

KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MAY 2019

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases monthly Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and rates of inflation, for May, 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 13 other urban centres representing the various regions of the country.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the overall 'year on year' inflation in May 2019 stood at 5.49 per cent. In addition, the CPI decreased by 0.07 per cent from 205.90 in April 2019 to 205.77 in May 2019.

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

Broad Commodity Group	Weight	% Change on last month (May19 /Apr19)	% Change on same month of previous year (May19 /May18)
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	-0.37	6.33
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	2.06	-0.12	8.75
Clothing and Footwear	7.43	0.10	2.12
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.30	0.61	4.56
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.22	2.46
Health	3.13	0.04	4.01
Transport	8.66	0.32	11.08
Communication	3.82	0.01	4.52
Recreation and Culture	2.25	0.01	0.50
Education	3.14	0.01	1.47
Restaurant and Hotels	4.48	0.03	2.96
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.52	0.02	2.92
Total	100.00	-0.07	5.49

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

Base: February 2009=100

Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
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
Apr 2019	205.90	6.58
May 2019	205.77	5.49

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Units of measure	Average price (KSh) - May 2018	Average price (KSh) - April 2019	Average price- (KSh) May 2019	% Change over last month (May19/ Apr19)	% Change over a year ago (May19/ May18)
Maize Grain - Loose	1 Kg	58.10	45.08	48.45	7.47	-16.61
Beans	1 Kg	115.39	114.19	118.72	3.97	2.89
Maize Flour - Sifted	2 Kg	121.81	112.26	118.63	5.68	-2.61
Spinach	1 Kg	69.12	70.54	63.00	-10.69	-8.85
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1 Kg	56.02	66.40	60.19	-9.35	7.43
Tomatoes	1 Kg	120.39	104.05	97.00	-6.78	-19.43
Cabbages	1 Kg	41.91	46.59	48.22	3.51	15.07
Potatoes (Irish)	1 Kg	68.67	97.89	99.42	1.56	44.79
Sugar	1 Kg	129.50	102.55	108.87	6.15	-15.94
House rent	1 Room	4,310.68	4,486.83	4,496.38	0.21	4.31
Electricity	200 KWh	4,178.26	4,518.50	4,762.74	5.41	13.99
Electricity	50 KWh	709.97	778.73	839.79	7.84	18.29
Kerosene	1 litre	79.31	102.49	105.48	2.91	32.99
Petrol	1 litre	107.58	107.57	112.79	4.85	4.84
Diesel	1 litre	99.61	103.09	105.23	2.07	5.64

The 'year on year' food inflation decreased from 8.17 per cent in April 2019 to 6.33 per cent in May 2019. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks' Index decreased by 0.37 per cent in May 2019 mainly due to favorable weather conditions which led to lower prices for some commodities. During this period, prices of spinach, *sukuma wiki* (*kale*) and tomatoes recorded decreases of 10.69, 9.35, and 6.78 per cent respectively as shown in Table 3. However, prices of some other foodstuffs like maize grain, sugar and maize flour sifted

increased over the same period while still recording lower prices than May last year.

During the same period, Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 0.61 per cent as a result of higher costs of house rents and cooking fuels. For instance, consumption of 50 KWh of electricity increased by 7.84 per cent from KSh 778.73 in April 2019 to KSh 839.79 in May 2019 due to increase in fuel adjustment costs.

The Transport Index rose by 0.32 per cent, mainly on account of increase in pump prices of petrol and diesel.