



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



(All Official Correspondence should be addressed to the Statistician General)

In reply please quote:
Our Ref: AC 334/376/01/377

Date: 08th April, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) FOR MARCH, 2026

1. METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

1.1 Definition

The NCPI measures changes over time in the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services purchased by a representative sample of households in Tanzania. The current NCPI basket contains 383 goods and services, comprising 132 food and non-alcoholic beverage items and 251 non-food items. With respect to geographical coverage, the NCPI uses price data collected from all 26 regional headquarters on the Tanzanian mainland.

1.2 Weights and a Reference Period

The NCPI weights are based on household monetary expenditure data from all 26 mainland regions, covering both urban and rural households. These weights are derived from the 2017/18 Household Budget Survey. The base price reference period is the average from January to December 2020, and the index reference period is the year 2020.

1.3 Classification

The NCPI follows the United Nations *Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose* (COICOP), 2018 version, and is disseminated using 13 COICOP divisions. In addition, the rebased NCPI is published alongside several supplementary index aggregations, including: Core Index; Energy, Fuel and Utilities Index; Non-Core Index; Services Index; Goods Index; Education Services and Products Ancillary to Education Index; and All Items Less Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Index.

1.4 Elementary and Higher-Level Indices

The NCPI is compiled using the geometric mean of price relatives for elementary index aggregates and higher-level aggregates are compiled using Lowe Index formula, a type of Laspeyres index.

2. ANNUAL HEADLINE INFLATION FOR MARCH, 2026 STANDS AT 3.2 PERCENT

Table 1: Changes in the NCPI for March 2026, (2020 = 100)

S/N	Main Groups	Weight	March., 2025	Febr., 2026	March., 2026	1 Month Percent Change	12 Month Percent Change
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	28.2	129.75	134.51	136.88	1.8	5.5
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.9	112.05	114.34	114.41	0.1	2.1
3	Clothing and footwear	10.8	114.49	115.45	115.99	0.5	1.3
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	15.1	117.97	118.96	119.82	0.7	1.6
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	7.9	115.13	117.71	117.82	0.1	2.3
6	Health	2.5	109.13	109.90	110.35	0.4	1.1
7	Transport	14.1	119.25	123.55	124.22	0.5	4.2
8	Information and communication	5.4	106.13	107.17	107.20	0.0	1.0
9	Recreation, sport and culture	1.6	110.97	111.58	111.65	0.1	0.6
10	Education services	2.0	112.16	112.52	113.22	0.6	0.9
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	6.6	116.67	118.61	119.07	0.4	2.1
12	Insurance and financial services	2.1	102.29	102.47	102.57	0.1	0.3
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	2.1	117.97	121.49	121.88	0.3	3.3
TOTAL – ALL ITEMS INDEX		100.0	119.27	122.01	123.04	0.8	3.2
Other Selected Groups							
1	Core Index	73.9	115.45	117.65	117.96	0.3	2.2
2	Non-Core Index	26.1	130.12	134.38	137.45	2.3	5.6
3	Energy, Fuel and Utilities Index	5.7	131.58	131.61	134.36	2.1	2.1
4	Services Index	37.2	112.29	114.69	114.99	0.3	2.4
5	Goods Index	62.8	123.41	126.34	127.80	1.2	3.6
6	Education services and products ancillary to education Index	4.1	114.39	114.68	115.22	0.5	0.7
7	All items Less Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	71.82	115.15	117.10	117.60	0.4	2.1

2.1 Headline Inflation Rate

The Headline Inflation Rate measures overall inflation by including all items in the fixed CPI basket. Table 1 shows that the annual Headline Inflation Rate for March 2026 remained unchanged at 3.2 percent, as it was recorded in February 2026. This stagnation indicates that the pace of price changes for commodities in the year ending March 2026 was the same as in the year ended February 2026. The overall index increased from 119.27 in March 2025 to 123.04 in March 2026.

2.2 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rates

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rate for March 2026 has decreased to 5.5 percent from 5.7 percent that was recorded in February 2026. Furthermore, inflation rate for all items excluding food and non-alcoholic beverages for March 2026 remained unchanged at 2.1 percent, as it was recorded in February 2026.

2.3 Core Inflation Rates

The Core Index excludes items with volatile prices, namely unprocessed food, energy, and utilities with the exception of maize flour. By excluding these volatile items from the overall NCPI, policymakers obtain a more stable measure of inflation. The Core Index covers 297 items, representing 73.9 percent of the total NCPI weight. In March 2026, Core Inflation Rate has increased to 2.2 percent from 2.1 percent that was recorded in February 2026.

Chart 1: Movement of National Consumer Price Indices (NCPI) and Inflation Rates from March, 2025 – March, 2026. (2020 = 100)

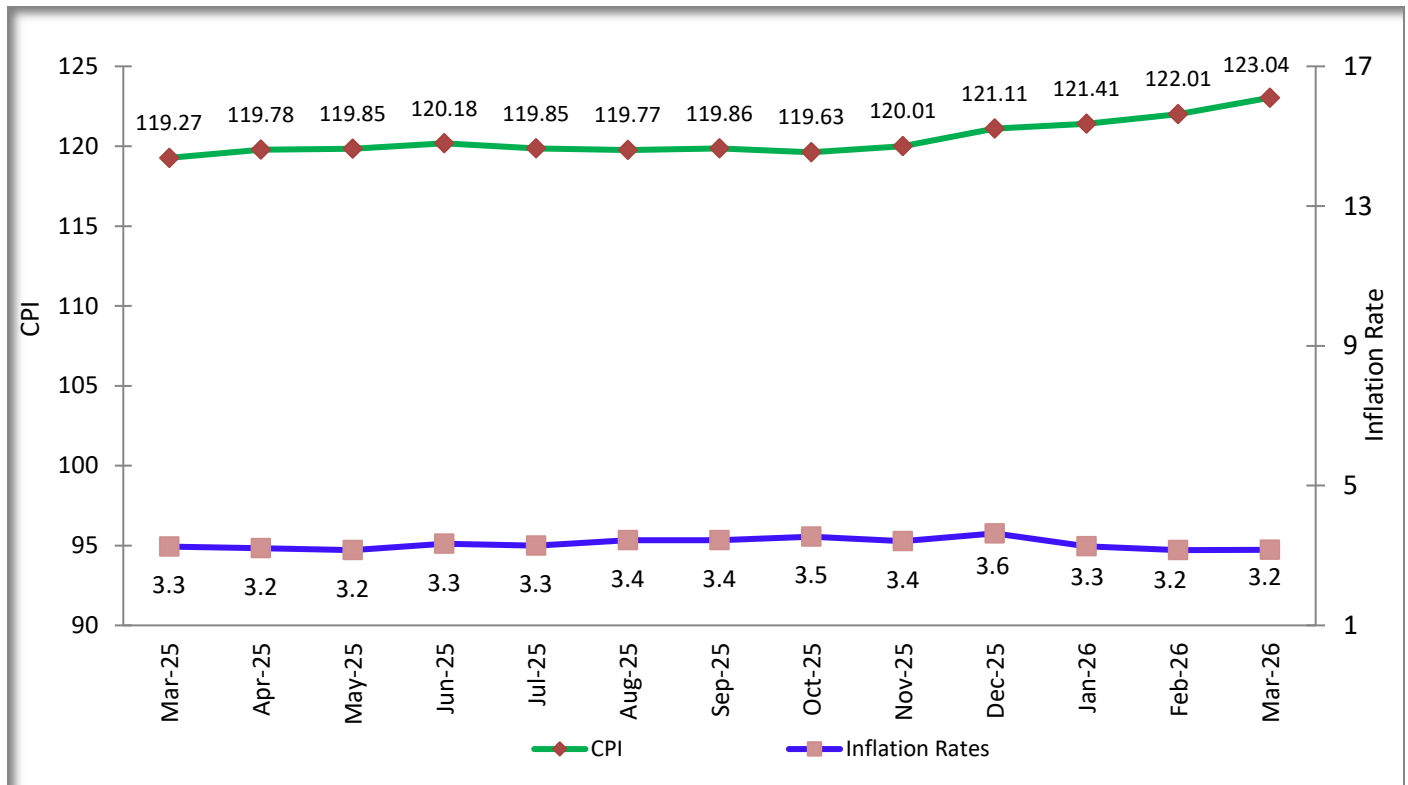


Chart 1 shows that the NCPI recorded relatively stable price movements between March 2025 and March 2026, fluctuating within a narrow range of 119.27 to 123.04. Over the same period, the Annual Headline Inflation Rate remained broadly stable, fluctuating between 3.2 percent and 3.6 percent.

3. MONTHLY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN FEBRUARY 2026 AND MARCH, 2026

Between February 2026 and March 2026, the National Consumer Price Index increased from 122.01 to 123.04. This increase in the overall index is mainly attributed to the increase of prices for some food and non-food items. Food items contributing to an increase included: wheat grains (by 0.8%); rice (by 2.6%); sorghum grains (by 2.0%); finger millet grains (by 2.3%); maize grains (by 1.3%); wheat flour (by 0.3%); sorghum flour (by 2.2%); maize flour (by 1.0%); bread and bakery products (by 1.3%); beef (by 0.4%); fresh fish (by 2.4%); dried sardines (by 4.3%); raw milk of cattle (by 0.6%); fruits (by 3.8%); groundnuts (by 0.5%); vegetables (by 3.8%); Irish potatoes (by 5.1%); sweet potatoes (by 4.5%); fresh cassava (by 8.2%); cooking bananas (by 2.3%); dried beans (by 1.7%); dried lentils (by 1.9%); dried peas (by 0.3%) and cassava flour (by 2.5%).

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Non-food items contributing to an increase included: clothing materials (by 0.9%); garments for men (by 1.2%); garments for women (by 0.4%); footwear for men and women (by 0.2%); products and materials for the maintenance of the dwelling (by 0.3%); kerosene (by 2.2%); charcoal (by 4.1%); household furniture (by 0.1%); household appliances (by 0.2%); diesel (by 4.7%); petrol (by 2.5%); and food and beverage serving services (by 0.4%).

Table 2: NCPI Release Schedule for Subsequent Months

NCPI Release Months	Release date
April, 2026	08 th May, 2026
May, 2026	08 th June, 2026
June, 2026	08 th July, 2026