

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY  
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT  
POLICY

Voluntary - Public

**Date:** 7/13/2010

**GAIN Report Number:** VE1071

## Venezuela

**Post:** Caracas

### **Food basket price rose 8.43 percent in April**

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

**Approved By:**

**Prepared By:**

Clara Nuñez

**Report Highlights:**

According to the government's national statistics unit, price inflation for basic food products grew by more than 8.4 percent in April, the greatest one-month jump registered in that indicator since 2008.

**General Information:****Food Basket price rose 8.43 percent in one month**

The cost of basic food products has increased more quickly during the past year, and in April alone, the normative food basket measured by the National Statistics Institute (INE) went up by 8.43 percent with respect to the previous month, the highest jump registered since year 2008. As per a change in methodology applied by INE there are now only historical data on the food basket from January 2008.

The food basket measured by INE includes not only the food products distributed by Venezuela's small markets and supermarkets chains, but also those that are sold at fixed subsidized prices in the Government Mercal network.

With the inflation recorded in recent months, the price increase of the basic basket products has been enhanced over the past year. The cost of the basic food basket increased 20.2 percent between April 2008 and April 2009. For the period from April 2009 to April 2010, the increase was 36.3 percent, according to the INE data.

April has been the most inflationary month in years. The overall food sector was the most affected, registering an increase of 11.1 percent that month.