

CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MARCH, 2025

The annual consumer price inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 3.6 per cent in March 2025. This is an indication that the general price level in March 2025 was 3.6 per cent higher than it was in March 2024. The price increase was primarily driven by rise in prices of items in the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages category (6.6%); and Transport category (1.5%) over the one year period. There was a decline in prices for items in the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels category by 0.8 per cent over the period. These three divisions together account for over 57 per cent of the total weight across the 13 major expenditure categories.

The CPI measures the cost of purchasing a fixed basket of goods and services, comparing current prices to those of a base period (February 2019). The inflation rate is derived from data collected through a monthly survey of retail prices that targets a representative basket of household goods and services, with data gathered during the second and third weeks of the month from a statistically representative sample of outlets in urban areas across 50 data collection zones nationwide.

As presented in Table 1 and Table 2, the overall index increased from 143.12 in February 2025 to 143.69 in March 2025, resulting in a monthly inflation of 0.4 per cent.

Table 1: Overall CPI and Rates of Inflation

Index Reference Period Feb 2019 = 100

Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
March 2024	138.66	5.7
April 2024	138.40	5.0
May 2024	139.64	5.0
June 2024	140.23	4.6
July 2024	139.94	4.3
August 2024	139.87	4.4
September 2024	140.13	3.6
October 2024	140.44	2.7
November 2024	140.81	2.8
December 2024	141.66	3.0
January 2025	142.68	3.3
February 2025	143.12	3.5
March 2025	143.69	3.6

As shown in Table 2, the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index increased by 0.7 per cent between February 2025 and March 2025. Notably, prices of kales- *sukuma wiki* , potatoes (Irish) and maize grain (loose) rose by 6.2, 4.5 and 3.3 per cent, respectively, between February 2025 and March 2025. During the same period, prices of sugar and beans dropped by 0.7 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, as presented in Table 3, which provides national average prices of selected items.

The Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index rose by 0.2 per cent between February 2025 and March 2025. The increase is attributable to a rise in the price of gas/LPG by 0.2 per cent between February 2025 and March 2025. Further, prices of 50kWh electricity and 200 kWh electricity went up by 1.0 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively, over the same period.

As detailed in Table 2, the Transport Index rose by 1.5 per cent between February 2025 and March 2025 mainly due to increase in prices local for flights by 3.9 per cent. Prices of petrol and diesel remained the same between February 2025 and March 2025, as presented in Table 3.

The Restaurant and Accommodation Services' index increased by 0.4 per cent between February 2025 and March 2025, on account of a rise in prices of hotel and restaurant prepared foods.

Table 2: One and Twelve-Month Percentage Changes in the Consumer Price Indices

	Weight %	% Change on last month (March 2025/ February 2025)	% Change on same month of the previous year (March 2025/ March 2024)
13 COICOP Divisions			
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.9094	0.7	6.6
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.3289	0.3	6.1
Clothing and Footwear	2.9914	0.3	4.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.6124	0.2	-0.8
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.7372	0.2	3.1
Health	2.9116	0.1	3.3
Transport	9.6468	0.2	1.5
Information and Communication	7.7840	0.0	1.1
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.7219	0.1	3.3
Education Services	5.5620	0.0	2.7
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.0991	0.4	4.0
Insurance and Financial Services	2.2423	0.0	0.9
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.4532	0.2	3.5
Total	100.0000	0.4	3.6

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price March 2024	Average Price February 2025	Average Price March 2025	% Change over last month March 2025/ February 2025	% Change over last year March 2025/ March 2024
Beans	1	Kg	185.01	185.03	183.65	-0.7	-0.7
Sugar	1	Kg	189.45	166.45	166.08	-0.2	-12.3
Beef - with Bones	1	Kg	624.68	666.74	672.52	0.9	7.7
Tomatoes	1	Kg	62.57	79.88	80.88	1.3	29.3
Fortified Maize flour	2	Kg	163.94	160.33	165.05	2.9	0.7
Maize Grain - Loose	1	Kg	65.31	62.68	64.72	3.3	-0.9
Potatoes (Irish)	1	Kg	109.74	121.09	126.48	4.5	15.3
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1	Kg	65.94	83.32	88.51	6.2	34.2
House rent - 2 bedroom	1	Per Month	18,132.93	18,304.53	18,307.60	0.0	1.0
Gas/LPG	13	Kg	3,231.84	3,139.65	3,146.03	0.2	-2.7
Electricity	200	kWh	6,730.20	5,634.92	5,687.00	0.9	-15.5
Electricity	50	kWh	1,400.00	1,255.06	1,268.08	1.0	-9.4
Petrol	1	Litre	199.77	177.25	177.25	0.0	-11.3
Diesel	1	Litre	191.11	167.84	167.84	0.0	-12.2
Local Flights	1	Ticket	10,500.72	12,808.89	13,309.66	3.9	26.7

The concept of core inflation is to remove most or all the products whose prices are volatile or transient from the overall index. By removing such products from the index, the remaining less volatile index, better demonstrates the fundamental changes in the rate of inflation. As presented in Table 4, the rate of core inflation was 2.2 per cent in March 2025. The core index increased from 128.01 in February 2025 to 128.35 in March 2025. Non-core inflation was 7.4 per cent during the same period.

Table 4: Core and Non-Core Index and Inflation Rate

Period	Core index	Core Inflation	Non-Core index	Non-Core Inflation
Mar-24	125.59	4.8	191.35	8.7
Apr-24	125.31	4.3	190.91	7.3
May-24	125.49	3.4	197.51	10.2
Jun-24	125.66	2.8	198.96	10.1
Jul-24	125.66	2.2	197.48	10.8
Aug-24	125.80	2.2	195.90	10.3
Sep-24	125.88	2.0	196.87	7.7
Oct-24	126.20	1.8	197.36	5.1
Nov-24	126.76	2.1	197.51	4.6
Dec-24	127.50	2.2	198.51	4.9
Jan-25	127.77	2.0	202.87	6.8
Feb-25	128.01	1.9	204.01	7.7
Mar-25	128.35	2.2	205.55	7.4

Contribution of core and non-core inflation to the overall inflation is presented in Table 5. Core inflation contributed 2.3 points while non-core contributed 1.3 points to the overall inflation in March 2025. Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed to 1.9 points to the non-core inflation rate.

Table 5: Core and Non-Core Contributions in February 2025

Broad Categories	Core	Non-Core	Total
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	0.4	1.5	1.9
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.2	0.0	0.2
Clothing and Footwear	0.2	0.0	0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.2	-0.2	0.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household	0.2	0.0	0.2
Health	0.1	0.0	0.1
Transport	0.2	0.0	0.2
Information and Communication	0.1	0.0	0.1
Recreation, Sport and Culture	0.1	0.0	0.1
Education Services	0.2	0.0	0.2
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	0.3	0.0	0.3
Insurance and Financial Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods	0.2	0.0	0.2
Total	2.3	1.3	3.6



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