



PRESS RELEASE

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15 October 2026

BOTSWANA'S ANNUAL INFLATION DROPS TO 7.8 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER 2026

Botswana's annual inflation rate declined by 1.5 percentage points to 7.8 percent in September 2026, down from 9.3 percent recorded in August, according to the latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report released by Statistics Botswana.

The decline was largely driven by a reduced contribution from the Transport group, which remained the largest contributor to annual inflation at 4.0 percentage points, down from 5.1 percentage points in August.

The Miscellaneous Goods and Services group contributed 1.1 percentage points, while Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels, and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages each contributed 0.7 of a percentage point to the annual inflation rate.

Despite the moderation in annual inflation, the national Consumer Price Index increased marginally by 0.1 percent, from 149.5 in August to 149.6 in September 2026, indicating that the overall price level continued to edge upwards during the month.

Food prices decline as housing costs rise

During September 2026, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index decreased by 0.6 percent, from 163.2 in August to 162.3. The decline was mainly attributable to lower prices for Vegetables, which fell by 3.0 percent. Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery decreased by 1.0 percent, Meat by 0.9 percent, and Bread and Cereals by 0.7 percent.

In contrast, the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels index increased by 0.6 percent, from 126.3 to 127.1. This was mainly driven by increases in Rent Paid by Tenants and Materials for Maintenance and Repair of Dwellings, which rose by 1.0 percent and 0.7 percent, respectively.

The Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco index also increased by 0.6 percent, largely due to a 0.7 percent increase in the Alcoholic Beverages section.

Inflation declines across geographical areas

Annual inflation decreased across all three geographical classifications between August and September 2026.

Cities and Towns recorded an inflation rate of 7.4 percent, down from 9.0 percent in August. Urban Villages registered 7.7 percent, compared with 9.2 percent in the preceding month, while Rural Villages recorded 8.6 percent, down from 10.2 percent.

These figures reflect a broad-based moderation in annual inflation across the country.

Imported tradeables inflation eases

The annual inflation rate for All-Tradeables declined from 11.4 percent in August to 8.8 percent in September 2026. Imported Tradeables inflation fell by 3.1 percentage points, from 13.0 percent to 9.9 percent, while Domestic Tradeables inflation decreased from 7.2 percent to 5.8 percent.

Non-Tradeables inflation also eased slightly, declining from 6.2 percent in August to 6.1 percent in September.

The figures indicate that annual price increases moderated across all tradeability classifications, with Imported Tradeables continuing to record the highest inflation rate among the categories reported.

Core inflation also declines

Measures of core inflation, which help assess underlying price movements, also recorded decreases during September 2026.

The Trimmed Mean Core Inflation rate fell by 0.9 of a percentage point, from 8.3 percent in August to 7.4 percent in September. Core inflation excluding administered prices decreased from 5.9 percent to 5.3 percent over the same period.

The declines in these measures indicate a moderation in underlying inflationary pressures during the month.

CPI remains an important economic indicator

Statistics Botswana compiles and publishes the Consumer Price Index monthly to provide timely and reliable information on changes in consumer prices and inflation trends in the national economy.

The CPI is an important economic indicator that supports evidence-based decision-making by policymakers, businesses, researchers and other stakeholders. It also helps the public monitor price movements affecting household expenditure and the cost of living.

The September 2026 CPI report provides a detailed analysis of price changes across expenditure groups, geographical areas and tradeability classifications.

For further information, members of the public may contact the Directorate of Stakeholder Relations at **+267 367 1300**. The full report and other Statistics Botswana publications are available on the Statistics Botswana website at www.statsbots.org.bw and at the Statistics Botswana Information Resource Centre in Gaborone.

Issued by:

Statistics Botswana

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