

Thailand CPI Increases To 2.11 Per Cent In March
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BANGKOK, April 1 (Bernama) -- Thailand's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose to 2.11 per cent in March from 1.96 per cent in February, mainly due to the increase in food prices.

It was the highest in nine months, according to the Commerce Ministry.

"The drought problem has started to cause lower supply of agricultural products and therefore increased prices of foods, particular fresh vegetables, rice, pork, cooking gas, and other foods," said the ministry's Commercial Adviser, Amparwon Pichalai.

She said inflation was likely to increase in the coming months along with that of food prices.

"Inflation has increased at an appropriate rate, helping to stimulate economic growth amid lower spending power," she said.

Core inflation in March, which excludes volatile food and fuel prices, firmed up slightly to 1.31 per cent year-on-year, while the first quarter rate was 1.19 per cent year-on-year, well within the Bank of Thailand's target range of 0.5-3 per cent.

Inflation in the first half of the year was expected to grow 2.12 per cent year-on-year, well under the ministry's annualised projection between 2-2.8 per cent, said Amparwon.

The first quarter inflation was up two per cent year-on-year.

The ministry projected inflation in the second quarter will averaged 2.24 per cent year-on-year.

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