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# Namibia Consumer Price Index

MARCH 2020



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# PREFACE



This report examines the monthly inflation rate performance in Namibia as measured by the Consumer Price Index. The Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI) is used as the basis to calculate the rate of inflation as experienced by consumers. More than 9000 prices of goods and services are collected on a monthly basis from more than 900 retail outlets in 8 localities. The NCPI weights represent the expenditure share of each commodity in the 2009/10 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure Survey (NHIES). The Consumer Price Index is published about 15 days after the end of the reference month to which it relates.

The inflation rate measures the change in the CPI for the month under review to the previous month (month-on-month change) as well as to the corresponding month in the previous year (year-on-year change). The inflation rate is vital for purposes of economic policy-making, especially the conduct of monetary policy and to consumers in general. It is further used in a wide variety of public and private contracts for the purposes of adjusting payments (such as wages, rents, interest and social security benefits). It therefore, has substantial and wide-ranging financial implications for governments and businesses, as well as for households

In March 2020, the annual inflation rate slowed to 2.4 percent from 4.5 percent recorded in March 2019 while on a monthly basis, the inflation dropped to 0.1 percent from 0.3 percent recorded in February 2020. The slow growth in the annual inflation was largely attributed to the decline of -0.3 percent recorded in the Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category compared to a growth of 2.1 percent recorded during the same period a year earlier.

The Zonal inflation rates for the month of March 2020 revealed that, in Zone 1 (Kavango East, Kavango West, Kunene, Ohangwena, Omusati, Oshana, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, and Zambezi) inflation stood at 2.6 percent on annual basis while on the monthly basis inflation rate was stagnant. In Zone 2 (Khomas) the inflation stood at 2.0 percent on annual basis while inflation rose by 0.2 percent month on month. In Zone 3 (//Karas, Erongo, Hardap and Omaheke) inflation rate was 2.5 percent year on year and 0.2 percent month on month.

Alex Shimuafeni  
**Statistician-General & CEO**



## Annual and monthly Inflation rates slowed.

Annual inflation rate slowed to 2.4 percent in March 2020 from 4.5 percent recorded during the same period last year. Similarly, the monthly inflation also eased to 0.1 percent in March 2020 from 0.3 percent obtained in February 2020.

### Box 1: Key highlights

- o The annual inflation rate stood at **2.4 percent**
- o The annual inflation rate for Goods estimated at **3.3 percent**
- o The annual inflation rate for Services stood at **1.0 percent**
- o The average annual inflation rate for March 2019 to March 2020 stood at **3.3 percent**.
- o The twelve-month average annual inflation rate for April 2019 to March 2020 estimated at **3.2 percent**

### Box 2: Contributions of the different groups to the annual percentage change in NCPI

Groups	Contributions (%)	
	February 2020	March 2020
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0.5	0.5
Alcoholic, beverages, tobacco & narcotics	0.4	0.3
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.0
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	-0.1	-0.1
Furnishings, household equipment	0.2	0.2
Health	0.1	0.0
Transport	0.6	0.6
Communication	0.0	0.0
Recreation and Culture	0.2	0.2
Education	0.3	0.3
Restaurants and hotels	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	0.3	0.3
All items	2.5	2.4

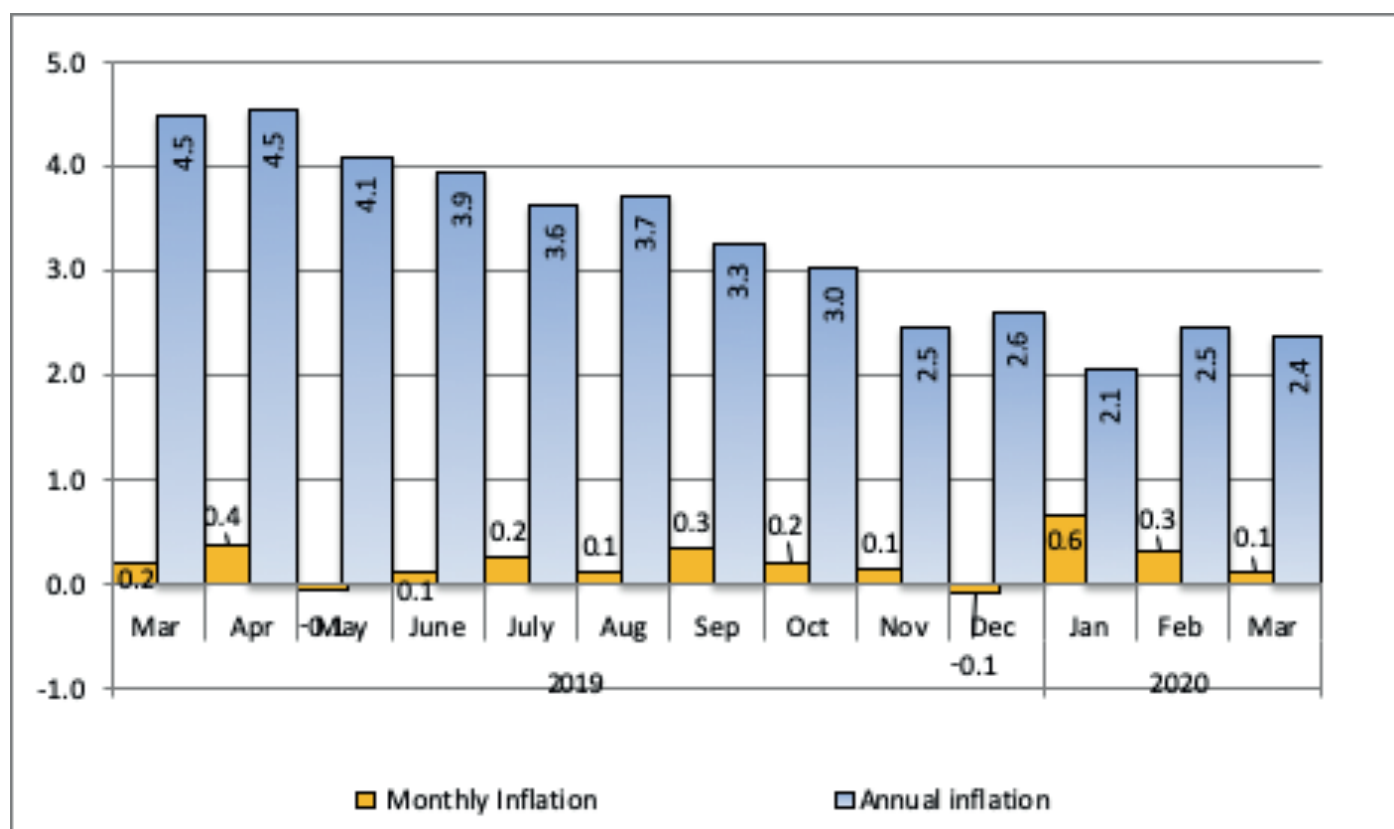
## Overall inflation rate

For the month of March 2020, the annual inflation stood at 2.4 percent, down from 4.5 percent recorded in March 2019, a decrease of 2.1 percentage points (Chart 1). The slowdown in the annual inflation between March 2020 and March 2019 emanated mainly from the categories of Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, which accounts for 28.4 percent of the overall basket of NCPI, that declined by 0.3 percent compared to an increase of 2.1 percent recorded in March 2019. Another category that contributed to the deceleration of the inflation was the Food and non-alcoholic beverages that fell to 2.9 percent from 5.8 percent in March 2019 that accounts for 16.5 percent of the overall basket of NCPI. The Transport category that accounts for 14.3 percent of the overall NCPI basket slowed down to 4.4 percent from 7.0 percent in March 2019.

For the period between March 2019 and March 2020, the lowest annual inflation rate was registered in January 2020 at 2.1 percent while the highest rates of 4.5 percent were observed in the months of March and April 2019, respectively.

The monthly inflation rate slowed to 0.1 percent in March 2020 compared to 0.3 percent recorded in the preceding month.

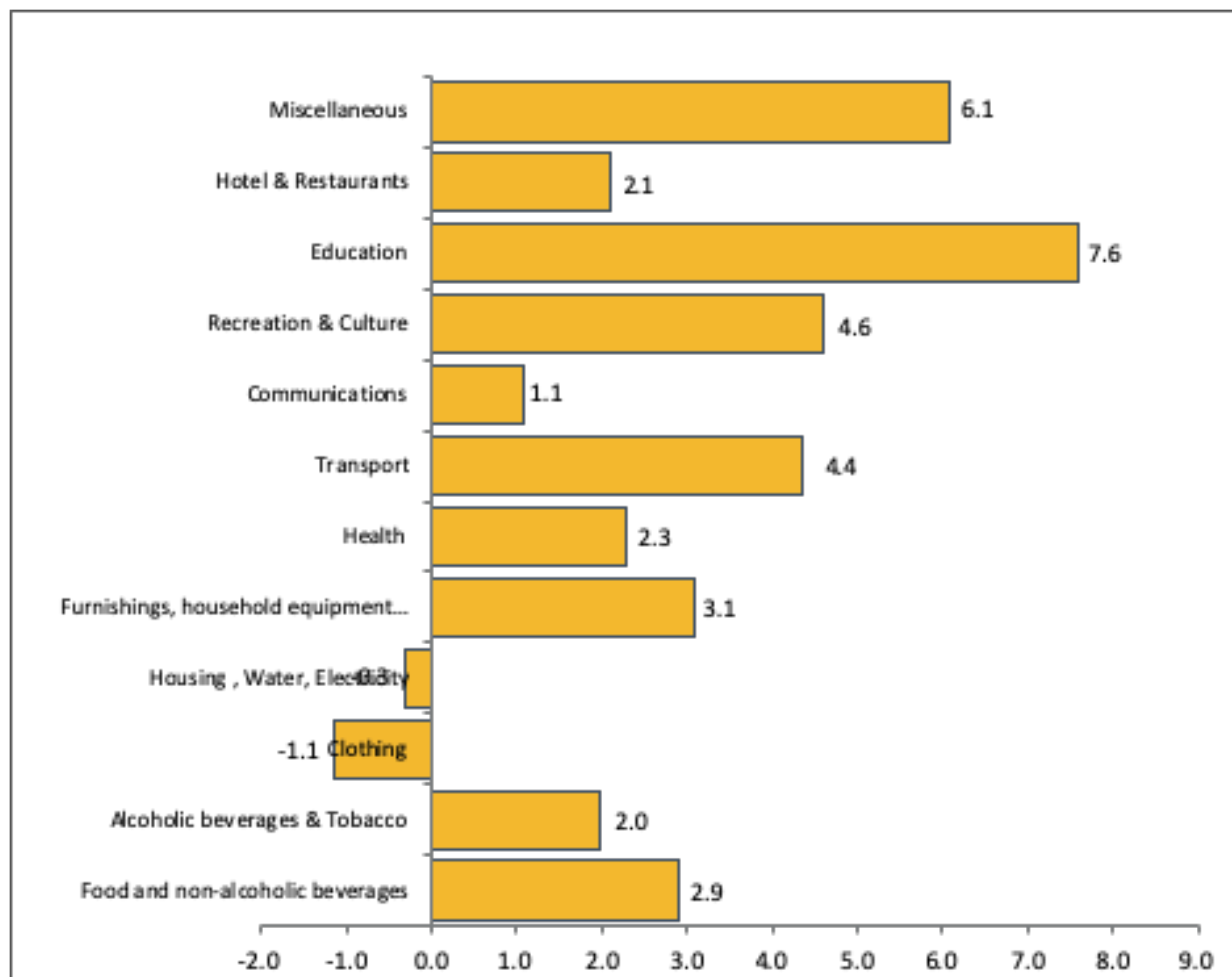
**Chart 1: Monthly and annual percentage changes; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**



## Annual inflation rate by main categories

The Education category recorded the highest rise in annual inflation with a rate of 7.6 percent between March 2020 and March 2019, followed by Miscellaneous goods and service at 6.1 percent, Recreation and culture at 4.6 percent and Transport at 4.4 percent. While, Clothing and footwear and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels categories recorded deflation of 1.1 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively (Chart 2).

**Chart 2: Annual percentage changes by all groups, March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**





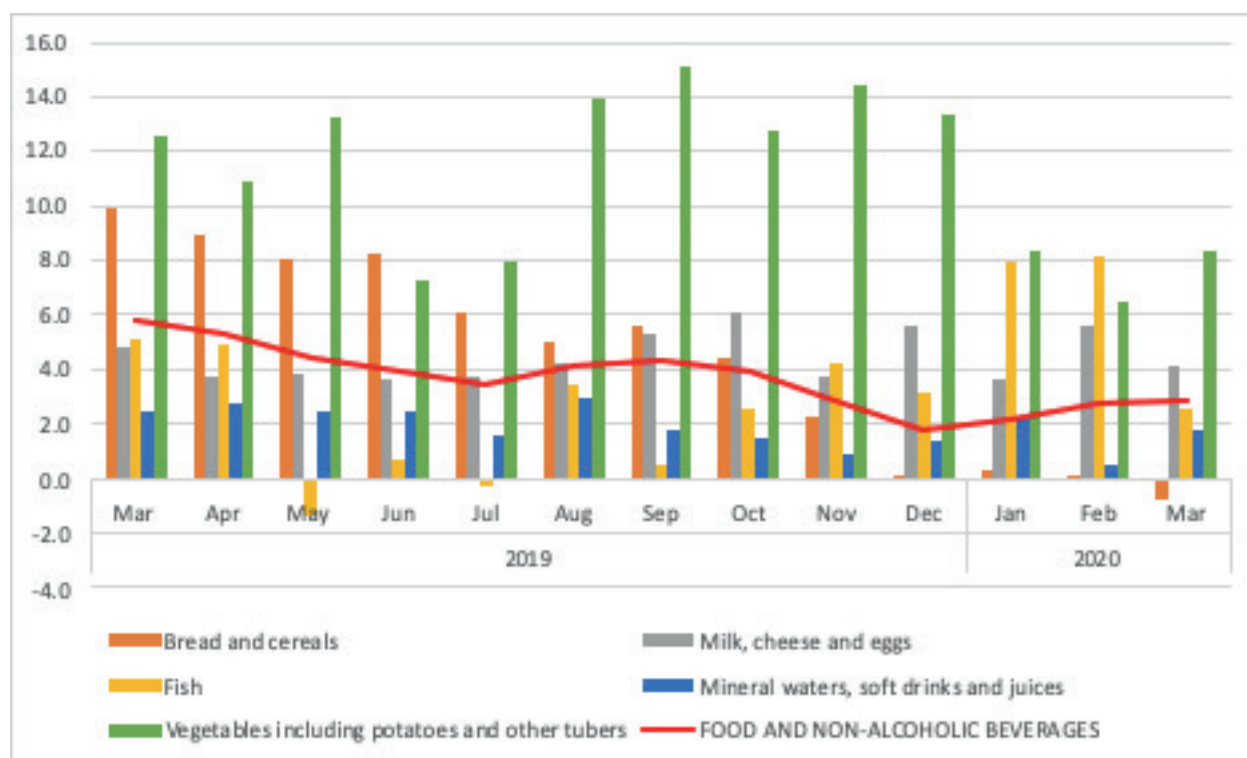
## Selected main categories' annual inflation rates

### Food and non-alcoholic beverages

The annual inflation rate for this category stood at 2.9 percent in March 2020 compared to 5.8 percent registered during the same period last year, a decrease of 2.9 percentage points. The slow growth in this group emanated mainly from price decreases of Bread and cereals (from 9.9 percent to -0.7 percent), Vegetables including potatoes and other tubers (from 12.6 percent to 8.3 percent), Fish (from 5.1 percent to 2.5 percent), Mineral water, soft drinks and juices (from 2.5 percent to 1.8 percent) and Milk, cheese and eggs (from 4.8 percent to 4.1 percent).

The monthly inflation rate for this category dropped to 0.1 percent from 1.0 percent recorded a month earlier.

**Chart 3: Annual inflation rates for selected food sub-categories; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**

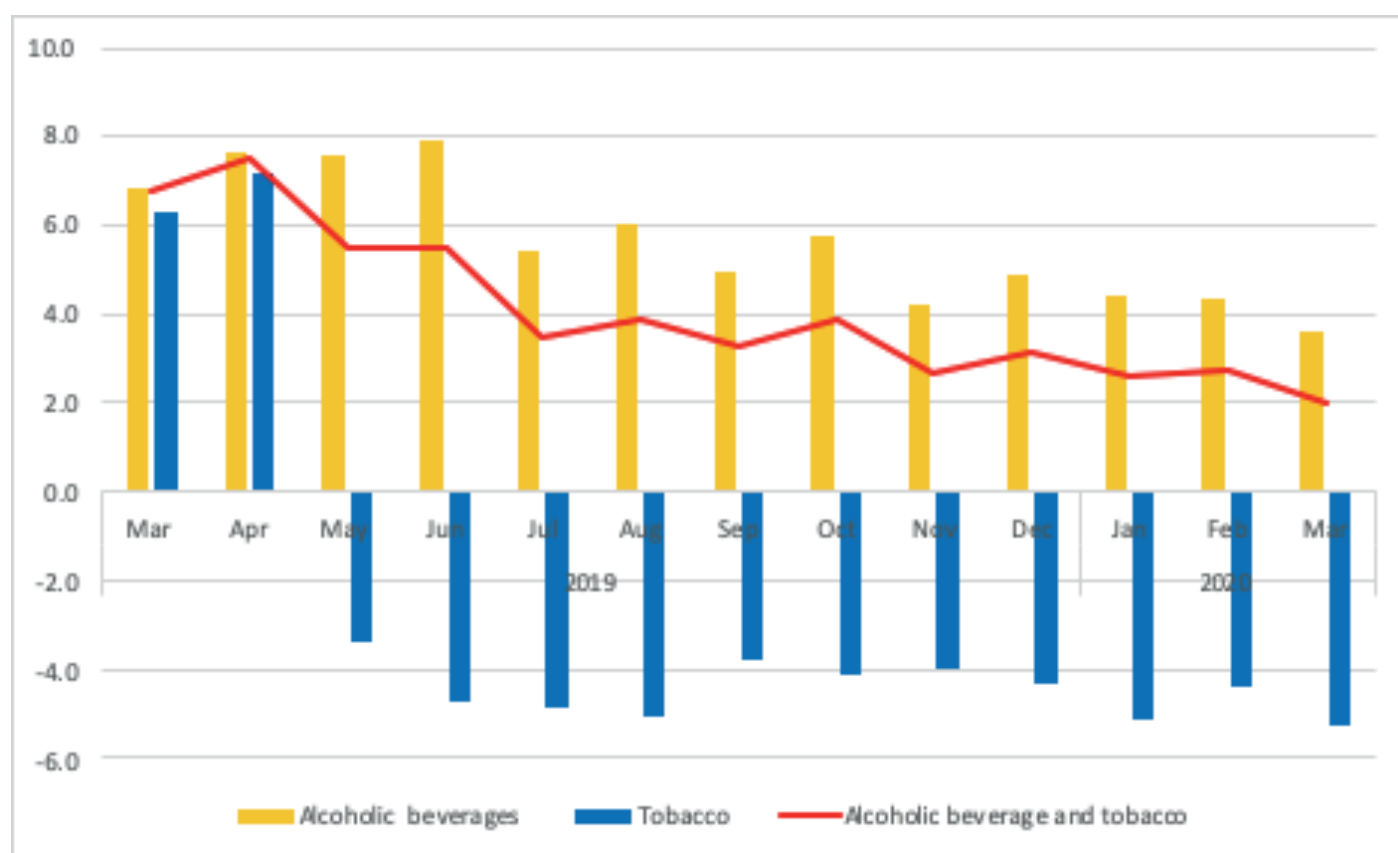


## Alcoholic beverages and tobacco

The annual inflation rate for the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group stood at 2.0 percent in March 2020 compared to 6.7 percent registered in March 2019, resulting in a decrease of 4.7 percentage points. The downward movement of inflation rate in this category during this period was due to the price declines in both sub-components of Alcoholic beverages from 6.9 percent to 3.6 percent and the Tobacco sub-category from 6.3 percent to -5.2 percent.

The monthly inflation rate for this group increased by 0.1 percent compared to an increase of 0.4 percent registered a month earlier.

**Chart 4: Annual inflation rate for Alcoholic beverages and Tobacco; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**



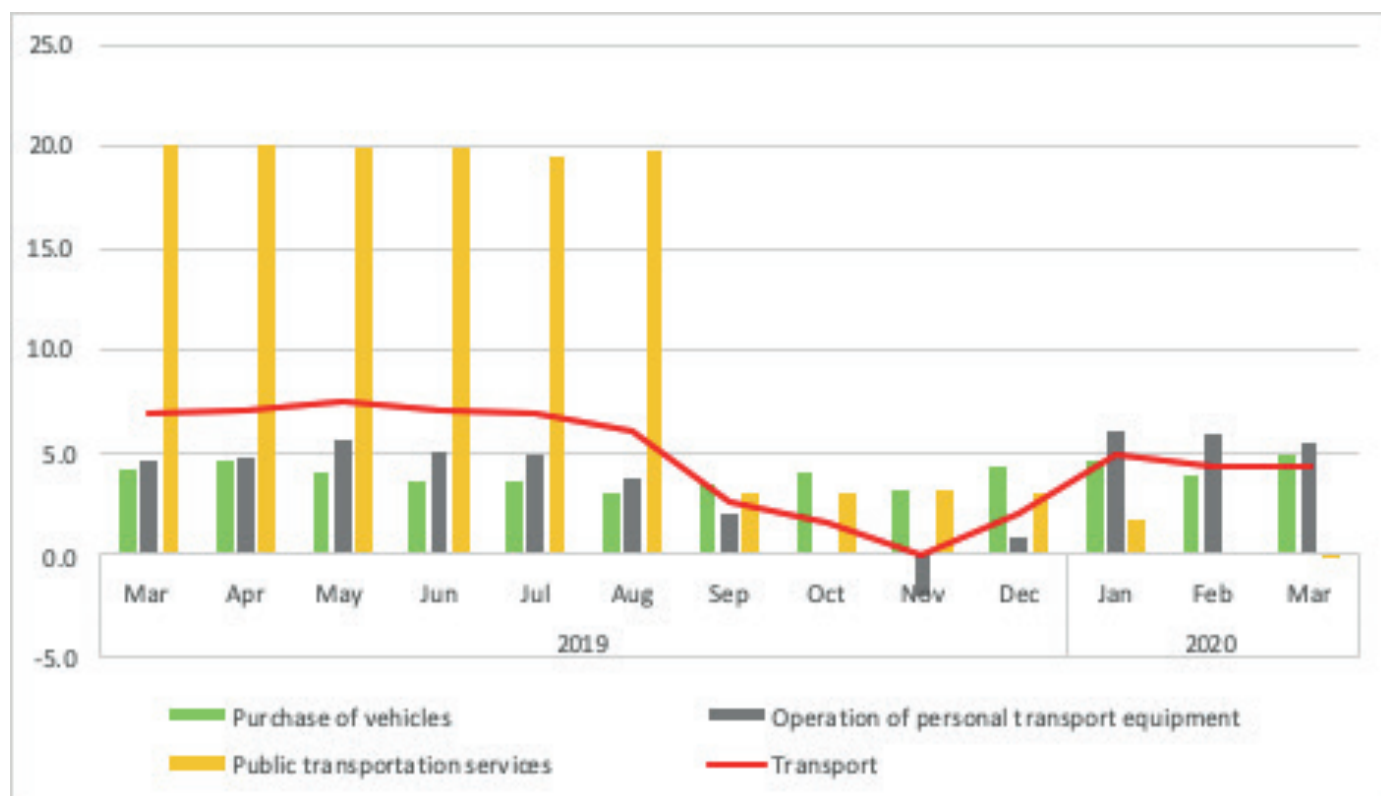


## Transport

In March 2020, the annual inflation rate for the Transport category stood at 4.4 percent, resulting in a decrease of 2.6 percentage points from 7.0 percent recorded in March 2019. The decrease was mainly reflected in the price levels of public transportation services that was stagnant compared to an increase of 20.1 percent in March 2019.

On monthly basis, Transport recorded a deflation of 0.3 percent compared to an increase of 0.2 percent recorded in February 2020.

**Chart 5: Annual inflation rate for Transport; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**



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

The Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category registered a deflation of 0.3 percent in March 2020 compared to an increase of 2.1 percent recorded during the same period of 2019. The deflation was mainly reflected in the Rental payments which declined by 2.3 percent.

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate for this category increased by 0.4 percent compared to a decline of 0.4 percent recorded last month.

**Chart 6: Annual inflation rate for Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**



## Miscellaneous goods and services

In March 2020, the annual inflation rate for this category increased by 6.1 percent compared to 2.3 percent obtained during the same period a year earlier. The increase in prices emanated mainly from the following sub-categories insurance (from -10.2 percent to 5.0 percent in March 2020), financial services n.e.c (from 7.1 percent to 10.7 percent in March 2020) and other services n.e.c (from 2.7 percent to 9.0 percent in March 2020).

The monthly inflation rate of this group increased by 0.2 percent in March 2020 compared to a contraction of 0.2 percent recorded a month earlier.

**Chart 7: Annual inflation rates for Miscellaneous goods and services; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**

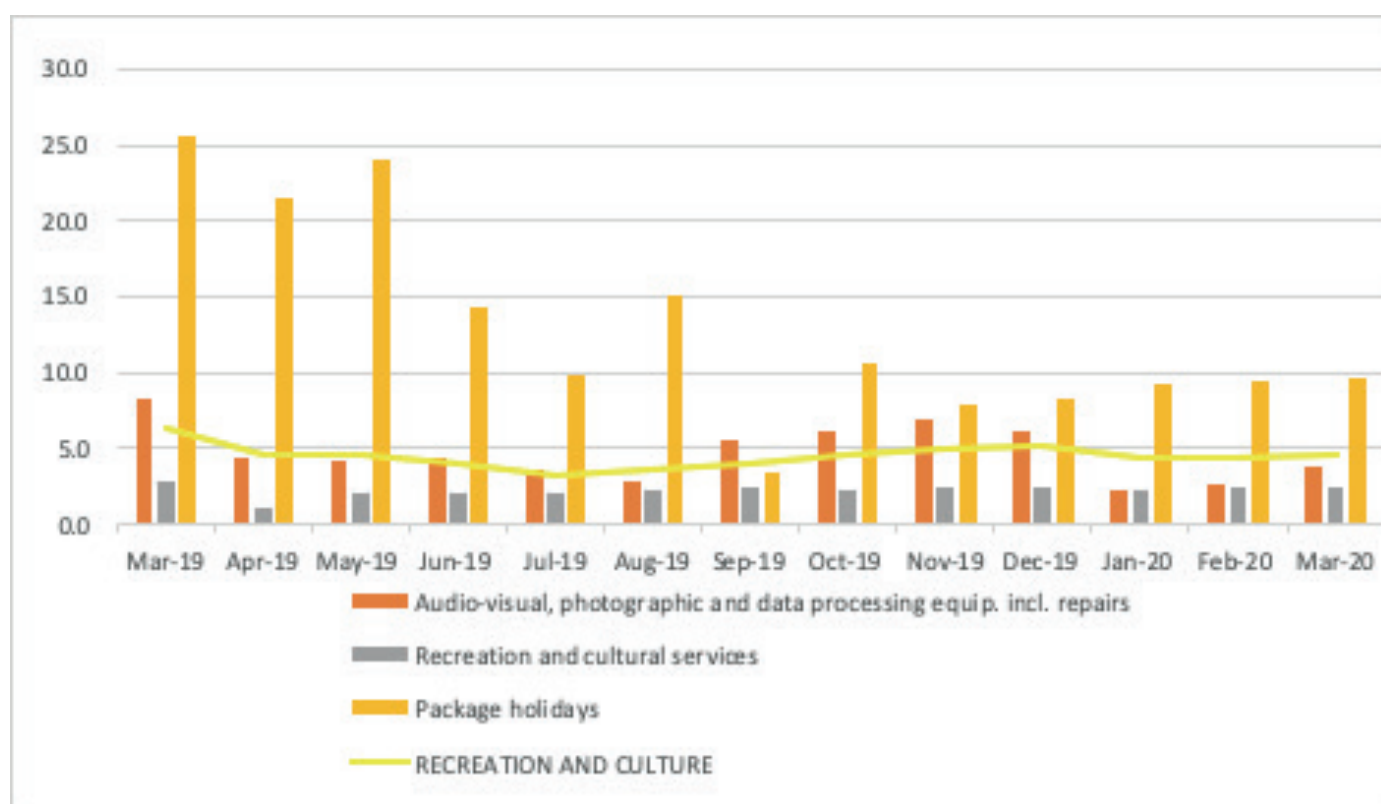


## Recreation and culture

During the month of March 2020, the inflation rate for the Recreation and culture category stood at 4.6 percent, down from 6.2 percent recorded in March last year. The drop was mainly from slower price increases in Audio-visual, photographic and data processing equipment including repairs (from 8.3 percent to 3.7 percent), Package holidays (from 25.7 percent to 9.6 percent) and Newspaper, books and stationery (from 8.1 percent to 6.5 percent).

The group monthly inflation rate stood at 0.6 percent, down from 1.2 percent registered during the preceding month.

**Chart 8: Annual inflation rates for Recreation and culture, March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**

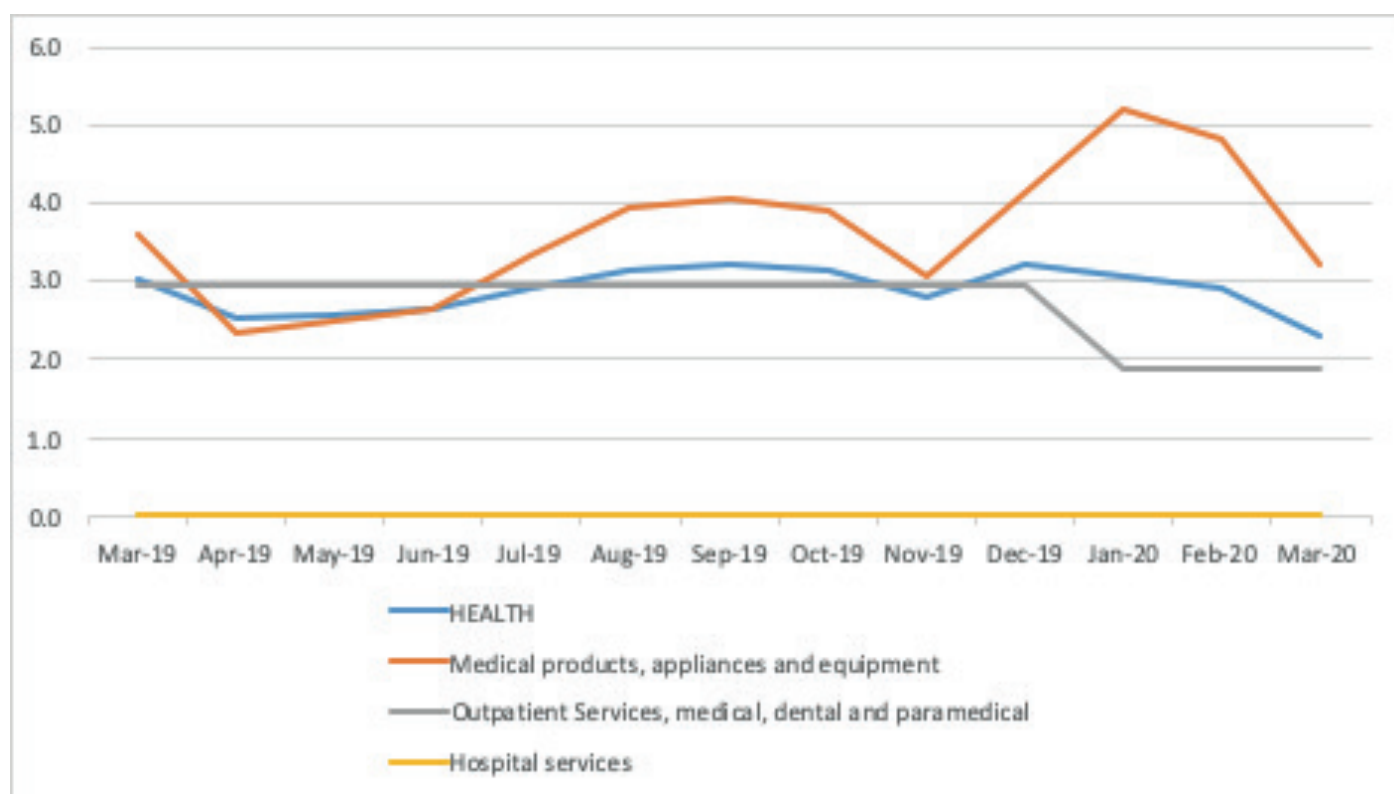


## Health

In March 2020, the Health category registered an annual inflation rate of 2.3 percent, down from 3.0 percent recorded in March 2019. The decrease was mainly reflected in the Medical products, appliances and equipment (from 3.6 percent to 3.2 percent in March 2020) and Outpatient services, medical, dental and paramedical (3.0 percent to 1.9 percent in March 2020).

The monthly inflation rate for Health stood at 0.2 percent compared to 0.3 percent recorded last month.

**Chart 9: Annual inflation rates for Health, March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**

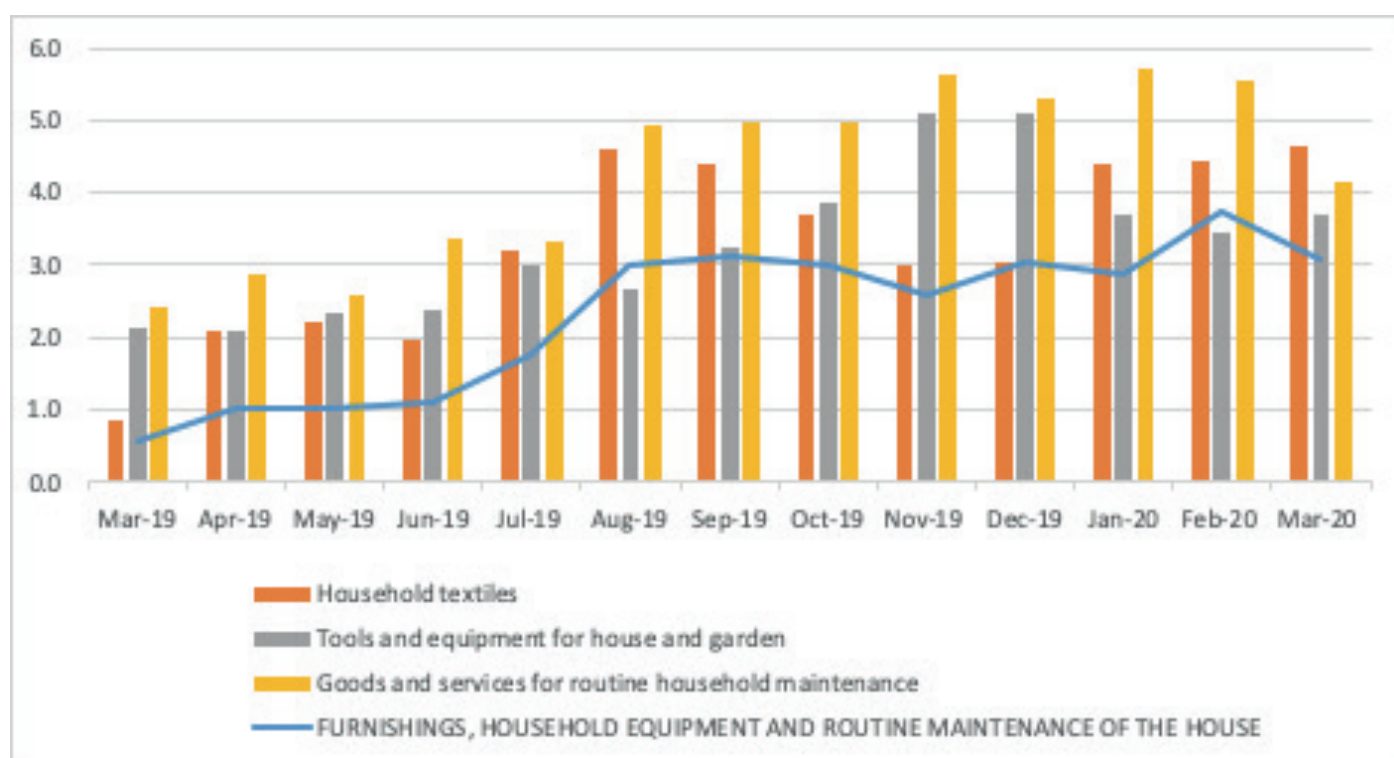


## Furnishings, household equipment & routine maintenance of the house

The annual inflation rate for this category stood at 3.1 percent in March 2020, up from 0.6 percent recorded during the same period last year. The upward movement emanated mainly from increases recorded in the price levels of Household textiles (from 0.9 percent to 4.6 percent in March 2020), Goods and services for household maintenance (from 2.4 percent to 4.6 percent in March 2020) and Furniture and furnishings (from -3.8 percent to 3.8 percent in March 2020).

On monthly basis the category recorded, a deflation of 0.7 percent in March 2020 compared to an increase of 0.9 percent registered a month earlier.

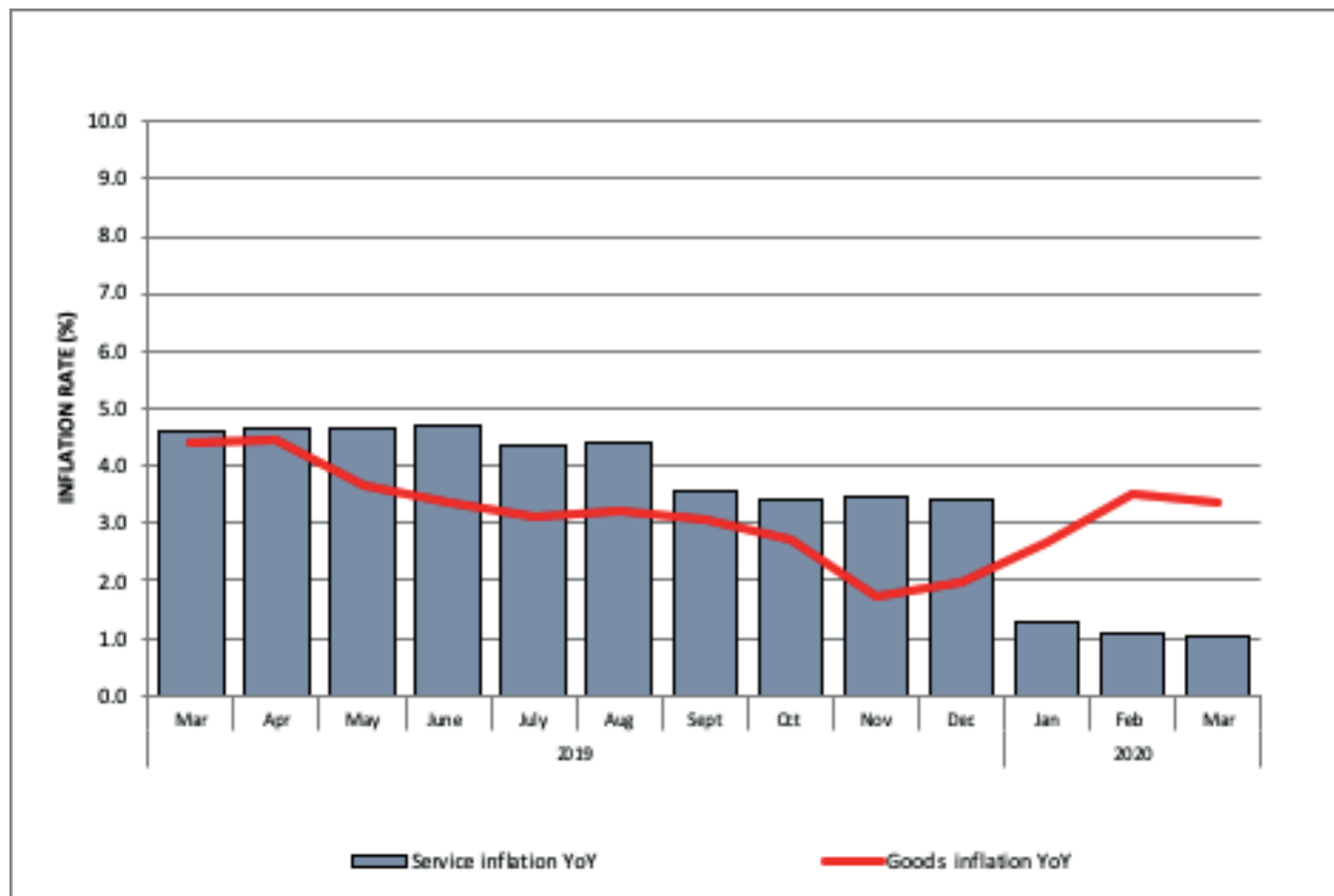
**Chart 10: Annual inflation rate for Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the house, March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**



## Goods and Services inflation rates

For the month of March 2020, the Index for Goods and Services stood at 141.9 and 137.5 compared to the corresponding indices of 137.3 and 136.1 recorded during the same period last year. The monthly and annual inflation rates for Goods were 0.2 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively, while for Services the inflation rate was stagnant month on month and 1.0 percent year on year.

**Chart 11: Goods and Services annual inflation rates; March 2020 (Dec 2012 = 100)**





## BOX 3: 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 so as 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 on a monthly basis 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 an 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, despite the fact that these categories may have seen relatively high inflation in their own right.

Category	Weights (%)
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	28.36
Food and Non- Alcoholic Beverages	16.45
Transport	14.28
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.59
Furnishings, Household Equipment....	5.47
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.39
Communication	3.81
Education	3.65
Recreation and Culture	3.55
Clothing and Footwear	3.05
Health	2.01
Hotels, Cafés and Restaurants	1.39

Table 1: NCPI: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes (Dec 2012 =100)

Period	Index	m-o-m	y-o-y
Jan-18	130.5	1.6	3.6
Feb-18	130.7	0.1	3.5
Mar-18	130.9	0.1	3.5
Apr-18	131.3	0.3	3.6
May-18	131.8	0.4	3.8
Jun-18	132.1	0.2	4.0
Jul-18	132.8	0.5	4.5
Aug-18	132.9	0.0	4.4
Sep-18	133.9	0.8	4.8
Oct-18	134.4	0.4	5.1
Nov-18	135.4	0.7	5.6
Dec-18	135.0	-0.2	5.1
<b>An. Av</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>
Jan-19	136.6	1.2	4.7
Feb-19	136.5	-0.1	4.4
Mar-19	136.8	0.2	4.5
Apr-19	137.2	0.4	4.5
May-19	137.2	-0.1	4.1
Jun-19	137.3	0.1	3.9
Jul-19	137.7	0.2	3.6
Aug-19	137.8	0.1	3.7
Sep-19	138.2	0.3	3.3
Oct-19	138.5	0.2	3.0
Nov-19	138.7	0.2	2.5
Dec-19	138.5	-0.1	2.6
<b>An. Av</b>	<b>137.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Jan-20	139.4	0.6	2.1
Feb-20	139.8	0.3	2.5
Mar-20	140.0	0.1	2.4

**Table 2: NCPI for March 2020 by main groups and sub-groups (Dec.2012=100)**

	Weights	CPI			Inflation Rate	
		Mar-19	Feb-20	Mar-20	m-o-m	y-o-y
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>136.8</b>	<b>139.8</b>	<b>140.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>GOODS</b>	<b>57.7</b>	<b>137.3</b>	<b>141.7</b>	<b>141.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>SERVICES</b>	<b>42.3</b>	<b>136.1</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>	<b>16.45</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>152.8</b>	<b>153.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Food	14.78	150.2	154.5	154.6	0.0	2.9
Bread and cereals	4.84	140.6	140.8	139.5	-0.9	-0.7
Meat	3.53	153.5	157.8	158.6	0.5	3.3
Fish	0.81	157.9	165.0	161.9	-1.9	2.5
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.17	148.5	151.4	154.6	2.1	4.1
Oils and fats	0.78	134.0	138.6	139.0	0.3	3.8
Fruit	0.33	179.2	202.4	208.6	3.1	16.4
Vegetables including potatoes and other tubers	1.23	170.2	184.7	184.4	-0.2	8.3
Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate and confectionery	1.44	160.0	164.1	165.1	0.6	3.2
Food products n.e.c.	0.65	142.8	148.0	148.0	0.0	3.6
Non-alcoholic beverages	1.66	135.1	137.4	138.7	1.0	2.7
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0.31	166.7	174.1	175.8	1.0	5.5
Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	1.35	127.8	128.9	130.1	0.9	1.8
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO</b>	<b>12.59</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>151.4</b>	<b>151.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Alcoholic beverages	9.99	152.2	157.6	157.7	0.1	3.6
Tobacco	2.61	135.5	127.9	128.5	0.4	-5.2
<b>CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR</b>	<b>3.05</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Clothing	2.04	105.4	104.2	104.2	0.0	-1.1
Clothing materials	0.07	146.1	145.3	145.3	0.0	-0.6
Ready-made clothing	1.93	103.8	102.5	102.5	0.0	-1.3
Men's clothing	0.58	112.3	105.7	107.4	1.5	-4.4
Women's clothing	0.70	89.9	90.5	90.7	0.2	0.9
Children's clothing	0.66	109.9	111.0	109.3	-1.5	-0.5
Boys' clothing	0.24	107.7	112.4	108.3	-3.7	0.6
Girls' clothing	0.33	112.0	110.3	110.0	-0.3	-1.8
Infants' clothing	0.09	110.0	112.0	112.0	0.0	1.8
Other articles of clothing and clothing accessories	0.05	112.6	115.4	115.8	0.4	2.9
Dry cleaning, repair and hire of clothing	0.00	130.2	129.9	129.9	0.0	-0.2
Footwear	1.01	97.1	95.9	96.0	0.1	-1.1
Adult footwear	0.80	91.9	88.5	88.5	0.0	-3.8
Children's footwear	0.20	114.8	122.5	123.0	0.4	7.2
Repair of footwear	0.01	145.3	148.5	148.5	0.0	2.2
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>	<b>28.36</b>	<b>133.9</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>133.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Rental payments for dwelling (both owners and renters)	23.28	129.7	126.8	126.8	0.0	-2.3
Regular maintenance and repair of dwelling	0.19	139.3	144.0	141.0	-2.1	1.2
Water supply, sewerage service and refuse collection	1.03	174.3	185.7	185.7	0.0	6.5
Electricity gas and other fuels	3.86	148.1	155.7	159.8	2.6	7.9

Table 2: NCPI for March 2020 by main groups and sub-groups (Dec.2012=100)

	Weights	CPI			Inflation Rate	
		Mar-19	Feb-20	Mar-20	m-o-m	y-o-y
<b>FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OF THE HOUSE</b>	<b>5.47</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>129.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Furniture, furnishings, decorations, carpets, floor coverings, incl. repairs	1.78	97.2	102.5	100.7	-1.8	3.5
Furniture and furnishings	1.69	95.7	101.2	99.3	-1.9	3.8
Carpets and other floor coverings	0.07	109.5	110.1	109.3	-0.7	-0.1
Repair of furnishings and floor coverings	0.02	199.2	200.2	200.2	0.0	0.5
Household textiles	0.73	132.3	137.8	138.5	0.5	4.6
Heating and cooking appliances, refrigerators, washing machines and similar major household appliances, etc	0.92	126.1	127.7	126.3	-1.1	0.1
Glassware, tableware and household utensils	0.22	152.1	151.0	151.3	0.2	-0.6
Tools and equipment for house and garden	0.43	128.6	133.2	133.4	0.2	3.7
Goods and services for routine household maintenance	1.36	151.9	158.9	158.2	-0.4	4.2
<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>135.5</b>	<b>138.3</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Medical products, appliances and equipment	0.84	130.5	134.1	134.7	0.4	3.2
Outpatient Services, medical, dental and paramedical	0.98	146.5	149.3	149.3	0.0	1.9
Hospital services	0.19	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	<b>14.28</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>138.1</b>	<b>137.8</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Purchase of vehicles	2.88	154.5	161.7	162.1	0.2	4.9
Operation of personal transport equipment	8.96	123.0	130.4	129.7	-0.5	5.5
Public transportation services	2.44	138.9	138.8	138.8	0.0	0.0
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>109.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>139.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Audio-visual, photographic and data processing equip. incl. repairs	1.16	120.5	123.8	124.9	0.9	3.7
Other major durables for recreation and culture	0.08	128.9	132.8	133.1	0.3	3.3
Other recreational items and equipment; flowers, gardens and pets	0.46	128.0	133.8	135.0	0.9	5.5
Recreation and cultural services	0.85	138.7	141.9	142.0	0.0	2.4
Newspapers, books and stationery	0.89	140.9	149.9	150.0	0.1	6.5
Package holidays	0.11	191.5	200.9	209.8	4.4	9.6
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>3.65</b>	<b>166.4</b>	<b>179.0</b>	<b>179.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7.6</b>
Pre-primary education (ages 2 to 6 years)	0.23	190.5	201.2	201.2	0.0	5.6
Primary (private) and Secondary education (ages 7 to 17 years)	1.44	157.9	194.3	194.3	0.0	23.1
Tertiary education	1.98	169.8	165.3	165.3	0.0	-2.6
<b>HOTELS, CAFES AND RESTAURANTS</b>	<b>1.39</b>	<b>146.7</b>	<b>150.4</b>	<b>149.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Catering	0.74	144.5	147.3	147.5	0.1	2.1
Accommodation services	0.65	149.3	153.9	152.4	-0.9	2.1
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	<b>5.39</b>	<b>131.4</b>	<b>139.1</b>	<b>139.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Personal care	1.41	135.5	138.3	139.1	0.5	2.7
Personal effects n.e.c.	1.03	124.2	127.3	127.4	0.1	2.6
Insurance	0.74	101.8	106.9	106.9	0.0	5.0
Financial services n.e.c.	0.94	168.1	186.1	186.1	0.0	10.7
Other services n.e.c.	1.26	122.7	133.8	133.8	0.0	9.0

## Zonal CPIs

### Zone 1 CPI (Northern Part of Namibia)

For the month of March 2020, the All Items Index stood at 139.5 up from 136.0 registered in March 2019. The annual inflation rate fell to 2.6 percent in March 2020 from 4.1 percent recorded in March last year, a decrease of 1.5 percentage points. The decrease in the annual inflation rate was mainly from the declines in the price levels of Transport (from 8.3 percent to 3.7 percent in March 2020); Alcohol and tobacco (from 5.8 percent to 2.9 percent in March 2020); and Food and non-alcoholic beverage (from 5.4 percent to 3.5 percent in March 2020).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate for March 2020 was stagnant compared to a deflation of 0.1 percent recorded last month.

**Table 1: Zone 1 CPI: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes (Dec 2012 =100)**

Period		Monthly Index	Monthly inflation rate	Annual inflation rate
2018	Jan	130.6	1.6	3.5
	Feb	130.4	-0.1	3.2
	Mar	130.7	0.2	3.4
	Apr	131.1	0.4	3.7
	May	131.9	0.6	4.3
	Jun	131.9	0.0	4.0
	Jul	132.8	0.7	4.6
	Aug	132.7	-0.1	4.8
	Sep	133.7	0.8	5.3
	Oct	134.1	0.3	5.2
	Nov	135.6	1.1	5.9
	Dec	134.7	-0.7	4.8
	An. Av	132.5	0.4	4.4
2019	Jan	136.1	1.0	4.2
	Feb	135.8	-0.2	4.1
	Mar	136.0	0.2	4.1
	Apr	136.1	0.1	3.8
	May	136.3	0.1	3.3
	Jun	136.5	0.2	3.5
	Jul	137.1	0.5	3.3
	Aug	137.3	0.1	3.5
	Sep	137.7	0.3	3.0
	Oct	137.8	0.1	2.8
	Nov	138.5	0.5	2.2
	Dec	138.1	-0.3	2.5
	An. Av	136.9	0.2	3.4
2020	Jan	139.7	1.2	2.7
	Feb	139.6	-0.1	2.8
	Mar	139.5	0.0	2.6

## Zone 2 CPI (Windhoek Area)

The All Items Index for March 2020 increased to 136.3 from 133.7 recorded in March 2019 recording an annual inflation rate of 2.0 percent compared to 4.6 percent registered in March a year earlier. The annual inflation rate was 2.6 percentage points lower than the inflation rate recorded in March 2019. The decrease was mainly witnessed in Food and non-alcoholic beverages (from 6.1 percent to 1.5 percent in March 2020), Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (from 7.6 percent to -1.5 percent in March 2020), and Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (from 3.3 percent to -1.1 percent in March 2020).

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate stood at 0.2 percent compared to 0.8 percent recorded during the previous month.

**Table 2: Zone 2 CPI: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes (Dec 2012 =100)**

Period		Monthly Index	Monthly inflation rate	Annual inflation rate
2018	Jan	127.4	1.4	3.2
	Feb	127.6	0.2	3.2
	Mar	127.8	0.2	3.1
	Apr	128.3	0.4	3.0
	May	128.6	0.2	2.9
	Jun	129.1	0.4	3.2
	Jul	129.9	0.6	3.9
	Aug	129.9	0.0	4.4
	Sep	130.9	0.8	4.4
	Oct	131.5	0.4	5.0
	Nov	132.1	0.5	5.1
	Dec	131.9	-0.2	5.0
	An. Av	129.6	0.4	3.9
2019	Jan	133.7	1.4	4.9
	Feb	133.3	0.0	4.4
	Mar	133.7	0.3	4.6
	Apr	134.7	0.8	5.0
	May	133.9	-0.6	4.1
	Jun	133.9	0.0	3.7
	Jul	133.8	-0.1	3.0
	Aug	133.8	0.0	3.1
	Sep	134.5	0.5	2.7
	Oct	134.7	0.2	2.5
	Nov	134.7	-0.1	1.9
	Dec	134.8	0.1	2.2
	An. Av	134.1	0.2	3.5
2020	Jan	135.1	0.2	1.0
	Feb	136.1	0.8	2.1
	Mar	136.3	0.2	2.0

## Zone 3 CPI (Eastern, Southern & Western Parts)

The All Items Index for March 2020 stood at 146.7 compared to 143.1 recorded during same period last year. The annual inflation rate registered a slow growth of 2.5 percent compared to 4.9 percent obtained in March 2019, a decrease of 2.3 percentage points. The declines were reflected in all the categories with the exception of Furnishing, household's equipment and routine maintenance of the house; Communications; and Miscellaneous goods and services that increased.

On a monthly basis, the inflation rate for March 2020 stood at 0.2 percent compared to 0.3 percent recorded last month.

**Table 3: Zone 3 CPI: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes (Dec 2012)**

Period		Monthly Index	Monthly inflation rate	Annual inflation rate
2018	Jan	135.6	2.2	4.5
	Feb	136.3	0.5	4.8
	Mar	136.5	0.1	4.9
	Apr	136.7	0.1	4.8
	May	137.1	0.3	5.1
	Jun	137.6	0.4	5.6
	Jul	137.9	0.2	5.6
	Aug	138.3	0.3	5.1
	Sep	139.1	0.6	5.2
	Oct	139.8	0.5	5.9
	Nov	140.5	0.5	6.0
	Dec	140.8	0.2	6.1
	Av	138.0	0.5	5.3
2019	Jan	142.3	1.0	4.9
	Feb	142.9	0.4	4.9
	Mar	143.1	0.1	4.9
	Apr	143.3	0.1	4.8
	May	144.0	0.5	5.1
	June	144.4	0.2	4.9
	July	144.9	0.3	5.1
	Aug	145.2	0.2	4.9
	Sep	145.2	0.03	4.4
	Oct	145.5	0.20	4.1
	Nov	145.5	-0.01	3.6
	Dec	145.4	-0.1	3.2
2020	Av	144.3	0.3	4.6
	Jan	146.1	0.5	2.7
	Feb	146.5	0.3	2.5
	Mar	146.7	0.2	2.5



## Annex 1: Background on Zonal Consumer Price Index

Since January 2005, the then Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) under the National Planning Commission (NPC) published a monthly Consumer Price Index known as the Namibia Consumer Price Index (NCPI) for replacing the Interim Consumer Price Index (ICPI) which has been in existence since 1993. The Index was known as the Interim Consumer Prices Index-Windhoek and refers to the expenditure patterns of the households which resided in Windhoek. The weights and items were derived from a Household Expenditure Survey covering 800 households conducted during October and November 1985.

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 //Karas, 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:

- (i) the relative importance of the locality as determined by its relative share exceeding 30 percent of the total household expenditure at national level;
- (ii) geographic distribution of economic activities; and
- (iii) regional capitals.

## Annex 2: Zonal CPI 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
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Additional detailed information on Zonal CPIs

**Note:** The above Zonal CPIs time series run from 2018 only for illustrative purposes and for comparing with the previous years. However, the figures for Zonal CPIs are available since the NCPI inception in 2002.

### Annex I: Zone 1

- (i) Table 1: CPI Zone 1: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes
- (ii) Table 2: CPI Zone 1 Indices
- (iii) Table 3: CPI Zone 1 Monthly Percentage Changes
- (iv) Table 4: CPI Zone 1 Annual Percentage Changes

### Annex II: Zone 2

- (v) Table 1: CPI Zone 2: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes
- (vi) Table 2: CPI Zone 2 Indices
- (vii) Table 3: CPI Zone 2 Monthly Percentage Changes
- (viii) Table 4: CPI Zone 2 Annual Percentage Changes

### Annex III: Zone 3

- (ix) Table 1: CPI Zone 3: All-Items Index, monthly and annual percentage changes
- (x) Table 2: CPI Zone 3 Indices
- (xi) Table 3: CPI Zone 3 Monthly Percentage Changes
- (xii) Table 4: CPI Zone 3 Annual Percentage Changes

# Namibia Consumer Price Index

**MARCH 2020**



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