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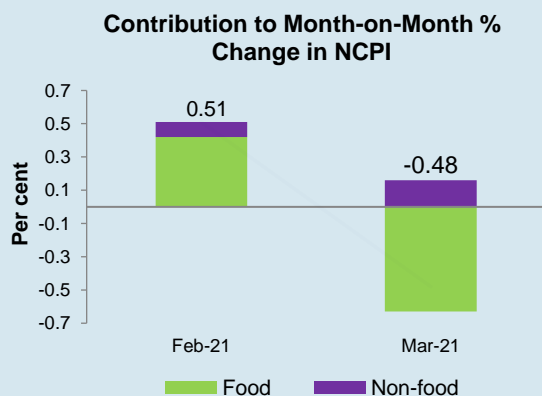
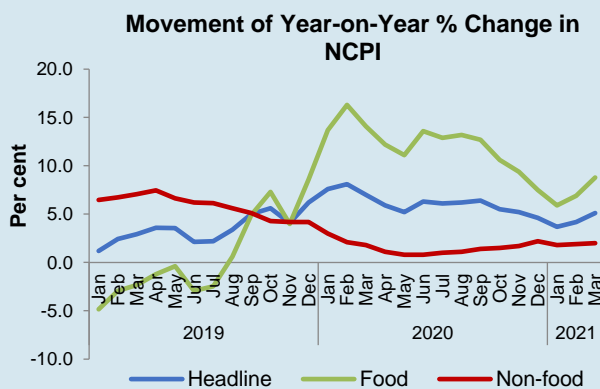
NCPI based Inflation increased in March 2021

Headline Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 5.1%
 Annual Average inflation : 5.3%
 Monthly Change : -0.48%

Core Inflation

Year-on-year inflation : 4.3%
 Annual Average inflation : 4.3%
 Monthly Change : 0.4%



Headline inflation as measured by the year-on-year (Y-o-Y) change in the National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100)¹ increased to 5.1 per cent in March 2021 from 4.2 per cent in February 2021. This was due to the statistical effect of the low base prevailed in March 2020. Meanwhile, Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased to 8.8 per cent in March 2021 from 6.9 per cent in February 2021 and Non-Food inflation (Y-o-Y) increased marginally to 2.0 per cent in March 2021 from 1.9 per cent in February 2021.

The change in the NCPI measured on an annual average basis decreased to 5.3 per cent in March 2021 from 5.5 per cent in February 2021.

Monthly change of NCPI recorded at -0.48 per cent in March 2021 due to price decreases observed in items of Food category. Moreover, monthly changes of Food and Non-food categories recorded at -0.63 per cent and 0.16 per cent, respectively in March 2021. Accordingly, within the Food category, decreases were observed mainly in the prices of vegetables, green chilli and red onion during March 2021. Meanwhile, prices of items in the Non-Food category recorded an increase during the month mainly due to price increase observed in the Restaurants and Hotels sub-category.

Further, year-on-year core inflation increased to 4.3 per cent in March 2021 from 4.1 per cent in February 2021, while annual average core inflation increased marginally to 4.3 per cent in March 2021 from 4.2 per cent in February 2021.

¹The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI, 2013=100) is compiled by the Department of Census and Statistics.

Data Annexure:

Table 1: Movements of the NCPI

Base: 2013 = 100

Year	Month	Index Number		Monthly Percentage Change		Year-on-Year Percentage Change		Annual Average Percentage Change	
		NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)	NCPI	NCPI (Core)
2019	January	127.3	130.2	0.2	2.0	1.2	5.1	1.8	2.7
	February	126.7	131.3	-0.5	0.8	2.4	5.5	1.7	3.0
	March	126.4	131.8	-0.2	0.4	2.9	5.8	1.7	3.3
	April	127.3	132.6	0.7	0.6	3.6	6.3	1.9	3.7
	May	128.7	133.0	1.1	0.3	3.5	6.3	2.0	4.0
	June	129.2	133.0	0.4	0.0	2.1	6.1	2.0	4.4
	July	129.4	133.4	0.2	0.3	2.2	6.1	1.9	4.7
	August	129.7	133.7	0.2	0.2	3.4	5.9	2.0	5.0
	September	130.6	134.0	0.7	0.2	5.0	5.6	2.3	5.2
	October	131.9	134.4	1.0	0.3	5.6	5.6	2.8	5.4
	November	132.9	134.6	0.8	0.1	4.1	5.5	3.0	5.6
	December	135.0	134.2	1.6	-0.3	6.2	5.2	3.5	5.7
2020	January	137.0	135.3	1.5	0.8	7.6	3.9	4.1	5.6
	February	137.0	135.8	0.0	0.4	8.1	3.4	4.5	5.5
	March	135.2	136.0	-1.3	0.1	7.0	3.2	4.9	5.2
	April	134.8	136.9	-0.3	0.7	5.9	3.2	5.1	5.0
	May	135.4	137.9	0.4	0.7	5.2	3.7	5.2	4.8
	June	137.3	138.9	1.4	0.7	6.3	4.4	5.6	4.6
	July	137.3	139.4	0.0	0.4	6.1	4.5	5.9	4.5
	August	137.8	139.9	0.4	0.4	6.2	4.6	6.1	4.4
	September	138.9	140.4	0.8	0.4	6.4	4.8	6.2	4.3
	October	139.1	140.5	0.1	0.1	5.5	4.5	6.2	4.2
	November	139.8	140.6	0.5	0.1	5.2	4.5	6.3	4.2
	December	141.2	140.5	1.0	-0.1	4.6	4.7	6.2	4.1
2021	January	142.1	141.0	0.6	0.4	3.7	4.2	5.8	4.2
	February	142.8	141.3	0.5	0.2	4.2	4.1	5.5	4.2
	March	142.1	141.8	-0.5	0.4	5.1	4.3	5.3	4.3

Source: Department of Census and Statistics