CAR Inflation further decelerates in January 2024

The inflation rate in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) continued to slow down to 2.1 percent in February 2024 from 2.8 percent in December 2023. This was the fourth time that inflation has decelerated since the acceleration in September 2023.

The main source of deceleration of the January 2024 inflation was Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, which contributed 92.1 percent share to the inflation downtrend. This commodity group include onions, potatoes, fish, and eggs.

Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - CAR Chief Statistical Specialist Aldrin Federico R. Bahit, Jr., reported Wednesday that the major contributors to the January 2024 inflation were Education Services with 8.2 percent, Restaurant and Accommodation Services with 5.2 percent, and Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages with 2.5 percent.

Apayao had the highest inflation rate among the six provinces and one Highly Urbanized City (HUC) in CAR with 6.9 percent, while Kalinga had the lowest with -1.4 percent. The Purchasing Power of the Peso in CAR from base year 2018 was 81 centavos in January 2024. This means that one peso in 2018 was worth 81 centavos in January 2024.

Assistant Professor Venielle L. Lamayo of University of the Philippine Baguio shared a presentation on price determination where he discussed how prices are determined in the market explaining the supply side and demand side.

The online dissemination of the January 2024 Cordillera Inflation Report was conducted on 21 February 2024 via Google Meet. This was attended by 62 participants from Regional Line Agencies (RLAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), academe, and the media.

RSC-CAR Approves 5 Resolutions During the First Quarter 2024 Meeting

The Regional Statistics Committee - Cordillera Administrative Region (RSC-CAR) approved five resolutions during the first quarter 2024 RSC-CAR meeting held last 22 February 2024 at RDC Hall, NEDA-CAR, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City.

Conduct of Second Level Training on 2023 NICTHS

PSA-CAR conducted the second level training on the 2023 National Information and Communications Technology Household Survey (NICTHS) at Ritz Legarda Hotel, Baguio City last 22-26 January 2024.

Cordillera Initiatives Towards the Compilation of Regional TSA and MST

PSA-CAR Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) Aldrin Federico R. Bahit, Jr. presented "Initiatives of the RSSO-CAR towards the compilation of regional Tourism Satellite Accounts (TSA) and Measuring the Sustainability of Tourism (MST)" as part of program during the Training Workshop on the Pilot Compilation of Regional Tourism Satellite Accounts for Luzon Cluster Batch 2 last 30 January to February 2024 at the Subic Bay Travelers Hotel and Events Center.

Sharing the Cordillera experience in compiling environmental accounts

The Cordillera experience in the compilation of environmental accounts was presented during the Appreciation Training on System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) – 2012 Central Framework last 06-08 February 2024 at J&V Hotel and Resort, City of San Fernando, La Union, hosted by PSA-Ilocos Region.

RSC-CAR Approves 5 resolutions during the first quarter 2024 meeting

The following were the resolutions approved:

RSC-CAR Resolution No. 1 Series of 2024

Enjoining the Support of the General Public and All Stakeholders in The Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in the Conduct of the 2024 Nationwide Rollout of the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS).

RSC-CAR Resolution No. 2 Series of 2024

Enjoining the Local Government Units (LGU's) in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to Allocate Funds for the Implementation of Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) in Their Locality.

RSC-CAR Resolution No. 3 Series of 2024

Enjoining Private Establishments and Stakeholders in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to Support the Conduct of the 2023 Census of Philippine Business and Industry (CPBI)

RSC-CAR Resolution No. 4 Series of 2024

Enjoining the Regional Line Agencies, Local Government Units, Academe, and the Private Sector to Support the Data Enclave Center (DEC) of the Philippine Statistics Authority-Cordillera Administrative Region (PSA-CAR)

RSC-CAR Resolution No. 5 Series of 2024

Requesting All Regional Line Agencies, Local Government Units, and the Private Sector to Provide the Data Needed for the Compilation of the 2021 to 2023 Provincial Product Accounts (PPA) of the City of Baguio and the Six Provinces of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – CAR

Copies of RSC-CAR Resolutions can be accessed at https://rssocar.psa.gov.ph/rsc-resolutions.

Conduct of Second Level Training on 2023 NICTHS

The National ICT Household Survey is a new endeavor of the Philippine Statistics Authority in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). The survey aims to gather updated household and individual ICT data, monitor the development of the identified critical data on ICT supply and demand, and to assess and monitor the growth of potential markets in the digital economy. Gathered information will serve as input in monitoring existing programs, development of potential projects, and formulation of future policies.

Resource speakers discussed the overview and survey information of the NICTHS. They also discussed the concepts of the three (3) forms used in this survey namely: Form 1. Barangay Questionnaire, Form 2. Household Questionnaire, and Form 3. Individual Questionnaire. Participants during the training were able to simulate and populate the system of the NICTHS through the use of Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets. They also gave their feedbacks, issues and concerns on the system and questionnaires used for the survey. Enumeration/data collection period started on 05 February 2024 and ended in 06 March 2024.

Cordillera initiatives towards the Compilation of Regional TSA and MST

The Cordillera was the first among regions in the country to start compiling tourism and tourism related data and estimating subnational tourism expenditures under the TSA project. The Philippine Tourism Satellite Accounts (PTSA) released a total of ten (10) tables in accordance with the International Recommendations for Tourism Statistics (IRTS) 2008 and the Systema of National Accounts (SNA). The Cordillera was able to prepare four (4) tables, namely: Table 1: Inbound Tourism Expenditure, Table 2: Domestic Tourism Expenditure, Table 4: Internal Tourism Expenditure and Table 7: Employment in Tourism Industries.

The training workshop conducted further helped the TSA project staff thru the assistance of the Satellite Accounts Division under the Macroeconomic Accounts Service to add other tables like Table 5: Gross Value Added of Tourism Industries (GVATI), Table 6: Tourism Direct Gross Value Added (TDGVA), Table 8: Tourism Gross Fixed Capital Formation and Table 9: Tourism Collective Consumption.

The said activity was attended by PSA-CAR Regional Director Villafe P. Alibuyog, Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) Aldrin Federico R. Bahit, Jr., Statistical Specialist II Kay Angelika M. Castro and Aeron Joe Bahug, TSA Staff.

Sharing the Cordillera experience in compiling environmental accounts

The appreciation training aims to introduce the SEEA 2012 Central Framework to the Regional Line Agencies (RLAs) and stakeholders and have an understanding and appreciation of environmental accounting.

Since 2015, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) embarked on compiling environment statistics through the Philippine Economic-Environmental and Natural Resource Accounting (PEENRA) System which aims to compile and develop accounts on natural resources to draw indicators that supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, all Regional Statistical Service Offices (RSSO) of the PSA will compile environmental accounts of their respective regions. In 2016, PSA CAR, started to compile its environmental accounts. Now on its ninth year of continuous effort, PSA-CAR extends assistance to other regions in developing their regional environmental accounts.

CSS Aldrin Bahit shared that it was not an easy job to compile environmental accounts as the region had to face challenges in gathering data, data availability and quality, and in coordinatig with data source agencies.