



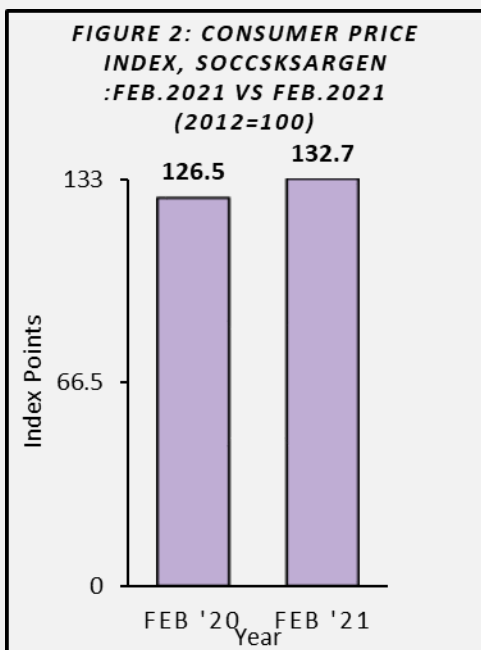
SPECIAL RELEASE

SOCCKSARGEN Headline Inflation Rate Up By 4.9% in February 2021

Date of Release: March 26, 2021
Reference No. R12-SR2021- 012

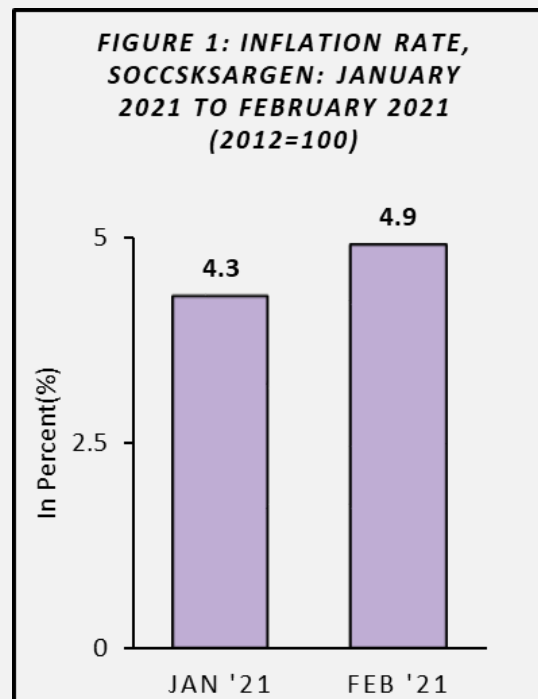
INDEX POINTS

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) For All Items in SOCCKSARGEN in February 2021 was recorded at 132.7 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 32.7% compared to its prices in its 2012 reference base year. The February 2020 CPI for All Items at 126.5 was higher by 6.2 index points compared to its February 2021 index (*Figure 2*).



INFLATION

Headline inflation rate or annual rate of change in the prices of goods and services in the market basket rose to 4.9% in February 2021 from 4.3% in January 2021. (*Figure 1*)



**FEBRUARY 2021 INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP
IN SOCCSKSARGEN REGION**

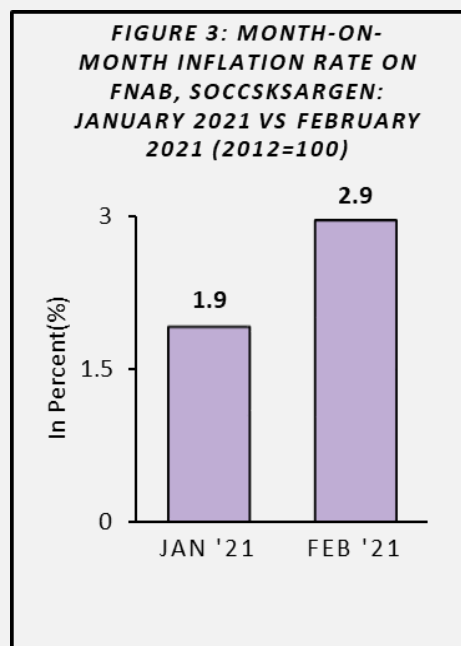
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (FNAB)

FNAB listed an inflation rate of 2.9% in February 2021, about 1.0 percentage point higher from 1.9% in January 2021 (Figure 3) as inflation on Food Group increased in February 2021 from its previous month's figure. Corn, Meat, Vegetables Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery showed faster price hikes. A price slow down was noted in Bread and Cereals, Rice, Fish, Fruit and Non-Alcoholic during the month under review. Fish remained deflated during the month under (Table 1).

**TABLE 1: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, FNAB, SOCCSKSARGEN:
JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021
(2012=100)**

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Food*	1.9	3.0
Bread and Cereals	0.8	0.2
Rice	0.3	-0.8
Corn*	3.5	5.4
Meat*	1.8	10.1
Fish	-0.6	-0.3
Fruit	6.5	5.8
Vegetables*	7.9	11.9
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery*	1.3	1.5
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	2.2	1.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



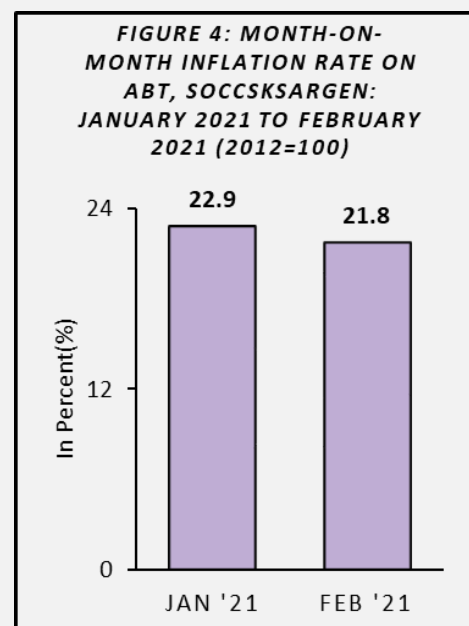
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT)

Inflation rate for ABT slowed down from 22.9% in January 2021 to 21.8% in February 2021 (Figure 4). Both Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco recorded slower price mark-ups during the month under review but still maintaining double digit figures (Table 2).

**TABLE 2: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, ABT, SOCCSKSARGEN:
JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021
(2012=100)**

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Alcoholic Beverages	13.7	12.3
Tobacco	25.3	24.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

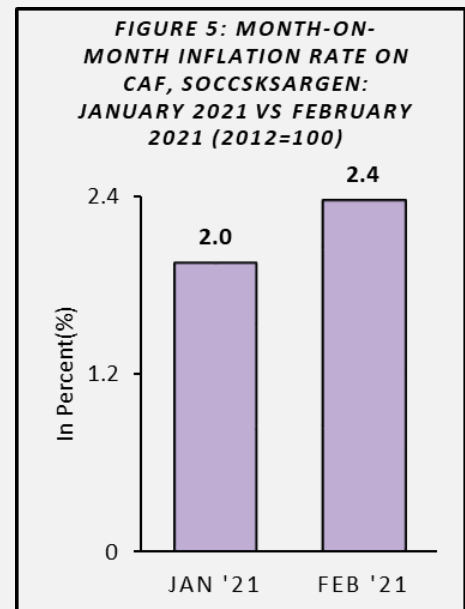


Clothing and Footwear (CAF)

CAF exhibited a faster inflation rate of 2.4% in February 2021 from 2.0% in January 2021, a slight difference of 0.4 percentage point (*Figure 5*). This was attributed to the increase in prices of both Clothing and Footwear (*Table 3*).

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Clothing	1.5	1.9
Footwear	3.3	3.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

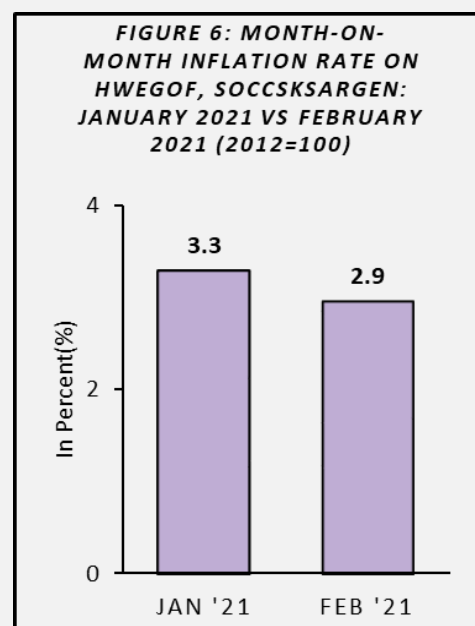


Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (HWEGOF)

Prices of HWEGOF went down from 3.3% in January 2021 to 2.9% in February 2021. Actual Rentals for Housing and Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling registered slower price mark-up (*Figure 6*). Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels posted a higher price increment. Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Related to the Dwelling sustained their previous month's figures (*Table 4*).

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Actual Rentals for Housing	3.5	1.9
Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling	4.1	4.0
Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling	5.1	5.1
Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels *	2.8	3.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



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

Faster price mark-up for FHERMH was recorded from 2.6% in January 2021 to 3.6% in February 2021 (*Figure 7*) as all of its commodity group recorded price hikes. Household Textiles, Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils and Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance registered higher price upticks. Price slowdowns were recorded in Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings, Household Appliances. Tools and Equipment for House and Garden sustained its previous month's figure (*Table 5*).

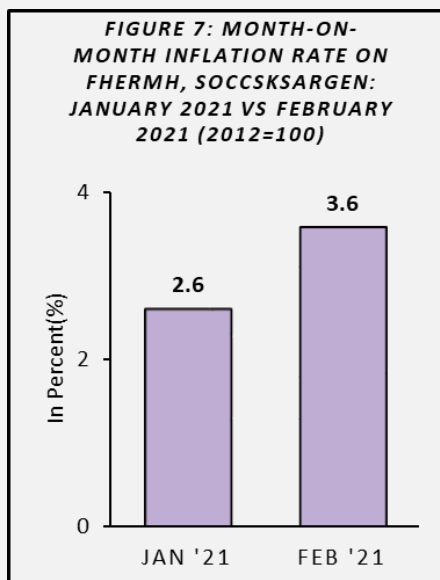


TABLE 5: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, FHERMH, SOCCSKSARGEN: JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings	1.1	0.7
Household Textiles*	1.7	1.8
Household Appliances	5.3	4.6
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils*	2.4	3.2
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	1.6	1.6
Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance *	2.4	3.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

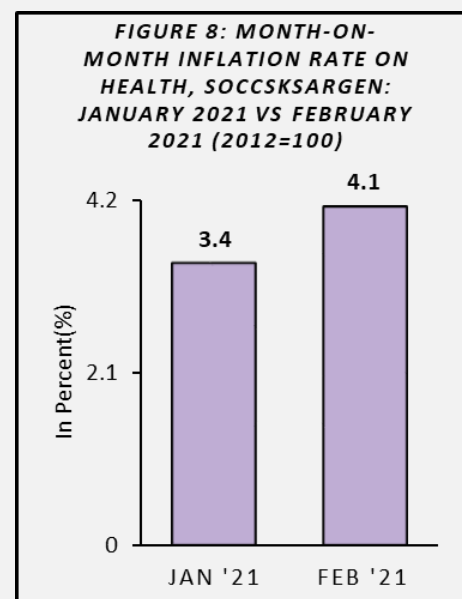
Health

Inflation rate for Health commodities and services posted a higher price mark-up of 4.1% in February 2021 from 3.4% in January 2021 (*Figure 8*) as all the commodities in the subgroup registered faster price increment (*Table 6*).

TABLE 6: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, HEALTH, SOCCSKSARGEN: JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment	0.9	1.5
Out-patient Services	4.3	4.7
Hospital Services	4.9	5.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



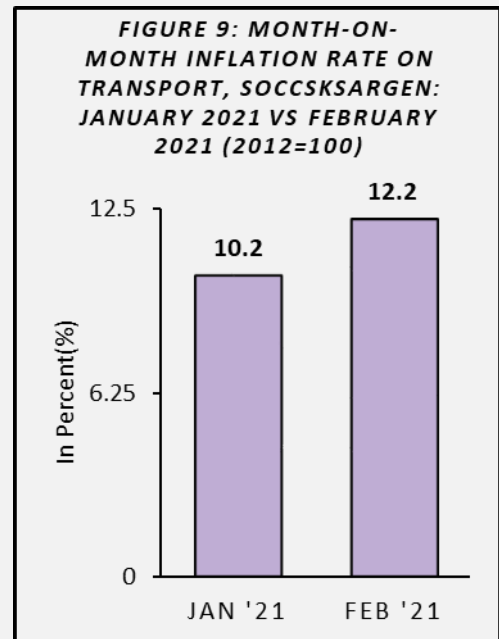
Transport

Faster annual price mark-up for Transport was noted in February 2021 at 12.2% from 10.2% last January 2021 (*Figure 9*). Transport Services recorded slower price upticks as Operation of Personal Transport Equipment posted higher price increment. Operation of Personal Transport Equipment remained deflated during the month under review (*Table 7*).

**TABLE 7: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, TRANSPORT, SOCCSKSARGEN:
JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021
(2012=100)**

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	-6.8	-0.3
Transport Services	21.6	21.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



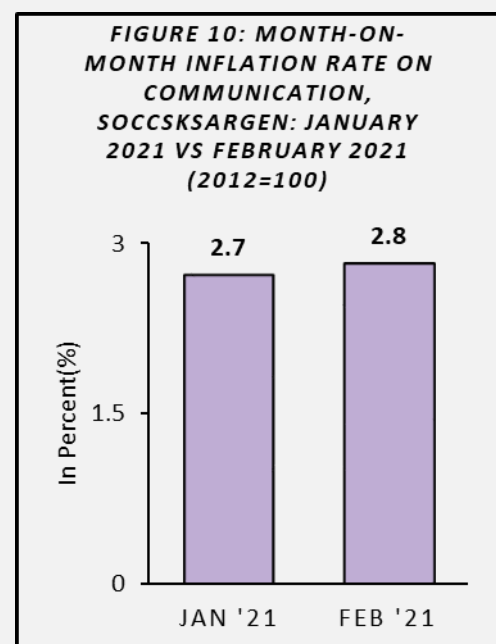
Communication

Communication went up to 2.8% in February 2021 from 2.7% in January 2021 (*Figure 10*). Postal Services, Telephone and Telefax Equipment and Telephone and Telefax Services sustained their previous month's rates. (*Table 8*).

**TABLE 8: INFLATION RATE
BY COMMODITY GROUP, COMMUNICATION,
SOCCSKSARGEN:
JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021**

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Postal Services	0.0	0.0
Telephone and Telefax Equipment	17.6	17.6
Telephone and Telefax Services	0.4	0.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

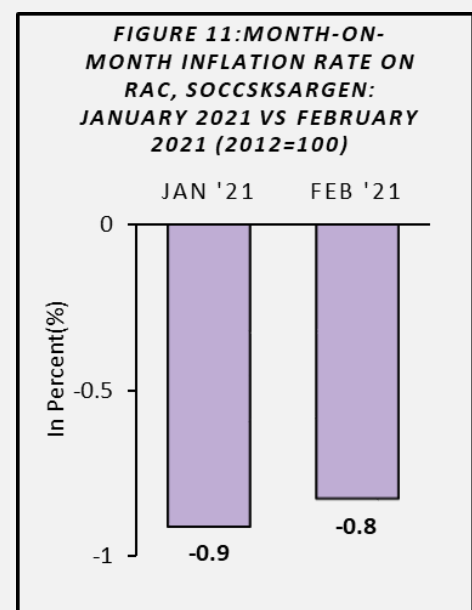


Recreation and Culture (RAC)

RAC sustained its negative price increment at 0.8% in February 2021 from -0.9% in January 2021 (*Figure 11*). Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment recorded a slower price mark-up. Newspapers, Books and Stationery, Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets, and Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture recorded higher price hikes. On the other hand, Recreational and Cultural Services remained deflated and sustained its previous month's rate (*Table 9*).

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment	2.1	1.9
Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture*	8.6	8.8
Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets	5.2	5.4
Recreational and Cultural Services	-12.6	-12.6
Newspapers, Books and Stationery*	2.1	2.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

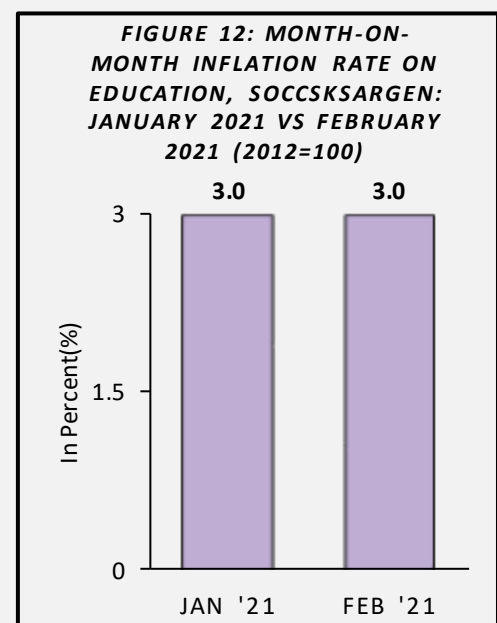


Education

Education commodities and services sustained their previous month's figure of 3.0% during the month under review (*Figure 12*). Pre-primary and Primary Education, Secondary Education and Tertiary Education sustained its previous month's rate (*Table 10*).

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Pre-primary and Primary Education	0.3	0.3
Secondary Education	-0.9	-0.9
Tertiary Education	9.2	9.2

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



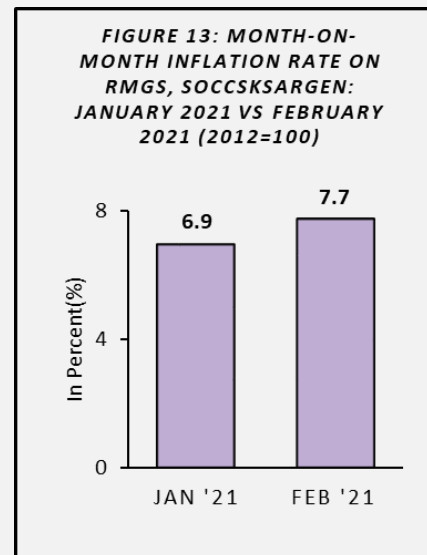
Restaurant and Miscellaneous Goods and Services (RMGS)

A 7.7 % price mark-up was noted for RMGS in February 2021 from its 6.9% in January 2021 (Figure 13) as all commodity groups recorded price upticks during the month under review.

TABLE 11: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, RMGS, SOCCSKSARGEN: JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	JAN '21	FEB '21
Catering Services	8.7	10.1
Personal Care	4.3	4.4
Personal Effects N.E.C.	1.9	2.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Prices for all items in the market basket was slightly higher than the previous month as faster price upticks were noted in FNAB (1.9% to 2.9%), FHERMH (2.6% to 3.6%), CAF (2.0% to 2.4%), Health (3.4% to 4.1%), Transport (10.2% to 12.2%), Communication (2.7% to 2.8%), RAC (-0.9% to -0.8%) and RMGS (6.9% to 7.7%). A slower price reduction were recorded in HWEGOF (3.3% to 2.9%) and ABT (22.9% to 21.8%). Only RAC posted a deflation during the month under review while Education (3.0%) sustained its previous month's figure (Table 12).

TABLE 12. INFLATION RATES FOR ALL INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BY COMMODITY GROUP, SOCCSKSARGEN; JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY GROUP	JANUARY 2021	FEBRUARY 2021
ALL ITEMS	4.3	4.9
FNAB*	1.9	2.9
ABT	22.9	21.8
CAF*	2.0	2.4
HWEGOF	3.3	2.9
FHERMH*	2.6	3.6
HEALTH*	3.4	4.1
TRANSPORT*	10.2	12.2
COMMUNICATION*	2.7	2.8
RAC*	-0.9	-0.8
EDUCATION	3.0	3.0
RMGS*	6.9	7.7

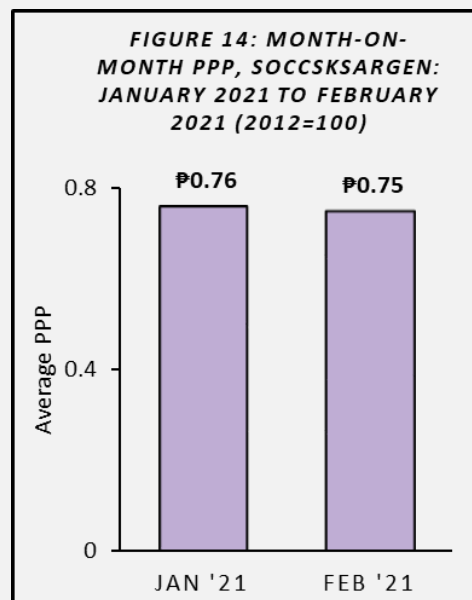
*Abbreviated (See Appendix)

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



PURCHASING POWER OF PESO

The average Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in SOCCSKSARGEN in February 2021 was estimated at ₱0.75. This means that your ₱100.00 in February 2021 can only buy about 75.0% of the same basket of goods and services amounting to ₱100.00 in its 2012 reference base year (Figure 14).



INFLATION RATE BY PROVINCE IN SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

In February 2021, inflation rate in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was highest in Cotabato Province at 6.8%. It was followed by Sarangani (5.5%) and South Cotabato (3.7%). The lowest was posted in Sultan Kudarat at 3.2%. Inflation rates quickened in Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. A slower price mark-up was noted in Sarangani (from 5.9% to 5.5%) (Table 13).

TABLE 13. INFLATION RATES FOR ALL INCOME HOUSEHOLDS BY PROVINCE, SOCCSKSARGEN; JANUARY 2021 AND FEBRUARY 2021 (2012=100)

PROVINCE	JANUARY 2021	FEBRUARY 2021
COTABATO	6.2	6.8
SARANGANI	5.9	5.5
SOUTH COTABATO	2.7 ^r	3.7
SULTAN KUDARAT	2.5	3.2

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

^r - revised





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	the average retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services commonly purchased by households relative to a base year
Inflation Rate	the annual rate of change or the year-on-year change in the CPI expressed in percent
Market basket	refers to a sample of goods and services that are commonly purchased and bought by an average Filipino household
Weights	a system that considers the relevance of the components of the index

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