

Press Release



Central Statistical Office

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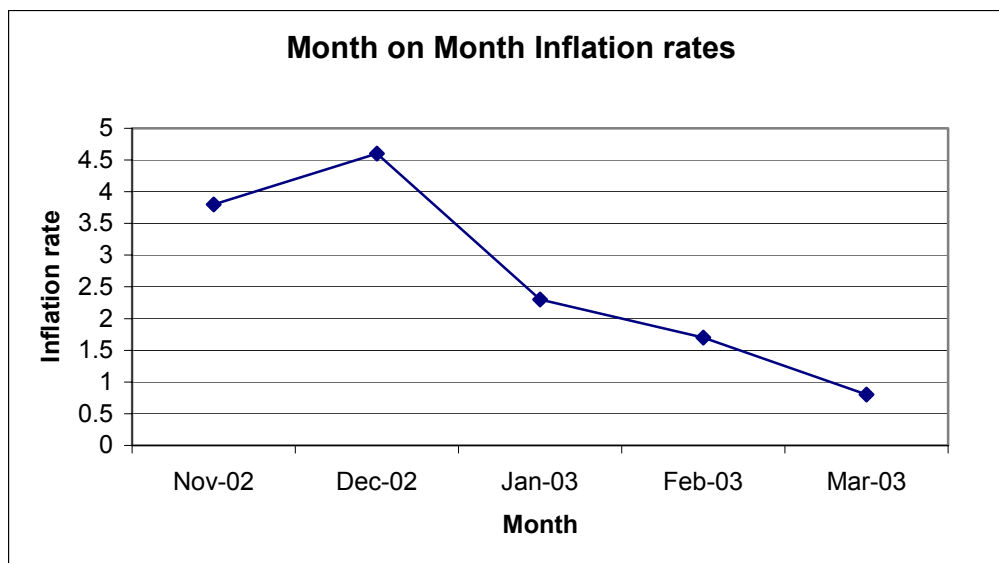
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Consumer Price Index (CPI)- March 2003

The Central Statistical Office, through its monthly data collection on prices, today announced that the monthly inflation rate was recorded at 0.8 percent as at March 2003, representing a decline of 0.9 percentage points on the February rate of 1.7 percent. Monthly inflation rates for the Metropolitan low, high income and Non-Metropolitan groups were recorded at 0.5, 2.1 and 0.1 percent respectively.



Similarly, the annual rate of inflation declined from 22.9 percent in February to 22.6 percent as at March 2003. Annual inflation rates for the Metropolitan Low, High and Non-Metropolitan Groups were recorded at 25.7, 22.1 and 21.1 percent respectively.

Significant lower prices were recorded in March for Roller meal, maize grain, fresh vegetables, dried beans, fresh fish and fruits. However, price increases were observed in

the following food items; meat, dried kapenta, oils and fats, tubers (Irish and Sweet Potatoes) and other processed food commodities.

The food index recorded a decrease of 0.7 percent in March 2003, 1.2 percentage points lower than the rate for February 2003. Measured on a 12-month basis, food inflation stood at 25.7 percent as at March 2003, declining by 1.4 percentage points on the February rate of 27.1 percent.

Price decreases were also observed in the following non-food sectors; Clothing and footwear, Furniture and Household Goods and Recreation. Price increases were recorded in the Rent, Fuel and Lighting which rose by 2.8 percent, while the Other Goods and Services index recorded an increase of 3.9 percent.

The average price of a 25Kg bag of roller meal decreased by 3.8 percent, from K39,442 in February to K37,929 in March 2003 as well as maize grain measured in a 20 litre tin which registered a decline of 10.3 percent.

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