CPI AND INFLATION RATES FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2011

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

As reflected in Table 1 and Table 2, the CPI increased by 1.01 per cent from 118.29 in April to 119.48 in May 2011. The overall inflation rate stood at 12.95 per cent in May 2011.

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

Broad Commodity Group	CPI Weight	% Change on Previous Month (May 2011 / April 2011)	% Change on Previous Year (May 2011/ May 2010)
Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	1.27	20.12
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	2.06	0.49	8.69
Clothing & Footwear	7.43	0.82	5.69
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.3	0.91	10.58
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.68	7.27
Health	3.13	0.01	6.87
Transport	8.66	2.38	22.19
Communication	3.82	-0.06	-25.2
Recreation & Culture	2.25	0.4	6.79
Education	3.14	0.06	4.13
Restaurant & Hotels	4.48	0.66	12.39
Miscellaneous Goods & Services	4.52	0.51	6.09
Total	100	1.01	12.95

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

Month	Overall CPI	February 2009=100 Overall rate of Inflation
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
Apr-11	118.29	12.05
May-11	119.48	12.95

Food and Non Alcoholic drinks' index went up by 1.27 per cent between April and May 2011. This was attributed to cost increases recorded in respect of maize flour, maize grain, beef, cabbages, rice and carrots. The average price of a 2 Kg packet of sifted maize flour, for instance increased from KSh. 95 in April 2011 to KSh 109 in May 2011. However between the two months, there were notable falls in the prices of potatoes, sukuma wiki, oranges and spinach by 6.71, 2.35, 3.17 and 2.81 per cent, respectively.

The Transport index rose by 2.38 per cent, mainly due to continued increases in the cost of petrol, taxi charges and bus/*matatu* fares especially within the city of Nairobi. On average, a litre of petrol was retailing at KSh 115.51 in May 2011 compared to KSh 112.10 in April 2011.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' index went up by 0.91 per cent during the period under review mainly on account of continued increases in the prices of electricity and other essential cooking fuels. As in the previous months, fuel cost adjustment charge continued pushing the cost of electricity upwards whereby for every Kwh it rose from KSh 6.15 in April 2011 to KSh 7.11 in May 2011. The prices of Charcoal and firewood also went up during the period under review.

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics