

Press Release



Central Statistical Office

P.O. Box 31908, Lusaka

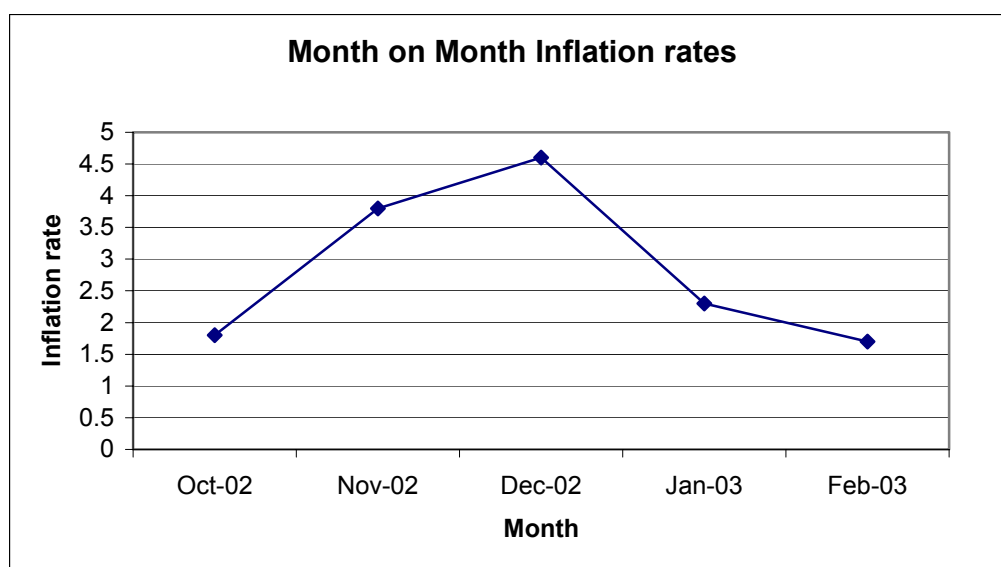
For immediate Release
Tuesday March 11, 2003

Information
Enquiries

Tel: +260-1-251377
Tel/Fax: +260-1-253468/253609
E-mail: info@zamstats.gov.zm
Website: www.zamstats.gov.zm

Consumer Price Index (CPI)- February 2003

The Central Statistical Office, through its monthly data collection on prices, today announced that the monthly inflation rate was recorded at 1.7 percent as at February 2003, representing a decline of 0.6 percentage points on the January rate of 2.3 percent. Monthly inflation rates for the metropolitan low, high income and non-metropolitan groups were recorded at 1.2, 2.5 and 1.6 percent respectively.



Similarly, the annual rate of inflation declined from 24.3 percent in January to 22.9 as at February 2003. Annual inflation rates for the Metropolitan Low, High and Non-Metropolitan Groups were recorded at 26.2, 21.3 and 22.0 percent respectively.

Relatively lower prices were recorded in February for Roller meal, maize grain, tubers, fresh vegetables, meat, dried kapenta, sugar and local cooking oil. Increases were

however, registered in fresh kapenta, fresh milk, imported rice and flour, dried fish and other processed food commodities.

The food index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent in February 2003, 2.7 percent lower than the registered increase for January 2003. Measured on a 12-month basis, food inflation stood at 27.1 percent as at February 2003, declining by 4.0 percentage points on the January rate of 31.1 percent.

Other factors that contributed to the observed February inflation levels were the relatively lower rates for accommodation in the hospitality industry and a decline in the cost of household energy (charcoal), while the cost of air travel, diesel and house rentals recorded increases.

The average price of a 25Kg bag of roller meal decreased by 1.6 percent, from K40,083 in January to K39,442 in February 2003 as well as maize grain measured in a 20 litre tin which registered a decline of 0.7 percent. Additionally, the average price of 1Kg of dried fish (bream) increased by 3 percent.

Buleti Nsemukila Dr.
Director of Census and Statistics