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CONSUMER PRICE STATISTICS – MARCH 2012

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“Figures that inform and help you make decisions”

COMMENTARY-MARCH 2012 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

Section 1: Headline Inflation

In March 2012, national year-on-year inflation rate stood at 8.0 percent, down by 0.2 of a percentage point from 8.2 percent in February 2012. The urban villages' inflation rate went down from 8.6 percent in February to 8.3 percent in March, a decrease of 0.3 of a percentage point. The towns and cities' inflation rate registered a drop of 0.2 of a percentage point, from 8.0 percent in February to 7.8 percent in March. The rural villages' inflation rate stood at 8.2 percent in March, down by 0.1 of a percentage point on the February rate of 8.3 percent.

The March national Consumer Price Index was 155.4, registering an increase of 0.5 percent on the February index of 154.7. The Rural Villages' index recorded an increase of 0.7 percent from 157.6 to 158.6 between the two months. The Urban Villages' index moved from 154.4 to 155.1, recording an increase of 0.5 percent, while the Cities and Towns' index went up from 153.7 to 154.3, registering an increase of 0.4 percent.

Two group indices recorded changes of at least 1.0 percent between February and March –*Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics (1.2 percent) and Restaurants & Hotels (1.1 percent)*.

Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics group index rose by 1.2 percent from 193.6 to 196.0 between February and March. This was attributed to a rise in the constituent section indices of *Alcoholic Beverages (1.3 percent)* and *Tobacco (1.0 percent)*.

The *Restaurants & Hotels* group index recorded an increase of 1.1 percent from 187.5 in February to 189.5 in March. This was largely due to a rise in the constituent section index of *Restaurants, Cafes and the Like (1.1 percent)*.

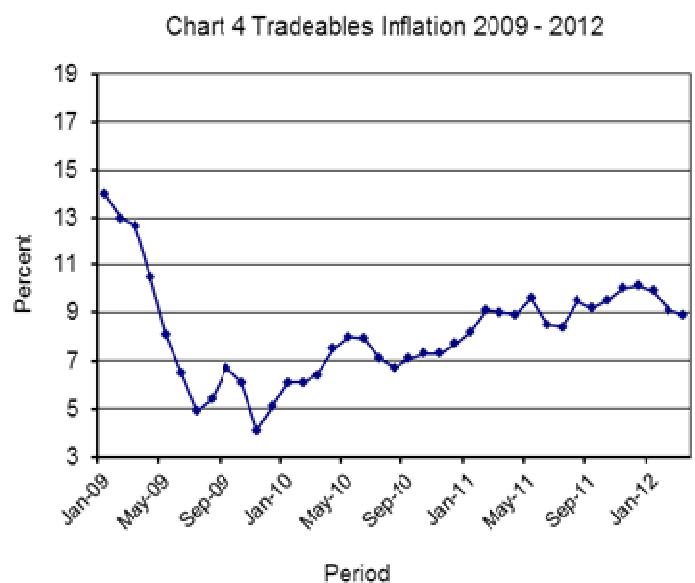
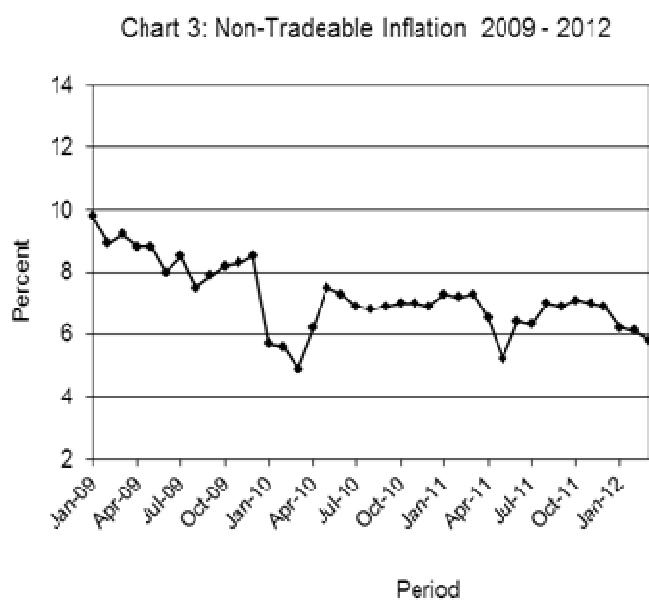
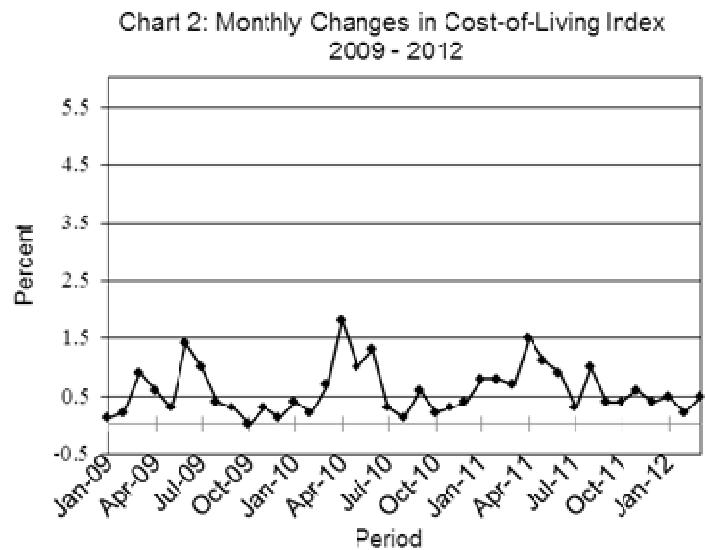
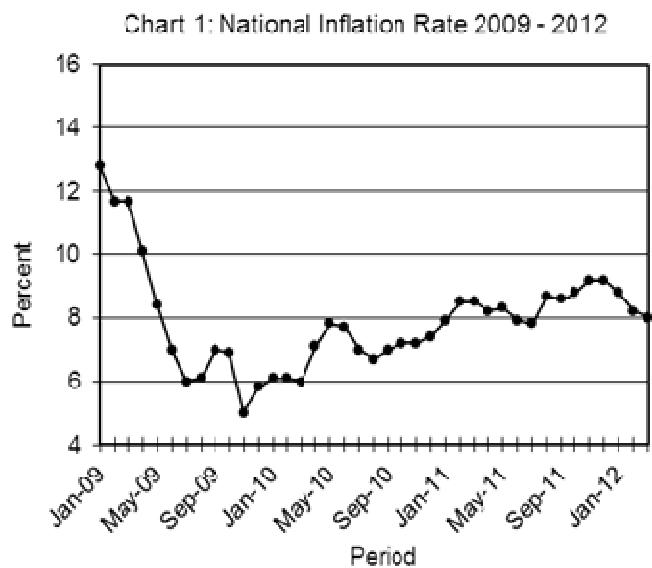
Food & Non Alcoholic Beverages group index went up by 0.7 percent, from 173.3 in February to 174.6 in March. The rise was due to a general increase in the food prices. All section index recorded increases, notably; *Mineral Waters, Soft Drinks, Fruits & Veg. Juices (1.6 percent)*, *Bread & Cereals (1.3 percent)* and *Fruits (0.9 percent)*.

The *All-Tradeables* inflation rate registered a drop of 0.2 of a percentage point from 9.1 to 8.9 percent between February and March. The *Imported Tradeables* inflation rate recorded a decrease of 0.4 of a percentage point over the period, from 10.2 to 9.8 percent. The *Non-Tradeables* inflation rate went down by 0.3 of a percentage point, from 6.1 percent in February to 5.8 percent in March, while the *Domestic Tradeables* inflation rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point, from 7.3 percent in February to 7.6 percent in March.

All-Tradeables index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent moved from 160.6 in February to 161.4 in March. The *Domestic Tradeables* index rose by 1.1 percent, from 170.4 in February to 172.2 in March. The *Non-Tradeables* index went up by 0.3 percent, from 141.0 to 141.4 between the two months, while the *Imported Tradeables* index recorded an increase of 0.2 percent, from 155.7 in February to 156.1 in March.

Section 2: Core Inflation

The March 2012 Trimmed Mean Core Inflation rate registered a decrease of 0.2 of a percentage point, from 7.8 percent in February to 7.6 percent in March. The Core Inflation rate by Exclusion went down by 0.2 of a percentage point, from 7.2 percent in February to 7.0 percent in March.



A.N. Majelantle
Acting Statistician General
13th April 2012

TABLE 4: Core Inflation Rates by Exclusion and Trimmed Mean

Year	Month	Consumer Price Index (Trimmed Mean) (September 2006 = 100)	Core Monthly Inflation Rate (Trimmed Mean) (percentage)	Consumer Price Index (Excluding Administered Prices) (September 2006 = 100)	Core Monthly Inflation (Excluding Administered Prices) (percentage)
2009					
	Jan	122.4	11.2	127.7	16.4
	Feb	122.6	10.3	128.1	15.8
	Mar	123.7	10.6	129.4	15.8
	Apr	124.6	9.9	130.3	15.5
	May	125.0	8.7	130.8	14.5
	Jun	126.4	7.5	131.9	13.8
	Jul	127.7	7.4	133.4	14.2
	Aug	128.1	6.9	133.5	13.4
	Sept	128.5	6.8	134.0	12.6
	Oct	127.1	5.8	134.0	11.1
	Nov	129.5	5.3	134.5	7.7
	Dec	127.7	6.4	134.7	7.0
2010					
	Jan	129.7	6.7	135.2	5.9
	Feb	129.0	6.7	135.5	5.8
	Mar	130.0	6.5	136.7	5.6
	Apr	133.1	7.7	139.1	6.8
	May	133.2	8.3	140.2	7.2
	Jun	135.0	8.1	141.0	6.9
	July	136.6	7.6	141.5	6.1
	Aug	135.4	7.2	142.0	6.3
	Sept	136.8	7.4	142.7	6.5
	Oct	137.2	7.6	143.1	6.8
	Nov	137.9	7.6	143.6	6.7
	Dec	137.5	7.7	144.2	7.1
2011					
	Jan	139.6	8.0	145.5	7.6
	Feb	142.1	8.6	146.0	7.7
	Mar	142.6	8.4	147.1	7.6
	Apr	143.4	8.0	149.4	7.4
	May	148.7	8.2	150.5	7.3
	Jun	148.8	7.6	151.4	7.4
	July	150.3	7.4	151.9	7.3
	Aug	153.7	8.4	152.5	7.4
	Sept	154.8	8.1	153.2	7.4
	Oct	155.6	8.3	154.0	7.6
	Nov	156.3	8.5	154.4	7.5
	Dec	156.9	8.5	155.1	7.5
2012					
	Jan	157.9	8.1	156.0	7.2
	Feb	158.0	7.8	156.5	7.2
	Mar	159.2	7.6	157.4	7.0

Prices Collection Coverage for Botswana Consumer Price Index -2006

