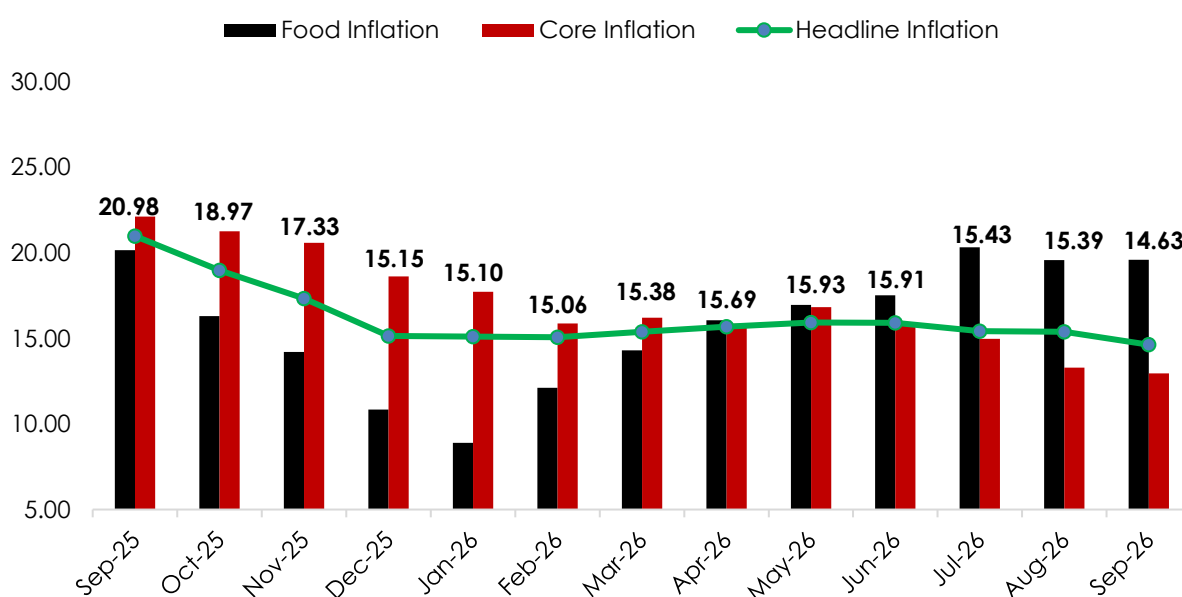


Headline Inflation Drops 76bps to 14.63% in September

Broad price pressure cooled on multi-dynamic factors as headline inflation printed at 14.63% in September 2026 from 15.39% in August 2026, indicating a decrease of 76bps. On a year-on-year basis, inflation declined by 635bps from the 20.98% recorded in September 2025. On a month-on-month basis, headline inflation slowed sharply to 0.06%, a 65bps decrease from the 0.71% recorded in August 2026, reflecting an ease in the monthly pace of price increases across key economic segments relative to the preceding month.

Food inflation stood at 19.59% year-on-year, compared to 20.16% in September 2025. On a month-on-month basis, food inflation entered deflationary territory at -1.55%, indicating a 257bps deceleration from the 1.02% recorded in August 2026. The monthly contraction in food prices was driven by changes in the average prices of products such as guinea corn flour, white maize flour, local short-grained rice, eggs, fresh onions, palm oil, fresh green beans, Irish potatoes, okra, fresh tomatoes, dried green peas, plantain, among others.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile agricultural produce and energy, stood at 12.95% year-on-year, compared with 22.11% in September 2025. On a month-on-month basis, core inflation accelerated to 1.11%, indicating a 117bps increase from the -0.06% recorded in August 2026. This reflects renewed price pressures across non-food and non-energy components, offsetting the strong cooling observed in the food basket during the month. [Read more](#)



OUTLOOK

Headline inflation is projected to continue its disinflationary trend in October 2026, as the harvest season and import tariff reductions support food availability and keep month-on-month food price increases relatively subdued, providing a buffer against energy-related pressures. Continued exchange rate stability is projected to contain imported inflation and limit cost pressures. However, seasonal demand pressures ahead of the festive season and election-related spending could keep price pressures elevated, posing upside risks to non-food inflation. Against this backdrop, sustained moderation in headline inflation could provide the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) with greater buffer to maintain its current policy stance or consider a gradual easing of monetary conditions, contingent on the persistence of disinflationary trends and the broader macroeconomic outlook.

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