

BNNB analysis-all towns

9th June, 2023

A Brief Analysis of the Cost of Living in Lusaka and Other Towns.

The average cost of living in May 2023 stood at K6895.68. i.e. K2681 above the national average income of K4,215¹. The Capital City, Lusaka remains the most expensive city to live in despite a reduction of K34.67. The cost of living moved from K9,112.60 recorded in April 2023 to K9,077.93 in the month of May. At K4800.96, Kasama remained the cheapest town to live in for the month of May 2023 despite recording an increase of K217.17 from the April 2023 basket that was recorded at K 4583.79.

Towns that showed sharp upward shifts in the cost of living include Solwezi which moved from K8695.38 to K8050.67, Chipata which shifted to K6953.42 from K6515.18, Ndola which moved to 8571.07 from 8132.74 and Luanshya which shifted to K6714.71 from K5838.26. Besides, Lusaka, other towns also registered minimal downward shifts in the cost of living. These include Chinsali which went down to K6161.01 from K6346.53, Kitwe which went down to K7751.18 from K7828.94 and Mazabuka which went down to K6754.40 from K6825.8.

The month of May indicates that price movements of commodities such as 5kg chicken saw an upward trend. This was due to limited supply of the said commodities. Similarly, the prices of 40kg vegetables increased in various towns. This was attributed to the limited supply due to the end of the rainy season. Commodities such as 4kg rice in towns like Kasama saw a decrease in the price which is attributed to the period of harvesting which saw an increase in supply.

For further clarifications contact the Social and Economic Development (SED) Programme at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) on 0955295881 and 0954755319. Email:

¹ 2021 Labor Force survey data

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