

BUSINESS

# March inflation beats forecast, still at 13-year high

Commerce Ministry raises forecast to 4%-5% this year

PUBLISHED : 5 APR 2022 AT 13:10

WRITER: [REUTERS](#)

2



6



A woman shops at Bang Kapi market in Bangkok on March 15, 2022. A higher inflation rate in Thailand may cause domestic spending to recover slower than the previously forecast. (Photo: Varuth Hirunyathab)

Headline consumer price index (CPI) jumped by a higher-than-expected 5.73% in March from a year earlier, the fastest pace in 13 years, driven by stronger prices of goods and energy, the Commerce Ministry said on Tuesday.

That compared with a forecast for a rise of 5.60% in a *Reuters* poll and followed February's 5.28% increase, breaching the top end of the Bank of

By continuing to use our site you consent to the use of cookies as described in our privacy policy. [Accept and close](#)

from a previous estimate of 3.7% to 4.4%, Romnarong Pongpipat, director-general of the Trade Policy and Strategy Office, told a news conference. In 2008, inflation was 5.5%.

ADVERTISEMENT

Government measures including price controls on essential goods, a cap on fuel prices and subsidies would help slow a rise in inflation, he said.

---

**Statuesque killing, gambler's repent, Thai 'ghost' slaying**  
**Will Smith banned from Oscars for 10 years**  
**Oscars governors discuss sanctions for Smith over slap**

---

"Policymakers viewed that the current high inflation must be closely monitored, but it's not so worrying that further measures would be needed," Mr Ronnarong said.

The central bank last week raised its 2022 headline inflation outlook to 4.9% from a previous forecast of 1.7%, noting supply-driven inflation should be temporary.

In March, the core CPI index, which strips out volatile fresh food and energy prices, was up 2% from a year earlier, also beating a forecast for a 1.80% rise.

In the January-March period, headline inflation was 4.75%, with the core rate at 1.43%.



2



6