



National Bureau of Statistics

Tel: +255 26 - 2963822
Fax: +225 26 - 2963828
E-mail: sg@nbs.go.tz;
Website: www.nbs.go.tz

Jakaya Kikwete Road
P.O. Box 2683
Dodoma,
TANZANIA



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NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) FOR MARCH, 2022

1. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

1.1 Definition

The NCPI measure changes over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services that are purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania. Currently, the NCPI basket comprises of 383 goods and services, of which 132 are Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages and 251 are Non-Food items. With regard to geographical coverage, the NCPI uses price data collected from all 26 regional headquarters in Tanzania Mainland.

1.2 Weights and a Reference Period

The NCPI weights are based on monetary expenditures relating to consumption of all households in 26 regions of Tanzania Mainland. The index weights are based on expenditures of both urban and rural households derived from 2017/18 Household Budget Survey. The reference period for base prices is the average of January to December, 2020 and the index reference period is year 2020.

1.3 Classification

The NCPI uses the UN Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose, 2018 (UN COICOP, 2018) and is being disseminated using 13 COICOP. In addition, the rebased NCPI is disseminated together with several additional index aggregations which includes: - Core index; Energy, fuel and utilities; Non core index; services index; Goods index; Education services and products ancillary to education index and All items less food and non-alcoholic beverages.

1.4 Elementary and Higher-Level Indices

Compilation of 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.

2. ANNUAL HEADLINE INFLATION FOR MARCH, 2022 SLIGHTLY DECREASED TO 3.6%

Table 1: Changes in the NCPI for March 2022, (2020 = 100)

S/N	Main Groups	Weight	March, 2021	February, 2022	March, 2022	1 Month Percent Change	12 Month Percent Change
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	28.2	103.93	108.61	110.64	1.9	6.5
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.9	101.47	103.29	103.29	0.0	1.8
3	Clothing and footwear	10.8	104.47	106.36	106.95	0.6	2.4
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	15.1	104.03	106.47	107.31	0.8	3.2
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	7.9	102.83	105.59	105.74	0.1	2.8
6	Health	2.5	102.33	103.54	103.64	0.1	1.3
7	Transport	14.1	102.91	105.49	105.94	0.4	2.9
8	Information and communication	5.4	101.43	102.42	102.44	0.0	1.0
9	Recreation, sport and culture	1.6	102.84	103.96	103.99	0.0	1.1
10	Education services	2.0	101.23	101.42	101.45	0.0	0.2
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	6.6	104.47	106.50	106.95	0.4	2.4
12	Insurance and financial services	2.1	100.25	100.49	100.49	0.0	0.2
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	2.1	102.40	104.44	105.00	0.5	2.5
TOTAL – ALL ITEMS INDEX		100.0	103.41	106.20	107.09	0.8	3.6
Other Selected Groups							
1	Core Index	73.9	103.58	105.97	106.33	0.3	2.7
2	Non-Core Index	26.1	102.94	106.85	109.24	2.2	6.1
3	Energy, Fuel and Utilities Index	5.7	102.47	106.47	108.97	2.3	6.3
4	Services Index	37.2	102.75	104.55	104.73	0.2	1.9
5	Goods Index	62.8	103.81	107.18	108.48	1.2	4.5
6	Education services and products ancillary to education Index	4.1	102.65	104.59	104.69	0.1	2.0
7	All items Less Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	71.8	103.21	105.26	105.69	0.4	2.4

2.1 Headline Inflation Rate

The Headline Inflation Rate measures inflation 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, 2022 has slightly decreased to 3.6% from 3.7% recorded in February, 2022. The decrease of headline inflation explains that, speed of price change for commodities for the year ended March, 2022 has slightly decreased compared to the speed recorded for the year ended February, 2022. The overall index went up from 103.41 recorded in March, 2021 to 107.09 in March, 2022.

2.2 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rates

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rate for March, 2022 has increased to 6.5% from 6.1% recorded in February, 2022. On the other hand, Annual Inflation Rate for all items without Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages for March, 2022 has decreased to 2.4% from 2.7% recorded in February, 2022.

2.3 Core Inflation Rates

Core Index excludes items with volatile prices, that is unprocessed food; energy and utilities. Exclusion of volatile prices from the total NCPI provides a more stable Inflation Rate for Policy Makers. The Core Index covers 297 items and the share of weight to total NCPI weight is 73.9%. The inflation rate for Core Index in March, 2022 has decreased to 2.7% from 3.0% recorded in February, 2022.

Chart 1: Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from March, 2021 – March, 2022. (2020 = 100)

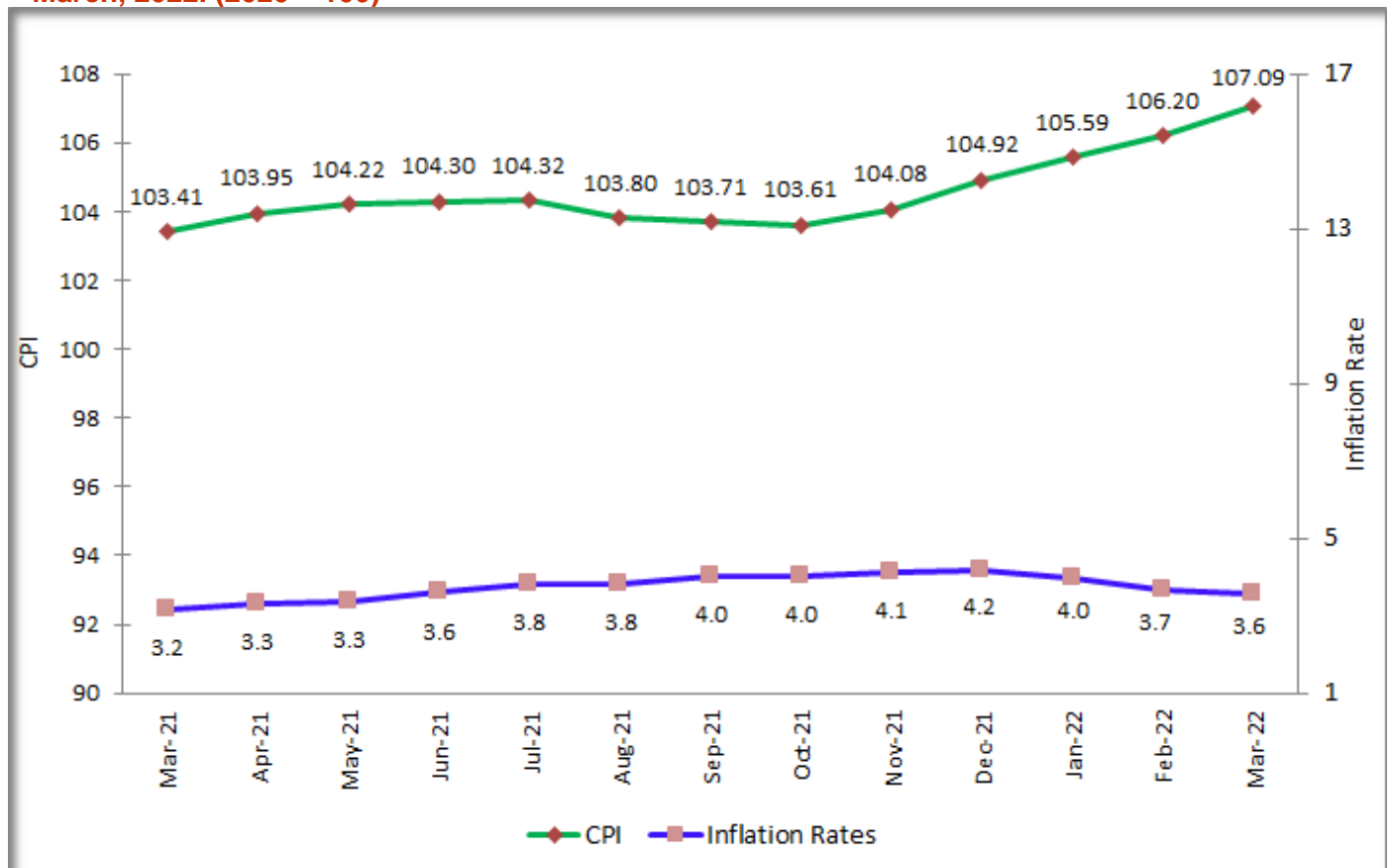


Chart 1 indicates that; NCPI has shown a relatively stable price movement from March, 2021 to March, 2022. In addition, Annual Headline Inflation Rates over the same period have shown a stable trend that ranges between 3.2% in March, 2021 and 4.2% in December, 2021.

3. MONTHLY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN FEBRUARY AND MARCH, 2022

The National Consumer Price Index between February and March, 2022 has increased from 106.20 recorded in February, 2022 to 107.09 in March, 2022. The increase of the overall index is attributed to price increase for some food and non-food items. Some food items that contributed to an increase of the index include: - wheat grains by 1.3%, rice by 2.9%, maize by 2.7%, wheat flour by 2.2%, maize flour by 1.6%, fresh fish by 3.6%, cooking oil by 1.9%, fruits by 3.8%, vegetable by 3.0%, sweet potatoes by 4.7%, cassava by 7.6% and cooking bananas by 4.1%.

On the other hand, some Non-food items that contributed to an increase of the index include: - corrugated iron sheets by 1.2%, firewood by 3.5%, charcoal by 5.7%, diesel by 2.9% and petrol by 2.7%.

Table 2: NCPI Release Schedule for the Coming Months

NCPI Release Months	Release date
April, 2022	09 th May, 2022
May, 2022	08 th June, 2022
June, 2022	08 th July, 2022

Further information relating to methodology and other aspects of NCPI can be obtained by directing inquiries to:

Statistician General,
National Bureau of Statistics,
Jakaya Kikwete Road,
P.O. Box 2683,
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