



# Retail inflation eases to 3.34 %, lowest since 2019

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## Context

- Retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

## What is the Wholesale Price Index?

- It measures the **changes in the prices of goods** sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- Published by the **Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.
- The **base year** of All-India WPI has been revised from 2004-05 to **2011-12** in 2017.

## What is the Consumer Price Index?

- It measures price changes from the perspective of a **retail buyer**. It is released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.
- The CPI calculates the difference in the price of **goods and services** such as **food, fuel, medical care, education, electronics etc, which Indian consumers buy for use**.
- The CPI has several sub-groups including food and beverages, fuel and light, housing and clothing, bedding and footwear.
- **Four types of CPI** are as follows:
  - 1CPI for Industrial Workers (IW).
  - 2CPI for Agricultural Labourer (AL).
  - 3CPI for Rural Labourer (RL).
  - 4CPI (Rural/Urban/Combined).
- Of these, the **first three are compiled by the Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment**. Fourth is compiled by the **NSO in the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- **Base Year for CPI is 2012**.