

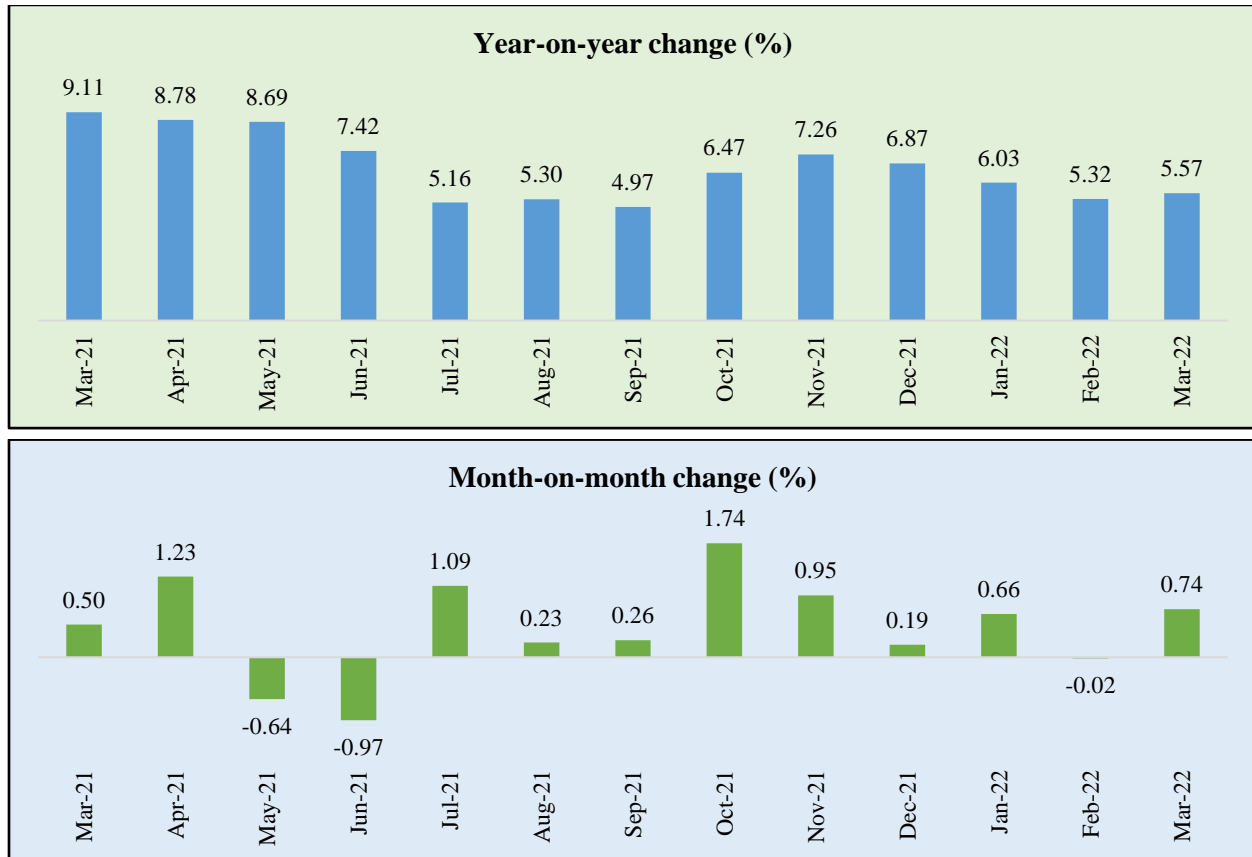


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 རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་ཚེས་དཔྱད་བཞུགས་འཛིན་།
Royal Government of Bhutan
National Statistics Bureau



Consumer Price Index (CPI): March 2022

(Release date: 21st April, 2022)

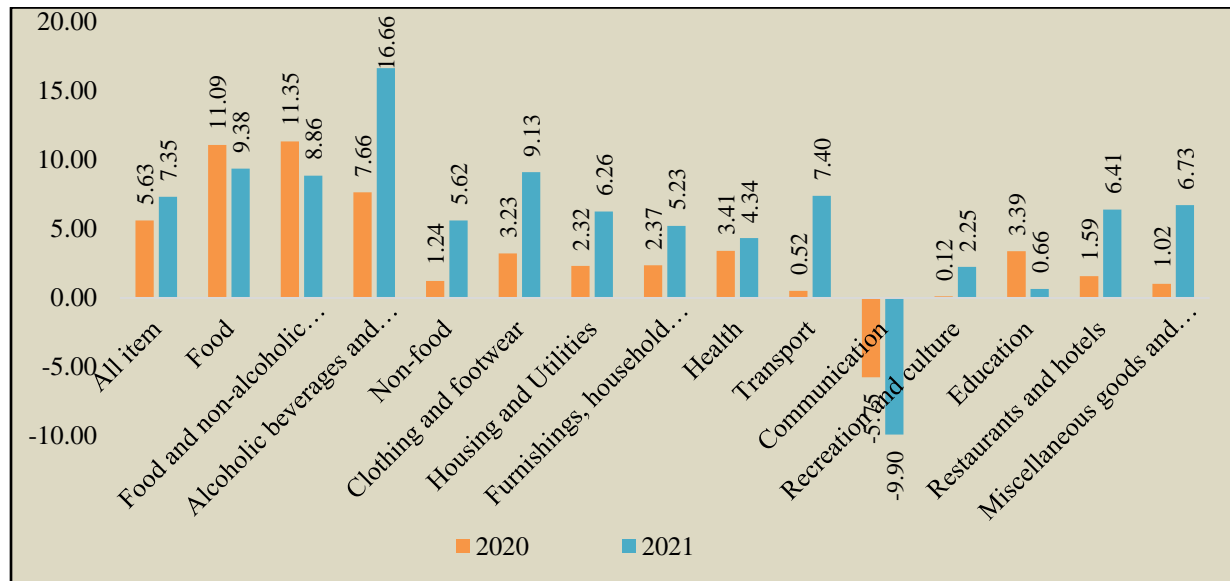


The prices of consumer goods and services increased by 5.57 percent in the past 12 months (from March 2021 to March 2022). The rate was 0.25 percentage point higher than the previous month which was 5.32 percent and it was mainly due to the increase in price of petrol and diesel. Non-food prices continue to be the main driver of inflation with 6.92 percent increase contributing to 64 percent of the overall increase. Within the non-food, transport recorded the highest increase with 12.16 percent attributed to the increase in price of petrol & diesel by about 40 percent from last year. Transport accounted for 32 percent of the overall increase.

Food prices went up by 4.01 percent contributing to 36 percent of the overall inflation rate.

Month-on-month price went up by 0.74 percent after recording a drop in February. Transport recorded the highest increase with 2.75 percent associated with increase in petrol and diesel price by around 13 percent. Vegetables increased by 5.41 percent from previous month contributing to 0.57 percent increase for food groups.

Annual inflation rate



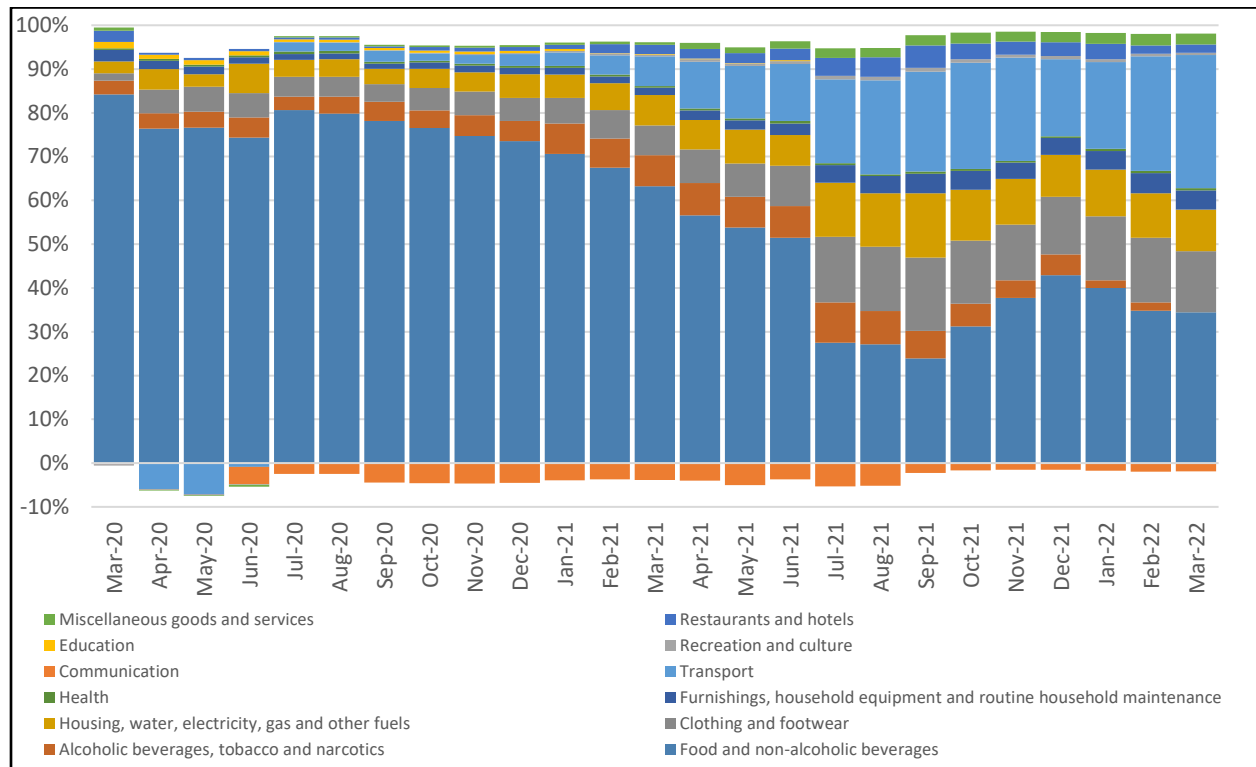
The prices of household goods and services increased by 7.35 percent from 2020 to 2021. This was an increase of 1.72 percentage point compared to 5.63 percent increase in 2020. The higher rate in 2021 was due to increase in the non-food by 5.62 percent compared to 1.24 percent increase in 2020.

Food prices contributed to about 60 percent of the overall inflation rate in 2021 and non-food contributing to 40 percent of the total increase. In 2020, food prices were the main driver of the inflation rate contributing to almost 90 percent of the total increase.

Among the 12 major division, food & alcoholic beverages contributed to more than 50 percent of the total increase in 2021, followed by transport with about 15 percent and clothing & footwear with about 11 percent contribution to the total increase.

Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts recorded the highest increase with 16.66 percent while education fees recorded the lowest increase with 0.66 percent in 2021. All other divisions recorded an increase except for communication which dropped by 9.90 percent.

Graph 1: Percent contribution to overall change by Division



Graph 2: Annual and monthly percent change by Division

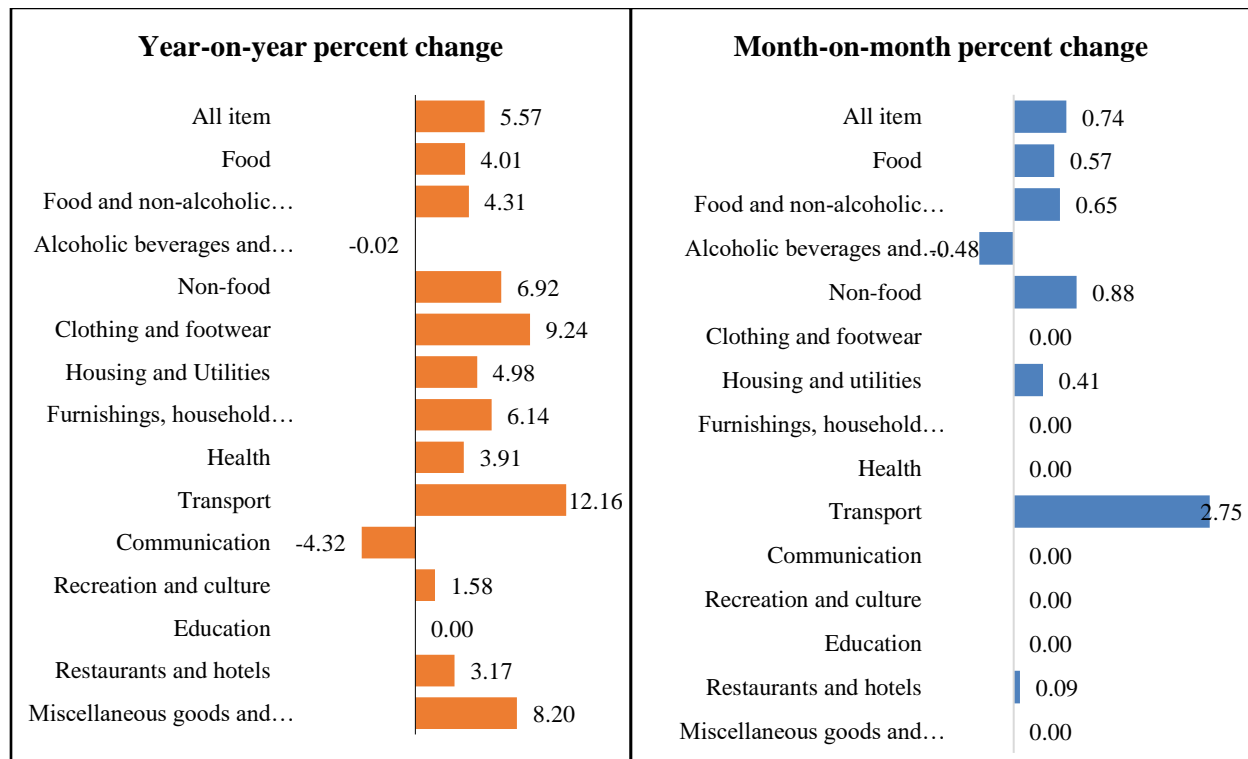


Table 1: Index (April 2019 = 100)

Division	Weight (%)	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
All item	100.00	115.66	116.76	116.98	117.76	117.73	118.60
Food	45.95	122.69	124.82	126.44	127.28	126.39	127.11
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	42.78	122.63	124.87	126.51	127.30	126.31	127.13
Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts	3.17	123.59	124.09	125.42	127.05	127.53	126.92
Non-food	54.05	110.00	110.32	109.50	110.23	110.84	111.82
Clothing and footwear	9.17	116.72	116.72	116.72	118.04	118.04	118.04
Housing and Utilities	11.57	110.88	111.00	110.98	111.90	112.02	112.48
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.44	111.24	111.24	111.24	112.03	112.03	112.03
Health	0.81	109.30	109.30	109.30	110.80	110.80	110.80
Transport	15.63	113.05	114.08	111.21	111.81	113.89	117.02
Communication	3.25	83.65	83.65	83.65	83.65	83.65	83.65
Recreation and culture	2.30	102.91	102.91	102.91	103.16	103.16	103.16
Education	1.35	104.75	104.75	104.75	104.75	104.75	104.75
Restaurants and hotels	3.62	109.11	109.11	109.11	109.51	109.51	109.61
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.92	111.81	111.81	111.81	112.48	112.48	112.48

Table 2: Year-on-year percent change

Division	Weight (%)	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
All item	100.00	6.47	7.26	6.87	6.03	5.32	5.57
Food	45.95	4.96	6.37	6.92	5.27	4.10	4.01
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	42.78	4.55	6.16	6.67	5.43	4.18	4.31
Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts	3.17	10.67	9.27	10.44	3.19	3.05	-0.02
Non-food	54.05	7.78	8.02	6.82	6.68	6.37	6.92
Clothing and footwear	9.17	10.92	10.77	10.77	10.45	9.24	9.24
Housing and Utilities	11.57	7.09	7.17	6.20	6.14	5.14	4.98
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.44	6.81	6.69	6.69	6.37	6.15	6.14
Health	0.81	3.46	3.46	3.46	3.91	3.91	3.91
Transport	15.63	11.17	12.21	8.69	8.65	10.06	12.16
Communication	3.25	-4.30	-4.30	-4.30	-4.30	-4.32	-4.32
Recreation and culture	2.30	2.46	2.36	2.36	1.85	1.58	1.58
Education	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restaurants and hotels	3.62	7.04	6.75	6.75	6.61	3.08	3.17
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.92	9.38	9.26	9.26	8.88	8.28	8.20

Table 3: Month-on-month percent change

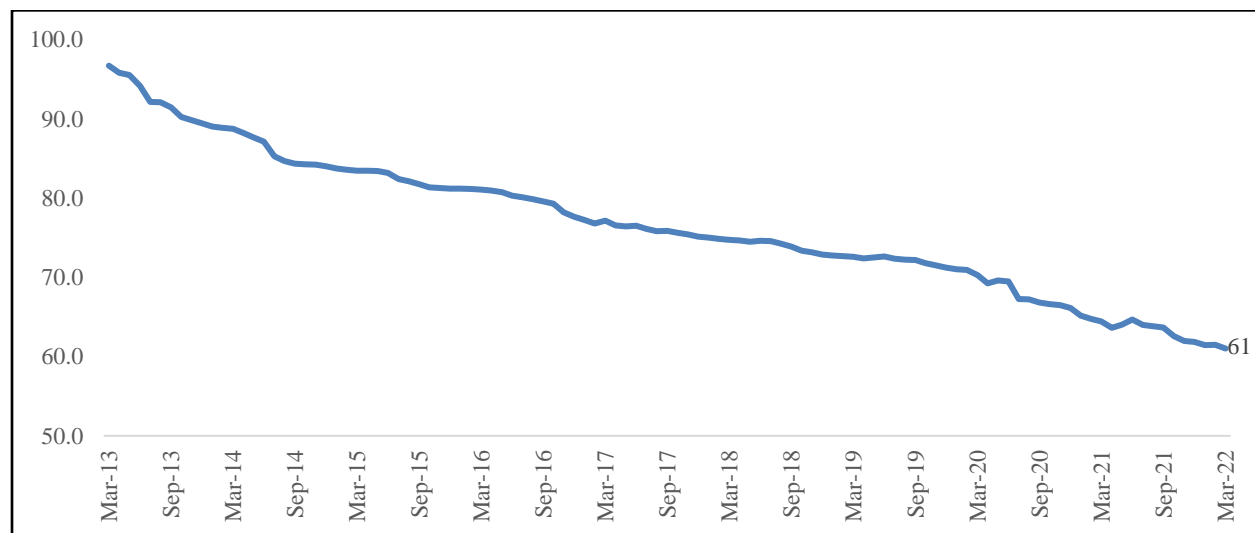
Division	Weights (%)	Oct-21	Nov-21	Dec-21	Jan-22	Feb-22	Mar-22
All item	100.00	1.74	0.95	0.19	0.66	-0.02	0.74
Food	45.95	2.14	1.73	1.30	0.66	-0.70	0.57
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	42.78	2.32	1.83	1.32	0.62	-0.77	0.65
Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts	3.17	-0.22	0.41	1.07	1.30	0.38	-0.48
Non-food	54.05	1.41	0.29	-0.74	0.66	0.56	0.88
Clothing and footwear	9.17	1.79	0.00	0.00	1.13	0.00	0.00
Housing and utilities	11.57	0.36	0.10	-0.02	0.83	0.11	0.41
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.44	1.76	0.00	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00
Health	0.81	0.56	0.00	0.00	1.37	0.00	0.00
Transport	15.63	2.64	0.91	-2.52	0.54	1.86	2.75
Communication	3.25	-0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation and culture	2.30	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.00	0.00
Education	1.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restaurants and hotels	3.62	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.37	0.00	0.09
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.92	2.60	0.00	0.00	0.59	0.00	0.00

Table 4: Annual Index (April 2019= 100)

Division	Weight (%)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All item	100.00	87.65	90.47	94.95	97.54	100.20	105.84	113.62
Food	45.95	83.06	86.26	92.37	96.93	100.26	111.38	121.83
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	42.78	82.49	85.81	92.21	96.76	100.29	111.67	121.57
Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts	3.17	90.27	91.98	94.45	98.94	99.86	107.51	125.43
Non-food	54.05	90.84	93.39	96.72	97.95	100.15	101.39	107.09
Clothing and footwear	9.17	89.75	92.42	95.85	98.35	100.04	103.27	112.70
Housing and Utilities	11.57	87.91	90.74	96.37	97.73	100.20	102.52	108.94
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.44	93.43	95.16	96.48	98.06	100.57	102.95	108.34
Health	0.81	94.23	94.98	95.97	97.85	100.33	103.76	108.26
Transport	15.63	92.81	96.28	98.11	97.42	100.07	100.59	108.03
Communication	3.25	99.65	99.70	99.71	99.79	100.02	94.27	84.93
Recreation and culture	2.30	98.60	98.02	99.18	99.60	99.93	100.04	102.29
Education	1.35	86.81	92.78	96.22	99.41	100.64	104.05	104.75
Restaurants and hotels	3.62	84.31	87.00	89.13	94.29	99.42	101.00	107.48
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.92	92.14	94.42	96.29	98.43	100.05	101.07	107.88

Table 5: Annual percent change

Division	Weight (%)	Percent change						
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
All item	100.00	4.55	3.22	4.96	2.72	2.73	5.63	7.35
Food	45.95	3.22	3.86	7.09	4.93	3.44	11.09	9.38
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	42.78	3.27	4.02	7.46	4.94	3.64	11.35	8.86
Alcoholic beverages and betel nuts	3.17	2.54	1.90	2.68	4.75	0.94	7.66	16.66
Non-food	54.05	5.44	2.80	3.56	1.28	2.24	1.24	5.62
Clothing and footwear	9.17	4.32	2.97	3.71	2.61	1.72	3.23	9.13
Housing and Utilities	11.57	6.45	3.22	6.21	1.41	2.53	2.32	6.26
Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.44	3.20	1.85	1.39	1.63	2.56	2.37	5.23
Health	0.81	2.77	0.80	1.05	1.96	2.54	3.41	4.34
Transport	15.63	8.51	3.73	1.90	-0.70	2.72	0.52	7.40
Communication	3.25	-1.71	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.23	-5.75	-9.90
Recreation and culture	2.30	1.18	-0.58	1.18	0.42	0.33	0.12	2.25
Education	1.35	6.55	6.88	3.71	3.31	1.24	3.39	0.66
Restaurants and hotels	3.62	7.35	3.19	2.44	5.79	5.44	1.59	6.41
Miscellaneous goods and services	1.92	3.80	2.48	1.98	2.23	1.65	1.02	6.73

Chart 5: Purchasing Power of Ngultrum (PPN)

The purchasing power of Ngultrum as measured by CPI is Nu. 61 as of March 2022 compared to December 2012. This means, Nu. 100 in March 2022 is worth only Nu. 61 at December 2012 prices. The Purchasing Power of Ngultrum as measured by CPI has dropped by 5.28 percent in the last one year (from March 2021 to March 2022) due to price increase in the economy.

Technical notes

Concept and Definition of CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of average price changes in the basket of goods and services purchased by households over time. It shows how much, on average, prices of goods and services have increased or decreased from a particular reference period, commonly known as the Index reference.

Scope and coverage

The CPI covers the goods and services consumed by the households and a sample of goods and services are selected using the household expenditure data to measure the inflation experienced by the households. Prices of the sampled goods and services are collected from urban areas in 20 Dzongkhags on monthly, quarterly and annual frequency depending on the price volatility of the items. The outlets for data collection are selected based on purposive sampling considering the popularity of the outlet and availability of the items.

CPI baskets has a total of 113 items (314 varieties) classified according to Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP). Total of about 450 outlets are selected for pricing.

Weights

Weights reflect the relative importance or share of the individual item to the total consumption expenditures of the households. It determines the impact an individual item will have to the overall inflation. Weight for the current CPI is derived using the household consumption expenditure data from the Bhutan Living Standard Survey (BLSS) conducted every five years. The current weight is based on BLSS 2017.

Price reference and index reference

Price reference is the period for which the prices are used as denominator for the index calculation. The price reference period for CPI is April 2019.

Index reference period is the period for which the index is set as 100. The index reference period is April 2019.

Index Calculation Formula

Geometric Modified Laspeyres formula is used to calculate the CPI:

$$P_{GY_0} = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{P_i^t}{P_i^0} \right)^{S_i^b}$$

S_i^b = Expenditure Shares of the Base Period (weight from BLSS)

P_i^t = Current Period Price

P_i^0 = Previous Period Price

$\left(\frac{P_i^t}{P_i^0} \right)$ = Price Relatives

Calculating Percent Changes

Month-on-month percent change measures the average price change between current month and previous month and serves as useful indicator of short-term price movement.

Year-on-year percent change measures the average price change between the specific month with that of the same month of the previous year.

Following is an example of computing index point and percent changes:

- Index point change

All item price index	104.50
Less previous price index	101.25
Equals index point change	3.25

- Index percent change

Index point change	3.25
Divided by Previous Price Index	101.25
Equals	0.032
Result multiplied by 100	0.032 x 100
Equals percent changes	3.2