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### LIST OF ACRONYMS

CPI	:Consumer Price Inde
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NCPI :Namibia Consumer Price Index

NHIES :Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey

#### **PREFACE**



his report examines the monthly inflation rate performance in Namibia as measured by the Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI). The inflation rate measures the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month under review compared to the previous month (month-onmonth changes) as well as to the corresponding month in the previous year (year-on-year changes). The inflation rate is vital for purposes of economic policymaking, especially the conduct of monetary policy and to consumers in general. The Consumer Price Index is published about 15 days after the end of the reference month to which it relates.

During the month of May 2023, annual inflation rate stood at 6.3 percent compared to 5.4 percent in May 2022. The main contributors to the annual inflation rate of 6.3 percent in May 2023 were Food and non-alcoholic beverages; and Alcoholic beverages & tobacco. Food and non-alcoholic

beverages increased by 12.5 percent and contributed 2.4 percentage points to the overall CPI annual rate of 6.3 percent. This was followed by Alcoholic beverages & tobacco that increased by 7.5 percent and contributed 1.0 percentage points to the overall CPI annual rate for May 2023. On month-on-month basis, the inflation rate stood at 0.2 percent compared to 0.4 percent registered during the preceding month.

At the Zonal level for the month of May 2023, **Zone 1** (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi) and **Zone 3** (||Kharas, Erongo, Hardap, Omaheke) recorded the highest annual inflation rates of 6.3 percent each while **Zone 2** (Khomas) recorded the lowest annual inflation rate of 6.2 percent.

Analysis of the average retail prices of selected products for the month of May 2023 revealed that consumers in **Zone 2** paid the highest price for **Pure sunflower (750 ml)** at N\$36.86 followed by **Zone 1** at N\$35.38, while consumers in **Zone 3** paid the lowest price of N\$34.42. For **Brown bread (standard loaf)**, consumers in **Zone 3** paid the lowest price at N\$13.24 while the highest price was paid by consumers residing in **Zone 2** at N\$14.33.

I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all stakeholders who assisted in the production of this bulletin. Further, I would like to urge our readers and users of this bulletin to send to us any comments that may enhance statistical production and contribute to the improvement of this bulletin at info@nsa.org.na.

Please take note that the forthcoming report for June 2023 will be released on 11 July 2023.

Alex Shimuafeni

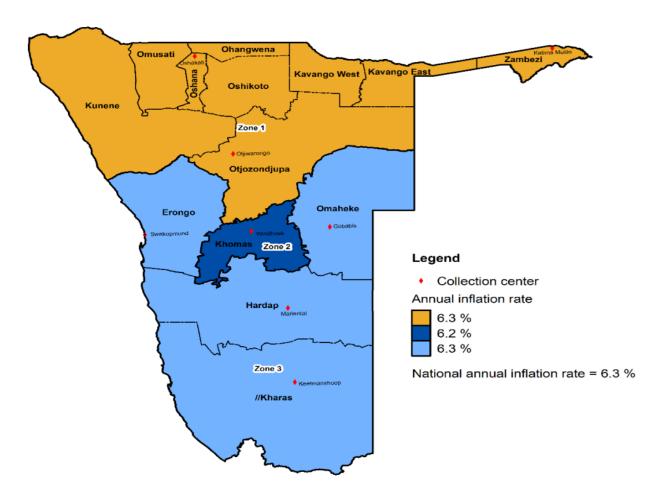
Statistician-General & CEO

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#### 2

## Annual inflation stood at 6.3 percent in May 2023

#### **NCPI Zonal Map: Key highlights**



- The annual inflation rate stood at **6.3 percent.**
- The annual inflation rate for Goods was estimated at **8.3 percent.**
- The annual inflation rate for Services stood at **3.4 percent.**
- The average annual inflation rate for the period May 2022 to May 2023 stood at **6.7 percent.**
- The twelve-month average annual inflation rate from June 2022 to May 2023 was estimated at **6.8 percent**.

#### Box 1: Main division contributions to the NCPI annual percentage change

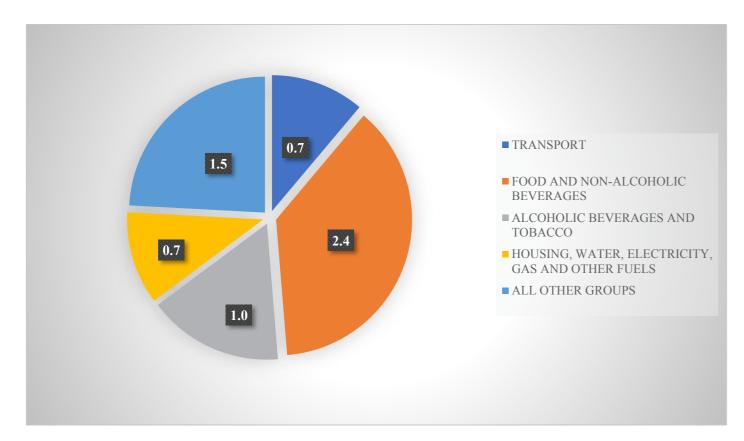
Divisions	Contributions (%)				
	April - 23	May - 23			
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	2.5	2.4			
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.9	1.0			
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.1			
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	0.7	0.7			
Furnishings, household equipment etc.	0.4	0.4			
Health	0.1	0.1			
Transport	0.6	0.7			
Communication	0.0	0.0			
Recreation and culture	0.3	0.3			
Education	0.2	0.2			
Hotels, cafes, and restaurants	0.1	0.1			
Miscellaneous goods and services	0.4	0.4			
All items	6.1	6.3			

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## Major divisions contribution to the annual inflation rate

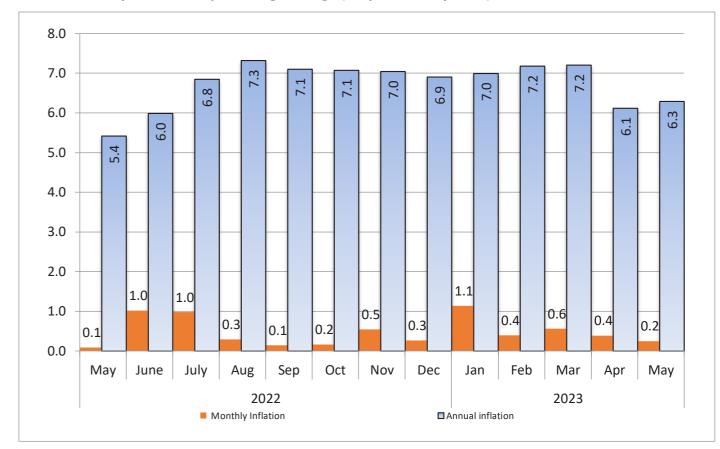
The major contributors to the annual inflation rate of 6.3 percent in May 2023 were Food and non-alcoholic beverages (2.4 percentage points); Alcoholic beverages & tobacco (1.0 percentage point); Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels and Transport each contributed (0.7 percentage points); while all other divisions contributed 1.5 percentage points altogether.

Chart 1: NCPI groups contribution to annual inflation rate (%), May 2023



On a monthly basis, inflation rate was 0.2 percent during the period under review compared to an increase of 0.4 percent witnessed during the previous month. The slow inflation rate emanated mainly from Transport (0.5% to -0.6%); Recreation and culture (3.1% to 2.4%); Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (0.6% to 0.1%).

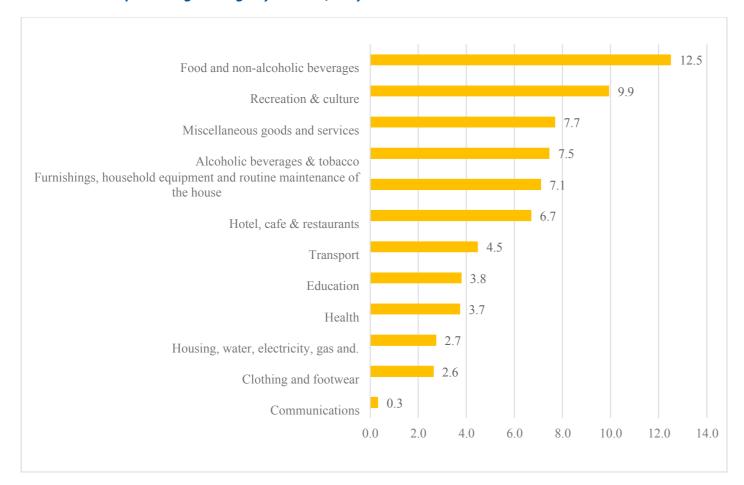
Chart 2: Monthly and annual percentage change (May 2022- May 2023)



## Annual inflation rate by main categories

Categories with the highest changes in the prices during May 2023 were Food and non-alcoholic beverages (12.5%); Recreation and culture (9.9%); Miscellaneous goods and services (7.7%); Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (7.5%); and Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (7.1%).

Chart 3: Annual percentage change by division, May 2023

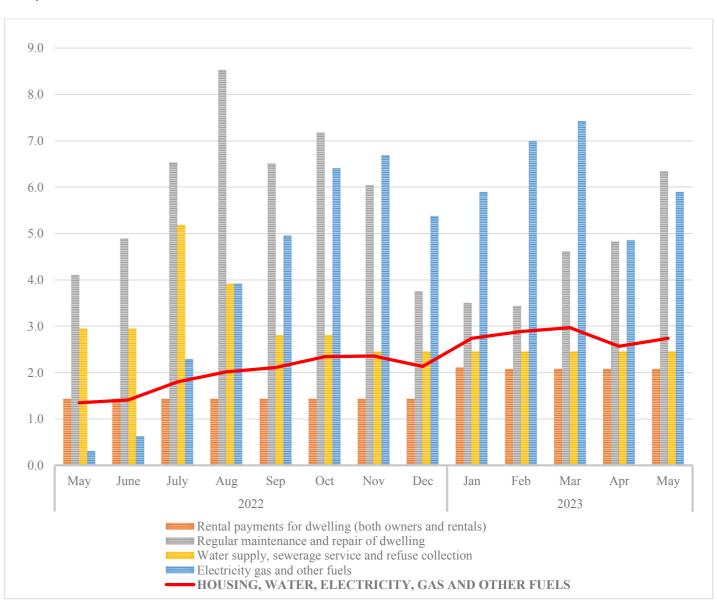


## Major divisions annual inflation rates

#### Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels

The annual inflation rate for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels component which accounts for 28.4 percent of the consumer basket, registered an increase of 2.7 percent during May 2023 compared to 1.3 percent witnessed in May 2022.

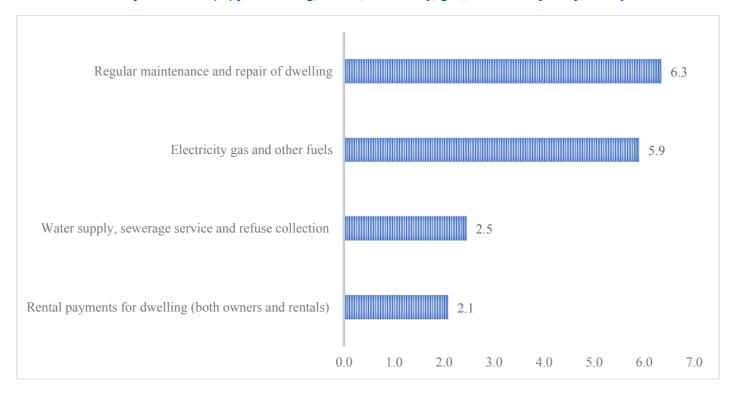
Chart 4: Annual inflation rates (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (May 2022- May 2023)



The increase in the annual inflation of this category was mainly reflected in the subgroups of electricity, gas, and other fuels which increased from (0.3% to 5.9%) and Regular maintenance and repair of dwelling from (4.1% to 6.3%). Month-on-month, this component remained unchanged with a deflation of 0.1 percent.

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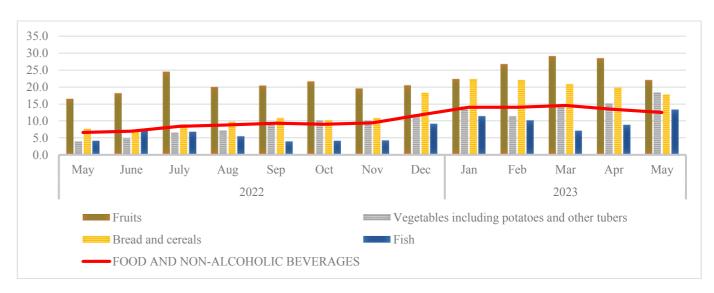
#### Chart 5: Annual inflation rate (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels for May 2023



#### Food and non-alcoholic beverages

Food and non-alcoholic beverages which accounts for 16.5 percent of the NCPI basket, registered annual inflation rate of 12.5 percent during May 2023, compared to 6.6 percent obtained during the corresponding period of 2022. On a monthly basis, inflation for this category stood at 0.7 percent during May 2023 compared to 0.5 percent recorded during the preceding month.

Chart 6: Annual inflation rates (%) for Food and non-alcoholic beverages and selected food sub-categories (May 2022 - May 2023)



The Food sub-category accounts for 14.8 percent of the consumer basket in the NCPI. Within the Food sub-component, Bread and cereals accounts for the highest weight of Food items that consumers purchase, having a weight of 4.8 percent followed by Meat (3.5%); Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate, and confectionery (1.4%); Vegetables; and Milk, cheese, and eggs (1.2%) each.

The price levels of Fruit went up to 22.1 percent during May 2023 compared to 16.5 percent recorded during the same period a year earlier. The increase was reflected mainly in the price levels of Watermelons (from -7.8% to 22.1%); Citrus fruits (from 9.1% to 31.3%); and Pears (from 5.7% to 12.5%).

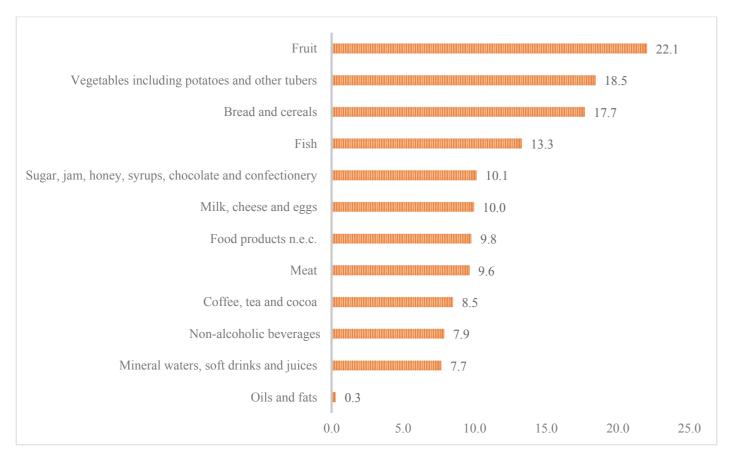
On average, **Vegetables** were 18.5 percent more expensive in May 2023 than a year ago. The increase in the annual inflation rate for this subcategory was mainly observed in Spinach (14.3%), Onions (35.7%); Cabbages (43.3%) and Cucumbers (41.1%).

**Bread and cereals** were 17.7 percent more expensive in May 2023 then in May 2022. The largest rise was reflected in Maize, meal/grain (28.5%); Mealie rice/malt (19.4%); Macaroni, spaghetti and noodles (18.8%); Bread, cake flour (21.3%) and Cakes (14.9%).

The price index for **Fish** rose by 13.3 percent during May 2023 compared to 4.1 percent recorded during the same period a year earlier. Dried, smoked, or salted fish, and seafood of 11.6 percent followed by Fresh, chilled, and frozen fish subcategory registered the highest change of 15.0 percent.

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Chart 7: Annual inflation rates (%) for the main subcategories of Food and non-alcoholic beverages (May 2023)



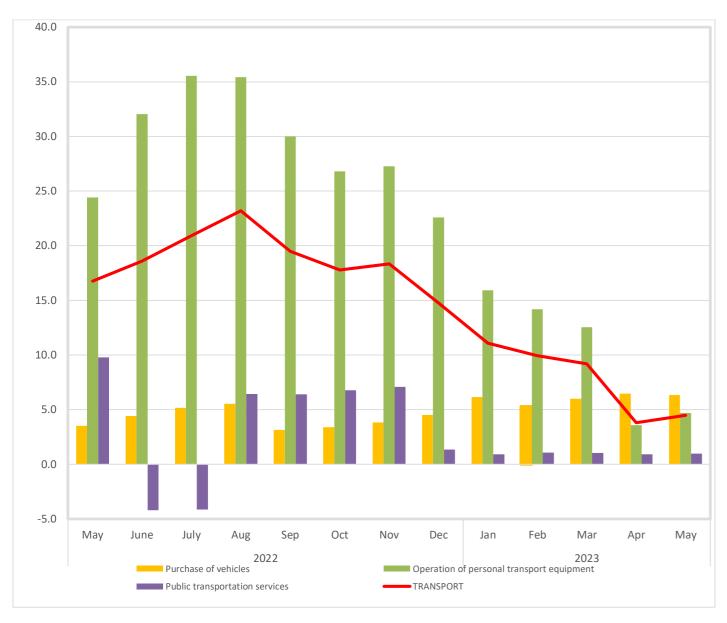
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#### **Transport**

The Transport category which accounts for 14.3 percent of the consumer basket registered an annual inflation rate of 4.5 percent during May 2023 compared to 16.7 percent recorded in May 2022. The slowdown in the annual inflation rate for this component was reflected in all the subcomponents of this category apart from Purchase of vehicles which registered an increase of 6.3 percent compared to 3.5 percent obtained in May 2022.

Month-on-month, this category registered a deflation of 0.6 percent in May 2023 compared to inflation of 0.5 percent registered during the preceding month.

#### Chart 8: Annual inflation rates (%) for Transport (May 2022 - May 2023)



**Annual inflation for Operation of personal transport equipment** stood at 4.7 percent in May 2023 compared to 24.4 percent recorded in May 2022. The slower inflation in the subcategory was mainly reflected in Petrol/Diesel (42.0% to 4.8%) and 'License and registration fees' (4.7% to-2.0%).

**Annual inflation for Public transportation services** was 1.0 percent in May 2023 compared to 9.8 percent registered during the same period of 2022. The slower inflation emanated mainly from Taxi transportation (10.4% to 0.0%); Bus transportation (10.0% to 1.9%) and Air transportation (7.5% to 7.2%).

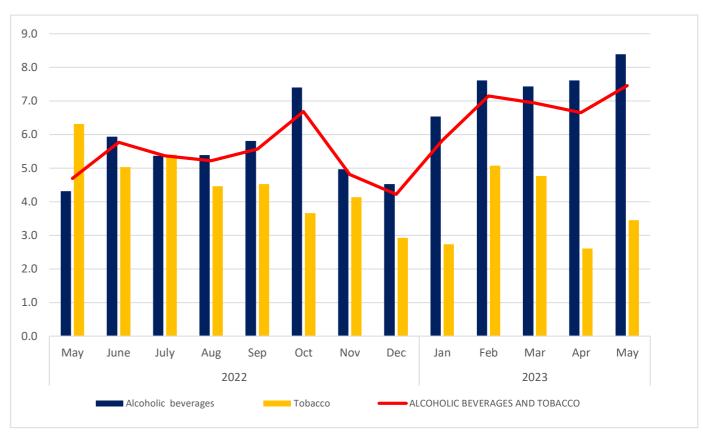
**Purchase of vehicles** registered annual inflation rate of 6.3 percent during May 2023 compared to 3.5 percent recorded in May 2022. The increase in the annual inflation for this category was mainly observed in Motor cars with a rate of 6.7 percent.

#### Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

Year-on-year inflation rate for Alcoholic beverages and tobacco stood at 7.5 percent in May 2023 compared to 4.7 percent registered in May 2022. The upward movement in the annual inflation rate for this category resulted from the increases witnessed in the subcategory of Alcoholic beverages.

The monthly inflation rate for this division recorded an increase of 0.7 percent compared to 0.6 percent registered a month earlier.

Chart 9: Annual inflation rates (%) for Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (May 2022 – May 2023)



**Annual inflation for Alcoholic beverages** was 8.4 percent in May 2023, compared to 4.3 percent recorded in May 2022. The main products that pushed up the rate in May 2023 were Sparkling wines /Champagnes (11.0%); White spirits (25.7%); Wines (7.9%) and Beer (7.9%).

**Annual inflation for Tobacco** stood at 3.5 percent during the period under review compared to 6.3 percent recorded in May 2022. Cigarettes turned out to be 3.5 percent more expensive in May 2023 compared to May 2022, while Pipe tobacco was 3.4 percent more expensive than a year ago.

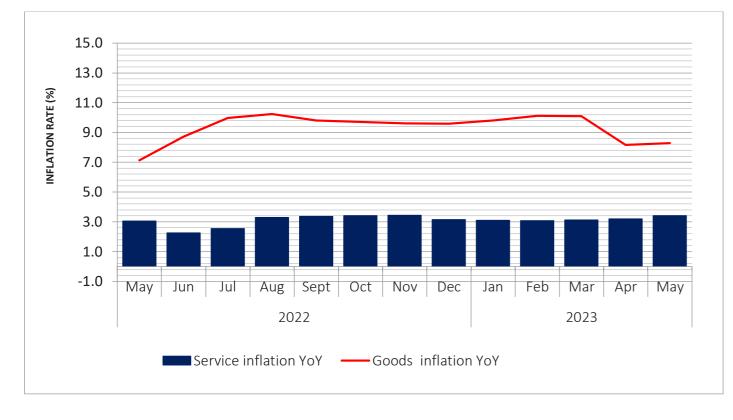
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## **Goods and Services inflation rates**

On average, Goods were 8.3 percent more expensive in May 2023 than a year ago, while annual inflation rate for Services stood at 3.4 percent in May 2023 compared to 3.1 percent recorded in May 2022.

Month-on-month inflation rates for Goods and Services were estimated at 0.3 percent and 0.2 percent in May 2023 compared to 0.5 percent and 0.3 percent registered during the previous month, respectively.

Chart 10: Goods and services annual inflation rates (%) (May 2022 – May 2023)



## Inflation rates by Zones

The NCPI is designed to cover the entire economic territory of the country and includes national, urban, and rural households of all income groups as derived from the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES). For the compilation of the National CPI, all administrative regions of the country were grouped into three Zones, with each zone considered as one geographic area as follows: **Zone 1** (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi); **Zone 2** (Khomas) and **Zone 3** (//Kharas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke).

Table 1: Zonal annual inflation rates (%) (May 2022 – May 2023)

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
May-22	4.8	6.3	5.1
Jun-22	5.6	6.7	5.6
Jul-22	6.2	7.7	6.6
Aug-22	6.8	7.9	7.2
Sept-22	6.6	7.8	6.9
Oct-22	6.5	7.8	6.8
Nov-22	6.4	7.9	6.9
Dec-22	6.5	7.6	6.4
Jan - 23	7.4	6.5	7.1
Feb - 23	7.6	6.7	7.3
Mar - 23	7.7	6.6	7.2
Apr - 23	6.3	5.9	6.0
May - 23	6.3	6.2	6.3

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**Zone 1** - During May 2023, the inflation rate for Zone 1 was 6.3 percent, year-on-year, compared to 4.8 percent registered during May 2022. Higher change in prices for 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (12.3%) and 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' (9.5%) contributed the most to all items CPI for Zone 1.

On monthly basis, inflation rate was 0.0 percent during the period under review compared to 0.3 percent recorded a month earlier.

**Zone 2**- Annual inflation rate for May 2023 stood at 6.2 percent compared to 6.3 percent recorded during the same period of 2022. The highest change in prices during May 2023 was observed in 'Recreation and culture' (15.8%) and 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (13.5%).

On monthly basis, the inflation rate was 0.4 percent in May 2023 compared to 0.6 percent recorded in April 2023.

**Zone 3**- Year-on-year inflation rate stood at 6.3 percent in May 2023 compared to 5.1 percent recorded during same period last year. The highest change in prices during May 2023 was observed in 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (11.6%) and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (10.8%).

On monthly basis, the inflation rate for May 2023 stood at 0.4 percent compared to 0.2 percent registered last month.

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## **Zonal average prices on selected products**

Table 2: Average prices in N\$ on selected products- May 2023

Item	Unit of measurement	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
White bread	Each	13.49	14.38	13.49
Brown bread	each	13.48	14.33	13.24
Chicken, frozen assorted pieces	1.5kg	79.12	84.43	86.02
Eggs	Pack of 6	20.51	22.26	21.28
Citrus Fruits	Per kg			
Oranges, loose	Per kg	32.72	40.65	35.57
Grapefruit: loose	Per kg	44.99	44.24	37.49
Lemons: loose	Per kg	29.91	35.71	28.77
Pure Sunflower oil	750ml	35.38	36.86	34.42
Brown sugar	1kg	18.99	19.43	18.83
Honey	500g	109.61	92.29	96.81
Beef	Per kg			
Stewing Beef	Per kg	91.99	88.02	94.77
Rump steak	Per kg	164.47	177.86	178.67
Fillet steak	Per kg	232.97	310.47	244.41
Beef brisket	Per kg	93.09	107.25	111.42
Beer (local)	330ml	11.74	13.00	12.53
Petrol	Per litre	20.28	20.20	20.18
Diesel	Per litre	20.36	20.28	20.28

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## **BOX 2: NCPI basket weights**

Inflation is calculated based on a basket of goods and services, containing a representative sample of the goods and or services commonly consumed in a country, and weighted in accordance with the relative percentage of expenditure allotted to each of the said goods at household level. The price of these goods and services are then tracked over time, to illustrate the change in the cost of living over time. As spending patterns change, new products and services are added to the basket, and the basket is reweighted to better capture the current spending patterns of the consumer at the current point in time.

As such, the inflation basket is generally reconstituted every five years. In Namibia, the basket was last rebased in 2013, using household expenditure data collected in the 2009/10 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The basket now contains over 350 items, grouped into 12 categories and 55 sub-categories, for which prices are collected monthly from more than 900 retail outlets.

Namibian inflation is largely determined by three categories of the overall NCPI basket, namely: (i) Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, (ii) Food and non-alcoholic beverages and (iii) Transport, which cumulatively make up just under 60 percent of the total inflation basket. Additionally, following the rebasing of the NCPI basket in 2013, "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" make up additional.

12.6 percent of the basket, meaning that the four largest categories represent well over 70 percent of the total basket. As such, a large increase in inflation in these categories has a greater impact on the overall inflation than increases in the lower weighted categories. Thus, it is rare to see major increases in overall inflation attributed to the lower weighted categories, even though these categories may have seen relatively high inflation.

Category	Weight %
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	28.4
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	16.5
Transport	14.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.6
Furnishing, Household Equipment	5.5
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.4
Communications	3.8
Education	3.7
Recreation and Culture	3.6
Clothing and Footwear	3.1
Health	2.0
Hotels, Cafés, and Restaurants	1.4

## **BOX 3: Zonal NCPI weights**

			Weights	
	NCPI MAIN GROUPS	ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	20.4	12.3	16.5
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	13.1	11.0	14.3
3	Clothing and footwear	3.9	2.4	2.6
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	25.8	32.7	25.5
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house	5.8	5.2	5.3
6	Health	1.6	2.3	2.2
7	Transport	14.7	13.0	15.6
8	Communications	3.5	3.8	4.4
9	Recreation and culture	2.2	4.8	3.7
10	Education	3.2	4.5	3.1
11	Hotels, cafes and restaurants	0.9	2.0	1.1
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	4.8	5.8	5.6
	All items	100.0	100.0	100.0



### **Annexure**

## Annex A: NCPI: All Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes May 2023

P	eriod eriod	Index	m-o-m	у-о-у
2022	May	153.1	0.1	5.4
	Jun	154.7	1.0	6.0
	Jul	156.2	1.0	6.8
	Aug	156.7	0.3	7.3
	Sep	156.9	0.1	7.1
	Oct	157.1	0.2	7.1
	Nov	158.0	0.5	7.0
	Dec	158.4	0.3	6.9
	An. Av	154.6	0.6	6.1
2023	Jan	160.2	1.1	7.0
	Feb	160.8	0.4	7.2
	Mar	161.7	0.6	7.2
	Apr	162.4	0.4	6.1
	May	162.8	0.2	6.3

## Annex B: NCPI Zonal All - Items Index, Monthly and Annual inflation rates (Dec 2012=100)

Zones	Zones		Zone 1			Zone 2			Zone 3	
Period		Index	m-o-m	у-о-у	Index	m-o-m	у-о-у	Index	m-o-m	у-о-у
2022	May	151.6	0.0	4.8	149.9	0.1	6.3	161.1	0.1	5.1
	Jun	153.3	1.1	5.6	151.2	0.9	6.7	162.8	1.1	5.6
	Jul	154.4	0.7	6.2	152.9	1.1	7.7	164.6	1.1	6.6
	Aug	155.0	0.4	6.8	153.2	0.1	7.9	165.2	0.4	7.2
	Sept	155.2	0.1	6.6	153.4	0.1	7.8	165.5	0.2	6.9
	Oct	155.5	0.2	6.5	153.6	0.2	7.8	165.7	0.1	6.8
	Nov	156.3	0.5	6.4	154.5	0.5	7.9	166.6	0.5	6.9
	Dec	156.8	0.3	6.5	154.9	0.3	7.6	166.9	0.2	6.4
	An. Av	152.9	0.5	5.5	151.3	0.6	6.8	162.8	0.5	5.8
2023	Jan	158.9	1.4	7.4	156.3	0.9	6.5	168.8	1.1	7.1
	Feb	159.6	0.5	7.6	157.0	0.4	6.7	169.2	0.3	7.3
	Mar	160.6	0.6	7.7	157.7	0.4	6.6	170.3	0.6	7.2
	Apr	161.2	0.3	6.3	158.6	0.6	5.9	170.6	0.2	6.0
	May	161.2	0.0	6.3	159.2	0.4	6.2	171.3	0.4	6.3

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## Annex C: Background of the Zonal Consumer Price Index

The NCPI is designed to cover the entire economic territory of the country and includes national, urban and rural households of all income groups as derived from the Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES). For the compilation of the National CPI, all administrative regions of the country were grouped into three Zones, with each zone considered as one geographic area as follows.

**Zone 1** covers the expenditure patterns of the regions in the northern part of the country namely Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa and Zambezi. Prices are collected from the following towns: Katima Mulilo (76 retail outlets covering mainly the Central Business District); Oshakati (107 retail outlets covering mainly Game Shopping Center, Yetu Shopping Center, Oshana Mall, Marula Mall and Ongwediva); and Otjiwarongo (114 retail outlets covering mainly the Central Business District, Orwetoveni, and the Industrial Area).

**Zone 2** covers the expenditure patterns of Khomas region, and the price collection covers Windhoek (218 retail outlets covering mainly Khomasdal, Katutura, Northern Industrial Area, Southern Industrial Area, Pioneers Park, Hochland Park, Prosperita, Klein Windhoek, Eros, and Kleine Kuppe).

**Zone 3** covers the expenditure patterns of //Kharas, Erongo, Hardap, and Omaheke regions with prices being collected from Keetmanshoop (86 retail outlets covering mainly Central Business District, West Dene and Tseiblagte); Swakopmund (108 retail outlets covering Central Business District, Mondesa, Tamariskia, Industrial Area); Mariental (61 retail outlets covering mainly Central Business District and Ombili); as well as Gobabis (59 retail outlets mainly covering the Central Business District), respectively.

The localities identified for price collection were selected based on a mixed criterion of:

- The relative importance of the locality as determined by its relative share exceeding 30 percent of the total household expenditure at national level.
- ii. Geographic distribution of economic activities; and
- iii. Regional capitals.

## Namibia Consumer Price Index Bulletin

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