

Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives
PAKISTAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

PRESS RELEASE ON CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) INFLATION
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH, 2026

Indicators	Base Year 2015-16 (%)
Inflation Rate, March, 2026 over February, 2026 (Month on Month)	1.18
Inflation Rate, March, 2026 over March, 2025 (Year on Year)	7.30
Average Inflation Rate, July- March, 2025-26 over July- March, 2024-25	5.67

Analysis of Consumer Price Index (CPI) Base Year (2015-16)

1. The CPI on new base (2015-16) comprises of urban CPI and Rural CPI. The Urban CPI covers 35 cities and 356 consumer items. The Rural CPI covers 27 Rural Centers and 244 consumer items. In the base year (2015-16) National CPI for 12 major groups is also computed by taking weighted average of Urban CPI and Rural CPI.

Monthly Analysis [March, 2026 over February, 2026]

2. CPI National for the month of **March, 2026** increased by **1.18%** over **February, 2026**. The Urban CPI recorded an increase of **1.34%** while Rural CPI recorded an increase of **0.96%**.

Group	NATIONAL				URBAN				RURAL			
	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change
		Mar, 2026	Mar, 2026			Mar, 2026	Feb, 2026			Mar, 2026	Feb, 2026	
General	100.00	285.73	282.39	1.18	100.00	281.87	278.15	1.34	100.00	291.55	288.78	0.96
Food & non-alcoholic Beverages	34.58	288.22	289.14	-0.32	30.42	284.32	284.29	0.01	40.87	292.61	294.59	-0.67
Non-perishable food items	29.60	299.87	301.93	-0.68	25.97	295.00	295.92	-0.31	35.08	305.32	308.65	-1.08
Perishable food items	4.99	219.07	213.21	2.75	4.46	222.03	216.49	2.56	5.79	215.63	209.40	2.98
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco	1.02	402.41	401.38	0.26	0.85	426.28	425.08	0.28	1.28	378.34	377.49	0.23
Clothing and footwear	8.60	274.01	271.19	1.04	8.01	262.74	260.80	0.74	9.48	288.37	284.44	1.38
Housing, Water, Elec., Gas & other fuels	23.63	266.40	262.35	1.54	27.03	273.89	270.49	1.26	18.49	249.88	244.39	2.25
Furnishing & HH equipment maintenance	4.10	286.14	284.50	0.58	4.09	274.82	273.11	0.63	4.10	303.19	301.65	0.51
Health	2.79	289.16	288.52	0.22	2.31	289.27	288.28	0.34	3.51	289.05	288.76	0.10
Transport	5.91	346.13	309.69	11.77	6.14	340.79	303.91	12.14	5.56	355.04	319.33	11.18
Communication	2.21	135.97	135.75	0.16	2.35	139.25	139.11	0.10	1.99	130.13	129.76	0.29
Recreation and culture	1.59	265.15	265.16	0.00	1.73	249.70	249.21	0.20	1.38	294.46	295.42	-0.32
Education	3.79	228.85	226.28	1.14	4.88	221.05	218.23	1.29	2.13	255.80	254.06	0.68
Restaurants and hotels	6.92	299.38	298.26	0.37	7.41	294.18	292.50	0.57	6.19	308.76	308.67	0.03
Misc. goods and services	4.87	381.76	381.22	0.14	4.77	369.43	369.72	-0.08	5.02	399.47	397.74	0.43

3. **Top few commodities which varied in March, 2026 from previous month are given below:**

URBAN:

FOOD

Increased: Chicken (13.00%), Fresh Fruits (11.25%), Fresh Vegetables (5.01%), Pulse Mash (2.78%), Meat (1.53%), Sweetmeat (1.49%), Bakery and Confectionary (0.72%), Dry Fruits (0.66%), Wheat Products (0.57%), Readymade Food (0.53%), Mustard Oil (0.50%), Cigarettes (0.22%), Pulse Moong (0.15%), Milk Powder (0.10%), Milk Fresh (0.06%) and Rice (0.06%)

Decreased: Tomatoes (29.16%), Eggs (17.98%), Potatoes (12.02%), Wheat (5.48%), Besan (3.90%), Beverages (3.47%), Gram Whole (3.35%), Wheat Flour (2.83%), Sugar (2.11%), Onions (1.53%), Pulse Masoor (1.37%), Cooking Oil (1.19%), Pulse Gram (0.85%), Fish (0.65%), Condiments and Spices (0.46%), Beans (0.29%), Gur (0.08%), Vegetable Ghee (0.07%) and Milk products (0.03%).

NON-FOOD:

Increased: Motor Fuel (18.01%), Liquified Hydrocarbons(12.63%), Transport Services (9.15%), Electricity Charges (5.08%), Major Tools & Equipments (3.21%), Accommodation Services (2.92%), Electrical Appliances for Personal (2.46%), Postal Services (2.15%), Tailoring (2.04%), Education (1.29%), Mechanical Services (1.29%), Plastic Products(0.92%), Readymade Garments (0.90%) and Household Equipments (0.84%).

Decreased: Personal Effects (0.74%).

RURAL:

FOOD

Increased: Fresh Fruits (14.68%), Fresh Vegetables (6.84%), Chicken (6.76%), Pulse Mash (2.07%), Meat (1.62%), Cooking Oil (1.09%), Pulse Moong (1.08%), Vegetable Ghee (1.07%), Sweetmeat (0.83%), Honey (0.78%), Bakery and Confectionary (0.48%), Cigarettes (0.23%) and Wheat Products (0.13%).

Decreased: Tomatoes (27.47%), Eggs (20.69%), Potatoes (18.02%), Besan (5.34%), Wheat (4.88%), Wheat Flour (4.29%), Pulse Gram (3.47%), Beverages (3.24%), Gram Whole (2.83%), Sugar (2.16%), Beans (1.85%), Pulse Masoor (1.81%), Gur (1.60%) and Onions (1.38%).

NON-FOOD

Increased: Motor Fuels (19.3%), Liquified Hydrocarbons(13.79%), Electricity Charges (5.08%), Transport Services (4.73%), Plastic Products (2.93%), Tailoring (2.72%), Footware (2.06%), Major Tools and Equipments (1.89%), Construction Input Items (1.85%), Dopatta (1.46%) and Cotton Cloth (1.41%).

Decreased: Recreation and Culture (1.23%).

YEARLY ANALYSIS [March, 2026 over March, 2025]

4. CPI National for the month of **March, 2026** increased by **7.30%** over **March, 2025**. The Urban CPI increased by **7.39%** while Rural CPI increased by **7.17%**.

Group	NATIONAL				URBAN				RURAL			
	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change	Weight (%)	INDICES		% Change
		Mar, 2026	Mar, 2025			Mar, 2026	Mar, 2025			Mar, 2026	Mar, 2025	
General	100.00	285.73	266.29	7.30	100.00	281.87	262.48	7.39	100.00	291.55	272.05	7.17
Food & non-alcoholic Beverages	34.58	288.22	278.34	3.55	30.42	284.32	277.04	2.63	40.87	292.61	279.81	4.57
<i>Non-perishable food items</i>	29.60	299.87	285.59	5.00	25.97	295.00	284.44	3.71	35.08	305.32	286.87	6.43
<i>Perishable food items</i>	4.99	219.07	235.33	-6.91	4.46	222.03	233.91	-5.08	5.79	215.63	236.98	-9.01
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco	1.02	402.41	393.38	2.30	0.85	426.28	414.86	2.75	1.28	378.34	371.72	1.78
Clothing and footwear	8.60	274.01	258.98	5.80	8.01	262.74	249.74	5.21	9.48	288.37	270.77	6.50
Housing, Water, Elec., Gas & other fuels	23.63	266.40	238.95	11.49	27.03	273.89	244.31	12.11	18.49	249.88	227.13	10.02
Furnishing & HH equipment maintenance	4.10	286.14	275.38	3.91	4.09	274.82	264.94	3.73	4.10	303.19	291.09	4.16
Health	2.79	289.16	269.34	7.36	2.31	289.27	271.71	6.46	3.51	289.05	266.98	8.27
Transport	5.91	346.13	307.71	12.49	6.14	340.79	302.14	12.79	5.56	355.04	317.00	12.00
Communication	2.21	135.97	134.89	0.80	2.35	139.25	138.38	0.63	1.99	130.13	128.68	1.13
Recreation and culture	1.59	265.15	276.36	-4.06	1.73	249.70	258.99	-3.59	1.38	294.46	309.31	-4.80
Education	3.79	228.85	209.89	9.03	4.88	221.05	203.07	8.85	2.13	255.80	233.45	9.57
Restaurants and hotels	6.92	299.38	284.79	5.12	7.41	294.18	280.73	4.79	6.19	308.76	292.11	5.70
Misc. goods and services	4.87	381.76	313.93	21.61	4.77	369.43	304.14	21.47	5.02	399.47	327.98	21.80

5. Top few commodities which varied in March, 2026 from corresponding month of previous year i.e. March, 2025 are given below:

URBAN:

Food

Increased: Wheat (34.24%), Wheat Flour (23.64%), Butter (14.13%), Meat (11.21%), Dessert Preparation (10.43%), Milk Powder (9.50%), Condiments and Spices (9.30%), Dry Fruits (8.9%), Fish (8.27%), Wheat Products (8.15%), Gur (7.68%), Pan Prepared (7.49%), Rice (5.92%), Fresh Fruits (5.91%), Sweetmeat (5.87%), Bakery and Confectionary (5.22%), Readymade Food (4.24%), Milk Products (2.96%), Milk Fresh (2.46%), Vegetable Ghee (2.08%), Cooking Oil (2.00%), Cigarettes (1.75%) and Pulse Mash(1.18%).

Decreased: Potatoes (43.17%), Eggs (24.95%), Chicken (20.34%), Besan (18.92%), Pulse Gram (18.64%), Gram Whole (17.07%), Sugar (11.79%), Pulse Masoor (11.76%), Beans (7.83%), Tomatoes (5.41%), Fresh vegetables (4.89%), Onions (3.98%), Pulse Moong (3.7%), Tea (0.96% and Mustard Oil (0.23%).

NON-FOOD:

Increased: Personal Effects (56.52%), Liquified Hydrocarbons (23.46%), Gas Charges (22.91%), Motor Fuel (18.22%), Postal Services (14.98%), Electricity Charges (14.22%) and Newspapers (11.93%).

Decreased: Text books (9.60%).

RURAL:

Food

Increased: Wheat (38.81%), Wheat Flour (34.8%), Meat (11.01%), Dessert Preparation (10.52%), Wheat Products (10.34%), Dry Fruits (10.19%), Butter (9.37%), Milk Powder (8.85%), Gur (6.93%), Bakery and Confectionary (6.53%), Pan Prepared (6.15%), Fish (6.14%) and Milk Fresh (5.32%).

Decreased: Potatoes (54.47%), Chicken (24.01%), Eggs (22.63%), Besan (18.43%), Pulse Gram (17.34%), Gram Whole (15.77%), Sugar (11.25%), Pulse Masoor (9.62%), Onions (5.14%), Tea (5.14%), Tomatoes (4.01%), Pulse Mash (3.46%), Pulse Moong (1.5%) and Fresh Vegetables (1.50%).

NON-FOOD

Increased: Personal Effects (50.31%), Liquified Hydrocarbons (19.77%), Motor Fuels (19.46%), Dental Services (17.58%), Newspapers (16.67%), Electricity Charges (14.22%), Doctor Clinic Fee (14.10%), Personal Grooming Services (10.59%), Plastic Products (10.42%), Medical Tests (10.11%), Construction Input Items (9.95%), Education (9.57%), Hospitals Services (9.44%) and Household Textiles (8.64%).

Decreased: Text Books(14.52%).

PERIOD - AVERAGE INFLATION RATE [July-March, 2025-26 over July- March, 2024-25]

6. CPI National for the period **July-March (2025-26)** increased by **5.67%** over **July-March (2024-25)**. The Urban CPI recorded an increase of **5.71%** while Rural CPI recorded an increase of **5.61%**.

Group	NATIONAL				URBAN				RURAL			
	Weight (%)	INDICES		Change (%)	Weight (%)	INDICES		Change (%)	Weight (%)	INDICES		Change (%)
		Jul-Mar 2025-26	Jul- Mar 2024-25			Jul- Mar 2025-26	Jul- Mar 2024-25			Jul- Mar 2025-26	Jul- Mar 2024-25	
General	100.00	279.00	264.03	5.67	100.00	275.45	260.57	5.71	100.00	284.35	269.25	5.61
Food & non-alcoholic Beverages	34.58	289.17	279.33	3.52	30.42	285.98	277.89	2.91	40.87	292.75	280.95	4.20
<i>Non-perishable food items</i>	29.60	295.14	279.11	5.74	25.97	291.85	278.12	4.93	35.08	298.81	280.20	6.64
<i>Perishable food items</i>	4.99	253.78	280.68	-9.59	4.46	251.81	276.53	-8.94	5.79	256.06	285.51	-10.31
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco	1.02	399.41	386.05	3.46	0.85	422.43	407.92	3.56	1.28	376.20	364.00	3.35
Clothing and footwear	8.60	268.28	250.70	7.01	8.01	258.15	242.05	6.65	9.48	281.20	261.73	7.44
Housing, Water, Elec., Gas & other fuels	23.63	253.84	238.78	6.31	27.03	262.94	244.78	7.42	18.49	233.77	225.54	3.65
Furnishing & HH equipment maintenance	4.10	282.36	272.54	3.60	4.09	271.80	262.29	3.63	4.10	298.26	287.97	3.57
Health	2.79	283.08	260.23	8.78	2.31	283.87	263.65	7.67	3.51	282.29	256.85	9.90
Transport	5.91	320.84	306.37	4.72	6.14	315.70	301.32	4.77	5.56	329.41	314.78	4.65
Communication	2.21	135.60	134.82	0.58	2.35	138.96	138.36	0.43	1.99	129.64	128.53	0.86
Recreation and culture	1.59	265.50	275.15	-3.51	1.73	249.74	259.60	-3.80	1.38	295.39	304.67	-3.04
Education	3.79	224.51	204.10	10.00	4.88	217.06	198.35	9.43	2.13	250.24	223.95	11.74
Restaurants and hotels	6.92	294.73	278.42	5.86	7.41	289.02	274.55	5.27	6.19	305.04	285.40	6.88
Misc. goods and services	4.87	356.01	300.60	18.43	4.77	344.57	291.55	18.18	5.02	372.43	313.59	18.76

<http://www.pbs.gov.pk>
