

# NCPI Namibia Consumer Price Index Bulletin

April 2023





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- Excellent Performance*
- Accuracy*
- Teamwork*
- Accountability*
- Transparency*

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

<b>CPI</b>	:Consumer Price Index
<b>NCPI</b>	:Namibia Consumer Price Index
<b>NHIES</b>	:Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey

## PREFACE



This 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-on-month 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 April 2023, the year-on-year inflation rate stood at 6.1 percent compared to 5.6 percent recorded in April 2022. On month-on-month basis, the inflation rate slowed to 0.4 percent down from 0.6 percent registered during the preceding month.

Based on the price movements at the zonal level for April 2023, Zone 1 (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi) recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 6.3 percent, followed by Zone 3 (Karas, Erongo, Hardap, Omaheke) recording an inflation rate of 6.0 percent while Zone 2 (Karas) recorded the lowest annual inflation rate of 5.9 percent. On a monthly basis, Zone 2 and 1 recorded the highest monthly price changes of 0.6 percent and 0.3 percent and Zone 3 recorded the slightest monthly change of 0.2 percent.

Analysis of the average retail prices of selected products for the month April 2023 revealed that consumers in Zone 2 paid the highest price for Pure sunflower oil (750 ml) at N\$36.89 followed by Zone 3 at N\$36.40, while consumers in Zone 1 paid the lowest price of N\$36.07. For White bread (standard loaf), consumers in Zone 2 paid the lowest price at N\$13.16 while the highest price was paid by consumers residing in Zone 3 at N\$13.70. Consumers in Zone 3 paid the lowest price for Brown sugar (1kg) at N\$18.90, with the highest price paid by consumers in Zone 2 at N\$19.99.

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](mailto:info@nsa.org.na).

Please take note that the forthcoming report for May 2023 will be released on 13 June 2023.

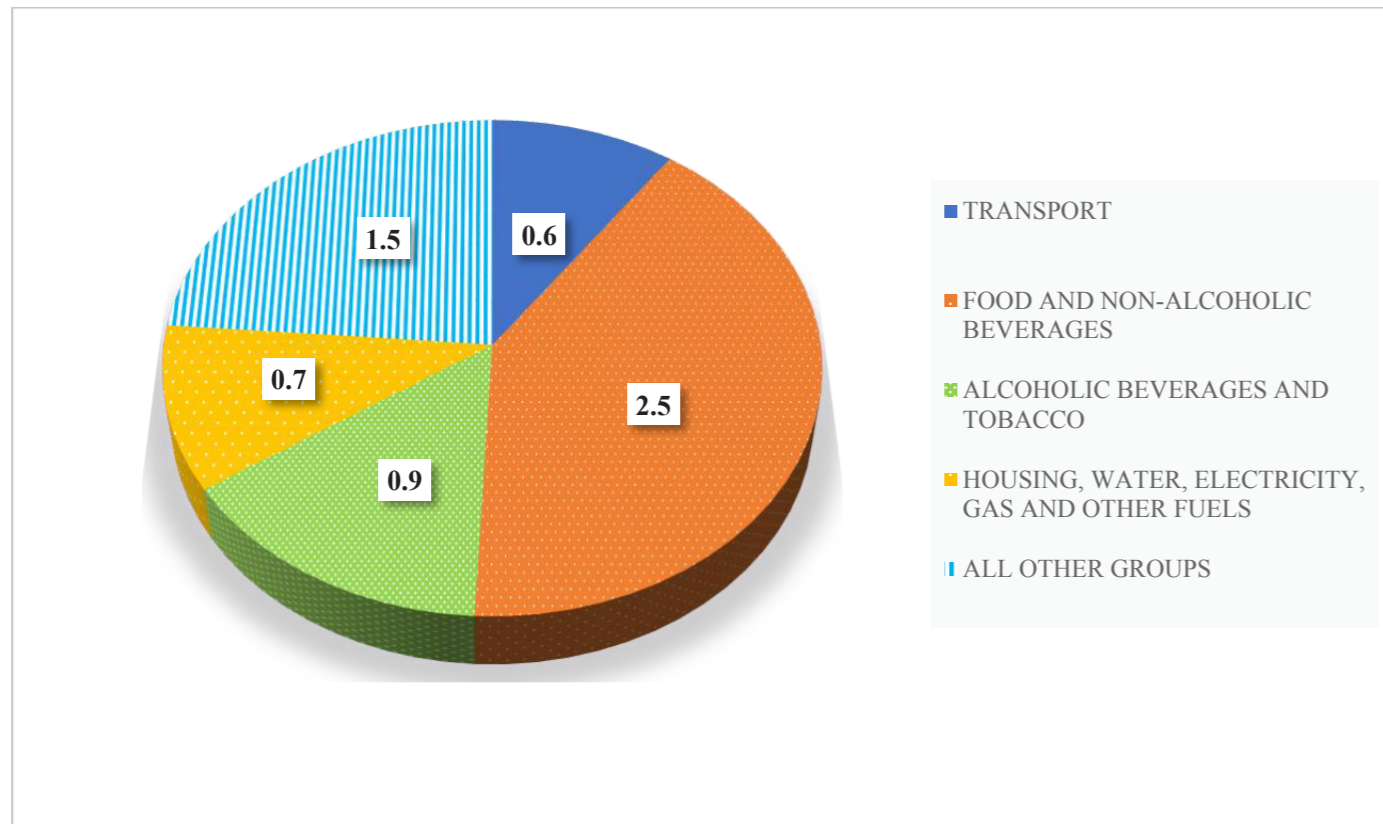
**Alex Shimuafeni**  
Statistician-General & CEO



## Major divisions contribution to the annual inflation rate

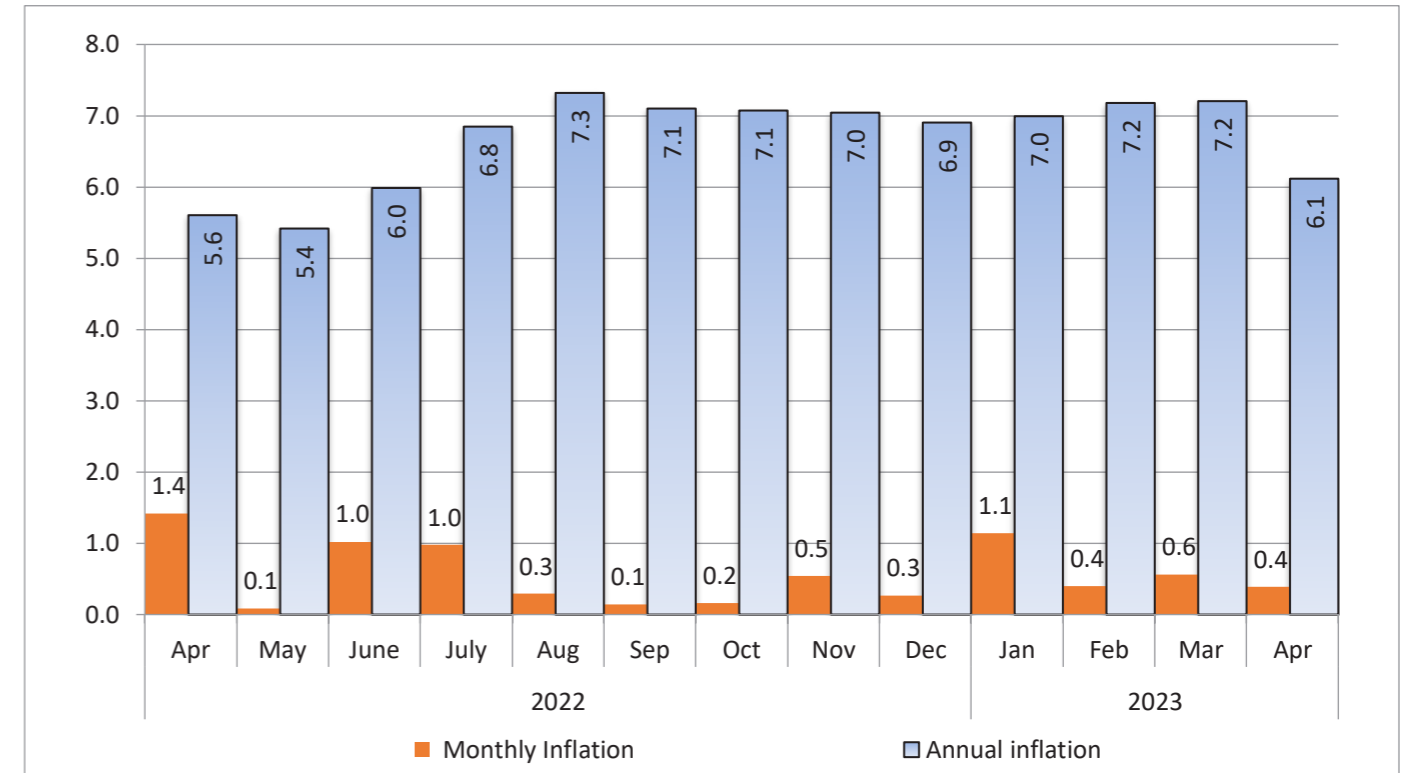
The major contributors to the annual inflation rate for April 2023 were Food and non-alcoholic beverages (2.5 percentage points); Alcoholic beverages & tobacco (0.9 percentage point); Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (0.7 percentage points); and Transport (0.6 percentage points) while all other division contribution stood at 1.5 percentage points.

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



On a monthly basis, price levels in Namibia increased by 0.4 percent during the period under review compared to 0.6 percent witnessed during the previous month. The slow increase in the monthly inflation rate emanated mainly from Transport (1.9% to 0.5%); Hotels, cafes, and restaurants (0.6% to 0.1%) and Food and non-alcoholic beverages (0.9 % to 0.5%).

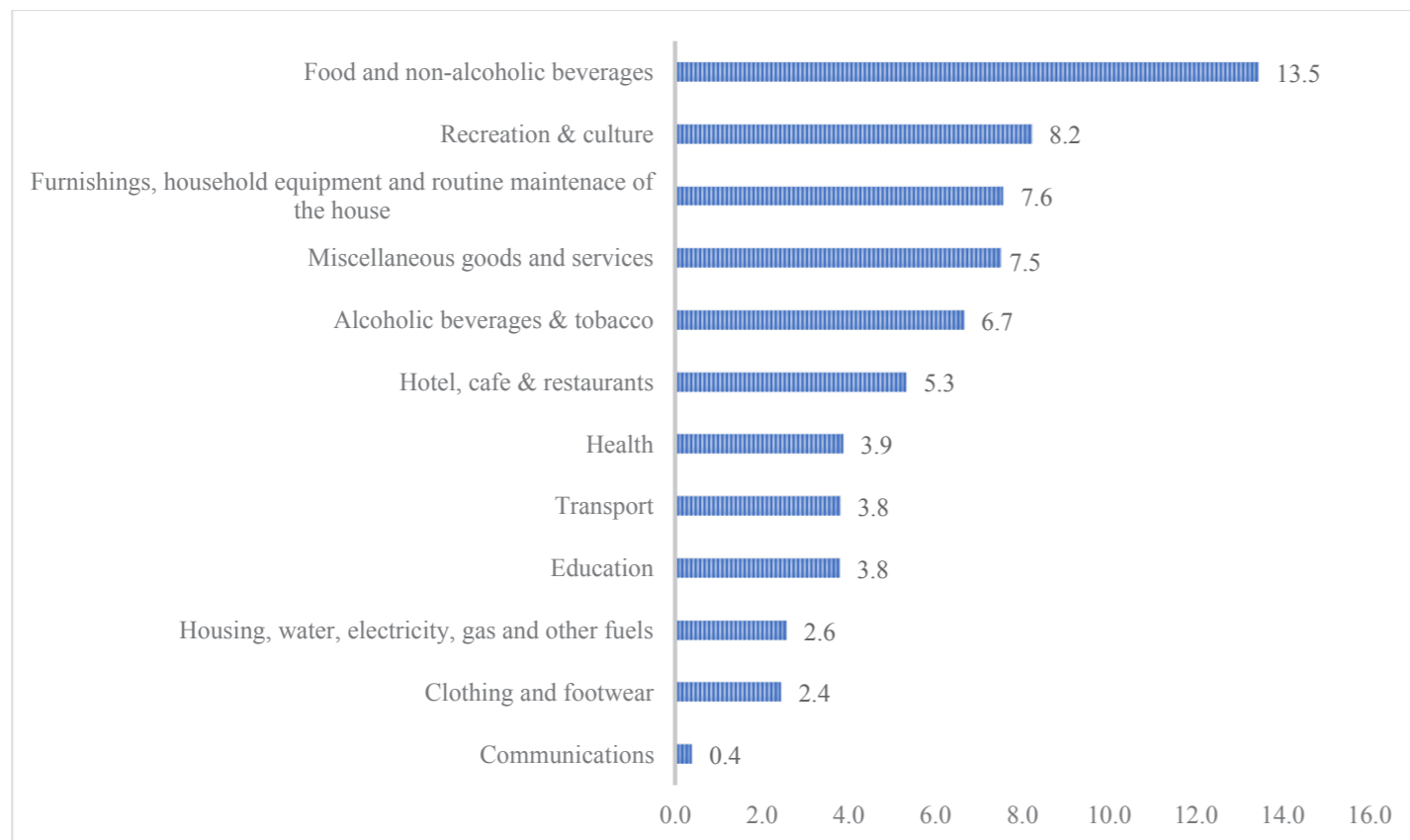
Chart 2: Monthly and annual percentage change (April 2022- April 2023)



## Annual inflation rate by main categories

The highest changes in the annual inflation rate were mainly observed in the categories of Food and non-alcoholic beverages (13.5%); Recreation and culture (8.2%); Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (7.6%); Miscellaneous goods and services (7.5%) and Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (6.7%).

**Chart 3: Annual percentage change by division, April 2023**

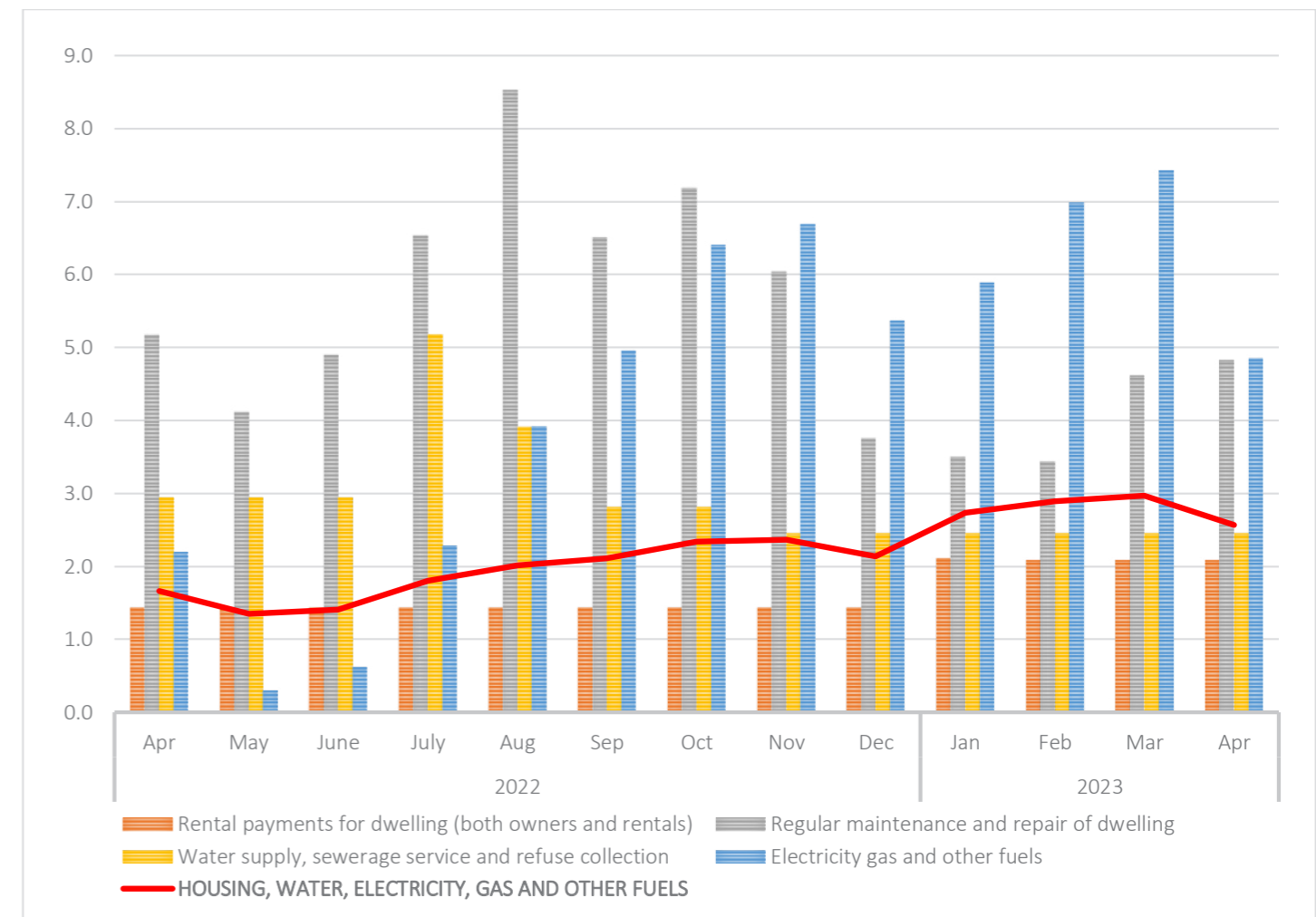


## Major divisions annual inflation rates

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

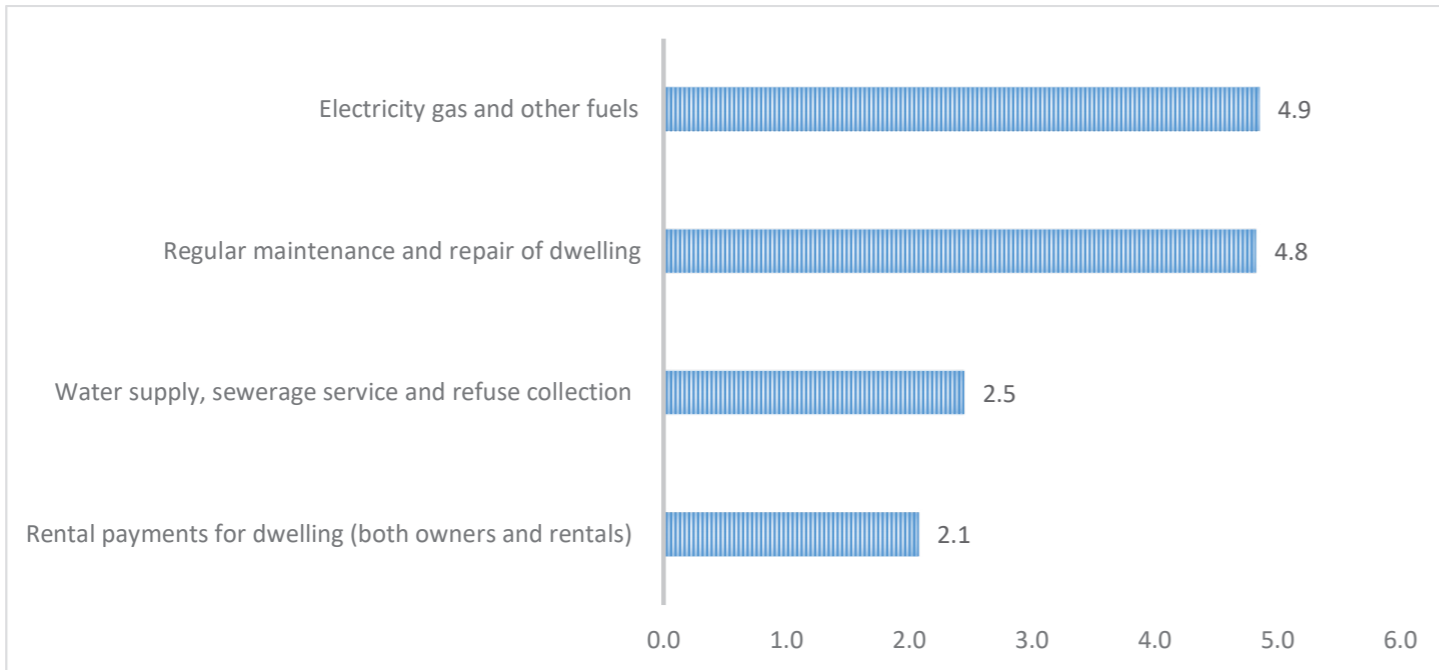
The annual inflation rate for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels component which accounts for 28.4 percent of the consumer basket, registered an increase of 2.6 percent during April 2023 compared to 1.7 percent witnessed in April 2022.

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



The growth in the price levels of this category was mainly reflected in the subgroup of electricity, gas, and other fuels which increased from (2.2% to 4.9%). Month-on-month, this component registered a deflation of 0.1) percent compared to an increase of 0.1 percent recorded a month earlier.

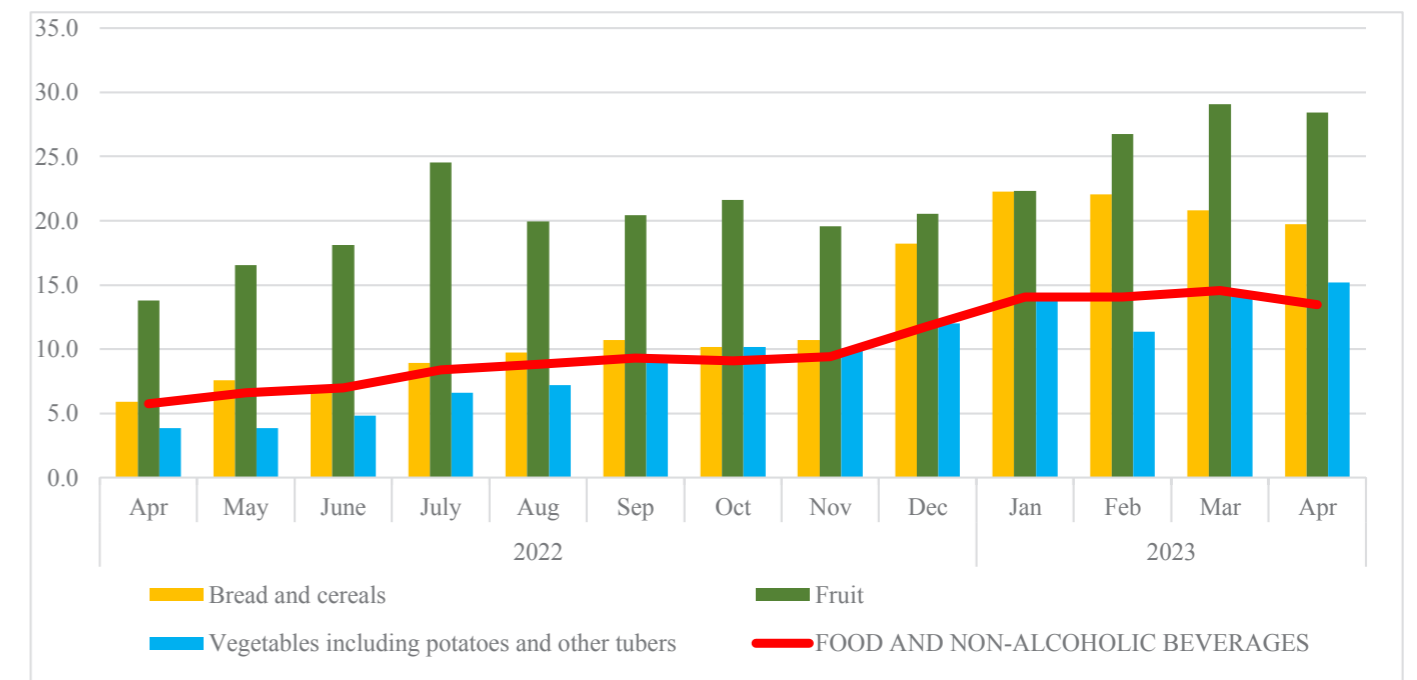
**Chart 5: Annual inflation rate (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels for April 2023**



**Food and non-alcoholic beverages**

Food and non-alcoholic beverages which accounts for 16.5 percent of the NCPI basket, registered a year-on-year inflation rate of 13.5 percent during the period under review, compared to 5.7 percent obtained during the corresponding period of 2022. On a monthly basis, price levels for this category increased by 0.5 percent during April 2023 compared to 0.9 percent recorded during the preceding month.

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



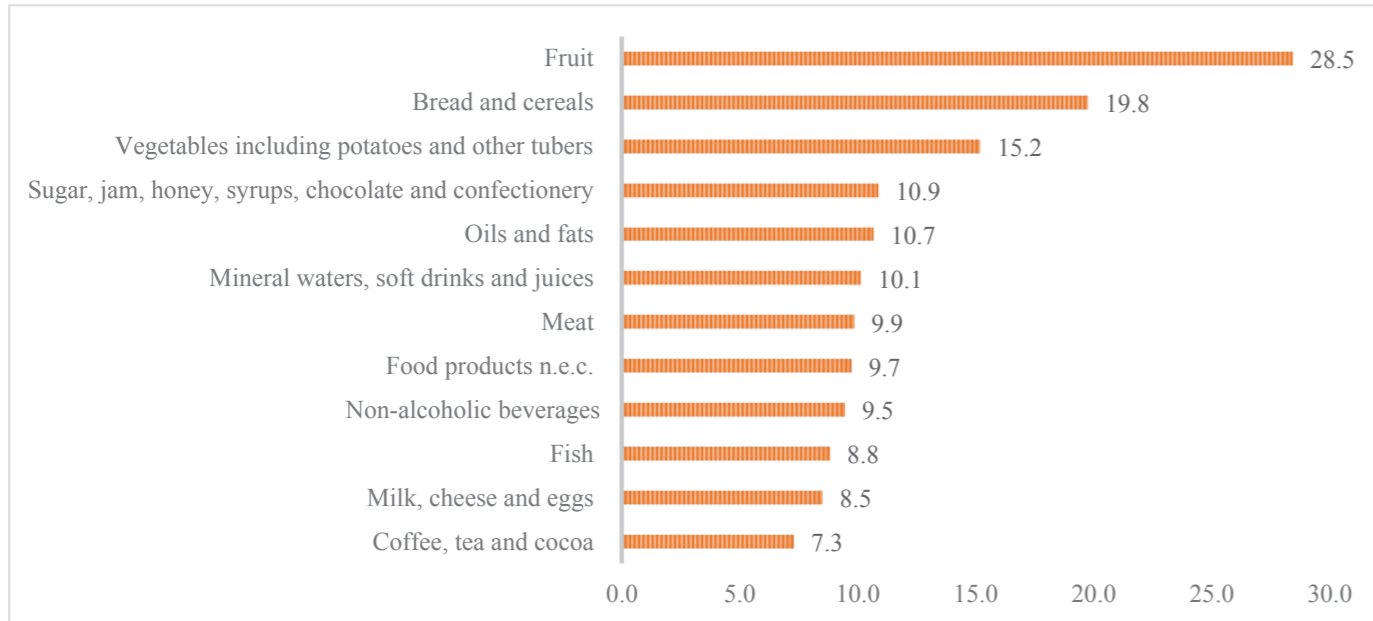
The food sub-category accounts for 14.8 percent of the consumer basket in the NCPI. Within the food sub-category, Bread, and cereals accounts for the highest weight of food items that consumers purchase, having a weight of 4.8 percent followed by Meat (3.5%); Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate, and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

The price levels of **Fruits** escalated by 28.5 percent during April 2023 up from 13.8 percent recorded during the same period a year earlier. This change was mainly reflected in the price levels of Watermelons (-5.3% to 29.3%); Citrus fruits (1.7% to 30.7%); Grapes (-8.0% to 17.8%) and Pears (4.8% to 13.0%).

**Bread and cereals** prices level went up by 19.8 percent in April 2023 compared to 5.9 percent recorded during the same period of the previous year. The growth in the annual inflation rate for this sub-category resulted mainly from increases witnessed in the price levels of Maize, meal/grain (4.8% to 31.6%); Macaroni, spaghetti, and noodles (4.8% to 23.1%); Bread, cake flour (12.6% to 26.3%) and Mealie rice/malt (7.8% to 20.1%).

The price levels of **Vegetables** rose by 15.2 percent during the period under review up from an annual inflation rate of 3.9 recorded during April 2022. The increase in the annual inflation rate for this subcategory was mainly observed in the price levels of Cucumber (-27.0% to 44.7%); Green pepper/Paprika (9.1% to 52.8%); Cabbage (-19.6% to 19.7%) and Onion (6.0% to 26.0%).

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

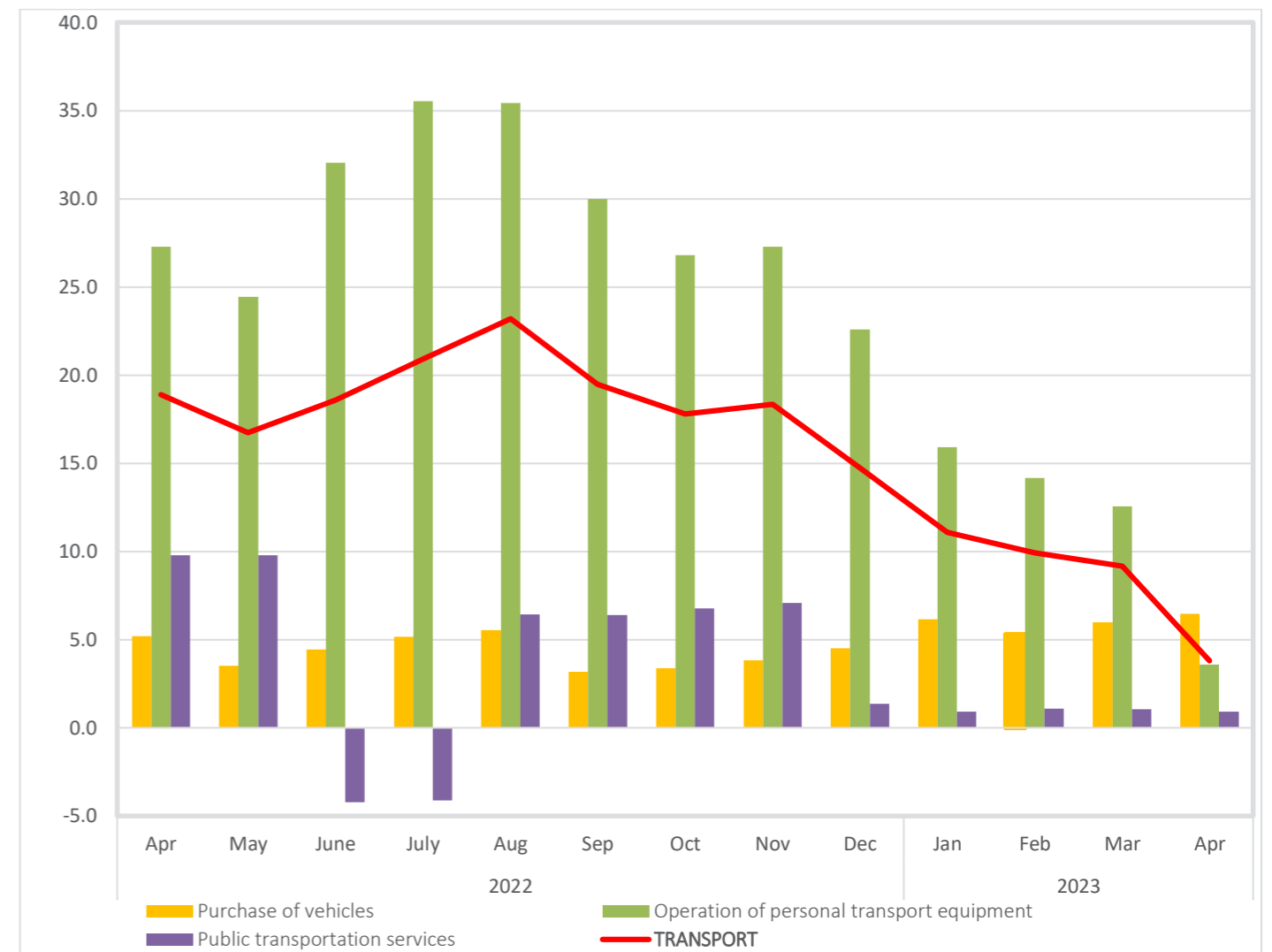


**Transport**

The year-on-year inflation rate for the Transport category which accounts for 14.3 percent of the consumer basket increased by 3.8 percent during April 2023, a slowdown when compared with 18.9 percent recorded in April 2022. The slowdown in the annual inflation rate for this component was reflected in the price levels of all the subcomponents with the exception of Purchase of vehicles which registered an increase of 6.5 percent, up when compared to 5.2 percent in obtained April 2022.

A similar month-on-month price change trend was observed in the same category which slowed, registering inflation of 0.5 percent in April 2023 compared to 1.9 percent recorded in March 2023.

**Chart 8: Annual inflation rates (%) for Transport (April 2022 - April 2023)**



**Prices for Operation of personal transport equipment** increased by 3.6 percent in April 2023, a slowdown when compared to 27.3 percent recorded in April 2022. The slow increase in the subcategory was mainly reflected in price levels recorded in Petrol/Diesel (47.7% to 2.7%) and 'License and registration fees' (4.7% to -2.0%).



**Prices for Public transportation services** registered a slow increase of 0.9 percent in April 2023 down from 9.8 percent registered during the same period of 2022. The slow growth emanated from the price levels of Taxi transportation (10.4% to 0.0%); Bus transportation (10.0% to 1.9%) and Air transportation (6.7% to 5.4%).

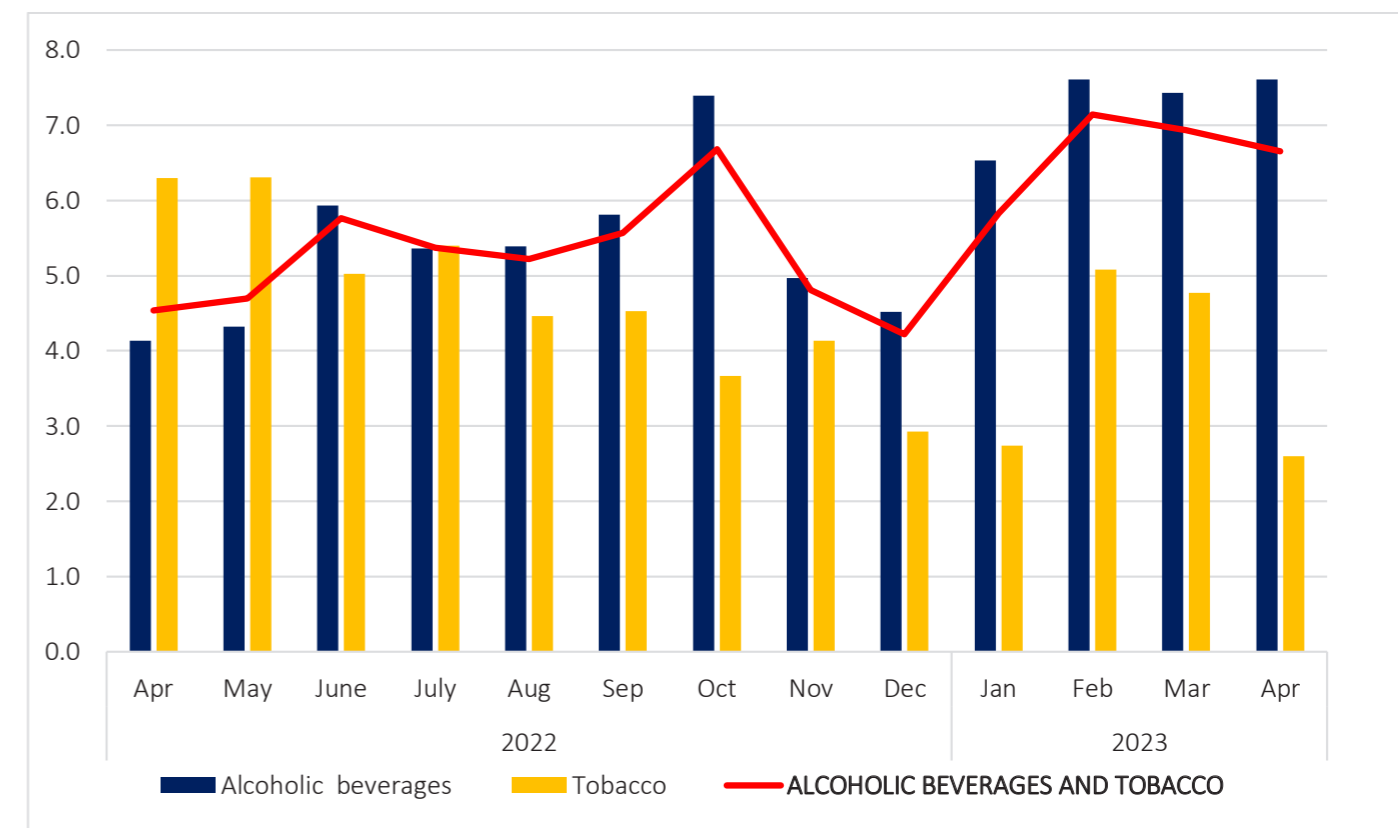
**Purchase of vehicles** registered annual inflation rate of 6.5 percent during April 2023 compared to 5.2 percent recorded in April 2022. The increase was observed in price escalations observed in Motor cars (5.0% to 6.7%).

### Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

The year-on-year inflation rate for Alcoholic beverages and tobacco stood at 6.7 percent in April 2023 up from 4.5 percent registered in April 2022. The upward movement in the annual inflation rate for this category resulted mainly from the increases witnessed in all the subgroups except Brandies and Cigarettes.

The monthly inflation rate for this division recorded an increase of 0.6 percent compared to 0.2 percent registered a month earlier.

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



**Prices for Alcoholic beverages** escalated by 7.6 percent in April 2023, compared to an inflation rate of 4.1 percent recorded in April 2022. The increase in the price levels of this subcomponent resulted mainly from subcategories of White spirits (15.2% to 24.6%); Sparkling wines /Champagnes (2.5% to 8.2%); Beer/ales/ciders (4.0% to 7.6%) and Liqueurs (-3.9% to- 0.7%).

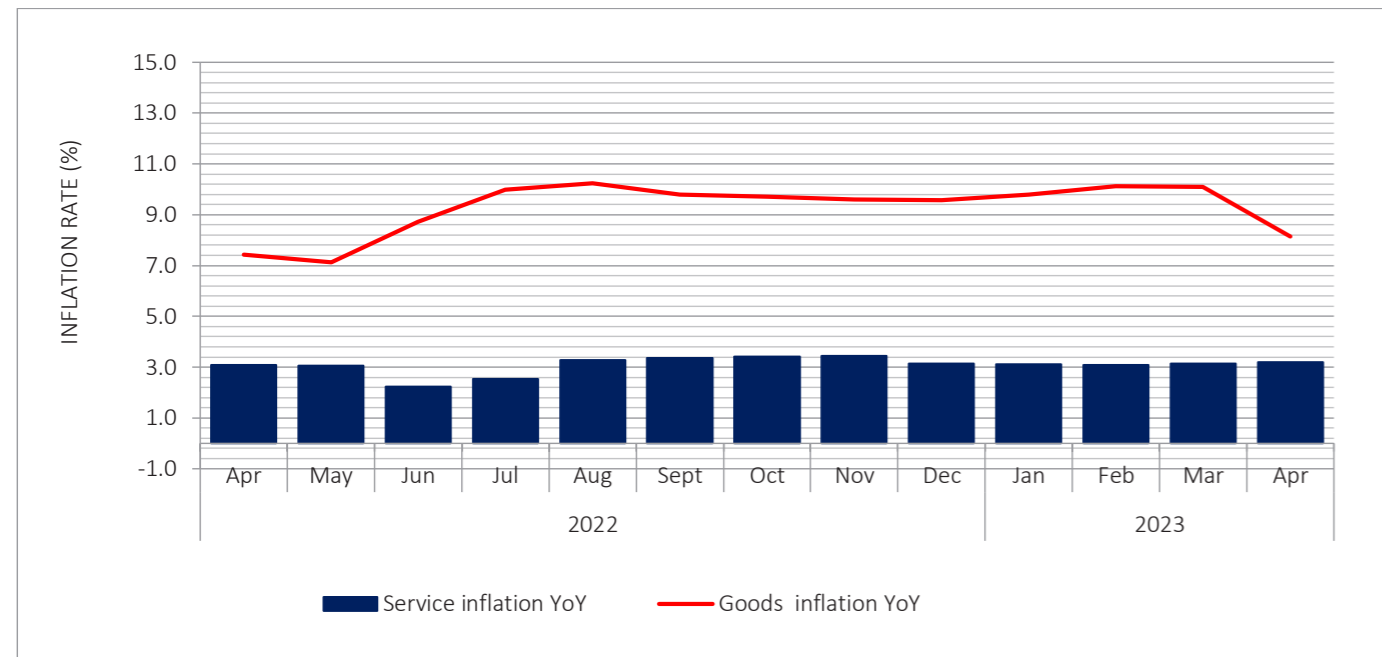
**Tobacco** recorded a slow growth of 2.6 percent during the period under review compared to 6.3 percent recorded in April 2022. The increases registered in the inflation rate for this category was reflected in subcategory of Pipe tobacco (2.4% to 2.5%).

## Goods and Services inflation rates

During the month of April 2023, the annual inflation rate for Goods went up by 8.2 percent compared to 7.4 percent registered during the same period last year while inflation rate for Services rose by 3.2 percent in April 2023 compared to 3.1 percent recorded in April 2022.

The month-on-month inflation rates for Goods and Services were estimated at 0.5 percent and 0.3 percent in April 2023 compared to 0.9 percent and 0.0 percent registered during the previous month, respectively.

**Chart 10: Goods and services annual inflation rates (%) (April 2022 – April 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** (Karas) and **Zone 3** (Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke).

**Table 1: Zonal annual inflation rates (%) – April 2022 - April 2023**

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Apr-22	5.1	6.3	5.3
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

**Zone 1**- The year-on-year inflation rate registered an increase of 6.3 percent during the period under review compared to 5.1 percent obtained during April 2022. The increase in the annual inflation rate resulted mainly from increases registered in the price levels of Food and non-alcoholic beverages (6.0% to 13.4%); Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (2.5 % to 9.1%); Clothing and footwear (-1.5% to 4.7%) and Miscellaneous goods and services (-0.1% to 5.7%).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate rose by 0.3 percent in April 2023 compared to 0.6 percent recorded a month earlier.

**Zone 2**- The year-on-year inflation rate for April 2023 increased by 5.9 percent, a slowdown when compared to 6.3 percent recorded during the same period of 2022. The slowdown emanated mainly from the price levels of Transport (20.1% to 4.2%); Hotels, cafes, and restaurants (12.4% to 6.5%) and Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (14.0% to 8.7%).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate increased by 0.6 percent in April 2023 compared to 0.4 percent recorded in March 2023.

**Zone 3** - The year-on-year inflation rate stood at 6.0 percent in April 2023 up from 5.3 percent recorded during same period last year. The increase in the annual inflation rate resulted mainly from increases witnessed in the price levels of Miscellaneous goods and services (0.4% to 12.8%); Food and non-alcoholic beverages (5.4% to 12.1%); Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (-0.3% to 3.2%) and Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (5.2% to 8.1%).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate for April 2023 rose by 0.2 percent, a slowdown when compared to 0.6 percent recorded last month.

## Zonal average prices on selected products

**Table 2: Average prices on selected products – April 2023**

Item	Unit of Measurement	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
White bread	Each	13.37	13.16	13.66
Brown bread	each	13.48	14.33	13.41
Chicken, frozen assorted pieces	1.5kg	111.93	83.55	85.50
Eggs	Pack of 6	21.15	23.05	21.12
<b>Citrus Fruits</b>	<b>Per kg</b>			
Oranges, loose	Per kg	29.80	37.18	30.10
Grapefruit: loose	Per kg	36.60	44.95	41.19
Lemons: loose	Per kg	36.69	37.61	27.09
Pure Sunflower oil	750ml	36.07	36.89	36.43
Brown sugar	1kg	19.49	19.99	18.86
Honey	500g	109.32	87.56	88.16
<b>Beef</b>	<b>Per kg</b>			
Stewing Beef	Per kg	89.99	87.44	93.81
Rump steak	Per kg	148.97	162.99	179.66
Fillet steak	Per kg	232.97	307.95	241.60
Beef brisket	Per kg	100.94	106.77	112.40
Beer (local)	330ml	11.74	12.60	12.85
Petrol	Per litre	20.28	20.20	20.18
Diesel	Per litre	21.16	21.08	21.08

## 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 and routine maintenance of the house	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

	NCPI MAIN GROUPS	Weights		
		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 April 2023

Period		Index	m-o-m	y-o-y
2022	Apr	153.0	1.4	5.6
	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
	<b>An. Av</b>	<b>154.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>
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

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

Zones		Zone 1			Zone 2			Zone 3		
Period		Index	m-o-m	y-o-y	Index	m-o-m	y-o-y	Index	m-o-m	y-o-y
2022	Apr	151.5	1.6	5.1	149.7	1.3	6.3	160.9	1.3	5.3
	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
	<b>An. Av</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>
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

## 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:

- i. 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

APRIL 2023



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