KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MARCH 2019

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases monthly Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and rates of inflation, for March, 2019. These numbers were generated from a survey of retail prices that targeted a basket of household consumption goods and services. The exercise was conducted during the second and third weeks of the month, with prices being obtained from selected retail outlets in 25 data collection zones in Nairobi and in 13 other urban centers.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the CPI increased by 1.60 per cent from 195.78 in February 2019 to 198.91 in March 2019. The overall year on year inflation in March 2019 stood at 4.35 per cent.

Table 1: One Month and Twelve Months' Changes in the Price Indices

Broad Commodity Group	Weight	% Change on last month (Mar19 /Feb19)	% Change on same month of previous year (Mar19 /Mar18)
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	3.30	2.84
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	2.06	0.60	7.71
Clothing and Footwear	7.43	0.11	2.37
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.30	-0.06	8.19
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.14	2.95
Health	3.13	0.03	4.51
Transport	8.66	0.42	10.08
Communication	3.82	0.00	4.52
Recreation and Culture	2.25	-0.17	0.58
Education	3.14	0.00	1.24
Restaurant and Hotels	4.48	0.08	3.04
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.52	0.31	3.15
Total	**100.00**	**1.60**	**4.35**

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

Base: February 2009=100

Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
Mar 2018	190.62	4.18
Apr 2018	193.18	3.73
May 2018	195.05	3.95
June 2018	193.31	4.28
Jul 2018	191.59	4.35
Aug 2018	192.18	4.04
Sep 2018	194.14	5.70
Oct 2018	192.60	5.53
Nov 2018	192.25	5.58
Dec 2018	193.51	5.71
Jan 2019	194.18	4.70
Feb 2019	195.78	4.14
Mar 2019	198.91	4.35

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Units of measure	Average price - March 2018	Average price - February 2019	Average price March 2019	% Change over last month (Mar19/Feb19)	% Change over a year ago (Mar19/Mar18)
Beans	1 Kg	116.87	109.82	111.31	1.35	-4.76
Maize Flour - Loose	1 Kg	62.78	42.07	41.56	-1.22	-33.81
Maize Flour - Sifted	2 Kg	124.51	86.67	86.47	-0.22	-30.55
Milk - Fresh Unpacketed	1000 ml	61.17	61.37	61.85	0.78	1.10
Orange	1 Kg	89.78	104.78	120.56	15.07	34.29
Mangoes	1 Kg	98.11	114.69	121.52	5.95	23.85
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1 Kg	56.10	47.30	52.99	12.02	-5.55
Capsicums (Pilipili Hoho)	1 Kg	109.97	126.81	146.33	15.39	33.07
Tomatoes	1 Kg	101.16	82.39	90.23	9.52	-10.80
Cabbages	1 Kg	41.63	39.59	41.68	5.26	0.11
Carrots	1 Kg	58.91	65.73	69.02	5.00	17.16
Potatoes (Irish)	1 Kg	61.94	76.42	82.08	7.40	32.50
Sugar	1 Kg	131.19	119.86	117.33	-2.11	-10.57
House rent	Single room	4,298.98	4,465.20	4,473.65	0.19	4.06
Kerosene	1 Litre	78.41	97.36	100.31	3.03	27.94
Electricity	50 KWh	730.93	789.57	777.98	-1.47	6.44
Electricity	200 KWh	4,262.10	4,561.90	4,515.51	-1.02	5.95
Petrol	1 Litre	108.33	101.13	102.13	0.99	-5.72
Diesel	1 Litre	98.82	96.83	97.47	0.66	-1.37

Between February and March 2019, Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks' Index increased by 3.30 per cent. As indicated in Table 3, this increase was mainly due to the prevailing draught conditions causing the costs of some foodstuffs to be higher than in February 2019. However, prices of some food items were lower in March 2019 compared to March 2018. For instance, maize grain recorded a drop of 33.81 per cent from KSh 62.78 per kilogram in March 2018 to KSh 41.56 in March 2019. Similarly, the prices of sifted maize flour, sugar and tomatoes were lower by 30.55, 10.57 and 10.80 per cent, respectively.

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, decreased by 0.06 per cent in March compared to February 2019. This resulted from lower cost of electricity which outweighed increase in house rents and cooking fuels.

The Transport Index increased by 0.42 per cent, mainly as a result of increases in pump prices of petrol and diesel.