

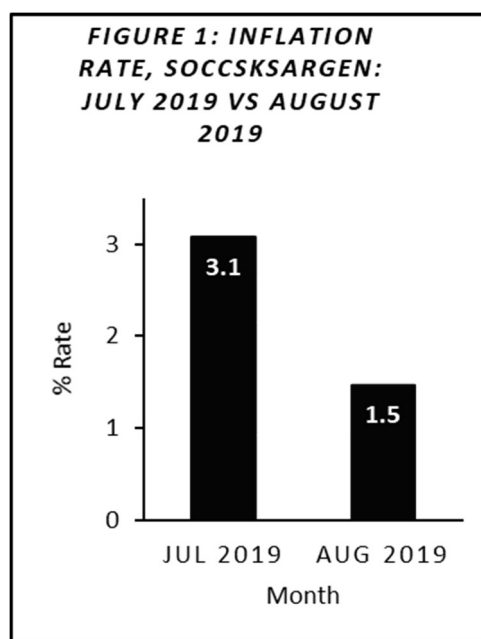
SPECIAL RELEASE

Headline Inflation in SOCCSKSARGEN Eases to 1.5% in August 2019

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INFLATION

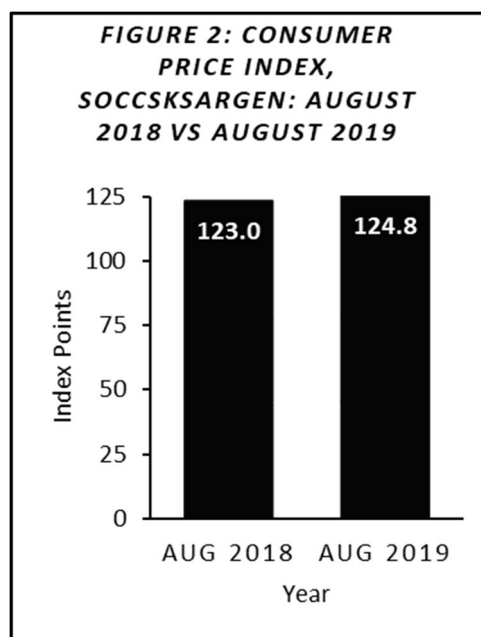
Headline inflation or the annual rate of change in the prices of goods and services in the market basket in SOCCSKSARGEN eases to 1.5% in August 2019 from 3.1% in July 2019 (*Figure 1*).



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

INDEX POINTS

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) For All Items in SOCCSKSARGEN in August 2019 was recorded at 124.8 index points. This indicates that the average retail price of commodities that were included in the market basket for all goods and services for the month under review was higher by 24.8% compared to its prices in its 2012 reference base year. The August 2018 CPI for All Items at 123.0 was lower by 1.8 index points compared to its August 2019 index (*Figure 2*).



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



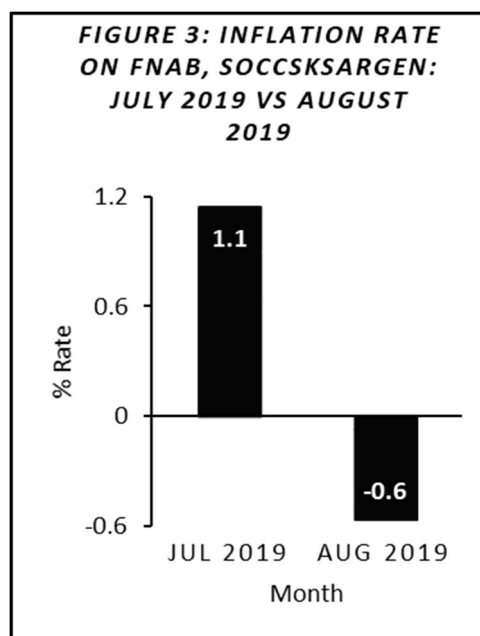
AUGUST 2019 INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP IN SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (FNAB)

Inflation on FNAB slowed down from 1.1% in July 2019 to -0.6% in August 2019 (Figure 3). Vegetables prices dropped to 9.6% from a continuous double digit annual hike since March 2019. Rice together with Bread and Cereals also deflated in August 2019 both posting negative inflations for six consecutive months. Fish, Fruit and Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery also posted slower price increments. Meat is the lone commodity that posted faster price increment. (Table 1).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Bread and Cereals	-6.8	-9.7
Rice	-9.3	-13.0
Meat	2.0	2.2
Fish	9.3	7.8
Fruit	12.9	10.8
Vegetables	11.0	9.6
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	-3.5	-3.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



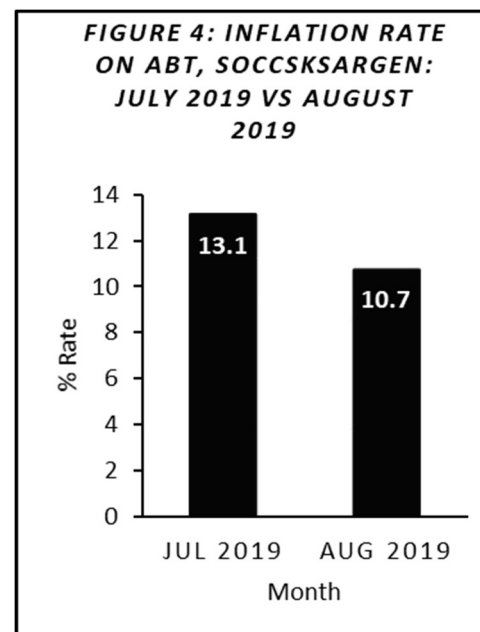
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT)

At a slower pace of 10.7% in August 2019 from 13.1% in July 2019, ABT continued to post double digit gains (Figure 4). Both Tobacco and Alcoholic Beverages recorded slower price increments although Tobacco still stood in the double digit figure (Table 2).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Alcoholic Beverages	5.8	4.4
Tobacco	15.4	12.8

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

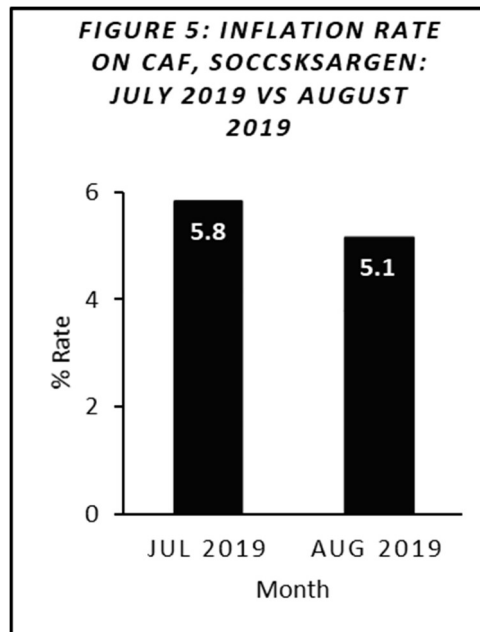


Clothing and Footwear (CAF)

CAF registered slower price increments of 5.1% in August 2019 from 5.8% in July 2019 (Figure 5) as prices of both Clothing and Footwear slowed down from their July 2019 figure (Table 3).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Clothing	4.9	4.2
Footwear	8.2	7.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



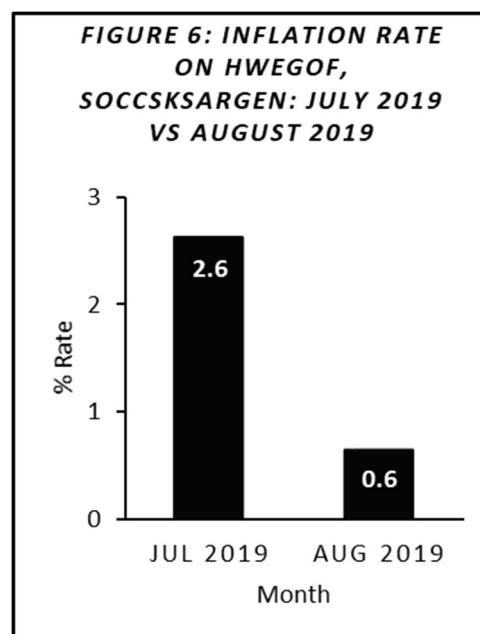
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (HWEGOF)

Inflation rate for HWEGOF decreased from 2.6% in July 2019 to 0.6% in August 2019 (Figure 6) as prices of Actual Rentals for Housing, Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling, Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Related to the Dwelling, and Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels all registered slower price increments (Table 4).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Actual Rentals for Housing	3.5	3.3
Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling	3.1	2.3
Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling	3.1	2.1
Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.5	-2.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

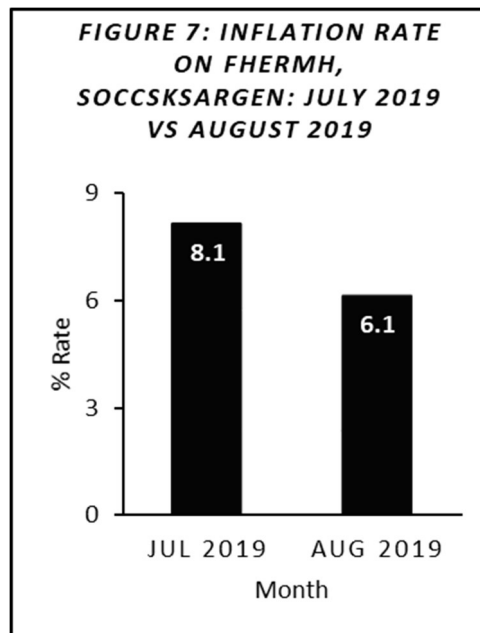


Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House (FHERMH)

Prices for FHERMH decreased in August 2019 at 6.1% from 8.1% in July 2019 (Figure 7). Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings, Household Textiles, Household Appliances, Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils, Tools and Equipment for House and Garden, and Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance all posted slower price increments in August 2019 (Table 5).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings	9.0	6.7
Household Textiles	3.8	3.4
Household Appliances	1.4	1.3
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	3.6	2.8
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	3.6	3.5
Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance	9.3	6.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

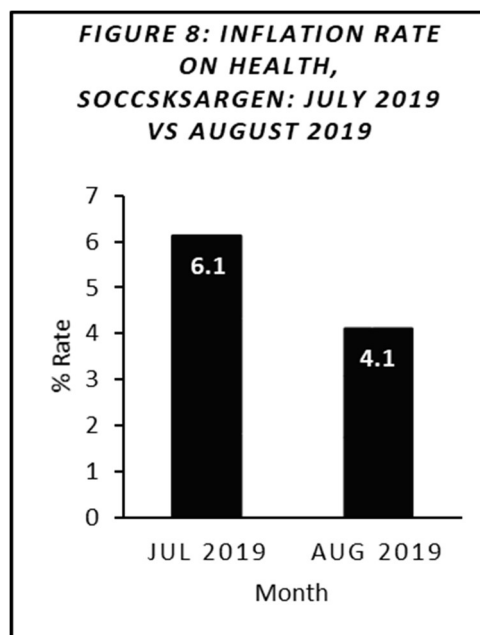


Health

Prices of Health commodities and services registered a slower price mark-down from 6.1% in July 2019 to 4.1% in August 2019 (Figure 8). Prices of Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment, Out-patient Services, and Hospital Services slowed down in August 2019 (Table 6).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment	2.9	2.2
Out-patient Services	11.8	7.8
Hospital Services	7.1	4.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

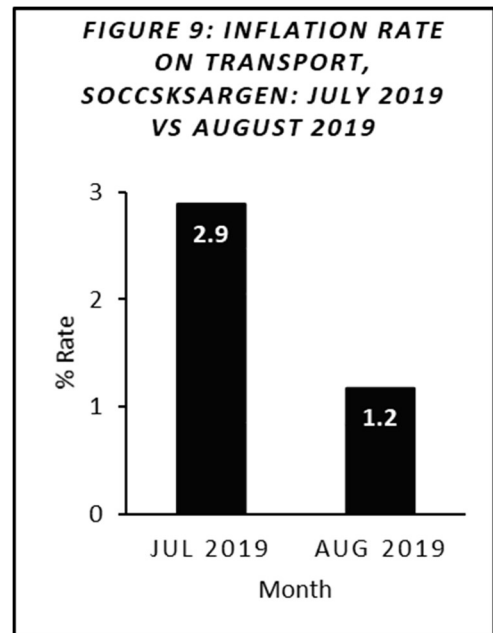


Transport

Slower annual price mark-downs for Transport were recorded in August 2019 at 1.2% from 2.9% last month (*Figure 9*) due to the deceleration in prices of Operation of Personal Transport Equipment and Transport Services this month under review (*Table 7*).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	0.9	-0.5
Transport Services	4.4	2.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



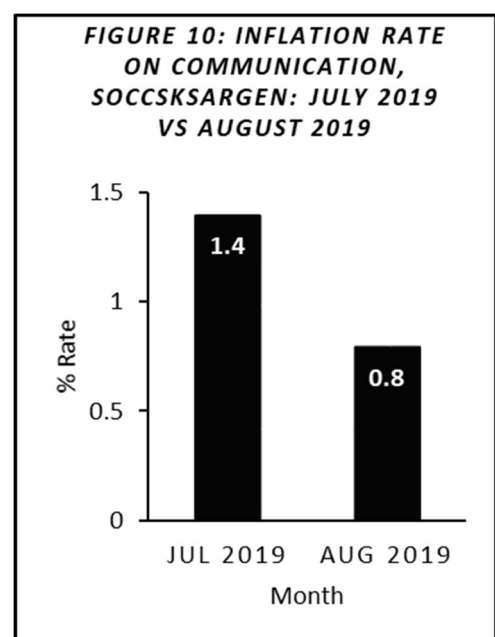
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Communication

A slowdown in the price increments on Communication was noted from 1.4% in July 2019 to 0.8% in August 2019 (*Figure 10*) as Telephone and Telefax Services registered slower price increment from previous month. Telephone and Telefax Equipment and Postal Services sustained their previous month's figure (*Table 8*).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Postal Services	3.5	3.5
Telephone and Telefax Equipment	1.8	1.8
Telephone and Telefax Services	1.4	0.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Recreation and Culture (RAC)

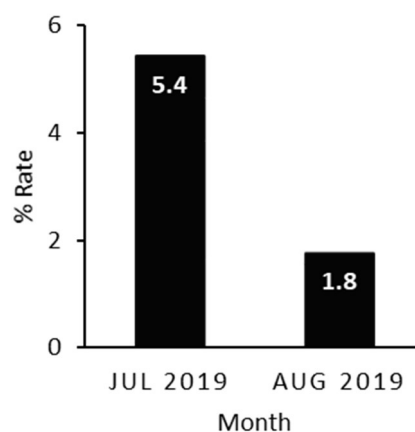
RAC prices plummeted from 5.4% in July 2019 to 1.8% this month under review (Figure 11). This is attributed in the sudden drop in the prices of Recreational and Cultural Services from 16.9% in the previous month to 0.7% in August 2019. Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets, and Newspapers, Books and Stationery also registered a price drop-off (Table 9).

**TABLE 9: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, RAC,
SOCCSKSARGEN: JULY AND AUGUST 2019**

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment	0.3	0.3
Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture	0.0	0.0
Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets	2.5	1.9
Recreational and Cultural Services	16.9	0.7
Newspapers, Books and Stationery	5.0	4.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 11: INFLATION
RATE ON RAC,
SOCCSKSARGEN: JULY 2019
VS AUGUST 2019**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Education

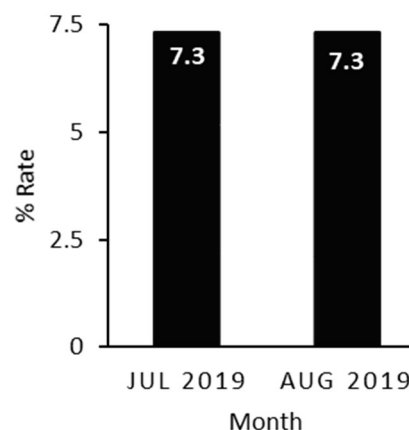
Education commodities and services sustained their figure at 7.3% in August 2019 from the same figure in the previous month (Figure 12). All education levels sustained their price paces during the month under review (Table 10).

**TABLE 10: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, EDUCATION,
SOCCSKSARGEN: JULY AND AUGUST 2019**

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Pre-primary and Primary Education	8.8	8.8
Secondary Education	13.2	13.2
Tertiary Education	1.0	1.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 12: INFLATION
RATE ON EDUCATION,
SOCCSKSARGEN: JULY 2019
VS AUGUST 2019**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

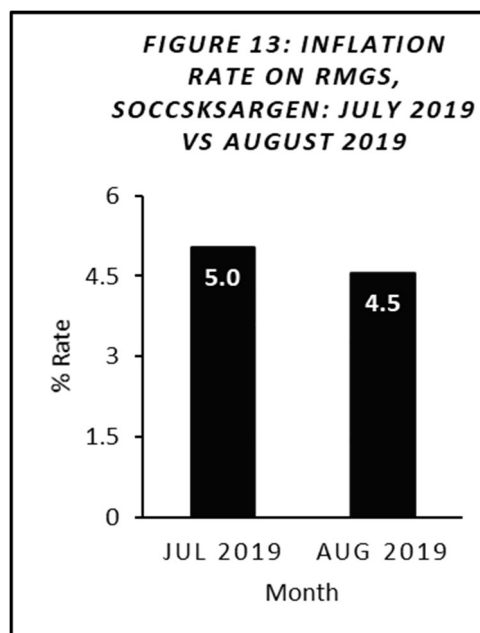


Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (RMGS)

RMGS recorded slower price increments at 4.5% in August 2019 from 5.0% in July 2019 (Figure 13). Price decrease on Catering Services, Personal Care as well as Personal Effects N.E.C. all registered price mark-downs during the month under review (Table 11).

COMMODITY	JUL 2019	AUG 2019
Catering Services	4.8	4.7
Personal Care	4.7	3.7
Personal Effects N.E.C.	6.1	5.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Prices for all items in the market basket in August 2019 was lower than the previous month as lower price drop-offs were recorded in all its commodity group excluding Education. The following were the changes in the figures per commodity: FNAB (1.1% to -0.6%), ABT (13.1% to 10.7%), CAF (5.8% to 5.1%), HWEGOF (2.6% to 0.6%), FHERMH (8.1% to 6.1%), Health (6.1% to 4.1%), Transport (2.9% to 1.2%), Communication (1.4% to 0.8%), RAC (5.4% to 1.8%), and RMGS (5.0% to 4.5%). Education sustained its previous month's rate of 7.3% (Table 12).

COMMODITY GROUP	JULY 2019	AUGUST 2019
ALL ITEMS	3.1	1.5
FNAB*	1.1	-0.6
ABT*	13.1	10.7
CAF*	5.8	5.1
HWEGOF*	2.6	0.6
FHERMH*	8.1	6.1
HEALTH	6.1	4.1
TRANSPORT	2.9	1.2
COMMUNICATION	1.4	0.8
RAC*	5.4	1.8
EDUCATION	7.3	7.3
RMGS*	5.0	4.5

*Abbreviated (See Appendix)
Source of Basic Data: Consumer Price Index (2012=100), Philippine Statistics Authority

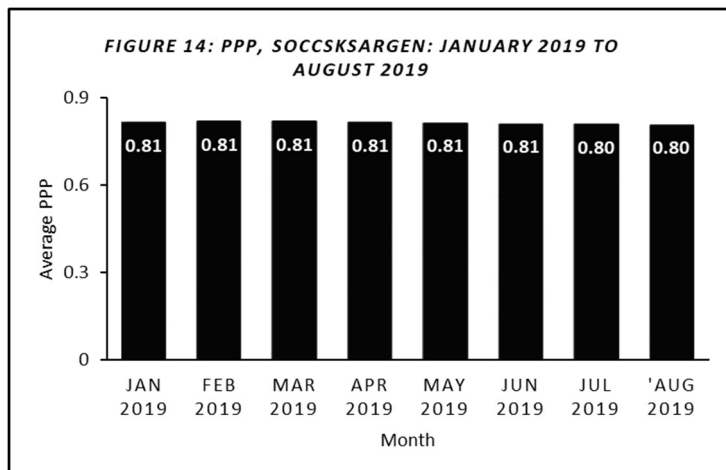


PURCHASING POWER OF PESO (PPP)

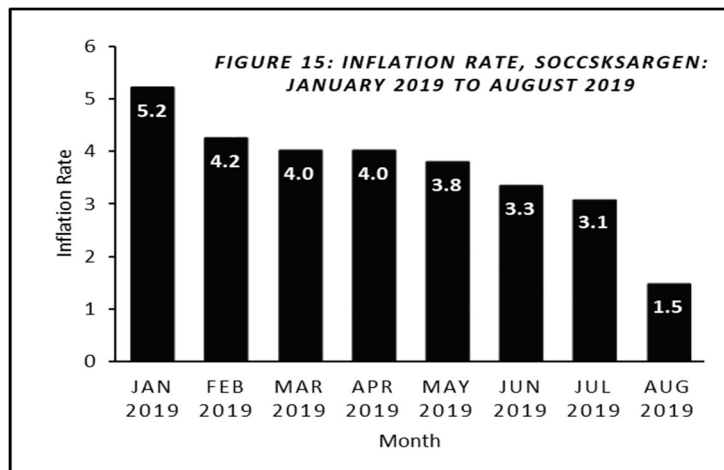
The average Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in SOCCSKSARGEN in August 2019 was estimated at ₱0.80, sustaining the same figure from July 2019. This means that your ₱100.00 in August 2019 can only buy about 80.0% of the same basket of goods and services amounting to ₱100.00 in its 2012 reference base year. Note that the PPP in the region stood at ₱0.81 from January 2019 to June 2019 (*Figure 14*).

INFLATION RATE

During the past eight months, inflation rate for all income households in the region recorded a downtrend. From a high of 5.2% headline inflation in January 2019 to a price ease of 1.5% in August 2019 as prices of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages continue to fall (*Figure 15*).

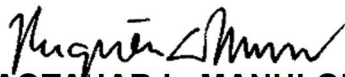


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Approved for release:



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Appendix

Definition of Terms

Base Period/Year	this refers to the period, usually a year, at which the index number/points is set to 100. It is the point of the index number series
Consumer Price Index	it is defined as indicator of the change in the average retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services commonly purchased by households relative to a base year
Inflation Rate	it is defined as the annual rate of change or the year-on-year change in the CPI expressed in percent
Market basket	is a term used to refer to a sample of goods and services that are commonly purchased and bought by an average Filipino household
Purchasing Power of Peso	is a measure of the real value of the peso in a given period relative to a chosen reference period. It shows how much the peso in the base period is worth in the current period. It is computed as the reciprocal of the CPI for the period under review multiplied by 100
Weights	a system that considers the relevance of the components of the index

Abbreviations

ABT	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco
CAF	Clothing and Footwear
CPI	Consumer Price Index
FHERMH	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Maintenance of the House
FNAB	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages
HWEGOF	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels
PPP	Purchasing Power of Peso
RAC	Recreation and Culture
RMGS	Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods

