




# THE KENYA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND INFLATION REPORT


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## Table of Contents

Overview.....	1
The Overall CPI and Inflation Trends, January 2025 - January 2026.....	1
Movement of National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities .....	6
Core and Non-Core Index and Inflation.....	8
Contribution of Core and Non-Core to the Overall Inflation .....	9

## List of Tables

Table 1: One and Twelve-Month Percentage Changes in the Consumer Price Indices....	3
Table 2: Key Drivers of Inflation for each of the 13 Divisions.....	5
Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities .....	7
Table 4: Core and Non-Core Index and Inflation .....	9
Table 5: Core and Non-Core Contributions, March 2026.....	10

## List of Figures

Figure 1: Overall CPI March 2025 – March 2026 .....	2
Figure 2: Inflation Trends, March 2025 – March 2026 .....	2
Figure 3: Percentage Changes in CPI Across the 13 Divisions, February 2026 – March 2026 .....	4
Figure 4: Percentage Changes in CPI Across the 13 Divisions, March 2025 – March 2026 .....	5
Figure 5: Percentage Change Over Last Month, February 2026 – March 2026 .....	8

## Overview

Annual consumer price inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 4.4 per cent in March 2026. This implies that the general price level was 4.4 per cent higher in March 2026 than it was in March 2025. The price increase was primarily driven by a rise in prices of items in the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (7.7%); Transport (3.8 %), and Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other fuels (2.0%) over the one-year period. These three divisions together account for over 57 per cent of the total weight across the 13 major expenditure categories.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) is defined as a measure of the weighted aggregate change over time in retail prices paid by consumers for a given basket of goods and services. The CPI measures the cost of purchasing this fixed basket of goods and services, comparing current prices to those of a base period, which for the current CPI is February 2019. Inflation rate is defined as a percentage change of the CPI between two periods. There are different inflation rates that can be computed, such as annual (year-on-year), quarterly (quarter-to-quarter) and monthly (month-on-month) inflation rates. Data used to derive the inflation rates is collected through a monthly survey of retail prices from a statistically representative sample of outlets in urban areas across 50 data collection zones nationwide. The survey is conducted during the second and third weeks of the month.

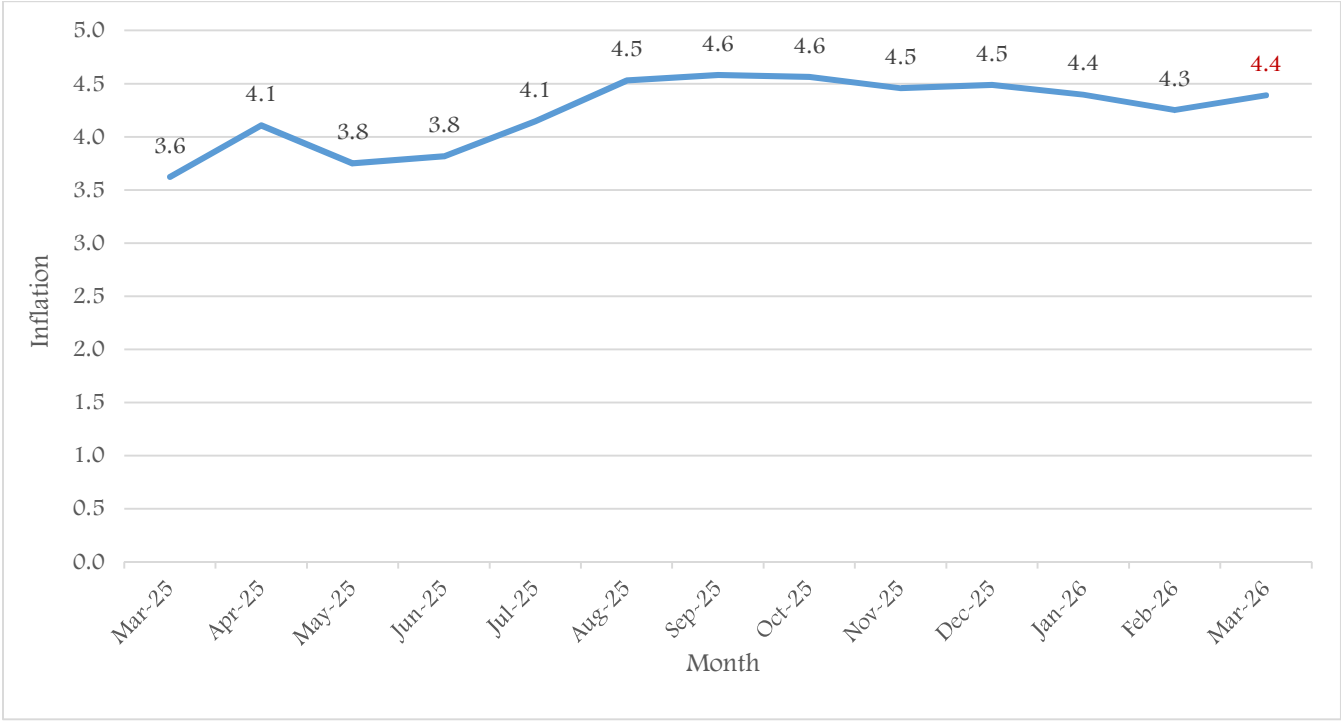
## The Overall CPI and Inflation Trends, March 2025 – March 2026

As presented in Figure 1, the overall index increased from 149.20 in February 2026 to 150.00 in March 2026, resulting in a monthly inflation rate of 0.5 per cent. The year-on-year inflation stood at 4.4 per cent in March 2026 as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1: Overall CPI, March 2025 – March 2026



Figure 2: Inflation Trends, March 2025 – March 2026



**Table 1: One and Twelve-Month Percentage Changes in the Consumer Price Indices**

<b>13 COICOP Divisions</b>	<b>Weight %</b>	<b>% Change on last month (March 2026 / February 2026)</b>	<b>% Change on same month of the previous year (March 2026 / March 2025)</b>
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	32.9094	1.1	7.7
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	3.3289	0.1	2.3
Clothing and Footwear	2.9914	0.0	1.8
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	14.6124	0.4	2.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	3.7372	0.3	1.5
Health	2.9116	0.4	2.7
Transport	9.6468	0.0	3.8
Information and Communication	7.7840	0.1	0.5
Recreation, Sport and Culture	1.7219	0.1	2.6
Education Services	5.5620	0.3	3.3
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	8.0991	0.1	2.4
Insurance and Financial Services	2.2423	0.0	0.7
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.4532	0.2	2.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0000</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Figure 3: Percentage Changes in CPI Across the 13 Divisions, February 2026 – March 2026

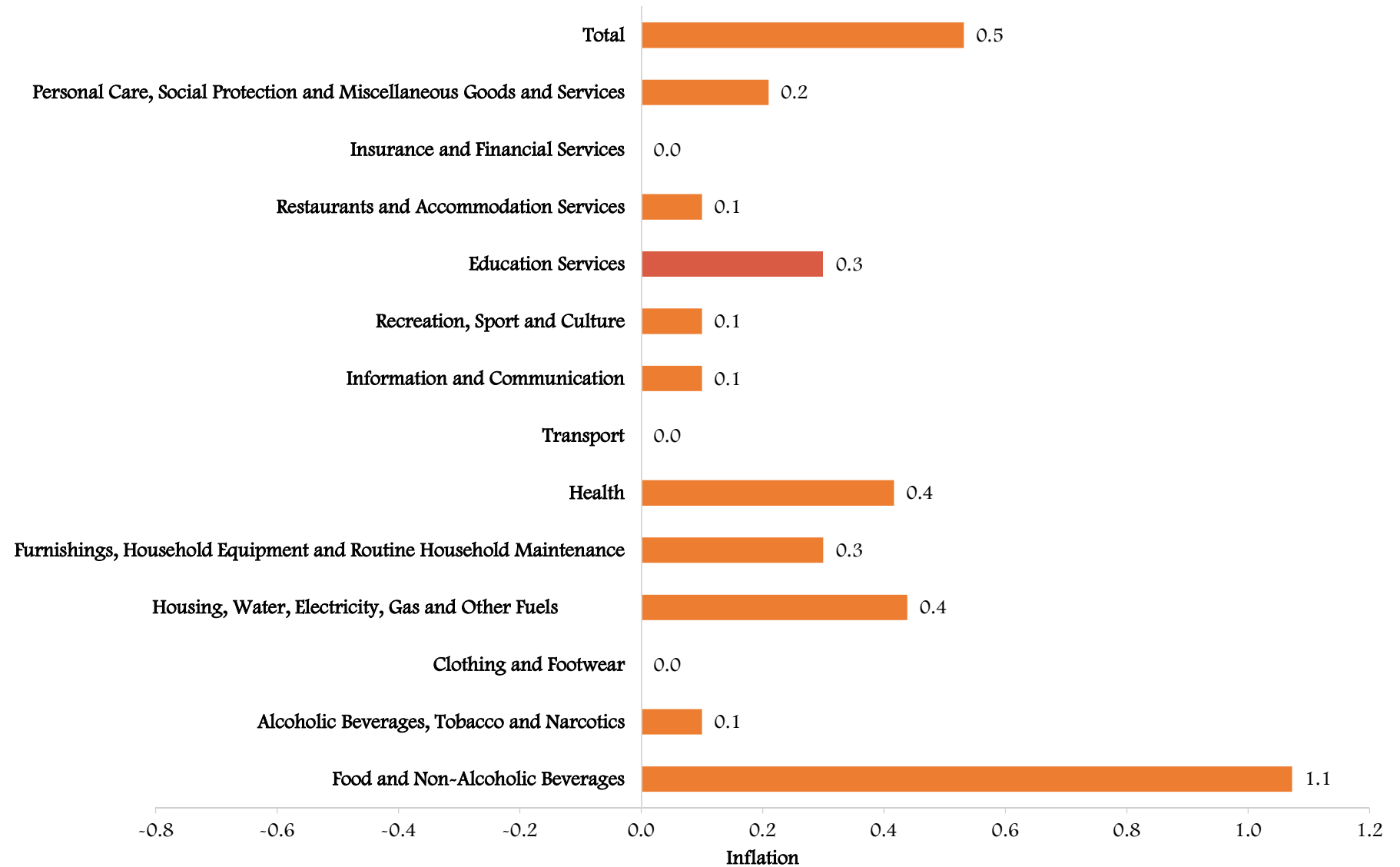


































Figure 4: Percentage Changes in CPI Across the 13 Divisions, March 2025 – March 2026



**Table 2: Key Drivers of Inflation for each of the 13 Divisions**

Monthly		Yearly
<b>Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>		
 <p>1.1%</p>	<p>Monthly inflation of items under Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages division between February 2026 and March 2026 was 1.1 per cent. Prices of sugar, maize grain loose and cabbages went down by 1.3, 2.4 and 3.8 per cent, respectively. In the same period, prices of tomatoes and beef with bones rose by 13.3 per cent and 1.8 per cent respectively.</p>	 <p>7.7%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages division index rose by 7.7%.</p>
<b>Transport</b>		
 <p>0.0%</p>	<p>During the period between February 2026 and March 2026, prices of transport-related items showed mixed trends. Price of diesel and petrol remained the same in the review period.</p>	 <p>3.8%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the index for the Transport division rose by 3.8 per cent.</p>
<b>Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels</b>		
 <p>0.4%</p>	<p>Monthly inflation for the division was 0.4 per cent. Electricity price increased by 2.5 per cent and 2.2 per cent for 50 kWh and 200 kWh, respectively between February 2026 and March 2026. However, prices of gas/LPG decreased by 0.1 per cent during the same period. Price of rent for single room remained unchanged in the same period.</p>	 <p>2.0%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the general price levels for the division rose by 2.0 per cent.</p>
<b>Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics</b>		
 <p>0.1%</p>	<p>The division recorded a monthly rate of 0.1 per cent. Between February 2026 and March 2026, beer (lagers and stouts) recorded a slight price rise of 0.3 per cent. In contrast, miraa (khat) prices experienced decrease of 1.2 per cent.</p>	 <p>2.3%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics index rose by 2.3%.</p>
<b>Clothing and Footwear</b>		
 <p>0.1%</p>	<p>Monthly inflation of items under Clothing and Footwear was 0.1 per cent. Between February 2026 and March 2026, boy's trousers/shorts and men's shirts recorded slight price declines of 0.2 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively. In contrast, prices for boy's leather shoes and girl's school uniforms increased by 0.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent, respectively.</p>	 <p>1.8%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the prices under Clothing and Footwear division rose by 1.8%.</p>
<b>Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance</b>		
 <p>0.1%</p>	<p>The division recorded an inflation rate of 0.1 per cent between February and March 2026. Shoe polish/cream recorded the highest rise at 0.7 per cent, indicating a relatively stronger upward movement compared to other items. Both laundry soap/bar soap and detergents experienced moderate increases of 0.3 per cent each.</p>	 <p>1.5%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the prices under Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance division rose by 1.5%.</p>
<b>Health</b>		
 <p>0.3%</p>	<p>The Health division recorded an inflation rate of 0.3 per cent. General practitioner's services recorded a marginal rise of 0.1 per cent. In addition, medicine for cancer experienced a sharp increase of 2.8 per cent.</p>	 <p>2.7%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the Health division index rose by 2.7%.</p>

Monthly	Yearly
<b>Information and Communication</b>	
  <p>0.1%</p> <p>Overall, the division recorded a monthly inflation of 0.1 per cent. Between February and March 2026, prices for information and communication equipment showed mixed trends. The price of computers (tablets) declined significantly by 2.5 per cent, indicating reduced costs in this category. In contrast, prices for televisions and mobile handsets (both basic and smartphones) increased modestly by 0.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent, respectively.</p>	 <p>0.5%</p> <p>The sector recorded a yearly inflation of 0.5%.</p>
<b>Recreation, Sport and Culture</b>	
  <p>0.1%</p> <p>Monthly inflation for this division was 0.1 per cent. Between February and March 2026, prices in this category moved in opposite directions. Exercise books recorded a decline of 0.4 per cent, suggesting a slight easing in the cost of basic educational materials. In contrast, tour and honeymoon packages increased by 1.7 per cent.</p>	 <p>2.6%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the Recreation, Sport and Culture division index went up by 2.6%.</p>
<b>Education Services</b>	
  <p>0.4%</p> <p>Between February and March 2026, certificate course fees recorded went down slightly while post graduate fee rose by 0.1 per cent. Overall the division recorded a monthly inflation of 0.4 per cent.</p>	 <p>3.3%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the index for the Education division increased by 3.3%.</p>
<b>Restaurants and Accommodation Services</b>	
  <p>0.1%</p> <p>Between February and March 2026, prices within the hotel and restaurant category showed minimal changes. Hotel and restaurant cakes and snacks recorded a slight decline of 0.1 per cent, indicating a small reduction in prices. Meanwhile, both café and take-away prepared food, as well as hotel and restaurant prepared foods, registered marginal increases of 0.1 per cent each.</p>	 <p>2.4%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the index for the Restaurants and Accommodation Services division rose by 2.4%.</p>
<b>Insurance and Financial Services</b>	
  <p>0.0%</p> <p>Medical insurance and motor vehicle insurance remained the same between February 2026 and March 2026.</p>	 <p>0.7%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the prices under Insurance and Financial Services division went up by 0.7%.</p>
<b>Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>	
  <p>0.2%</p> <p>Between February and March 2026, prices for personal care and household hygiene items increased across all listed products. Toilet paper/tissue paper recorded the highest rise at 1.4 per cent, indicating notable upward pressure in essential household supplies. Body lotion prices increased by 0.4 per cent, while hair dressing services saw a modest rise of 0.1 per cent.</p>	 <p>2.5%</p> <p>Over the twelve months until March 2026, the index for the Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods and Services division increased by 2.5%.</p>

## Movement of National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Between February and March 2026, prices for selected food items recorded slight declines. The price of one (1) kilogram of cabbages decreased from KSh 74.33 to KSh 71.52, while one (1) kilogram of maize grain – loose dropped from KSh 72.19 to KSh

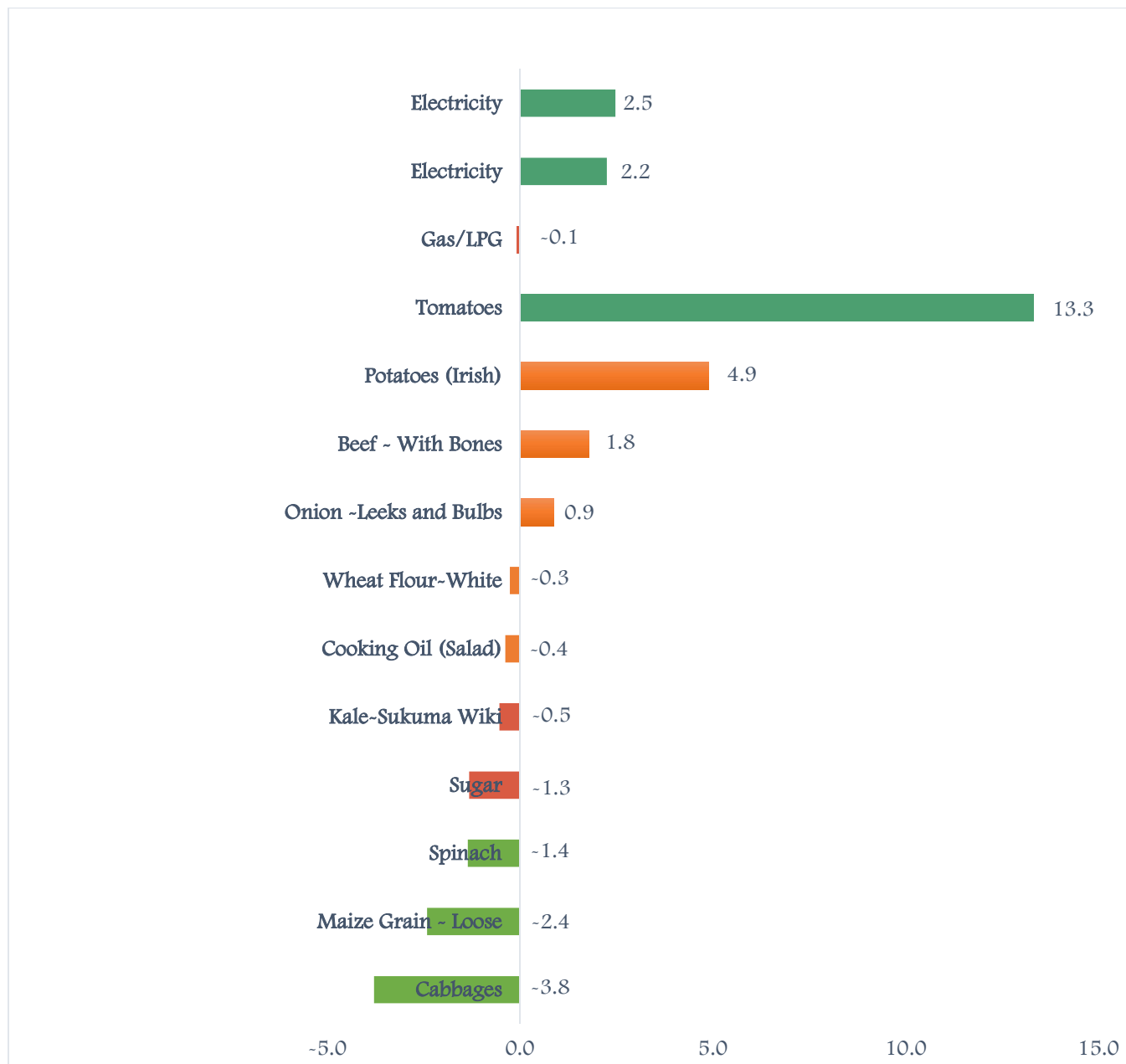
70.44. Similarly, spinach (1 kilogram) recorded a marginal reduction from KSh 113.11 to KSh 111.58.

The cost of gas/LPG (13 kilograms) slightly declined from KSh 3,134.75 to KSh 3,132.34. However, electricity prices increased, with 200 kilowatts rising from KSh 5,564.78 to KSh 5,689.98 and 50 kilowatts increasing from KSh 1,265.96 to KSh 1,297.26. Meanwhile, the price of one (1) litre of petrol remained unchanged at KSh 179.35.

**Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities**

Commodity Name	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Average Price March 2025	Average Price February 2026	Average Price March 2026	% Change over last month March 2026/ February 2026	% Change over last year March 2026/ March 2025
Cabbages	1	Kilogram	53.46	74.33	71.52	-3.8	33.8
Maize Grain - Loose	1	Kilogram	64.72	72.19	70.44	-2.4	8.8
Spinach	1	Kilogram	99.92	113.11	111.58	-1.4	11.7
Sugar	1	Kilogram	166.08	166.56	164.37	-1.3	-1.0
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1	Kilogram	88.51	104.90	104.34	-0.5	17.9
Cooking Oil (Salad)	1	Litre	353.01	345.83	344.50	-0.4	-2.4
Wheat Flour-White	2	Kilogram	167.39	170.78	170.33	-0.3	1.8
Onion -Leeks and Bulbs	1	Kilogram	103.37	114.37	115.37	0.9	11.6
Beef - With Bones	1	Kilogram	672.52	724.40	737.30	1.8	9.6
Potatoes (Irish)	1	Kilogram	90.22	102.16	107.16	4.9	18.8
Tomatoes	1	Kilogram	80.88	87.90	99.60	13.3	23.2
Gas/LPG	13	Kilogram	3,146.03	3,134.75	3,132.34	-0.1	-0.4
House rent - single room	1	Per Month	4,169.57	4,209.75	4,209.75	0.0	1.0
Electricity	200	Kilowatts	5,687.00	5,564.78	5,689.98	2.2	0.1
Electricity	50	Kilowatts	1,268.08	1,265.96	1,297.26	2.5	2.3
Petrol	1	Litre	177.25	179.35	179.35	0.0	1.2
Diesel	1	Litre	167.84	167.72	167.72	0.0	-0.1

Figure 5: Percentage Change Over Last Month, February 2026 – March 2026



### Core and Non-Core Index and Inflation

Core inflation is a measure of inflation that is compiled from non-volatile commodities such as manufactured food items, health services, education services, and ICT. Core inflation decreased to 2.1 per cent in March 2026, as presented in Table 4. Non-core inflation was 10.8 per cent during the same period.

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

<b>Period</b>	<b>Core Index</b>	<b>Core Inflation</b>	<b>Non-Core Index</b>	<b>Non-Core Inflation</b>
Mar-25	128.35	2.2	205.55	7.4
Apr-25	128.48	2.5	206.86	8.4
May-25	128.97	2.8	209.35	6.0
Jun-25	129.47	3.0	211.24	6.2
Jul-25	129.59	3.1	211.69	7.2
Aug-25	129.57	3.0	213.85	9.2
Sep-25	129.52	2.9	215.78	9.6
Oct-25	129.56	2.7	216.87	9.9
Nov-25	129.66	2.3	217.54	10.1
Dec-25	130.09	2.0	220.84	11.2
Jan-26	130.60	2.2	223.74	10.3
Feb-26	130.72	2.1	224.68	10.1
Mar-26	131.07	2.1	227.82	10.8

**Contribution of Core and Non-Core to the Overall Inflation**

Contribution of core and non-core inflation to the overall inflation is presented in Table 5. Core inflation contributed 2.5 points, while non-core inflation contributed 1.8 points to the overall inflation in March 2026. Food and non-alcoholic beverages contributed to 2.2 points to the overall inflation during the same period.

**Table 5: Core and Non-Core Contributions, March 2026**

<b>Broad Categories</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Non Core</b>	<b>Total</b>
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	0.7	1.5	2.2
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	0.1	0.0	0.1
Clothing and Footwear	0.2	0.0	0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.1	0.2	0.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household	0.2	0.0	0.2
Health	0.2	0.0	0.2
Transport	0.3	0.2	0.5
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	0.2	0.0	0.2
Insurance and Financial Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
Personal Care, Social Protection and Miscellaneous Goods	0.2	0.0	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>



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