



SPECIAL RELEASE

SUMMARY INFLATION REPORT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE BOTTOM 30% INCOME HOUSEHOLDS (2018 – Base Year)

MARCH 2025

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Table 1. Year-on-Year Inflation Rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households
by Province and HUC, Eastern Visayas:
March 2024, February 2025, March 2025, and Year-to-date
(In percent, 2018 – Base Year)

Area	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	Year-to- date*
Philippines	4.6	1.5	1.1	1.7
Eastern Visayas	4.5	0.5	0.2	0.5
Biliran	5.8	0.7	0.7	0.5
Eastern Samar	1.7	1.0	3.1	2.3
Leyte	4.7	1.0	0.3	0.6
Northern Samar	3.8	-0.5	-0.6	-0.3
Samar	5.4	-0.5	-1.2	-0.6
Southern Leyte	5.8	0.6	0.2	0.8
<i>Tacloban City</i>	5.4	0.4	-0.5	0.1

Note:

*Year-on-year change of average CPI for March 2025 vs. 2024.

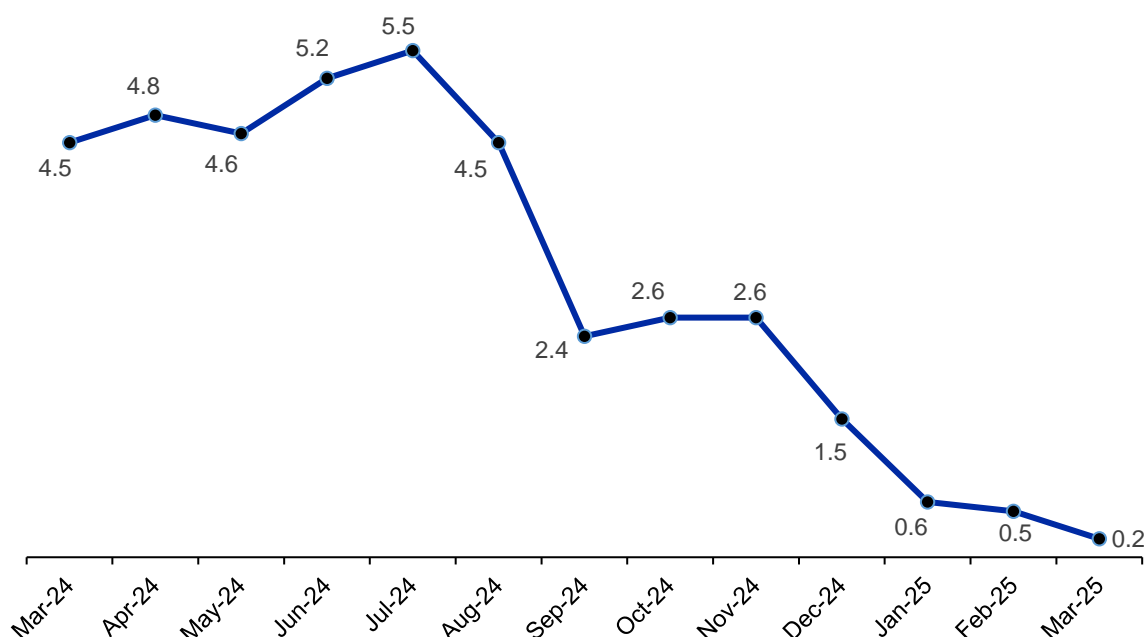
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Eastern Visayas

The Inflation Rate (IR) for the bottom 30% income households in Eastern Visayas continued to slow down to 0.2 percent in March 2025 from 0.5 percent in February 2025. This brings the regional average IR from January to March 2025 to 0.5 percent. Moreover, the regional IR for this income group was lower than the 1.1 percent national IR recorded in March 2025. The region's IR for the bottom 30% income households in March 2024 was higher at 4.5 percent (Tables 1 and 2).



Figure 1. Year-on-Year Inflation Rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households,
Eastern Visayas: March 2024 to March 2025
(In percent, 2018 – Base Year)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Main Drivers of the Downtrend of the Regional Inflation

The main driver to the deceleration of the regional inflation for the bottom 30% income households in March 2025 was the faster annual price decrease in the heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages commodity group recorded at 1.2 percent from 0.2 annual price decrease in February 2025. This was followed by the 0.2 percent annual price decrease registered in transport commodity group in March 2025 from 0.7 percent IR in the previous month.

In addition, slower IRs were noted in the following commodity groups during the month:

- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, 1.2 percent from 1.3 percent;
- Recreation, sport and culture, 1.8 percent from 2.0 percent; and
- Information and communication, 0.2 percent from 0.3 percent.

On the other hand, compared with their IRs in February 2025, higher IRs were observed in the following commodity groups:

- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 3.9 percent from 3.8 percent;
- Clothing and footwear, 1.0 percent from 0.9 percent;
- Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, 4.6 percent from 1.4 percent;
- Health, 1.9 percent from 1.4 percent; and
- Personal care and miscellaneous goods and services, 1.4 percent from 1.3 percent.

Meanwhile, education services and restaurants and accommodation services commodity groups retained their previous month's IR at 12.7 percent and 0.8 percent, respectively. The IR for financial services remained at zero percent during the month (Table 3).

Main Contributors to the Regional Inflation

The top three commodity groups that contributed to the March 2025 regional IR for the bottom 30% income households were the following:

- a. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels with 252.1 percent share or 0.50 percentage point;
- b. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco with 50.5 percent share or 0.10 percentage point; and
- c. Personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services, with 24.4 percent or 0.05 percentage point.

Food Inflation

Food inflation for the bottom 30% income households in Eastern Visayas recorded a faster annual price decline of 1.5 percent in March 2025 from 0.3 percent IR in February 2025. In March 2024, food inflation for this income group was posted at 8.3 percent (Table 3).

The decrease of food IR for the bottom 30% income households was primarily brought about by the faster annual price decrease in rice at 9.4 percent in March 2025, from a 6.7 percent annual price decrease in February 2025. The annual price decrease of fruits and nuts commodity group at 0.1 percent during the month, from 4.9 percent in February 2025 also contributed to the downtrend of the food IR. Fish and other seafood commodity group also recorded slower IR at 4.4 percent in March 2025, from 5.1 percent in the previous month.

In addition, the following food groups recorded slower IRs during the month in review:

- a. Milk, other dairy products and eggs, 1.8 percent from 2.4 percent;
- b. Ready-made food and other food products not elsewhere classified, 5.8 percent from 6.1 percent; and
- c. Flour, bread and other bakery products, pasta products, and other cereals, 1.7 percent from 1.9 percent.

In contrast, higher IRs were observed in the following food groups in March 2025 compared with their IRs in February 2025:

- a. Corn, 2.5 percent from 1.4 percent;
- b. Meat, and other parts of slaughtered land animals, 5.5 percent from 3.9 percent; and
- c. Vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses, 6.2 percent from 5.4 percent.

Moreover, oils and fats registered an annual price increase of 0.1 IR in March 2025, from 0.1 percent annual price decrease in the previous month. Sugar, confectionery and desserts recorded slower annual price decrease at 0.3 percent in March 2025 from 2.4 percent annual price decrease in February 2025.

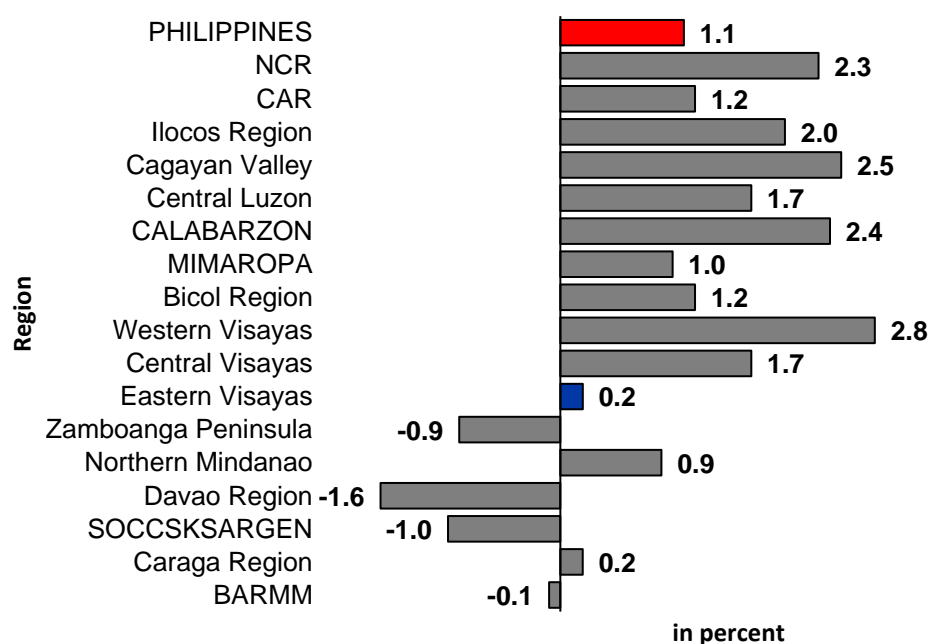
Main Contributors to the Food Inflation

The annual price decrease in food pulled down the regional IR for the bottom 30% income household in March 2025 by 0.65 percentage point. The food groups with the highest contribution to the annual price decrease in food during the month were the following:

- Cereals and cereal products, which includes rice, corn, flour, bread, and other bakery products, pasta products, and other cereals, with 245.7 percent share or -3.69 percentage points; and
- Sugar, confectionery and desserts, with 0.6 percent share or -0.01 percentage point.

Inflation Rate by Region

Figure 2. Year-on-Year Inflation Rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households
by Region: March 2025
(In percent, 2018 – Base Year)



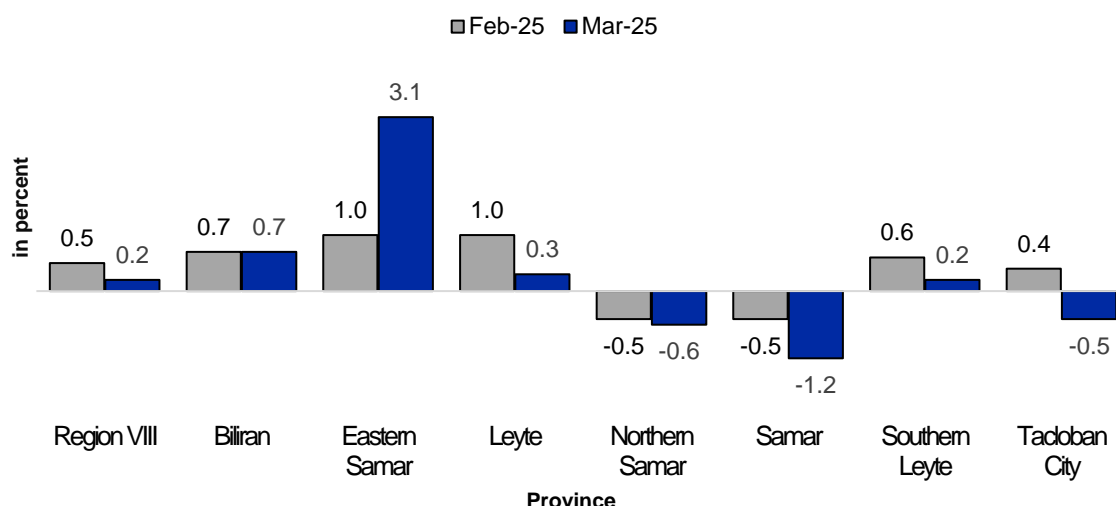
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

In comparison with their IRs in February 2025, 14 regions registered lower IRs for the bottom 30% income households in March 2025, two (2) regions recorded higher IRs while the remaining one (1) retained its previous month's IR. Eastern Visayas' IR for the bottom 30% income household at 0.2 percent ranked fifth among the regions with low IRs during the month in review and was at par with Caraga Region.

In March 2025, the lowest IR for this income group was observed in Davao Region at 1.6 percent annual decrement, while the highest IR was recorded in Western Visayas at 2.8 percent (Figure 2 and Table 4).

Inflation Rate by Province

Figure 3. Year-on-Year Inflation Rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households by Province/HUC, Eastern Visayas: February 2025 to March 2025
(In Percent, 2018 – Base Year)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Relative to their IRs for the bottom 30% income households in February 2025, The lone Highly Urbanized City of Tacloban and four (4) provinces, namely, Leyte, Northern Samar, Samar, and Southern Leyte recorded lower IRs in March 2025. Eastern Samar registered higher IR, while Biliran retained its previous month's IR. For this income group, Eastern Samar registered the highest IR among the provinces at 3.1 percent. This was followed by Biliran at 0.7 percent, Leyte at 0.3 percent, Southern Leyte at 0.2 percent, and Northern Samar with 0.6 percent annual price drop off. The lowest IR for this income group was noted in Samar at an annual price decrease of 1.2 percent. Meanwhile, Tacloban City recorded 0.5 percent annual price decrease in March 2025. (Figure 3 and Table 5)

Table 2. Year-on-Year Inflation Rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households,
Eastern Visayas: January 2020 to March 2025
(In Percent, 2018 – Base Year)

Month	Year					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	0.2	2.7	5.3	7.5	5.6	0.6
February	0.2	3.6	5.4	6.8	5.4	0.5
March	0.4	3.8	5.3	7.3	4.5	0.2
April	0.3	4.2	5.9	6.0	4.8	
May	1.0	4.7	5.8	5.4	4.6	
June	0.9	4.9	6.6	4.2	5.2	
July	1.7	4.6	7.3	3.5	5.5	
August	2.5	4.7	7.2	3.8	4.5	
September	3.0	4.7	6.8	6.3	2.4	
October	2.4	5.2	7.9	5.0	2.6	
November	2.5	4.7	8.7	4.7	2.6	
December	3.4	3.9	8.5	5.6	1.5	
Average	1.5	4.3	6.7	5.5	4.1	0.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 3. Consumer Price Index and Year-on-Year Inflation Rate
for the Bottom 30% Income Households by Commodity Group,
Eastern Visayas: March 2024, February 2025, March 2025
(2018 – Base Year)

Commodity Group	CPI			Inflation Rate (%)		
	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
ALL ITEMS	125.0	126.0	125.3	4.5	0.5	0.2
I. FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	129.5	129.6	128.0	7.8	-0.2	-1.2
*Food	130.6	130.5	128.7	8.3	-0.3	-1.5
Cereals and Cereal Products	124.2	117.7	115.0	21.9	-5.2	-7.4
Cereals	123.4	115.4	112.2	25.8	-6.5	-9.0
Rice	123.7	115.5	112.1	26.6	-6.7	-9.4
Corn	112.3	113.1	115.1	4.9	1.4	2.5
Flour, Bread and Other Bakery Products, Pasta Products, and Other Cereals	128.9	130.8	131.1	4.2	1.9	1.7
Meat and Other Parts of Slaughtered Land Animals	135.1	140.4	142.5	-2.2	3.9	5.5
Fish and Other Seafood	130.9	138.2	136.7	-4.7	5.1	4.4
Milk, Other Dairy Products, and Eggs	133.3	136.4	135.7	5.0	2.4	1.8
Oils and Fats	134.1	134.1	134.2	-1.2	-0.1	0.1
Fruits and Nuts	164.1	167.2	164.0	11.9	4.9	-0.1
Vegetables, Tubers, Plantains, Cooking Bananas and Pulses	145.8	158.8	154.9	-7.8	5.4	6.2
Sugar, Confectionery and Desserts	148.9	147.9	148.4	-2.5	-2.4	-0.3
Ready-Made Food and Other Food Products N.E.C.	128.8	136.7	136.3	3.4	6.1	5.8
*Non-alcoholic Beverages	115.9	118.3	118.8	2.7	2.2	2.5

Table 3 - Continued

Commodity Group	CPI			Inflation Rate (%)		
	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
II. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	150.5	155.8	156.4	8.7	3.8	3.9
Alcoholic Beverages	124.4	127.6	127.6	3.2	3.0	2.6
Tobacco	168.4	175.3	176.3	11.7	4.3	4.7
Other Vegetable-Based Tobacco Products	144.2	144.2	144.2	6.2	-	-
NON-FOOD	116.4	118.6	119.1	-1.0	1.3	2.3
III. CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	113.1	113.9	114.2	0.7	0.9	1.0
Clothing	110.8	111.2	111.5	0.5	0.5	0.6
Footwear	122.4	124.3	124.3	2.3	2.0	1.6
IV. HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	110.8	114.8	115.9	-6.2	1.4	4.6
Actual Rentals for Housing	118.3	118.5	118.5	0.4	-	0.2
Maintenance, Repair and Security of the Dwelling	112.9	113.5	113.4	-0.1	0.6	0.4
Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling	104.2	104.7	104.7	5.3	0.5	0.5
Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	108.8	114.4	116.0	-9.1	2.1	6.6
V. FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	111.5	112.8	112.8	1.8	1.3	1.2
Furniture and Furnishings, and Loose Carpets	112.3	112.8	112.8	2.6	-	0.4
Household Textiles	104.4	104.2	104.2	-0.9	-0.5	-0.2
Household Appliances	108.8	108.2	108.2	0.2	-0.5	-0.6
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	108.6	109.8	109.9	2.0	1.3	1.2
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	117.3	117.9	118.0	3.5	0.6	0.6
Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance	111.9	113.4	113.5	2.0	1.4	1.4
VI. HEALTH	113.5	115.4	115.6	1.4	1.4	1.9
Medicines and Health Products	111.1	113.0	113.2	1.6	1.3	1.9
Outpatient Care Services	120.0	123.1	123.1	-0.3	2.6	2.6
Inpatient Care Services	125.7	126.1	126.1	2.4	0.5	0.3
Other Health Services	138.2	138.6	138.6	1.3	0.3	0.3
VII. TRANSPORT	127.6	127.8	127.4	1.8	0.7	-0.2
Purchase of Vehicles	110.2	110.5	110.5	2.9	0.3	0.3
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	136.9	133.6	129.6	2.9	-1.8	-5.3
Passenger Transport Services	129.4	130.9	131.8	0.9	1.8	1.9
Transport Services of Goods	105.7	105.7	105.7	1.2	-	-
VIII. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	100.8	101.0	101.0	0.2	0.3	0.2
Information and Communication Equipment	88.7	89.3	89.5	0.3	0.9	0.9
Information and Communication Services	103.2	103.4	103.4	0.1	0.2	0.2

Note:

- Zero inflation rate or no price change.

Table 3 - Continued

Commodity Group	CPI			Inflation Rate (%)		
	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
IX. RECREATION, SPORT AND CULTURE	114.4	116.4	116.5	4.2	2.0	1.8
Recreational Durables	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Recreational Goods	103.5	104.3	104.3	-0.2	0.8	0.8
Garden Products and Pets	116.8	118.6	118.6	5.2	1.6	1.5
Recreational Services	92.4	92.4	92.4	-	-	-
Cultural Goods	102.6	102.6	102.6	-	-	-
Cultural Services	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newspapers, Books and Stationery	120.3	123.0	123.2	5.2	2.6	2.4
Package Holidays	...	...	...	...	-	-
X. EDUCATION SERVICES	110.6	124.6	124.6	2.1	12.7	12.7
Early Childhood and Primary Education	104.3	137.1	137.1	0.1	31.4	31.4
Secondary Education	116.0	142.3	142.3	4.1	22.7	22.7
Tertiary Education	110.8	114.0	114.0	2.0	2.9	2.9
Education Not Defined by Level	...	...	...	...	...	...
XI. RESTAURANTS AND ACCOMMODATION SERVICES	133.5	134.3	134.6	3.6	0.8	0.8
Food and Beverage Serving Services	133.5	134.3	134.6	3.6	0.8	0.8
Accommodation Services	...	...	...	...	...	...
XII. FINANCIAL SERVICES	146.7	146.7	146.7	-0.1	-	-
Financial Services	146.7	146.7	146.7	-0.1	-	-
XIII. PERSONAL CARE, AND MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	116.1	117.4	117.7	3.0	1.3	1.4
Personal Care	116.6	118.0	118.3	3.1	1.4	1.5
Other Personal Effects	110.9	111.2	111.4	2.1	0.4	0.5
Other Services	101.3	101.3	101.3	0.5	-	-

Notes:

- Zero inflation rate or no price change.

... Data not available

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 4. Consumer Price Index and Year-on-Year Inflation Rate
for the Bottom 30% Income Households by Region:
March 2024, February 2025, March 2025
(2018 – Base Year)

Region	CPI			Inflation Rate (%)		
	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
Philippines	128.5	130.3	129.9	4.6	1.5	1.1
NCR	124.6	128.0	127.5	4.2	2.7	2.3
CAR	126.8	128.4	128.3	5.1	1.5	1.2
Ilocos Region	127.0	130.2	129.5	4.0	2.4	2.0
Cagayan Valley	126.1	130.4	129.2	3.6	3.7	2.5
Central Luzon	133.3	136.4	135.5	6.0	1.9	1.7
CALABARZON	126.8	130.1	129.8	4.4	3.0	2.4
MIMAROPA	134.3	134.4	135.6	5.6	1.6	1.0
Bicol Region	132.3	134.9	133.9	5.4	2.0	1.2
Western Visayas	129.6	132.7	133.2	3.8	2.4	2.8
Central Visayas	126.3	128.8	128.5	3.3	1.7	1.7
Eastern Visayas	125.0	126.0	125.3	4.5	0.5	0.2
Zamboanga Peninsula	125.6	125.3	124.5	5.0	0.4	-0.9
Northern Mindanao	128.2	130.2	129.4	4.8	1.8	0.9
Davao Region	130.1	128.2	128.0	5.3	-1.5	-1.6
SOCCSKSARGEN	129.2	128.1	127.9	5.1	-1.1	-1.0
Caraga Region	129.1	129.3	129.3	4.4	0.3	0.2
BARMM	127.3	126.9	127.2	4.7	0.1	-0.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 5. Consumer Price Index and Year-on-Year Inflation Rate
for the Bottom 30% Income Households by Province/HUC,
Eastern Visayas: March 2024, February 2025, March 2025
(2018 – Base Year)

Province/HUC	CPI			Inflation Rate (%)		
	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25	Mar-24	Feb-25	Mar-25
Eastern Visayas	125.0	126.0	125.3	4.5	0.5	0.2
Biliran	123.4	124.5	124.3	5.8	0.7	0.7
Eastern Samar	123.0	126.6	126.8	1.7	1.0	3.1
Leyte	124.4	125.5	124.8	4.7	1.0	0.3
Northern Samar	122.2	122.1	121.5	3.8	-0.5	-0.6
Samar	129.8	129.9	128.2	5.4	-0.5	-1.2
Southern Leyte	124.6	125.1	124.8	5.8	0.6	0.2
<i>Tacloban City</i>	123.9	124.3	123.3	5.4	0.4	-0.5

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

TECHNICAL NOTES

The CPI for the bottom 30% income households is compiled by the PSA to measure the changes of prices of commodities commonly purchased by the families that belong to the bottom 30% income decile. The process of price collection and CPI computation is the same as that of the CPI for all income households. However, there is a separate market basket and weights for the CPI for the bottom 30% income households.

BASE YEAR - is a period at which the index number is set to 100. It is the reference point of the index number series. The CPI is rebased from 2012 to 2018.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) - is an indicator of the change in the average prices of a fixed basket of goods and services commonly purchased by households relative to a base year.

DEFLATION - is the decline in prices for goods and services that happens when the inflation rate dips below zero percent.

INFLATION RATE (IR) - is the annual rate of change or the year-on-year changes in CPI. It indicates how fast or how slow price changes over two time periods (year-on-year). Contrary to common knowledge, low inflation does not necessarily connote that prices of commodities are falling. It means that prices continue to increase but at a slower rate.

MARKET BASKET - refers to a sample of goods and services commonly purchased by the households. The market basket for CPI was updated using the results of the 2021 Survey of Key Informants (SKI). The commodities included in the 2018-based CPI market basket were the modal commodities which were considered as the most commonly purchased/availed commodities by the households. The commodities in the 2018-based CPI market basket were grouped/classified according to the 2020 Philippine Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (PCOICOP).

MONITORING OF PRICES - involves establishing baseline information for the prices of the items in the base year and monitoring the prices of the items on a regular basis. Data collection for the CPI is done by the provincial office twice a month, except for petroleum products which are monitored on a weekly basis, every Friday. First collection phase is done during the first five days of the month while the second phase is on the 15th to 17th day of the month.

PURCHASING POWER OF PESO (PPP) - gives an indication of the real value of peso (how much it is worth) in a given period relative to its value in the base period. It is computed as the reciprocal of CPI multiplied by 100.

RETAIL PRICE - refers to the actual price at which retailers sell a commodity on spot or earliest delivery, usually in small quantities for consumption and not for resale. It is confined to transactions on cash basis in the free market and excludes underground prices and prices of commodities that are on sale as in summer sales, anniversary sales, Christmas sales, etc.

WEIGHTS - is a value attached to a commodity or group of commodities to indicate the relative importance of that commodity or group of commodities in the market basket. The weights for the 2018-based CPI were derived from the expenditure data of the 2018 Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES). The weight for each commodity/group of commodities is the proportion of the expenditure commodity/group of commodities to the total national expenditure. The sum of the weights of the commodity groups at the national level is equal to 100.


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Regional Director