



FEBRUARY 2024

INFLATION BULLETIN



OVERVIEW

- Malawi inflation rate eased in February 2024 after increasing for the past three straight months.
- Zambia inflation rate increased for the eighth month to hit 13.5 percent in the month under review, the highest in two years.
- Similarly, the Zimbabwe inflation rate quickened for the fourth month to hit a ten-month high.
- Meanwhile, Tanzania's inflation rate has remained unchanged for the past three months.
- In advanced economies, the United States of America and China recorded an increase, while the Euro Area registered a decrease in February 2024.

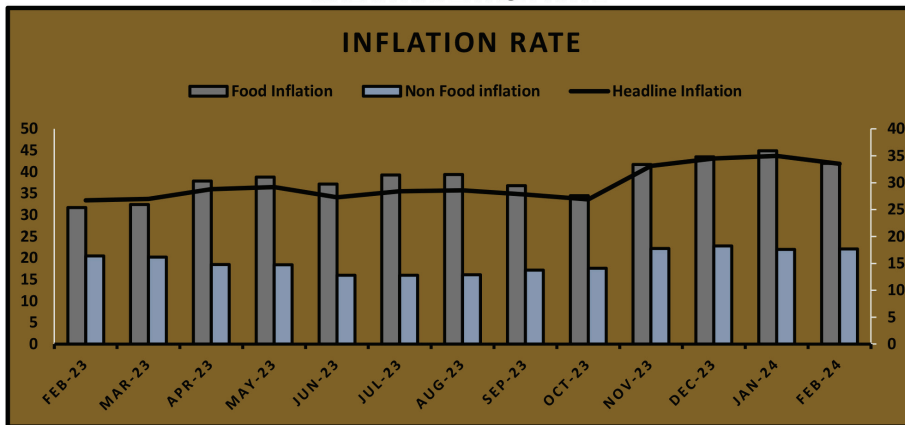


MALAWI INFLATION RATE

Year-on-year inflation rate for February stood at 33.5 percent, a 1.5 percent decline from 35 percent recorded in January 2024, according to the National Statistical Office. Food inflation rate was seen at 42 percent in the month under review, down from 44.9 percent recorded in January 2024, representing a 2.9 percent decline. Non-food inflation on the other hand increased by 0.1 percent, from 22 percent in January 2024 to 22.1 percent in February 2024. The decline in food inflation might be attributed to the importation of staple foods, especially maize, which has increased the supply on the market.

Nevertheless, the national month-to-month inflation rate for February 2024 stood at 2.2 percent, down from the 4.4 percent recorded in January 2024. Food month-on-month inflation rate was 2.4 percent in February 2024, while the non-food month-on-month inflation rate was 1.8 percent. Urban month-to-month inflation rate

was 2.2 percent in February 2024, down from 4.1 percent in January 2024. Urban food and non-food inflation rates stood at 2.4 percent and two percent in February 2024, respectively, down from 4.1 percent and two percent in January 2024. The rural month-to-month inflation rate was 2.1 percent in February 2024, down from five percent in January 2024. Rural food and non-food inflation rates stood at 2.4 percent and 1.7 percent in February 2024, respectively, down from 6.5 percent and 2.4 percent in January 2024.



Source: NSO



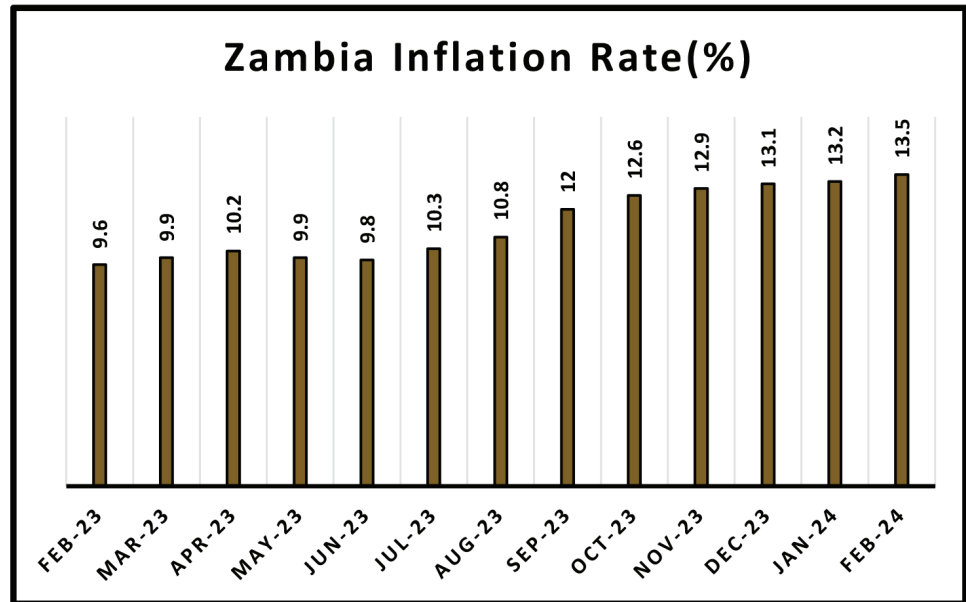
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ZAMBIA INFLATION RATE

The annual inflation rate in Zambia rose for the eighth month to hit 13.5 percent in February 2024, the highest in two years, up from 13.2 percent in January 2024, according to the Central Statistical Office of Zambia.

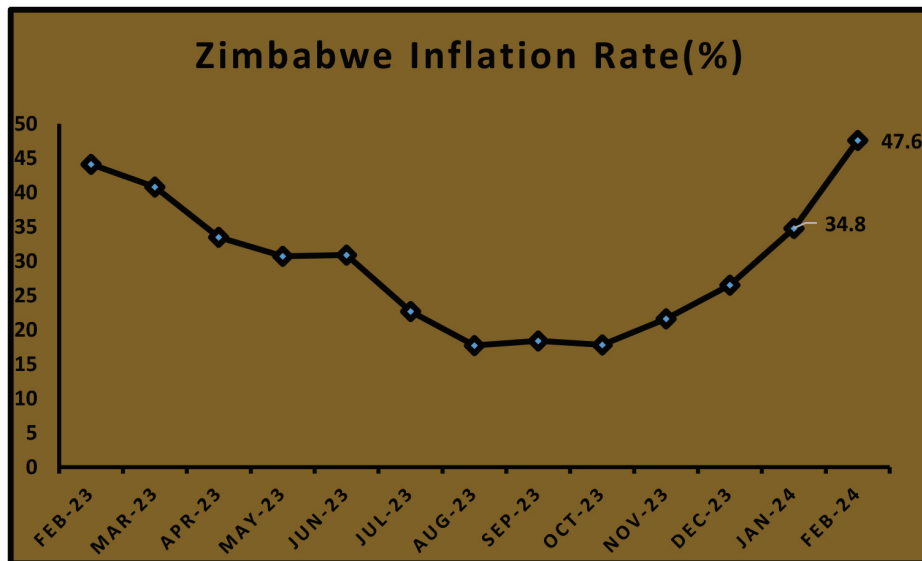
Prices accelerated for both food and non-food products, notably transportation, on account of fuels. Food prices increased from 13.7 percent in January 2024 to 14.1 percent in February 2024 while non-food prices increased marginally from 12.4 percent in January 2024 to 12.7 percent in February 2024.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices advanced by 2.2 percent in February, the most in over two years, after a 2.1 percent rise in the prior month.





ZIMBABWE INFLATION RATE



The annual inflation rate in Zimbabwe soared for the fourth month to 47.6 percent in February 2024, the highest in over a year, from 34.8 percent in the previous month, according to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.

The acceleration in overall inflation is largely due to the continued depreciation of the Zimbabwean dollar against the greenback.

The domestic currency has lost almost two-thirds of its value on the official market since the year began.

Monthly, consumer prices rose by 5.4 percent in February 2024, after a 6.6 percent increase in the previous month of January 2024.

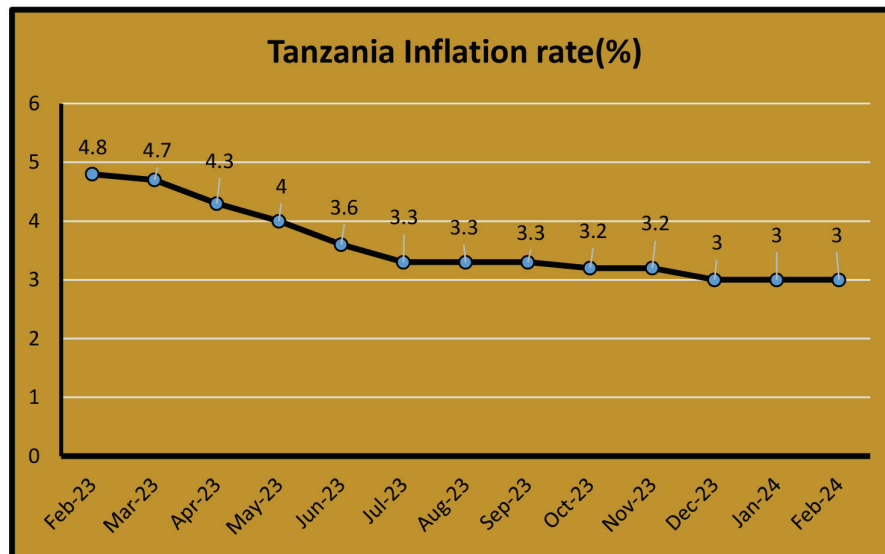


TANZANIA INFLATION RATE

Tanzania's annual inflation rate was unchanged at 3 percent in February 2024, January 2024, and December 2023, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Prices continued to soften for food and non-alcoholic beverages, clothing and footwear, furnishings, household equipment, and education. On the other hand, stronger increases were seen for miscellaneous goods and services, housing, and utilities.

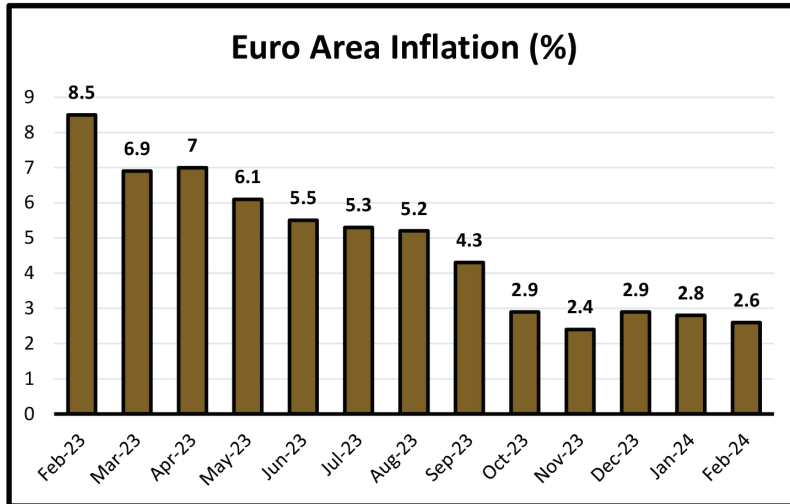
The inflation rate in Tanzania averaged 6.36 percent from 1999 until 2024, reaching an all-time high of 19.80 percent in December 2011 and a record low of 3.00 percent in November 2018.





ADVANCED AND EMERGING ECONOMIES

EURO AREA INFLATION RATE



According to Eurostat, the consumer price inflation rate in the Euro Area was 2.6 percent year-on-year in February 2024, down from 2.8 percent recorded in January 2024, the lowest rate in three months but still exceeding the European Central Bank's target of 2 percent.

Energy prices saw a decline of 3.7 percent, while the pace of price rises moderated for both food, alcohol, tobacco, and non-energy industrial goods.

On the other hand, service inflation held steady at 4.0 percent. The core rate, excluding volatile food and energy prices, was also confirmed at 3.1 percent, its lowest point since March 2022.

On a monthly basis, consumer prices increased by 0.6 percent in February 2024, following a 0.4 percent drop in January 2024.

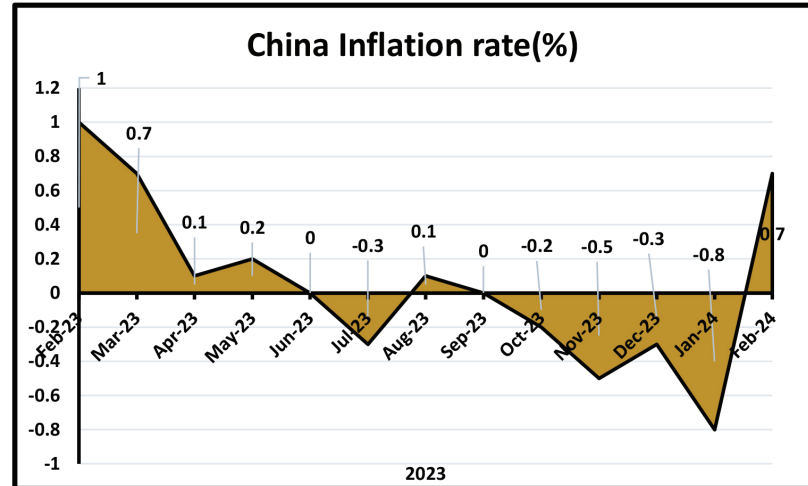


CHINA INFLATION RATE

China's consumer prices rose by 0.7 percent year on year in February 2024, above a turnaround from the sharpest drop in over 14 years of 0.8 percent in January 2024, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of China.

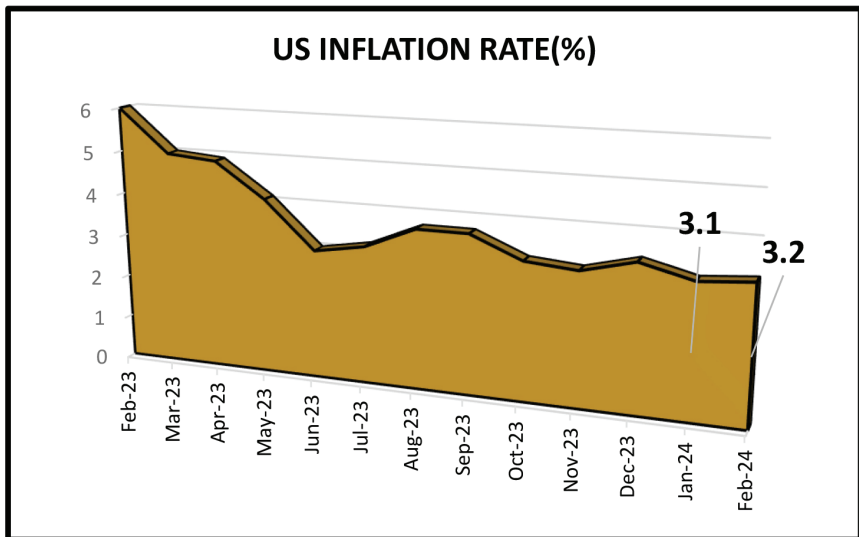
Food prices declined the least in eight months, reflecting upturns in the costs of pork and fresh vegetables. Meanwhile, non-food inflation sharply accelerated to 1.1 percent in February 2024, up from 0.4 percent in the prior month, with prices rising further for clothing, housing, health, and education, while a fall in transport prices strongly moderated.

The core Consumer Price Index, deducting food and energy prices, increased by 1.2 percent year on year in February 2024, the most since January 2022. Monthly, consumer prices increased 1.0 percent, marking the third straight month of rise and hitting their highest level since January 2021.





THE UNITED STATES INFLATION RATE



The annual inflation rate in the United States unexpectedly edged up to 3.2 percent in February 2024, compared to 3.1 percent in January 2024, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Energy costs dropped much less than expected, with gasoline declining 3.9 percent, utility gas service falling 8.8 percent, and fuel oil going down 5.4 percent.

Meanwhile, prices increased at a softer pace for food, shelter, new vehicles, and medical care. Also, the cost was steady for apparel and continued to decline for used cars and trucks. In contrast, prices continued to rise sharply for transportation.

Meanwhile, the monthly inflation rate rose to 0.4 percent from 0.3 percent, with prices for shelter and gasoline contributing over 60 percent of the increase.