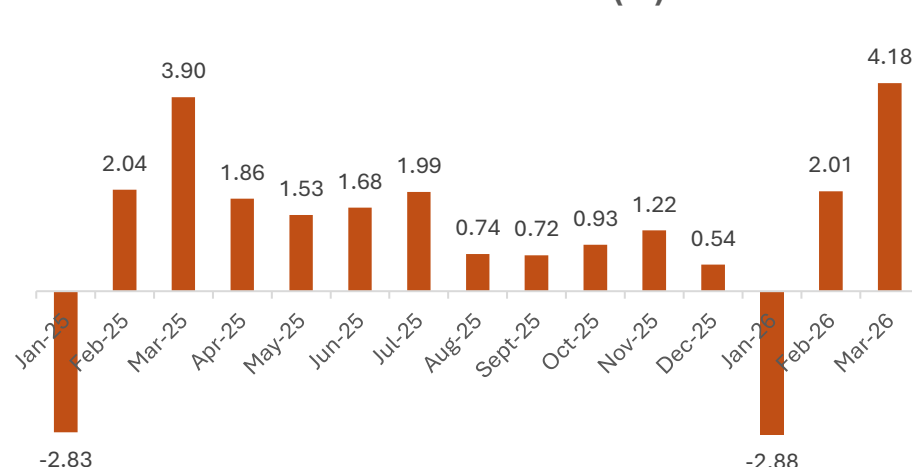


Inflation accelerated to 15.38% in March, as price pressures intensified across food and core components.

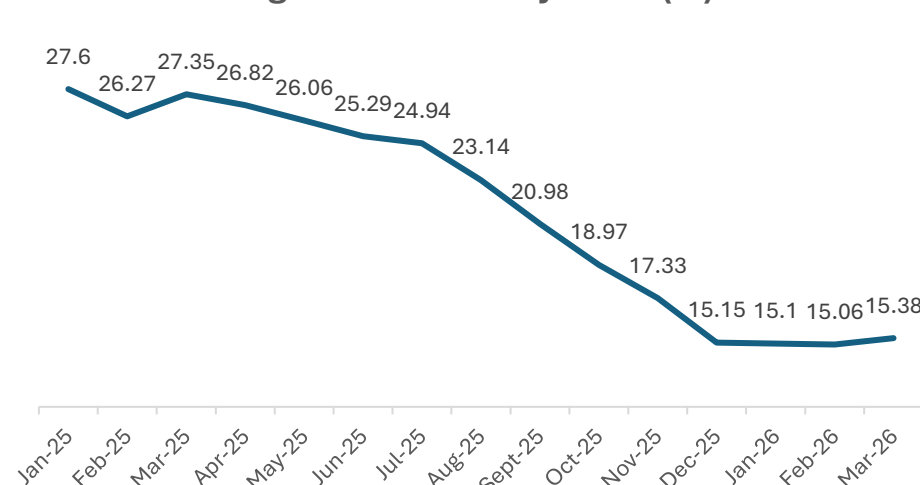
Key Highlights on Inflation figure in March 2026

- Nigeria's headline inflation increased to 15.38% year-on-year in March 2026, from 15.06% in February, indicating a clear reversal of the disinflation trend.
- Month-on-month inflation rose sharply to 4.18%, from 2.01% in February, reflecting a significant acceleration in price pressures.
- Food inflation remained elevated, with food prices increasing by 4.17% month-on-month, driven by higher prices of key commodities such as yam, cassava, tomatoes, groundnut, etc.
- Core inflation also accelerated significantly, with core MoM rising to 4.03%, indicating that inflation pressures are now broad-based beyond food and escalating energy prices.
- Overall, the March inflation outturn reflects intensifying and widespread price pressures, driven by food, energy and exchange rate dynamics.

Inflation trend MoM (%)



Nigeria Inflationary trend (%)



Top six (6) drivers of March month on month inflation decline

Category	February CPI	March CPI	MoM change
Restaurant and Accommodation services	137.76	147.1	+6.92%
Energy	120.9	128.9	+6.62%
Goods	126.4	133.3	+5.47%
Personal Care, Social Protection ...	140.0	147.3	+5.21%
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	125.3	131.7	+5.12%
Housing (Rent)	136.1	142.4	+4.68%

Analysts' Projections and Interpretation

Our inflation forecast for March was largely in line with the outturn, with headline inflation settling at 15.38 percent, compared with the FMDA projection of 15.20 percent.

The increase was primarily driven by broad-based price pressures, with food inflation rising significantly by 4.17 percent month-on-month, supported by higher prices across key staples such as yam, ginger (fresh), cassava tuber, groundnuts, Irish potatoes, ogbono (dried), tomatoes and cassava flour, according to NBS data. In addition, energy and exchange rate dynamics amplified inflationary pressures during the month.

The escalation of the US-Iran conflict pushed global oil prices higher, while the naira depreciated, increasing imported cost pressures and feeding into higher transportation and production costs.

Beyond food, inflation pressures also became more widespread, with notable increases in restaurants and accommodation services, goods, and housing (rent), indicating a shift from food-driven inflation to more broad-based price increases.

Going Forward

Going forward, while ceasefire optimism may provide some moderation in global oil prices, underlying tensions between the United States and Iran remain elevated, suggesting that energy prices could remain volatile.

As a result, inflationary pressures are expected to persist into April, as the lagged impact of higher fuel and production costs continues to transmit into consumer prices. Even in the event of a ceasefire, the pass-through effects are likely to delay any meaningful price correction in the near term.