

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MAY 2023

The overall year on year inflation rate as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 8.0 per cent, in May 2023. As presented in Tables 1 and 2, the increase in inflation was largely due to increase in prices of commodities under Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages (10.2%); and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels (9.7%); and Transport (10.1%) between May 2022 and May 2023. These three divisions account for over 57 per cent of the weights of the 13 broad categories. Prices of commodities under Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services recorded an increase of 8.1 per cent over the period.

The CPI increased by 0.9 per cent from an index of 131.83 in April 2023 to 133.01 in May 2023. The month-to-month Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 1.4 per cent between April 2023 and May 2023.

Table 1: Overall CPI and Rates of Inflation

Base Feb 2019=100		
Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
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
March 2023	131.18	9.2
April 2023	131.83	7.9
May 2023	133.01	8.0

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

	Weight %	% Change on last month (May 2023/ April 2023)	% Change on same month of the previous year (May 2023/ May 2022)
13 COICOP Divisions			
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.9094	1.4	10.2
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.3289	0.9	9.9
Clothing and Footwear	2.9914	0.2	2.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.6124	0.7	9.7
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.7372	0.4	6.1
Health	2.9116	0.2	2.3
Transport	9.6468	1.2	10.1
Information and Communication	7.7840	0.0	1.2
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.7219	0.3	5.3
Education Services	5.5620	0.0	2.2
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.0991	0.5	6.1
Insurance and Financial Services	2.2423	0.0	1.4
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.4532	1.1	8.1
Total	100.0000	0.9	8.0

As shown in Table 3, the prices for sugar, carrots, onions (leeks and bulbs) and beans increased by 22.1, 6.3, 5.1 and 3.6 per cent, respectively between April 2023 and May 2023. During the same period, however, prices of kales (sukuma wiki), cabbages and avocado declined by 7.4, 5.7 and 4.4 per cent, respectively.

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price May 2022	Average Price April 2023	Average Price May 2023	% Change over last month May 2023/ April 2023	% Change over last year May 2023/ May 2022
Sugar	1	Kg	130.27	159.10	194.29	22.1	49.2
Carrots	1	Kg	88.98	104.70	111.28	6.3	25.1
Onion -Leeks and Bulbs	1	Kg	142.17	123.65	129.99	5.1	(8.6)
Beans	1	Kg	135.63	182.33	188.88	3.6	39.3
Maize Grain - Loose	1	Kg	62.45	78.87	81.61	3.5	30.7
Aromatic Unbroken Rice (Pishori/Basmati e.t.c)	2	Kg	466.78	552.66	548.25	(0.8)	17.5
Wheat Flour-White	2	Kg	165.89	185.49	189.78	2.3	14.4
Potatoes (Irish)	1	Kg	89.14	106.18	107.98	1.7	21.1
Beef - With Bones	1	Kg	513.07	542.28	551.30	1.7	7.5
Tomatoes	1	Kg	112.35	107.82	104.98	(2.6)	(6.6)
Avocado	1	Kg	74.27	84.39	80.67	(4.4)	8.6
Cabbages	1	Kg	51.44	62.16	58.59	(5.7)	13.9
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1	Kg	60.39	63.36	58.66	(7.4)	(2.9)
Kerosene/Paraffin	1	Litre	119.86	146.86	161.83	10.2	35.0
House rent - Single room	1	Per Month	3,823.63	3,927.62	3,948.68	0.5	3.3
Electricity	200	Kilowatts	4,373.12	6,349.80	6,436.28	1.4	47.2
Electricity	50	Kilowatts	796.83	1304.915	1326.535	1.7	66.5
Gas/LPG	13	Kg	3,176.88	3,135.39	3,125.40	(0.3)	(1.6)
Diesel	1	Litre	131.91	162.91	169.10	3.8	28.2
Petrol	1	Litre	150.94	180.05	183.29	1.8	21.4

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 0.7 per cent between April 2023 and May 2023. This was mainly due to increase in prices of kerosene by 10.2 per cent between April 2023 and May 2023. During the same period, however, the prices of gas/LPG declined by 0.3 per cent.

The Transport Index went up by 1.2 per cent between April 2023 and May 2023. This was mainly due to increase in prices of diesel and petrol by 3.8 per cent and 1.8 per cent, respectively.



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