



SACU Inflation Report

April 2011

The content of this publication is intended for general information only. While precaution is taken to ensure the accuracy of information, the SACU Secretariat shall not be liable to any person for inaccurate information or opinions contained in this publication. Enquiries related to this publication should be directed to Mr. Abel Sindano, E-mail: abel.sindano@sacu.int

Selected Global Inflation Rates

UK

The annual inflation rate stood at 4.5 percent during April 2011 compared to 4.1 percent during the preceding month. The annual inflation rate remained above the Bank of England's inflation target of 2.0 percent.

Euro Area

The annual inflation rate rose to 2.8 percent during April 2011 from 2.7 percent during the preceding month. The annual rate recorded for April 2011 was above the European Central Bank inflation target of below but close to 2.0 percent.

China

The annual inflation rate in the World's second largest economy stood at 5.3 percent during April 2011 from 5.4 percent during the preceding month. The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was above the Government's inflation target of 3.0 percent.

Japan

The annual inflation rate stood at 0.3 percent during April 2011 compared to 0.0 percent during the preceding month.

India

The annual inflation rate remained unchanged at 8.8 percent during April 2011, same as in the preceding month. The inflation rate registered during April 2011 was above the Reserve Bank target range of 4.0 - 4.5 percent.

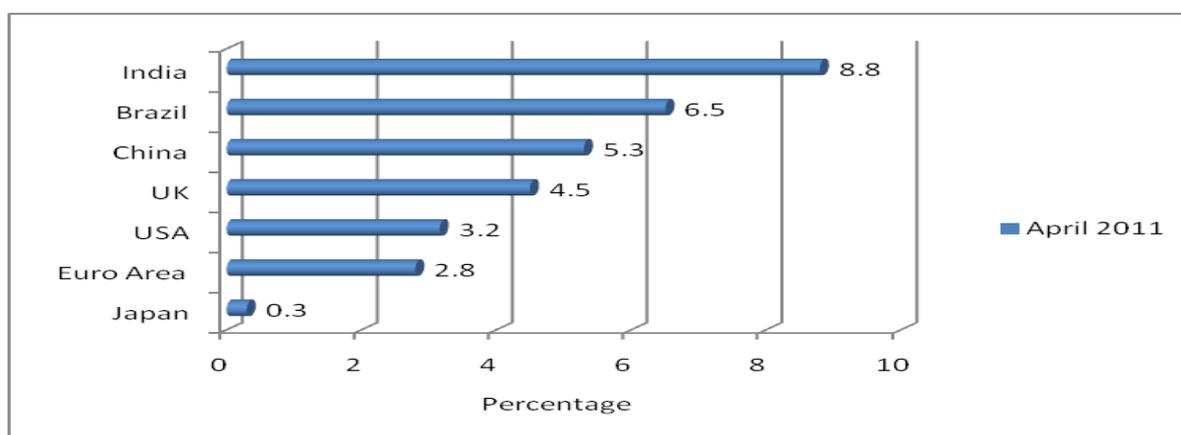
Brazil

The annual inflation rate stood at 6.5 percent during April 2011 compared to 6.3 percent during the preceding month. The annual rate recorded for April 2011 was within the Brazilian Central Bank inflation target of 4.5 percent with a floating range of 2 percentage points.

USA

The annual inflation rate in the World's largest economy rose to 3.2 percent during April 2011 from 2.7 percent during the preceding month. The inflation rate registered during April 2011 was above the Central Bank's long term inflation estimate of 2.0 percent.

Chart 1: Annual Inflation Rates



Source: tradingeconomics.com

Inflation Rates in SACU Member States

Member States registered higher inflation rates for April 2011 compared to March 2011, with the exception of Botswana. Botswana's inflation rate was lower during April 2011 compared to the previous month.

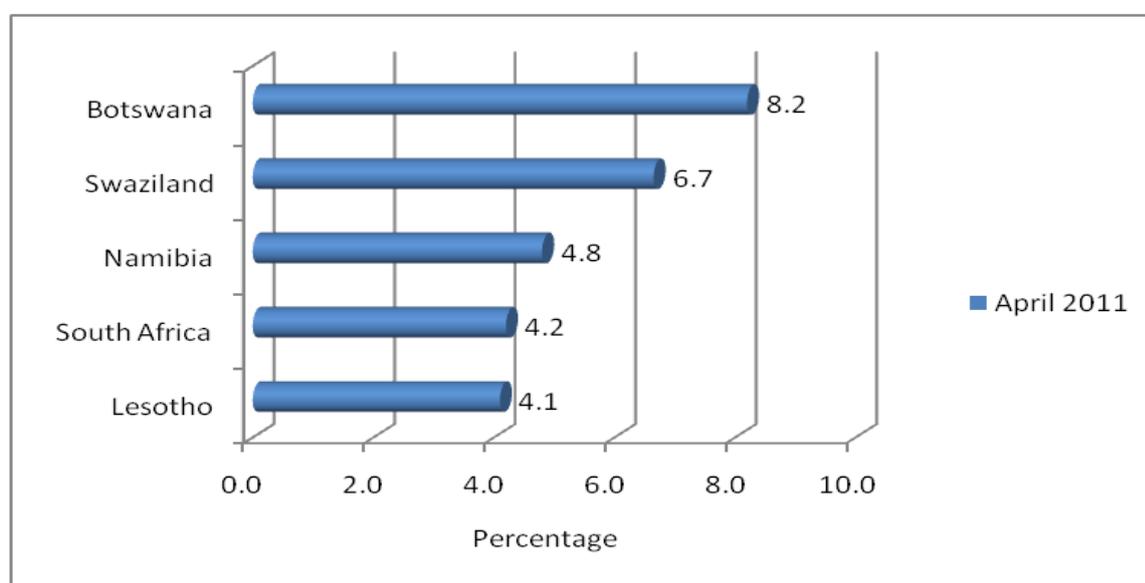
Despite this, Botswana continued to register the highest annual inflation rate among the Member States, registering an inflation rate of 8.2 percent in April 2011 followed by Swaziland at 6.7 percent. The lowest annual inflation rate was observed in Lesotho, recording an inflation rate of 4.1 percent.

Table 1: Annual Inflation Rates (%)

	Botswana	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Swaziland
March 2011	8.5	3.6	3.8	4.1	5.5
April 2011	8.2	4.1	4.8	4.2	6.7

All Member States recorded a single digit annual inflation rates during April 2011.

Chart 2: Annual Inflation Rates

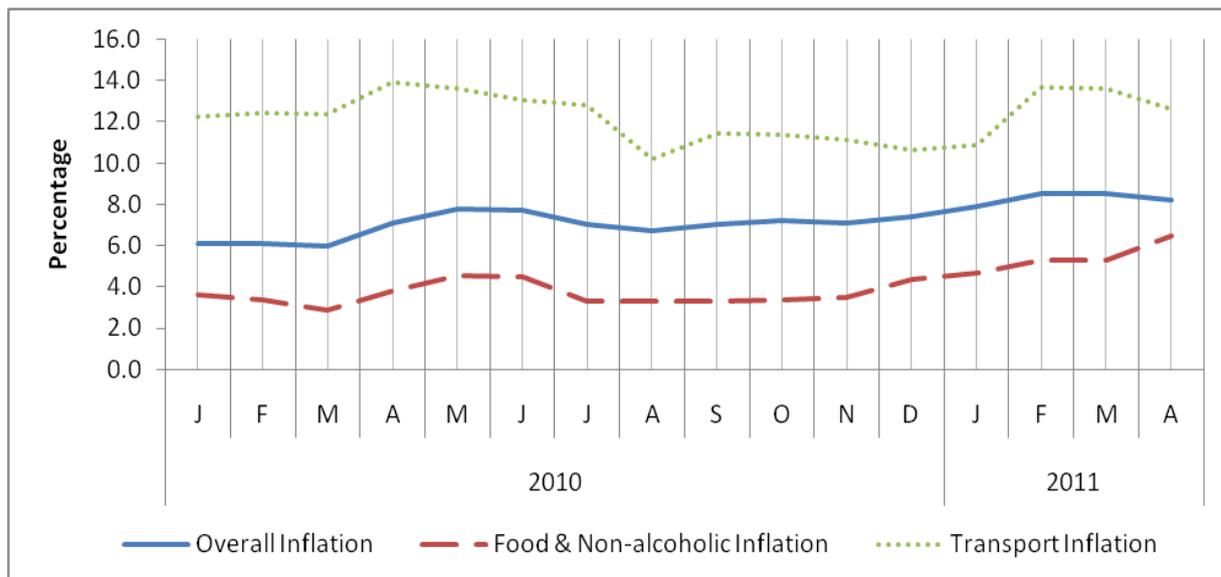


Source: Member States Statistics Offices

Botswana

The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was 8.2 percent compared to 8.5 percent recorded a month earlier. The inflation rate for April 2011 was above the inflation target range of 3-6 percent set out by the Bank of Botswana. This is in line with the Bank of Botswana short term projection for the inflation to remain above the medium term objective range due to the impact of transient factors (the March 2011 increase in fuel prices and the likely increase in some utility tariffs in the first half of 2011). The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was higher than the 7.1 percent recorded during the same month in 2010.

Chart 3: Annual Inflation Rate

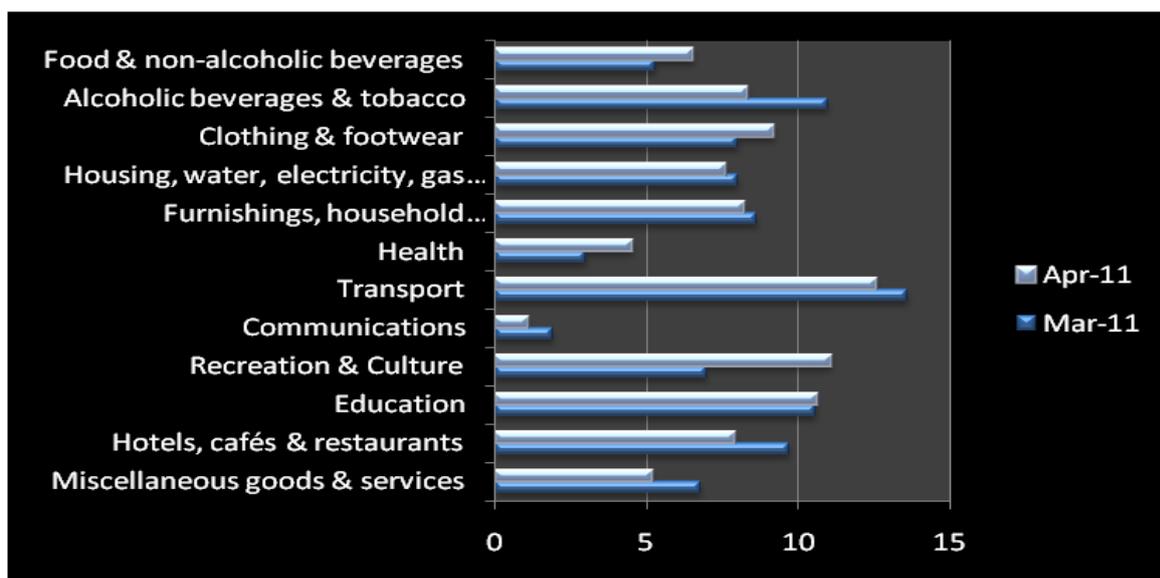


Source: Central Statistics Office of Botswana

Commodity groups that registered increases in inflation during April 2011 were, *clothing and footwear* (from 8.0 percent to 9.2 percent); *food and non-alcohol beverages* (from 5.3 percent to 6.5 percent); *health* (from 3.0 percent to 4.5 percent); and *recreation and culture* (from 7.0 percent to 11.1 percent).

However, these increases were to some extent offset by falling inflation for *hotels, cafes and restaurants* (from 9.7 percent to 7.9 percent); *communications* (from 1.9 percent to 1.1 percent); *furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance* (from 8.6 percent to 8.2 percent); *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (from 8.0 percent to 7.6 percent); *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (from 11.0 percent to 8.3 percent); *transport* (from 13.6 percent to 12.6 percent); and *miscellaneous goods and services* (from 6.8 percent to 5.2 percent), while inflation was unchanged for *education* at 10.6 percent.

Chart 4: Inflation by Main Categories

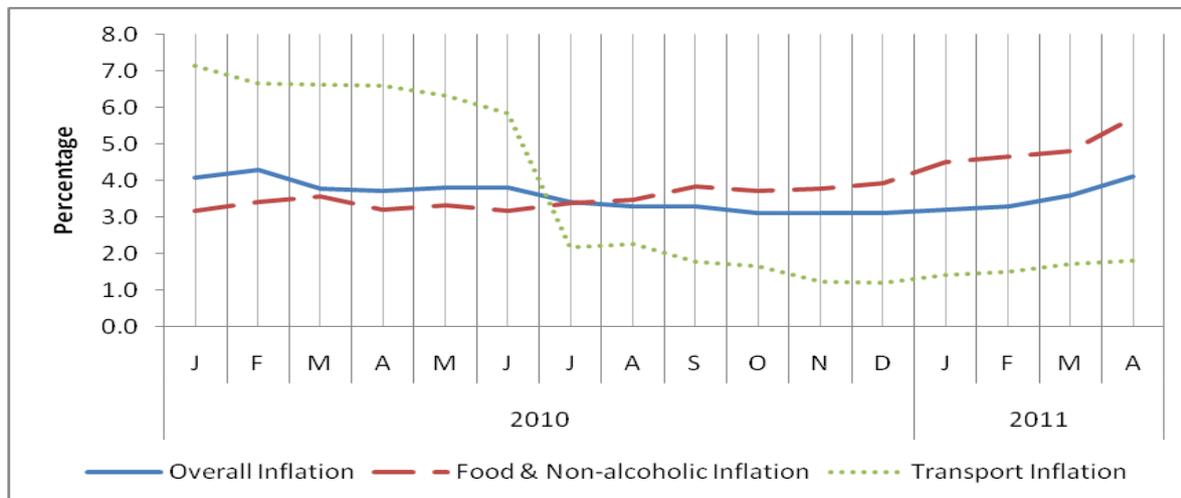


Source: Central Statistics Office of Botswana

Lesotho

The annual inflation rate during April 2011 increased for the fifth consecutive month to 4.1 percent from 3.6 percent in March 2011. The increase in inflation was mainly reflected in the *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* group. The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was lower than the 3.7 percent recorded during the corresponding month in 2010.

Chart 5: Annual Inflation Rate

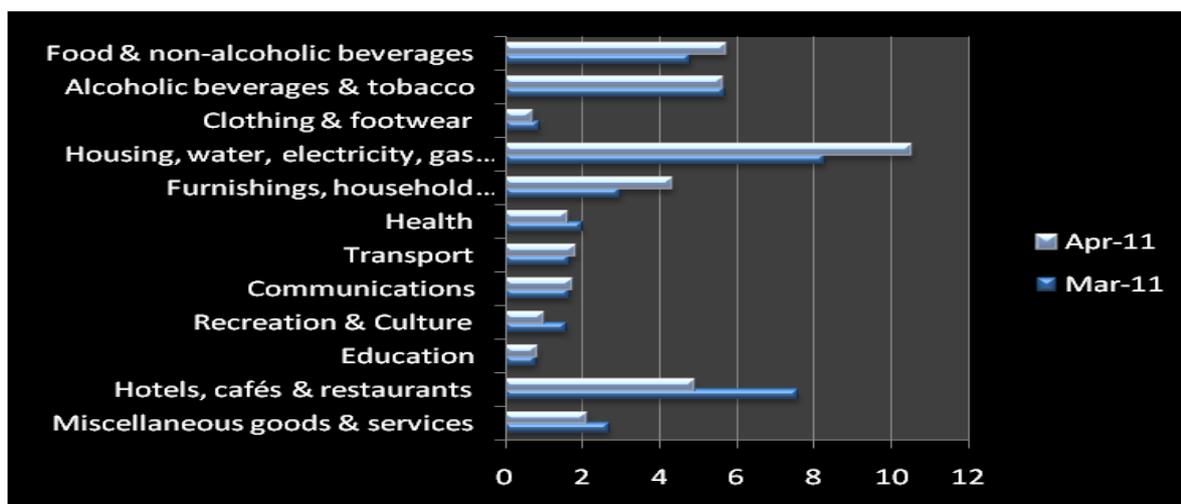


Source: Bureau of Statistics of Lesotho

Divisions that showed annual increases in April 2011 were: *food and non-alcoholic beverages* (from 4.8 percent to 5.7 percent); *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (from 8.3 percent to 10.5 percent); *transport* (from 1.7 percent to 1.8 percent); and *furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance* (from 3.0 percent to 4.3 percent).

However, these increases were to some extent offset by falling inflation for *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (from 5.7 percent to 4.8 percent); *clothing and footwear* (from 0.9 percent to 0.7 percent); *hotel and restaurants* (from 7.6 percent to 4.9 percent); *health* (from 2.0 percent to 1.6 percent); and *recreation and culture* (from 1.6 to 1.0 percent). Inflation was unchanged for *education*; and *communications* at 0.8 percent, and 1.7 percent, respectively.

Chart 6: Inflation by Main Categories

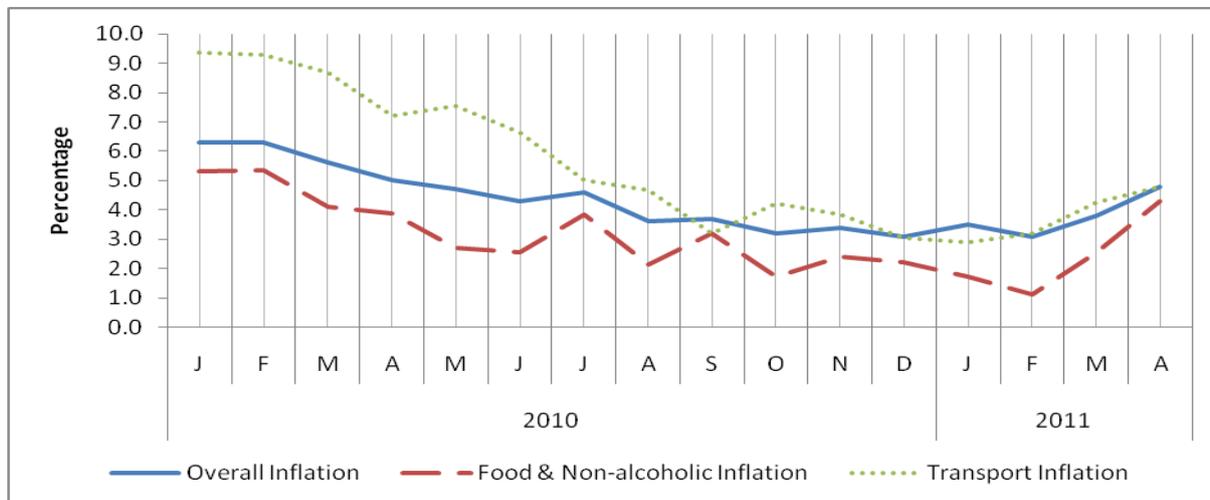


Source: Bureau of Statistics of Lesotho

Namibia

The annual inflation rate for April 2011 increased to 4.8 percent compared to 3.8 percent recorded in the preceding month. The increase in inflation was mainly reflected in *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* group. The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was lower than the 5.0 percent recorded during the same month in 2010.

Chart 7: Annual Inflation Rate

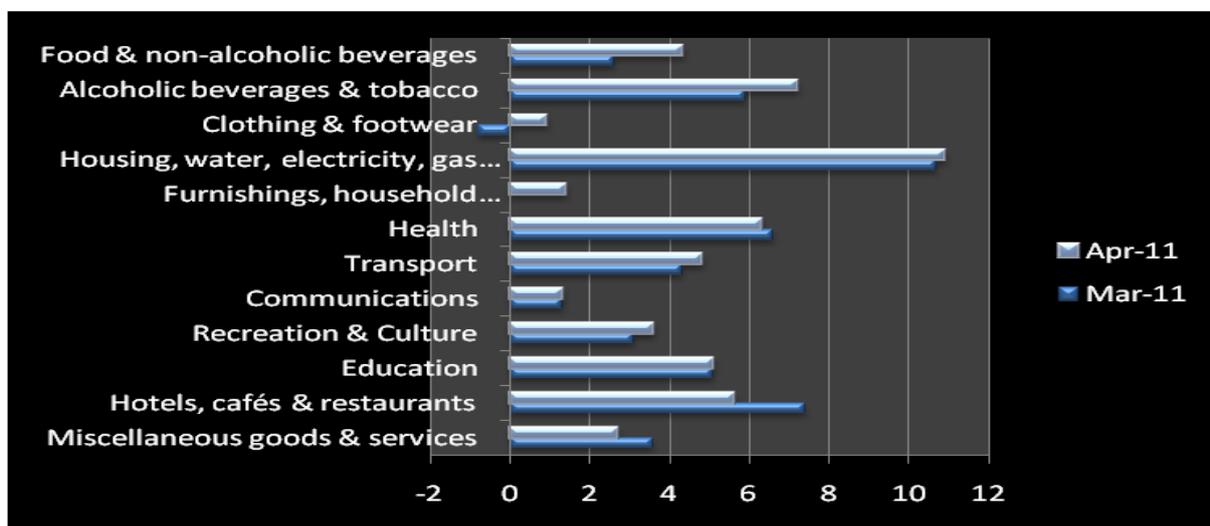


Source: Namibia's Central Bureau of Statistics

Inflation rose for most commodity groups in April 2011: *food and non-alcoholic beverages* (from 2.6 percent to 4.3 percent); *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (from 10.7 percent to 10.9 percent); *transport* (from 4.3 percent to 4.8 percent); *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (from 5.9 percent to 7.2 percent); *furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance* (from 0.0 percent to 1.4 percent); *clothing and footwear* (from -0.8 to 0.9 percent) and *recreation and culture* (from 3.1 percent to 3.6 percent).

However, some commodity groups recorded falling inflation: *health* (from 6.6 percent to 6.3 percent); *miscellaneous goods and services* (from 3.6 percent to 2.7 percent); and, *hotels and restaurants* (from 7.4 percent to 5.6 percent). Inflation was unchanged for *education*; and *communications*, at 5.1 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Chart 8: Inflation by Main Categories

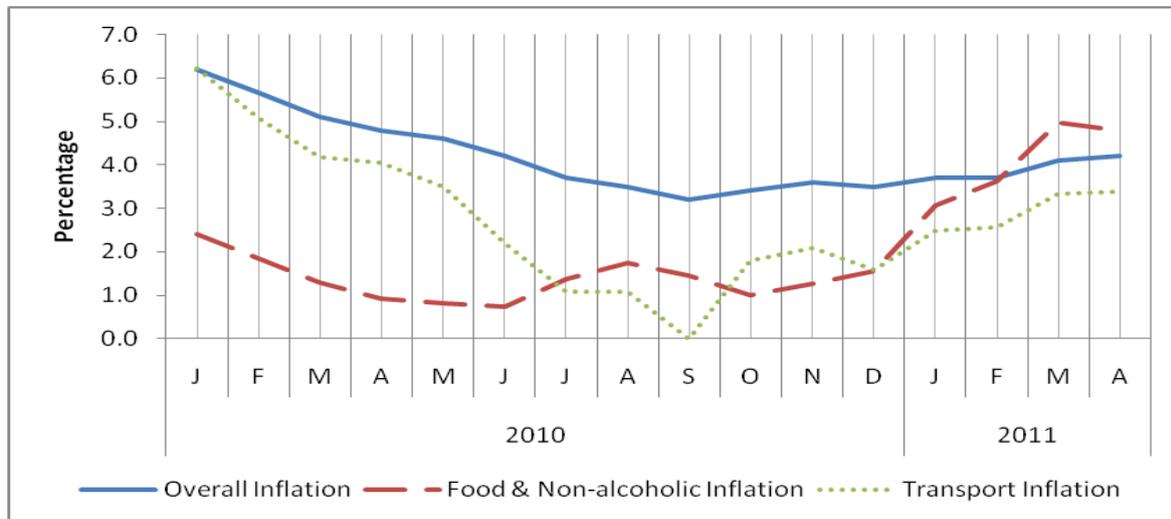


Source: Namibia's Central Bureau of Statistics

South Africa

The annual inflation rate increased to 4.2 percent during April 2011 from 4.1 percent in the previous month, remaining within the inflation target range of 3-6 percent. The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was lower than the 4.8 percent recorded during the same period in 2010.

Chart 9: Annual Inflation Rate

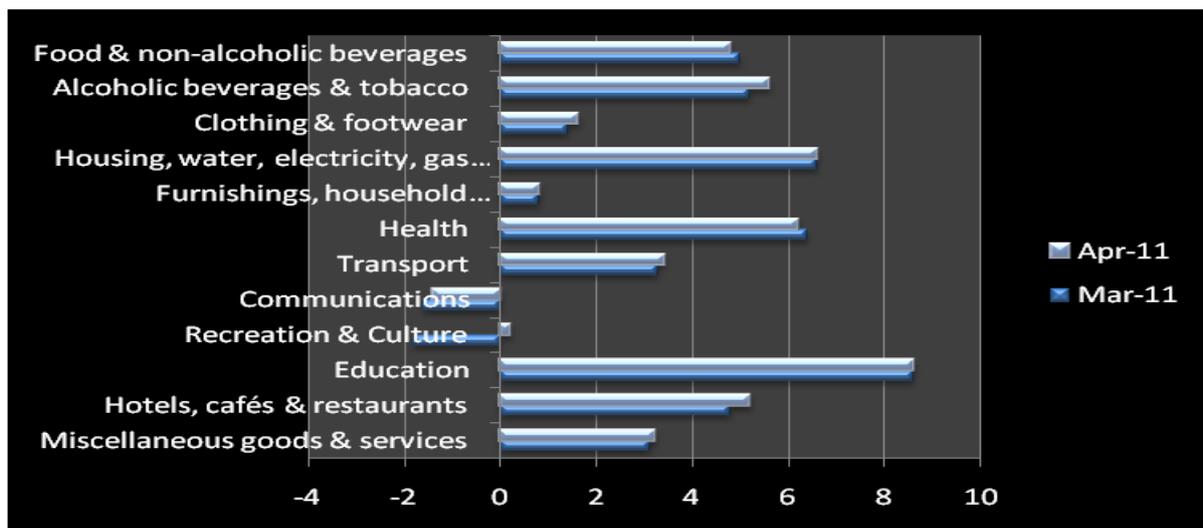


Source: Stats SA

Divisions that showed increases in inflation during April 2011 were: *clothing and footwear* (from 1.4 percent to 1.6 percent); *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (from 5.2 percent to 5.6 percent); *transport* (from 3.3 percent to 3.4 percent); *communications* (from -1.6 percent to -1.4 percent); *recreation and culture* (from -1.8 percent to 0.2 percent) *miscellaneous goods and services* (from 3.1 percent to 3.2 percent) and *hotel and restaurants* (from 4.8 percent to 5.2 percent).

However, these increases were to some extent offset by falling inflation for *food and non-alcoholic beverages* (from 5.0 percent to 4.8 percent); and *health* (from 6.4 percent to 6.2 percent). Inflation remained unchanged for *education*; *housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*; and *furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance* at 8.6 percent, 6.6 percent, and 0.8 percent, respectively.

Chart 10: Inflation by Main Categories

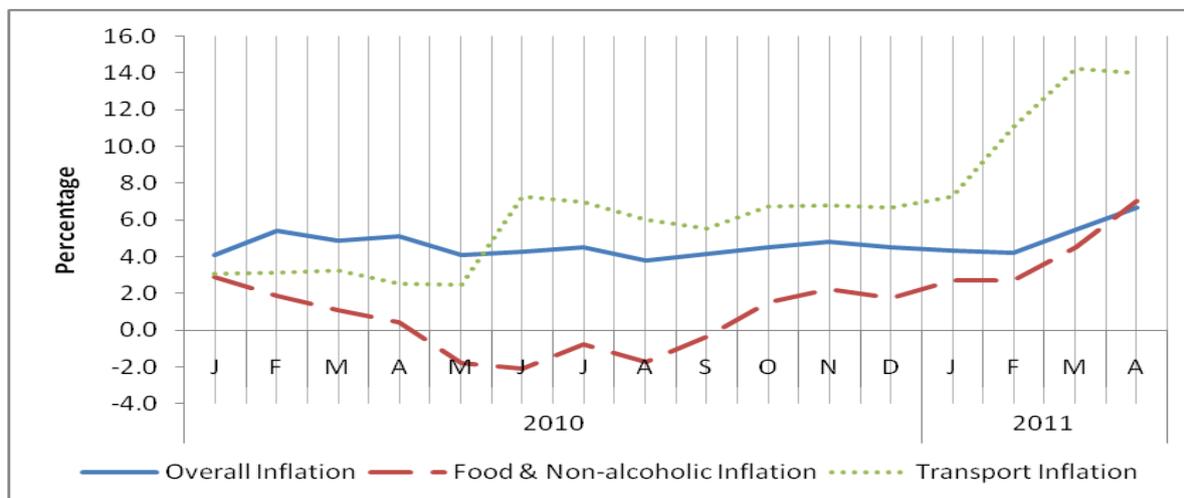


Source: Stats SA

Swaziland

The annual inflation rate was 6.7 percent during April 2011 compared to 5.5 percent recorded a month earlier. The increase in inflation was mainly reflected in *food and non-alcoholic beverages* group. The annual inflation rate for April 2011 was higher than the 5.1 percent recorded during the same period in the previous year.

Chart 11: Annual Inflation Rate

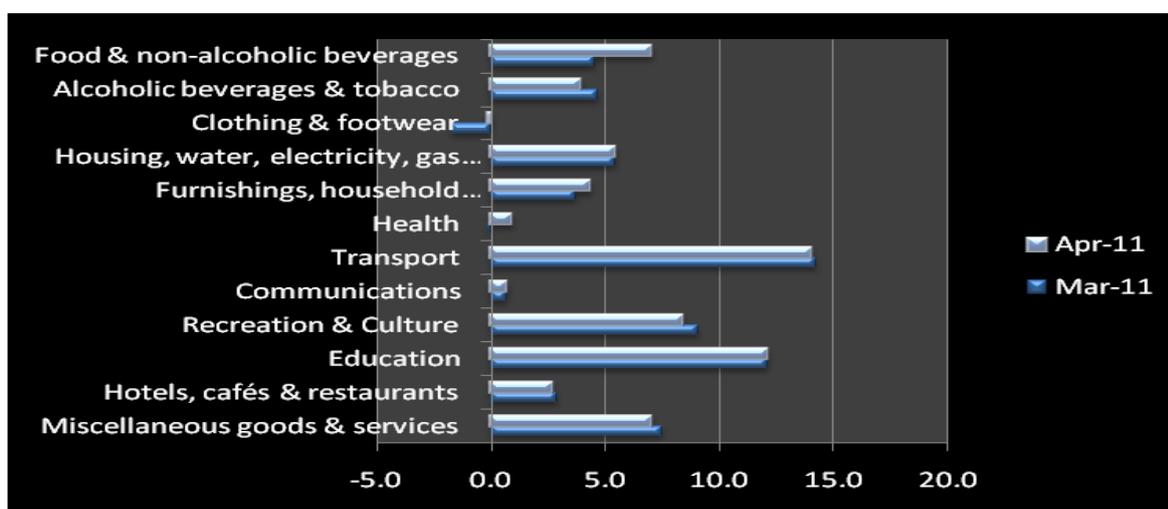


Source: Central Statistics Office of Swaziland

Divisions that showed increases in inflation during April 2011 were: *food and non-alcoholic beverages* (from 4.5 percent to 7.0 percent); *clothing and footwear* (from -1.8 percent to -0.2 percent); *furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance* (from 3.7 percent to 4.3 percent); and *health* (from -0.1 percent to 0.9 percent).

However, some commodity groups recorded falling inflation: *miscellaneous goods and services* (from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent); *hotels and restaurants* (from 2.9 percent to 2.7 percent); *recreation and culture* (from 9.1 percent to 8.4 percent); *transport* (from 14.2 percent to 14.0 percent); and *alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (from 4.7 percent to 3.9 percent). Inflation was unchanged for *education; communications; and, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* at 12.1 percent, 0.7 percent, and 5.4 percent, respectively.

Chart 12: Inflation by Main Categories



Source: Central Statistics Office of Swaziland

Appendix A

Consumer Price Index Basket Weights

Main Categories	Botswana	Lesotho	Namibia	South Africa	Swaziland
Food & non-alcoholic beverages	21.84	38.14	29.63	15.68	37.73
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	9.29	1.22	3.26	5.58	0.96
Clothing & footwear	7.52	17.43	5.13	4.11	6.16
Housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels	11.46	10.60	20.59	22.56	14.33
Furnishings, household equipment &...	6.76	9.42	5.61	5.86	11.88
Health	2.71	1.88	1.51	1.47	3.58
Transport	18.98	8.47	14.79	18.8	8.6
Communications	3.01	1.24	0.9	3.22	1.43
Recreation & Culture	2.22	2.39	2.5	4.19	4.62
Education	3.37	2.75	7.36	2.19	5.38
Hotels, cafés & restaurants	3.27	0.66	1.62	2.78	0.72
Miscellaneous goods & services	9.57	5.81	7.11	13.56	4.67
All Item	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Source: SACU Member States Statistics Offices