Ghana Statistical Service
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Newsletter
Consumer Price Index (CPI)
March, 2010

Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
P.O. Box GP 1098, Accra

Tel: +233-21-682677, +233-21- 664382 **Fax No. +233-21-664304**

April 14, 2010

March Inflation Rate is 13.32%

March 2010 rate of inflation

The March 2010 inflation rate is 13.32%. The rate is 0.91 percentage points lower than that of February 2010 (14.23 %). The rate of inflation is the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) over the twelve-month period from March 2009 (289.76) to March 2010 (328.35). The monthly change is the percentage change in the CPI over one month (Table 1).

The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the average price level measured relative to a reference period, usually called a base year. The base year for Ghana's CPI is 2002, which is equated to 100. The March 2010 CPI was 3.69 percentage points above that of February 2010.

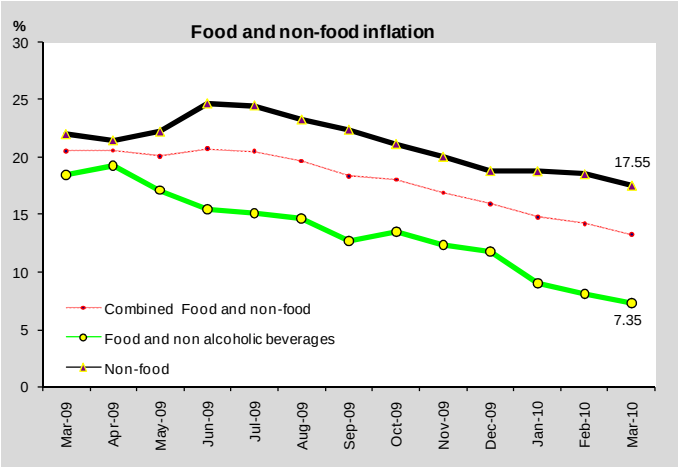
Table 1: CPI February, March 2010

	Index	Change rate	
	2002 = 100	monthly	yearly
February	324.66	1.51%	14.23%
March	328.35	1.14%	13.32%

Inflation trend

The rate of inflation has been falling since July 2009, with declines more than 1 percentage points occurring in September 2009, November 2009, and January 2010. Significant drops (close to 1 percent) were also recorded in August 2009, December 2009, and March 2010.

Figure1: Rate of inflation disaggregated between food and non-food from March 2009 to March 2010.

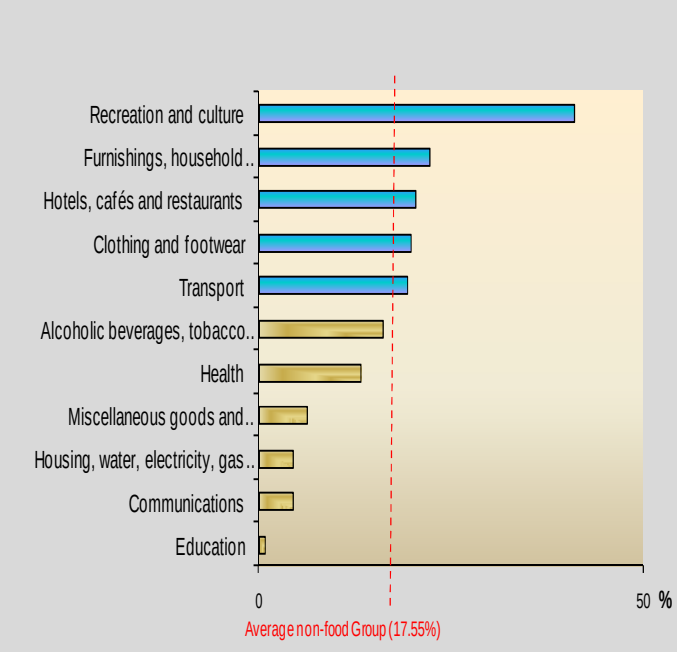


The non-food inflation rate has been relatively high and more stable than the food inflation rate and relatively mimics the year-on-year inflation. The food inflation is decreasing slower than the non food inflation (Figure 1).

Non-food rate of inflation

Inflation in the non-food group (which has a weight of 55.09 percent) has had a major influence on overall rate of inflation. In March 2010 there was an appreciable inflation rate in Recreation and culture (41.03%), Furnishing, household equipments etc (22.25%), Hotel and restaurants (20.43) and clothing and footwear (19.78) (figure 2).

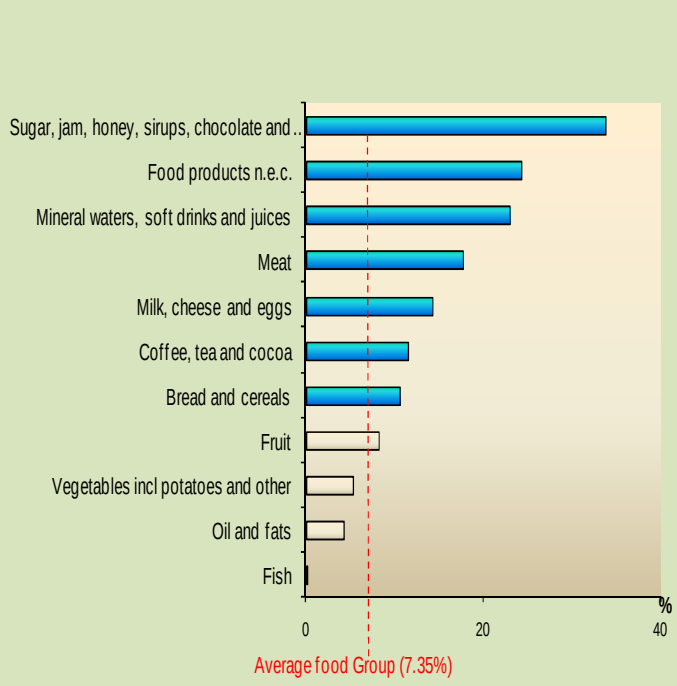
Figure 2: Inflation in non-food sub groups



Food rate of inflation

In the food group (which has a weight of 44.91 percent) sub groups with the highest inflation rates are Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate and confectionary (33.77%), food products n.e.c (24.37%), mineral waters, soft drinks and juices (22.95%) and meat (17.7%). Fish subgroup recorded the lowest inflation rate of o.03% (figure 3).

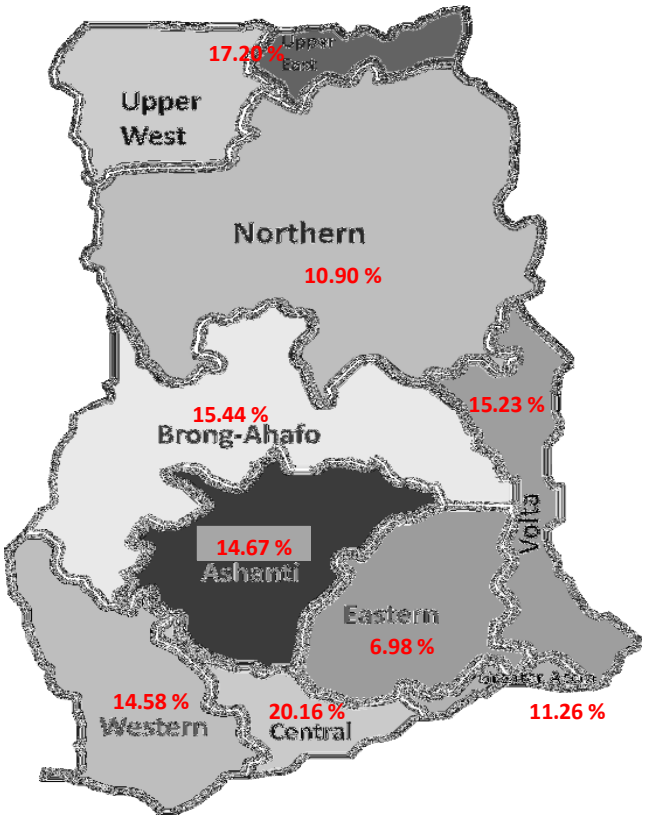
Figure 3: Inflation in food sub groups



Regional differentials

Inflation rates in the regions range from 6.98 percent (Eastern region) to 20.16 percent (Central region). Three regions (Greater Accra, Northern and Eastern) recorded inflation rates below the national rate of 13.32 percent (Annex 5).

Figure 1: Regional inflation rate – March 2010



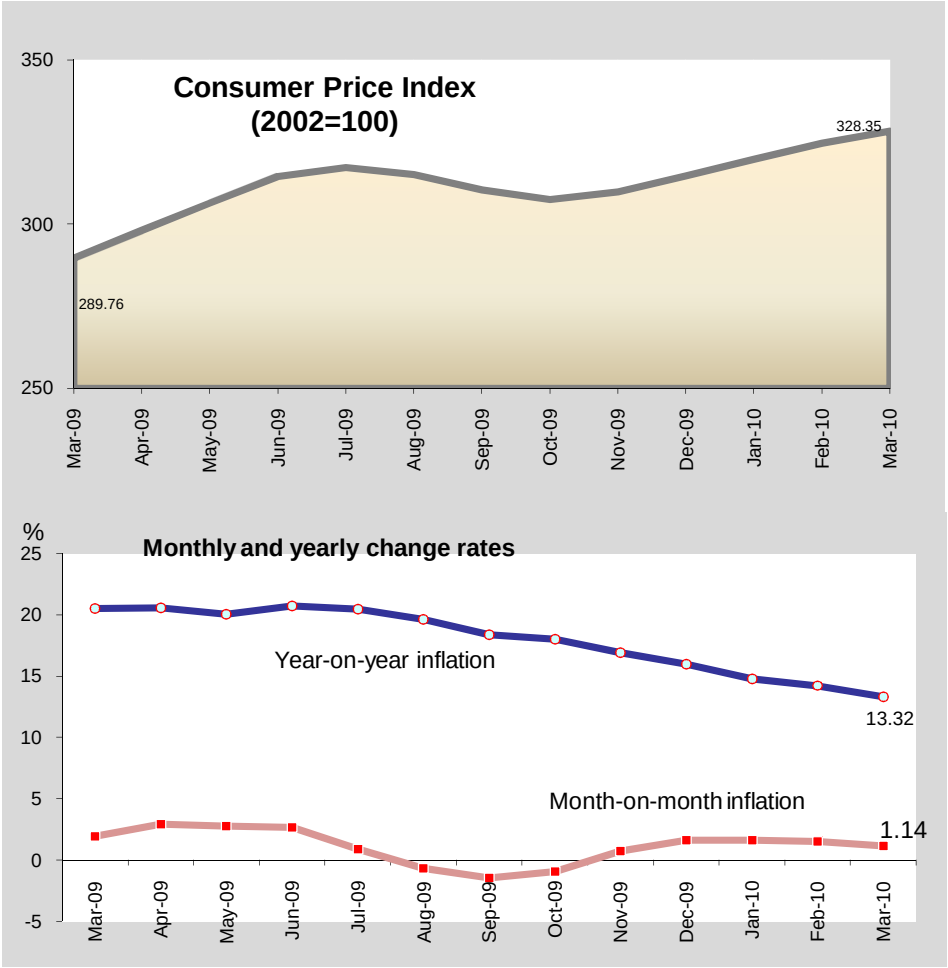
Dissemination

The detailed information on the series is contained in the CPI User's guide at GSS. The target publication date of the monthly newsletter is 15th of the month. It is released on the second Wednesday of each month, and on the third, when the 15th of the month falls on Wednesday. The next release date is 12th May 2010.

Annex 1

Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2009 - March 2010

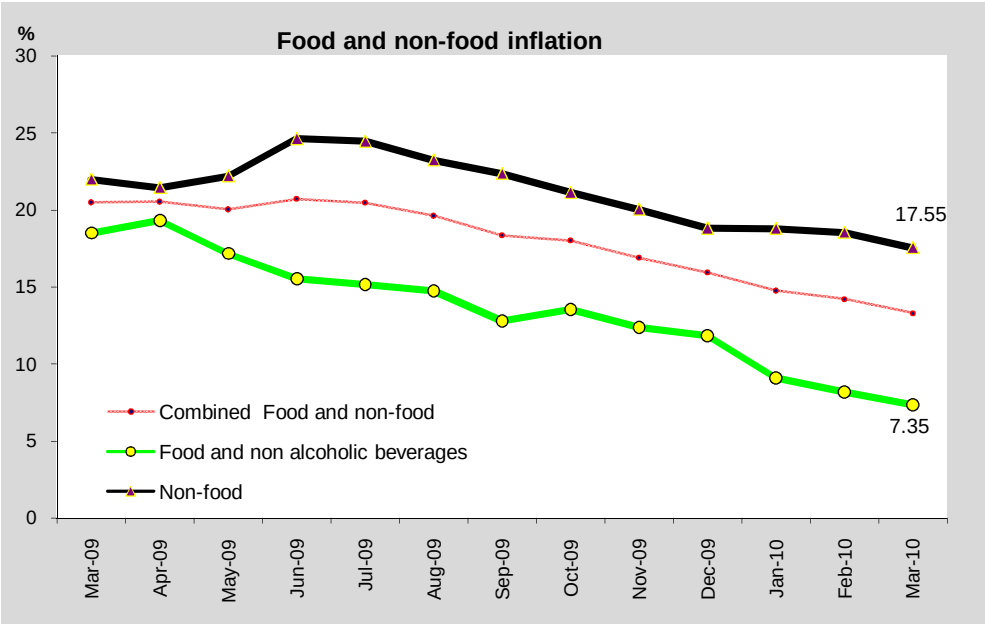
Year / Month	**Index 2002 = 100**	Change rate (%)	
		Monthly	Yearly
2007 average	**218.73**	1.01	10.73
2008 average	**254.87**	1.41	16.46
2009 average	**303.93**	1.25	19.29
Mar-09	**289.76**	1.95	20.53
Apr-09	**298.22**	2.92	20.56
May-09	**306.48**	2.77	20.06
Jun-09	**314.57**	2.64	20.74
Jul-09	**317.33**	0.88	20.50
Aug-09	**315.13**	-0.69	19.65
Sep-09	**310.52**	-1.46	18.37
Oct-09	**307.57**	-0.95	18.04
Nov-09	**309.89**	0.75	16.92
Dec-09	**314.83**	1.59	15.97
Jan-10	**319.83**	1.59	14.78
Feb-10	**324.66**	1.51	14.23
Mar-10	**328.35**	1.14	13.32



Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

Annex 2
Food and non-food inflation, March 2009 to March 2010

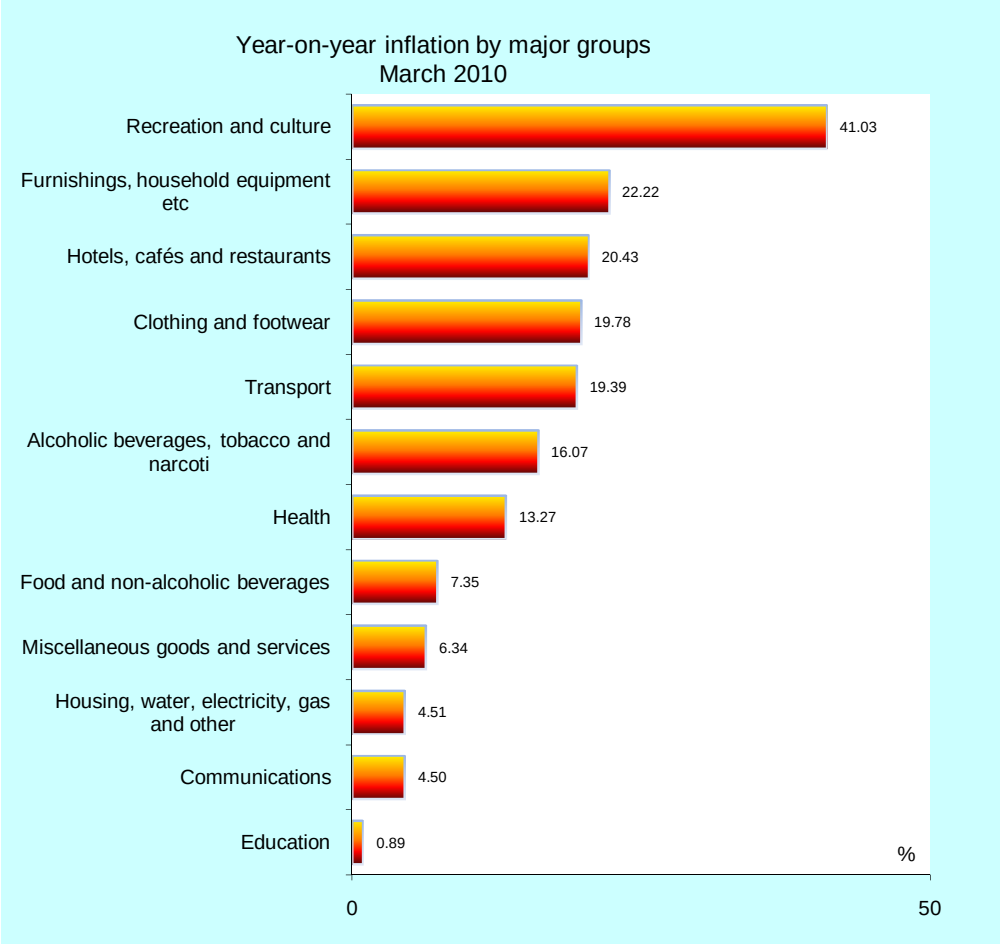
Year / Month	Year-on-year inflation (%)		
	Combined **Food and non-food**	Food and non alcoholic beverages	Non-food
2007 average	10.73	9.46	11.68
2008 average	16.46	15.10	17.47
2009 average	19.29	15.78	21.83
Mar-09	20.53	18.50	22.00
Apr-09	20.56	19.32	21.46
May-09	20.06	17.17	22.22
Jun-09	20.74	15.54	24.66
Jul-09	20.50	15.17	24.48
Aug-09	19.65	14.75	23.25
Sep-09	18.37	12.78	22.38
Oct-09	18.04	13.53	21.15
Nov-09	16.92	12.38	20.05
Dec-09	15.97	11.84	18.82
Jan-10	14.78	9.08	18.79
Feb-10	14.23	8.17	18.54
Mar-10	13.32	7.35	17.55



Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

Annex 3
Inflation by COICOP major groups, March 2010

item (COICOP classification)	Index 2002 = 100	Change rate (%)	
		Monthly	Yearly
Combined (Food and non-food)	**328.35**	**1.14**	**13.32**
Education	275.70	0.11	0.89
Communications	264.74	0.00	4.50
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other	262.67	0.70	4.51
Miscellaneous goods and services	193.39	0.79	6.34
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	287.11	1.11	7.35
Health	226.67	1.68	13.27
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcoti	361.97	2.55	16.07
Transport	204.92	0.19	19.39
Clothing and footwear	293.73	1.52	19.78
Hotels, cafés and restaurants	319.35	1.13	20.43
Furnishings, household equipment etc	336.59	1.39	22.22
Recreation and culture	285.70	1.00	41.03



Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

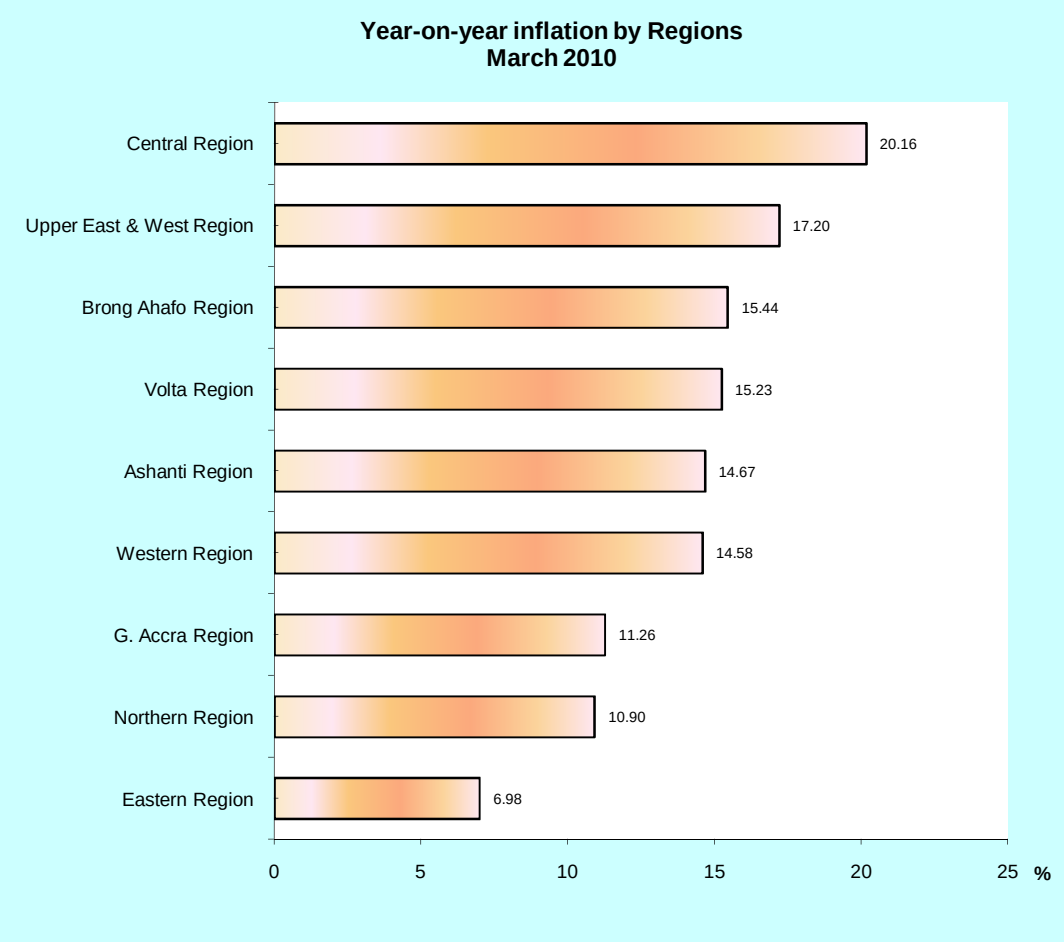
Annex 4
Contribution of major groups and subgroups to March 2010 inflation

	Weight	Year-on-year inflation (%)	Contribution to inflation (%)
Combined (Food and non-food)	**100.00**	**13.32**	**100.00**
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	**44.91**	**7.35**	**27.89**
Sugar, jam, honey, syrups, chocolate and confectionary	1.17	33.77	2.98
Food products n.e.c.	1.06	24.37	1.94
Mineral waters, soft drinks and juices	0.95	22.95	1.63
Meat	4.07	17.67	5.41
Milk, cheese and eggs	1.69	14.34	1.82
Coffee, tea and cocoa	0.69	11.47	0.60
Bread and cereals	7.97	10.57	6.34
Fruit	2.12	8.28	1.32
Vegetables including potatoes and other	12.46	5.36	5.03
Oils and fats	2.48	4.21	0.79
Fish	10.24	0.03	0.02
Non-food	**55.09**	**17.55**	**72.11**
Recreation and culture	3.04	41.03	9.40
Furnishing, household equipment etc	7.83	22.22	13.09
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	8.28	20.43	12.74
Clothing and footwear	11.29	19.78	16.80
Transport	6.21	19.39	9.06
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcoti	2.23	16.07	2.70
Health	4.33	13.27	4.32
Miscellaneous goods and services	2.99	6.34	1.43
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other	6.98	4.51	2.37
Communications	0.31	4.50	0.11
Education	1.60	0.89	0.11

Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)

Annex 5
Consumer Price Index (CPI) by Regions, March 2010

Region	Index	Change rate (%)	
	2002 = 100	Monthly	Yearly
NATIONAL	**328.35**	**1.14**	**13.32**
Eastern Region	336.54	1.59	6.98
Northern Region	321.07	2.66	10.90
G. Accra Region	336.20	0.55	11.26
Western Region	341.31	1.16	14.58
Ashanti Region	307.07	0.87	14.67
Volta Region	357.25	0.85	15.23
Brong Ahafo Region	292.60	2.06	15.44
Upper East & West Region	335.19	1.12	17.20
Central Region	340.03	1.89	20.16



Source: Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)