

Food price data collection in Tanzania: National Bureau of Statistics

Hashim Njowele
Statistician,
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Dar es Salaam

Introduction

- NBS started in 1999 after transforming the then Department of Statistics into National statistical Office-National Bureau of Statistics
- In 2002, NBS was given sole mandate of being a producer of statistics to aid development planning in the Government
- In 2015, NBS was given additional responsibilities of coordinating the National statistical System (NSS)

Introduction...

- In fulfilling its responsibilities, NBS collects a host of statistics:
- Demographic statistics
- Labour statistics
- Economic statistics
- and price statistics, this is where **FOOD PRICES** data comes into being.

Mission and purpose regarding data collection

- Overall NBS collects and keep a database of 278 prices for various goods and services monthly, of which 97 are food items.
- The ultimate goal for price data collection is CPI compilation

What kind of food price data are collected/compiled by NBS

- *NBS collects food price data directly from outlets where people shop*
- *These outlets include open markets, shops, supermarkets, departmental stores and hotels.*

What kind of food price data are collected/compiled by NBS

- *Currently food price data collection is restricted to 26 regional urban centers in Tanzania mainland*
- *Initiatives are underway to unfold food price data collection into rural areas.*
- *Current HBS and how it will update the consumption basket*
 - *Purchase and own production*
- *Representativeness of the data at regional and district levels*

Mechanics of data collection: When / how often

- NBS collects food prices data on monthly basis
- Data collection is carried out during the first two weeks of a month
- Prices data collection on fresh food items like vegetables, fresh fish etc. are scheduled during morning hours
- This is meant to ensure that, prices collected are free from distortions caused by deteriorating quality of product
- **Imputation of missing prices**

Mechanics of data collection: Who collects the data

- NBS has trained part time staff (enumerators) to do the actual price data collection in the field.
- Data collection is supervised and monitored by a Regional Statistical Manager (RSM)
- NBS has a network of 26 regional offices in Tanzania mainland for managing statistical activities in respective regions.

Mechanics of data collection: What foods are included

- NBS collects food prices data on the following types of food categories:
- Bread and cereals, meat, fish,
- Milk cheese and eggs, oils and fats, fruits, vegetables,
- Sugar, jam, honey and chocolates
- Actual price collection depends on whether a particular food item is in the CPI basket

How are the data aggregated and when are they available

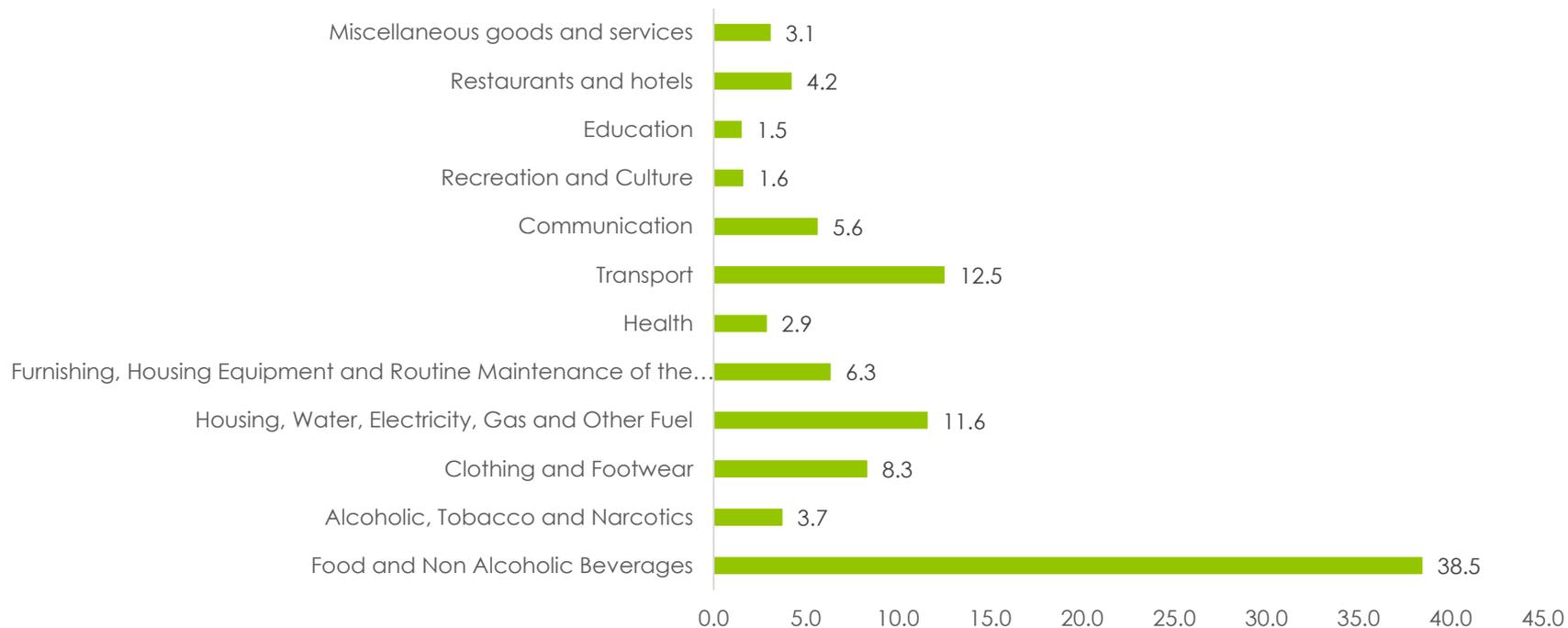
- From primary markets, food prices are aggregated to obtain regional average prices for particular food item.
- The regional average prices are then compared with previous values to obtain regional index
- **Urban bias**

Current uses of the data

- The ultimate objective for price data collection is CPI compilation.
- Prices aggregated into CPI, is used as an indicator of economic performance.
- There are also multiple users of raw price data, including; private and public organizations, academic inst. and researchers,

Analysis of food price data:

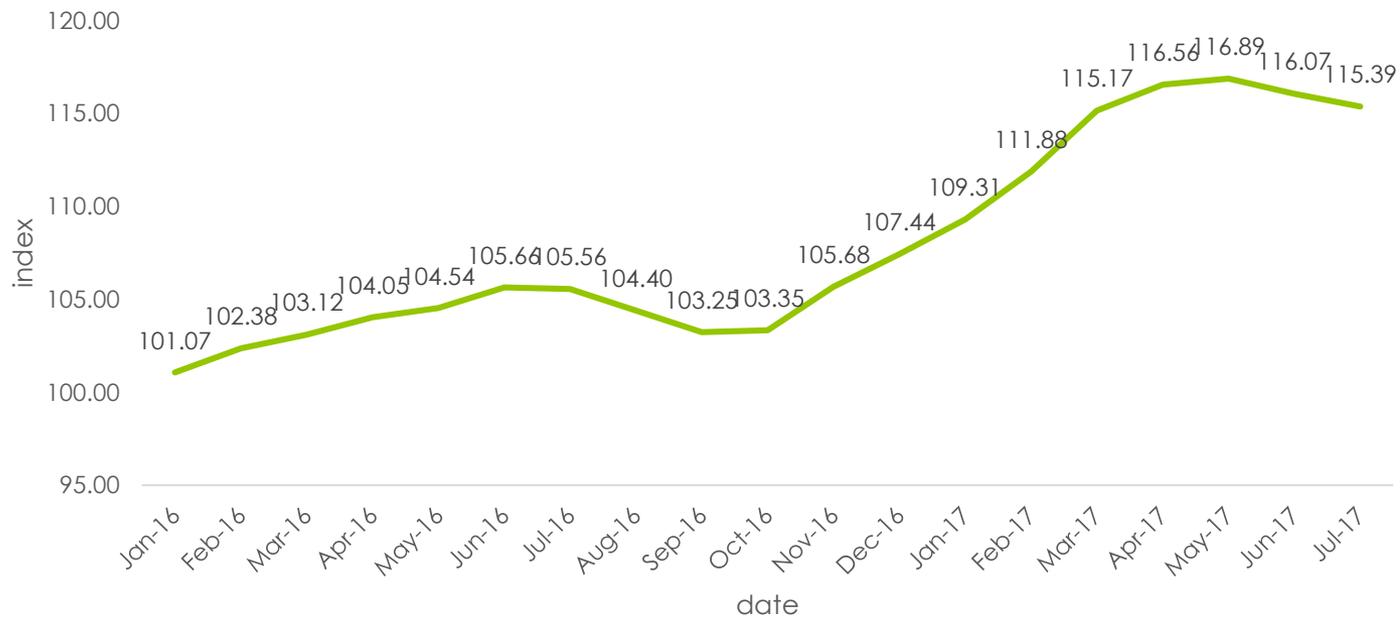
Average consumption



- Expenditure on food is highest
- followed by transport and housing

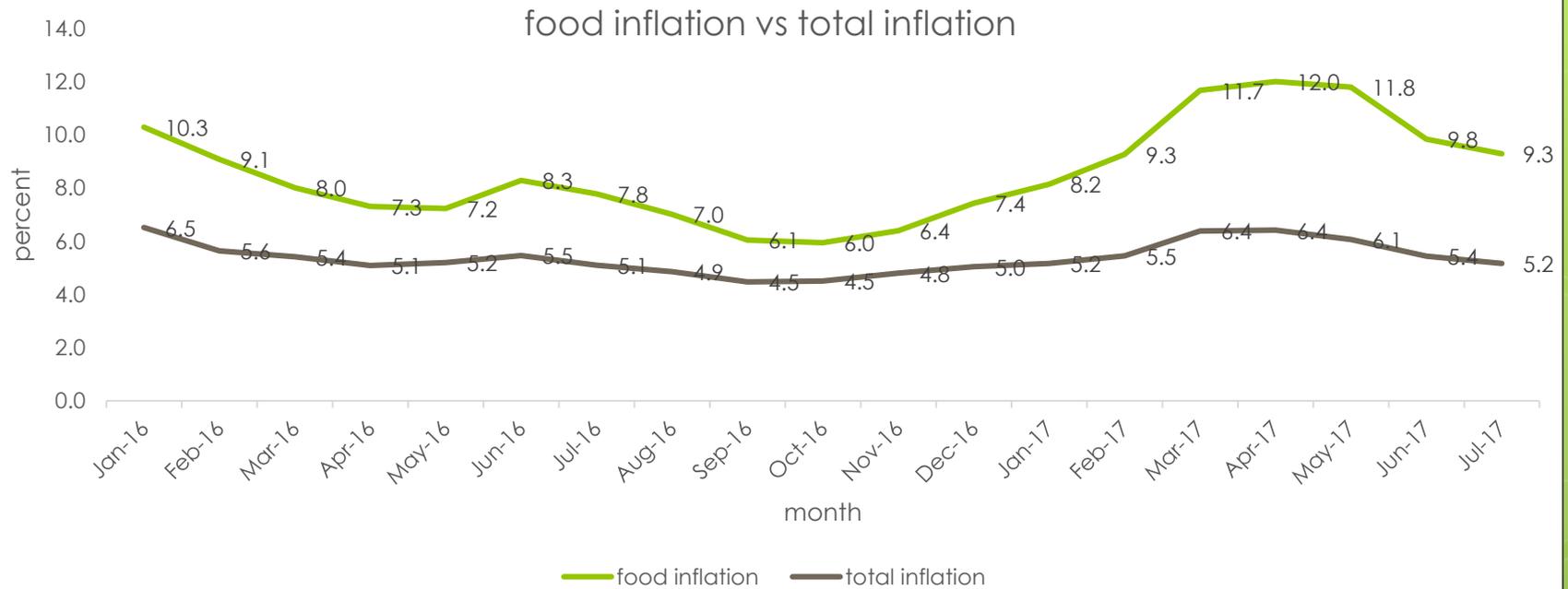
Analysis of food price data:

price trends



- Strong seasonal variation of prices
- Low prices around June-November
- Higher prices around December-May

Analysis of food price data:



- Strong correlation between food and total inflation
- we can control total inflation by controlling food prices



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