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PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2019

METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Definition

The NCPI measures the change over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania. A basket includes a list of 278 goods and services of which 97 are Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages and 181 are Non Food items that are being priced on monthly basis.

Weights and a Reference Period

The NCPI weights are based on monetary expenditures relating to consumption for all households in the 25 geographic regions of Tanzania Mainland. The index weights are based on expenditures of both urban and rural households derived from 2011/12 Household Budget Survey and the price reference period is December, 2015.

Classification

The NCPI follows the internationally recommended Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). NCPI is being disseminated with indices for the 12 major groups of COICOP as well as several additional index aggregations. These additional indices are; 1) Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages - combining food consumed at home and food consumed in restaurants; 2) Energy and Fuels - combining electricity and other fuels for use at home including petrol and diesel; 3) All Items Less Food; and 4) All Items Less Food and Energy.

Elementary and Higher Level Indices

The NCPI use geometric mean of price relatives for compiling elementary index aggregates and the Lowe Index formula which is Laspeyres index formula type is used for computing higher level aggregates.

ANNUAL HEADLINE INFLATION INCREASED TO 3.1%

Table 1: Changes in the NCPI for March, 2019, (Dec.2015 = 100)

S/N	Main Groups	Weight	March -18	Febr-19	March-19	1 Month Percent Change	12 Month Percent Change
1	Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	38.5	119.63	117.81	119.76	1.7	0.1
2	Alcoholic and Tobacco	3.7	107.93	110.67	111.43	0.7	3.2
3	Clothing and Footwear	8.3	107.92	111.36	111.59	0.2	3.4
4	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuel	11.6	125.31	137.44	141.65	3.1	13.0
5	Furnishing, Housing Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	6.3	106.57	110.23	111.12	0.8	4.3
6	Health	2.9	107.06	108.59	108.99	0.4	1.8
7	Transport	12.5	101.52	104.67	105.67	1.0	4.1
8	Communication	5.6	98.24	96.23	97.09	0.9	-1.2
9	Recreation and Culture	1.6	103.07	103.30	103.38	0.1	0.3
10	Education	1.5	105.50	107.46	107.55	0.1	1.9
11	Restaurants and hotels	4.2	105.33	108.99	110.43	1.3	4.8
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	3.1	105.69	108.49	108.99	0.5	3.1
TOTAL – ALL ITEMS INDEX		100.0	112.70	114.63	116.23	1.4	3.1
Other Selected Groups							
1	Food - combining food consumed at home and food consumed in restaurants	37.1	120.88	121.03	123.27	1.9	2.0
2	Energy and Fuels - combining electricity and other fuels for use at home with petrol and diesel	8.7	133.63	149.28	154.40	3.4	15.5
3	All Items Less Food	62.9	108.66	113.50	114.81	1.2	5.7
4	All Items Less Food and Energy	54.3	104.66	107.77	108.48	0.7	3.7

The Headline Inflation Rate measures inflation rate when all items in the fixed CPI basket are included. Table number 1 above indicates that, Annual Headline Inflation Rate for the month of March, 2019 has slightly increased to 3.1% from 3.0% recorded in February, 2019. The increase of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended March, 2019 has increased compared to the speed of the price change recorded for the year ended February, 2019. The overall index went up to 116.23 in March, 2019 from 112.70 recorded in March, 2018.

Food and Non Food Inflation Rates

Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rate for the month of March, 2019 has decreased to 0.1% from 0.5% recorded in February, 2019. Annual Inflation Rate for food consumed at home and away from home for the month of March, 2019 has decreased to 2.0% from 2.3% recorded in February, 2019. Moreover, the 12 month index change for non-food products in March, 2019 has increased to 5.7% from 5.1% recorded in February, 2019.

Inflation Rate excluding Food and Energy

The Annual Inflation Rate which excludes food and energy for the month of March, 2019 has increased to 3.7% from 3.1% recorded in February, 2019.

The NCPI used to compute this type of Inflation Rate excludes food consumed at home and restaurants, non alcoholic beverages, petrol, diesel, gas, kerosene, charcoal, firewood and electricity. Excluding food and energy which are the most volatile components in the total NCPI could provide a more stable Inflation Rate figure for Policy Makers.

Chart 1: Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from March, 2018 – March, 2019. (Dec. 2015 = 100)

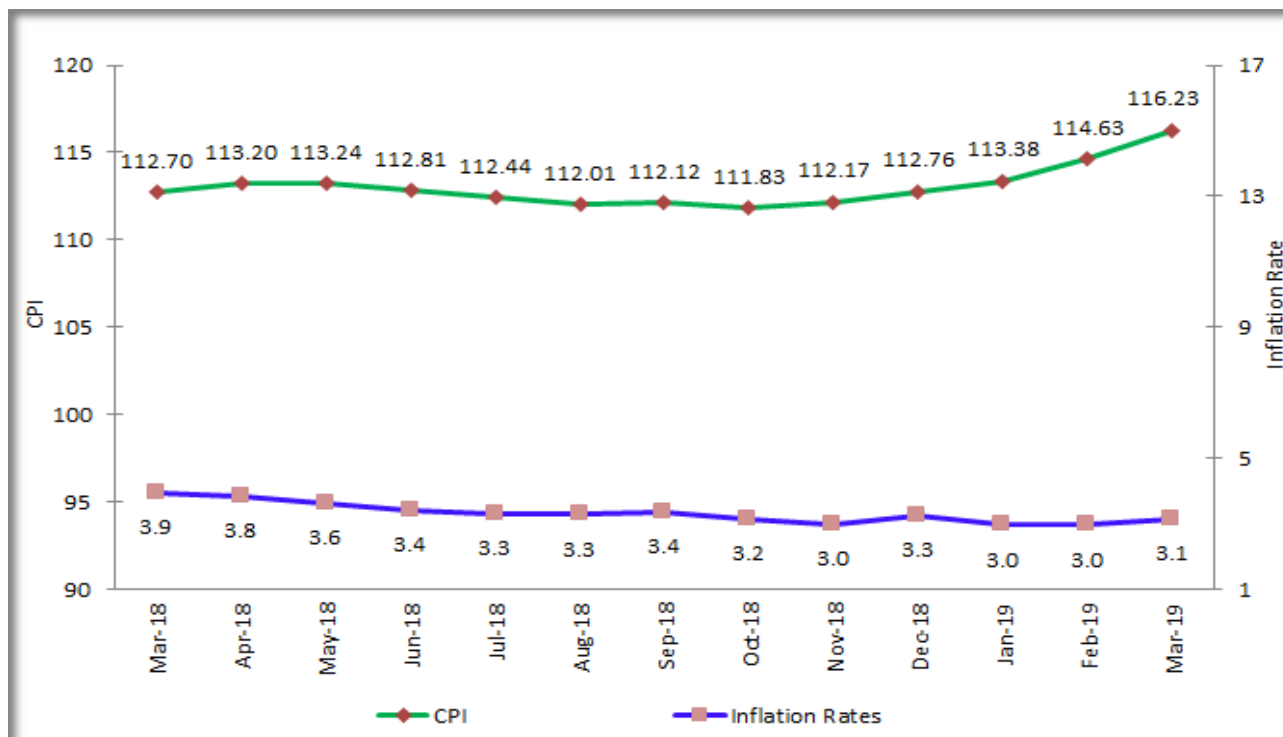


Chart number 1 above explains that; CPI has shown a relatively stable movement of prices from March, 2018 to March, 2019. In addition, Annual Headline Inflation Rates over the same period range between 3.9% in March, 2018 and 3.1% recorded in March, 2019.

MONTHLY CHANGE OF CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FROM FEBRUARY, 2019 TO MARCH, 2019

The Consumer Price Index from February, 2019 to March, 2019 has increased by 1.4% compared to an increase of 1.1% recorded from January, 2019 to February, 2019. The overall index has increased to 116.23 in March, 2019 from 114.63 recorded in February, 2019. The increase of the overall index is attributed to price increase for both food and non-food items. Some food items that contributed to such an increase include; rice by 0.7%, white maize grains by 0.5%, maize flour by 3.4%, fresh fish by 0.7%, fresh cow milk by 1.4%, coconut by 5.8%, vegetables by 3.4%, soya beans by 2.3%, dry peas by 4.0%, cassava fresh by 3.6%, sweet potatoes by 2.8%, dry cassava by 1.4%, cocoyam by 5.5% and cooking bananas by 3.3%. On the other hand, Non-food items that contributed to such an increase include; clothing and footwear by 0.2%, actual rentals paid by tenants per month by 1.8%, charcoal by 5.6%, firewood by 3.7%, furniture and furnishings by 0.8% and accommodation services from hotels by 0.8%.

Table 2: NCPI Release Schedule for the Coming Months

NCPI Release Months	Release date
April, 2019	08 th May, 2019
May, 2019	10 th June, 2019
June, 2019	08 th July, 2019

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