

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MARCH 2019

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KEY FINDINGS

Headline National Consumer Price Index (CPI)

Annual National Consumer Price inflation (year-on-year) is 17.46 percent in March 2019, slightly up from 17.19 percent in February 2019.

The monthly consumer price inflation for March, 2019 is 1.46 percent which shows a significant increase in the monthly inflation rate.

Contributions to headline annual (year-on-year) consumer price inflation

- ✓ Food and non-alcoholic beverages increased from 15.15 percent in February 2019 to 15.50 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased slightly by 0.35 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages and tobacco increased from 21.0 percent in February 2019 to 21.54 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate slightly increased by 0.54 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Clothing and footwear increased from 20.71 percent in February 2019 to 22.23 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased significantly by 1.52 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Housing, water, electricity Gas and other fuels increased from 20.38 percent in February 2019 to 20.72 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased by 0.34 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Furniture, household equipment and household maintenance increased from 21.15 percent in February, 2019 to 21.74 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased slightly by 0.59 percentage point year-on-year
- ✓ Health declined slightly by 0.67 percentage point from 18.81 percent in February, 2019 to 18.14 percent in March, 2019

- ✓ Transport declined slightly by 0.28 percentage point from 19.02 percent in February, 2019 to 18.74 percent in March, 2019
- ✓ Communication increased from 11.06 percent in February 2019 to 12.09 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased significantly by 1.03 percentage point year-on-year.
- ✓ Recreation and Culture declined slightly by 0.97 percentage point from 14.32 percent in February, 2019 to 13.35 percent in March, 2019
- ✓ Education declined significantly by 1.54 percentage point from 14.12 percent in February 2019 to 12.58 percent in March, 2019
- ✓ Restaurant and Hotels declined slightly by 0.78 percentage point from 24.47 percent in February, 2019 to 23.69 percent in March, 2019
- ✓ Miscellaneous goods and services increased from 14.14 percent in February 2019 to 14.30 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased slightly by 0.16 percentage point year-on-year.

Contributions to monthly consumer price inflation

- ✓ Food and non-alcoholic increased from 1.06 percent in February 2019 to 1.33 percent in March, 2019. The rate increased slightly by 0.27 percentage point.
- ✓ Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics increased from 1.91 percent in February 2019 to 2.32 percent in March, 2019. The rate increased slightly by 0.41 percentage point.
- ✓ Clothing declined slightly by 0.91 percentage point from 3.22 percent in February, 2019 to 2.31 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Housing, water, electricity. Gas and other fuels increased from 0.91 percent in February 2019 to 1.05 percent in March, 2019. The rate increased slightly by 0.14 percentage point.

- ✓ Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance increased from 2.04 percent in February 2019 to 2.97 percent in March, 2019. The rate increased slightly by 0.93 percentage point.
- ✓ Health declined slightly by 0.67 percentage point from 2.06 percent in February, 2019 to 1.39 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Transport declined slightly by 0.05 percentage point from 0.53 percent in February, 2019 to 0.48 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Communication declined slightly by 0.45 percentage point from 1.66 percent in February, 2019 to 1.21 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Recreation and Culture declined slightly by 0.61 percentage point from 1.79 percent in February, 2019 to 1.18 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Education declined slightly by 0.18 percentage point from 0.38 percent in February, 2019 to 0.20 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Restaurant and Hotels declined slightly by 0.71 percentage point from 2.69 percent in February, 2019 to 1.98 percent in March, 2019.
- ✓ Miscellaneous Goods and Services increased from 1.23 percent in February, 2019 to 1.80 percent in March, 2019. The inflation rate increased slightly by 0.57 percentage point.

DETAILED EXPLANATION ON THE FEBRUARY 2019 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

The national monthly CPI (2008=100) increased from 260.93 percent in February, 2019 to 264.75 percent in March, 2019 resulting in 1.46 percent inflation this month. Similarly, the monthly rates of inflation increased respectively: in Eastern region (1.54 percent) comprising two centres Kenema (2.11 percent) and Kono (1.00 percent), Northern Region (1.71 percent), Southern Region (1.22 percent)) while Western Area decreased by (1.39 percent) when compared with the period month.

The national year-on-year inflation for March, 2019 is 17.46 percent, which indicates an upward trend compared to the 17.19 percent in February, 2019. Similarly, the Western Area rate shows an upward movement in the trend from 17.15 percent in February, 2019 to 17.66 percent in March 2019; and in the Northern region from 16.74 percent in February 2019 to 17.13 percent in March, 2019. On the other hand, the trend is downward in the Eastern region from 17.86 percent in February, 2019 to 17.76 percent in March 2019; and in the Southern region from 17.44 percent in February, 2019 to 17.19 percent in March 2019.

Table 1.0: Regional Year-on-Year and Monthly Inflation Rates

2008=100										
Month	National		Western Area		Eastern Region		Southern Region		Northern Region	
	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly	Year-on-year	Monthly
Feb., 2019	17.19	1.43	17.15	1.74	17.86	1.40	17.44	1.14	16.74	1.11
Mar., 2019	17.46	1.46	17.66	1.39	17.76	1.54	17.19	1.22	17.13	1.71

It has been observed from the table above that, the Eastern and Western regions year-on-year inflation rate are above the other regions and national year-on-year inflation rates for the month of March, 2019. This shows that prices in the Eastern region are increasing faster when compared to the other regions for the month of March, 2019.

Figures 1a & 1b below illustrate the movement in the year-on-year inflation and monthly inflation respectively for the National CPI and Regional CPI centers, while table 1.1 below shows the National CPI of the months of March, 2018 and March, 2019; as well as the 12 months change in the CPI for the main COICOP functions.

Figure 1a: Year-on-Year Percentage Changes in the CPI

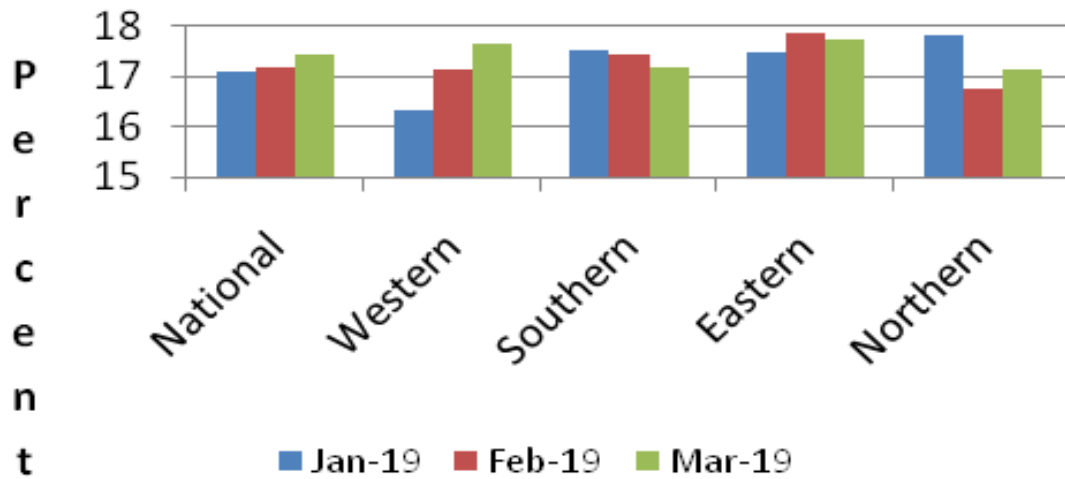
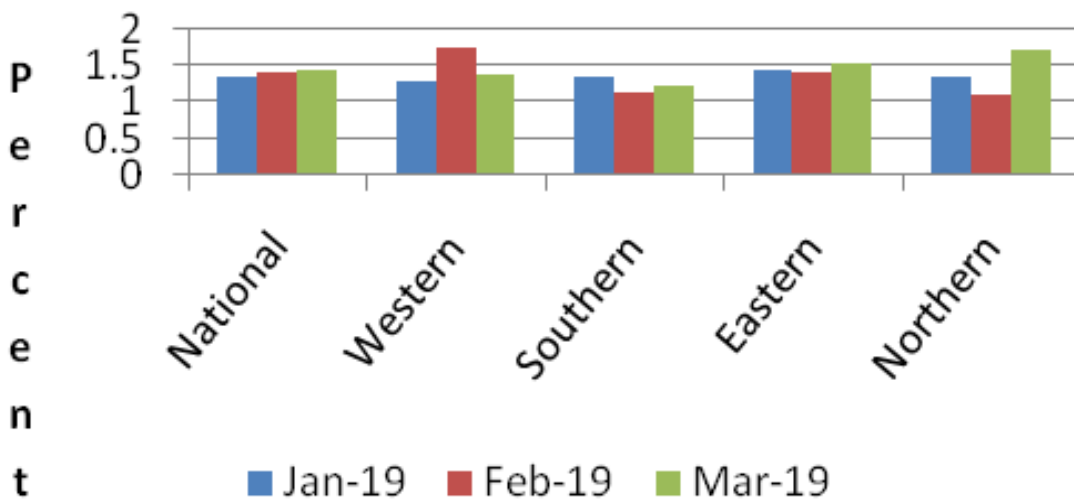


Figure 1b: Monthly Percentage Changes in the CPI



FACTORS INFLUENCING CHANGES IN THE MONTHLY RATE OF INFLATION

The monthly price inflation of 1.46 percent reflects a general increase in the price level in all the four regions which affected most of the components in the CPI basket. The indices that slightly

increased were food and non-alcoholic beverages (1.33 percent), alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics (2.32 percent), clothing and footwear (2.31 percent), housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuel (1.05 percent), furniture, household equipment and household equipment (2.97 percent), health (1.39 percent), transport (0.48 percent), communication (1.21 percent), recreation and culture (1.18 percent) education (0.20 percent), restaurant and hotels (1.98 percent) and miscellaneous goods and services (1.80 percent).

The increase on food and non-alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics; clothing and footwear; furniture, household equipment and household equipment, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics, housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels; furniture household equipment and household equipment; communication and miscellaneous goods and services indices in all the centers, was as a result of further depreciation of the local currency as against the foreign currency especially the US Dollar.

Table 1.1: National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2008=100)

Table 1.0: National CPI and Year-on-Year Rates of Inflation by Main COICOP Groups (2008=100)									
		Mar-18	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19			
COICOP	WEIGHT	Month Previous Year-	Month m-3 for Current Year	Month m-2 for Current Year	Month m-1 for Current Year	Month m for Current Year	Monthly Change	3 Months Change	12 Months Change
Food & Non-Alcoholic Bev.	41.86	246.07	274.45	277.57	280.50	284.22	1.33	3.56	15.50
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	1.71	226.68	259.51	264.22	269.26	275.5	2.32	6.16	21.54
Clothing and Footwear	7.34	257.38	291.94	297.91	307.51	314.6	2.31	7.76	22.23
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	13.70	180.06	210.06	213.17	215.11	217.36	1.05	3.48	20.72
Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	5.86	260.28	294.75	301.59	307.74	316.87	2.97	7.50	21.74
Health	11.36	213.60	240.06	243.85	248.88	252.34	1.39	5.12	18.14
Transport	7.75	192.93	226.25	226.77	227.98	229.08	0.48	1.25	18.74
Communication	2.04	171.25	185.45	186.56	189.66	191.95	1.21	3.50	12.09
Recreation and Culture	1.47	205.24	223.20	225.87	229.91	232.63	1.18	4.22	13.35
Education	2.88	150.83	168.08	168.83	169.47	169.81	0.20	1.03	12.58
Restaurant and Hotels	0.92	225.93	262.31	266.85	274.03	279.45	1.98	6.53	23.69
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.13	224.25	245.40	248.72	251.79	256.31	1.80	4.45	14.30
All Items	100	225.40	253.85	257.25	260.93	264.75	1.46	4.29	17.46

More information can also be obtained from our website: www.statistics.sl

For more detailed information: Subscribe to the Detailed CPI Report. Please Contact:
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The National CPI measures the change in prices, on average, from month to month, of the goods and services bought by households, in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Kono and Makeni and include all expenditure groups. Prices are collected for 400 items. All prices collected are the prevailing retail market prices from six (6) markets in Freetown and, three (3) Markets each in Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Kono for weekly prices and other outlets for monthly items whose prices are less likely to fluctuate rapidly. We are using the Modified Laspeyres formula to compute indices according to the Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) with 12 functions.

DETAILED RESULTS

Table 2.1 CPI Headline index numbers (2008=100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2017	191.59	194.63	196.15	197.66	198.72	200.85	202.87	204.75	206.35	207.88	212.46	216.11
2018	219.73	222.45	225.40	227.58	230.55	234.13	238.79	242.05	246.03	247.99	251.01	253.85
2019	257.25	260.93	264.75									

Table 2.2 CPI Headline year-on-year rates

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2017	18.66	19.82	20.22	19.8	18.91	19.14	18.56	18.01	17.83	16.86	16.26	15.33
2018	14.69	14.4	14.91	15.14	16.02	16.57	17.71	18.22	19.23	19.29	18.14	17.46
2019	17.08	17.19	17.46									

Table 3.0: Year-on-Year and Monthly Inflation Rates

	National CPI (2008=100)			Western Area/Freetown CPI (2008=100)		
	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change	CPI	Year-on-Year % Change	Monthly Change
2016						
January	161.46	8.41	1.17	166.52	7.42	1.08
February	162.44	8.68	0.61	167.65	7.73	0.68
March	163.16	7.85	0.44	168.41	7.14	0.45
April	164.99	8.68	1.12	170.35	8.12	1.15
May	167.12	8.94	1.29	173.17	9.75	1.66
June	168.58	9.46	0.87	174.81	10.54	0.95
July	171.11	10.87	1.50	175.72	11.00	0.52
August	173.5	10.52	1.40	178.84	10.74	1.78
September	175.13	11.31	0.94	179.90	11.15	0.59
October	177.89	12.56	1.58	183.08	12.3	1.76
November	182.74	15.26	2.73	186.64	14.2	1.95
December	187.39	17.41	2.54	192.60	16.91	3.19
Average	171.29	10.83	1.35	176.47	10.58	1.31
2017						
January	191.59	18.66	2.24	197.56	18.64	2.58
February	194.63	19.82	1.59	200.70	19.72	1.59
March	196.15	20.22	0.78	202.36	20.16	0.83
April	197.66	19.80	0.77	204.09	19.81	0.85
May	198.72	18.91	0.54	204.49	18.09	0.20
June	200.85	19.14	1.07	206.40	18.07	0.93
July	202.87	18.56	1.01	207.94	18.33	0.75
August	204.75	18.01	0.93	209.55	17.17	0.77
September	206.35	17.83	0.78	211.50	17.56	0.93
October	207.88	16.86	0.74	212.93	16.30	0.67
November	212.46	16.26	2.20	217.34	16.45	2.07
December	216.11	15.33	1.72	220.98	14.74	1.67
Average	202.50	18.28	1.20	207.99	17.92	1.15
2018						
January	219.73	14.69	1.68	223.74	13.25	1.25
February	222.65	14.40	1.33	226.02	12.62	1.02
March	225.40	14.91	1.24	228.17	12.76	0.95
April	227.58	15.14	0.97	229.58	12.49	0.62
May	230.55	16.02	1.31	232.64	13.77	1.34
June	234.13	16.57	1.55	235.92	14.31	1.41
July	238.79	17.71	1.99	241.88	16.32	2.52
August	242.05	18.22	1.37	245.55	17.18	1.52
September	246.03	19.23	1.64	249.60	18.01	1.65
October	247.99	19.29	0.80	251.48	18.11	0.76
November	251.01	18.14	1.22	254.14	16.93	1.06
December	253.85	17.46	1.13	256.94	16.28	1.10
Average	236.65	16.82	1.35	239.64	15.17	1.27
2019						
January	257.25	17.08	1.34	260.26	16.32	1.29
February	260.93	17.19	1.43	264.79	17.15	1.74
March	264.75	17.46	1.46	268.47	17.66	1.39

Table 4.0: National Consumer Price Index by Main COICOP Groups (2008=100)

	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurant and Hotels	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	All Items
Weight	41.86	1.71	7.34	13.7	5.86	11.36	7.75	2.04	1.47	2.88	0.92	3.13	100
Jan-16	170.36	152.47	169.99	145.74	177.58	163.18	144.44	130.14	154.92	126.34	153.31	152.88	161.46
Feb-16	171.54	152.62	171.01	146.41	178.05	164.29	144.51	130.39	156.42	126.97	157.65	153.68	162.44
Mar-16	172.4	153.87	171.48	146.79	178.88	164.84	144.91	130.4	162.12	127.06	158.59	154.42	163.16
Apr-16	175.07	154.98	173.33	147.2	179.71	167.24	145.24	130.53	163.02	127.91	159.73	155.48	164.99
May-16	177.33	157.43	177.21	147.75	182.84	169.79	149.09	130.56	164.25	128.18	159.44	157.01	167.12
Jun-16	179.4	159.59	179.49	149.56	184.78	168.89	149.79	132.34	165.5	128.4	160.07	157.72	168.58
Jul-16	182.88	160.87	183.52	150.46	187.58	171.16	149.65	133.7	167.86	129.21	161.13	159.48	171.11
Aug-16	186.78	162.19	185.77	151.09	192.19	172.42	150.21	133.81	169.31	129.38	161.47	159.52	173.5
Sep-16	187.72	164.38	187.75	152.38	193.4	177.12	150.71	134.75	170.37	133.23	162.07	160	175.13
Oct-16	190.45	166.36	190.81	152.59	196.42	181.38	151.95	135.41	174.46	135.65	163.86	169.43	177.89
Nov-16	194.83	171.07	198.03	160.05	202.6	181.71	162.58	140.13	174.81	136.54	170.53	176.28	182.74
Dec-16	200.23	175.3	205.36	164.61	209.1	182.92	165.11	145.55	176.87	136.64	175.86	183.31	187.39
Jan-17	204.76	181.11	216.4	165.98	215.6	183.42	173.05	148.89	180.22	136.84	182.64	187.32	191.59
Feb-17	208.42	186.2	221.43	167.42	221.35	185.87	173.85	150.43	180.65	136.91	182.74	190.46	194.63
Mar-17	210.81	190.78	221.69	167.97	222.42	186.13	176.25	150.52	181.21	137.08	184.93	191.65	196.15
Apr-17	211.73	192.07	224.05	168.43	226.5	188.8	180.03	153.23	181.88	137.21	186.93	193.3	197.66
May-17	212.33	193.55	227.95	168.96	226.53	189.34	183.8	154.16	182.71	137.22	189.74	195.38	198.72
Jun-17	214.56	195.64	233.71	169.47	230.04	191.33	184.16	156.1	185.35	137.51	190.92	197.51	200.85
Jul-17	217.85	197.43	234.78	169.8	231.65	193	184.7	156.96	185.8	137.65	192.15	199.62	202.87
Aug-17	220.49	202.41	235.42	170.01	234.36	194.21	185.1	157.52	186.46	138.55	195.97	203.91	204.75
Sept-17	221.96	204.02	237.81	170.27	237.6	196.62	186.54	160.62	187.72	138.85	199.6	205.61	206.35
Oct-17	223.88	206.03	239.05	170.71	240.1	197.87	187.36	161.93	190.35	139.17	203.05	207.79	207.88
Nov-17	231.59	209.96	242.24	172.65	242.46	199.36	187.63	163.72	193.65	141.25	205.38	212.08	212.46
Dec-17	236.14	215.57	248.21	174.79	246.89	201.37	188.95	164.78	196.29	143.49	211.1	214.87	216.11
Jan-18	240.61	218.27	251.93	176.68	249.13	205.92	190.98	165.94	198.83	147.19	214.47	217.67	219.73
Feb-18	243.6	222.52	254.76	178.69	254.02	209.47	191.54	170.77	201.11	148.5	220.16	220.6	222.65
Mar-18	246.07	226.68	257.38	180.06	260.28	213.6	192.93	171.25	205.24	150.83	225.93	224.25	225.4
Apr-18	248.17	229.31	258.64	181.16	262.12	217.72	193.83	172.23	207.54	152.61	230.49	228.49	227.58
May-18	252.09	232.24	262.07	183.59	263.81	219.84	195.17	172.8	209.48	153.13	234.05	231.32	230.55
Jun-18	256.72	236.77	265.64	185.6	268.26	223.15	196.28	173.87	211.05	154.68	238.77	234.5	234.13
Jul-18	259.39	240.41	267.99	197.69	274.18	226.57	211.78	175.02	212.51	155.74	244.95	235.47	238.79
Aug-18	263.74	244.23	271.56	198.77	277.93	228.83	215.93	177.46	215.17	157.79	248.25	236.65	242.05
Sep-18	267.27	249.53	280.55	201.03	283.93	231.26	219.94	179.71	219.42	166.92	251.8	240.5	246.03
Oct-18	269.07	251.75	283.23	203.76	285.96	233.26	221.87	182.53	219.47	167.07	254.49	241.31	247.99
Nov-18	271.69	256.40	286.89	207.60	290.83	236.93	223.78	184.26	222.50	167.66	258.64	243.09	251.01
Dec-18	274.5	259.51	291.94	210.06	294.75	240.06	226.25	185.45	223.2	168.08	262.31	245.4	253.85
Jan-19	277.57	264.22	297.91	213.17	301.59	243.85	226.77	186.56	225.87	168.83	266.85	248.72	257.25
Feb-19	280.5	269.26	307.51	215.11	307.74	248.88	227.98	189.66	229.91	169.47	274.03	251.79	260.93
Mar-19	284.22	275.50	314.60	217.36	316.87	252.34	229.08	191.95	232.63	169.81	279.45	256.31	264.75

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