

BNNB Analysis - All Towns

15th August, 2023.

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

The average cost of living as measured by the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) in July 2023 stood at K6, 469.76. This remains higher than the average national income of K4, 215¹.

Lusaka remains the town with the highest cost of living at K9, 301.11 followed by Solwezi at K8, 387.59. The cost of living in other towns such as Livingstone (K7, 333.43), Kitwe (K7, 679.86), Kabwe (K7, 576.82) Ndola (K7, 911.39) Mpika (K6, 923.50), Mazabuka (K6, 309.51), Luanshya (K6, 227.78), Choma (K6, 225.27), Mansa (K6, 013.44) Monze (K5, 999.05) and Mongu (K5, 326.22) also remained high and above the average national income. On the other hand, Kasama (K4, 572.33) remains the town with the lowest cost of living.

In comparison to June, it was observed that Mazabuka (K6, 506.82), Mongu (K5, 656.87) and Ndola (K8, 321.79) recorded reductions in the basket. Fruits, cooking oil and vegetable items recorded reductions in their prices in these towns.

The following towns on the other hand recorded an increase in the basket; Lusaka (K9,239.45), Choma (K6, 219.11), Kabwe (K7, 472.36), Kasama (K4, 546.87), Kitwe (K7, 415.35), Livingstone (K7, 295.22), Luanshya (K5, 852.33), Mansa (K5, 597.05), Monze (K5, 603.99), Mpika (K6, 904.84) and Solwezi (K8, 333.59). Increase in the baskets of the aforementioned towns can be attributed to the increase in prices of food items such as a 25kg bag of roller mealie meal, fruits (bananas, oranges and apples) and vegetables (rape, cabbage, bondwe and pumpkin leaves). In addition to food items, non-food items like charcoal also increased particularly in Ndola, Mansa and Choma.

For further clarifications contact the Social and Economic Development (SED) Programme at the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) on 0955295881 and 0954755319. Email: manager.sed@jctr.org.zm and admin@jctr.org.zm. Martin Mwamba Road, Plot 3813 Martin Mwamba Road, Olympia Park – Lusaka. P. O. Box 37774 Lusaka – Zambia

¹ 2021 Labor Force survey data

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