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Summary

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) achieved several significant milestones during the reporting period, reaffirming its commitment to modernizing the national statistical system and strengthening evidence-based policymaking in Pakistan. During January–March 2026, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) made significant progress in strengthening Pakistan's National Statistical System through major survey initiatives, institutional reforms, international collaboration, and capacity-building activities.

A key milestone during the quarter was the successful launch of Pakistan's first fully digital Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024–25, introducing technology-driven data collection and improved dissemination through an online dashboard and microdata release. The survey findings also supported the national poverty estimation exercise and informed discussions with development partners and policymakers.

PBS also launched the Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2026, incorporating tablet-based data collection, COICOP 2018 classification, enhanced consumption coverage, and modern IT applications to support the upcoming rebasing of national accounts and price statistics. Preparatory work for the Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS) 2026 advanced substantially through questionnaire finalization, expert technical reviews, sample design completion, and operational planning. Preparations for the Labor Force Survey (LFS) 2026–27 also progressed with revisions to survey instruments and field manuals.

The Bureau further strengthened collaboration with national and international organizations through initiatives including the SESRIC online training on SDG-3 Health Indicators, participation in education statistics consultations, collaboration with the Pakistan Land Port Authority on trade statistics, and leadership of the Digital Gender Inclusion Working Group to improve gender-disaggregated ICT statistics.

PBS invested extensively in human resource development by organizing technical training programmes on Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), International Comparison Program (ICP) methodologies, Small Area Estimation using Earth Observation data, and other modern statistical techniques to strengthen organizational capacity.

Economic statistics continued to support evidence-based policymaking through the regular dissemination of inflation statistics, Quantum Index of Manufacturing (QIM), and National Accounts activities. During the reporting period, the Large-Scale Manufacturing sector recorded positive growth, while inflation statistics continued to provide timely insights into price movements across the country.

The quarter also marked the recognition of Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (SI) for his distinguished services and exceptional contributions toward the modernization of Pakistan's statistical system, including the Digital Population Census, Agricultural Census, Economic Census, and digital transformation initiatives at PBS.



Launch of First Ever digital Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25

The results of the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25 were formally endorsed by the Technical Committee. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) proudly marks a historic milestone with the launch of the first-ever fully digital HIES 2024-25.



The results & report launch ceremony was held on 1 January 2026 at the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives (M/O PD&SI). The Honorable Minister for PD&SI, Professor Ahsan Iqbal, was the chief guest and officially launched the HIES 2024-25 report during the event along with its dashboard and microdata dissemination at PBS official website.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from leading media organizations, prominent journalists, distinguished academics, and researchers, all of whom appreciated PBS's efforts in advancing data collection and transparency.

HIES 2024-25 reflects Pakistan's ongoing journey toward modern, transparent, and data-driven governance. Its findings will play a crucial role in supporting evidence-based policymaking, monitoring progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and promoting inclusive development across the country. The main findings are as:-

- Literacy rising to 63%
- Household internet access expanding to 70%



- Digital inclusion accelerates with 57% individuals online
- Gender parity at primary level improving to 96%
- Better health outcomes with declining infant & neonatal mortality
- Increased use of clean fuels for safer, sustainable living
- Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable data to support informed decision making and a stronger Pakistan.

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has



welcomed the ICT findings of the Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25 released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), highlighting significant growth in digital connectivity nationwide. The survey shows that over 96% of households now have access to mobile or smartphones, facility with more than 70% using internet services, up from 34% in 2019, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa leads with 77% household digital access. At the individual level, mobile ownership has increased to 50%, with 92% of people using mobile phones and internet usage rising sharply from 17% to 57%. Notably, internet usage among women and men is now nearly equal, with higher female usage in urban areas. PTA termed this progress a major achievement, reflecting improved access, affordability, and digital awareness, and appreciated PBS for providing valuable data to support evidence-based policymaking.

Launch of Household Budget Survey (HBS)2026

Pakistan bureau of Statistics has initiated the Household budget Survey (HBS) 2026 in compliance of the Governing Council policy directive in its 5th meeting held on 09.12.2013 that “**Rebase of the National**



Accounts and Price Statistics should be held after every ten years”.

As per international practice, the change of base year is due in 2026 and mandatory. Accordingly, the HBS-2026 has been initiated with the aim:

- To capture the consumption pattern of the consumers/households.
- To examine critically the structural changes occurred in the fixed basket of goods & services, income quintiles after passage of a decade.
- To review the extended coverage of cities and domains.
- To substitute the obsolete items and update the of items of the basket of goods & services.
- Adoption of Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP) 2018.
- To examine the scope of the inclusion of Sasta Bazars, online stores like Daraz, Mega stores like Metro, Imtiaz, Alfateh etc., and adoption of web scraping techniques related to them.
- Any other relevant matter discovered during the rebasing process.

In this connection, the first Meeting of the Technical Committee on Re-basing of Price Statistics was held on **19.01.2026** under the chair of **Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI), Chief Statistician, PBS**. The meeting brought together senior representatives from PIDE, SBP, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of PD&SI, Ministry of NFS&R, all Provincial Bureaus of Statistics and PBS senior management. Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG (PSLM/PCS/HBS) highlighted key improvements in **HBS 2026** including, tablet-based data collection, expanded coverage of goods and services, adoption of **COICOP 2018** and inclusion of brand-level and point-of-purchase details—strengthening data quality and



relevance.

She further added that Re-basing aims to accurately reflect current consumption patterns, market dynamics and evolving economic structures, supporting better policymaking, robust economic analysis and meaningful national & international comparisons. The glimpse of 1st

Technical Committee are as under:

The first internal review meeting was held on **March 4, 2026, PBS Headquarters, Islamabad** to assess progress on Household Budget Survey (HBS) 2026 chaired by **Chief Statistician Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI)**.



The meeting focused on the listing and data collection applications and planned field operations. The IT Section presented two tools i.e. the listing form and the HBS 2026 data collection application designed to modernize survey processes. The listing form enables Google Maps navigation, flexible household management, and automatic random sampling, while the data collection tool supports roster tracking, auto-updated balance sheets, and built-in validation checks. The Chief Statistician **Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI)** praised the both Technical & IT teams for their remarkable achievements within a short timeframe, acknowledging their dedication and efficiency.

On **10th day of March, 2026**, an orientation session on the upcoming Household Budget Survey (HBS) was held at the Committee Room, PBS Islamabad. The session was organized to familiarize master



trainers with the survey's objectives, methodology and digital tools. **Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG**, led the session and provided a comprehensive explanation of the Household Budget Survey (HBS).

This orientation marked a vital step toward the successful rollout of the Household Budget Survey, ensuring all teams are aligned and prepared for effective execution.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) successfully conducted two-day training of the Household Budget Survey (HBS) Training Session on **12th March 2026** at multiple stations across Pakistan including **Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar**, Multan, and Sukkur. Other stations such as Quetta, Hyderabad, and Mirpur has participated through Karachi, while AJK and GB joined through Islamabad.

The session was inaugurated by **the Dr. Naeem Uz Zafar (SI), Chief Statistician, PBS** who emphasized the significance of HBS in generating reliable household consumption data that supports evidence-based decision-making and socioeconomic development in the country. The Chair once again reiterated that the HBS technical and IT teams have done a remarkable job in kicking off the survey in record time. He specially acknowledged efforts of **Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG (PSLM/PCS), HBS Project Lead** for transforming what once seemed a distant dream into reality — truly turning a fantasy into a living sketch and demonstrating that teamwork makes the dream

The training session provided a comprehensive



introduction to the Household Budget Survey (HBS), highlighting its importance for national planning and policy formulation over the coming decade. Participants were guided on how to correctly fill the HBS questionnaire, identify potential challenges during fieldwork, and effectively address hurdles that may arise during data collection.

The session was divided into two major components: 50% focused on subject matter training related to survey



methodology and questionnaire understanding, while the remaining 50% covered IT-related aspects, including tablet-based data entry and timely reporting of technical issues to the Head Office DP team.

following the HBS-2026 training, the nationwide listing and household data collection activities were officially launched on March 17, 2026, for the first quarter.



Household Integrated Economic Survey /UNRC

PBS present the findings of Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25 on the invitation of UNRC at UNRC office, the event was attended by the all-Deputing Representative of United Nation



Organization.

Chief Statistician briefly describe about the findings of the HIES survey, a detailed presentation with the comparison of previous years findings was given by the DDG (PSLM)

Ms. Rabia Awan. She describes the findings and highlight the main variable like education, literacy,



ICT, Gender, health indicators and Income & consumption patterns. After presentation detailed question Answer session was held and detailed replies were given to all questions/queries. All participants appreciated the work done by the PBS.

Key discussions focused on ICT-related insights from HIES, including mobile and smartphone ownership, internet access, digital skills, and usage patterns, with a particular emphasis on female participation.

Participants also deliberated on developing a digital inclusion strategy, standardizing gender indicators, strengthening gender-responsive data systems, enhancing research collaboration, and improving data-sharing mechanisms. The meeting further explored gender-wise financial inclusion and identification of existing data resources=

The session concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen coordination, data integration, and evidence-based reporting to support informed policymaking and promote inclusive, data-driven digital development.

Updation of Frame Methodology Meeting: -

A meeting chaired by the Chief Statistician was convened on 31st March, 2026 to review key recommendations made by Area /Frame Updation committee after extensive work during last 7-8 months, related to area frame management and updates.

The presentation covered important aspects such as the bifurcation of big blocks, resizing of urban charges and



circles, recoding processes, and incorporation of post-census administrative changes into the existing area frame. Participants also examined measures to further strengthen and modernize the framework, emphasizing the need to align it with evolving ground realities following the recent census. During the session, the Chair of the Block Bifurcation Committee Ms. Rabia



Awan DDG, presented an overview of the committee's work, followed by a detailed presentation by CSO Asif Majeed Khawaja outlining the recommendations. After deliberations, the Chair granted in-principal approval to the proposed measures and highlighted the importance of their timely implementation to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

A delegation from the Pakistan Land Port Authority (PLPA)

comprising the Executive Director, Director, and Director IT, visited the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) on 13 March 2026 to explore avenues for collaboration on statistical data related to land ports and trade activities.

The delegation highlighted the growing importance of land ports in facilitating regional trade and emphasized the need for integrated and reliable data to support evidence-based planning and policy development in trade statistics. The meeting focused on strengthening

data-sharing mechanisms and enhancing the collection, analysis, and reporting of trade statistics, particularly those related to imports, exports, and transit trade through land ports. Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG from PBS briefed the delegation on existing frameworks for compiling national trade statistics and provided an overview of methodologies used for data collection, classification, and reporting, paving the way for improved coordination and collaboration between the two institutions.

Strengthening “Digital Gender Inclusion” Through Data Collaboration

Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has launched a **Digital Gender Inclusion Strategy** to bridge Pakistan’s gender digital divide, including the establishment of the “**Pakistan Digital Inclusion for Gender Equity**” forum with multi-stakeholder participation led by Ministry of IT & Telecom.



Two meetings of the Steering Committee meeting were held in August 2024 and July, 2025 respectively. In its first meeting six thematic working groups were formed, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics was made chair of the “**Working Group on Research & Data Collection**”. PBS has notified the working Group accordingly. This group is mandated to collect and analyze gender-disaggregated ICT data to support evidence-based policymaking, with members from national institutions and international partners such as ITU, GSMA, NCSW, PTA, HEC, Mo IT& IT, Global Digital Inclusion, Cyber



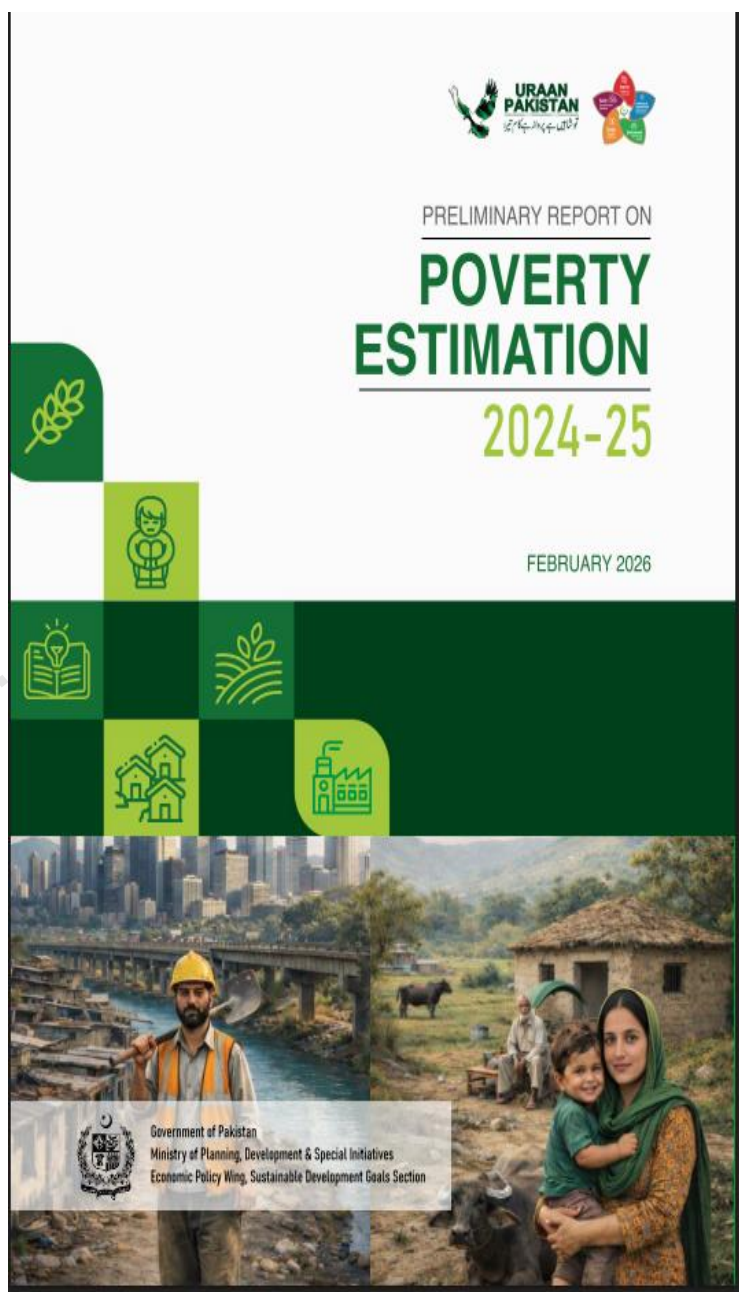
net, Jazz etc.

PBS convened the first meeting of the **Working Group**

on Research & Data Collection Digital **Gender** Inclusion, on 08 January, 2026 at PBS HQ Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI), Chief Statistician, along with Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (SI), Member (SS/RM), and Ms. Rabia Awan, DDG (PSLM). The meeting was attended by senior representatives from HEC, PTA, ITU, Ministry of IT, and PBS, aiming to map existing datasets and assess the availability of gender-related digital data across institutions.

Poverty Estimation Committee Meetings

Three consecutive meetings of technical committee were held (13th January 3rd and 11th February, 2026) to guide and review the estimation of Pakistan’s national poverty headcount rate by using Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) 2024-25 data. 1st meeting chaired by the Minister of PD&SI. In the first meeting outlined the overall roadmap, based on preliminary work already completed by the Technical Working Group (TWG).





In the second meeting, progress was reviewed, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) presented initial estimates based on the Cost of Basic Needs (CBN) methodology, indicating rural and urban poverty levels along with broader national and provincial trends. Subsequently, the third meeting was held to review ongoing work on poverty estimation. The head of the Committee, provided an overview of the process, and it was decided to constitute specialized sub-groups comprising experts from the Technical Working Group (TWG), World Bank, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), and Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) to ensure a coordinated, timely, and evidence-based completion of the exercise.



The results were announced by the Minister of PD&SI in the ceremony held on 19th February, 2026 in the Planning Commission. As per the results, 28.9% of people are living below poverty line according to HIES 2024-25 data. Poverty report is available at Ministry of Planning's website.

Highlights of Sesric Seminar

During the quarter January to March 2026, the Training Wing of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) organized a series of capacity-building sessions to disseminate the knowledge and expertise gained by PBS officers through international trainings. The objective of these sessions was to replicate the learning experiences of officers who attended international forums for the benefit of other PBS officers and officials who did not have the opportunity to participate. These initiatives helped broaden technical knowledge,

promote evolving statistical methodologies, improve data collection tools, and enhance the operational efficiency of PBS staff.

The opening session of the series was inaugurated by **Chief Statistician PBS, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar (SI)**, who appreciated the efforts of the resource persons and acknowledged the commitment of PBS officers who, after attending international capacity-building programs, shared their valuable experiences, and knowledge with fellow employees. During the quarter, three orientation sessions were successfully conducted.

SESRIC Online Health Seminar (21– 22 Jan- 2026)

The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and



Training Centre for Islamic Countries, in collaboration with Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, successfully organized a two-day online seminar on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3: *Good Health and Well-being* from 21–22 January 2026. The event brought together participants from 54 Organization of Islamic Cooperation member countries through a virtual platform, providing an interactive forum for knowledge sharing, discussion, and exchange of best practices in the health sector.



The Seminar, led by **Ms. Rabia Awan Deputy Director General (DDG)**, focused on SDG 3 health indicators and strategies to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030.

SDG 3 aims to address critical global health challenges, with key targets including reducing maternal mortality live births, ending preventable deaths of newborns and

children, combating communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third, and achieving universal health coverage. throughout the session, participants received comprehensive guidance on practical strategies and policy approaches to calculate, monitor and institutionalize in their existing/regular surveys to achieve these targets. The sessions emphasized strengthening health systems, improving access to quality healthcare services, enhancing disease prevention and control measures, and fostering international collaboration among member states.

A detailed presentation was delivered to enhance participants' understanding of the topic. This was followed by interactive discussions and experience-sharing sessions, where participants exchanged insights, identified common challenges, and explored practical solutions

The training concluded with a renewed commitment from participants to accelerate progress toward SDG 3, highlighting the importance of collective action, sustained investment, and resilient health systems to improve health outcomes across OIC countries.

PDHS Survey

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) continued preparatory activities for the **Pakistan Demographic & Health Survey (PDHS)-2026** during the quarter January to March 2026. The survey is a landmark



initiative being conducted by PBS for the first time through integration of key demographic, fertility, mortality, health and nutrition indicators of previously conducted PDHS by National Institute of Population Studies (NIPS), and Pakistan Demographic Survey (PDS) and Household Integrated Economic Survey (HIES) by PBS. This integrated approach is expected to reduce duplication of human and financial resources while ensuring availability of comprehensive national level indicators. During the previous quarter, a Main Technical Committee comprising renowned

demographers, technical experts and representatives of relevant organizations had been constituted. A draft questionnaire was prepared after detailed review and harmonization of indicators from the three surveys and was presented in the first meeting of the Committee. The Committee appreciated the effort and recommended detailed expert review of individual modules before final approval.

Accordingly, three specialized Technical Sub-Committees were constituted to review specific sections of the questionnaire. These committees included experts from PBS, Ministry of National Health Services, academia, research institutions and development partners.

Technical Sub-Committee-I met on **5th January 2026** and reviewed modules relating to climate change adaptation and environmental risks, household roster, ICT and employment, housing characteristics, wealth/asset index, community



module and women's participation in decision-making. The committee included Ms. Rabia Awan (DDG, PBS), Dr. Soofia Yunis (M/o National Health Services and Regulations, Dr. Tauseef Ahmed (Demographer), Mr. Saqib Sultan Khawar (SO, PBS), representative of UNFPA and Ms. Ayesha Sajid of PBS.

Technical Sub-Committee-II met on 14th January 2026 and examined modules covering fertility and pregnancy history, maternity history, family planning, neonatal and postnatal care, birth enumeration and death enumeration. Members included **Ms. Rabia**



Awan (DDG, PBS), Dr. Shabana Saleem (M/o National Health Services and Regulations), Dr. Saima Bashir (Senior Research Demographer), Ms. Rabia Zafar (NIPS), Ms. Kaneez Amna (CSO, PBS), UNFPA representative and Ms. Ayesha Sajid as Member/Secretary.



Technical Sub-Committee-III met on 22nd January 2026 and reviewed health and nutrition related modules including diarrhea, child and women anthropometry, child health and immunization, HIV/AIDS, malaria, hepatitis B&C, tuberculosis, women diet quality and child diet quality, health and nutrition. The committee comprised **Ms. Rabia Awan (DDG, PBS), Ms. Ayesha Shiraz (Health Services Academy), representatives of UNFPA and UNICEF, and Ms. Ayesha Sajid as Member/Secretary.**

In addition to that, the module of Domestic Violence was added as it is from DHS-8 guidelines.

During these consultative meetings, members carefully reviewed questionnaire contents and proposed improvements for clarity, relevance and technical soundness. The recommendations of all three sub-committees were consolidated and incorporated. The revised questionnaire is now ready to be shared with the Main Technical Committee for final approval in **its second meeting.**



In parallel, important operational milestones were also achieved during the quarter. The sample design for PDHS-2026 was finalized, along with the field implementation plan and estimated survey budget. Furthermore, demand for procurement of anthropometric equipment required for measurement of stunting and wasting indicators was shared with **UNFPA**



for necessary support.

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Advanced CAPI Seminar

The first session on Advanced CAPI Using Survey Solutions was conducted on 16th January 2026 and attended by 34 officers/officials. The session was delivered by **Dr. Naveed Iqbal (JACC), Mr. Yasir Ashfaq (Director), and Mr. Arsalan Bashir (CSA),** who had earlier participated in an international training held in **Bangkok, Thailand from 16th to 19th December 2025.**

The countries represented in the Bangkok training included **Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan, Nepal, Philippines, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Fiji, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vietnam, and Thailand.**



The trainers shared their experiences and highlighted that Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is far ahead in survey and census digitalization compared with many other participating National Statistical Organizations (NSOs), a fact recognized during their interaction with delegates from participating countries. Participants were



introduced to advanced CAPI applications under Survey Solutions for improving data quality, supervision, monitoring, and timeliness in PBS field operations. PBS also intends to develop software for future surveys using Survey Solutions.

National Accounts Meetings of Working Groups

Working Group on Transport:

A coordination meeting of **Transport-Working Group** was held on 10th February, 2026, with National Transport Research Centre (NTRC), SECP and Provincial Transport Authorities to address the outstanding data issues, classification challenges and to reduce data gaps of road transport. The meeting was chaired by Chief Statistician PBS. SECP agreed to provide frame of all registered transport companies. NTRC agreed to finalize the classification of vehicles to avoid ambiguity and Provincial Transport Authorities ensured to share data with NTRC on agreed upon format designed by NTRC for data of registered companies, passengers, number of trips etc.

Working Group on Agriculture:

The meeting of **Agriculture-Working Group** was held under the chair of Economic Consultant, M/O NFS&R on 18th February, 2026 particularly with provincial Irrigation departments as in short term issues, irrigation water for agriculture was requiring immediate attention.

Irrigation water comprises of two components, canal water and tube well water. Irrigation departments made commitment to provide data and requested to share data format for data reporting and the format has been shared. It was decided to place long term issues in front of the working group in next meeting and solution/way forward will be presented in NAC meeting in May, 2026.

Working Group on Electricity & Gas:

The meeting of **Electricity and Gas-Working Group** with all stakeholders was held on 5th March, 2026, chaired by Chief Macro, M/O PD&SI. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) agreed to make effort to get data on revenues and inputs from IPPs. Power Planning & Monitoring Company (PPMC) agreed to share results of solarization survey with PBS and K-Electric has agreed to provide data as soon as finalized.

Quarterly National Accounts (QNA)

Training Course in Singapore

Mr. Munawar Ali Ghangro, Deputy Director General, and Mr. Tahir Ul Islam, Chief Statistical Officer, participated in an Advanced Training Course on Quarterly National Accounts (QNA) from 17–28 March 2026, organized by the IMF-Singapore Regional Training Institute.



The course focused on advanced methodologies and international best practices for compiling Quarterly National Accounts, including quarterly GDP estimation, benchmarking, seasonal adjustment, and the use of administrative and survey data sources. It also provided practical exposure to



Front Row (L-R) : Nguyen Thi Ngoc Mai, Precious Anne C. De Jesus, Ririere Tekabu, Michael Stanger, Noam Gruber, Lisbeth Rivas, Nguy Thi Thu Huong, Aimee Mae V. Amoranto, Hana Dwi Kristanti
Middle Row (L-R) : Kritchasorn Jarupasin, William Konga Waiya, Patricia Samani, Feng Xue, Najihah Ramli, Ilaisaaneliki Vaihea Fonua, laneta Sau, Terbish Jambaldorj, Zannat Ara, W.A.R. Mangalika, Vishal Maurya, Vy Sovyl
Back Row (L-R) : Pema Rinzin, Dinesh Bhattarai, Shiva Shrestha, Wahyu Setyo Budi, Manik Hossan, Munwar Ali Ghanghro, Diego Cacciapuoti, Tahir Ul Islam, Detsulin Siboriboun, Md. Feroj-Evna-Yusuf, Abdul Sharmeer Sahib, Dhundi Raj Lamichhane

modern approaches used by National Statistical Offices for producing timely and reliable economic indicators. The training enhanced participants' technical knowledge and understanding of international standards in national accounting. The knowledge gained will support PBS in improving the quality, consistency, and timeliness of Quarterly National Accounts and strengthening evidence-based economic policymaking in Pakistan.



ICP Machinery and Equipment 2nd Session

The second session was held on 23rd January 2026 with participation of 38 officers/officials. Dr. Behrawar Jan, Ex-DDG (PBS), was the guest speaker. In his introductory remarks, he informed participants that PBS is the National Implementing Partner for the International Comparison Program (ICP). He further shared that the 22 economies participating in ICP Asia and the Pacific are Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei (China),

Thailand, and Viet Nam. He also noted that the **United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC)** endorsed ICP as a permanent global statistical program in 2016.

The resource persons had earlier attended the International Comparison Program for Asia and the Pacific: Regional Technical Evaluation and Data Review Workshop on ICP Machinery and Equipment Survey (8–10 December 2025) and ICP Construction Survey (11–12 December 2025) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The learnings from the regional workshop were disseminated during this local training session. Participants were briefed on objectives of the ICP Machinery & Equipment Survey, ICP modules, field procedures, overview of ICP cycle activities, administrative setup, survey frame, cities selected for ICP 2024, non-household cycles, number of items to be priced under non-household modules, machinery and equipment survey methodology, construction and civil engineering survey, and expected outcomes. The session significantly improved participants' understanding of internationally standardized field procedures.

(SAE) Using Earth Observation Data 3rd Session



The third session was held on 30th January 2026 and attended by 39 officers/officials. The training was conducted by Mr. Rafiq Hussain Talpur (Director) and Mr. Khawaja Asif Majid (Chief System Analyst), who had earlier participated in the Regional Capacity Development Workshop for Asia & Pacific on Small Area Estimation Using Earth Observation Data, held from 24th to 28th November 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand. The workshop was organized in collaboration with the World Bank under the Knowledge Change Program (KCP). It was also supported by **ESCAP**, ECA, UNSD, and the World Bank, which jointly developed a strategy and step-by-step guidance for using geospatial data in Small Area Estimation.



During the local session, participants were briefed on the importance of SAE for PBS. Technical presentations based on international training experience were delivered, covering methods for combining geo-referenced census and survey data for SAE purposes. Step-by-step guidance was provided on the use of geospatial data for generating reliable estimates.



Participants were also introduced to the use of **R software** for SAE implementation.

The session aimed to strengthen capabilities for producing reliable district and tehsil-level statistics through modern geospatial techniques.

Major functions of Sample Design

- Following are the major functions of the section:
- Development of optimum sample designs for various socio-economic, demographic and agricultural sample surveys keeping in view the objectives of the survey significance level of estimates & margin of error desired consistent with the available resources.
- Preparation of instructions for enumerators/supervisors for listing of households/ establishments in sample areas and selection of ultimate sampling units from primary sampling units constituted in sample surveys.
- Rendering technical assistance in terms of developing optimum sample design for sample surveys/ studies as per request from national and international agencies/departments.

Major Activities Performed

- Sample Design Section provided sample size, allocation, and sample list for LFS 2026-27, representative at provincial level including AJ&K and GB.
- Sample Design Section provided sample size, allocation, and sample list for PSLM 2026-27 for four provinces including AJ&K and GB representative at district level.
- Development of multistage sampling weights for SME Surveys of Small Manufacturing Enterprises, and Medium Manufacturing Enterprises.
- Sample Design Section provided sample design for Census of Manufacturing Industries (CMI) Survey, Small and Household Manufacturing Industries (SHMI) Survey, and Household Budget Survey (HBS).
- Sample Design Section provided technical support in term of sample designing, estimation of sample size, preparation of allocation/stratification plan, sample list and write-up of several ad-hoc surveys. These surveys were requested by various national/international agencies/departments which are as follows:

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Organized Training on Study on Live Plants (Nurseries) 2026 across the Country

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) organized training sessions for the “Survey on Live Plants Nurseries 2026 on 30th and 31st March 2026 at six stations across the country, namely Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, Peshawar, Karachi, and Gilgit. The program was inaugurated by the Chief Statistician at PBS Headquarters, Islamabad, and was aimed at equipping enumerators from all Regional and Field Offices with the necessary skills for effective survey implementation. The Survey on Live Plants Nurseries 2026 holds significant importance for the rebasing of National Accounts, as it will generate reliable and comprehensive data on production, value addition, intermediate consumption, employment, and investment patterns within the nursery sector. This sector, which includes establishments engaged in the propagation, cultivation, and sale of plants for agricultural, ornamental, and landscaping purposes, plays a crucial role in horticulture, environmental sustainability, and urban development but remains under-represented in existing economic estimates. The survey is expected to enhance coverage, improve Gross Value Added (GVA) estimates, and support evidence-based policymaking while aligning national accounts with international



A webinar titled “Age Bands Conundrum in Pakistan: by Design or by Default – Harmonizing Age and Schooling for Stronger Trends in Access, Retention, and Equity” was held on 2nd February 2026, organized by Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA).

The session brought together education experts, policymakers, and representatives from national like Pakistan Institute of Education (PIE) PBS etc and international organizations to discuss the critical issue of aligning age bands with schooling levels in Pakistan. The discussion highlighted challenges in the current age classification system and its impact on enrolment, retention, and equity in education, particularly in the context of addressing 25.3 million out-of-school children.

Ms. Rabia Awan, Deputy Director General (PSLM), along with Ms. Hina Kanwal (SO) and Ms. Ehsana Anum Syed (SO), attended the webinar and contributed to the discussion by sharing data-driven insights from latest HIES 2024-25 Survey. The panel emphasized the importance of adopting evidence-based, harmonized age bands aligned with international standards such as ISCED, as well as regional best practices. The webinar concluded with a consensus on the need for a unified national approach to age bands to improve education statistics, strengthen policy planning, and support progress towards Article 25-A and SDG 4 targets.

Labor Force Survey (LFS)

Labor Market Statistics and Advances Preparations for LFS 2026-27

During the period of January to March 2026, the Labor Force Survey (LFS) Section remained actively engaged in multiple key activities aimed at strengthening labor market statistics and ensuring timely dissemination of data. Following the successful release of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) 2024-25, the LFS Section has prepared detailed reports for Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) on the request of the respective Planning and Development Departments. These reports have been approved by the competent authority and shared with the concerned departments to support evidence-based policy formulation and decision-making.

Labor Market Trends and Challenges

In addition, the Employment Trends Report 2025 has also been prepared and made available on the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) website. The Employment Trends Report presents a comprehensive time series covering the last eleven (11) years (2007-08 to 2024-25), thereby enabling long-term analysis of labor market dynamics. In terms of broader labor market indicators, the survey reports a Labor Force Participation Rate of 53.9% and an Unemployment Rate of 7.2%, reflecting current labor market conditions and ongoing challenges in job creation. The report further highlights long-term structural changes, including a gradual shift of employment away from agriculture towards the services sector, alongside persistent gender disparities and a high concentration of workers in vulnerable and informal employment.

In addition to dissemination activities, the Section has initiated preparatory work for the upcoming Labor Force Survey 2026-27 round. Significant progress has been made in revising the survey questionnaire in line with evolving data needs and international standards. The revised questionnaire has been extensively discussed in both internal and external consultative meetings to ensure its relevance, clarity, and alignment with stakeholder requirements. Furthermore, the Manual of Instructions for field operations is currently under revision.

Overall, the LFS Section continues to play a pivotal role in producing high-quality, timely, and internationally comparable labor statistics, while simultaneously advancing preparations for future survey rounds.

Summary of Provisional Quantum Index Numbers of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (QIM) for February 2026

The provisional quantum indices of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for February, 2026 with base year 2015-16 has been developed on the basis of latest data supplied by the source agencies. The indices for February, 2026 and July-February 2025-26 along with growth are as follows: -
QIM estimated for July- February, 2025-26 is 122.77.

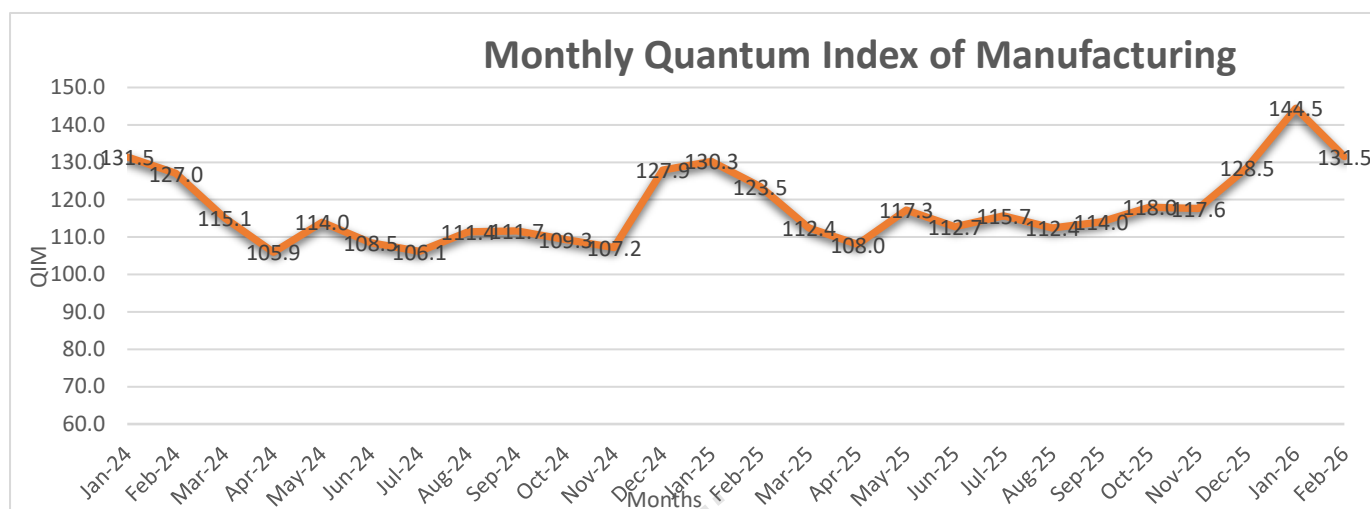
- QIM estimated for July- February, 2025-26 is 122.77.
- Overall Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector has indicated a growth of 5.89% during July- February 2025-26 when compared with the same period of the last year.
- QIM estimated for February, 2026 is 131.50.
- The LSMI output increased by 6.45% for February, 2026 when compared with February, 2025 and decreased by -8.97% when compared January, 2026.

Monthly Indices and Growth					Jul-Feb 2025-26		
Index for			Growth		Index for		Growth
Feb-26	Feb-25	Jan-25	MOM	YOY	2025-26	2024-25	2025-26
131.50	123.53	144.46	-8.97	6.45	122.77	115.94	5.89

2. The growth of important items/group of items is as follows;

Manufacturing Sector	Weight	% Change	
		February -26	Jul-Feb 2025-26
Sugar	3.43	29.34	13.62
Cotton Yarn	8.88	1.40	2.23
Cotton Cloth	7.29	0.14	0.20
Garments	6.08	0.85	7.16
Petroleum Products	6.66	14.03	11.98
Fertilizers	3.93	9.60	-0.15
Cement	4.65	8.27	11.11
Iron & Steel	3.45	-9.94	-5.70
Automobile	3.10	28.74	61.66

3. The main contributors towards overall growth of 5.75% are Food (0.98), Tobacco (0.13), Textile (0.27) Garments (1.18), Petroleum Products (0.85), Chemicals (-0.09), Pharmaceuticals (-0.30), Cement (0.61), Iron & Steel Products (-0.24), Electrical Equipment (0.25), Machinery and Equipment (-0.06),



Automobiles (1.50), Other transport Equipment (0.23), and Furniture (0.20).

4. Month-wise trend of QIM from January, 2024 to February, 2026 is given in the following graph

5. The sectors showing growth during July-February 2025-26 compared to July- February 2024-25 are given below: -

Manufacturing Sector	Weight	(%) Change 2024-25		(%) Change 2025-26		YOY Growth Impact 2025-26	
		Feb	Jul-Feb	Feb	Jul-Feb	Monthly	Cumulative
Food	10.69	(5.24)	(2.73)	13.94	5.26	3.58	0.98
Beverages	3.84	0.62	0.66	(0.50)	6.16	(0.02)	0.25
Tobacco	2.07	17.75	19.87	(2.84)	8.77	(0.05)	0.13
Textile	18.16	2.51	2.13	1.37	1.61	0.22	0.27
Wearing Apparel	6.08	(2.63)	8.65	0.85	7.16	0.13	1.18
Coke & Petroleum Products	6.66	24.73	4.81	14.03	11.98	0.89	0.85
Rubber Products	0.24	(13.28)	(2.84)	25.42	13.19	0.05	0.03
Non Metallic Mineral Products	5.01	(1.80)	(11.08)	7.61	10.11	0.40	0.60
Fabricated Metal	0.42	0.80	(16.91)	13.91	9.56	0.04	0.03
Computer, electronics and Optical products	0.03	7.15	1.85	(1.00)	1.55	(0.00)	0.00
Electrical Equipment	2.05	(7.08)	(16.68)	10.16	9.99	0.26	0.25
Automobiles	3.10	30.85	43.02	28.74	61.66	0.78	1.50
Other Transport Equipment	0.69	40.31	34.14	28.89	39.06	0.17	0.23
Furniture	0.51	(56.49)	(61.16)	35.09	15.22	0.34	0.20
Other Manufacturing (Football)	0.32	(15.49)	(11.91)	18.97	24.26	0.07	0.09

6. The sectors showing Decline during July- February 2025-26 compared to July- February 2024-25 are given below:

Manu factur ing Sector	Weight	(%) Change 2024-25		(%) Change 2025-26		YOY Growth Impact 2025-26	
		Feb	Jul-Feb	Feb	Jul-Feb	Monthly	Cumulat ive
Leather Products	1.23	2.30	0.99	(6.35)	(1.90)	(0.05)	(0.01)
Wood Products	0.18	14.58	0.04	(3.79)	(1.74)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Paper & Board	1.63	(9.69)	0.12	10.01	(0.20)	0.21	(0.00)
Chemicals	6.48	(18.59)	(5.35)	2.38	(1.18)	0.15	(0.09)
Chemicals Products	2.55	(19.62)	(11.39)	(9.38)	(3.04)	(0.22)	(0.08)
Fertilizers	3.93	(17.94)	(1.63)	9.60	(0.15)	0.37	(0.01)
Pharmaceuticals	5.15	2.48	2.03	(5.79)	(4.94)	(0.32)	(0.30)
Iron & Steel Products	3.45	(9.76)	(11.70)	(9.94)	(5.70)	(0.39)	(0.24)
Machinery and Equipment	0.39	(33.03)	(27.67)	(0.18)	(16.51)	(0.00)	(0.06)

7. The production in July- February 2025-26 has posted growth in Food, Beverages, Tobacco, Textile, wearing apparel, Paper & Board, Coke & Petroleum Products, Rubber Products, Non-Metallic Mineral Products, Fabricated Metal, Computer, electronics and Optical Products, Electrical Equipment, Automobiles and Other Transport Equipment while it indicated decline in Leather Products, Paper & Board, Chemical Products, Pharmaceuticals, Iron & Steel Products and Machinery and Equipment.

Inflation Situation During (Jan-Mar, 2026)

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is the National Statistical Office, responsible for collection, compilation and dissemination of Wholesale & Retail prices and indices to measure inflation in the country. National Consumer Price Index (NCPI), Urban Consumer Price Index (UCPI), Rural Consumer Price Index (RPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are computed regularly on monthly and Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) on weekly basis. The monthly review on price indices and report on weekly SPI are also published on PBS official website <http://www.pbs.gov.pk>. The monthly inflationary situation in Pakistan during **Jan-Mar, 2026** is given in Table-1, the Core Inflation in Table-2, quarterly inflationary situation in Table-3.

Table-1 gives the snapshot of yearly (YoY) and monthly (MoM) inflation rates (MoM) for General, Food and Non-Food Groups at National, Urban and Rural domains along with SPI and WPI.

Table-1: Average General Inflation trend (%) (Base 2015-16)

Monthly	CPI														SPI		WPI	
	General						Food				Non-food							
	National		Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural		Urban		Rural					
	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM
26-Jan	5.80	0.39	5.81	0.23	5.79	0.61	3.33	-0.21	4.65	0.38	7.45	0.52	6.87	0.83	3.25	-0.77	0.20	-0.18
26-Feb	6.98	0.27	6.79	0.27	7.27	0.28	4.44	-0.77	6.83	-0.50	8.31	0.93	7.67	1.01	4.80	-0.15	1.05	0.66
26-Mar	7.30	1.18	7.39	1.34	7.17	0.96	2.88	0.10	4.50	-0.58	10.33	2.10	9.65	2.36	5.63	0.73	6.69	5.89
Change(%) (Jan-Mar, 2026)	6.70	0.80	6.66	0.80	6.74	0.81	3.55	-1.72	5.33	-1.62	8.70	2.43	8.06	3.13	4.56	-1.01	2.65	1.59

The yearly General (YoY) and monthly (MoM) inflation rates are also graphically shown in Figures 1 and 2 for National, Urban and Rural level.

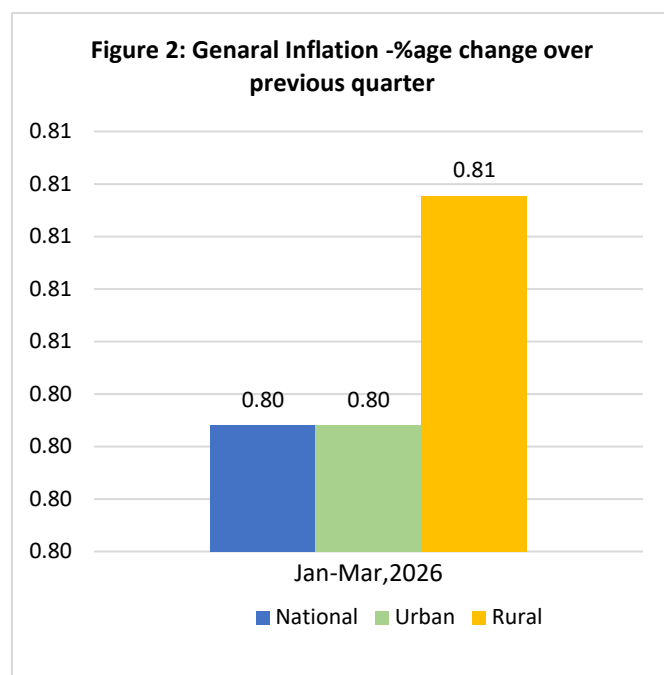
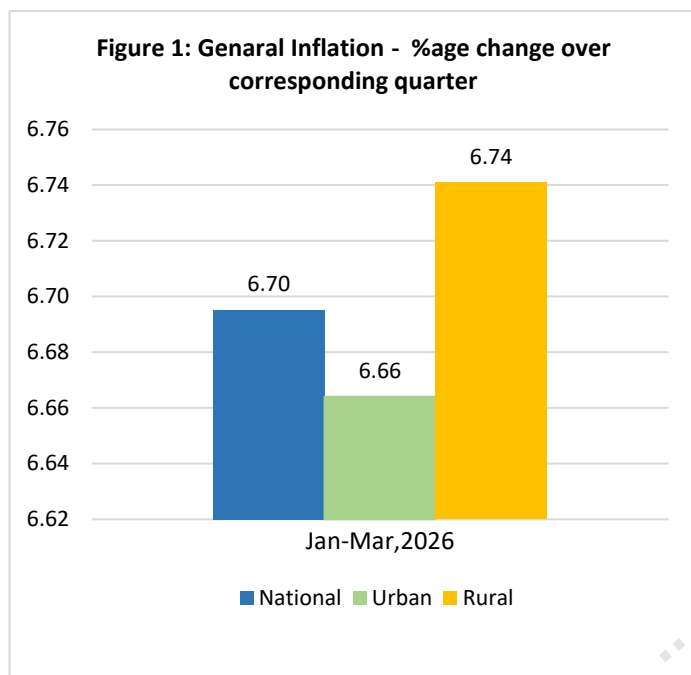


Table-2 gives the glimpse of yearly (YoY) and monthly (MoM) Core Inflation rates of Urban & Rural domains.

Table-2: Average Core Inflation (%) (Base 2015-16)

Non-Food & Non-Energy

Monthly	Urban		Rural	
	YoY	MoM	YoY	MoM
Jan 2026	7.20	1.00	8.27	1.09
Feb 2026	7.12	0.19	8.28	0.42
Mar 2026	7.38	0.69	8.37	0.78
Change (%) (Jan-Mar, 2026)	7.23	1.77	8.30	2.19

The yearly (YoY) and monthly (MoM) Core Inflation rates of Urban & Rural are also graphically shown in Figures 3 and 4.

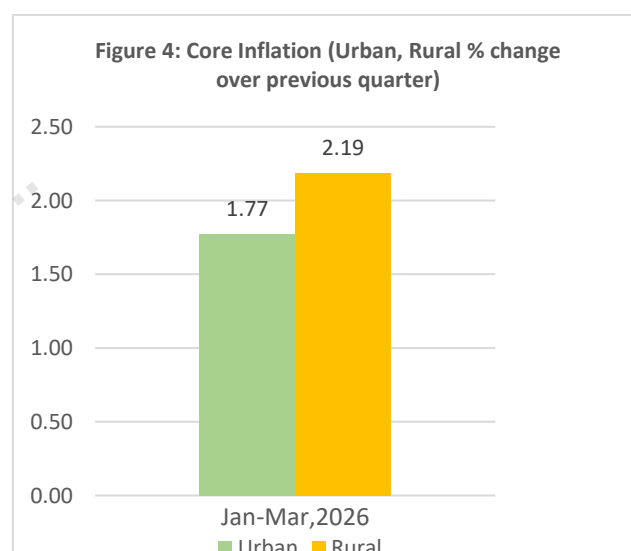
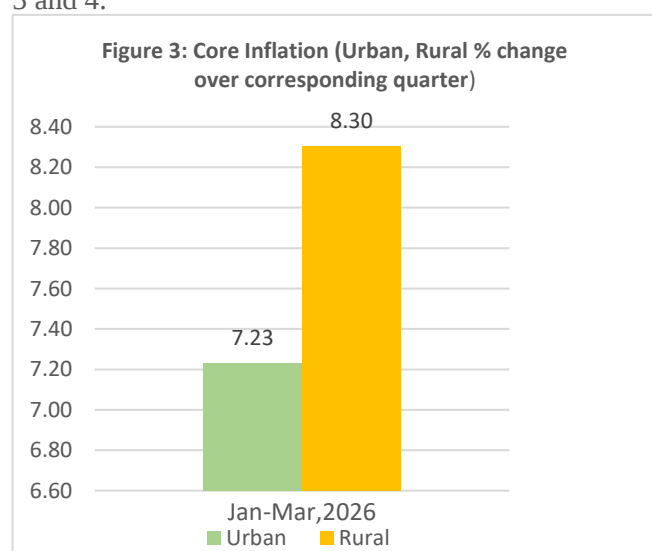


Table-3 indicates the cumulative indices along with percentage change for the Twelve (12) major groups at National, Urban and Rural level.

Table-3: Cumulative Indices and Inflation rates (%) [Jul-Mar, 2026] (Base 2015-16)

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
Non-perishable food items	29.60	295.14	279.11	5.74	25.97	291.85	278.12	4.93	35.08	298.81	280.20	6.64
Perishable food items	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

The yearly General and Special inflation rates (YoY) are also graphically sketched in Figures 5-7 for National, Urban and Rural level.

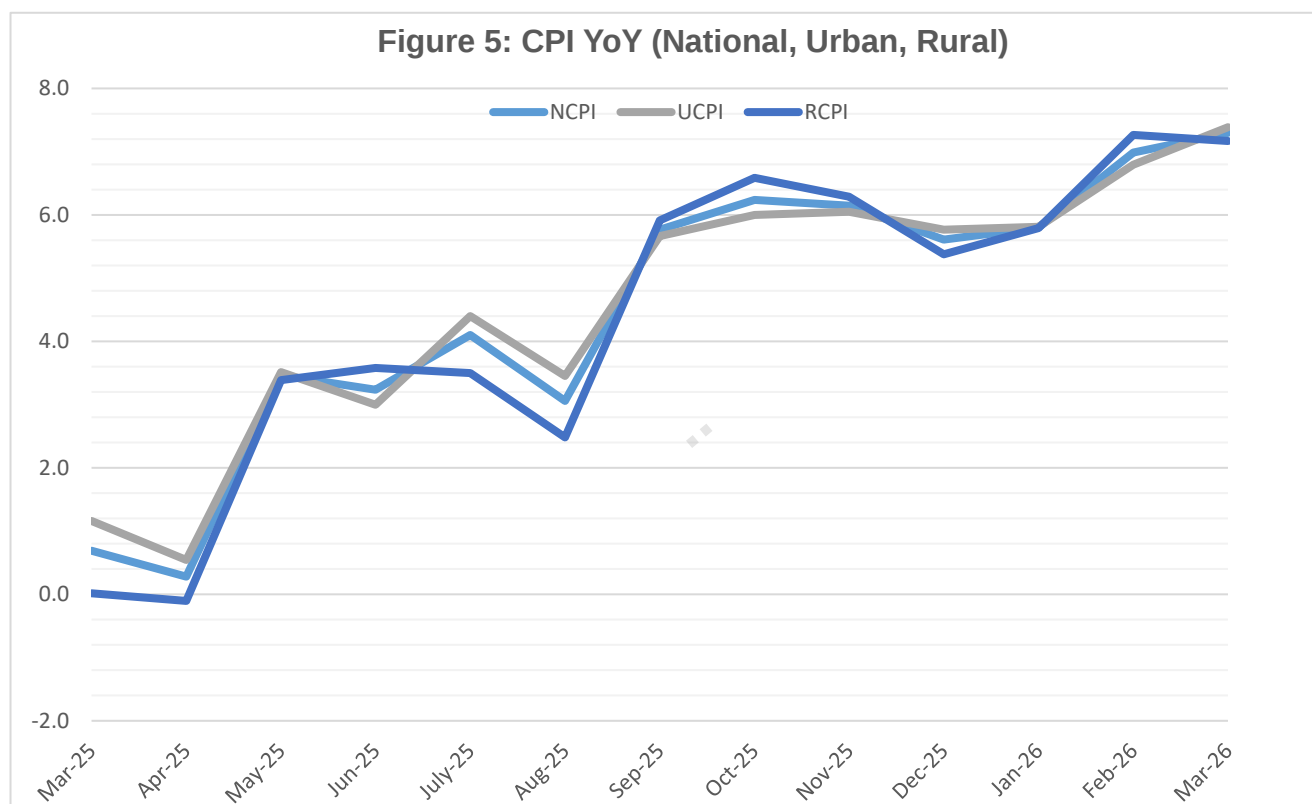


Figure 6: Urban Level General and Special Inflation Rates(%)

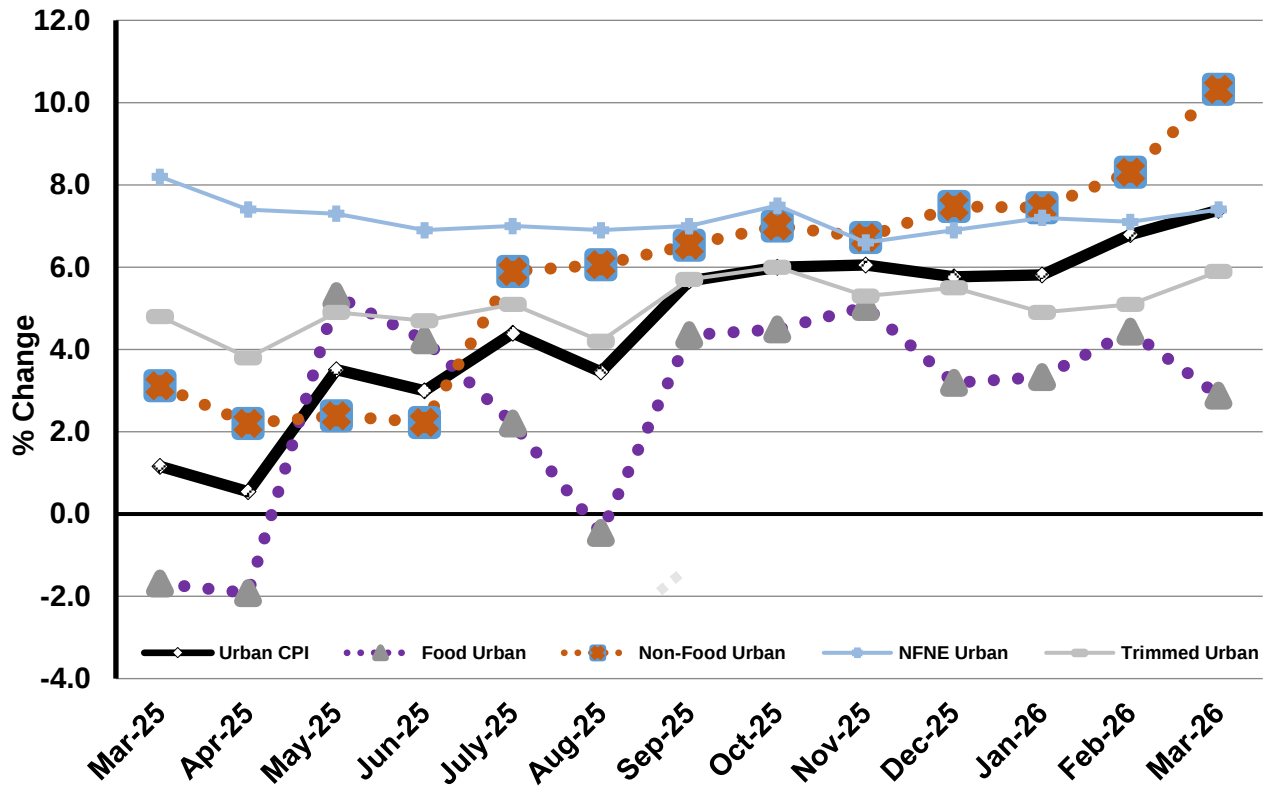
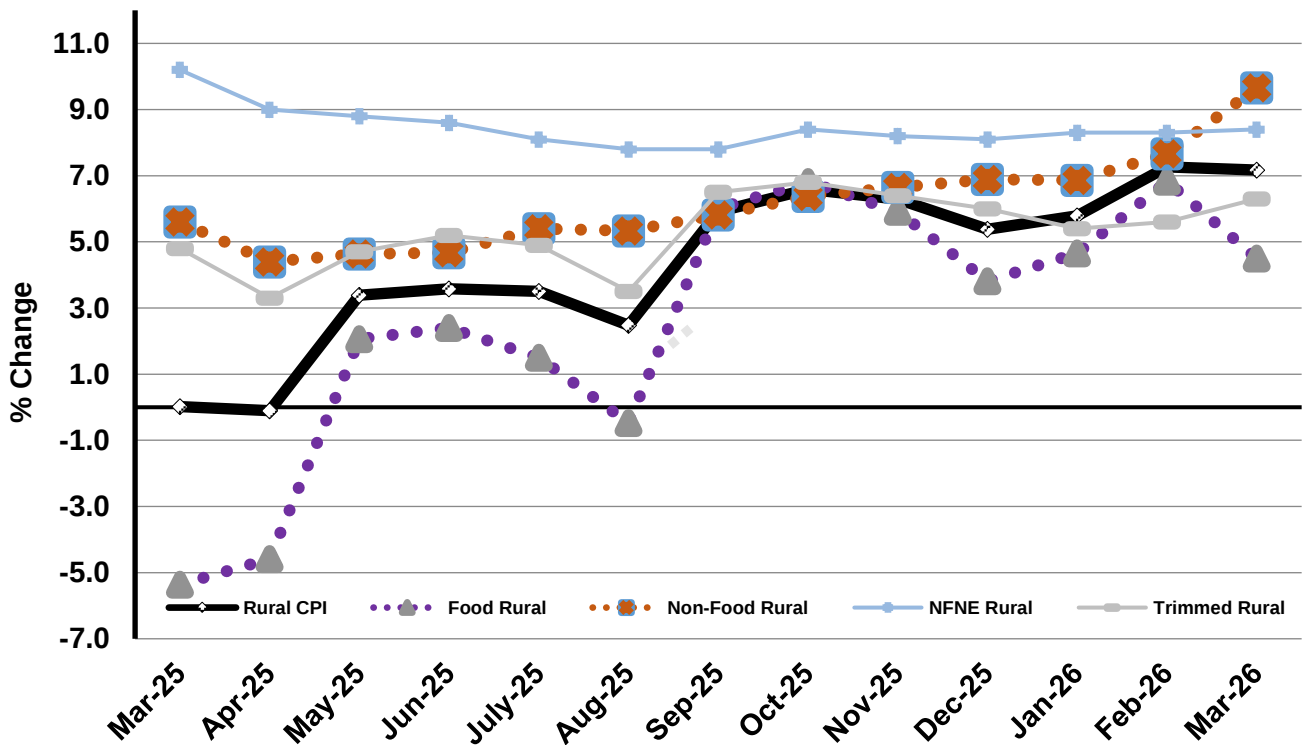


Figure 7: Rural Level General and Special Inflation Rates(%)



Other Activities

PBS being a National Implementing Agency has executed the ICP 2024 cycle and field data collection has been started w.e.f April, 2024. In this context, **Mr. Umer Farooq, Statistical Officer (Prices)** has attended the **2024 ICP:**



Fifteenth Regional Workshop on Household Consumption Survey from 9-11 February 2026 at Kuala Lumpur Malaysia.



Tribute Ceremony to honor Member (SS/RM) Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (SI).



The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) organized a prestigious ceremony to honor **Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal (Sitara-e-Imtiaz)** on the successful completion of his two distinguished tenures.

The event was attended by former and current Chief Statisticians, senior officers, and staff, reflecting the high regard and respect he commands within the organization.



The ceremony paid tribute to his visionary leadership, unwavering dedication, and significant contributions to strengthening PBS. His tenure is marked by landmark achievements, including digital transformation in data dissemination, the Mouza



Census 2020, the first-ever Digital Population and Housing Census 2023, the 7th Agricultural Census, the first Economic Census of Pakistan, the development of Decision Support Systems and customized dashboards, and the successful organization of Data Fest 2024 and 2025. Mr. Gondal's exceptional leadership and commitment have left a lasting legacy, setting new standards of excellence, innovation, and integrity within PBS.

LIST OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

S No	NAME	DESIGNATION	BS	DATED OF RETIRMENT	STATION
1	MUHAMMAD SARWAR	Statistical Assistant	16	01.01.2026	Lahore
2	MUHAMMAD ARIF	Upper Division Clerk	13	01.01.2026	Lahore
3	AKHTAR ALI	Statistical Officer	17	02.01.2026	Peshawar
4	SAEED AHMED	Deputy Census Commissioner	18	03.01.2026	Islamabad
5	DR. BAHRAWAR JAN	Deputy Director General	20	07.01.2026	Islamabad
6	IRAM JAHAN	Statistical Officer	17	14.01.2026	Lahore
7	SULTAN AHMAD	Statistical Officer	17	14.01.2026	Vehari
8	IQBAL HUSSAIN	Naib Qasid	4	14.01.2026	Karachi
9	SYED SHUJAT HUSSAIN RIZVI	Cartographer	15	17.01.2026	Quetta
10	SULTAN AHMAD	Upper Division Clerk	13	19.01.2026	Islamabad
11	MIRZA WALI KHAN	Statistical Officer	17	19.01.2026	Karachi
12	MUHAMMAD MAHMOOD QURESHI	Statistical Officer	17	26.01.2026	Rawalpindi
13	MUHAMMAD JAWAID	Deputy Agriculture Census Commissioner	18	31.01.2026	Islamabad
14	MUHAMMAD ASLAM KHAN	Cartographer	15	09.02.2026	Lahore
15	MUHAMMAD ARSHAD	Census Training Assistant	15	14.02.2026	Lahore
16	KHALIDA MEMON	Statistical Officer	17	18.02.2026	Hyderabad
17	BAHADAR KHAN	Director General (Admn)	20	21.02.2026	Islamabad
18	ZULIFQAR ALI FAROOQI	Cartographer	15	28.02.2026	Lahore
19	SHAKEEL QADEER	Director	19	04.03.2026	Karachi
20	IFTIKHAR AHMAD	Upper Division Clerk	13	09.03.2026	Lahore
21	TARIQ MUSTAFA AWAN	Statistical Officer	17	15.03.2026	Islamabad
22	PERVAIZ GUL KHAN	Statistical Officer	17	20.03.2026	Islamabad
23	ABDUL LATIF	Assistant Private Secretary	16	25.03.2026	Karachi
24	BADARUL ISLAM	Lower Division Clerk	11	25.03.2026	Karachi
25	MUHAMMAD YASIN	Upper Division Clerk	13	26.03.2026	Islamabad
26	SEEMA NASIM	Statistical Officer	17	29.03.2026	Islamabad

LIST OF DECEASED EMPLOYEES (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

S No	NAME	DESIGNATION	BS	DIED ON DATED	STATION
1	Hanook Masih sanitary Worker	Sanitary Worker	04	14-01-2026	Islamabad
2	Ghulam Abbas	Naib Qasid	04	27-03-2026	Rahim Yar Khan



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Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
Statistics House,
Plot 21, Mauve Area G 9/1, Islamabad



