

March 2017 inflation in SOCCSKSARGEN up by 2.9% 2017

The annual inflation rate or the year-on-year change in the consumer price index (CPI) in SOCCSKSARGEN Region in March 2017 was estimated at 2.9 percent, slower than the previous month's 3.1 percent. The increase in rate means that the prices of goods and services in the region in March 2017 were 2.9 percent higher, on the average, compared to its prices in March 2016.

During the month, all commodity groups posted an increase in prices, except for Communication which retained its previous year's index. Faster price hikes were noted in Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels (4.8%); Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (3.8%); Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages (3.4); Transport (1.0%); Education (1.0%); Health (0.9%); Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (0.7%); Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House (0.6%); and, Clothing and Footwear (0.6%).

Table 1. **CPI and Inflation Rate by Commodity Group, Region XII: February 2017 – March 2017 (2006=100)**

Commodity Group	March		Inflation Rate	February		Inflation Rate
	2017	2016		2017	2016	
All Items	157.1	152.7	2.9	156.7	152.0	3.1
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	165.9	160.4	3.4	165.6	159.2	4.0
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	203.3	195.8	3.8	202.6	194.8	4.0
Clothing and Footwear	143.7	142.9	0.6	143.6	142.8	0.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels	164.4	156.8	4.8	162.9	157.4	3.5
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	128.6	127.8	0.6	128.5	127.5	0.8
Health	149.8	148.4	0.9	149.7	148.4	0.9
Transport	126.6	125.4	1.0	126.4	124.8	1.3
Communication	89.5	89.5	0.0	89.5	89.5	0.0
Recreation and Culture	117.6	117.4	0.2	117.6	117.4	0.2
Education	170.0	168.3	1.0	170.0	168.3	1.0
Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	137.5	136.5	0.7	137.4	136.3	0.8

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

South Cotabato posted the highest inflation rate in the region in March 2017 at 4.1 percent on the average in all commodity groups, followed by Cotabato City (2.8%), Sultan Kudarat (2.7%), and Cotabato Province (2.5%). On the other hand, Sarangani had the lowest inflation rate during the period at 2.3 percent.


Table 2. **Inflation Rate and Peso Purchasing Power, Region XII: March 2016 and March 2017**

Area	Inflation Rate (%)		Peso Purchasing Power	
	March		March	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Region XII	2.2	2.9	0.65	0.64
Cotabato (Including Kidapawan City)	2.8	2.5	0.59	0.58
South Cotabato (Including Koronadal City and General Santos City)	1.2	4.1	0.70	0.67
Sarangani	0.6	2.3	0.67	0.65
Sultan Kudarat (Including Tacurong City)	3.8	2.7	0.69	0.67
Cotabato City	0.6	2.8	0.71	0.69

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

In March 2017, the Peso Purchasing Power (PPP) in the region was estimated at 64 centavos, down by 1 centavo compared to the 65 centavos during the same month of the previous year. Cotabato City had the highest PPP in the region at 69 centavos, followed by South Cotabato (Php 0.67) and Sultan Kudarat (Php 0.67); and Sarangani (Php 0.65). The lowest PPP in the region was noted in Cotabato Province at 58 centavos.

Approved for Release:


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