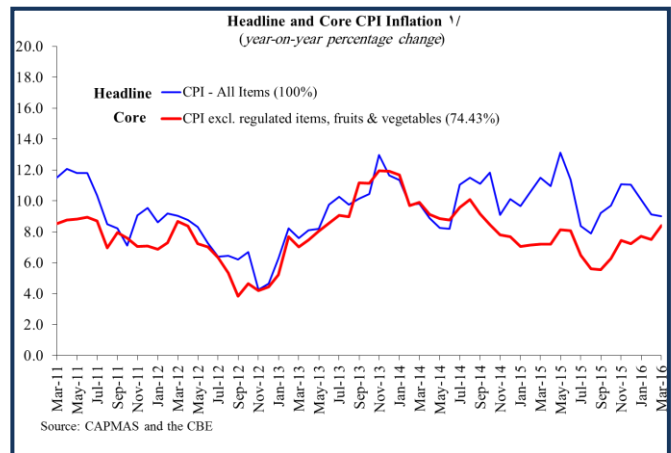
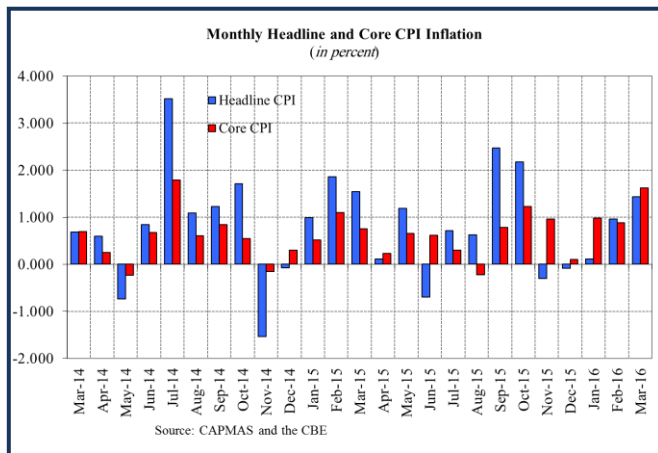


Headline and Core Inflation – March 2016

Headline CPI published by the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics on April 10, 2016, increased by 1.44 percent (m/m) in March 2016 compared to 0.97 percent (m/m) in February 2016. The annual rate declined to 9.02 percent in March from 9.13 percent in February, on the back of a favorable base effect from the previous year. The bulk of the monthly increase was explained mainly by the sporadic increase in the prices of food items and the upward adjustments in the prices of medical products. Meanwhile, core CPI computed by the Central Bank of Egypt increased by 1.62 percent (m/m) in March 2016 compared to an increase of 0.88 percent (m/m) in February 2016. The annual rate increased to 8.41 percent in March from 7.50 percent in February. Meanwhile, the prices of retail items, other services and paid services increased by varying degrees¹.

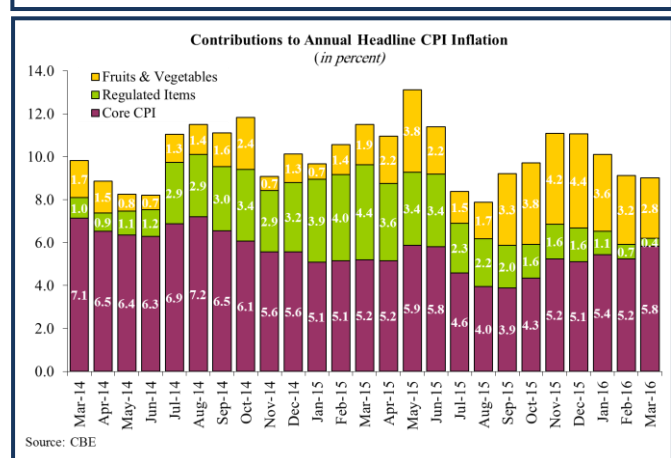
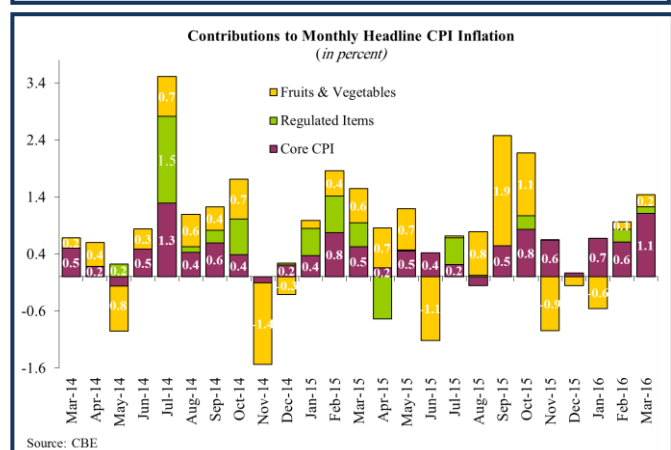


1. Headline CPI²

Headline CPI increased by 1.44 percent (m/m) in March 2016 compared to an inched up by 0.97 percent (m/m) in February, which is above the monthly pace of 0.54 percent recorded during January and February 2016. The annual rate declined to 9.02 percent in March from 9.13 percent in February, on the back of a favorable base effect from the previous year.

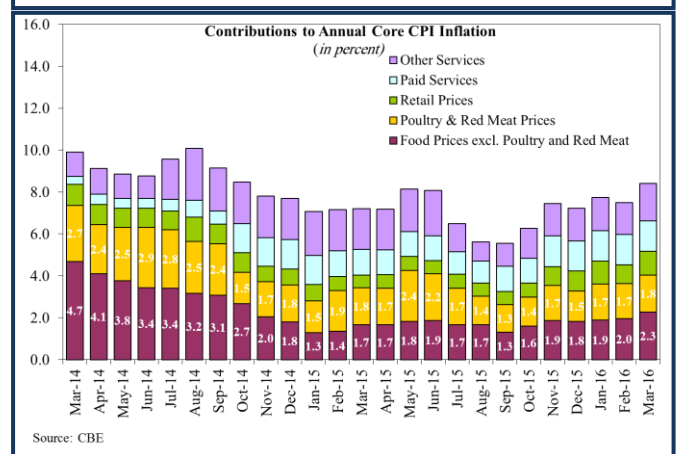
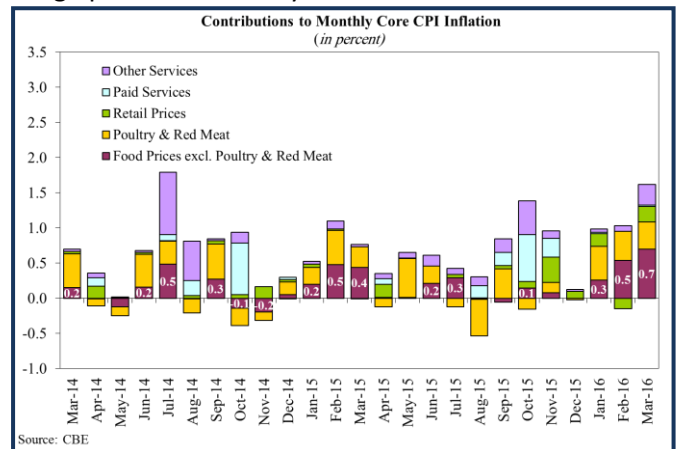
Key Highlights

- Prices of regulated items increased by 0.58 percent (m/m) in March, contributing by 0.11 percentage points to monthly headline inflation. This month's increase is attributed to the upward adjustment in the prices of medical products by 7.44 percent.
- The prices of fresh vegetables and fruits increased in March by 1.26 and 3.74 percent (m/m), respectively. Together, they contributed by 0.22 percentage points to monthly headline inflation.



- The prices of poultry and red meat increased by 1.80 and 2.31 percent (m/m), respectively. Together they contributed by 0.26 percentage points to monthly headline inflation.
- Moreover, the prices of fish and sea food increased by 4.23 percent (m/m) to contribute by 0.13 percentage points to monthly headline inflation.
- The prices of eggs declined by 3.26 percent (m/m) to contribute by negative 0.07 percentage point to monthly headline inflation.
- The prices of a number of food items including rice, imported butter, margarine, cheese, pasta, bakery products, processed meat and tea picked up to jointly contribute by 0.42 percentage points to monthly headline inflation.
- The prices of other services increased by 1.19 percent (m/m) to contribute by 0.20 percentage points to monthly headline inflation, which was mainly driven by the increase in the prices of coffee and restaurant services and Haj and Omra trips.
- The prices of retail items increased by 1.40 percent (m/m) to contribute by 0.15 percentage points to monthly headline inflation, which was mainly due to the increase in the prices of HH appliances, medical products, cars and spare parts.
- The prices of paid services increased slightly by 0.19 percent (m/m) to contribute by 0.01 percentage points to monthly headline inflation, on the back of the increase in the salary of Portman services.

tioned food items which contributed by 1.08 percentage points to monthly core inflation. Moreover the increase in the prices of retail items, other services and paid services contributed jointly by 0.54 percentage points to monthly core inflation.



1/ CAPMAS publishes three CPI series: (1) the CPI for urban areas which include Cairo, Alexandria, urban Lower Egypt, urban Upper Egypt, Canal cities and Frontier governorates, (2) the CPI for rural areas, and (3) the CPI for All areas. Numbers quoted in this note refer to CPI-Urban .

2/ It is important to underscore that the monthly percentage changes of both headline and core CPI between September 2009 and July 2010 do not match rates of changes presented in previous inflation notes given the replacement of the 8th CPI series by the 9th series starting from August 2009 (Full details are discussed in the Technical Appendix of the August 2010 Inflation Note).

2. Core Inflation²

Core CPI computed by the Central Bank of Egypt, increased by 1.62 percent (m/m) in March 2016 compared to an increase by 0.88 percent (m/m) in February, which is above the average monthly pace of 0.93 percent recorded during January and February 2016. The annual rate increased to 8.41 percent in March from 7.50 percent in February.

The monthly dynamics in March was mainly driven by the developments in the prices of the previously men-

Table 1.
Classification of All Items included in Core CPI

Food	Retail	Paid Services	Other Services
Bread and cereals	Clothing	Tailors, laundry & shoe repair	Rentals (new law)
Meat	Fabrics	Dwelling maintenance services	Rental value of owner occupied housing
Fish and other seafood	Footwear	Portman & gardener's services	Hospital services
Eggs & Dairy products	Products related to dwelling repairment	Cook & maid's services	Transportation Services
Oils and fats	Furniture	Technicians to HH appliances	Mobile & internet services
Dried fruits	Carpets and other floor covering	Repairs of Audio-visual equipment	Recreational & sporting services
Processed vegetables	Household (HH) textiles	Physicians	Cultural services
Pulses	HH appliances	Mechanics	Hajj & Omra trips
Sugar and confectionery	Glassware, tableware and HH utensils	Teachers	Restaurants and Cafes
Other food products	HH small tools & supplies	Hairdressers	Accommodation services
Beverages	HH cleaning products		Private schools
	HH miscellaneous products		
	Purchase of vehicles		
	Spare parts		
	Motor oil		
	Telephone & telefax equipment		
	Home entertainment equipment		
	Recreational equipment		
	Personal care supplies and products		
	Personal effects		
	Books		
	School supplies		
	Medical care goods		

Table 2.
 Consumer Price Index and Major Components 1/

	Weight in basket 2/	March 2015	March 2016	March 2016 to February 2016	March 2016 to March 2015
	(in percent)	(index) (January 2010 = 100)		(percentage change)	
Headline - All items	100.00	161.51	176.07	1.44	9.02
Food and beverages	39.92	187.73	210.41	2.03	12.08
Tobacco and related products	2.19	314.57	316.60	0.00	0.65
Clothing and footwear	5.41	119.00	127.20	0.00	6.90
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	18.37	130.65	130.82	0.08	0.13
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance of the dwelling	3.77	138.84	153.55	0.31	10.60
Medical care	6.33	131.17	149.26	4.14	13.79
Transportation	5.68	137.84	141.50	0.50	2.66
Communications	3.12	96.85	96.85	0.00	0.00
Recreation and Culture	2.43	164.01	182.85	0.49	11.48
Education	4.63	196.93	219.01	0.00	11.21
Hotels, cafes and restaurants	4.43	171.80	203.69	3.78	18.56
Miscellaneous goods and services	3.73	111.33	116.39	0.54	4.55
Selective aggregates					
Fruits & vegetables 3/	6.90	258.31	324.03	1.71	25.44
Regulated items	18.66	170.34	173.59	0.58	1.91
Food excl. fruits & vegetables	31.08	177.32	191.85	2.21	8.19
Retail items	14.48	124.03	132.81	1.40	7.08
Paid services	5.87	156.68	184.20	0.19	17.57
Other services	23.00	128.77	137.53	1.13	6.80
Core CPI	74.43	150.32	162.97	1.62	8.41
1/ Source: CAPMAS and CBE calculations					
2/ Based on 2008/2009 Household Expenditure Survey					
3/ Excluding pulses, processed vegetables and dried fruits					