



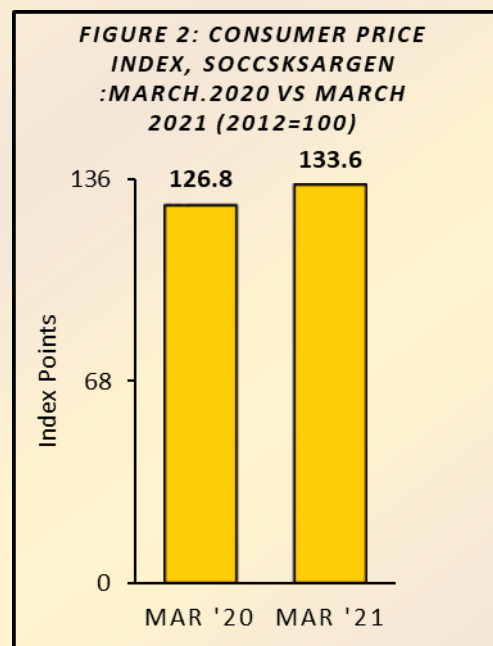
# SPECIAL RELEASE

## SOCCSKSARGEN Headline Inflation Rate Up By 5.4% in March 2021

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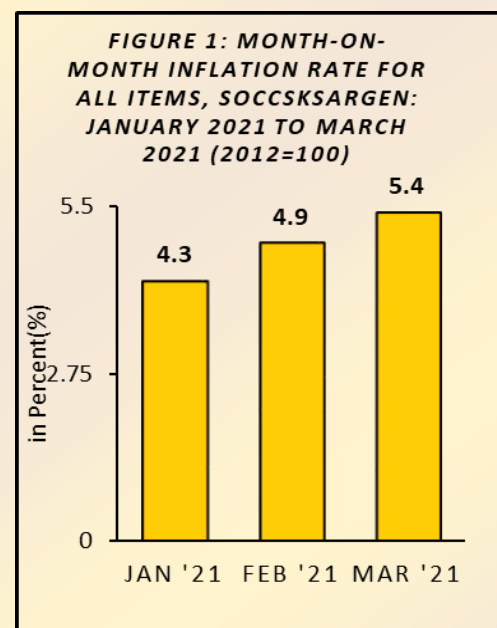
### INDEX POINTS

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) For All Items in SOCCSKSARGEN in March 2021 was recorded at 133.6 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 33.6% compared to its prices in its 2012 reference base year. The March 2020 CPI for All Items at 126.8 was higher by 6.8 index points compared to its March 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 5.4% in March 2021 from 4.9% in February 2021. Headline Inflation for All items exhibited an uptrend starting from 4.3% in January 2021. (Figure 1)



## MARCH 2021 INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP IN SOCCSKSARGEN REGION

### Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (FNAB)

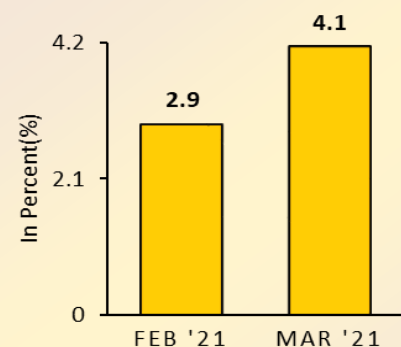
FNAB posted faster price increment of 4.1% in March 2021 from 2.9% in February 2021 (Figure 3). Faster price increments were recorded in Bread and Cereals, Rice Meat and Fish. Prices of Fruit, Vegetables, Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery and Non-Alcoholic Beverages slowed down during the month under review. (Table 1).

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
<b>Food</b>	3.0	4.4
Bread and Cereals	0.2	1.5
Rice	-0.8	1.5
Corn	5.4	1.9
Meat	10.1	12.6
Fish	-0.3	5.5
Fruit	5.8	4.4
Vegetables	11.9	5.3
Sugar, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	1.5	1.4
<b>Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	1.7	1.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 3: MONTH-ON-  
MONTH INFLATION RATE ON  
FNAB, SOCCSKSARGEN:  
FEBRUARY 2021 VS MARCH  
2021 (2012=100)**



### Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT)

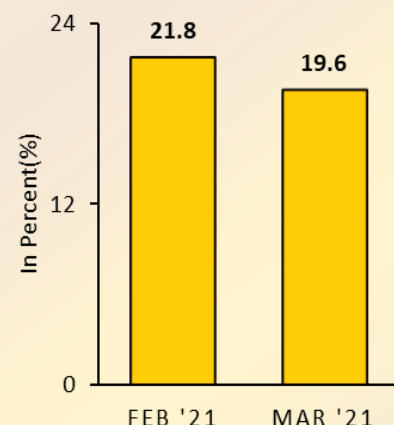
ABT prices decreased to 19.6% in March 2021 from 21.8% in February 2021 (Figure 4). Both Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco registered slower price mark-ups during the month under review. Tobacco sustained double digit inflation. (Table 2).

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Alcoholic Beverages	12.3	9.1
Tobacco	24.3	22.5

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 4: MONTH-ON-  
MONTH INFLATION RATE ON  
ABT, SOCCSKSARGEN:  
FEBRUARY 2021 TO MARCH  
2021 (2012=100)**

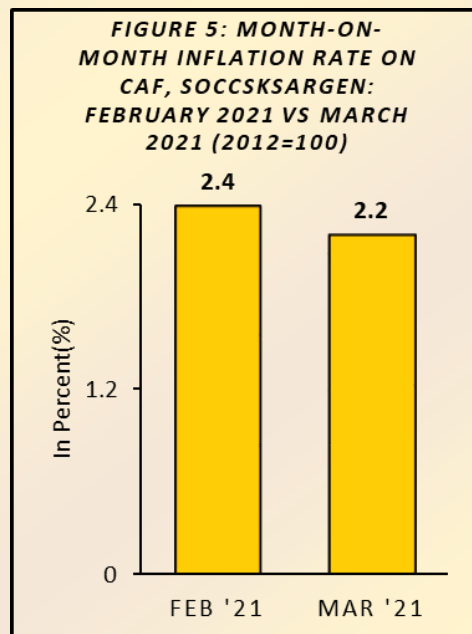


### Clothing and Footwear (CAF)

Inflation rate for CAF slowed down from 2.4% in February 2021 to 2.2% in March 2021 (Figure 5) as prices of both Clothing and Footwear registered a slower price mark-ups during the month under review (Table 3).

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Clothing	1.9	1.8
Footwear	3.9	3.3



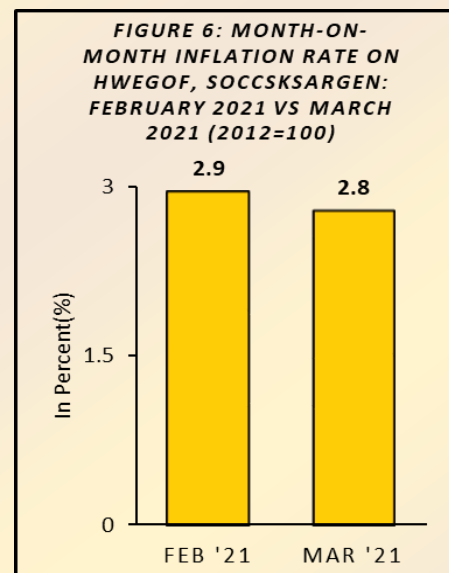
### Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (HWEGOF)

HWEGOF slightly decreased from 2.9% in February 2021 to 2.8% in March 2021. Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling, Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling and Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels recorded slower price mark-up (Figure 6). Actual Rentals for Housing sustained its previous month's figures (Table 4).

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

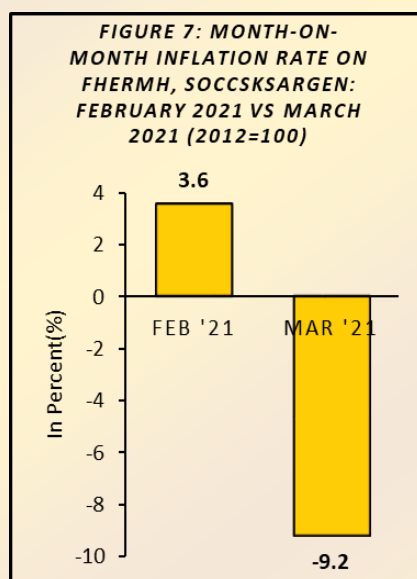
COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Actual Rentals for Housing	1.9	1.9
Maintenance and Repair of the Dwelling	4.0	3.1
Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Relating to the Dwelling	5.1	3.9
Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	3.9	3.7

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



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

Slower price mark-ups for FHERMH was posted in March 2021 at a deflated figure of -9.2 % from 3.6% in February 2021 (Figure 7) as Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings, Household Appliances, Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils exhibited higher price upticks. Price slowdowns were noted in Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings during the month under review (Table 5).



**TABLE 5: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, FHERMH, SOCCKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Furniture and Furnishings, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings	0.7	9.1
Household Textiles	1.8	-9.7
Household Appliances	4.6	5.3
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	3.2	55.4
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	1.6	-39.9
Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance	3.7	-17.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

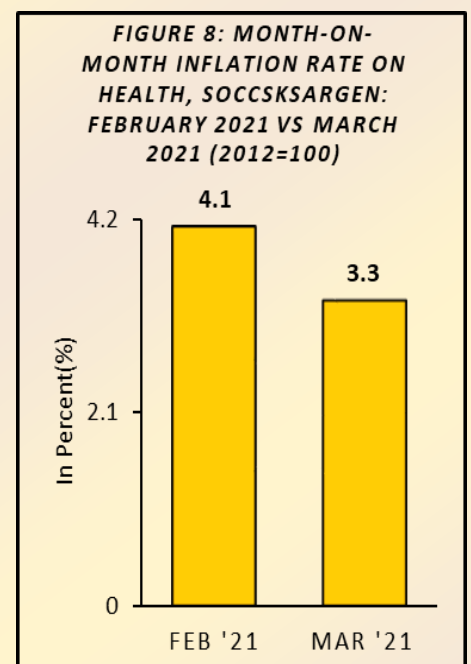
## Health

Health commodities and services posted a slower price increment of 3.3% in March 2021 from 4.1% in February 2021 (Figure 8). Prices of Medical Products Appliances and Equipment and Out-patient exhibited faster price mark-up. Hospital Services showed price mark down from 5.7% in February 2021 to 4.1% in

**TABLE 6: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, HEALTH, SOCCKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Medical Products, Appliances and Equipment	1.5	1.6
Out-patient Services	4.7	5.0
Hospital Services	5.7	4.1

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



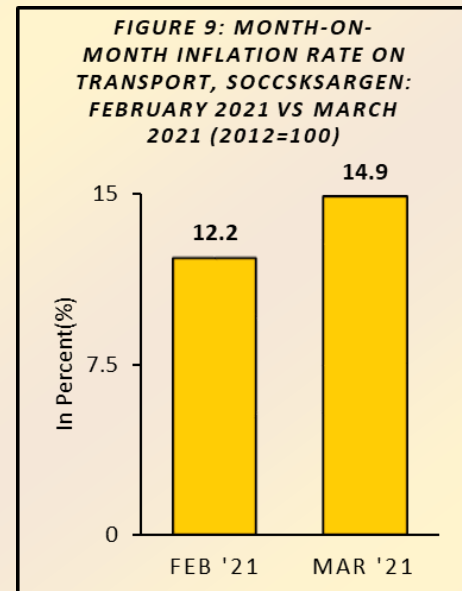


### Transport

Transport recorded higher price uptick of 14.0% in February 2021 to 14.9% in March 2021 (Figure 9). Transport Services registered slower price mark-up as Operation of Personal Transport Equipment recorded higher price increment. Transport services was able to maintain double digit figures. (Table 7).

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Operation of Personal Transport Equipment	-0.3	10.6
Transport Services	21.1	20.9



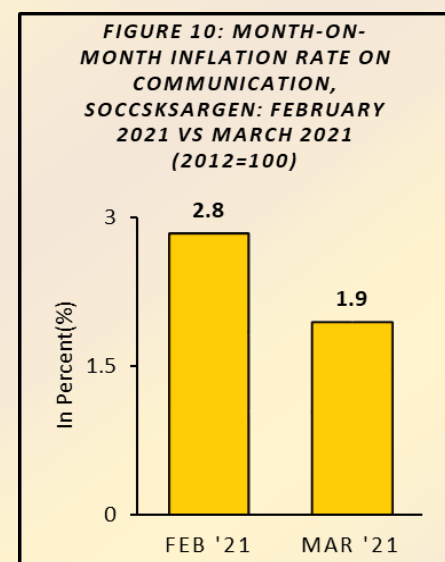
### Communication

Communication posted slower inflation rate of 1.9% in March 2021 from 2.8% in February 2021 (Figure 10) as Telephone and Telefax Equipment posted slower price increment. Postal Services, Telephone and Telephax Services sustained their previous month's rates. (Table 8).

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Postal Services	0.0	0.0
Telephone and Telefax Equipment	17.6	10.3
Telephone and Telefax Services	0.4	0.4

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority



## Recreation and Culture (RAC)

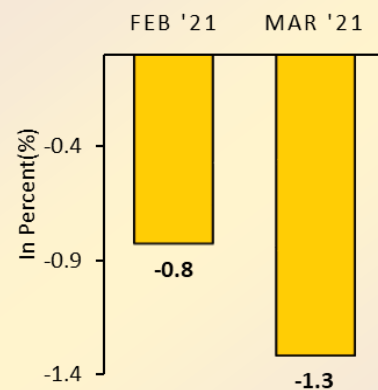
RAC sustained its negative price increment of 1.3% in March 2021 from -0.8% in February 2021 (*Figure 11*). Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment, Newspapers, Books and Stationery, Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets posted a slower price mark-up. Higher price hike was noted in Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture. Recreational and Cultural Services remained deflated and sustained its previous month's rate (*Table 9*).

**TABLE 9: INFLATION RATE  
BY COMMODITY GROUP, RAC, SOCCSKSARGEN:  
FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021  
(2012=100)**

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Audio-visual, Photographic and Information Processing Equipment	1.9	1.3
Other Major Durables for Recreation and Culture	8.8	9.6
Other Recreational Items and Equipment, Gardens and Pets	5.4	4.1
Recreational and Cultural Services	-12.6	-12.9
Newspapers, Books and Stationery	2.6	2.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 11: MONTH-ON-MONTH INFLATION RATE ON RAC, SOCCSKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 VS MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**

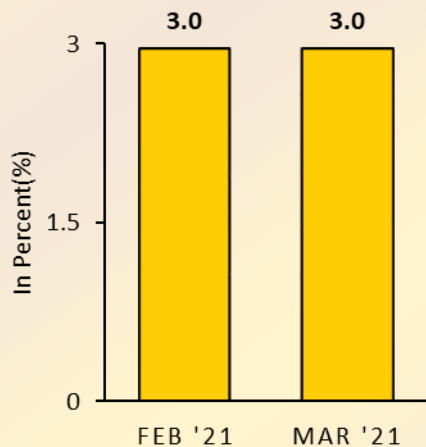


## Education

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*).



**FIGURE 12: MONTH-ON-MONTH INFLATION RATE ON EDUCATION, SOCCSKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 VS MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**



**TABLE 10: INFLATION RATE BY COMMODITY GROUP, EDUCATION, SOCCSKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 AND MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '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)**

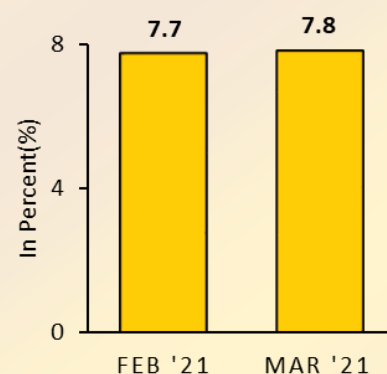
RMGS prices went up by 7.8% in March 2021 from 7.7% in February 2021 (Figure 13) as price of Personal Effects N.E.C and Catering Services recorded a faster price increment. A price slow down was noted in Personal Care during the month under review.

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

COMMODITY	FEB '21	MAR '21
Catering Services	10.1	10.2
Personal Care	4.4	4.1
Personal Effects N.E.C.	2.0	2.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**FIGURE 13: MONTH-ON-MONTH INFLATION RATE ON RMGS, SOCCSKSARGEN: FEBRUARY 2021 VS MARCH 2021 (2012=100)**





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Prices for all items in the market basket in March 2021 eased during the month under review as slower price mark-ups were posted in ABT (21.8% to 19.6%), FHERMH (3.6% to -9.2%), CAF (2.4% to 2.2%), HWEGOF (2.9% to 2.8%), Health (4.1% to 3.3%), Communication (2.7% to 2.8%), RAC (-0.8% to -1.3%). Faster price upticks were recorded in FNAB (2.9% to 4.1%), Transport (12.2% to 14.9%), and RMGS (7.7% to 7.8%). Only RAC posted a deflation during the month under review while Education (3.0%) sustained its previous month's figure (*Table 12*).

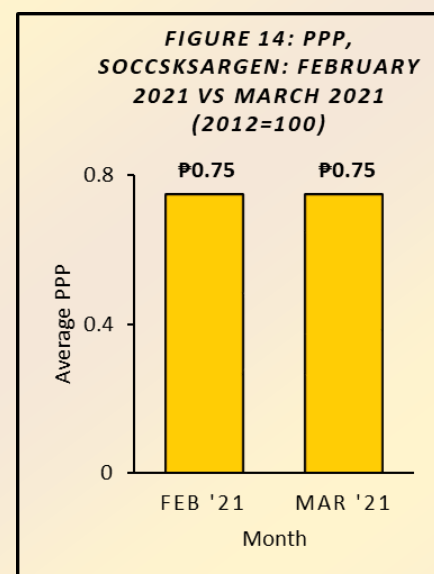
COMMODITY GROUP	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021
ALL ITEMS	4.9	5.4
FNAB*	2.9	4.1
ABT	21.8	19.6
CAF	2.4	2.2
HWEGOF	2.9	2.8
FHERMH	3.6	-9.2
HEALTH	4.1	3.3
TRANSPORT*	12.2	14.9
COMMUNICATION	2.8	1.9
RAC	-0.8	-1.3
EDUCATION	3.0	3.0
RMGS*	7.7	7.8

\*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 March 2021 sustained its previous month's figure of ₱0.75. This means that your ₱100.00 in March 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

Inflation rate in the provinces of SOCCSKSARGEN Region in March 2021 was highest in Cotabato Province at 7.7%. Sarangani was at 5.8%, South Cotabato, 4.6% and Sultan Kudarat, 3.3%. The four provinces posted faster price increments during the month under review (Table 13).

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

PROVINCE	FEBRUARY 2021	MARCH 2021
COTABATO	6.8	7.7
SARANGANI	5.5	5.8
SOUTH COTABATO	3.7	4.6
SULTAN KUDARAT	3.2	3.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

### Definition of Terms

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





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**SOCCKSARGEN REGION**

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