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*As measured by the HCPI, the annual inflation rate for the SADC region was 8.2% in April 2012 compared to April 2011. Monthly inflation was 0.5% in April 2012, reflecting 0.4 percentage points decline from the rate observed in the previous month of March 2012.*

This is the ninth issue in series for this news release and presents the Stage I HCPI figures for the SADC region for April 2012.

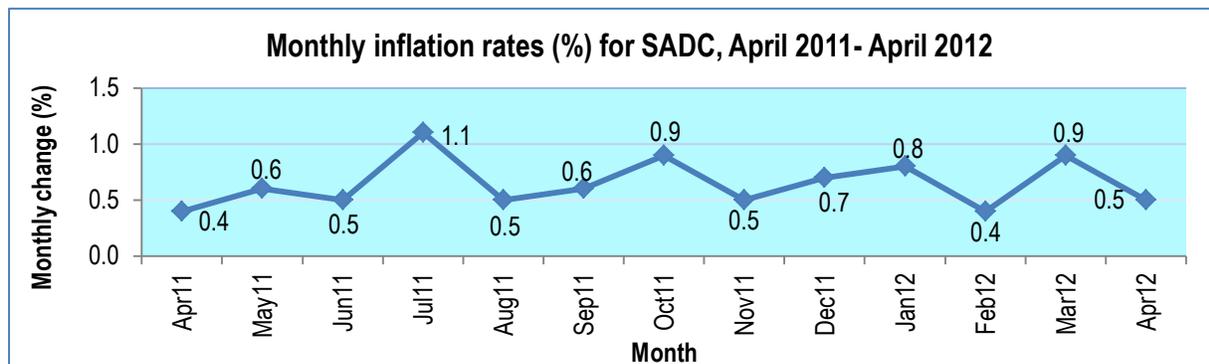
Compilation of the Stage I SADC HCPIs is based on the national HCPIs of fourteen SADC Member States<sup>1</sup>. The scope of the HCPIs at this stage does not include the Education and Health divisions of the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). However the HCPI development must generally be in compliance with the international standards relating to development of Consumer Price Indices (CPI). The excluded items will be covered at a later stage. The reported

annual inflation rates for April 2012 for Member States ranged from a highest of 19.5% for Tanzania, and a lowest of 1.4% for Zimbabwe. The rates for the rest of the Member States were reported as follows: Botswana (7.8%), DRC 19.0%, Lesotho (7.9%), Madagascar (7.7%), Malawi (13.6%), Mauritius (2.1%), Mozambique (3.3%), Namibia (6.7%), Seychelles (6.1%), South Africa (7.1%), Swaziland (10.4%) and Zambia (4.0%), as shown in table 1 below.

In terms of COICOP major divisions, all divisions registered increases in their indices except for the Communications division which

recorded a decline of 0.7% in April 2012 compared to April 2011. Other COICOP divisions registered increases in their price indices as follows: Housing, Electricity, Water, Gas and Other Fuels (10.2%), Transport (10.0%), Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages (9.7%), Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (8.0%), Restaurants and Hotels (6.3%), Clothing and Footwear (5.9%), Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of House (4.7%), Miscellaneous Goods and Services (4.4%) and Recreation and Culture (2.3%). Table 2 below provides more details.

**Figure 1: Monthly inflation rate (%) in SADC region for the period: April 2011 to April 2012**



<sup>1</sup> | Page 1 Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Figure 2: Annual inflation rate (%) for SADC region and SADC Member States as at April 2012

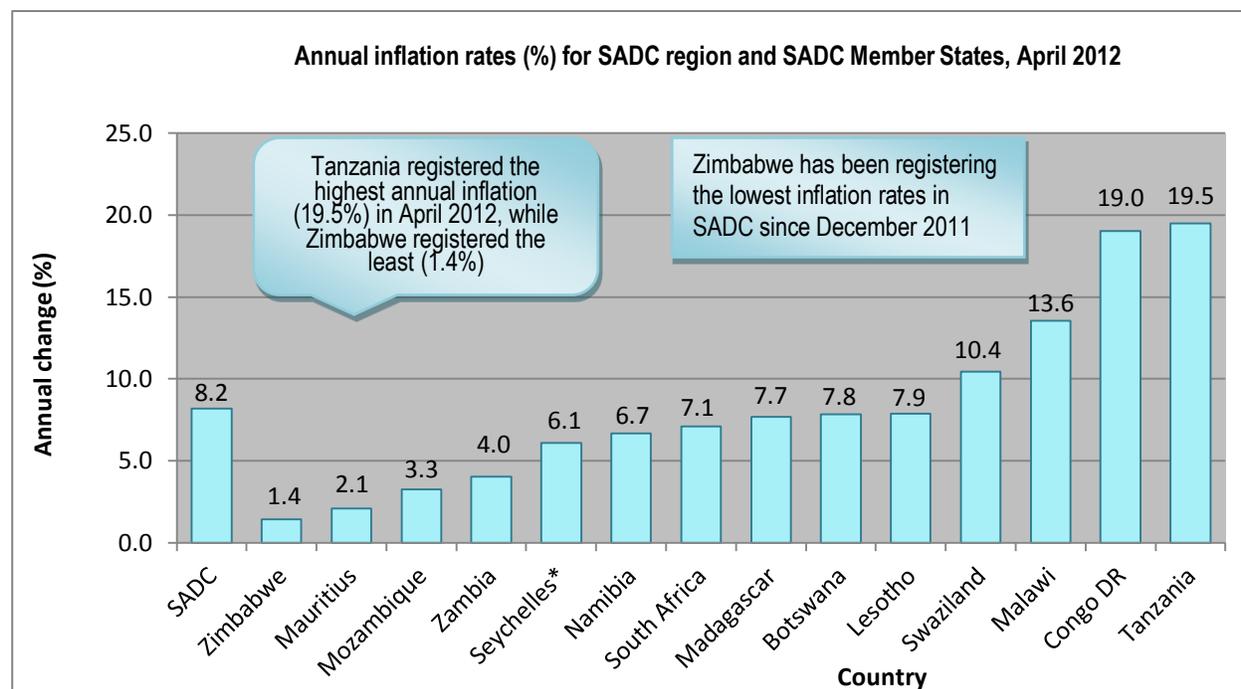


Table 1: Monthly and annual inflation rates (%) for SADC Member States as measured by National HCPIs

Member State	Country weights	Month on month inflation rates				Annual inflation rates				
		Dec11	Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Dec10	Jan11	Feb11	Mar11	Apr11
		Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Apr12	Dec11	Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Apr12
Angola										
Botswana	1.35	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.9	9.3	9.3	8.5	8.2	7.8
Congo DR	2.41	2.8	-1.2	1.2	-0.1	19.6	21.5	20.2	20.6	19.0
Lesotho	0.86	0.2	0.3	1.1	-0.1	11.7	11.0	8.3	9.0	7.9
Madagascar	3.42	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.6	7.1	7.1	5.4	6.3	7.7
Malawi	1.74	1.0	1.5	-0.3	0.8	11.3	11.1	10.4	10.5	13.6
Mauritius	2.39	0.1	-1.4	0.4	0.6	3.2	5.0	1.9	1.9	2.1
Mozambique	3.08	0.6	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	5.9	4.8	3.4	3.7	3.3
Namibia	1.38	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4	7.5	7.3	7.4	7.4	6.7
Seychelles*	-	0.1	0.4	0.3	1.4	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.9	6.1
South Africa	70.82	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.5	7.6	7.4	7.4	7.1	7.1
Swaziland	0.95	2.7	1.0	-0.2	2.0	9.6	10.2	11.0	9.5	10.4
Tanzania	7.83	1.9	1.8	1.1	0.9	20.6	20.5	20.3	19.8	19.5
Zambia	2.54	1.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	3.9	3.0	2.7	1.9	4.0
Zimbabwe	1.23	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.1	-1.5	-1.9	-0.3	0.8	1.4
<b>SADC</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>8.2</b>

\* Seychelles did not participate in the 2005 International Comparison Program (ICP) round hence there is no Household Final Monetary Consumption Expenditure (HFMCCE) data which are used as country weights for HCPI compilation

Figure 3: COICOP Divisions annual inflation rates as at April 2012

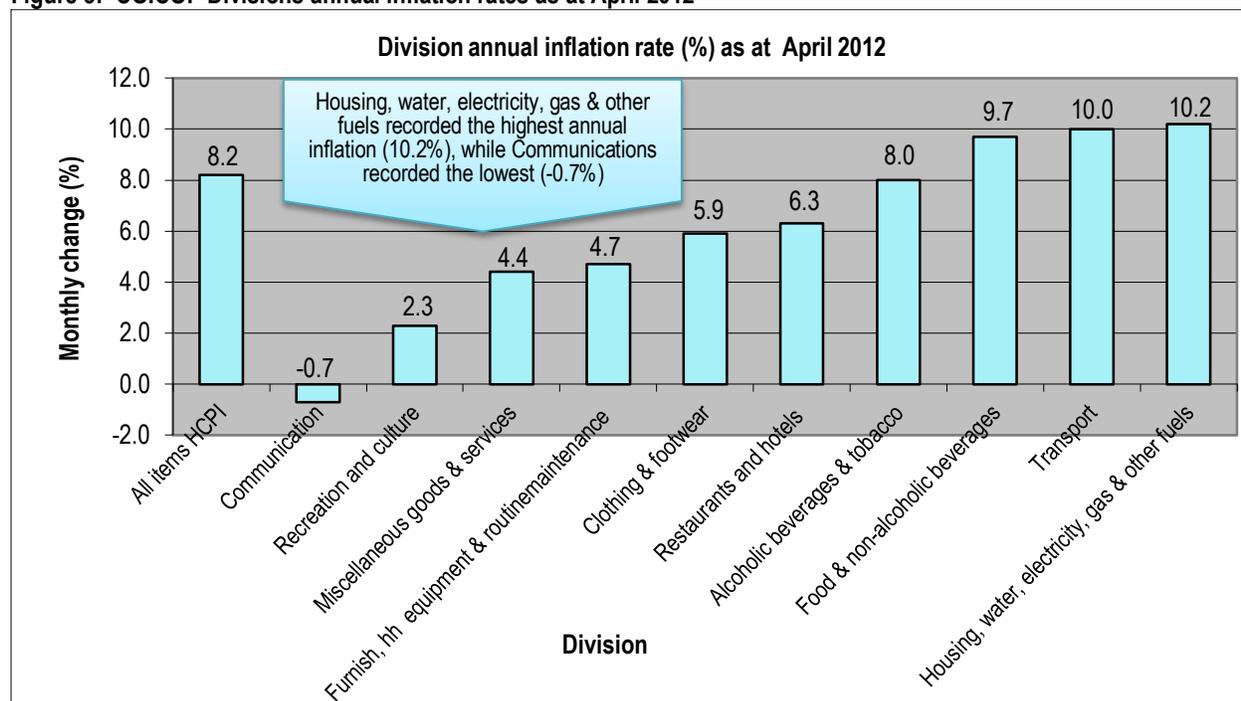


Table 2: Monthly and annual inflation rates (%) for the COICOP divisions from April 2011 to April 2012

Divisions	Weights	Month on month inflation rates					Annual inflation rates				
		Dec11	Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Dec10	Jan11	Feb11	Mar11	Apr11	
		Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Apr12	Dec11	Jan12	Feb12	Mar12	Apr12	
All items HCPI	1 000.00	0.8	0.4	0.9	0.5	8.7	8.6	8.3	8.1	8.2	
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	319.22	1.6	0.0	0.3	0.1	11.8	11.3	10.6	9.8	9.7	
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	72.61	0.5	0.2	4.2	0.6	6.4	6.7	6.7	8.2	8.0	
Clothing & footwear	60.42	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.3	5.5	5.8	5.9	6.0	5.9	
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	136.69	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.5	10.5	10.1	10.4	10.1	10.2	
Furnish, household equipment & routine maintenance of house	74.92	0.7	0.1	1.0	0.3	4.0	4.5	4.1	4.4	4.7	
<b>Health - Excluded From Stage 1</b>											
Transport	154.97	-0.1	1.1	1.2	1.7	11.6	10.4	10.3	9.7	10.0	
Communications	31.64	0.1	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	-1.2	-0.9	-1.1	-0.3	-0.7	
Recreation and culture	41.70	0.3	1.1	-0.2	0.8	1.1	1.9	2.8	1.9	2.3	
<b>Education - excluded from Stage 1</b>											
Restaurants and hotels	50.04	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.6	6.3	6.2	6.1	6.1	6.3	
Miscellaneous goods & services	57.78	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	4.6	4.0	4.7	4.7	4.4	

**Table 3: SADC Region and SADC Member States division profiles – March 2011 (December 2010=100)**

Monthly indices for COICOP Divisions - April 2011												
Country	Country weights	Food & non-alcoholic beverages.	Alcoholic beverages. & tobacco	Clothing & footwear	Housing, water, electricity, gas & other	Furn., hh eqipt. & routine maintenance	Transport	Communication	Recreation & culture	Restaurants & hotels	Misc. goods & services	All items
Angola												
Botswana	1.35	104.14	103.19	102.49	101.88	102.40	105.34	100.08	106.27	102.28	100.85	103.47
DR Congo	2.41	103.29	102.72	101.71	98.36	102.77	106.34	95.56	99.49	113.26	101.61	103.11
Lesotho	0.86	105.76	107.42	101.04	111.39	104.02	102.07	101.72	101.61	107.61	102.77	105.08
Madagascar	3.42	105.04	98.12	99.73	103.05	100.36	101.51	99.72	99.52	99.76	100.70	102.96
Malawi	1.74	98.53	100.70	102.51	100.55	101.67	111.90	102.81	104.70	95.24	103.69	100.99
Mauritius	2.39	112.41	100.37	100.89	100.32	101.24	107.15	99.74	100.97	89.21	100.80	100.85
Mozambique	3.08	103.89	101.80	101.32	102.02	101.28	101.00	99.62	104.12	106.62	104.68	102.79
Namibia	1.38	103.51	103.42	101.90	104.03	101.84	105.71	100.82	101.91	103.65	102.14	103.24
Seychelles	-	101.13	100.28	100.35	100.33	100.44	100.67	99.97	100.46	100.00	101.32	100.61
South Africa	70.82	103.35	104.91	101.11	101.20	100.29	105.44	99.86	100.33	102.43	101.70	102.74
Swaziland	0.95	104.21	103.06	101.72	104.62	103.12	112.48	100.09	103.70	102.30	104.14	104.78
Tanzania	7.83	107.51	102.11	102.97	111.23	110.85	106.39	97.95	103.03	106.43	102.75	106.93
Zambia	2.54	101.89	103.73	104.97	103.16	99.72	102.41	102.58	102.01	103.46	101.00	102.12
Zimbabwe	1.23	102.78	103.19	100.82	102.66	102.26	109.40	98.45	100.59	102.68	104.20	99.78
SADC	100.00	103.88	104.04	101.38	102.21	101.37	105.43	99.73	100.89	102.69	101.89	103.02

**Table 4: SADC Region and SADC Member States division profiles – February 2012 (December 2010=100)**

Monthly indices for COICOP Divisions – March 2012												
Country	Country weights	Food & non-alcoholic beverages.	Alcoholic beverages. & tobacco	Clothing & footwear	Housing, water, electricity, gas & other	Furn., hh eqipt. & routine maintenance	Transport	Communication	Recreation & culture	Restaurants & hotels	Misc. goods & services	All items
Angola												
Botswana	1.35	110.31	107.49	110.83	109.06	111.31	116.45	95.63	108.64	110.94	102.95	110.62
DR Congo	2.41	122.26	129.35	123.75	118.25	118.25	133.30	97.72	128.93	111.23	124.51	122.79
Lesotho	0.86	116.31	114.22	102.38	122.45	105.61	110.25	168.95	104.04	105.84	105.90	113.45
Madagascar	3.42	112.72	105.74	106.65	108.27	105.34	105.42	101.74	101.80	106.30	105.26	110.21
Malawi	1.74	110.33	115.00	111.53	118.22	121.54	119.08	109.42	117.55	108.17	113.25	114.14
Mauritius	2.39	113.23	114.81	104.57	106.89	104.38	102.40	96.23	105.38	87.91	102.59	102.34
Mozambique	3.08	108.25	104.89	104.40	108.34	103.72	103.73	98.39	100.32	108.34	107.89	106.39
Namibia	1.38	112.97	113.97	104.49	110.14	105.37	113.53	100.70	104.09	106.86	105.99	109.74
Seychelles	-	107.34	100.59	104.82	107.21	103.70	108.81	100.35	103.23	109.03	109.24	105.31
South Africa	70.82	112.38	111.84	105.08	110.75	103.05	114.48	98.87	99.60	108.16	104.15	109.49
Swaziland	0.95	116.59	109.35	106.59	111.47	105.67	121.69	100.09	103.45	107.48	108.39	113.49
Tanzania	7.83	133.53	110.76	119.15	127.14	125.37	119.94	98.26	115.28	119.51	118.45	126.59
Zambia	2.54	103.57	106.94	116.93	110.22	106.73	107.37	100.56	107.18	103.37	106.31	105.76
Zimbabwe	1.23	106.83	110.86	101.41	103.99	101.26	83.89	84.45	86.33	111.99	104.91	101.08
SADC	100.00	113.91	111.71	107.08	112.08	105.88	114.00	99.46	102.37	108.50	106.17	110.87

**Table 5: SADC Region and SADC Member States division profiles – March 2012 (December 2010=100)**

Monthly indices for COICOP Divisions – April 2012												
Country	Country weights	Food & non-alcoholic beverages.	Alcoholic beverages. & tobacco	Clothing & footwear	Housing, water, electricity, gas & other	Furn. hh eqipt. & routine maintenance	Transport	Communication	Recreation & culture	Restaurants & hotels	Misc. goods & services	All items
Angola												
Botswana	1.35	111.75	109.95	110.28	109.06	111.89	116.54	95.94	113.11	114.25	103.58	111.58
DR Congo	2.41	122.07	129.47	123.76	118.28	118.28	134.64	97.72	128.92	111.24	124.61	122.73
Lesotho	0.86	117.09	115.41	102.51	123.04	105.06	110.34	101.14	104.42	105.87	106.02	113.37
Madagascar	3.42	113.37	105.30	107.95	109.81	105.76	105.62	101.78	103.07	106.41	105.73	110.90
Malawi	1.74	110.40	117.33	112.11	119.23	124.83	121.57	108.87	119.45	108.79	114.09	114.70
Mauritius	2.39	113.72	114.84	104.85	106.98	104.56	103.03	96.23	105.71	89.15	103.26	102.96
Mozambique	3.08	107.68	105.29	104.93	108.17	103.85	103.35	98.83	100.20	108.97	107.71	106.14
Namibia	1.38	113.70	114.76	104.11	109.96	106.15	115.12	100.70	104.16	106.26	105.65	110.14
Seychelles	-	107.10	106.53	104.82	107.53	103.73	112.92	100.35	103.66	109.03	109.01	106.76
South Africa	70.82	112.27	112.51	105.24	110.92	102.89	116.87	99.05	100.40	108.89	104.37	110.06
Swaziland	0.95	119.52	110.71	106.59	115.94	107.10	121.79	100.09	104.12	108.24	108.31	115.73
Tanzania	7.83	134.33	111.04	120.24	130.46	128.95	121.15	98.32	116.23	119.44	118.64	127.77
Zambia	2.54	103.74	107.76	119.04	110.79	107.99	108.05	100.73	108.16	103.52	107.20	106.26
Zimbabwe	1.23	106.80	111.96	100.77	104.78	101.44	84.57	84.70	85.39	111.90	104.47	101.22
<b>SADC</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>113.97</b>	<b>112.35</b>	<b>107.39</b>	<b>112.59</b>	<b>106.19</b>	<b>115.93</b>	<b>99.02</b>	<b>103.18</b>	<b>109.12</b>	<b>106.40</b>	<b>111.47</b>

**Table 6: Time series data - December 2010 to date (December 2010=100)**

Year	Month	SADC HCPI	Month on month inflation rate	Year on year inflation rate
2 010	December	100.00		
2 011	January	100.86	0.9	
	February	101.46	0.6	
	March	102.57	1.1	
	April	103.02	0.4	
	May	103.62	0.6	
	June	104.16	0.5	
	July	105.27	1.1	
	August	105.77	0.5	
	September	106.44	0.6	
	October	107.42	0.9	
	November	107.96	0.5	
	December	108.66	0.7	8.7
	<b>Annual average HCPI - 2011</b>	<b>104.40</b>		
2 012	January	109.51	0.8	8.6
	February	109.88	0.4	8.3
	March	110.87	0.9	8.1
	April	111.47	0.5	8.2
	May			
	June			
	July			
	August			
	September			
	October			
	November			
	December			
	<b>Annual average HCPI - 2012</b>			

## 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.

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 2005 purchasing power parities derived from the results of

the 2005 International Comparison Program as supplied by the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

The HCPIs may differ from the national CPIs which are sometimes designed for different purposes. The HCPIs are designed as a macroeconomic measure of monetary inflation whereas some national CPIs may have other purposes such as cost of living which may require different methodologies. More information on SADC HCPI methodology can be availed on demand.

## Acknowledgement

The SADC Secretariat duly acknowledges with thanks the continuous support and cooperation of the respective

National Statistics Offices of SADC Member States in providing monthly national HCPIs which forms 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 **Mr. Ackim Jere** (Head SADC Statistics Programme) and **Ms. Mantoa Molengoane**. The

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Further information pertaining to methodology and related aspects of the HCPI process in SADC can be obtained by directing inquiries to the following two individuals whose contact details are presented below.

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**Future release dates**

Scheduled dates for the coming months:

<b>Stage I SADC HCPI for:</b>	<b>Date of Submission of national HCPIs to SADC Secretariat</b>	<b>Publication date by SADC Secretariat</b>
May 2012	22nd June 2012	05th July 2012
June 2012	20th July 2012	06th August 2012
July 2012	20th August 2012	05th September 2012