

PRESS RELEASE

Guimaras sees near-zero inflation as Q1 2025 wraps up

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08 April 2025– Guimaras. Guimaras sees near-zero inflation as Q1 2025 wraps up, with the province's headline inflation rate easing to just 0.2% in March 2025 from 0.6% in February, marking a significant drop compared to the 7.2% rate in March 2024, bringing the average inflation for the first quarter of 2025 down to 1.2%, according to the latest data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)

“The downtrend in the overall inflation in March 2025 was primarily influenced by the decreased year-on-year price change in the heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages at a turnaround -0.7 percent during the month, from 0.7 percent in February 2025”, Provincial Statistics Officer Nelida B. Losare said.

“The slower annual price change on housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels at 0.9 percent in March 2025 from 2.1 percent in the previous month and personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services at 1.7 percent from 1.8 percent a month ago also contributed to the slower inflation rate”, Losare added.

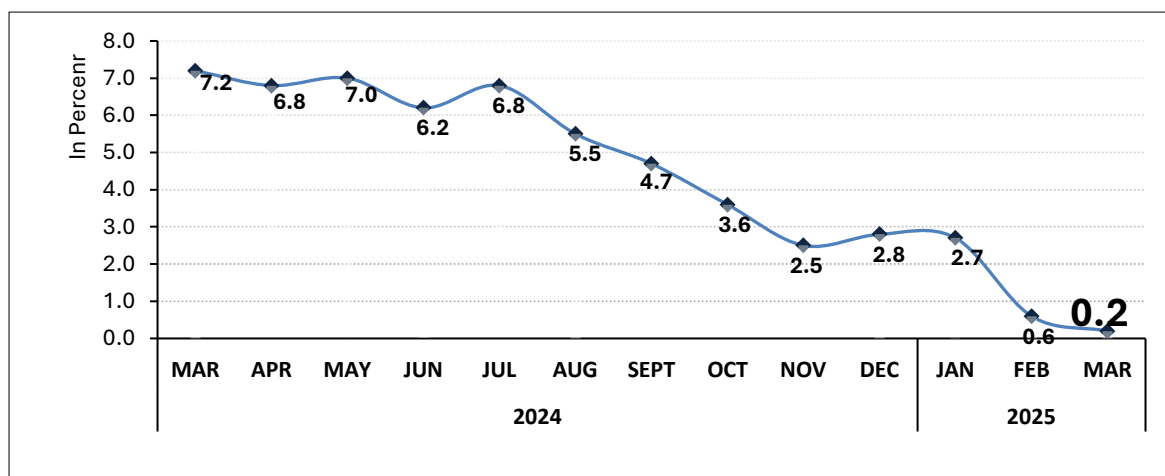
Food and non-alcoholic beverages groups shared 78.3 percent of the downtrend of March inflation, while housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services sliced 21.3 and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Table 1. Year-on-Year Inflation Rates, All Items, Guimaras, In Percent (2018=100)

Area	March 2024	February 2025	March 2025	Year-to-Date*
Philippines				
Headline	3.7	2.1	1.8	2.2
Core	3.4	2.4	2.2	2.4
Western Visayas				
Headline	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.0
Core	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.1
Guimaras				
Headline	7.2	0.6	0.2	1.2
Core	3.5	0.8	1.5	1.3

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Retail Price Survey of Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index
*Year-on-year change of CPI for January to February 2025 vs. 2024

Figure 1. Headline Inflation Rate in the Province of Guimaras, All Items (2018=100)



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

“The slower inflation in March 2025 caused by food and non-alcoholic beverages, was mainly pushed by the slow-moving price movement of rice with -4.5% inflation from 4.9%, while the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels and personal care, and miscellaneous goods and services were mainly pressed by the electricity from all sources (coal, solar, hydro, etc.) with -2.1 percent from 4.8 percent, and jewelry with 0.0 percent inflation from 14.3 % inflation” Losare said.

While three heavily weighted commodity groups decreased inflation in March 2025, five of thirteen commodity groups recorded quicker inflation rates:

- Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 7.9% from 4.8%
- Furnishings, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance, 0.2 % from -0.1 %
- Health, -0.3% from -1.0%
- Transport, -0.1% from -0.8%; and
- Restaurants and accommodation services, -3.2% from -8.0%.

Meanwhile, the other five (5) commodities retained their previous month's inflation rate: clothing and footwear 2.4%; information and communication, 3.3%; recreation, sport, and culture, 1.1%; education services: 0.0 %, and financial services at 0.0%.

Table 2. Year-on-Year Changes of the Consumer Price Index in Percent in Guimaras by Commodity Group, March 2024 – March 2025 (2018=100)

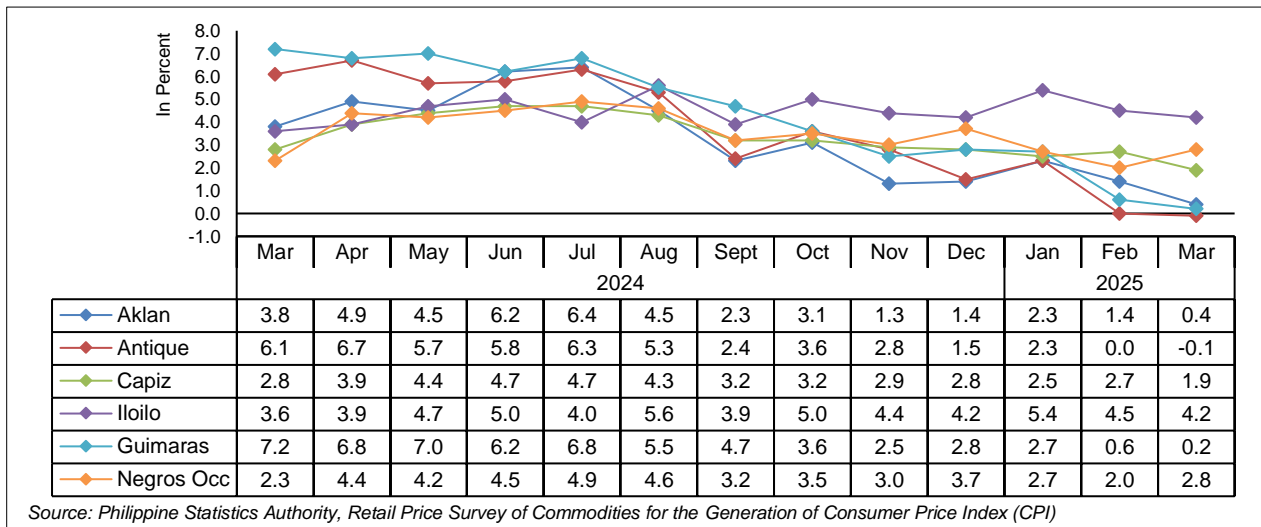
Area/Commodity Group	2024											2025		
	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave	Jan	Feb	Mar
GUIMARAS (ALL ITEMS)	7.2	6.8	7.0	6.2	6.8	5.5	4.7	3.6	2.5	2.8	5.3	2.7	0.6	0.2
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	10.3	10.9	11.1	9.4	10.7	7.0	5.3	4.5	2.4	4.6	7.3	4.2	0.7	-0.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	9.7	9.3	5.9	5.4	5.0	4.6	4.7	4.1	3.0	1.5	12.3	4.6	4.8	7.9
Clothing and Footwear	2.0	2.1	2.1	1.8	1.7	2.1	1.1	0.3	0.3	2.4	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.5	0.6	1.1	1.7	0.8	6.2	10.2	6.7	6.6	2.6	0.6	2.6	2.1	0.9
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	4.0	3.7	3.8	2.7	2.0	1.7	0.7	-0.3	-0.5	-0.3	4.8	-0.4	-0.1	0.2
Health	8.0	7.9	7.5	7.2	7.7	7.0	6.9	3.9	3.8	2.7	9.4	-0.4	-1.0	-0.3
Transport	0.8	2.5	3.6	3.8	4.9	-1.3	-5.0	-4.0	-0.9	2.1	-1.8	2.4	-0.8	-0.1
Information and Communication	-0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.4	3.3	3.3	3.3	-0.6	3.3	3.3	3.3
Recreation, Sport and Culture	9.7	11.0	11.0	10.6	10.7	11.8	8.8	6.3	6.0	5.7	8.3	4.1	1.1	1.1
Education Services	-7.3	-7.3	-7.3	-7.3	-7.3	5.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-7.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	13.7	3.1	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.1	-0.5	-5.7	11.4	-5.7	-8.0	-3.2
Financial Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Personal Care, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.2	1.5	2.7	1.7	1.8	1.7

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

Moreover, in March 2025, the overall inflation rate in Guimaras was primarily influenced by two major commodity groups: alcoholic beverages and tobacco, with a 206.2% contribution to the province's inflation rate, or 0.41 percentage points, with the notable increase primarily driven by a significant 10.3% surge in Spirits and liquors, impacting overall alcoholic beverages and tobacco costs.

Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels followed closely with a 64.8% impact on the overall inflation of Guimaras, or 0.13 percentage points, with a noteworthy bearing from Wood and bamboo charcoal — showing an inflation rate of 7.2%.

Figure 2. Headline Inflation Rate in Western Visayas, All Items (2018=100)



From March 2024 to March 2025, inflation rates across provinces of Western Visayas showed a general downward trend, with most areas experiencing their peak between April and July 2024.

Guimaras recorded the highest inflation at 7.2% in March 2024, while Antique peaked at 6.7% in April. Aklan also noted a high of 6.4% in July. However, by March 2025, significant declines were observed across all provinces, with Antique even entering deflation at -0.1% and Guimaras dropping to just 0.2%. Iloilo maintained relatively stable inflation throughout the period, ending at 4.2%.

“The Inflation Rate is the rate of change in the CPI derived by computing the indices relative to the same period in the previous year or month, and currently, Guimaras Province posted a 133.2 CPI, translating that a typical Guimarasnon household needs 1,332.00 pesos in March 2025 to purchase a basket of goods and services worth 1000 pesos in 2018,” Losare clarified.

“The Purchasing Power of the Peso (PPP) in Guimaras retained at 0.75 in March 2025. This indicates that one peso in 2018 is now worth 0.75 centavos,” Losare added.

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