

INFLATION CONTINUES TO DIP

For the 15th time since June 2009, the rate of inflation in the country has gone down.

The inflation rate has reduced slightly from 9.44 percent in August to 9.38 percent, in September representing 0.06 percentage point reduction, Dr. Grace Bediako, the Government Statistician, disclosed this in Accra at the monthly media briefing.

She said inflation trend in the month of August, September and October tended to be the lowest due partly to the prevalence of enough food because of the harvesting season.

Dr. Bediako said inflation rates in the regions ranged from 5.60 percent to 15.06 percent, adding the Volta, Brong Ahafo, Eastern Ashanti and Central Regions recorded inflation rates below the national level.

She said Greater Accra, Upper East, Upper West and the Northern regions recorded highest rate of inflation above the national level.

Dr. Bediako said the downward pressure on the inflation could be attributed to both the food and the non-alcoholic beverages group and the non-food group.

She said the food and the non-alcoholic beverage group had been recording single digits inflation rate since January 2010, falling from 9.08 percent to 4.69 percent in May 2010, before rising to 6.13 percent in June adding the rates had been below 6.0 percent in subsequent months.

The Government Statistician said the non-food inflation rate, on the other hand; though declining had been recording double digit inflation rates falling from 18.79 percent in January to 11.84 percent in September after it had increased from 11.89 percent in June to 12.25 in August.

Dr. Bediako said in the food group, three sub-groups: bread, cereal , food products and oil and fats recorded inflation rates lower than group's average

adding the mineral water, sugar, jam, fruits, and the meat recorded double digit inflation rate.

She said the four sub-groups namely, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics (19.65percent), hotel and restaurants (17.17 percent) ,housing, water, electricity, gas and other utilities(15.99percent), and clothing and footwear(15.33 percent) recorded inflation rates above the non-food group's average of 11.84 percent.

Dr. Bediako said that prices of products in the communication sub group remained constant throughout the period.

Source: The Ghanaian Times, Thursday October 14, 2010, Page 3