1. INFLATION

Annual Inflation Rate

- The annual inflation rate for April 2020 increased to 15.7% from 14.0% in March 2020.

  ➢ The increase in the annual rate of inflation was mainly attributed to price increase in both Food and Non-food items.

  ➢ Food inflation increased from 15.2% to 17.0%. The increase in the annual food inflation was mainly attributed to increases in prices of food items such as Dried Bream, Dried Kapenta (Mpfungu and Siavonga), Cooking oil, Live Chicken and Sugar.

  ➢ Non-food inflation increased from 12.7% to 14.2%. The increase in the annual Non-Food inflation was mainly attributed to price increases in items such as Purchase of vehicles, Solid fuels (i.e. Charcoal and Firewood) Furnishings and household appliances (refrigerator).
• Food and Non-alcoholic beverages accounted for 9.1 percentage points, while non-food items accounted for 6.6 percentage points.

**Monthly Inflation**

• The April 2020 monthly overall inflation rate increased to 2.2% from 1.2% the previous month (March). This was due to increases in both monthly food and non-food inflation.

  ➢ Monthly food inflation in the month under review increased to 2.6% from 1.2% in March 2020. The increase in the monthly food inflation rate was mainly attributed to price increase of food items such as Dried Bream, Dried Kapenta Mpulungu, Cooking oil, and Sugar.

  ➢ Further, monthly non-food inflation increased to 1.7% from 1.2%.

    • This was mainly attributed to general price movements in Purchase of vehicles, Charcoal and Firewood.

**Provincial Annual Inflation Rates**

• Lusaka province recorded the highest annual inflation at 18.1%, followed by Northern Province at 17.2%.

• Western province recorded the lowest annual rate of inflation at 11.5%.

• In terms of influence, Lusaka (5.2 percentage points) and Copperbelt (3.2 percentage points) provinces made the highest contributions to the overall annual inflation of 15.7% in April 2020.

• North-western and Western provinces had the lowest contribution of 0.5 percentage points each.
2. INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENTS, MARCH 2020

- A Trade Surplus of **K181.5 million** in Mar.2020 was recorded from a February 2020 deficit of **K119.5 million**.

  - Exports increased by **6.6% to K8,346.4 million** in March 2020 from K7,829.1 million in February 2020 while imports increased by **2.7% to K8,164.9 million** from K7,948.6 million in February 2020 over the same period.

  - Exports mainly increased due to a **10.8% increase in Intermediate goods exports earnings to K6,992.0 million** from K6,308.8 million in February 2020.

    ✓ Copper export volumes during March 2020 rose by **13.2% to 71,882.2 mt**.

    ✓ LME copper prices declined by **8.9% to US$5,178.7 per mt** in March. 2020.

    ✓ During March 2020, Agricultural NTEs decreased by **37.4 %** while Non-Agricultural NTEs increased by **0.1 %**.

      - **Agric NTEs**: Sugar (Congo DR) Soyabean products (Zimbabwe), Cotton (South Africa).

      - **Non-Agric NTEs**: Sulphuric acid (Congo DR), Portland cement (Congo DR and Malawi), Wires of refined copper (South Africa and Tanzania).

    - The increase in imports was mainly driven by higher bills for Intermediate (**18.4%**) and Consumer goods (**7.1%**).
• **Direction of Trade - Exports**

- Major export destination in March 2020 continued to be Switzerland (39.9 %) followed by China at 21.9 % - Copper products.

- Congo DR was third accounting for 15.0 % of the total export earnings - Copper concentrate sulphide and Sulphuric Acid.

- These three countries accounted for 76.8 % of Zambia’s total export earnings.

• **Direction of Trade - Imports**

- Major source of imports in March 2020 was South Africa accounting for 29.4 %– Mineral or chemical fertilizers.

- Followed by :
  
  - China (17.7%) – Mainly Road tractors for semi-trailers.
  
  - UAE (13.5%) - Mainly Petroleum oils and other oils.

- These three countries collectively accounted for 60.6 % of Zambia’s imports.

3. **2020 Census of Population & Housing Update**

The Zambia Statistics Agency has continued with the 2020 Census preparatory activities under strict observance of Covid – 19 safety and health measures as guided by the Ministry of Health.

Further, the Agency is taking full advantage of several online (virtual) solutions to undertake these activities. Mapping and Listing in the five (5) provinces (Copperbelt, Eastern, Luapula, North-Western and Western) has just been completed.
Commenced verification for completeness of coverage of DFs and Points of Interest (POI). Exercise has been completed for Luapula province. Alongside this verification is the demarcation of wards into Enumeration Areas (EAs) which has, for Lusaka Province has commenced. Preparations for Mapping and Listing in the remaining four (4) provinces (Central, Muchinga, Northern and Southern is progressing. Some field equipment and materials such as motorbikes and gensets have been deployed. Engagement with provincial official has been undertaken in some areas

4. **2019/2020 Crop Forecasting Survey Update**

Data collection has gone well despite some challenges such as flooding in some parts of Luapula, North-western, Western and Eastern provinces. An estimated 93.2% of the targeted 13,600 households has been covered. Data collection among Large-Scale farms is currently at 90 percent. Data collection, nationwide, is expected to be completed this week. Results around mid-May


The Zambia Statistics Agency is among 12 sectors is involved and driving the formulation of the NSDS2. Other sectors include 9 Ministries: Agriculture; Commerce, Trade and Industry, Finance; Fisheries and Livestock; Gender; General Education; Health; Tourism and Arts; and 2 institutions Bank of Zambia and Zambia Revenue Authority.

Progress has been made in the development of sector statistics plans Draft NSDS2 is anticipated for validation by stakeholders and launch by the mid-year
Thank You and May God Bless You