CPI AND INFLATION RATES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2011

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases the Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and inflation rates for to the month of March 2011. These numbers have been generated using data collected from selected retail outlets in 25 data collection zones located in 13 urban centers. The retail prices' data was collected during the second and third weeks of the month under review.

As reflected in Tables 1 and 2, the CPI increased by 2.28 percent from 112.05 in February 2011 to 114.62 in March 2011. The overall inflation rate stood at 9.19 percent in March 2011.

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

Broad Commodity Group	New CPI Weight	% Change on Previous Month (March 2011 / February 2011)	% Change on Previous Year (March 2011/ March 2010)
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	3.92	15.09
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	2.06	1.08	5.13
Clothing & Footwear	7.43	0.79	4.37
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.3	1.56	6.64
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.72	5.33
Health	3.13	0.16	6.45
Transport	8.66	2.36	15.89
Communication	3.82	0.16	-25.69
Recreation & Culture	2.25	0.39	6.39
Education	3.14	0.02	4.2
Restaurant & Hotels	4.48	1.37	9.4
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	4.52	0.52	4.15
Total	100	2.28	9.19

The Food and Non Alcoholic drinks' index went up by 3.92 percent between the months of February 2011 and March 2011. This was attributed to cost increases recorded in respect of food products such as potatoes, sukuma wiki, maize flour, beef, bread, cabbages and maize grain.

The Transport index rose by 2.36 percent, mainly due to increased costs of petrol and bus/matatu fares. The prices of these items went up by 4.42 and 9.20 percent, respectively, between the months of February and March 2011.

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' index went up by 1.56 percent in the period under review mainly on account of continued increases in the prices of electricity and house rents. The main contributor to higher cost of electricity was the increase in the amount charged to offset fuel cost adjustments from KSh 4.67 per Kwh in February 2011 to KSh 5.73 per Kwh in March 2011.

Comparison of prices for March 2011 and same month previous year show that prices have increased over the period. Table 3 presents the average prices of selected commodities obtained from the 13 urban centers.

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

Month	Overall CPI	Overall rate of Inflation
Mar-10	104.97	3.97
Apr-10	105.56	3.66
May-10	105.79	3.88
Jun-10	105.61	3.49
Jul-10	105.98	3.57
Aug-10	106.25	3.22
Sep-10	106.74	3.21
Oct-10	106.97	3.18
Nov-10	107.86	3.84
Dec-10	109.38	4.51
Jan-11	110.57	5.42
Feb-11	112.05	6.54
Mar-11	114.62	9.19

Table 3: Average Prices of Some Selected Commodities

Commodity	Weights	Average Price : March 2010	Average Price : March 2011	% Change
Potatoes (Irish)	1 Kg	34	57	67
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1 Kg	26	41	58
Kerosene	1 litre	59	85	43
Spinach	1 Kg	31	43	42
Cabbages	1 Kg	26	36	41
Tomatoes	1 Kg	42	58	38

Diesel	1 litre	77	95	23
Gas LPG	13 Kg	1,922	2,309	20
Wheat Flour	2 Kg	105	125	19
Petrol	1 litre	87	103	19

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics