1. Introduction

The Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) is an indicator of how the prices of transacted residential properties (houses and apartments) develop over time.

This issue of the RPPI presents the evolution of residential property prices up to the second quarter of 2023, with the base period of 2019.

The RPPI is compiled using the mix-adjustment-by-stratification methodology, which is discussed in the Annex. Figures have been rounded to one decimal place, although they have been calculated to many decimal places. Note that these figures are provisional.

2. Evolution of the Residential Property Price Index up to 2nd Quarter 2023

Chart 1 illustrates the evolution of the RPPI from Q1 2019 to Q2 2023.

The index for the second quarter of 2023 reached 168.7, compared to 161.1 in the first quarter of 2023, representing an increase of 4.7%.

While comparing the RPPI with the corresponding quarter of 2022, the index increased by 21.1%.
3. Residential Property Price Index from Q1 2019 to Q2 2023 (Base period Year 2019 = 100)

The table below shows the comparable RPPI as calculated for Q1 2019 to Q2 2023.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>RPPI (2019 = 100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2019</td>
<td>112.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2019</td>
<td>111.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 2019</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 2019</td>
<td>88.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2020</td>
<td>100.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2020</td>
<td>103.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 2020</td>
<td>121.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 2020</td>
<td>121.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2021</td>
<td>113.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2021</td>
<td>93.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 2021</td>
<td>127.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 2021</td>
<td>109.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2022</td>
<td>119.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2022</td>
<td>139.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 2022</td>
<td>119.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q4 2022</td>
<td>150.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q1 2023</td>
<td>161.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 2023</td>
<td>168.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Statistics Mauritius

Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development

Port Louis

October 2023
Contact person: Ms M. Laverdure (Statistician)
Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre
Port-Louis
Tel: +230 208 1800
Methodology used for the computation of the Residential Property Price Index

(i) Introduction
The Residential Property Price Index (RPPI) is an indicator of changes over time in the prices of residential properties (houses and apartments) purchased.

(ii) Uses
As mentioned in the Handbook on Residential Property Price Indices (2013), the Residential Property Price Indices have a number of important uses:

a) as a macro-economic indicator of economic growth;
b) for use in monetary policy and inflation targeting;
c) as an input into estimating the value of housing as a component of wealth;
d) as a financial stability or soundness indicator to measure risk exposure;
e) as a deflator in the national accounts;
f) as an input into an individual citizen’s decision making on whether to buy (or sell) a residential property;
g) for use in making inter-area and international comparisons.

(iii) Method
The index is compiled using the mix-adjustment-by-stratification approach. The design of the index is based on three stratification levels, namely:

(a) Domestic versus foreign transactions;
(b) Property type (apartments versus houses);
(c) Four regions, for which the different districts of Mauritius were combined as follows:

- Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart;
- Moka, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and Port Louis;
- Plaines Wilhems;
- Black River.

Sub-indices are compiled for each of these stratification levels and are then aggregated into the country-level RPPI.
The stratification scheme for the Residential Property Price Index is illustrated below:

(iv) Weighting scheme
The weights are based on the total value of transactions in year 2019 for each stratum.

(v) Data source
The index is compiled based on all transactions for apartments and houses for which the title deeds were registered at the Registrar General Department between Q1 2019 and Q2 2023.
(vi) Calculation of the Residential Property Price Index

The Residential Property Price Index is a weighted average of price relatives of houses and apartments, based on the modified Laspeyres formula:

\[
I_t = \frac{\sum W_i \left(\frac{P_{it}}{P_{io}}\right)}{\sum W_i} \times 100
\]

where \(I_t\) = index for current period \(t\)
\(P_{io}\) = price per meter square of item \(i\) at base period 0 (Year 2019)
\(P_{it}\) = price per meter square of item \(i\) at current period \(t\)
\(W_i\) = weight of item \(i\)

At the level of individual items, the Jevons formula is used to calculate price relatives.

During the 2020 COVID pandemic, the sale of apartments dropped significantly in Mauritius, resulting in data gaps for some region-quarter combinations. In these cases, where the number of transactions for a region were too low for a particular quarter, data were imputed based on past trends as per the recommendations of an IMF expert.

(vii) Special treatment

Not all transaction data from the Registrar General Department have been used in the computation of the index. In cases where the transaction prices were not consistent with the other market transactions in the same stratum, they were treated as outliers and removed from the calculations.

(viii) Limitations

a) The value of land could not be excluded from transactions where sales values cover both land and building.

b) Currently, only the aggregated country-level RPPI for Mauritius is published.