



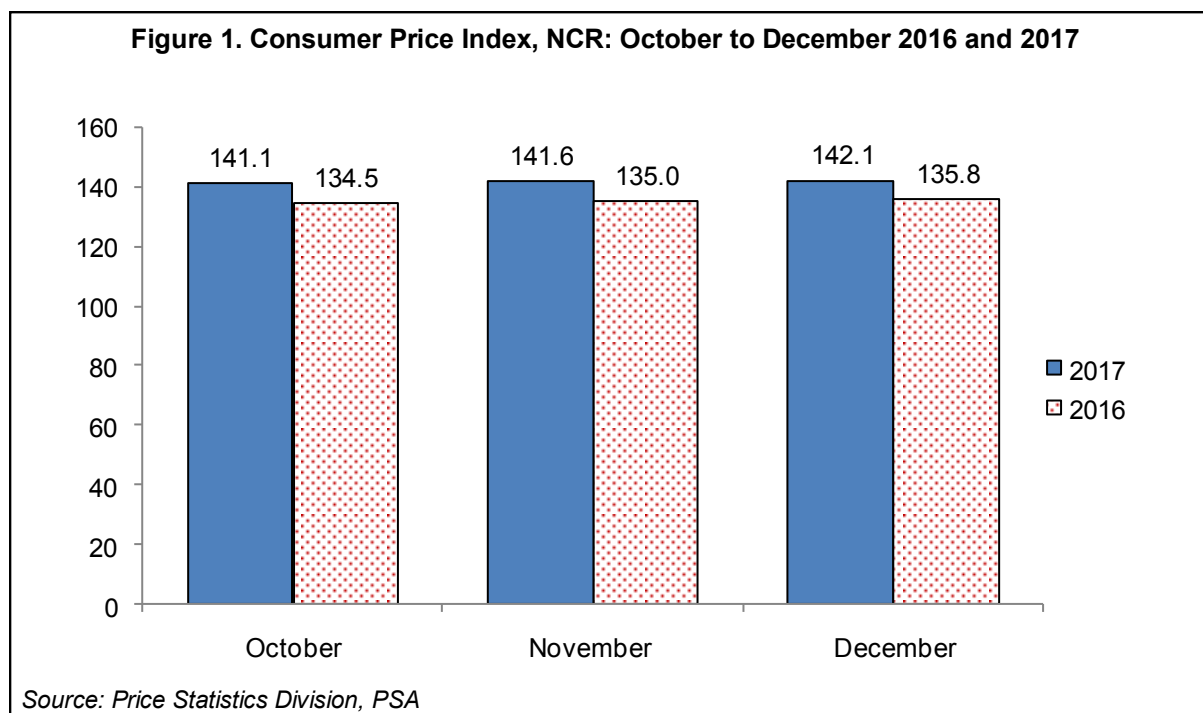
SPECIAL RELEASE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: October to December 2017 National Capital Region (2006=100)

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The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an indicator of the change in the average retail prices of a fixed basket of goods and services commonly purchased by households relative to a base year. It shows how much, on the average, prices of goods and services have increased or decreased from a particular reference period known as the base year. Since price is the cost or the amount of money for which something can be bought or sold, CPI therefore compares the current cost of certain goods and services with their cost at an earlier time.

To illustrate, an index of 142.1 in NCR in December 2017 means that consumer prices, on the average, have increased by 42.1 percent from 2006. It also means that a basket of commodities which can be purchased at Php100.00 by an average Filipino household in NCR in 2006 can be bought at Php142.1 in December 2017.



Higher CPI in NCR noted for 2017 than in 2016

The CPI in NCR registered at 141.1 in October 2017 and slightly accelerated to 141.6 in November 2017. By the end of the fourth quarter of 2017, CPI further accelerated by 0.5 point. Higher trend in CPI was recorded for all months during the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to the same period of the previous year. *Refer to Table 1 for details.*

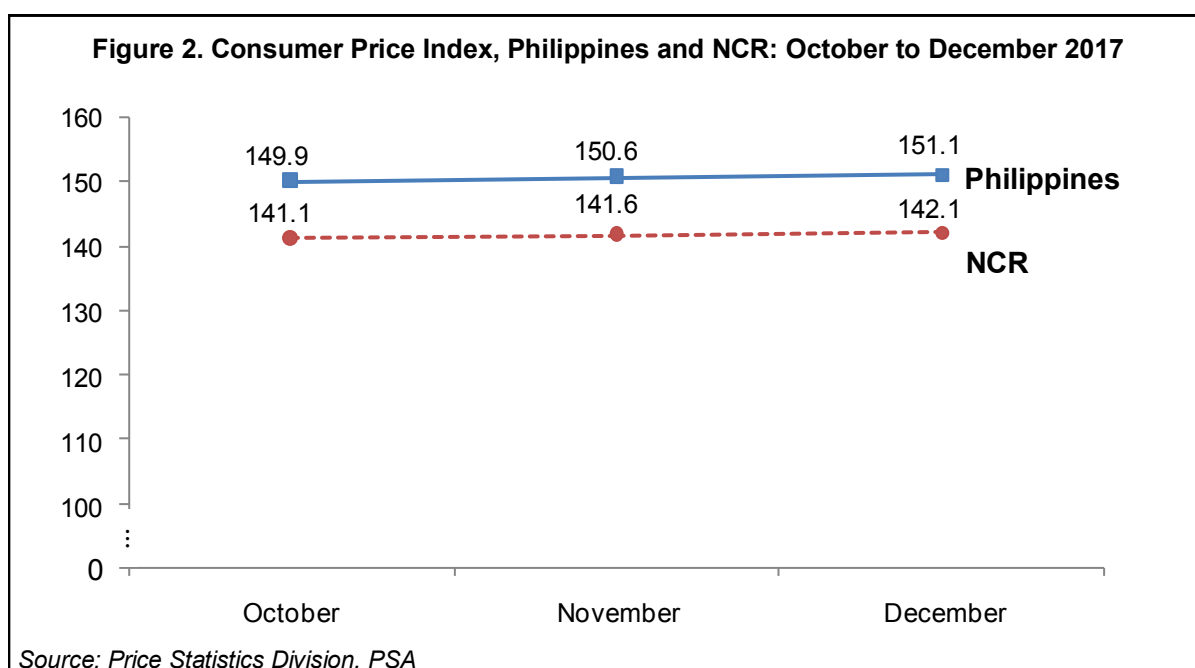
**Table 1. CPI for All Income Household by Commodity Group, NCR
October- December 2016 and 2017**

Commodity Group	October		November		December	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
All Items (Philippines)	149.9	144.9	150.6	145.8	151.1	146.8
All Items (NCR)	141.1	134.5	141.6	135.0	142.1	135.8
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	164.2	156.7	164.3	158.2	166.1	159.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	177.4	164.1	177.8	164.8	178.6	165.7
Clothing and Footwear	149.5	146.5	149.6	146.5	149.6	146.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	126.1	120.6	126.9	120.7	126.1	121.0
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	131.3	128.8	131.4	128.8	131.4	128.8
Health	153.8	148.7	153.8	148.8	153.8	148.8
Transport	128.8	116.3	129.5	116.6	129.9	119.4
Communication	95.3	94.4	95.3	94.4	95.3	94.4
Recreation and Culture	128.2	124.4	128.2	124.4	128.2	124.4
Education	170.2	167.3	170.2	167.3	170.2	167.3
Restaurants and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	132.7	125.1	133.9	125.1	135.1	125.5

Source: Price Statistics Division, PSA

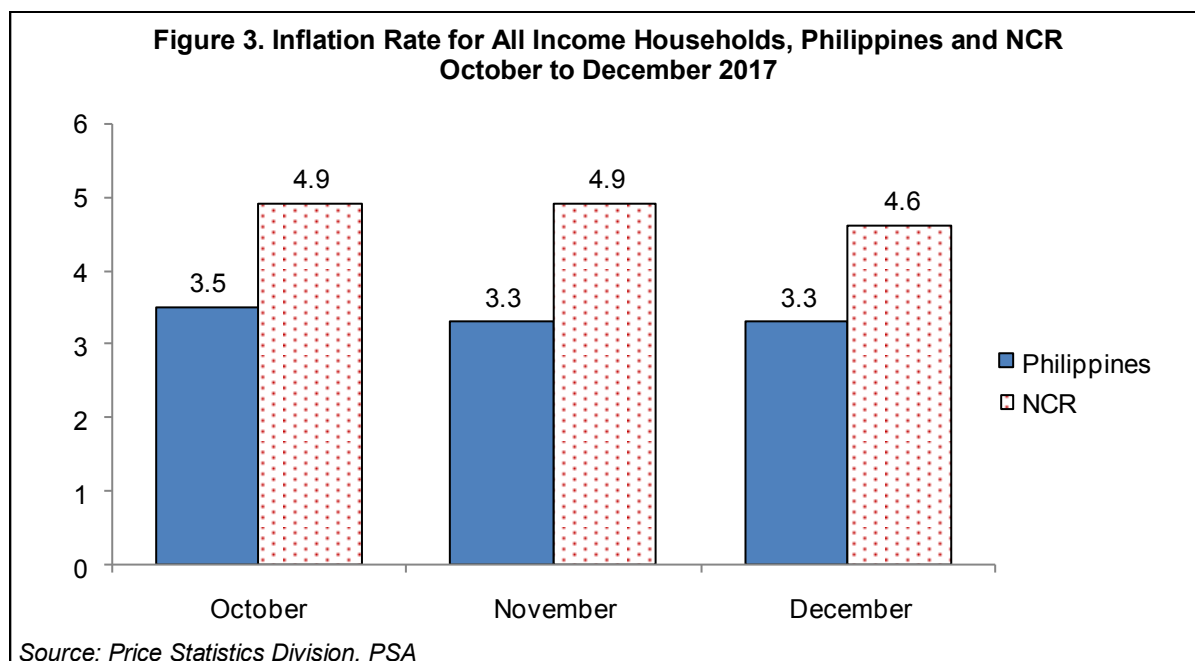
NCR records lower CPI than the national figures in the fourth quarter of 2017

The NCR CPIs were consistently lower than the national CPI for all months of the fourth quarter of 2017. The national and NCR figures showed linear trend.



NCR records highest inflation rate in October and November for the fourth quarter of 2017

Inflation Rate (IR) in NCR increased to 4.9 percent in October and November 2017 but slightly decreased by 0.3 percentage point in December 2017. Inflation Rates for Philippines and NCR exhibited similar trend.



NCR Inflation Rate is higher than the national figure for the fourth quarter 2017

NCR registered higher IR for the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to the national figures. The monthly IRs of NCR in the fourth quarter of 2017 were considerably higher than those of the same period of 2016. Refer to Table 2 for details.

Table 2. Inflation Rate for All Income Households by Commodity Group, NCR October to December 2016 and 2017

Commodity Group	October		November		December	
	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016
All Items (Philippines)	3.5	2.3	3.3	2.5	3.3	2.6
All Items (NCR)	4.9	2.1	4.9	2.0	4.6	2.7
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	4.8	5.2	3.9	4.9	4.0	6.0
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	8.1	4.9	7.9	5.3	7.8	5.9
Clothing and Footwear	2.0	3.0	2.1	3.0	2.0	3.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	4.6	-0.4	5.1	-0.6	4.2	-0.3
Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	1.9	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8
Health	3.4	1.2	3.4	1.2	3.4	1.2
Transport	10.7	-0.5	11.1	-0.3	8.8	2.1
Communication	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.1
Recreation and Culture	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4
Education	1.7	2.6	1.7	2.6	1.7	2.6
Restaurants and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	6.1	1.2	7.0	1.2	7.6	1.5

Source: Price Statistics Division, PSA

Lower PPP for NCR during the fourth quarter of 2017 compared to 2016 figures

Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP) for NCR were lower throughout October to December 2017 as compared to the same months in 2016. Both periods also showed the similar trend. The same trend was likewise observed for the national PPP.

**Table 3. Purchasing Power of the Peso in Philippines and NCR
October to December 2016 and 2017**

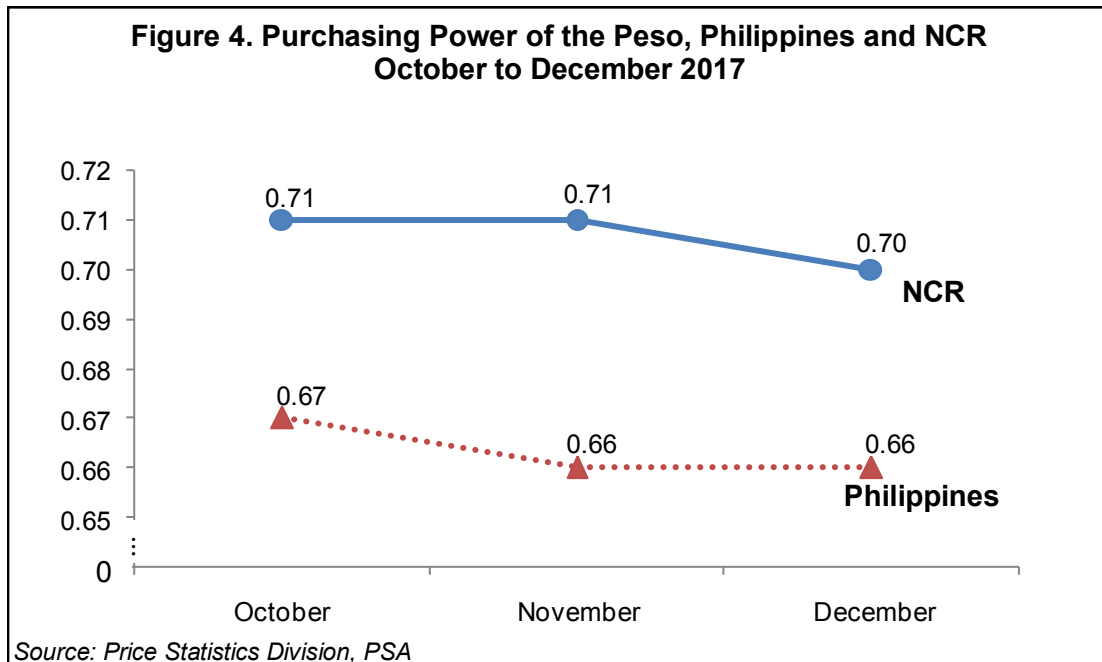
Year	October		November		December	
	PHL	NCR	PHL	NCR	PHL	NCR
2017	0.67	0.71	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.70
2016	0.69	0.74	0.69	0.74	0.68	0.74

Source: Price Statistics Division, PSA

Comparatively, the NCR PPPs were consistently higher than the national PPP throughout the fourth quarter of 2017.

Lower PPP in NCR from October to December 2017

NCR exhibited lower PPP throughout October to December 2017 as compared to the same months in 2016. Both periods also showed the similar trend. The same trend was likewise observed for the national PPP.



Rosalinda P. Bautista

ROSALINDA P. BAUTISTA
Regional Director

TECHNICAL NOTES ON CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

I. INTRODUCTION

Consumer Price Index (CPI) provides a general measure of the changes in average retail prices of commodities bought by specific group of consumers in a given area and in a given period of time. It mainly measures the composite change in the retail prices of the various commodities over time.

II. SEASONALITY

The seasonal adjustment of a time series mainly refers to the isolation of seasonal fluctuations, leaving the basic trend of the observed series. Seasonal fluctuations can be due to composite effect of climates and institutional events which repeat more or less regularly each year. Specific factors that may affect the CPI include seasonality due to production cycles, demand due to school year or holidays, and practices such as increase in rental rates during the beginning of the year. After the removal of seasonal variations, the resulting series is referred to as the seasonally adjusted series or the depersonalized series. By removing the effects of seasonality on the CPI series, analysis can be made on a month-on-month basis. Thus, seasonal adjustment allows comparisons over recent months and gives short-term trend movements for the series. In general, if seasonally adjusted CPI levels are lower than the unadjusted series, it means that seasonal factors push up prices relative to the expected trend.

III. SEASONALITY IN THE CPI

The over-all CPI is tabulated using six major commodity groups in the Philippines, Metro Manila (MM) and Areas Outside Metro Manila (AOMM). The six groups are: Food, Beverages and Tobacco; Clothing; Housing and Repairs; Fuel, Light and Water; Services; Miscellaneous. The last five groups listed comprise the non-food items. Initially, the CPI series for all items as well as the Food, Beverages and Tobacco (FBT), and non-food items for MM and AOMM were tested for the presence of seasonality assuming stability. In MM and AOMM, presence of stable seasonality were observed both for FBT and Non-food items. However, the CPI for all items indicated that there is no seasonality in the series mainly due to the exhibited opposite direction of peaks and troughs of the FBT and non-food items, thus, canceling out. Presence of stable seasonality though, was observed both for FBT and non-food items when analyzed separately. The current seasonally adjusted series are based on X11ARIMA88 built-in model (Multiplicative with log-transformation (0,1,1) (0,1,1) and Additive (0,1,1) (0,1,1)) fit to the 2001 data series.

IV. DATA COLLECTION

Collection of data for the CPI is done through the collective effort of the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics and the National Statistics Office (now part of Philippine Statistics Authority under RA 10625). BAS collects price data for agricultural commodities in NCR and in provincial capitals where there are BAS offices while NSO collects prices for all other commodities in all other areas.

Except for FBT which is monitored on a weekly basis in NCR, price collection is done twice a month. First collection phase is done during the first five days of the month while the second phase is on the 15th to 17th day of the month.

About 459,000 price quotations gathered throughout the country are entered into the computation of the monthly CPI. Data are collected from the sample outlets (outlets or establishments where prices of commodities/services are collected or quoted) which were chosen using the following criteria:

1. Popularity of an establishment along the line of goods to be priced - this means the sample outlet is publicly noted in the locality for selling goods included in the CPI survey forms and the outlet is patronized by the large segment of the population.
2. Consistency and completeness of stock

Consistency of stock - the outlet has a constant, steady or regular stock of commodities listed in the CPI survey forms as well as of those commodities of the same kind and belonging to the same commodity.

Completeness of stock - the sample outlet carries in its stock many if not all of the items included in the CPI survey forms relative to the other outlets in the area.

3. Permanency of outlet - the outlet to be chosen should be an established store or stall in the market area. It should not be an ambulant or transient vendor.

4. Geographical location - the outlet should be in a convenient place and is accessible to the majority if not all consumers in the area.

V. COMPUTATION OF THE CPI

The formula used in computing the CPI is the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives, a variant of the Laspeyres formula with fixed base year period weights. In computing the CPI, the formula is:

$$\text{CPI} = \frac{\text{sum}[(P_n/P_o)W]}{\text{sum}(W)} \times 100$$

Where:

P_n = current price
P_o = base period price
W = P_oQ_o = weights

VI. ECONOMIC INDICATORS DERIVED FROM THE CPI

1. Inflation Rate

Inflation rate is defined as the annual rate of change or the year-on-year change in the CPI. That is,

$$\text{Inflation Rate} = \frac{\text{CPI}_2 - \text{CPI}_1}{\text{CPI}_1} \times 100$$

Where:

CPI₂ = is the CPI in the second period
CPI₁ = is the CPI in the previous period

2. Purchasing Power of Peso (PPP)

Another important economic indicator derived from the CPI is the PPP. The PPP is a measure of the real value of the peso in a given period relative to a chosen reference period. It is computed by getting the reciprocal of the CPI and multiplying the result by 100. That is,

$$\text{PPP} = \frac{1}{\text{CPI}} \times 100$$

VII. INDEX FORMULA

The construction of the CPI basically uses a Laspeyres Formula (fixed base year weights). The formula is modified as the weighted arithmetic mean of price relatives. That is,

$$\text{INDEX} = \frac{\text{sum} ((P_n/P_o) \times (P_o \times Q_o))}{\text{sum} (P_o \times Q_o)} \times 100$$

Where:

P_n = current price
P_o = base year price or base price
P_o x Q_o = base year weights