

MAY INFLATION REPORT



ECONOMIC INSIGHTS
STRATEGIC OUTLOOK



Nigeria Consumer Price Index

MAY 2026

Headline inflation edged up to 15.93% YoY in May 2026, though MoM momentum cooled to 1.75%; signaling a gradual easing trend as base effects and Dangote Refinery impacts continue to dampen price pressures.

Headline CPI (Index)

140.7

Apr-26: 138.3

YoY Headline

15.93%

Apr-26: 15.69% ↑

MoM Headline

1.75%

Apr-26: 2.13% ↓

12-Month Avg CPI

18.36%

May-25: 30.57% ↓

Food Inflation YoY

16.96%

May-25: 24.25% ↓

Core Inflation YoY

16.82%

May-25: 24.92% ↓

Urban Inflation YoY

16.07%

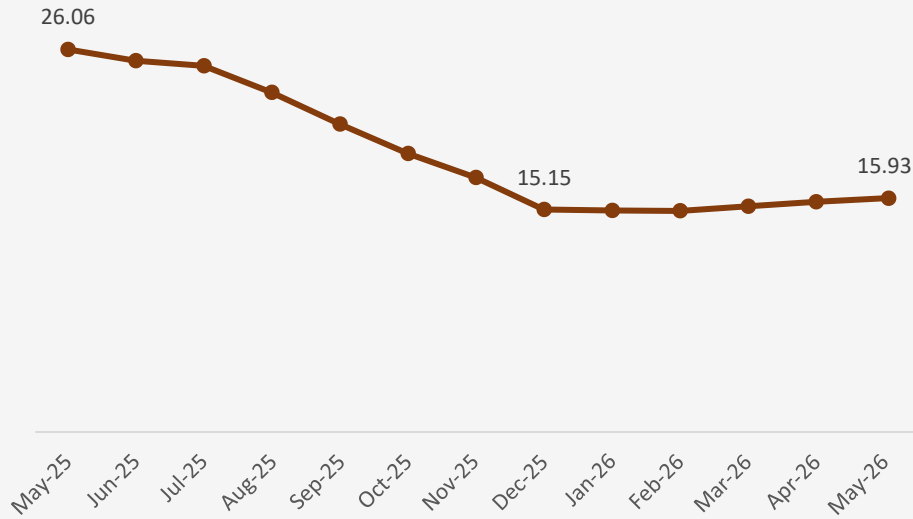
MoM: 1.95%

Rural Inflation YoY

15.60%

MoM: 1.17%

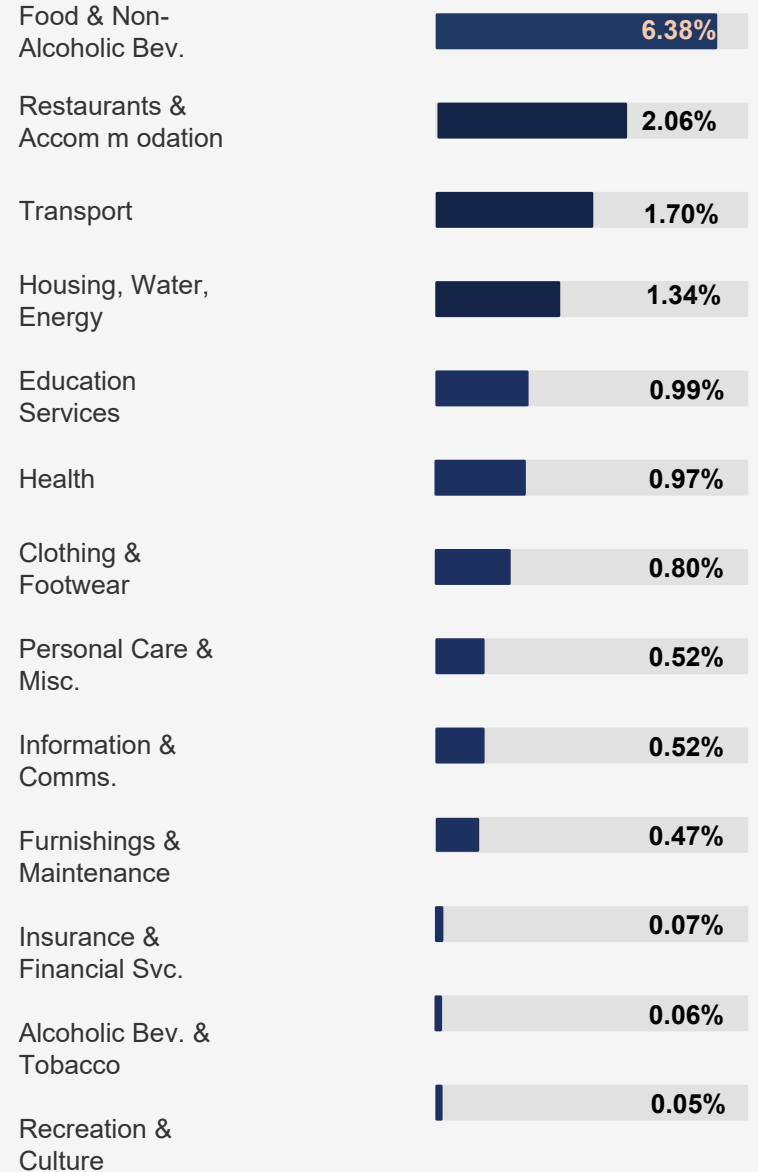
HEADLINE CPI —YoY TREND (%)



TREND READING

Headline inflation has plateaued in a 15.0–16.0% band since Dec-25 after a sustained decline from 26.06% in May-25; a 10.1pp drop in 12 months. The slight uptick in May-26 (+0.24pp) is consistent with base effects rather than fresh demand pressures.

DIVISIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS —YoY (%)



SUB-INDICES

FOOD

YoY **16.96%**

MoM **2.98%**

vs 24.55% YoY May-25

RURAL

YoY **15.60%**

MoM **1.17%**

vs 25.60% YoY May-25

CORE

YoY **16.82%**

MoM **1.94%**

vs 24.92% YoY May-25

ENERGY

YoY **5.73%**

MoM **0.72%**

Apr-26 MoM: 8.0%

URBAN

YoY **16.07%**

MoM **1.99%**

vs 26.43% YoY May-25

FARM PRODUCE

YoY **-1.26%**

MoM **0.86%**

Apr-26 MoM: 6.0%

CERTARI ANALYSIS

01 MPC Implication: Hold Bias Intact

With headline CPI near 16% and no clear trajectory below 15%, the CBN's MPR hold at 26.50% remains appropriate. A rate cut before Q4 2026 would risk reigniting inflation expectations. The next inflection point will be October-November harvest cycle data.

02 Food: Seasonal Tailwinds May Be Temporary

Food YoY of 16.96% is well below the 24.55% of May 2025, but the MoM of 2.98% remains elevated. Farm produce deflation (-1.26% YoY) reflects harvest-season supply, but this will reverse in Q3. Rice, maize, and wheat prices remain vulnerable to FX and logistics shocks.

03 Core Rebound: Services Sticky

Core inflation MoM jumped to 1.94% from 1.03% in April —the sharpest monthly acceleration in 2026. Services inflation (17.92% YoY) is outpacing goods (6.62% YoY), pointing to sticky wage-driven pricing in education, transport, and hospitality. CBN should monitor this closely.

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