

SPECIAL RELEASE

Summary Inflation Report Consumer Price Index All Income Households (2018=100)

**General Santos City
March 2025**

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**Table A. Year-on-Year Headline Inflation Rates, All Items
In Percent
(2018=100)**

Area	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	Year-to-date*
Philippines	3.7	2.1	1.8	2.2
Region XII	4.4	(0.3)	(0.2)	0.2
General Santos City	2.9	(0.2) ^r	(0.5)	0.2

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

*Year-on-year change of average CPI for January to March 2025 vs. January to March 2024

Note: r - revised

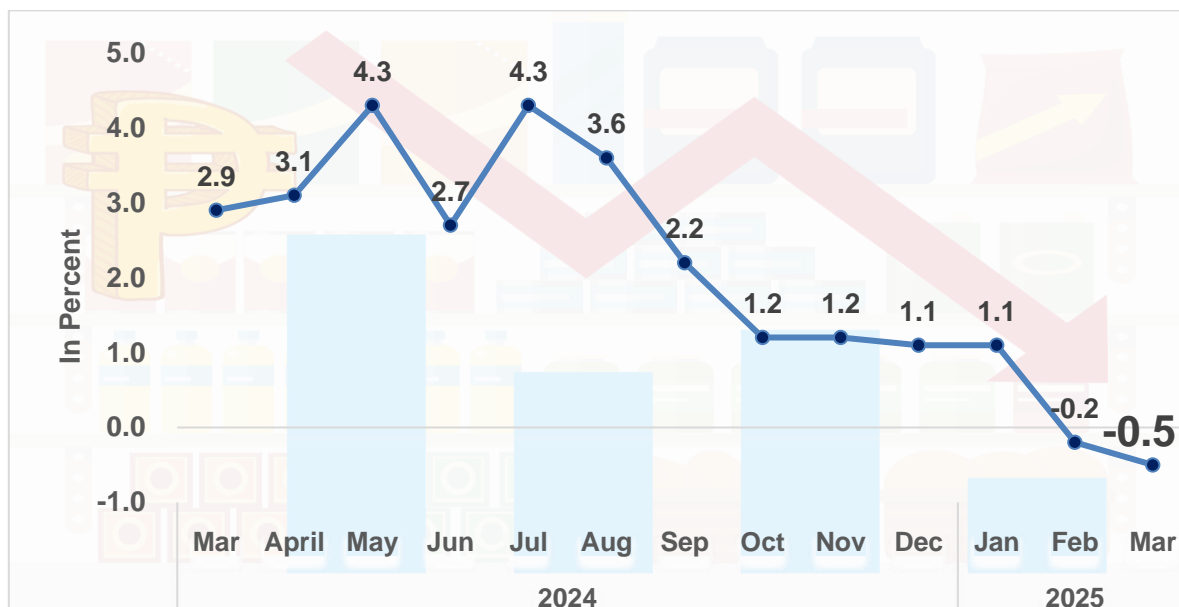
A. General Santos City

1. Overall Inflation

The headline inflation or overall inflation in General Santos City further declined to 0.5 percent in March 2025 from 0.2 percent in February 2025. In March 2024, the inflation rate was higher at 2.9 percent. (*Table A and Figure 1*)



**Figure 1. Headline Inflation Rates in General Santos City, All Items
(2018=100)**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

1.1 Main Drivers to the Downward Trend of Headline Inflation (Table B)

The downtrend in the overall inflation in March 2025 was primarily brought about by the year-on-year decrement in the index of food and non-alcoholic beverages at 0.3 percent from a 0.5 percent annual increase in February 2025. Transport also contributed to the downtrend with a faster annual decrease at 3.8 percent during the month from 2.0 percent in the previous month.

In contrast, faster annual increment was observed in the indices of the following commodity groups in March 2025:

- Alcoholic beverages and tobacco, 1.8 percent from 1.6 percent;
- Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance, 0.2 percent from 0.0 percent;
- Health, 4.2 percent from 3.4 percent; and
- Personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services, 1.6 percent from 1.5 percent.

In addition, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels posted slower annual decrease at 2.6 percent during the month from 3.6 percent in February 2025.

Meanwhile, the following commodity groups maintained their respective previous month's annual rates:

- Clothing and footwear, 1.1 percent;
- Information and communication, at 0.0 percent;
- Recreation, sport and culture, at 0.9 percent;
- Education services, at 8.7 percent;
- Restaurants and accommodation services, at -0.8 percent; and
- Financial services, at 0.0 percent.

**Table B. Year-on-Year Inflation Rates by Commodity Group, General Santos City
March 2024, February 2025 and March 2025
In Percent
(2018=100)**

Commodity Group	Inflation Rate			
	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	Trend Indicator
All Items	2.9	(0.2)^r	(0.5)	↓
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	4.4	0.5	(0.3)	↓
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	6.0	1.6	1.8	↑
Clothing and Footwear	1.7	1.1	1.1	=
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	(1.3)	(3.6) ^r	(2.6)	↑
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	0.9	0.0	0.2	↑
Health	1.9	3.4	4.2	↑
Transport	0.6	(2.0)	(3.8)	↓
Information and Communication	0.3	0.0	0.0	=
Recreation, Sport and Culture	2.5	0.9	0.9	=
Education Services	4.4	8.7	8.7	=
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	9.3	(0.8)	(0.8)	=
Financial Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	=
Personal Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.0	1.5	1.6	↑

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

Note: r – revised

1.2 Main Contributors to the Headline Inflation

The top three commodity groups that contributed to the overall inflation in March 2025 were the following:

- a. Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels with 88.2 percent share or -0.4 percentage point; and
- b. Transport with 78.3 percent share or -0.4 percentage point; and
- c. Food and non-alcoholic beverages with 24.1 percent share or -0.1 percentage point.

2. Food Inflation

Food inflation in General Santos City registered a decline at 0.5 percent in March 2025 from an annual increase at 0.5 percent in February 2025. In March 2024, food inflation was higher at 4.6 percent.

2.1 Main Drivers to the Downward Trend of the Food Inflation (Table C)

The deceleration of food inflation in March 2025 was primarily influenced by the faster year-on-year decrement of rice at 12.5 percent from 8.2 percent in February 2025. This was followed by slower annual increment of meat and other parts of slaughtered land animals at 7.6 percent during the month from 8.8 percent in February 2025. Meanwhile, vegetables, tuber, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses recorded faster annual drop at 2.9 percent in March 2025 from 1.1 percent in February 2025.

In addition, slower annual increase was noted in the indices of the following food groups:

- a. Corn, 2.9 percent from 3.8 percent;
- b. Oils and fats, 7.3 percent from 7.5 percent; and
- c. Fruits and nuts, 4.3 percent from 7.5 percent.

In contrast, faster annual increases were observed in the indices of the following food groups during the month:

- a. Flour, bread and other bakery products, pasta products, and other cereals, 1.4 percent from 1.2 percent;
- b. Fish and other seafood, 2.7 percent from 0.1 percent;
- c. Milk, other dairy products and eggs, 7.5 percent from 6.4 percent; and
- d. Ready-made food and other food products n.e.c., 3.4 percent from 3.3 percent.

Moreover, slower annual decrease was registered in the index of sugar, confectionery and desserts at 0.7 percent during the month from 1.0 percent in February 2025.



Table C. Year-on-Year Inflation on Food Items, General Santos City
March 2024, February 2025 and March 2025
In Percent
(2018=100)

Commodity Group	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	Trend Indicator
Food	4.6	0.5	(0.5)	↓
Cereals and Cereal Products	14.8	(5.6)	(8.7)	↓
Cereals	19.1	(7.8)	(12.0)	↓
Rice	20.1	(8.2)	(12.5)	↓
Corn	(3.6)	3.8	2.9	↓
Flour, Bread and Other Bakery Products, Pasta Products, and Other Cereals	3.2	1.2	1.4	↑
Meat and Other Parts of Slaughtered Animals	(1.7)	8.8	7.6	↓
Fish and Other Seafood	1.0	0.1	2.7	↑
Milk, Other Dairy Products and Eggs	4.8	6.4	7.5	↑
Oils and Fats	(5.2)	7.5	7.3	↓
Fruits and Nuts	0.8	7.5	4.3	↓
Vegetables, Tubers, Cooking Bananas and Pulses	(5.5)	(1.1)	(2.9)	↓
Sugar, Confectionery and Desserts	(4.2)	(1.0)	(0.7)	↑
Ready-Made Food and Other Food Products n.e.c.	2.5	3.3	3.4	↑

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

2.2 Main Contributors to the Food Inflation

Food inflation share was at 39.5 percent or 0.2 percentage point to the March 2025 overall inflation. The top two food groups in terms of contribution to food inflation during the month were the following:

- Cereals and cereal products, which include rice, corn, flour, bread and other bakery products, pasta products, and other cereals, with a share of 576.9 percent or -2.9 percentage point; and
- Vegetables, tubers, plantains, cooking bananas and pulses with a share of 41.9 percent or -0.2 percentage point.

**Table D. Year-on-Year Inflation in General Santos City, All Items
March 2019 to March 2025
In Percent
(2018=100)**

Month	Year						
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
January	5.3	2.4	2.1	6.4	6.9	2.9	1.1
February	4.1	2.4	3.6	5.4	6.9	3.5	-0.2 ^r
March	4.0	2.0	5.5	4.4	6.7	2.9	-0.5
April	3.7	2.5	5.2	5.3	5.7	3.1	
May	3.4	1.9	5.7	6.2	3.8	4.3	
June	2.8	1.6	5.6	6.4	4.0	2.7	
July	2.2	1.8	5.1	7.7	2.4	4.3	
August	0.7	0.9	5.5	7.9	3.4	3.6	
September	-0.3	1.4	5.8	7.7	4.1	2.2	
October	-0.2	0.8	7.2	7.0	4.5	1.2	
November	1.6	0.8	7.3	7.1	4.1	1.2	
December	2.7	0.6	7.8	6.9	3.9	1.1	
Average	2.5	1.6	5.5	6.5	4.7	2.7	0.2

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

Note: r - revised

3. Purchasing Power of Peso



100 pesos in 2018



124.7 pesos in March 2025

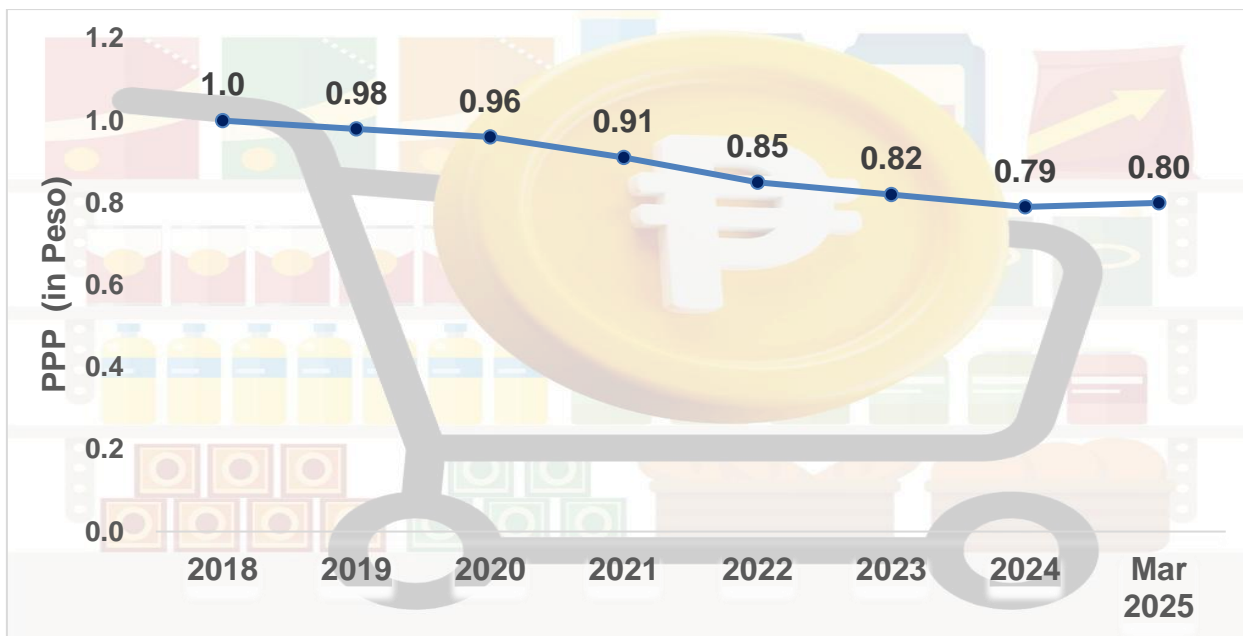
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for Generation of Consumer Price Index

The Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) in General Santos City increased to PhP 0.80 in March 2025. This means that a peso in 2018 is worth 80 centavos in March 2025, or you need PhP 124.70 to purchase the same goods and services that cost PhP 100.00 in 2018.

The PPP is inversely related to inflation rate. Therefore, as the inflation rate decreases, PPP inclines. In General Santos City, PPP has been decreasing on the average of 0.04 annually from 2018 to 2024. By comparison, the PPP in 2024 was 0.79 which implies that the PhP 1.00 in 2018 as the base year, values only PhP 0.79 in 2024. (Figure 2)



**Figure 2. Purchasing Power of Peso in General Santos City:
2018 to 2024, March 2025
(2018=100)**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index

Technical Notes:

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 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.
Headline Inflation Rate	this refers to the rate of change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the average cost of a standard "basket" of goods and services typically consumed by a representative household.
Inflation Rate	the annual rate of change or 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.

Purchasing Power of Peso
(PPP)

this indicates the value of the peso in the base period compared to its value in the current period. It is calculated 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.

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