



HARARE BASIC NEEDS BASKET

September 2011

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September 2011 BNB¹

The cost of the BNB for Harare has continued to increase: from \$505.88 in July 2011 to \$543.69 by end of September 2011. During presentation of the mid-term fiscal review in July, the Minister of Finance announced the re-introduction of import duty on selected food items. This has forced retailers to also increase the prices of imported food items. On average, 2ltrs of D'lite cooking oil was \$3.85 in July and the same item now costs \$4.60 on average. During the same period, the price of imported green bar washing soap has surged from \$1.50 to \$1.77. Unfortunately the prices of locally produced food and non-food items are beyond the reach of many. As **Table 1** presents, the per/kg cost of vegetables (greens, tomatoes and onions) is slightly lower than it was two months ago mainly because these items are now in season.

The Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) has also announced a 31% increase in electricity tariffs with effect from September 1, 2011. This has further pushed up the cost of living for ordinary families in Zimbabwe. A family of five, utilizing an average of 600KW per month has to fork out \$73.50 in electricity bills.

Table 2 compares the BNB for the 10 data collection sites in Harare. **Figures 1** presents a trend analysis of the BNB from November 2010 to September 2011.

¹ The following are the shops and markets where PRFT collected data on prices of basic commodities for the September 2011 BNB: City Center (TM Robson Manyika, OK Robson Manyika and Prime Meats); Epworth (Domboramwari shopping centre); Hatcliffe (Kudenga Spar and surrounding market stalls); Mbare (OK and Mbare and musika market stalls); Mabvuku (Mabvuku Shopping Centre); Waterfalls (Zindoga shopping centre); Mabelreign (OK and Spar); Belvedere (OK and surrounding market stalls); Newlands (TM); Helensvale (Helensvale Spar)

Table 1: Basic Needs Basket for Harare (September 2011)

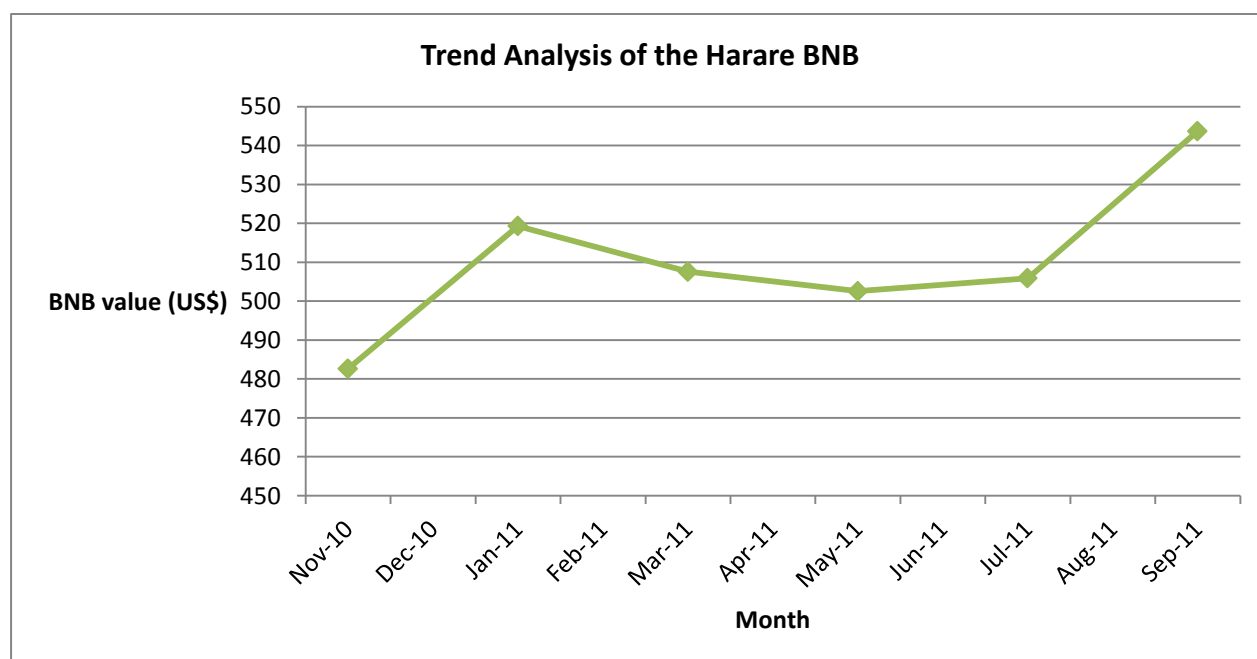
Item	Preferred brand	Unit available	Quantity	Harare Average (US\$)
A. Essential Food Items:				
Mealie Meal	Red Seal (Roller meal)	20kg	2	18.38
Cooking oil	D'lite	2Ltrs	2	9.20
Beef	Mixed	1kg	5	26.62
Chicken	Suncrest cuts	2kg	1	7.60
Beans	Sugar beans	500g	4	3.92
Fish	fresh	1kg	2	7.03
Kapenta	dried	500g	2	8.36
Salt	Pro-brands	2kg	1	0.90
Bread	Bakers Inn	1loaf	30	30.00
Eggs	Standard	1 crates	2	10.23
Sugar	Gold star (white)	2kg	4	7.86
Tea (leaves)	Stella	250g	4	6.29
Milk	Steri	500ml	12	10.87
Margarine	Buttercup	2kg	1	10.60
Onions		1kg	10	16.08
Tomatoes		1kg	10	16.30
Vegetables (greens)	rape	1kg	22.5	22.50
Sub-total				212.75
B. Essential Non-food items				
Washing soap	Green bar	1kg	5	8.77
Bathing soap	Geisha tablets	250g	5	4.44
Toothpaste	Colgate	100ml	2	2.67
Toilet paper	Softex	4 rolls/pack	6	8.20
Jelly	Vaseline	250g	2	4.87
Sub-total				28.95
C. Rates and other services				
Water & Sanitation	Water	fixed		5.00
	Average usage/month	m ³	40	12.00
	Sanitation (Sewage)	fixed		11.50
Monthly rent (4 roomed house)	Basic accommodation	Rooms	4	200.00
Electricity	Average usage/month	KW	600	73.50
Sub-total				302.00
Total BNB for Harare				543.69
D. Other Costs				
Telephone/Communication		1\$/day		\$30/month
School Fees:				
Tertiary	University (UZ)			\$420/Semester
	Technical/Colleges (Harare Polytechnic)	National certificate level		\$175/term
		National Diploma level		\$225/term
	Secondary			\$80/term
	Primary			\$40/term
	Creche			\$30/term
School Uniforms	Girls			\$45 (complete uniform)
	Boys			\$50 (complete uniform)
Health care	CIMAS Basicare Package	2 adults @ \$67 each and 3 children @ \$40 each		\$40/month

Fuel & Lighting	Paraffin (Pump price)		\$1.21/Litre
	Diesel (Pump price)		\$1.30/Litre
	Petrol (Pump price)		\$1.43/Litre
	matches		\$.70/pack of 12
	Candles		\$1.65/pack of 6

Table 2: Comparison of the cost of BNB for all the 10 sites of Harare

Site	Cost Category			Average cost of BNB (\$)
	Essential food Items	Essential non food items	Rates and other services ²	
City Centre	216.00	29.69	302.00	547.69
Belvedere	225.00	28.70	302.00	555.70
Epworth	204.00	27.50	302.00	533.50
Hatcliffe	205.00	32.10	302.00	539.10
Helensvale	234.14	28.80	302.00	564.94
Mbare	204.30	27.10	302.00	533.40
Mabvuku	201.30	27.05	302.00	530.35
Waterfalls	206.00	31.96	302.00	539.96
Malbereign	218.17	28.09	302.00	548.26
Newlands	212.80	28.48	302.00	543.28
Average for the 10 sites	212.67	28.95	302.00	543.69
				BNB for the Ten sites

Trend analysis of the cost of the BNB from November 2010 to September 2011



² For the purpose of the BNB survey, we assume that the cost of 'Rates and other services' for an average family of five to live an acceptably descent life is uniform across all the suburbs of Harare