

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MARCH 2021

Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and inflation for March 2021 are hereby released. As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the CPI increased by 0.40 per cent from 113.365 in February 2021 to 113.81 in March 2021. The overall year on year inflation in March 2021 was 5.90 per cent.

Consumer price indices and inflation rates are generated from data collected through monthly surveys of retail prices that target a representative basket of household consumption goods and services. The data collection is conducted in the second and third weeks of the month from selected retail outlets. These outlets are located in 50 data collection zones across the country.

Table 1: Overall CPI and Rates of Inflation

Base Feb 2019=100

Month	Overall New CPI	Inflation Rate
February 2020	107.174	7.17
March 2020	107.475	5.84
April 2020	108.495	6.01
May 2020	108.602	5.33
June 2020	108.266	4.59
July 2020	108.354	4.36
August 2020	108.573	4.36
September 2020	108.571	4.20
October 2020	109.604	4.84
November 2020	110.779	5.33
December 2020	111.866	5.62
January 2021	112.576	5.69
February 2021	113.365	5.78
March 2021	113.814	5.90

Table 2: One and Twelve Months' Changes in the Consumer Price Indices

	Weight %	% Change on last month March 2021/ February 2021	% Change on same month of the previous year March 2021 / March 2020
13 COICOP Divisions			
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.91	0.35	6.65
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.33	0.02	2.69
Clothing and Footwear	2.99	0.19	2.38
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.61	0.59	4.01
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.74	0.39	3.63
Health	2.91	0.01	4.12
Transport	9.65	1.49	18.12
Information and Communication	7.78	0.16	0.98
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.72	-0.11	2.67
Education Services	5.56	0.01	2.07
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.10	0.04	4.00
Insurance and Financial Services	2.24	0.02	1.71
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.45	0.11	2.35
Total	100.00	0.40	5.90

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price in March 2020	Average Price in February 2021	Average Price in March 2021	% Change over last month March 2021/ February 2021	% Change over same month of last Year March 2021/ March 2020
Onion -Leeks and Bulbs	1	Kilogram	110.60	107.21	104.01	-2.98	-5.95
Maize Grain - Loose	1	Kilogram	49.23	48.06	47.12	-1.96	-4.29
Fortified Maize flour	2	Kilogram	129.86	119.91	117.58	-1.94	-9.46
Offals (matumbo)	1	Kilogram	258.61	272.54	273.48	0.35	5.75
Green grams	1	Kilogram	100.46	102.96	104.59	1.58	4.11
Tomatoes	1	Kilogram	120.60	97.41	98.95	1.58	-17.95
Mangoes	1	Kilogram	98.98	102.07	104.08	1.97	5.16
Beef with Bones	1	Kilogram	434.47	459.00	462.49	0.76	6.45
House rent - 1 bedroom	1	Per Month	12,095.95	12,052.42	12,043.12	-0.08	-0.44
Gas/LPG	13	Kilogram	2,065.98	2,031.21	2,074.23	2.12	0.40
Electricity	200	Kilowatts	4,453.26	4,678.08	4,920.94	5.19	10.50
Kerosene/Paraffin	1	Litre	96.39	93.37	98.78	5.79	2.47
Diesel	1	Litre	102.59	102.84	108.58	5.58	5.83
Petrol	1	Litre	112.07	116.03	123.66	6.57	10.34

The month to month Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks' Index increased by 0.35 per cent between February 2021 and March 2021. This food inflation was mainly attributed to increase in prices of some food items, which outweighed the decrease in prices of other foodstuffs. For instance, as shown in Table 3,

prices of mangoes, green grams and tomatoes increased by 1.97, 1.58 and 1.58 per cent, respectively. On the other hand, prices of onions (leeks and bulbs), maize grain-loose and fortified maize flour decreased by 2.98, 1.96 and 1.94 per cent, respectively. The year on year food inflation rose by 6.65 per cent between March 2020 and March 2021.

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 0.59 per cent between February 2021 and March 2021. This was mainly attributed to increase of prices of kerosene and electricity by 5.79 per cent and 5.19 per cent, respectively.

Over the same period, the month to month Transport Index increased by 1.49 per cent mainly due to a rise in the prices of diesel and petrol by 5.58 per cent and 6.57 per cent, respectively.

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