



HARARE BASIC NEEDS BASKET

July 2011

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July 2011 BNB

The cost of the BNB for Harare has risen by US\$3.32, from \$502.56 in May to \$505.88 in July 2011. This increase can be attributed to speculations around civil servants salary increments that were announced in June. Whenever there is a salary increment for the civil servants, retailers normally respond by hiking prices of basic commodities. In addition, The Minister of Finance announced the re-imposition of import duties on a range of basic food commodities during his mid-term year budget review. As a response, supermarkets have raised prices of maize meal and cooking oil, among other staples, by 50 cents to one US dollar¹. The supply of vegetables (like greens, onions and tomatoes) is still low during this time of the year hence both demand and the prices are high. Detailed cost of the BNB for July 2011 is presented in **Table 1**. **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 July 2011.

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

¹ <http://www.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/Zimbabwe-Supermarkets-Raise-Food-Prices-on-Import-Duties-127481603.html>

NB: The BNB is by NO means a measure of the Poverty Datum line (PDL), but is just a reflection of the monthly income that an average family of five requires to enjoy an acceptably decent lifestyle.

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	213.00	28.48	257.28	498.76
Belvedere	224.00	26.40	257.28	507.68
Epworth	221.00	27.50	257.28	505.78
Hatcliffe	223.00	29.60	257.28	509.88

Item	Preferred brand	Unit available	Quantity	Harare Average (US\$)
A. Essential Food Items:				
Mealie Meal	Red Seal (Roller meal)	20kg	2	17.35
Cooking oil	D'lite	2Ltrs	2	7.79
Beef	Mixed	1kg	5	24.23
Chicken	Suncrest cuts	2kg	1	7.56
Beans	Sugar beans	500g	4	3.98
Fish	fresh	1kg	2	6.84
Kapenta	dried	500g	2	8.45
Salt	Pro-brands	2kg	1	0.87
Bread	Bakers Inn	1loaf	30	30.00
Eggs	Standard	1 crates	2	9.54
Sugar	Gold star (white)	2kg	4	7.78
Tea (leaves)	Stella	250g	4	7.13
Milk	Steri	500ml	12	11.04
Margarine	Buttercup	2kg	1	10.62
Onions		1kg	10	20.54
Tomatoes		1kg	10	19.58
Vegetables (greens)	rape	1kg	22.5	27.65
Sub-total				220.94
B. Essential Non-food items				
Washing soap	Green bar	1kg	5	8.39
Bathing soap	Geisha tablets	250g	5	4.34
Toothpaste	Colgate	100ml	2	2.76
Toilet paper	Softex	4 rolls/pack	6	8.05
Jelly	Vaseline	250g	2	4.13
Sub-total				27.65
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	Fixed			6.08
	Average usage/month	KW	420	22.70
Sub-total				257.28
Total BNB for Harare				505.88
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	\$8/person		\$40/month
Fuel & Lighting	Paraffin (Pump price)			\$1.21/Litre
	Diesel (Pump price)			\$1.30/Litre
	Petrol (Pump price)			\$1.43/Litre

Helensvale	229.18	24.00	257.28	510.46
Mbare	205.22	28.80	257.28	491.30
Mabvuku	217.88	26.60	257.28	501.76
Waterfalls	209.45	27.98	257.28	494.71
Malbereign	239.72	28.46	257.28	525.46
Newlands	227.05	28.72	257.28	513.05
Average for the 10 sites	220.95	27.65	257.28	505.88
				BNB for the Ten sites

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

