-0.36	5.96
Beans	1	Kg	124.92	130.15	129.56	-0.45	3.72
Sugar	1	Kg	112.47	110.93	113.70	2.50	1.09
Actual monthly house rent - single room	1	Per Month	3,628.45	3,739.70	3,749.47	0.26	3.34
Electricity	200	Kilowatts	4,751.22	5,019.41	5,103.91	1.68	7.42
Electricity	50	Kilowatts	836.90	903.95	925.08	2.34	10.54
Gas/LPG	13	Kg	2,019.14	2,445.23	2,513.74	2.80	24.50
Kerosene/Paraffin	1	Litre	84.16	111.74	104.46	-6.51	24.12
Petrol	1	Litre	108.13	135.54	130.54	-3.69	20.72
Diesel	1	Litre	93.85	116.51	111.51	-4.29	18.82

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 0.67 per cent between September 2021 and October 2021. This was mainly attributed to increase in prices of cooking gas (LPG), electricity and house rent as indicated in Table 3. During the same period, prices of kerosene/paraffin decreased by 6.51 per cent.

The Transport Index decreased by 0.35 per cent mainly due to a drop in the price of petrol and diesel, which went down by 3.69 per cent and 4.29 per cent, respectively between September and October 2021 as presented in Table 3.



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