

KENYA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



CONSUMER PRICE INDICES AND INFLATION RATES FOR MARCH 2018

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics hereby releases monthly Consumer Price Indices (CPI) and rates of inflation, for March, 2018. These numbers were generated by conducting a survey of retail prices for a basket of household consumption goods and services, during the second and third weeks of the month under review. The prices were obtained from selected retail outlets in 25 data collection zones spread across Nairobi and 13 other urban centers.

As shown in Tables 1 and 2, the CPI increased by 1.39 per cent from 188.00 in February 2018 to 190.62 in March 2018. The overall year on year inflation stood at 4.18 per cent in March 2018.

Table 1: One Month and Twelve Months' Changes in the Price Indices

Broad Commodity Group	Weight	% Change on last month (March 2018/February 2018)	% Change on same month of previous year (March 2018/March 2017)
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	36.04	1.54	2.19
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	2.06	0.25	2.55
Clothing and Footwear	7.43	0.17	3.85
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	18.3	3.78	8.98
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	6.16	0.22	4.25
Health	3.13	0.00	3.29
Transport	8.66	-0.06	6.61
Communication	3.82	0.00	0.81
Recreation and Culture	2.25	0.07	1.43
Education	3.14	0.00	5.08
Restaurant and Hotels	4.48	0.08	6.61
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.52	0.32	4.61
Total	100	1.39	4.18

Table 2: Overall CPI and Inflation Rates

Base: February 2009=100

Month	Overall CPI	Inflation Rate
Mar 2017	182.98	10.28
Apr 2017	186.24	11.48
May 2017	187.64	11.7
Jun 2017	185.39	9.21
Jul 2017	183.6	7.47
Aug 2017	184.72	8.04
Sep 2017	183.66	7.06
Oct 2017	182.5	5.72
Nov 2017	182.08	4.73
Dec 2017	183.05	4.50
Jan 2018	185.47	4.83
Feb 2018	188.00	4.46
Mar 2018	190.62	4.18

Table 3: National Average Retail Prices of Selected Commodities

Commodity name	Units	March 2017	Feb 2018	March 2018	% Change over a month ago	% Change over a Year ago
Onions	1 Kg	118.78	147.49	167.58	13.62	41.08
Kale-Sukuma Wiki	1 Kg	58.09	53.06	56.10	5.72	16.60
Potatoes (Irish)	1 Kg	98.42	60.07	61.49	3.11	-17.46
Tomatoes	1 Kg	91.01	98.82	101.16	2.36	1.46
Mangoes	1 Kg	118.06	95.45	98.11	2.79	-16.89
Carrots	1 Kg	78.18	56.97	58.91	3.41	-24.65
Cabbages	1 Kg	77.81	40.97	41.63	1.61	-32.32
Sugar	1 Kg	132.82	131.02	131.19	0.13	-5.75
Maize Grain - Loose	1 Kg	51.78	61.75	61.51	-0.39	18.80
Maize Flour - Sifted	2 Kg	132.36	125.03	124.51	-0.41	9.91
Wheat Flour	2 Kg	125.85	125.03	123.67	-1.09	4.18
Milk - Fresh Unpacketed	1000 ml	58.64	61.49	61.17	-0.51	4.32
Charcoal	4 Kg	79.81	84.49	107.36	27.07	34.52
Electricity	50 Kw/h	569.61	682.21	730.93	7.14	28.32
Electricity	200 Kw/h	3,616.82	4,067.22	4,262.10	4.79	17.84
Rent	1 Room	4,099.63	4,291.93	4,298.98	0.16	4.86
Gas -(LPG)	13 Kg	1,998.70	2,150.20	2,169.19	0.88	8.53
Kerosene	1 litre	68.93	77.71	78.41	0.90	13.76
Diesel	1 litre	91.39	97.92	98.82	0.92	8.13
Petrol	1 litre	101.91	108.79	108.33	-0.42	6.30

Between February and March 2018, Food and Non-Alcoholic Drinks' Index increased by 1.54 per cent. This was mainly due to increase in prices of some foodstuffs which outweighed decreases recorded in respect to others. The year on year food inflation however, decreased from 3.83 per cent in February 2018 to 2.19 per cent in March 2018.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' Index, increased by 3.78 per cent in March 2018 compared to February 2018. As indicated in Table 3, this was mainly attributed to significant increase in prices of cooking fuels. Notable, charcoal recorded a 27.1 per cent increase in price during the review period. The rise in the cost of electricity was attributed to rise in fuel cost adjustment charges per KWh of consumption.

During the same review period, the Transport Index decreased by 0.06 per cent mainly on account of reduction in pump prices of petrol.