Quarterly Export Price Index (EPI)  
3rd Quarter 1997  
(Base Year 1993=100)

1. Introduction

This issue of economic indicator presents quarterly Export Price Indices for the third quarter of 1997. The Export Price Index (EPI) provides a measure for price changes of exports. It is a measure of pure price changes of domestically produced goods shipped to other countries. The base and reference period for the EPI is calendar year 1993.

A technical note on the construction of the EPI is annexed. Quarterly indices by Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev 3), changes by index points, and percentage changes for each quarter are shown in the tables annexed.

2. Structure of the EPI

The EPI is compiled using the Standard International Trade Classification of the United Nations (SITC Rev 3). The index comprises five sections namely: “Food and live animals”, “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels”, “Chemicals and related products”, “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw materials” and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”. Distribution of weights for the different sections, groups of commodities and items are given in Table 1. In addition to the overall index, separate sub-indices are also calculated for different product categories at more detailed level.

“Food and live animals” carries more than 30% of the total weight. Sugar accounts for 88% of the weight of this section and the remaining 12% comprises of meat and meat preparations, fish and fish preparations, tea and molasses. The only constituent of the section “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” is cut flowers. “Chemicals and related products” consists mainly of pharmaceutical products and fertilisers. “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by raw material” consists only of textile fabrics. “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” is the most important of the five sections covered by the EPI and comprises about 65% of the total weight. It consists exclusively of articles of wearing apparel from the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).
3. Quarterly Changes in the EPI

The export price index for the third quarter of 1997 stood at 122.6, representing a fall of 2.7% when compared to the previous quarter and a drop of 3.3% compared to the corresponding period of 1996. The index was mostly affected by decreases registered in the export prices of sugar and articles of apparel of textile fabrics.

4. Sub-indices by section and Commodity

Food and live animals

The index for Food and live animals fell from 130.8 in the second quarter of 1997 to 124.1 in the third quarter (-5.1%).

Sugar, which represents 88% of this section, was mostly responsible for that fall since its export prices went down by 6.7% during that period. Export prices of molasses dropped by 23.2% and those of tea by 6.6%; however, the share of these commodities in the basket represents only 3% of the section.

The index for “fish and fish preparations” went up by 8.5% and that of “Meat and meat preparations” by 2.7%.

Crude materials, inedible, except fuel

The average index for cut flowers for the third quarter of 1997 increased by 11.1% from 139.0 in the second quarter to 154.4 in the second quarter of 1997. However, when compared to the corresponding period of 1996, the index showed a minor drop of 0.1%.

Chemicals and related products

The decreasing trend in the export prices of commodities falling under this section has been maintained, with a drop of 0.2% from 100.7 in the second quarter to 100.5 in the third quarter of 1997. The drop is more consequential (-6.8%) when compared to the third quarter of 1996.

Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials

The index for this section rose from 119.3 in the second quarter of 1997 to 124.5 in the third quarter (+4.4%), with increases registered in the export prices of all the components of this section. Prices of cotton fabrics went up by 4.9% and those of other textile fabrics by 1.2%.
Miscellaneous manufactured articles

The export price index of miscellaneous manufactured articles dropped from 124.3 in the second quarter of 1997 to 121.7 in the third quarter of 1997 (-2.1%). A major drop of 7.8% was registered in the export prices of articles of apparel of textile fabrics during the same period.

On the other hand, export prices of women’s or girls’ coats, jackets, trousers etc. (knitted or crocheted), went up by 12.4% during the same period; but their share in the basket is relatively low (3.8%).

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development & Regional Co-operation
PORT LOUIS

December 1997
Table 1: Quarterly Export Price Index by SITC, 1995-1997 (base 1993=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC¹</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>1995 Average</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>Yearly Average</th>
<th>1997 ²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>1st Qr</td>
<td>2nd Qr</td>
<td>3rd Qr</td>
<td>4th Qr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Food and live animals</td>
<td>3,081</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>124.2</td>
<td>130.8</td>
<td>131.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meat and meat preparations</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>112.2</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>117.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fish and fish preparations</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>124.8</td>
<td>129.8</td>
<td>129.8</td>
<td>135.7</td>
<td>144.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sugar</td>
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<td>117.8</td>
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<td>123.6</td>
<td>130.7</td>
<td>130.7</td>
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<td>179.8</td>
<td>179.8</td>
<td>166.5</td>
<td>166.5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tea</td>
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<td>77.4</td>
<td>83.6</td>
<td>83.6</td>
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<td>125.4</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>154.6</td>
<td>157.2</td>
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<td>121.8</td>
<td>119.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>material</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles,</td>
<td>301</td>
<td>114.8</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>121.8</td>
<td>119.0</td>
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</table>

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

² Provisional
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SITC\Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<th>1995</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>Yearly Average</th>
<th>1997\2</th>
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<td>2nd Qr</td>
<td>3rd Qr</td>
<td>4th Qr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Miscellaneous manufactured articles</td>
<td>6,456</td>
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<td>113.9</td>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>125.1</td>
<td>125.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories</td>
<td>6,064</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>124.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Men's or boys’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</em></td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>108.8</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>123.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Women's or girls’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</em></td>
<td>501</td>
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<td>130.6</td>
<td>135.4</td>
<td>138.4</td>
<td>142.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Men's or boys’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</em></td>
<td>221</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>106.1</td>
<td>105.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Women's or girls’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</em></td>
<td>383</td>
<td>105.7</td>
<td>96.6</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>114.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Articles of apparel of textile fabrics whether or not knitted or crocheted</em></td>
<td>2,924</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>113.3</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>125.7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories: <em>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories of other than textile fabrics</em></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>123.7</td>
<td>125.8</td>
<td>130.2</td>
<td>127.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>125.5</td>
<td>135.4</td>
<td>141.2</td>
<td>147.1</td>
<td>147.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Optical goods, watches and clocks</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>122.4</td>
<td>125.0</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>143.2</td>
<td>143.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>111.8</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>126.8</td>
<td>127.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

2 Provisional
Fig. 1 - Quarterly Export Price Index by Main Sections, 1993-1996
(Base 1993=100)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>1995 Average</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>1st Qr</td>
<td>2nd Qr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All commodities</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>111.8</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>of which</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>123.6</td>
<td>123.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molasses</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>145.7</td>
<td>179.8</td>
<td>179.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>73.6</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>83.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>123.0</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>136.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's or boys coats, jackets, trousers etc. not knitted or crocheted</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>108.8</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>115.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles of apparel of textile fabrics whether or not knitted or crocheted</td>
<td>2,924</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>113.3</td>
<td>120.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Provisional
Table 3: Point change from previous period by SITC, 1995-1997 (base 1993=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC¹</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>1995 Average</th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>1997 ²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Qr</td>
<td>2nd Qr</td>
<td>3rd Qr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Food and live animals</td>
<td>3,081</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meat and meat preparations</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fish and fish preparations</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>-8.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>2,717</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Molasses</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>-10.7</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cereal and cereal preparations</td>
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<td>15.5</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Crude materials, inedible, except fuels</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cut flowers</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>-4.0</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chemicals and related products</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s &amp; related products</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
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<td>Cotton fabrics</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Other textile fabrics</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>-3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)
² Provisional
Table 3 (cont’d): Point change from previous period by SITC, 1995-1997 (base 1993=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITC¹</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>1995 Average</th>
<th>1996 1st Qr</th>
<th>1996 2nd Qr</th>
<th>1996 3rd Qr</th>
<th>1996 4th Qr</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1997 1st Qr</th>
<th>1997 2nd Qr</th>
<th>1997 3rd Qr</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Miscellaneous manufactured articles</td>
<td>6,456</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories</td>
<td>6,064</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>-2.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s or boys’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>-6.5</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s or girls’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</td>
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<td>7.1</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Men’s or boys’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>-4.4</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>-2.2</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s or girls’ coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</td>
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<td>2.8</td>
<td>-17.6</td>
<td>24.6</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Articles of apparel of textile fabrics whether or not knitted or crocheted</td>
<td>2,924</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>-9.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles of apparel and clothing accessories of other than textile fabrics</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>-2.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>-3.7</td>
<td>-1.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>-9.8</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td>7.3</td>
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<td>Optical goods, watches and clocks</td>
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<td>6.6</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>-5.9</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
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<td>11.3</td>
<td>-1.8</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>-3.4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

² Provisional
Table 4: Percentage change from previous period by SITC, 1995-1997

<table>
<thead>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)
2 Provisional
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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

2 Provisional
Table 5: Point change from corresponding period of previous year by SITC, 1995-1997 (base 1994 = 100)

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¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)
² Provisional
Table 5 (cont'd) : Point change from corresponding period of previous year by SITC, 1995-1997

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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

2 Provisional
Table 6: Percentage change from corresponding period of previous year by SITC, 1995-1997

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<td>and meat preparations</td>
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<td>11.5</td>
<td>14.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>and fish preparations</td>
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<td>10.1</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>6.7</td>
</tr>
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<td>19.1</td>
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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

2 Provisional
Table 6 (Cont'd) : Percentage change from corresponding period of previous year by SITC, 1995-1997

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<th>Section</th>
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<th>1997</th>
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<td>shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</td>
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<td>shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</td>
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<td>shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</td>
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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

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<td>102.3</td>
<td>104.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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<td>Fish and fish preparations</td>
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<td>111.3</td>
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<td>106.1</td>
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<td>107.9</td>
<td>107.9</td>
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<td>102.2</td>
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¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)
Table 7 (cont'd): Quarterly Export Price Index by SITC, Year 1993 (base 1993 = 100)

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<th>Yearly Average</th>
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<td><em>Men's or boys' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc</em> not knitted or crocheted</td>
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<td>98.2</td>
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<td>102.2</td>
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<td>107.6</td>
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1 The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)