# Namibia Consumer Price Index Bulletin - NCPI

### February 2024





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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF CHARTS
LIST OF BOXES
LIST OF TABLES
LIST OF ACRONYMS
PREFACE
NCPI Zonal Map: Key highlights
Major divisions contribution to the annual inflation rate
Annual inflation rate by All Divisions
Major divisions annual inflation rates
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels
Food and non-alcoholic beverages
Transport
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco
Goods and Services inflation rates
Inflation rates by Zones
Zonal average prices on selected products
Box 2:NCPI basket weights
Box 3: Zonal NCPI weights
APPENDICES
Appendix A: NCPI: All Items Index, monthly and annual pe
Appendix B: NCPI Zonal All- Items Index, Monthly and Ann
Appendix C: Background of the Zonal Consumer Price Ind
Appendix D: Forthcoming report

iii iii iii iii iv 1 3 5 6 6 8 10 11 12 13 15 16 17 18 ercentage changes February 2024 18 nual inflation rates (Dec 2012=100) 19 20 dex 20

i



### LIST OF CHARTS

Chart 1: NCPI groups contribution to annual inflation rate (%), February 2024	3
Chart 2: Monthly and annual percentage change (February 2023- February 2024)	4
Chart 3: Annual percentage change by division, February 2024	5
Chart 4: Annual inflation rates (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	
(February 2023- February 2024)	e
Chart 5: Annual inflation rate (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels for February 2024	7
Chart 6: Annual inflation rates (%) for Food and non-alcoholic beverages and selected food	
sub-categories (February 2023 – February 2024)	8
Chart 7: Annual inflation rates (%) for the main subcategories of Food and non-alcoholic	
beverages (February 2024)	9
Chart 8: Annual inflation rates (%) for Transport (February 2023 – February 2024)	10
Chart 9: Annual inflation rates (%) for Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (February 2023 – February 2024)	12
Chart 10: Goods and services annual inflation rates (%) (February 2023 – February 2024)	13

### **LIST OF BOXES**

Box 1: Main division contributions to the NCPI annual percentage change	2
Box 2:NCPI basket weights	17
Box 3: Zonal NCPI weights	18

### LIST OF TABLES

_Table 1: Zonal annual inflation rates (%) January 2023 – February 2024	13
Table 2: Average prices in N\$ on selected products February 2024	15

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

CPI :Consumer Price Index NCPI :Namibia Consumer Price Index **NHIES** :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 conducting monetary policy to maintain price stability and control consumers spending. The Consumer Price Index is published about 15 days after the end of the reference month to which it relates.

The annual inflation rate for February 2024, stood at 5.0 percent compared to 7.2 percent recorded in February 2023. On a monthly basis, the inflation rate was 0.0 percent, a drop from 1.3 percent recorded a month earlier.

The Zonal inflation rates for the month of February 2024 revealed that, Zone 2 (Khomas region) recorded the highest annual inflation rate of 5.5 percent, followed by Zone 1 (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi regions) which recorded an inflation rate of 5.3 percent and Zone 3 (//Kharas, Erongo, Hardap, Omaheke regions) annual inflation rate was 4.0 percent.

Analysis of the average retail prices of selected products for the month of February 2024 revealed that consumers in Zone 2 paid the highest price for a pack of 6 eggs at N\$22.49 followed by Zone 3 at N\$21.65, while consumers in Zone 1 paid the least price of N\$19.94. For Stewing beef, consumers in Zone 1 paid the highest price of N\$95.12 per kg, followed by Zone 3 at N\$93.97 per kg, while Zone 2 paid the least price of N\$90.35 per kg.

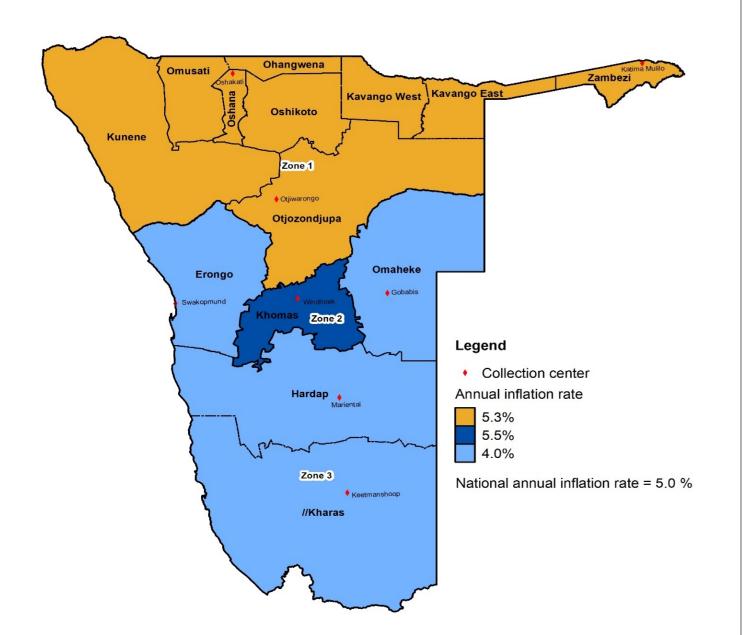
I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to all stakeholders who assisted in the production of this bulletin. Further, I would like to urge our readers and users of this bulletin to send to us any comments that may enhance statistical production and contribute to the improvement of this bulletin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

**ALEX SHIMUAFENI STATISTICIAN-GENERAL & CEO** 



### Annual inflation stood at 5.0 percent in February 2024

#### NCPI Zonal Map: Key highlights



- The annual inflation rate stood at **5.0 percent.**
- The annual inflation rate for Goods was estimated at **6.4 percent.**
- The annual inflation rate for Services stood at 3.1 percent.
- The average annual inflation rate for the period February 2023 to February 2024 stood at **5.7 percent**.
- The twelve-month average annual inflation rate from March 2023 to February 2024 was estimated at 5.6 percent.

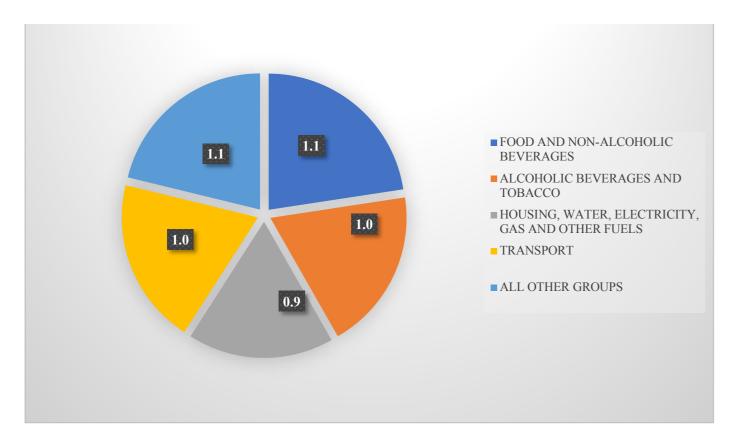
#### Box 1: Main division contributions to the NCPI annual percentage change

Divisions		Contributions (%)	
	Feb - 23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	2.6	1.3	1.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.0	1.0	1.0
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.0	0.0
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	0.7	1.1	0.9
Furnishings, household equipment etc.	0.4	0.3	0.2
Health	0.1	0.1	0.1
Transport	1.5	0.9	1.0
Communication	0.0	0.0	0.0
Recreation and culture	0.2	0.4	0.4
Education	0.2	0.1	0.1
Hotels, cafes, and restaurants	0.1	0.1	0.1
Miscellaneous goods and services	0.4	0.2	0.2
All items	7.2	5.4	5.0

### Major divisions contribution to the annual inflation rate

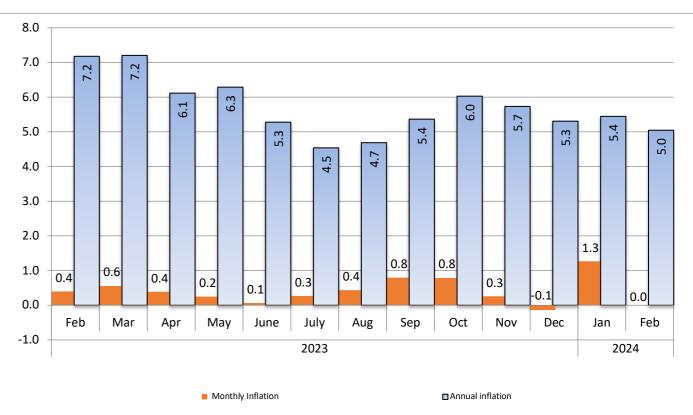
The major contributors to the annual inflation rate for February 2024 were 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (which contributed 1.1 percentage points); followed by Transport and 'Alcoholic beverages & tobacco' each recording 1.0 percentage points; and 'Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels' contributing 0.9 percentage points.





On a monthly basis, the price levels in February 2024 increased by 0.01 percent, which is 1.3 percentage point lower than what was recorded during the preceding month.

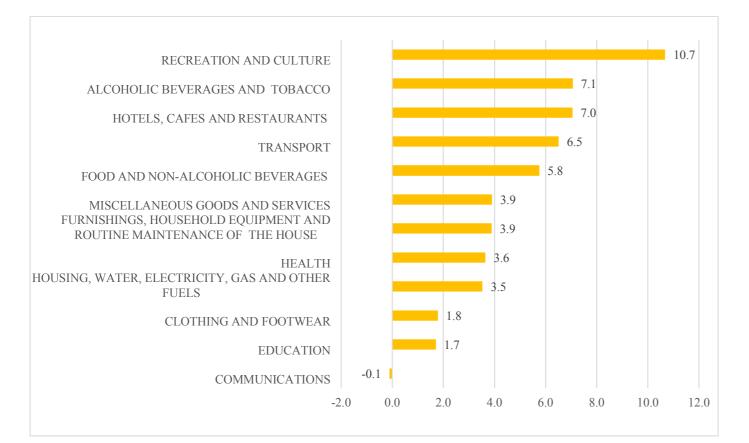
#### Chart 2: Monthly and annual inflation, percentage change (February 2023 - February 2024)



### Annual inflation rate by All Divisions

The highest change in the annual inflation rates were witnessed in the categories of 'Recreation and culture' (10.7%); 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' (7.1%); 'Hotels, cafés and restaurants' (7.0%); Transport (6.5%); and 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (5.8%).

#### Chart 3: Annual percentage change by division, February 2024



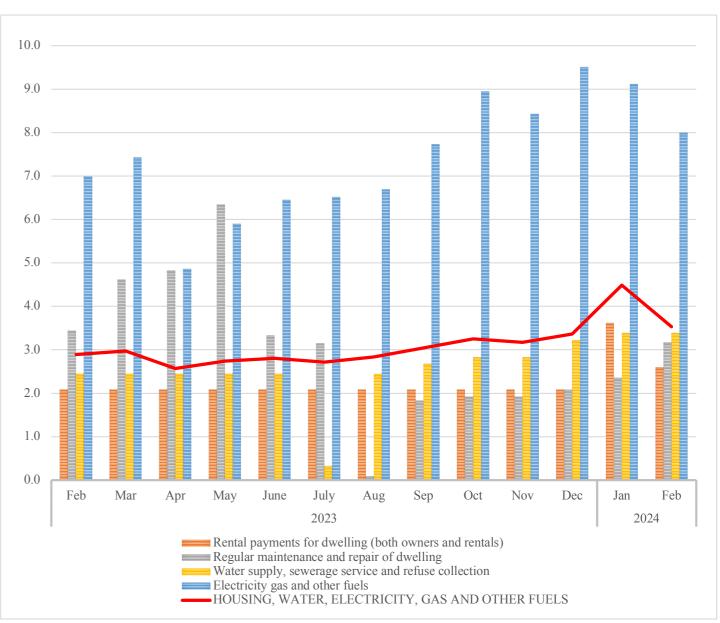
### Major divisions annual inflation rates

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

The Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels component accounts for 28.4 percent of the consumer basket. The annual inflation rate increased to 3.5 percent during February 2024 compared to 2.9 percent observed in February 2023.

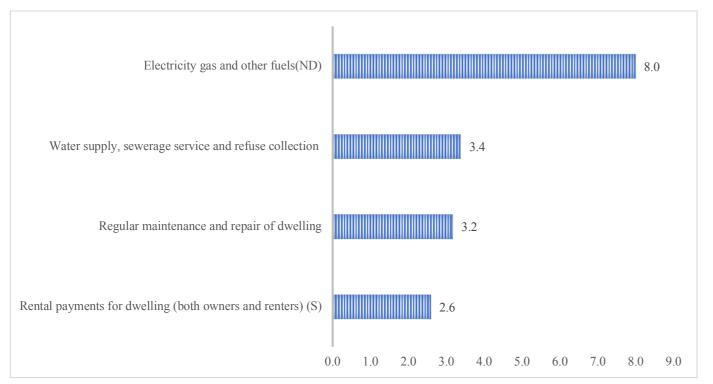
On a monthly basis, the inflation rate registered a decline of 0.7 percent, compared to 2.8 percent increase observed during the previous month.

#### Chart 4: Annual inflation rates (%) for Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (February 2023-February 2024)



The increase in the annual price levels of this category was mainly reflected in the subgroups of 'Electricity, gas and other fuels' (from 7.0% to 8.0%) and 'Water supply, sewerage and refuse collection' (from 2.5% to 3.4%).



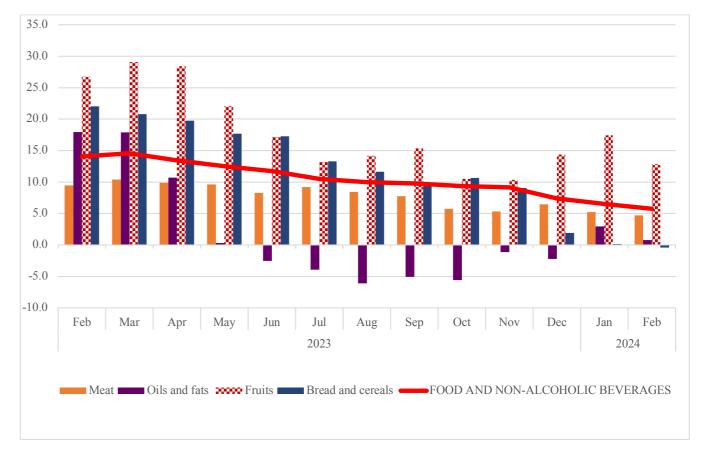


### Food and non-alcoholic beverages

Food and non-alcoholic beverages which accounts for 16.5 percent of the NCPI basket, registered an annual inflation rate of 5.8 percent in February 2024, compared to 14.0 percent recorded in February 2023.

On a monthly basis, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate rose to 0.3 percent in February 2024, slower than 1.5 percent that was recorded in January 2024.

#### Chart 6: Annual inflation rates (%) for Food and non-alcoholic beverages and selected food sub-categories (February 2023 – February 2024)



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

Bread and cereals prices on average declined by 0.4 percent in February 2024, compared to 22.0 percent increase witnessed during the same month of the previous year. The decrease in the annual inflation rate for this subcategory was mainly observed in the price levels of Maize, meal/grain (from 35.9% to -8.3%); Bread, cake flour (from 26.4% to-2.6%); 'Macaroni, spaghetti, and noodles' (from 19.9% to-2.1%); Mealie rice/malt (from 18.3% to 1.8%) and Bread (from 19.1% to 5.4%).

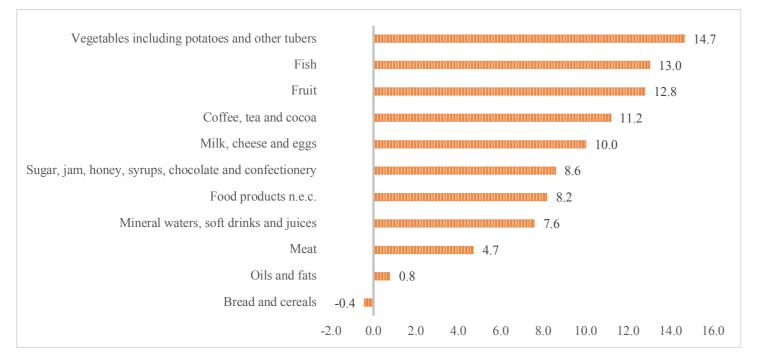
On average, **Oils and fats** prices increased by 0.8 percent in February 2024 compared to an inflation of 17.9 percent recorded a year ago. The slower increase in the annual inflation rate for this subcategory emanates from a decrease in prices of cooking oil (from 22.3% to-3.0%); Cooking fats (from 11.9% to-3.0%); and 'Margarine and margarine spreads' (from 14.2% to 2.4%).



The Fruits subcomponent recorded an annual inflation rate of 12.8 percent during February 2024 compared to 26.8 percent registered in February 2023. The slow increase was mainly reflected in the price levels of Avocados (from 75.7% to 8.2%) and Watermelons (from 16.7% to 3.6%).

On average, prices for Meat rose by 4.7 percent during February 2024 compared to 9.4 percent increase that was recorded during the same period a year ago. The slow increase was mainly observed in the price levels of Biltong (from 5.8% to-6.7%); Ham (from 21.3% to 9.4%); 'Offals and meat waste' (from 14.3% to 3.7%) and Sausages (from 13.2 % to 2.7%).

#### Chart 7: Annual inflation rates (%) for the main subcategories of Food and non-alcoholic beverages (February 2024)

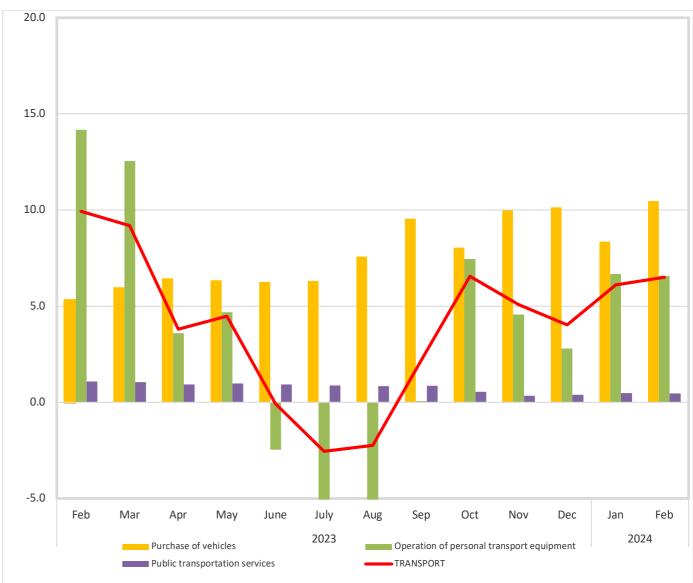


#### **Transport**

The annual inflation rate for the Transport category, which accounts for 14.3 percent of the consumer basket stood at 6.5 percent during February 2024, compared to 9.9 percent recorded in February 2023. The slow increase in the annual inflation rate for this component was reflected in the subcomponents of Operation of personal transport equipment (from 14.2% to 6.6%) and Public transportation services (from 1.1% to 0.5%).

On a monthly basis, the Transport group inflation rate increased to 0.4 percent in February 2024 from -1.3 percent recorded in previous month.

#### Chart 8: Annual inflation rates (%) for Transport (February 2023 – February 2024)



Annual inflation rate recorded for Operation of personal transport equipment increased to 6.6 percent during February 2024 compared to an increase of 14.2 percent recorded in February 2023. The slow increase was mainly witnessed in the subcategories of Parking fees (from 25.7% to 5.9%); Petrol/Diesel (from 21.1% to 7.5%) and Lubrication (from 12.2% to 1.6%).

Annual inflation rate for Public transportation services stood at 0.5 percent during February 2024, compared to 1.1 percent registered in the same period of the preceding year. The slowdown in the inflation rate of this subcomponent emanates mainly from 'Furniture removal and transport of goods' (from 25.9% to 4.1%) and

Bus transportation (from 1.9% to 0.3%).

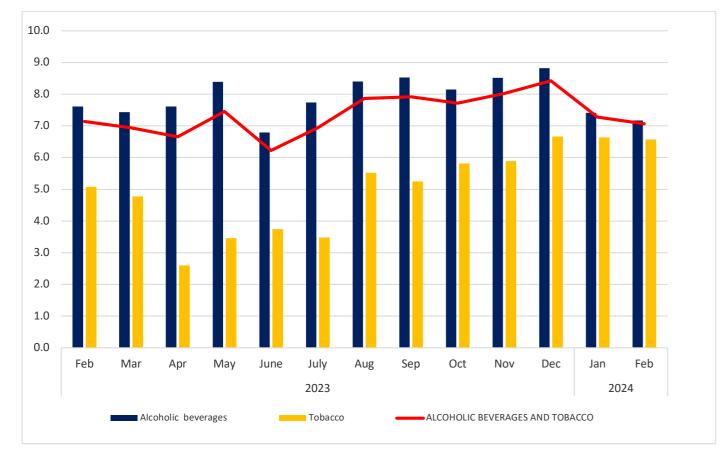
Purchase of vehicles annual inflation rate increased to 10.5 percent in February 2024 from 5.3 percent recorded in February 2023. The increase in the annual inflation rate for this category was mainly observed in Motor cars (from 5.5% to 10.8%); Bicycles (from-0.2% to 2.1%) and Motorcycles (from 1.1% to 3.2%).



### Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

The annual inflation rate for Alcoholic beverages and tobacco category, which accounts for 12.6 percent of the consumer basket, remain unchanged at 7.1 percent.

Month-on-month, inflation rate for this category was 0.2 percent compared to 1.4 percent that was registered a month earlier.





Annual inflation rate for Alcoholic beverages registered a slow increase of 7.2 percent in February 2024, compared to 7.6 percent recorded in February 2023. The main products which pushed down the inflation rate for this subcomponent were White Spirits (from 26.0% to 9.0%); Brandies (from 8.1% to 4.7%) and Wines (from 5.5% to 3.1%).

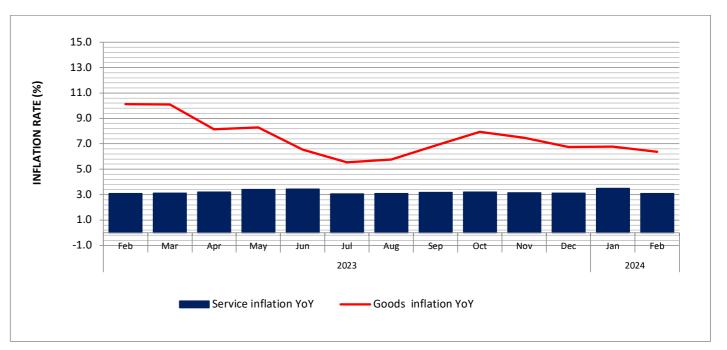
Annual inflation rate for Tobacco increased to 6.6 percent during the period under review compared to 5.1 percent recorded same period of 2023. The increase in the price levels for this subcategory was reflected in Pipe tobacco (from 2.9% to 10.4%).

## **Goods and Services inflation rates**

Goods annual percentage changes stood at 6.4 percent in February 2024 compared to 10.1 percent witnessed a year ago, while annual inflation rate for Services remain unchanged at 3.1 percent.

Month-on-month, the inflation rates for Goods stood at 0.3 percent compared to 0.6 percent registered during January 2024. The monthly inflation rate for Services declined to 0.4 percent in February 2024, compared to 2.3 percent recoded a month earlier.

#### Chart 10: Goods and services annual inflation rates (%) (February 2023 – February 2024)



### 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 (%) January 2023 – February 2024

	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
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
June -23	5.2	5.4	5.2
July - 23	4.7	4.6	4.2
Aug -23	5.3	4.5	4.0
Sep- 23	6.1	5.2	4.6
Oct - 23	6.6	5.7	5.6
Nov - 23	6.4	5.3	5.3
Dec - 23	5.9	5.0	4.9
An. Av	6.3	5.6	5.7
Jan - 24	5.5	5.7	5.0
Feb- 24	5.3	5.5	4.0

Zone 1: The year-on-year inflation rate eased to 5.3 in February 2024, down from 7.6 percent witnessed in February 2023. The slowdown in the annual inflation rate emanated mainly from the slower increases registered in the price levels of 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (from 14.6% to 5.3%); Education (from 4.5% to 0.6%); 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (from 4.9% to 2.5%) and Clothing and footwear (from 4.2% to 2.0%).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate rose to 0.2 percent, a slowdown compared to 1.0 percent recorded in January 2024.

Zone 2: Year-on-year inflation rate for the period under review stood at 5.5 percent, a slowdown when compared to 6.7 percent recorded during the same period of 2023. The slowdown emanates mainly from the price levels of 'Food and non-alcoholic beverages' (from 14.2% to 6.5%); 'Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house' (from 9.0 % to 2.9%); Transport (from 10.5% to 5.9%); and 'Miscellaneous goods and services' (from 6.7% to 3.3%).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate stood at 0.2 percent in February 2024 compared to 1.6 percent recorded during the prior month.

Zone 3: The year-on-year inflation rate slowed to 4.0 percent in February 2024 down from 7.3 percent recorded during same period last year. The slowdown in the annual inflation rate resulted mainly from Food and nonalcoholic beverages (from 12.7% to 5.7%); Furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house (from 8.7% to 3.6%); Transport (from 10.4% to 5.8%); and Miscellaneous goods and services (from 10.4% to 6.7%).

On a monthly basis, Zone 3 observed a decline of 0.6 percent in February 2024, compared to an increase of 1.2 percent registered last month.



### Zonal average prices N\$ on selected products

#### Table 2: Average prices in N\$ on selected products – February 2024

Item	Unit of measurement	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
White bread	Each	14.62	14.55	14.07
Brown bread	Each	13.82	14.33	13.91
Chicken, frozen assorted pieces	1.5kg	83.56	85.76	82.23
Eggs	Pack of 6	19.94	22.49	21.65
Citrus Fruits	Per kg			
Oranges, loose	Per kg	39.37	41.82	37.70
Grapefruit: loose	Per kg	30.70	32.81	34.96
Lemons: loose	Per kg	46.02	50.60	33.30
Pure Sunflower oil	750ml	32.52	31.81	30.99
Brown sugar	1kg	21.49	21.49	20.83
Honey	500g	78.77	106.08	92.51
Beef	Per kg			
Stewing Beef	Per kg	95.12	90.35	93.97
Rump steak	Per kg	164.47	178.24	205.90
Fillet steak	Per kg	317.26	251.73	274.91
Beef brisket	Per kg	96.00	107.50	110.77
Beer (local)	330ml	13.69	13.98	13.35
Petrol	Per litre	21.28	21.20	21.20
Diesel	Per litre	21.56	21.48	21.47

### 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

### **Appendices**

## Appendix A: NCPI: All Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes February 2024

	Period	Index	m-o-m	у-о-у
2022	Jan	149.7	1.1	4.6
	Feb	150.1	0.2	4.5
	Mar	150.9	0.5	4.5
	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
	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
	June	162.9	0.1	5.3
	July	163.3	0.3	4.5
	Aug	164.0	0.4	4.7
	Sep	165.3	0.8	5.4
	Oct	166.6	0.8	6.0
	Nov	167.1	0.3	5.7
	Dec	166.8	-0.1	5.3
	An. Av	163.7	0.4	5.9
2024	Jan	168.9	1.3	5.4
	Feb	169.0	0.0	5.0

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

2022	Jan	147.9	0.5	4.1	146.8	2.0	5.3	157.5	0.4	4.4
	Feb	148.4	0.3	3.9	147.2	0.2	5.3	157.7	0.1	4.1
	Mar	149.1	0.5	3.8	147.8	0.5	5.3	158.8	0.7	4.4
	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
	June	153.3	1.1	5.6	151.2	0.9	6.7	162.8	1.1	5.6
	July	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	165.3	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
	June	161.2	0.0	5.2	159.4	0.1	5.4	171.3	0.0	5.2
	July	161.6	0.2	4.7	160.0	0.4	4.6	171.6	0.2	4.2
	Aug	163.1	1.0	5.3	160.0	0.0	4.5	171.9	0.2	4.0
	Sep	164.6	0.9	6.1	161.3	0.8	5.2	173.1	0.7	4.6
	Oct	165.8	0.7	6.6	162.3	0.7	5.7	175.00	1.1	5.6
	Nov	166.3	0.3	6.4	162.7	0.2	5.3	175.4	0.2	5.3
	Dec	166.0	-0.2	5.9	162.6	0.0	5.0	175.1	-0.2	4.9
	An. Av	162.5	0.5	6.3	159.8	0.4	5.6	172.0	0.4	5.7
2024	Jan	167.6	1.0	5.5	165.3	1.6	5.7	177.1	1.2	5.0
	Feb	168.0	0.2	5.3	165.6	0.2	5.5	176.0	-0.6	4.0

## **Appendix 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.

- i.
- ii. geographic distribution of economic activities; and
- iii. Regional capitals.

### **Appendix D: Forthcoming report**

Report	
March 2024	





**Expected release date** 

09 April 2024

### Namibia Consumer Price Index Bulletin (NCPI) FEBRUARY 2024



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