

## Brief on trends of household final consumer prices in Cameroon in August 2023

*Driven by food prices which rose by 13.3%, inflation reached an annual average of 7.8% at the end of August.*

Compared to the previous month, household final consumer prices increased by 0.5% in August 2023, following a 0.4% rise in July. This increase in prices was mainly due to an increase by 1.3% in food prices and 1.1% in education costs.

The 1.1% increase in education costs was as a result of the rise in annual tuition and/or registration fees in certain private and/or denominational primary and secondary schools. Although the prices of certain school supplies also increased, it should be noted that the prices of most textbooks listed on the official lists remained stable.

Compared to the same month in 2022, the general price level rose by 7.8% in August 2023, mainly as a result of the 10.9% rise in food prices and 16.8% rise in transport costs.

On average, stationery prices increased by 4.6% between June and August 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. In one year, the prices of “drawing materials and other office supplies” increased by 6.6%.

On average over the past twelve months, the inflation rate in August stood at 7.8%, exceeding the 3% threshold set by CEMAC. This increase was mainly as a result of the 13.3% rise in food prices, 10.4% rise in transport costs and 8.6% rise in the prices of furniture, household goods and routine maintenance items. The inflation rate remained above 7% in 9 regional capital cities; the highest was recorded in Bertoua, meanwhile the lowest rate was observed in Garoua.

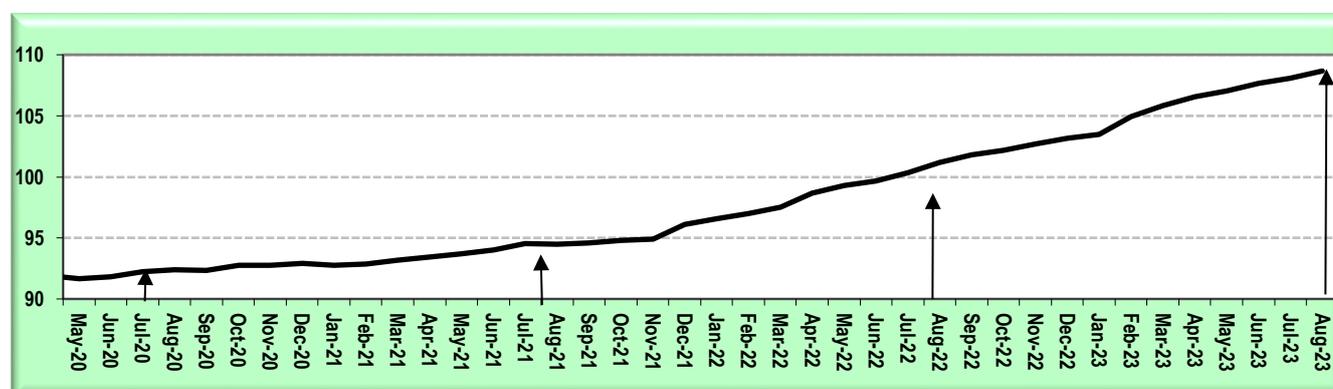
The underlying inflation rate<sup>1</sup>, excluding the prices of petroleum products and domestic gas in particular, increased to reach 6.8%. Inflation was not only fuelled by fresh products and energy products, whose prices increased by 13.9% and 5.7% respectively.

Depending on the origin of the products, the increase was more significant for local products, whose prices rose by 8.5%, than for imported products, whose prices increased by 6.0%.

*Table 1: Trends in household final consumer prices*

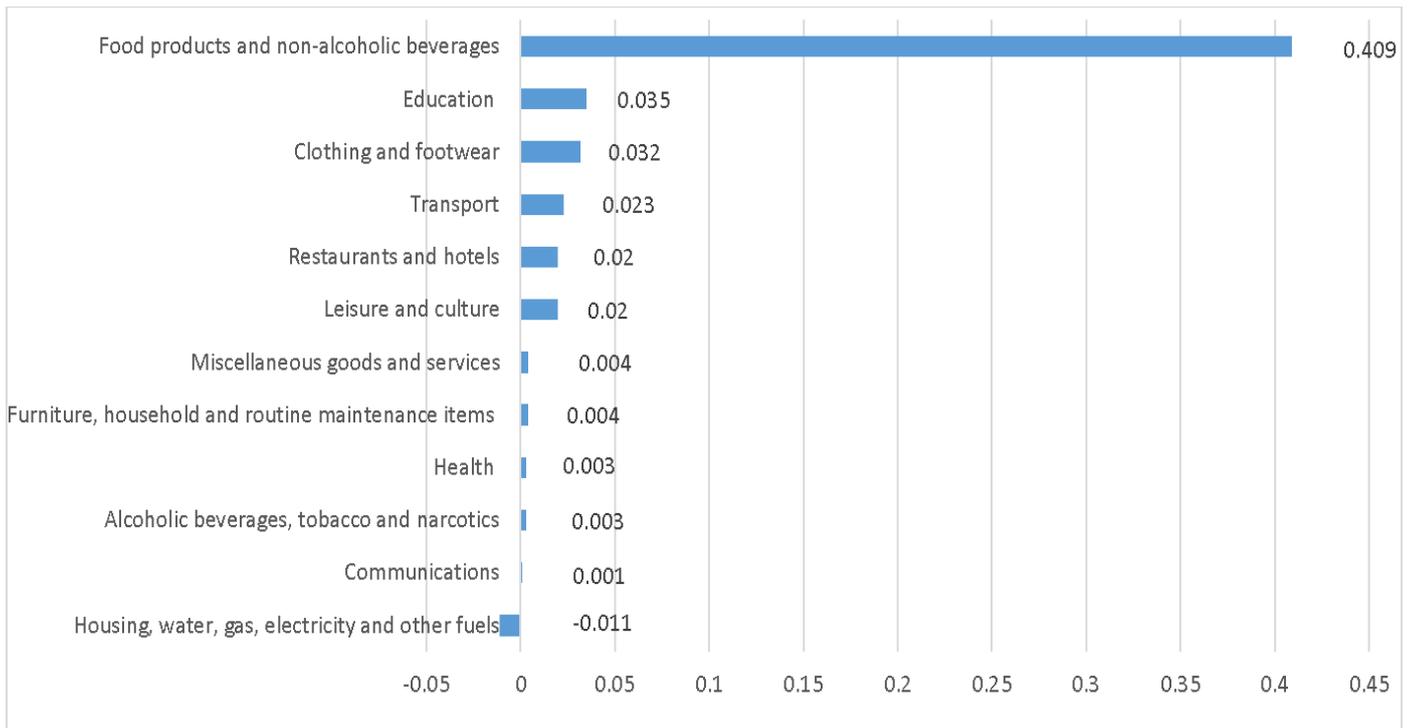
Change (%)	August 2022	June 2023	July 2023	August 2023
Monthly	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.5
Over a year	7.1	8.0	7.7	7.4
On average over the past 12 months	4.5	7.7	7.8	7.8

*Figure 1: Trends in household final consumer price index*



<sup>1</sup> excluding products with high price variability

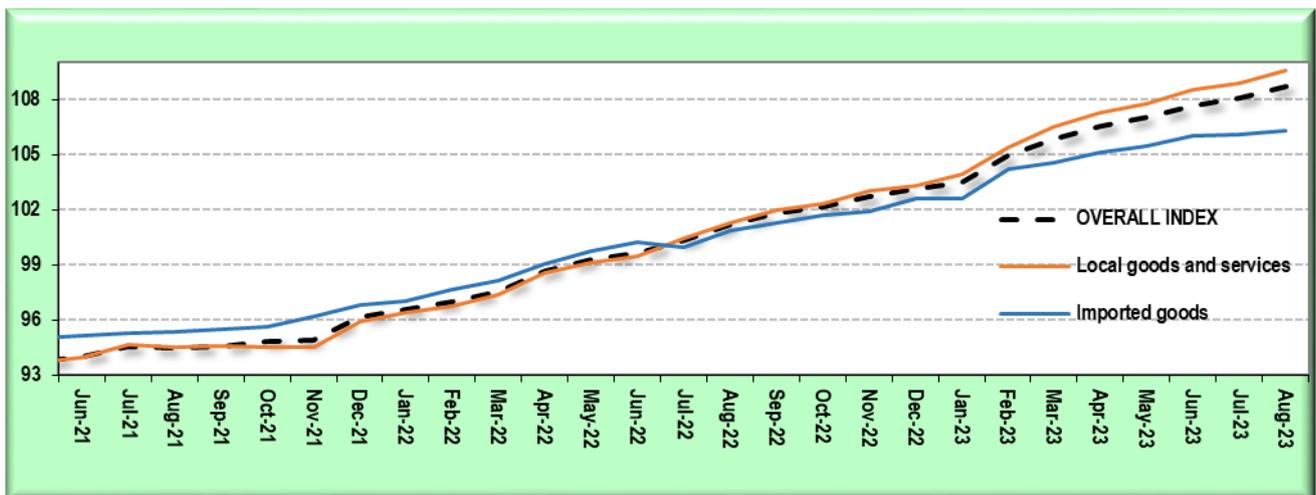
**Figure 2: Contributions of consumption functions to the monthly change in the index**



**Reading note:**

- Contribution of consumption functions to the monthly change in the price index presented in Figure 2 above is an indicator used to analyse the impact of each product category on the overall monthly change in the index. For example, out of a monthly change of 0.5% recorded this month, the “food and non-alcoholic beverages” category contributed 0.409 percentage point.
- A positive contribution from a category shows that it is contributing to the rise in the consumer price index, meanwhile a negative contribution indicates that it is exerting a downward influence.
- The sum of contributions to the monthly change in the index corresponds to the monthly change.

**Figure 3: Trends in household final consumption prices by product origin**



**Table 2: Change in the Harmonised Consumer Price Index (Base 100 year 2022)**

CONSUMPTION FUNCTION	Index								Changes (%)		
	Jan 23	Feb-23	March-23	April-23	May-23	June-23	July-23	Aug-23	Aug-23/July-23	Aug-23/Aug-22	Sept-22 to Aug-23/ Sept-21 to Aug-22
Food products and non-alcoholic beverages	106.6	107.1	107.4	108.7	109.8	110.9	111.9	113.3	1.3%	10.6%	13.0%
Food products	106.7	107.3	107.6	108.9	110.0	111.2	112.2	113.6	1.3%	10.9%	13.3%
<i>Breads and cereals</i>	105.3	106.6	107.3	108.0	107.9	109.1	108.7	110.3	1.4%	7.2%	13.0%
<i>Meats</i>	103.5	104.0	104.4	104.8	105.0	105.2	105.8	106.5	0.6%	5.2%	7.5%
<i>Fishes and seafood</i>	106.4	107.7	109.3	107.7	109.0	109.3	108.3	109.7	1.3%	8.7%	13.2%
<i>Milk, cheese and eggs</i>	104.8	105.6	106.5	106.5	106.9	107.0	107.7	107.9	0.2%	1.1%	14.0%
<i>Oils and fats</i>	111.2	110.0	108.5	106.3	104.8	105.3	104.9	104.2	-0.6%	-1.7%	19.9%
<i>Fruits</i>	109.3	110.9	112.0	113.0	112.5	115.0	117.0	117.1	0.1%	20.0%	9.4%
<i>Vegetables</i>	108.9	108.7	108.6	114.7	119.2	121.9	125.2	129.3	3.2%	26.4%	16.4%
<i>Sugar and confectionery</i>	104.6	105.1	105.8	106.6	106.5	108.1	108.0	108.5	0.5%	7.2%	8.5%
<i>Food products n.e.c.</i>	106.5	107.3	106.6	107.2	107.8	108.0	112.0	110.4	-1.4%	7.6%	9.2%
Non-alcoholic beverages	101.9	102.3	102.5	102.7	102.7	102.8	102.9	103.0	0.1%	2.1%	3.8%
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	101.7	101.9	102.2	103.6	103.7	103.8	103.9	104.1	0.2%	3.3%	4.1%
Clothing and footwear	102.1	102.6	103.0	104.1	104.1	104.4	104.6	105.0	0.4%	4.5%	4.5%
Housing, water, gas, electricity and other fuels	101.7	102.4	102.6	102.7	103.1	103.4	103.9	103.8	-0.1%	4.2%	3.1%
Furniture, household and routine maintenance items	105.2	105.7	106.3	107.0	107.3	107.5	107.5	107.6	0.1%	6.3%	8.6%
Health	100.5	100.6	100.7	100.8	100.8	100.8	100.9	101.0	0.1%	0.9%	0.8%
Transport	101.1	109.7	114.9	115.3	115.6	117.1	117.4	117.6	0.2%	16.8%	10.4%
Communications	100.3	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.4	100.3	100.4	0.0%	-0.1%	0.7%
Leisure and culture	101.1	101.2	101.4	101.4	101.5	101.5	101.7	102.3	0.6%	2.3%	1.8%
Education	102.2	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.6	103.7	1.1%	2.7%	3.6%
Restaurants and hotels	103.4	103.9	104.3	104.7	104.8	105.0	105.0	105.3	0.3%	4.2%	6.7%
Miscellaneous goods and services	103.6	104.2	104.3	104.8	105.1	105.4	105.5	105.6	0.1%	4.5%	6.0%
<b>OVERALL INDEX</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>106.6</b>	<b>107.0</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>
<b>SECONDARY NOMENCLATURES</b>											
<b>Local goods and services</b>	103.9	105.4	106.5	107.3	107.8	108.5	108.9	109.6	0.7%	8.2%	8.5%
<b>Imported goods</b>	102.6	104.2	104.5	105.1	105.5	106.0	106.1	106.3	0.2%	5.4%	6.0%
Energy	102.0	106.8	107.2	107.5	107.9	109.6	110.3	109.7	-0.5%	9.9%	5.7%
Fresh products	107.8	108.2	108.7	111.3	114.0	115.7	116.5	119.3	2.4%	17.0%	13.9%
Excluding fresh products and energy	103.0	104.3	105.3	105.8	105.8	106.3	106.4	106.7	0.3%	5.6%	6.8%
Yaounde	103.1	105.1	106.1	107.2	107.4	107.5	107.8	108.6	0.7%	7.0%	7.9%
Douala	104.0	105.0	105.8	106.6	107.2	107.8	108.2	109.0	0.8%	7.7%	7.6%
Maroua	103.0	103.7	104.8	105.7	106.6	108.8	108.4	109.4	0.9%	9.4%	7.5%
Bafoussam	104.2	105.8	105.9	106.1	106.3	106.9	107.4	108.0	0.6%	6.5%	8.3%
Buea	103.1	104.9	105.9	106.3	107.1	107.1	107.8	107.2	-0.5%	4.9%	7.7%
Garoua	104.5	104.9	105.5	105.6	105.8	107.0	108.3	108.1	-0.2%	6.6%	6.7%
Ebolowa	103.3	105.4	106.6	106.5	106.8	107.7	108.1	108.4	0.3%	8.9%	7.8%
Ngaoundere	102.0	105.2	105.8	106.0	107.5	109.1	110.4	110.9	0.4%	9.6%	8.2%
Bertoua	102.7	104.7	106.7	108.6	108.2	108.6	109.0	110.3	1.2%	9.5%	10.3%
Bamenda	103.5	104.8	105.6	105.8	105.9	105.8	106.3	106.5	0.2%	5.9%	7.1%

## **School reopening and inflation**

The start of the school year may have knock-on effects on inflation, although these effects are usually temporary and depend on various economic and monetary factors. Here are some of the effects of school reopening on inflation.

**Increased demand for education-related goods and services:** As the start of the school year approaches, households typically purchase school supplies, uniforms, books and other education-related items. This increase in demand may result in higher prices for these products, particularly if supply is unable to keep up with demand. However, this inflationary pressure is often limited in time.

**Increased demand for transport:** The back-to-school period may result in an increase in demand for public transport, taxi or commercial motorbike services, particularly during peak hours. This increase in demand may result in a slight increase in transport prices, thereby contributing to inflation, although this impact is usually limited in time and localised.

**Student accommodation:** In regions with higher education establishments, the back-to-school period may result in increased demand for student accommodation. Rents may increase at this time of the year, which may influence the consumer price index.

**Out-of-home catering:** Students and pupils returning to school may increase their consumption of out-of-home meals, which may contribute to rising prices at restaurants and fast food restaurants.

**Pressure on education costs:** Schools and educational institutions may be faced with additional expenses relating to personnel, acquisition of educational materials, and others, as part of the preparation for the start of the school year. These additional expenses may be passed on to tuition fees, which may influence the consumer price index.

However, it should be emphasised that the impacts presented are usually temporary in nature and limited to specific periods of the year. Long-term inflation is more dependent on parameters such as monetary policy, production costs, aggregate demand, as well as international economic events.