

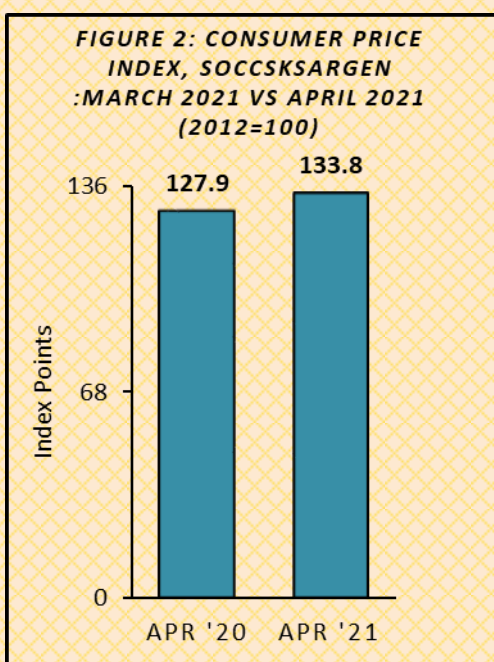
SPECIAL RELEASE

SOCCSKSARGEN Headline Inflation Rate Slows to 4.6% in April 2021

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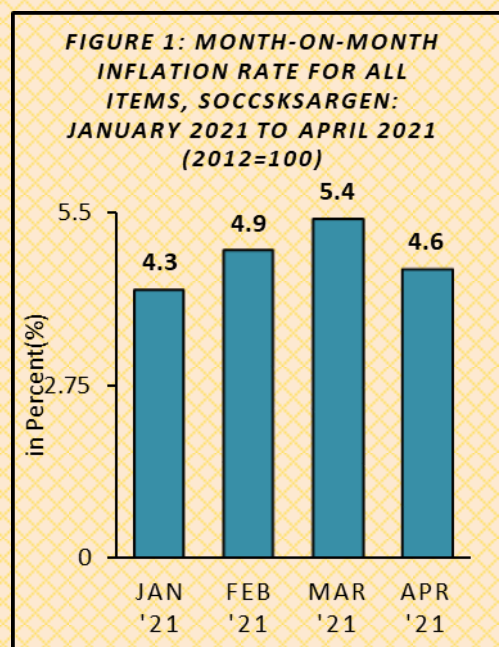
INDEX POINTS

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) For All Items in SOCCSKSARGEN in April 2021 was recorded at 133.8 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 33.8% compared to its prices in its 2012 reference base year. The April 2020 CPI for All Items at 127.9 was higher by 6.0 index points compared to its April 2021 index (*Figure 2*).



INFLATION

Headline inflation rate or annual rate of change in the prices of goods and services in the market basket slowed down to 4.7% in April 2021 from 5.4% in March 2021. Headline inflation for All Items exhibited an uptrend starting from January to March 2021 (*Figure 1*).



SOCCKSARGEN REGION

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

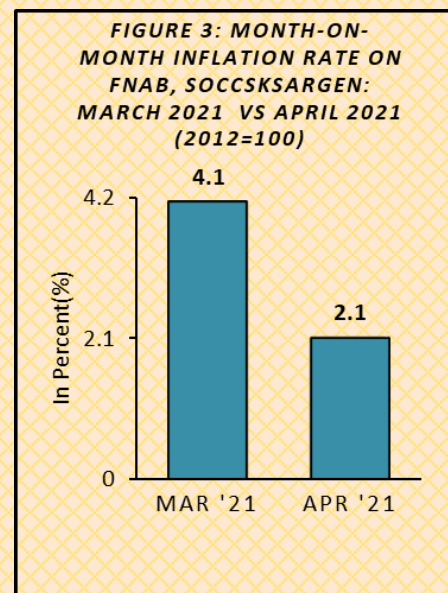
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (FNAB)

FNAB listed an inflation rate of 2.1% in April 2021, about 2.0 percentage points lower from 4.1% in March 2021 (Figure 3) as inflation on Food Group decreased in April 2021 from its previous month's figure Meat, Fish, Fruit, Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery, and Non-Alcoholic showed faster price hikes. A price slow down was noted in Bread and Cereals, Corn Rice, and Vegetables during the month under review (Table 1).

TABLE 1: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, FNAB, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Food	4.4	2.3
Bread and Cereals	1.5	-3.1
Rice	1.5	-4.7
Corn	1.9	1.7
Meat	12.6	14.7
Fish	5.5	8.5
Fruit	4.4	4.9
Vegetables	5.3	-3.6
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	1.4	1.7
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	1.1	1.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



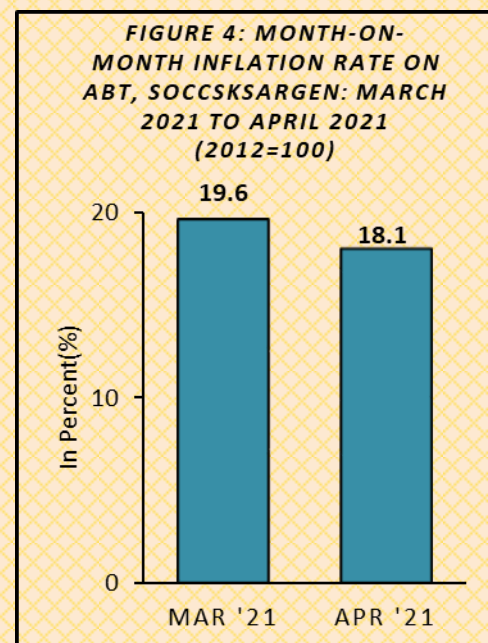
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT)

Slower annual inflation rate for ABT was recorded in April 2021 at 18.1% from 19.6% in March 2021 (Figure 4). Both Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco recorded slower price mark-up during the month under review. (Table 2).

TABLE 2: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, ABT, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Alcoholic Beverages	9.1	8.6
Tobacco	22.5	20.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



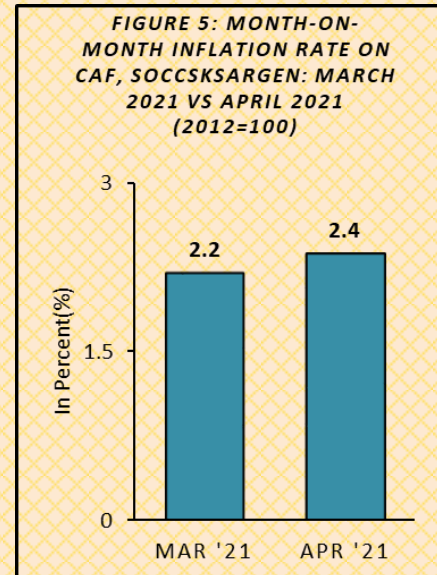
Clothing and Footwear (CAF)

CAF exhibited a faster inflation rate of 2.4% in April 2021 from 2.2% in March 2021, a difference of 0.2 percentage point from the previous month (*Figure 5*). This was attributed to the increase in prices of both Clothing and Footwear (*Table 3*).

TABLE 3: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, CAF, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Clothing	1.8	2.0
Footwear	3.3	3.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



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

Prices of HWEGOF slowdown by 2.8% in April 2021 from 2.9% in March 2021 (*Figure 6*). Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling, Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Related to the Dwelling, and Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels registered higher price mark-ups. Actual Rentals for Housing posted slower price increment (*Table 4*).

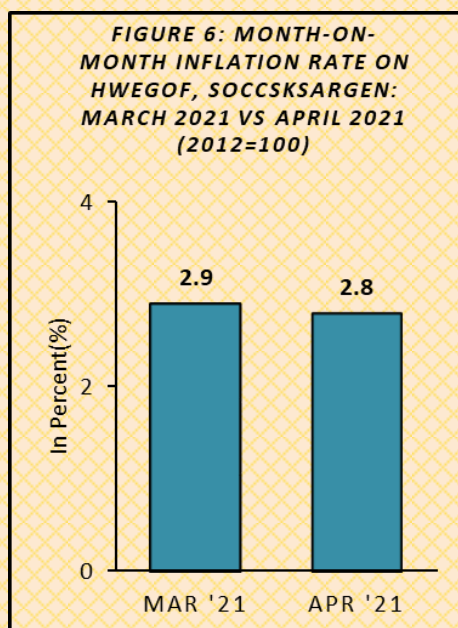


TABLE 4: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, HWEGOF, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Actual Rentals for Housing	1.9	0.8
Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling	3.1	3.3
Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling	3.9	4.4
Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	3.9	5.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

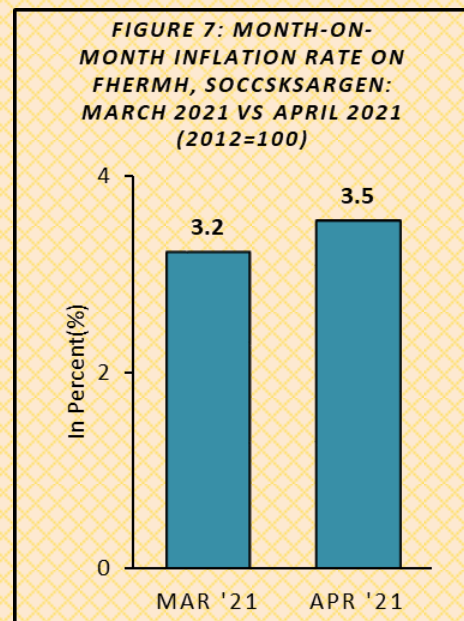


Furnishings, Household Equipment and Maintenance of the House (FHERMH)

Faster price mark-up of 3.5% in April 2021 was recorded for FHERMH from 3.2% in March 2021 (Figure 7) as Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance, Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils, and Tools and Equipment for House and Garden registered higher price upticks (Figure 7). Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings remained their previous month's rate. A price slowdown was recorded in Household Appliances while Household Textiles hardly change (Table 5).

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings	0.3	0.3
Household Textiles	1.3	1.2
Household Appliances	4.1	3.7
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	3.5	3.8
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	1.2	1.5
Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance	3.5	3.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

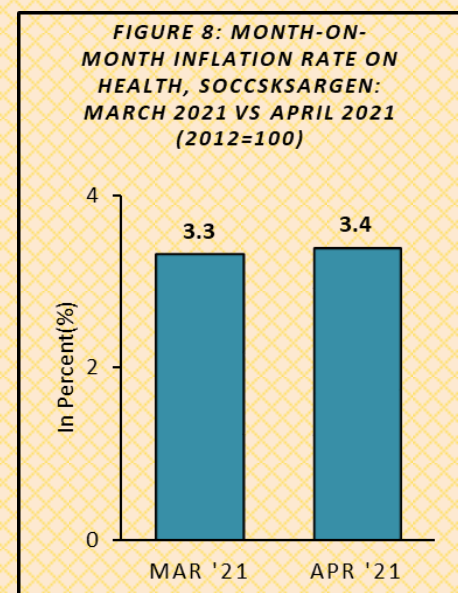


Health

Price mark-up for health commodities and services posted remained at almost the same level as the previous month at 3.4% in April 2021 from 3.3% in March 2021 (Figure 8). Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment, and Out-patient Services and Hospital Services barely posted price movements while Hospital Services did not register price changes (Table 6).

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment	1.6	1.7
Out-patient Services	5.0	5.1
Hospital Services	4.1	4.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



Transport

Transport increased by 18.1% in April 2021 from 14.9% in March 2021 (*Figure 9*) as prices on Operation of Personal Transport Equipment was almost double the previous month and Transport Services posted price hikes during the month under review (*Table 7*).

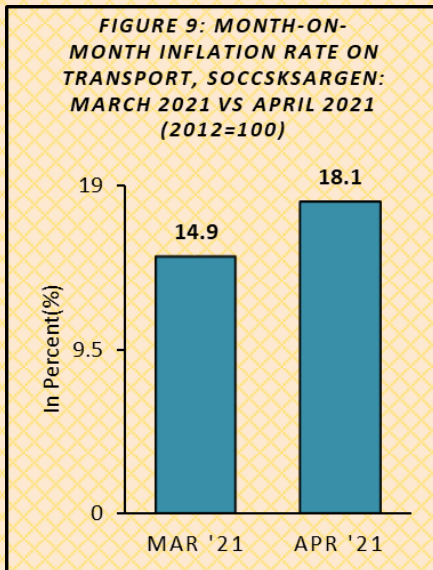


TABLE 7: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, TRANSPORT, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	10.6	22.1
Transport Services	20.9	21.0

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

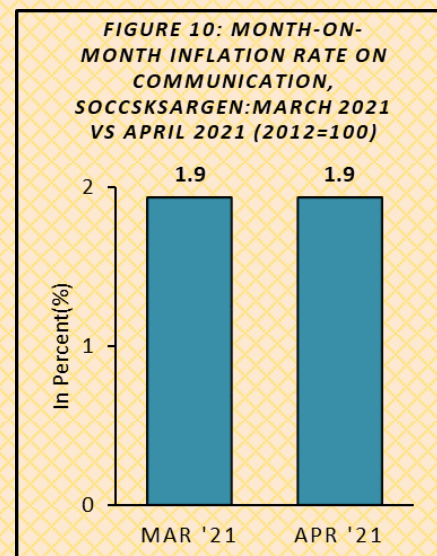
Communication

Price hike in Communication remained at 1.9% in April 2021 from the same rate the previous month (*Figure 10*). Telephone and Telefax Equipment slightly inched-up while no price movement was recorded in Telephone and Telefax Services and Postal Services (*Table 8*).

TABLE 8: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, COMMUNICATION, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Postal Services	0.0	0.0
Telephone and Telefax Equipment	10.3	10.8
Telephone and Telefax Services	0.4	0.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

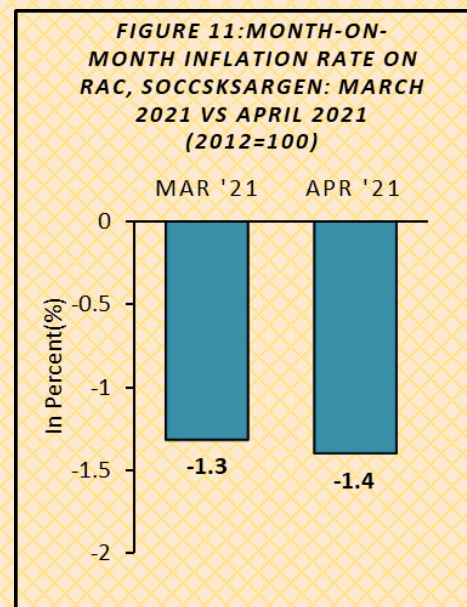


Recreation and Culture (RAC)

RAC sustained a deflation from -1.3% in March 2021 to -1.4% in April 2021 (Figure 11). Higher price mark-up was noted in Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment, Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture, and Newspapers, Books and Stationery. Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets, and Recreational and Cultural Services recorded slower price hikes. Recreational and Cultural Services remained deflated during the month under review (Table 9).

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment	1.3	1.4
Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture	9.6	11.3
Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets	4.1	3.1
Recreational and Cultural Services	-12.9	-13.0
Newspapers, Books and Stationery	2.3	2.6

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

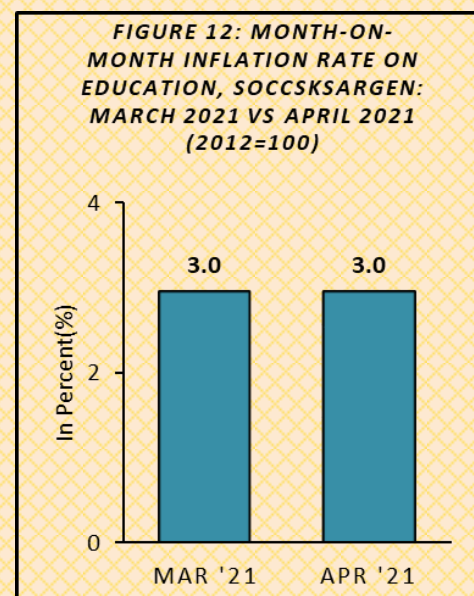


Education

Education commodities and services sustained their previous month's figure of 3.0% (Figure 12) as there was scarcely price movement in all the commodities under Education during the month under review from March 2021 to April 2021. Secondary Education remained deflated (Table 10).

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '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)

RMGS sustained its previous month's rate of 7.8% (Figure 13) as Personal Effects N.E.C. recorded price upticks from March 2021 to April 2021 (Figure 13). Only Catering Services was almost at the same level as the previous month while Personal Care recorded no price movement (Table 11).

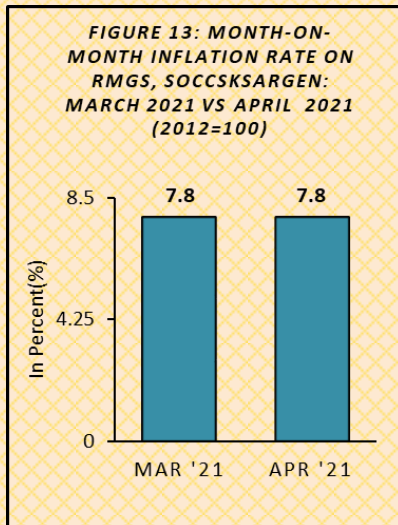


TABLE 11: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, RMGS, SOCCSKSARGEN: MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 (2012=100)

COMMODITY	MAR '21	APR '21
Catering Services	10.2	10.3
Personal Care	4.1	4.1
Personal Effects N.E.C.	2.9	3.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

The price drop in April 2021 for all items in the market basket was due to the lower price increment in FNAB (4.1% to 2.1%), ABT (19.6% to 18.1%) and RAC (-1.3% to 1.4%). Faster price increments were noted in CAF (2.2% to 2.4%), HWEGOF (2.9% to 2.8%), FHERMH (3.2% to 3.5%), Health (3.3% to 3.4%), and Transport (14.9% to 18.1%). Communication, Education, and RMGS sustained their previous month's rate. Only RAC remained deflated during the month under review (Table 12)

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

COMMODITY GROUP	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021
ALL ITEMS	5.4	4.6
FNAB*	4.1	2.1
ABT*	19.6	18.1
CAF*	2.2	2.4
HWEGOF	2.9	2.8
FHERMH	3.2	3.5
HEALTH	3.3	3.4
TRANSPORT	14.9	18.1
COMMUNICATION	1.9	1.9
RAC*	-1.3	-1.4
EDUCATION	3.0	3.0
RMGS*	7.8	7.8

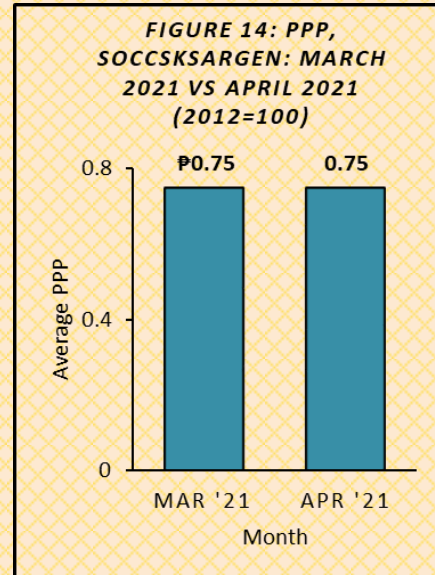
*Abbreviated (See Appendix)

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 April 2021 was estimated at ₱0.75. This means that your ₱100.00 in April 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). PPP in the region was pegged at P0.75 in April 2021 sustaining its figure from previous month (Figure 14).



INFLATION RATE BY PROVINCE IN SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

In April 2021, inflation rate in SOCCSKSARGEN Region was highest in Cotabato Province at 6.2%. It was followed by Sarangani (4.7%) and South Cotabato (3.8%). The lowest was posted in Sultan Kudarat at 3.3%. Inflation rates eased in Cotabato, South Cotabato and Sultan Kudarat. Sultan Kudarat sustained its previous month's rate (Table 13).

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

PROVINCE	MARCH 2021	APRIL 2021
COTABATO	7.7	6.2
SARANGANI	5.9r	4.7
SOUTH COTABATO	4.6	3.8
SULTAN KUDARAT	3.3	3.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

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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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