

Press Release



Republic of Zambia

Central Statistical Office

P.O. Box 31908, Lusaka

For immediate Release
Thursday October 26, 2006

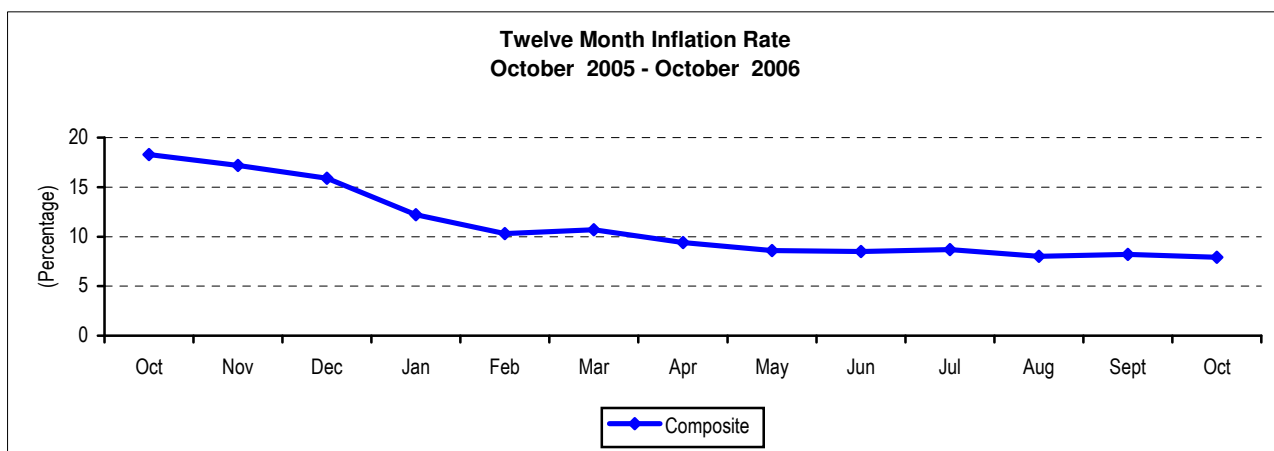
Information
Enquiries

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

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - October 2006

The Central Statistical Office through its monthly survey on consumer prices today announced that the annual rate of inflation, as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI), was recorded at 7.9 percent as at October 2006. This rate is 0.3 of a percentage point lower than the September rate of 8.2 percent. Compared with the same period last year, the annual rate of inflation declined by 10.4 percentage points, from 18.3 percent in October 2005 to 7.9 percent in October 2006.

The October 2006 inflation rate of 7.9 percent means that prices as measured by the all items Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by an average of 7.9 percent between October 2005 and October 2006.



Contributions of the different Items to overall Inflation

The decline of 0.3 of a percentage point in the annual inflation rate from 8.2 percent in September 2006 to 7.9 percent in October 2006 is due to the decline in the inflation rates for food, beverages and tobacco, rent and household energy, transport and communication main groups.

Of the total 7.9 percent annual inflation in October 2006, food products accounted for 0.5 of a percentage point while non-food products in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) accounted for a total of 7.4 percentage points.

Item	Percentage Points Contributions of different Items to overall inflation	
	September 2006	October 2006
Food, Beverages and Tobacco	0.8	0.5
Clothing and Footwear	2.2	2.6
Rent and household energy	1.6	1.3
Furniture and Household Goods	1.6	1.6
Medical Care	0.2	0.2
Transport (fuel, air fares, new motor vehicles)	0.4	0.3
Recreation and Education	1.0	1.0
Other Goods and Services	0.4	0.4
All Items	8.2	7.9

The annual food inflation rate

The annual food inflation rate was recorded at 1.0 percent in October 2006, decreasing by 0.5 of a percentage point on the September rate of 1.5 percent. Contributing most to the decline in food inflation were declines in the cost of fresh vegetables, fish, kapenta, shelled groundnuts, dried beans and cassava meal. Generally, maize meal recorded stable retail prices.

The annual non-food inflation rate

The annual non-food inflation rate stood at 15.4 percent in October 2006, compared with 15.7 percent in September 2006. This decline was due to the decline in the annual inflation rates for transport and communications, rent and household energy main groups.

Retail prices of selected items

A comparison of prices between September 2006 and October 2006, shows that the national average price of a 25 kg bag of breakfast meal marginally increased by 0.9 percent, from K36,103 to K36,417. The national average price of a 20 litre tin of maize grain increased by 9.3 percent, from K11,949 to K13,059. The national average price of 1kg of onion declined by 13.9 percent, while the national average price of 1kg of dried Kapenta (Mpulungu) declined by 4.1 percent.

The high weight of maize grain, maize meal, fish/kapenta and fresh vegetables in the CPI means that any changes in the prices of these products have a strong bearing on the movements of the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

**TABLE 1: Index Numbers of Consumer Prices by Food and Non-Food Items
(1994 WEIGHTS)**

1994 = 100

Period	Total	Food	Non-Food
Weight	1000	571	429
1990	4.3	4.0	4.8
1991	8.6	7.7	9.8
1992	22.8	23.2	22.4
1993	64.7	66.2	62.7
1994	100.0	100.0	100.0
1995	134.9	135.2	134.5
1996	193.0	192.7	193.4
1997	240.2	234.0	248.3
1998	298.9	291.5	308.7
1999	379.0	357.3	407.7
2000	477.7	438.0	530.2
2001	579.9	520.7	658.4
2002	708.8	661.6	771.3
2003 January	816.9	799.1	839.8
February	830.9	803.1	867.7
March	837.2	797.2	890.1
April	839.0	791.8	901.6
May	846.8	788.9	923.7
June	844.8	778.8	932.4
July	843.9	774.0	936.7
August	856.1	788.6	945.8
September	874.9	813.8	956.1
October	891.0	833.2	967.6
November	908.9	849.0	988.5
December	935.3	878.4	1010.7
2004 January	959.4	898.7	1039.8
February	970.3	906.6	1054.8
March	984.8	924.3	1065.0
April	987.9	921.0	1076.6
May	994.4	922.1	1090.4
June	1002.0	924.4	1105.1
July	1008.2	927.7	1115.0
August	1017.9	935.7	1127.0
September	1030.3	941.2	1148.5
October	1051.5	966.9	1163.7
November	1075.3	991.9	1186.0
December	1099.0	1021.7	1201.5
2005 January	1134.3	1059.3	1233.8
February	1151.6	1072.5	1256.7
March	1156.1	1072.0	1267.8
April	1171.5	1086.6	1284.1
May	1184.7	1098.6	1299.2
June	1194.8	1102.4	1317.5
July	1196.6	1100.9	1323.9
August	1214.4	1126.1	1331.6
September	1231.2	1136.1	1357.6
October	1244.1	1148.9	1370.5
November	1260.6	1172.9	1377.1
December	1273.2	1200.9	1369.3
2006 January	1272.3	1194.5	1375.7
February	1270.0	1182.2	1386.5
March	1279.6	1189.3	1399.3
April	1281.6	1176.7	1420.7
May	1286.8	1159.7	1455.3
June	1296.8	1160.8	1477.2
July	1300.2	1147.9	1504.2
August	1311.1	1131.1	1549.9
September	1332.6	1152.7	1571.3
October	1341.8	1160.7	1582.0

TABLE 2: MONTH ON MONTH INFLATION RATES

Percent

Period	Total	Food	Non-Food
Jan 02 - Dec 01	4.3	6.7	1.7
Feb 02 - Jan 02	2.9	3.7	2.0
Mar 02 - Feb 02	1.0	0.4	1.7
Apr 02 - Mar 02	-0.8	-1.6	0.1
May 02 - Apr 02	1.0	1.2	1.9
Jun 02 - May 02	1.2	1.0	1.4
Jul 02 - Jun 02	1.4	1.7	1.0
Aug 02 - Jul 02	1.3	1.6	1.0
Sep 02 - Aug 02	1.5	1.9	1.1
Oct 02 - Sep 02	1.8	2.5	1.0
Nov 02 - Oct 02	3.8	5.7	1.5
Dec 02 - Nov 02	4.6	6.3	2.5
Jan 03 - Dec 02	2.3	3.2	1.1
Feb 03 - Jan 03	1.7	0.5	3.3
Mar 03 - Feb 03	0.8	-0.7	2.6
Apr 03 - Mar 03	0.2	-0.7	1.3
May 03 - Apr 03	0.9	-0.4	2.5
Jun 03 - May 03	-0.2	-0.3	0.9
Jul 03 - Jun 03	-0.1	-0.6	0.5
Aug 03 - Jul 03	1.4	1.9	1.0
Sep 03 - Aug 03	2.2	3.2	1.1
Oct 03 - Sep 03	1.8	2.4	1.2
Nov 03 - Oct 03	2.0	1.9	2.2
Dec 03 - Nov 03	2.9	3.5	2.2
Jan 04 - Dec 03	2.6	2.3	2.9
Feb 04 - Jan 04	1.1	0.9	1.4
Mar 04 - Feb 04	1.5	2.0	1.0
Apr 04 - Mar 04	0.3	-0.4	1.1
May 04 - Apr 04	0.7	0.1	1.3
Jun 04 - May 04	0.8	0.2	1.3
Jul 04 - Jun 04	0.6	0.4	0.9
Aug 04 - Jul 04	1.0	0.9	1.1
Sep 04 - Aug 04	1.2	0.6	1.9
Oct 04 - Sep 04	2.1	2.7	1.3
Nov 04 - Oct 04	2.3	2.6	1.9
Dec 04 - Nov 04	2.2	3.0	1.3
Jan 05 - Dec 04	3.2	3.7	2.7
Feb 05 - Jan 05	1.5	1.2	1.9
Mar 05 - Feb 05	0.4	0.0	0.9
Apr 05 - Mar 05	1.3	1.4	1.3
May 05 - Apr 05	1.1	1.1	1.2
Jun 05 - May 05	0.8	0.3	1.4
Jul 05 - Jun 05	0.2	-0.1	0.5
Aug 05 - Jul 05	1.5	2.3	0.6
Sep 05 - Aug 05	1.4	0.9	1.9
Oct 05 - Sep 05	1.1	1.1	1.0
Nov 05 - Oct 05	1.3	2.1	0.5
Dec 05 - Nov 05	1.0	2.4	-0.6
Jan 06 - Dec 05	-0.1	-0.5	0.5
Feb 06 - Jan 06	-0.2	-1.0	0.8
Mar 06 - Feb 06	0.8	0.6	0.9
Apr 06 - Mar 06	0.2	-1.1	0.5
May 06 - Apr 06	0.4	-1.4	2.4
Jun 06 - May 06	0.8	0.1	1.5
Jul 06 - Jun 06	0.3	-1.1	1.8
Aug 06 - Jul 06	0.8	-1.5	3.0
Sep 06 - Aug 06	1.6	1.9	1.4
Oct 06 - Sept06	0.7	0.7	0.7

TABLE 3: TWELVE-MONTH INFLATION RATES

Percent

Period	Total	Food	Non-Food
Jan 02 - Jan 01	19.6	22.6	16.4
Feb 02 - Feb 01	19.2	20.1	18.2
Mar 02 - Mar 01	18.1	17.6	18.6
Apr 02 - Apr 01	17.8	17.1	18.6
May 02 - May 01	20.9	23.8	17.9
Jun 02 - Jun 01	23.6	28.9	18.1
Jul 02 - Jul 01	23.4	30.3	16.6
Aug 02 - Aug 01	23.7	30.8	16.7
Sep 02 - Sep 01	23.8	31.6	16.1
Oct 02 - Oct 01	23.8	31.7	15.8
Nov 02 - Nov 01	25.3	34.4	15.9
Dec 02 - Dec 01	26.7	35.5	17.2
Jan 03 - Jan 02	24.3	31.1	16.5
Feb 03 - Feb 02	22.8	27.1	18.0
Mar 03 - Mar 02	22.6	25.7	19.0
Apr 03 - Apr 02	23.9	26.9	20.5
May 03 - May 02	23.7	24.9	22.4
Jun 03 - Jun 02	21.9	22.1	21.8
Jul 03 - Jul 02	20.2	19.3	21.1
Aug 03 - Aug 02	20.3	19.7	21.0
Sep 03 - Sep 02	21.1	21.2	21.0
Oct 03 - Oct 02	21.1	21.0	21.3
Nov 03 - Nov 02	19.1	16.6	22.1
Dec 03 - Dec 02	17.2	13.5	21.7
Jan 04 - Jan 03	17.4	12.5	23.5
Feb 04 - Feb 03	16.8	12.9	21.6
Mar 04 - Mar 03	17.6	15.9	19.6
Apr 04 - Apr 03	17.8	16.3	19.4
May 04 - May 03	17.4	16.9	18.0
Jun 04 - Jun 03	18.6	18.7	18.5
Jul 04 - Jul 03	19.5	19.9	19.0
Aug 04 - Aug 03	18.9	18.7	19.2
Sep 04 - Sep 03	17.8	15.7	20.1
Oct 04 - Oct 03	18.0	16.0	20.3
Nov 04 - Nov 03	18.3	16.8	20.0
Dec 04 - Dec 03	17.5	16.3	18.9
Jan 05 - Jan 04	18.2	17.9	18.7
Feb 05 - Feb 04	18.7	18.3	19.1
Mar 05 - Mar 04	17.4	16.0	19.0
Apr 05 - Apr 04	18.6	18.0	19.3
May 05 - May 04	19.1	19.1	19.2
Jun 05 - Jun 04	19.2	19.3	19.2
Jul 05 - Jul 04	18.7	18.7	18.7
Aug 05 - Aug 04	19.3	20.4	18.2
Sep 05 - Sep 04	19.5	20.7	18.2
Oct 05 - Oct 04	18.3	18.8	17.8
Nov 05 - Nov 04	17.2	18.3	16.1
Dec 05 - Dec 04	15.9	17.5	14.0
Jan 06 - Jan 05	12.2	12.8	11.5
Feb 06 - Feb 05	10.3	10.2	10.3
Mar 06 - Mar 05	10.7	10.9	10.4
Apr 06 - Apr 05	9.4	8.3	10.6
May 06 - May 05	8.6	5.6	12.0
Jun 06 - Jun 05	8.5	5.3	12.1
Jul 06 - Jul 05	8.7	4.3	13.6
Aug 06 - Aug 05	8.0	0.4	16.4
Sep 06 - Sep 05	8.2	1.5	15.7
Oct 06 - Oct 05	7.9	1.0	15.4

These Consumer Price Indices cover three series, namely: -

- The Metropolitan Low Income Group; which covers Low Income households in the urban areas
- The Metropolitan High Income Group; which covers High Income households in the urban areas
- The Non-Metropolitan Group; covering households in rural areas.

The Metropolitan areas comprise the 10 major towns. These include Livingstone, Lusaka urban, Kabwe urban and all the Copperbelt towns. The Metropolitan areas are further classified into Low and High Income households. All the small towns and the rural parts form the Non-Metropolitan.

In addition, a Composite Consumer Price Index series combining the three groups is also compiled. The base period for the Consumer Price Index is 1994.

Efreda Chulu (Ms)
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS