



SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
TOWARDS A COMMON FUTURE
SADC Harmonised Consumer Price Indices (HCPI)
March 2016

SADC Secretariat
Directorate -Policy Planning and Resource Mobilization
Statistics Unit
Private Bag 0095
Gaborone, Botswana

Telephone: (267) 3951863
Telefax: (267) 3972848/3181070
E-mail: registry@sadc.int
Website: www.sadc.int

The SADC Region registered annual inflation rate of 9.9% in March 2016 compared to March 2015 as measured by the HCPI. Month on Month inflation rate registered an increase of 1.0% in March 2016 compared to February 2016.

Introduction

This is the fifty-fifth issue in series since the launch of news releases on SADC HCPI initiative. It provides updates up to March 2016 on HCPI for SADC Member States.

Annual Inflation rates for SADC Member States

The reported annual inflation rates for March 2016 of SADC Member States indicate that three Member States recorded highest double digit inflation rates above 20.0% namely: Zambia (30.3%), Malawi (24.3%) and Angola (23.7%). Zimbabwe registered the lowest at -2.6%. As in the previous month, Zambia, Malawi and Angola continued to record the highest inflation rates among the SADC Member States. The annual inflation rates for the rest of the other Member States were reported as follows: Botswana (3.4%), DRC (1.0%), Lesotho (12.8%), Madagascar (4.6%), Mauritius (1.6%), Mozambique (13.5%), Namibia (6.3%), Seychelles (3.4%), South Africa (7.0%), Swaziland (7.9%), and Tanzania (6.7%), as reflected in table 2 below.

Compared to the SADC regional annual average inflation rate of 9.9% for March 2016, ten SADC Member States recorded annual rates below the regional average whilst five Member States namely: Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia registered rates higher than the regional average. See figure 3 below for more details.

Month on Month Inflation rates for SADC Member States

All SADC Member States registered increases in the month on month inflation rate in March 2016, with the exception of Malawi, Seychelles and Zimbabwe registering decreases of 1.5%, 0.3% and 0.2% respectively. The highest month on month inflation rate of 3.3% was registered by Angola followed by Lesotho (2.3%) as reflected in table 1 below.

Annual Inflation Rates by COICOP divisions

With regard to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) major divisions, nine

Divisions registered annual inflation less than the regional average of 9.9% in March 2016 compared to March 2015. These include Communication (0.2%), Recreation & Culture (7.0%), Transport (7.1%), Education (7.5%), Clothing & Footwear (7.7%), Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance (8.2%), Restaurant & Hotels (8.7%), Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (9.3%), and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels (9.5%). The remaining Divisions recorded annual rates of inflation above the SADC average of 9.9% with Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages registering highest increase of 13.0%. See table 4 below.

Month on Month Inflation Rates by COICOP divisions

All the Divisions recorded increases in month on month inflation in March 2016, with the exception of Transport and Communication registering no change, whilst the highest increase was of 3.0% in the categories of Health and Education. Table 3 below provides details.

Figure 1: Month on month inflation rate (%) in SADC region for the period: March 2015 to March 2016

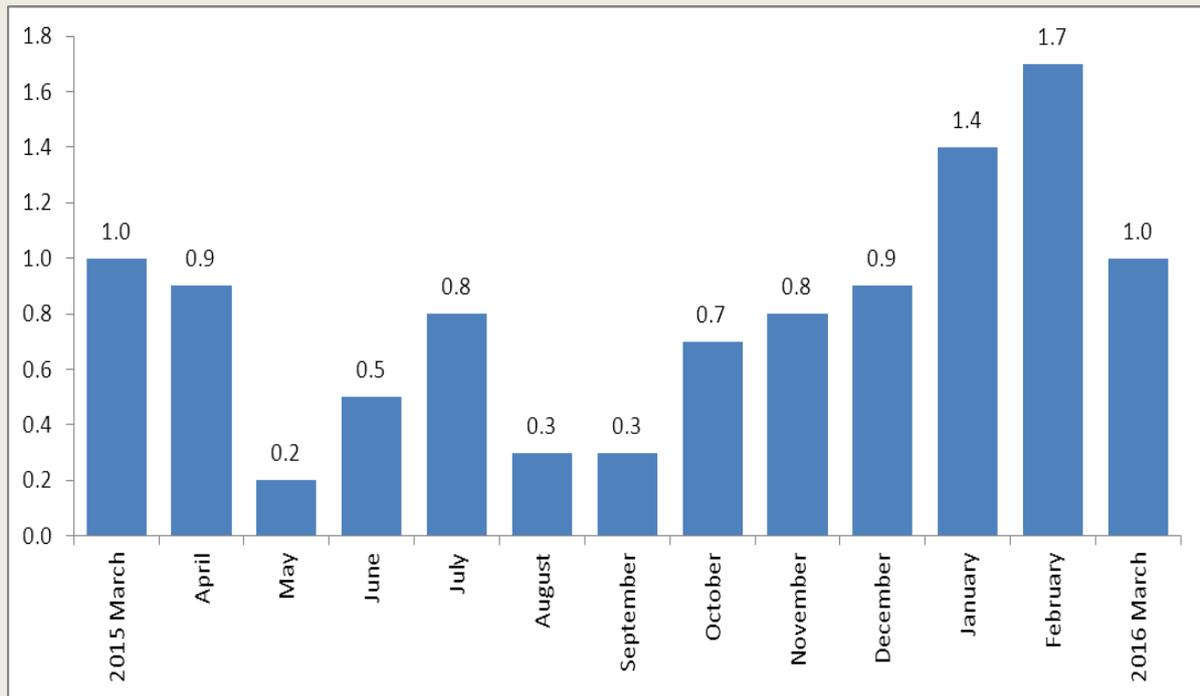


Figure 2: Annual inflation rate (%) in SADC region for the period: March 2015 to March 2016

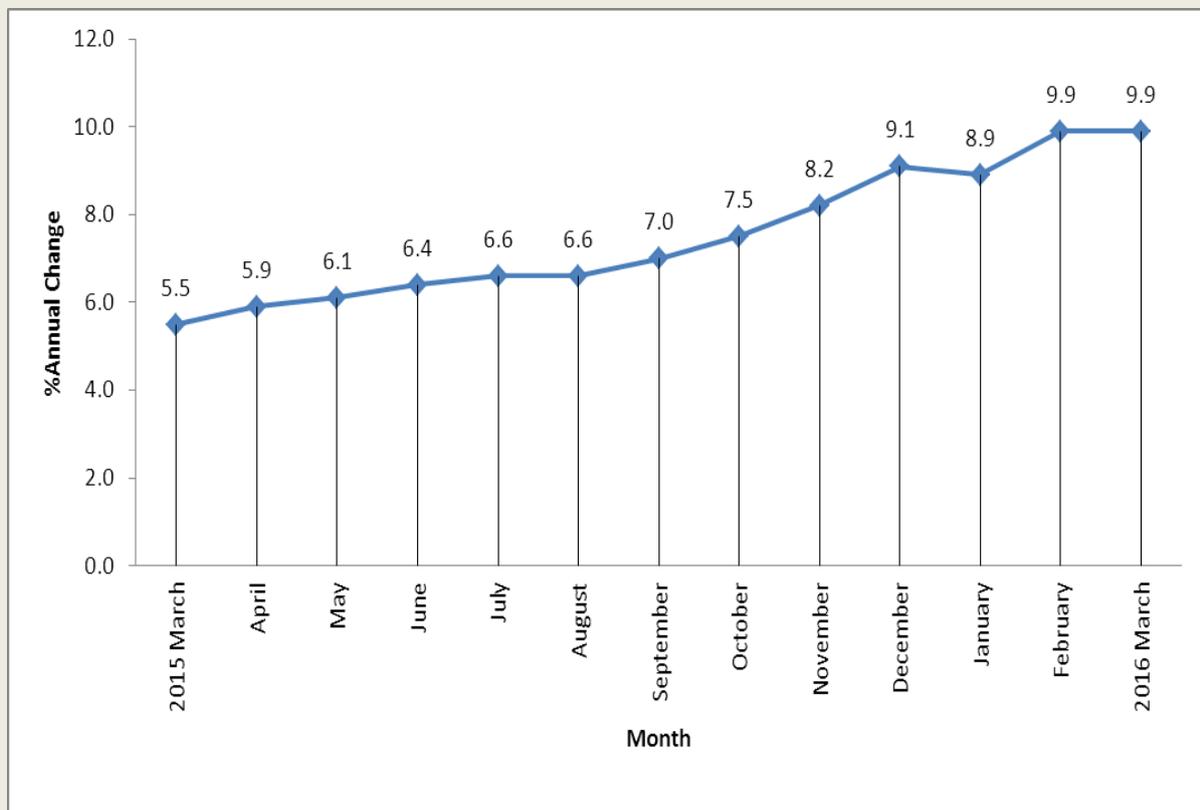


Figure 3: Annual inflation rate (%) for SADC region and SADC Member States as at March 2016

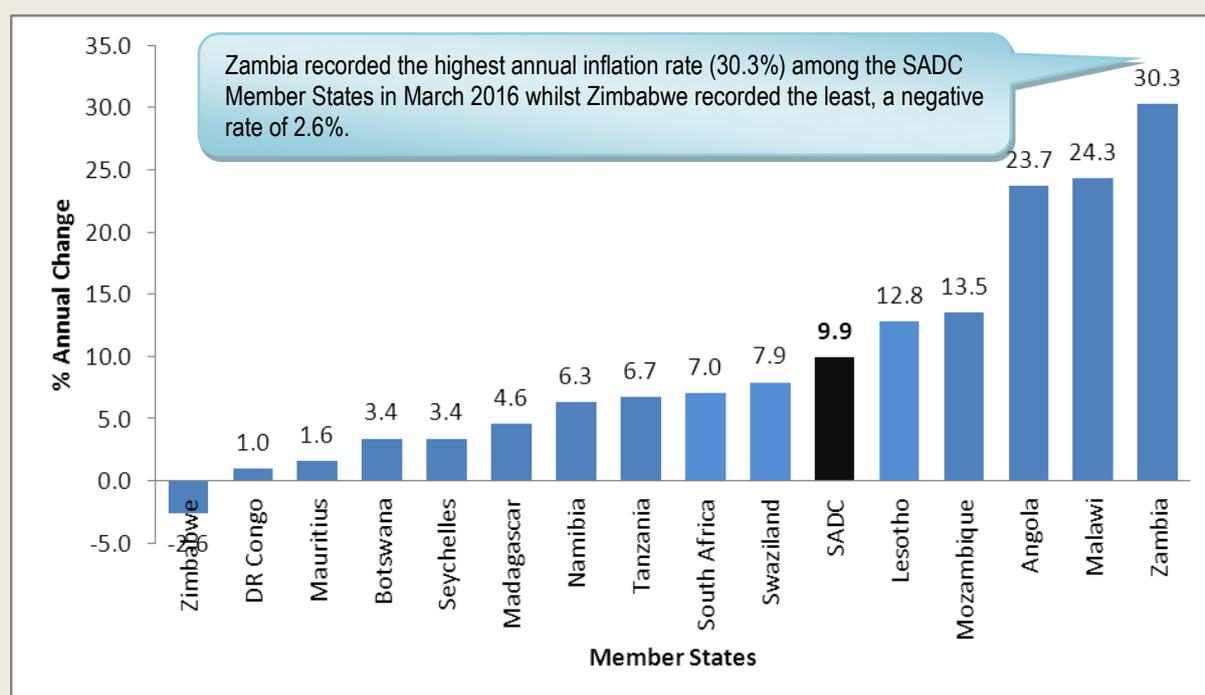


Table 1: Month on Month inflation rates (%) for SADC Member States as measured by National HCPIs, 2015-2016

Member State	Country weights	May15 June15	June15 July15	July15 Aug15	Aug15 Sept15	Sept15 Oct15	Oct15 Nov15	Nov15 Dec15	Dec15 Jan16	Jan16 Feb16	Feb16 Mar16
Angola	10.87	1.2	1.0	1.2	2.1	0.6	1.4	1.7	3.2	3.7	3.3
Botswana	1.78	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.3
Congo DR	4.32	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Lesotho	0.74	1.1	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.7	2.3
Madagascar	4.10	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.2
Malawi	2.20	0.4	-1.3	2.1	2.0	3.0	4.6	5.8	5.4	4.0	-1.5
Mauritius	2.11	-0.4	-0.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.0	1.8	-0.2	0.4	0.6
Mozambique	3.03	-0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	1.9	1.7	4.3	2.5	2.2	1.7
Namibia	1.77	0.5	1.0	0.0	-0.1	0.6	0.2	-0.1	1.4	1.3	1.0
Seychelles	0.15	-1.4	0.4	0.9	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2	0.2	3.4	0.0	-0.3
South Africa	55.34	0.4	1.2	0.0	-0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.9	1.6	0.7
Swaziland	1.00	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	2.5	0.9
Tanzania	6.87	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.5
Zambia	3.38	0.5	0.3	0.9	1.0	7.7	7.1	2.2	3.1	1.2	2.1
Zimbabwe	2.35	-0.2	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2
SADC	100.00	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.0

Table 2: Annual inflation rates (%) for SADC Member States as measured by National HCPIs, 2015-2016

Member State	Country weights	June14 June15	July14 July15	Aug14 Aug15	Sept14 Sept15	Oct14 Oct15	Nov14 Nov15	Dec14 Dec15	Jan15 Jan16	Feb15 Feb16	Mar15 Mar16
Angola	10.87	9.4	9.8	10.5	12.1	12.4	13.4	14.5	17.3	20.6	23.7
Botswana	1.78	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	2.9	3.4	2.8	3.4	3.4
Congo DR	4.32	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0
Lesotho	0.74	3.8	4.4	5.6	7.0	7.6	8.1	8.4	9.2	10.7	12.8
Madagascar	4.10	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.4	6.9	6.6	6.3	5.7	4.6
Malawi	2.20	23.5	24.6	24.8	25.4	26.2	26.5	26.7	25.6	25.5	24.3
Mauritius	2.11	0.0	-0.2	0.6	2.0	1.7	1.6	3.5	2.7	1.0	1.6
Mozambique	3.03	1.5	1.7	2.5	3.0	4.8	6.2	10.0	10.9	11.7	13.5
Namibia	1.77	2.0	3.9	3.6	3.3	3.8	3.7	4.7	4.8	5.9	6.3
Seychelles	0.15	5.5	5.7	6.9	6.8	5.2	5.9	5.5	7.3	6.7	3.4
South Africa	55.34	4.5	4.8	4.4	4.4	4.6	4.8	5.4	6.6	7.8	7.0
Swaziland	1.00	5.3	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.7	5.5	7.9	7.9
Tanzania	6.87	6.7	6.9	7.1	6.7	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.3	6.8	6.7
Zambia	3.38	7.0	6.2	6.5	7.4	15.1	22.5	23.7	27.0	28.3	30.3
Zimbabwe	2.35	-2.8	-2.8	-2.7	-3.3	-3.4	-2.6	-2.6	-2.4	-2.4	-2.6
SADC	100.00	6.4	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.5	8.2	9.1	8.9	9.9	9.9

Figure 4: COICOP Divisions annual inflation rates as at March 2016

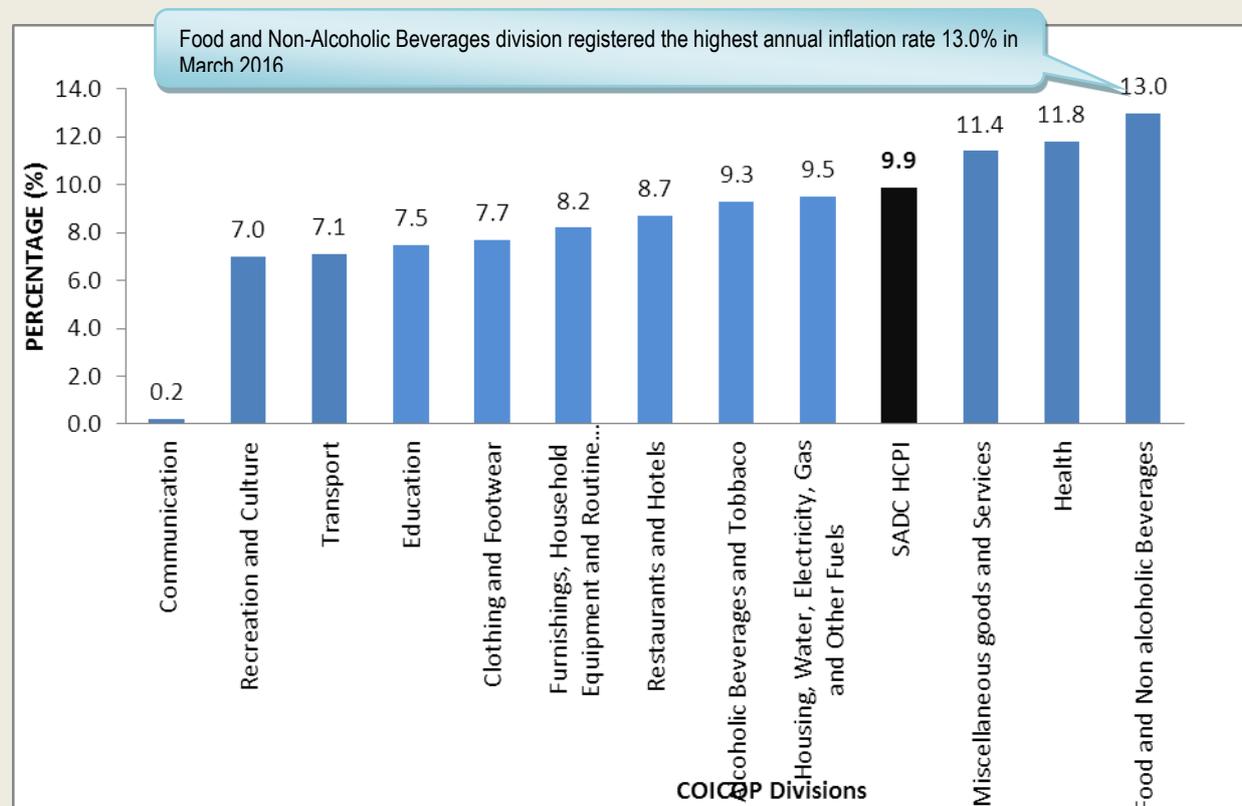


Table 3: Month on Month inflation rates (%) for the COICOP divisions, 2015-2016

Divisions	Division weights	May15 Jun15	Jun15 Jul15	July15 Aug15	Aug15 Sept15	Sept15 Oct15	Oct15 Nov15	Nov15 Dec15	Dec15 Jan16	Jan16 Feb16	Feb16 Mar16
All items HCPI	1000.00	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.7	1.0
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	316.62	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.5	1.2	2.1	2.7	1.6
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	50.39	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	1.7	1.6	1.9
Clothing & footwear	55.54	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.1	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.9
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	126.02	0.6	3.6	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.8
Furnish, household equip & routine maintenance	55.91	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8
Health	18.76	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	2.9	3.0
Transport	143.43	1.0	0.9	-0.2	-0.7	0.5	-0.1	0.0	1.4	0.5	0.0
Communications	29.09	0.0	-0.2	0.0	0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Recreation and culture	27.05	0.5	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.1	1.2	0.9	0.2
Education	29.11	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.7	3.0
Restaurants and hotels	41.10	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.7
Miscellaneous goods and services	106.98	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.0	1.6	3.7	1.1

Table 4: Annual inflation rates (%) for the COICOP divisions, 2015-2016

Divisions	Division weights	June14 June15	July14 July15	Aug14 Aug15	Sept14 Sept15	Oct14 Oct15	Nov14 Nov15	Dec14 Dec15	Jan15 Jan16	Feb15 Feb16	Mar15 Mar16
All items HCPI	1000.00	6.4	6.6	6.6	7.0	7.5	8.2	9.1	8.9	9.9	9.9
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	316.62	6.5	6.8	7.1	7.5	8.6	9.6	10.8	10.1	11.9	13.0
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	50.39	7.7	7.1	7.0	7.4	6.9	6.7	6.8	8.0	8.9	9.3
Clothing & footwear	55.54	10.2	10.3	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.3	10.7	8.0	7.4	7.7
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	126.02	5.5	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.3	7.2	8.7	9.1	9.5
Furnish, household equip & routine maintenance	55.91	8.1	8.4	9.2	10.3	10.8	11.1	11.8	7.7	7.7	8.2
Health	18.76	8.2	8.3	8.6	8.8	8.7	8.8	9.7	7.9	8.9	11.8
Transport	143.43	0.2	0.2	-0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.8	2.3	6.6	9.1	7.1
Communication	29.09	0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2
Recreation and culture	27.05	6.7	6.7	7.2	7.6	8.4	9.2	8.6	6.7	7.1	7.0
Education	29.11	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	9.3	10.0	7.5
Restaurants and hotels	41.10	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.7	9.0	9.2	10.4	8.1	8.6	8.7
Miscellaneous goods and services	106.98	9.2	6.8	9.4	10.0	10.2	10.8	11.8	9.7	10.7	11.4

Table 5: Month on month inflation rates (%) for SADC Member States as measured by National HCPIs, 2014

Member State	Country weights	Month on month inflation rates											
		Dec13	Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14
		Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14
Angola		0.7	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.8
Botswana	2.32	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	-0.4
Congo DR	4.89	1.1	-0.8	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
Lesotho	0.76	0.4	0.5	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.3	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	0.2	0.0	0.2
Madagascar	3.56	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.1
Malawi	1.61	8.8	5.2	0.3	-0.1	-3.7	-1.1	-2.1	2.0	1.5	2.4	4.3	5.6
Mauritius	2.30	0.9	1.0	-0.6	0.0	-1.8	0.1	-0.1	0.2	-0.6	1.0	0.1	0.0
Mozambique	4.03	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.1	-0.4	-0.6	0.0	-0.6	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.7
Namibia	1.87	1.5	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.3	1.5	-0.9	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.3	-1.0
Seychelles	0.16	0.3	-0.2	0.5	0.1	-0.5	0.0	0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.2	-0.9	0.6
South Africa	64.34	0.9	1.2	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.4
Swaziland	1.23	0.5	1.5	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.1	1.3	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.2	-0.1
Tanzania	8.05	1.3	1.3	0.5	0.7	-0.5	-0.4	0.2	0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.6	0.3
Zambia	3.11	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.7	1.2
Zimbabwe	1.78	0.1	0.0	(0.3)	0.6	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.6	-0.1
SADC	100.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0

Angola did not participate in the 2009 ICP round hence there is no Household Final Monetary Consumption Expenditure data (HFMCE) which are used as country weights for HCPI compilation

Table 6: Annual inflation rates (%) and annual averages (%) for SADC Member States as measured by National HCPIs, 2014

Member State	Country weights	Annual inflation rates												
		Jan13	Feb13	Mar13	Apr13	May13	Jun13	Jul13	Aug13	Sep13	Oct13	Nov13	Dec13	Avg 14
		Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	
Angola*		8.4	7.9	7.2	6.9	6.6	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.6	6.3	6.2	6.3	6.7
Botswana	2.32	4.6	4.8	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.6	3.9	4.8
Congo DR	4.89	2.7	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.5
Lesotho	0.76	2.3	4.6	5.4	6.1	5.1	6.3	6.5	6.1	6.1	4.2	3.2	3.7	5.0
Madagascar	3.56	7.2	7.5	7.2	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.2	7.1	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.5	7.1
Malawi	1.61	25.0	24.5	24.1	24.0	23.6	23.2	23.0	24.9	24.2	23.7	24.3	24.8	24.1
Mauritius	2.30	0.3	2.4	2.1	4.2	3.1	3.9	3.7	4.2	3.0	1.2	0.3	0.1	2.3
Mozambique	4.03	3.5	2.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.8	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.0	1.7	1.9	2.7
Namibia	1.87	6.8	7.3	7.1	7.0	6.9	8.6	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.3	4.8	6.8
Seychelles	0.16	3.5	2.7	2.5	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.2	0.0	0.4	-0.4	0.1	1.2
South Africa	64.34	6.1	6.3	6.6	6.7	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.3	6.3	6.2	5.5	6.6
Swaziland	1.23	1.4	2.2	3.7	5.3	5.5	5.5	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.1	7.2	6.1	5.1
Tanzania	8.05	6.2	6.0	6.3	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.7	6.5	6.6	5.7	5.7	4.7	6.1
Zambia	3.11	10.1	9.7	9.4	9.6	9.4	8.5	8.0	8.6	8.4	8.9	9.3	9.8	9.1
Zimbabwe	1.78	0.7	0.0	-0.9	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.6	-0.6	-0.1
SADC	100.0	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.4	6.3

Angola did not participate in the 2009 ICP round hence there is no Household Final Monetary Consumption Expenditure data (HFMCE) which are used as country weights for HCPI compilation

Table 7: Month on month inflation rates (%) for the COICOP divisions, 2014

Divisions	Division Weights	Month on month inflation rates											
		Dec13	Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14
		Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14
All items HCPI	1 000.00	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	297.59	1.9	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.3	-0.1	-0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.2
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	53.99	0.6	0.4	1.4	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.1
Clothing & footwear	53.80	0.4	0.6	1.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.6
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	126.28	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.4	-0.2	0.4	3.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3
Furnish, household equipment & maint. of house	56.45	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.1	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.2
Health	15.92	0.5	2.4	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.1
Transport	150.43	1.1	1.1	1.4	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.9	0.4	-1.0	0.2	-0.7	-1.4
Communication	26.82	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.5
Recreation and culture	28.10	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6
Education	30.01	1.4	0.2	5.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1
Restaurants and hotels	43.89	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.2
Miscellaneous goods & services	116.74	0.8	2.8	0.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1

Table 8: Annual inflation rates (%) and annual averages (%) for the COICOP divisions, 2014

Divisions	Division Weights	Annual inflation												Avg14
		Jan13	Feb13	Mar13	Apr13	May13	Jun13	Jul13	Aug13	Sep13	Oct13	Nov13	Dec13	
		Jan14	Feb14	Mar14	Apr14	May14	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	
All items HCPI	1000.0	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.9	7.0	6.7	6.6	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.4	6.3
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	297.59	5.3	5.9	7.2	7.7	8.4	8.5	8.2	8.4	7.7	7.0	6.6	6.3	7.3
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	53.99	8.0	7.4	6.8	6.1	6.1	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.4	6.4
Clothing & footwear	53.80	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6	7.1	7.4	6.3
Housing, water, fuels etc.	126.28	6.8	7.3	7.3	7.4	7.0	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.4	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.1
Furnish, h/hold equipment	56.45	2.9	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.8	3.3
Health	15.92	5.4	5.8	6.7	6.2	6.0	6.7	6.9	6.8	6.8	7.0	7.5	7.5	6.6
Transport	150.43	7.4	7.4	6.7	6.6	7.8	7.8	6.5	5.9	4.7	4.9	4.4	2.3	6.0
Communications	26.82	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	-0.1
Recreation and culture	28.10	4.3	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.6	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.1	4.5	4.4
Education	30.01	9.0	8.8	8.2	8.3	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1	8.1	7.9	7.7	7.6	8.1
Restaurants and hotels	43.89	5.7	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.5	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.0	7.1
Miscellaneous goods & services	116.74	6.1	5.5	5.7	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.3	6.3	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1

Table 9: SADC HCPI Time series data - January 2014 to date (December 2010=100)

Month	SADC HCPI			Month on month inflation rate			Year on year inflation rate		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
January	124.3	131.8	143.5	1.1	1.7	1.4	6.1	6.0	8.9
February	125.7	132.7	145.9	1.1	0.7	1.7	6.2	5.6	9.9
March	127.1	134.1	147.3	1.1	1.0	1.0	6.4	5.5	9.9
April	127.7	135.2		0.5	0.9		6.6	5.9	
May	127.7	135.5		0.0	0.2		6.9	6.1	
June	127.9	136.1		0.1	0.5		7.0	6.4	
July	128.7	137.2		0.6	0.8		6.7	6.6	
August	129.0	137.6		0.3	0.3		6.6	6.6	
September	129.0	138.1		0.0	0.3		6.2	7.0	
October	129.3	139.1		0.2	0.7		6.0	7.5	
November	129.60	140.2		0.2	0.8		5.9	8.2	
December	129.60	141.1		0.0	0.9		5.4	9.1	
Annual average HCPI	128.0	136.6					6.3	6.7	

Measures of inflation

The annual rate measures the price change between the current month and the corresponding month of the previous year. The rate is responsive to recent changes in price levels but it can

also be influenced by one-off effects in either month.

The 12 month average compares the average HCPI in the latest 12 months to the average of the previous 12 months. It overcomes

the volatility of the annual measure. The monthly rate measures the price change between the two latest months. Although up to date, it can be affected by seasonal and other short-term effects

The Harmonised Consumer Price Index

The Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI) is defined as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) developed from comparable methodologies. That means CPIs which have been developed from the concepts, definitions and methods that are comparable. CPIs are economic indicators that measure changes overtime of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by households. HCPI is meant to provide an official measure of inflation in the region, and it makes international comparisons easier since the national HCPIs are produced using harmonised methodologies and as much is practicable using the same statistical classifications, standards and frameworks.

Both the HCPIs and national CPIs measure inflation faced by consumers, and use the same

data sources in most part. However, the two measure inflation with different aims and therefore, sometimes October use different concepts and methods. HCPI's main use is for monetary policy, and is used as one of the convergence criteria to assess compliance of Member States to economic unions and to monitor progress towards integration. Member states of economic unions are given target inflation levels to achieve, in specified period to be considered for some preferential treatments within the integration. And this requires a harmonised conceptual framework and comparable results. The national CPIs in addition to being the measure of inflation have many other purposes such as cost of living which October require different methodologies.

The Member States HCPIs are produced by respective Member

States using agreed harmonised methodologies. The SADC HCPI is compiled by the SADC Secretariat by aggregating the National HCPIs of the Member States. These are calculated as weighted averages of the national HCPIs, using as weights each country's total household consumption expenditure converted to a common currency using the purchasing power parities derived from the results of the 2005 (for HCPIs prior to January 2013), 2009 (for HCPIs January 2013 to December 2014) and 2011 (for HCPIs since January 2015) International Comparison Program as supplied by the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

More information on SADC HCPI methodology can be availed on demand.

Acknowledgement

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National Statistics Offices of SADC Member States in providing monthly national HCPIs which form the basis for the aggregate

SADC HPCI. The collaboration with COMESA and African Development Bank in this exercise is equally acknowledged.

Production team

This news release was produced under the auspices of the SADC Statistics Programme in the Directorate of Policy Planning Resource Mobilisation of the SADC Secretariat, Gaborone, Botswana.

The production team comprised mainly **Mr. Ackim Jere** (Head SADC Statistics Programme) and **Mr. Deepchandsingh Jagai** (Officer – Statistics & Research). The news release was produced under the general

direction of **Dr. Angelo Mondlane**, Director - Directorate Policy Planning Resource Mobilisation.

Further information pertaining to methodology and related aspects of the HCPI process in SADC can be obtained by contacting the Statistics Unit at SADC Secretariat by directing inquiries to:

Mr. Ackim Jere
Senior Officer - Statistics
Directorate-Policy, Planning Resource Mobilisation
SADC Secretariat
Private Bag 0095
Tel: +267 395 1863
Fax: +267 397 2848/318 1070
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: ajere@sadc.int
Web: www.sadc.int

Mr. Deepchandsingh Jagai
Officer-Statistics & Research
Directorate-Policy Planning Resource Mobilisation
SADC Secretariat
Private Bag 0095
Tel: +267 364 1769
Fax: +267 397 2848/318 1070
Gaborone, Botswana
Email: djagai@sadc.int
Web: www.sadc.int

SADC HCPI website link:

<http://www.sadc.int/news-events/newsletters/harmonised-consumer-price-index-newsletter/>

Proposed Future release dates

Scheduled dates for the coming months are:

SADC HCPI for:	Publication date by SADC Secretariat
April 2016	05 th June 2016
May 2016	05 th July 2016
June 2016	05 th August 2016