



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



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

In reply please quote:

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PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (NCPI) FOR MAY, 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 MAY, 2026 STANDS AT 4.2 PERCENT**Table 1: Changes in the NCPI for May 2026, (2020 = 100)**

S/N	Main Groups	Weight	May., 2025	April., 2026	May., 2026	1 Month Percent Change	12 Month Percent Change
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	28.2	130.60	138.12	137.93	-0.1	5.6
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.9	112.28	114.74	114.66	-0.1	2.1
3	Clothing and footwear	10.8	114.71	116.35	116.45	0.1	1.5
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	15.1	119.08	120.93	119.96	-0.8	0.7
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	7.9	115.55	118.35	118.46	0.1	2.5
6	Health	2.5	109.53	111.03	111.08	0.0	1.4
7	Transport	14.1	119.59	130.68	133.80	2.4	11.9
8	Information and communication	5.4	106.22	107.18	107.15	0.0	0.9
9	Recreation, sport and culture	1.6	111.19	111.93	111.92	0.0	0.7
10	Education services	2.0	112.16	115.03	115.18	0.1	2.7
11	Restaurants and accommodation services	6.6	117.27	119.13	119.54	0.3	1.9
12	Insurance and financial services	2.1	102.43	102.59	102.61	0.0	0.2
13	Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services	2.1	118.07	122.15	122.22	0.1	3.5
TOTAL – ALL ITEMS INDEX		100.0	119.85	124.61	124.90	0.2	4.2
Other Selected Groups							
1	Core Index	73.9	115.84	119.29	119.77	0.4	3.4
2	Non-Core Index	26.1	131.23	139.73	139.46	-0.2	6.3
3	Energy, Fuel and Utilities Index	5.7	134.11	141.15	140.79	-0.3	5.0
4	Services Index	37.2	112.59	117.07	117.89	0.7	4.7
5	Goods Index	62.8	124.14	129.09	129.05	0.0	4.0
6	Education services and products ancillary to education Index	4.1	114.40	116.02	116.15	0.1	1.5
7	All items Less Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	71.8	115.63	119.31	119.79	0.4	3.6

2.1 Headline Inflation Rate

The Headline Inflation Rate measures the overall inflation when all items in the fixed CPI basket are included. Table 1 shows that the annual Headline Inflation Rate for May 2026 rose to 4.2 percent from 4.0 percent recorded in April 2026. This increase indicates that the pace of price changes for commodities in the year ending May 2026 has increased compared to the price in the year ended April 2026. The overall index increased from 119.85 in May 2025 to 124.90 in May 2026.

2.2 Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rates

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Inflation Rate for May 2026 has slightly decreased to 5.6 percent from 5.7 percent that was recorded in April 2026. Furthermore, inflation rate for all items excluding food and non-alcoholic beverages for May 2026 has increased to 3.6 percent from 3.3 percent recorded in April 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 May 2026, Core Inflation Rate has increased to 3.4 percent from 3.1 percent that was recorded in April 2026.

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

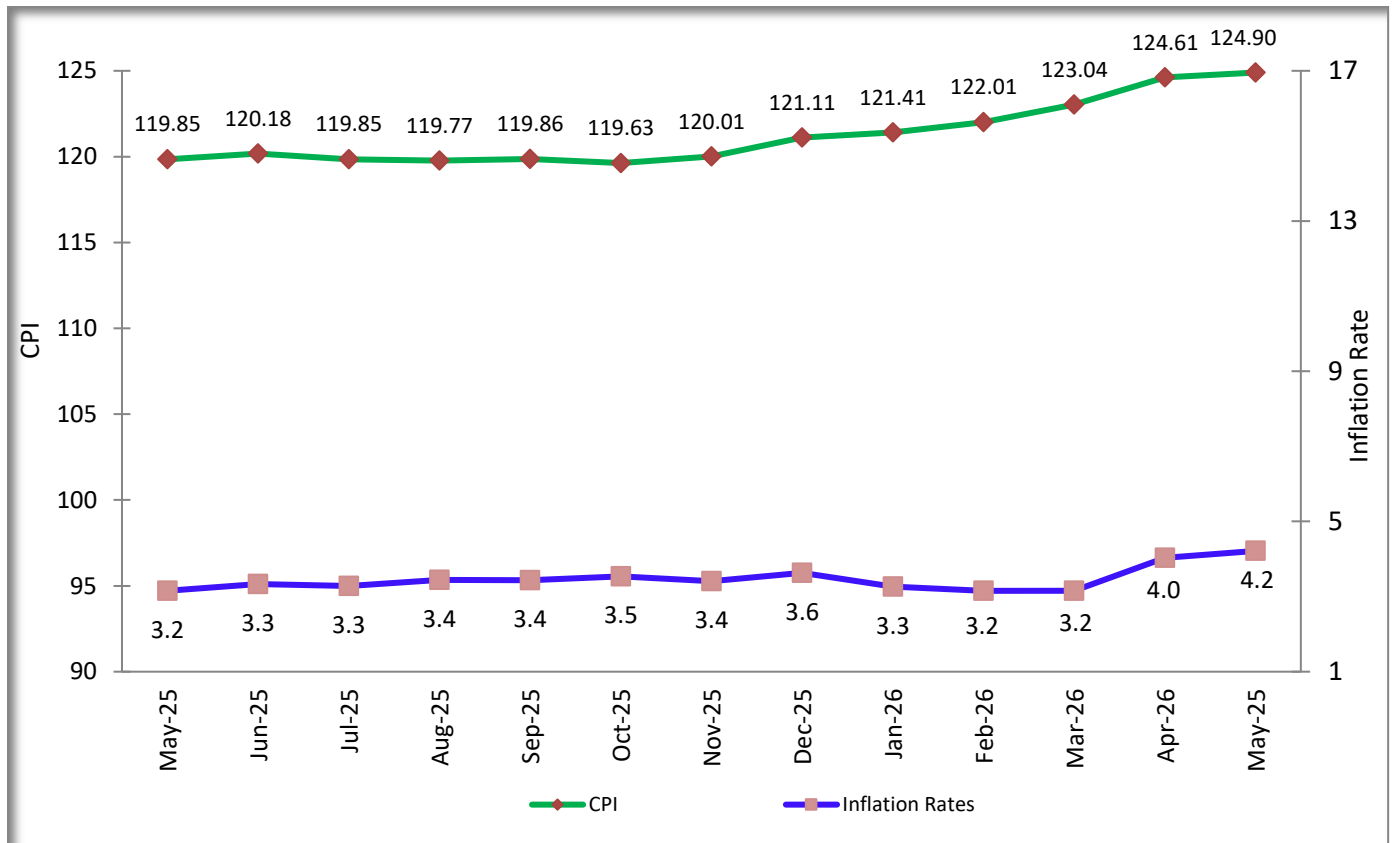


Chart 1 shows that the NCPI recorded relatively stable price movements between May 2025 and May 2026, fluctuating within a narrow range of 119.85 to 124.90. Over the same period, the Annual Headline Inflation Rate remained broadly stable, fluctuating between 3.2 percent and 4.2 percent.

3. MONTHLY CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BETWEEN APRIL 2026 AND MAY, 2026

Between April 2026 and May 2026, the National Consumer Price Index increased from 124.61 to 124.90. 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: rice (by 0.4%); maize flour (by 0.4%); bread (by 1.3%); beef without bones (by 1.7%); meat of poultry (by 1.4%); dried sardines (dagaa) (by 0.6%); milk of cattle (by 1.0%); eggs of hen (by 0.3%); dried beans (by 1.4%); dried peas (by 0.4%); sugar (by 2.3%) and soft drinks (by 0.5%);

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Non-food items contributing to an increase included: garments for women (by 0.1%); garments for children (by 0.2%); gas (by 3.9%); kerosene (by 3.9%); diesel (by 13.8%); petrol (by 10.4%); bus fare (by 3.0%); taxi fare (by 3.0%); motorcycles/ bodaboda fare (by 4.4%); food and beverage serving services (by 0.4%) and personal care (by 0.3%).

Table 2: NCPI Release Schedule for Subsequent Months

NCPI Release Months	Release date
June, 2026	08 th July, 2026
July, 2026	10 th August, 2026
August, 2026	08 th September, 2026