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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
- 3rd Quarter 1991

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
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MAURITIUS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

3RD QUARTER 1991

1. Movements in Consumer Price Index - 3rd Quarter 1991

The Consumer Price Index for the third quarter of 1991 has increased by 2.8 points or 1.9% from 147.0 in June 1991 to 149.8 in September 1991 (Table 1), as compared to 10.7 points during the corresponding quarter of 1990. It will be remembered that an increase of 0.3 point was registered during the first quarter of this year followed by a decrease of 2.0 points in the second quarter.

Fresh vegetables, with an increase of 1.7 points, accounted for the bulk of the 2.8 point overall increase in the index. Other important increases were registered in prices of fresh fish and in wages of construction and domestic services. Salted fish, cakes and snacks and motor vehicle repairs made up the rest of the increase.

2. Changes by group and commodity

The evolution of the quarterly indices by major commodity group is shown in Table 2. "The food and non-alcoholic beverages" group, which registered a downward movement to reach 144.1 during the second quarter, increased by around 5% to 151.8 in the third quarter. Groups "Clothing and footwear", "Fuel and light" and "Medical care and health expenses" decreased marginally. The other remaining groups registered slight increases.

Table 3 shows the net contributions of the main commodities that have influenced the movement of the index from the beginning of July to the end of September 1991.

About 80% of the total increase is accounted by price increases of food products, of which fresh vegetables contributed 1.7 points. Fresh fish, which were scarce during the third quarter, pushed the index upwards by 0.3 point. Cakes and snacks, salted fish and some other food products contributed altogether another 0.3 point increase.

Higher wages of construction and domestic services, resulting from the increase in salary compensation in July 1991, led to a 0.1 point rise in the index.

Increases in the price of motor vehicles repairs, and some other services have pushed the index up by a further 0.2 point.

3. Rate of inflation

The current annual rate of inflation for the twelve months ending September 1991 is 10.8% compared to 11.7% for the corresponding twelve months ending September 1990. This rate was 12.8% for financial year 1990 - 1991 and 13.5% for calendar year 1990.

Recent price trends and foreseeable price movements for the next few months indicate that the rate of inflation for calendar year 1991 will be around 7%.

Central Statistical Office,
Ministry of Economic Planning & Development,
Port Louis.

October 1991

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index (July 1987 - September 1991)

(Base : July 86 - June 87 = 100)

	<u>1987</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
January		102.4	116.8	131.9	152.0
February		101.7	118.6	133.4	151.0
March		101.4	118.5	135.2	149.0
April		103.1	121.7	134.9	148.3
May		103.8	122.3	135.7	146.2
June		107.2	122.6	135.4	147.0
July	99.8	110.7	124.0	139.9	151.9
August	99.1	113.8	123.9	139.9	150.1
September	99.2	116.3	126.0	146.1	149.8
October	99.8	117.5	126.4	146.6	
November	100.2	117.4	128.1	149.2	
December	100.3	116.1	128.7	148.7	
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Yearly average	100.1	109.3	123.1	139.7	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	
Annual change (%)	0.6	9.2	12.6	13.5	

Table 2: Subindices by major commodity group (Base: July 1986 - June 1987=100)

Major Commodity Group	%	1990				Yearly Average	1991		
		1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr		1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr
1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	41.9	138.8	141.3	143.9	149.0	143.2	151.3	144.1	151.8
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	7.2	145.1	145.7	182.5	182.5	164.0	183.0	184.2	184.4
3. Clothing and footwear	8.4	123.6	123.8	124.7	127.6	124.9	128.4	126.8	126.5
4. Fuel and light	5.7	101.5	101.5	104.8	115.7	105.9	122.5	118.3	116.0
5. Housing and household operations	13.5	129.0	131.7	134.9	136.7	135.1	138.0	137.8	139.8
6. Medical care and health expenses	3.0	138.0	140.0	145.1	152.3	143.9	154.9	156.6	156.3
7. Transport and communication:	9.3	130.7	130.6	147.1	174.7	145.8	175.2	173.1	173.3
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	6.0	135.9	135.9	137.7	138.1	136.9	148.7	148.7	148.9
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	5.0	138.0	143.4	150.9	155.3	146.9	156.6	156.9	156.9
All Groups	100.0	133.5	135.3	142.0	148.2	139.7	150.7	147.2	150.6

SELECTED QUARTERLY SUB-INDICES 1988-91

Base: July 86 - June 87 = 100

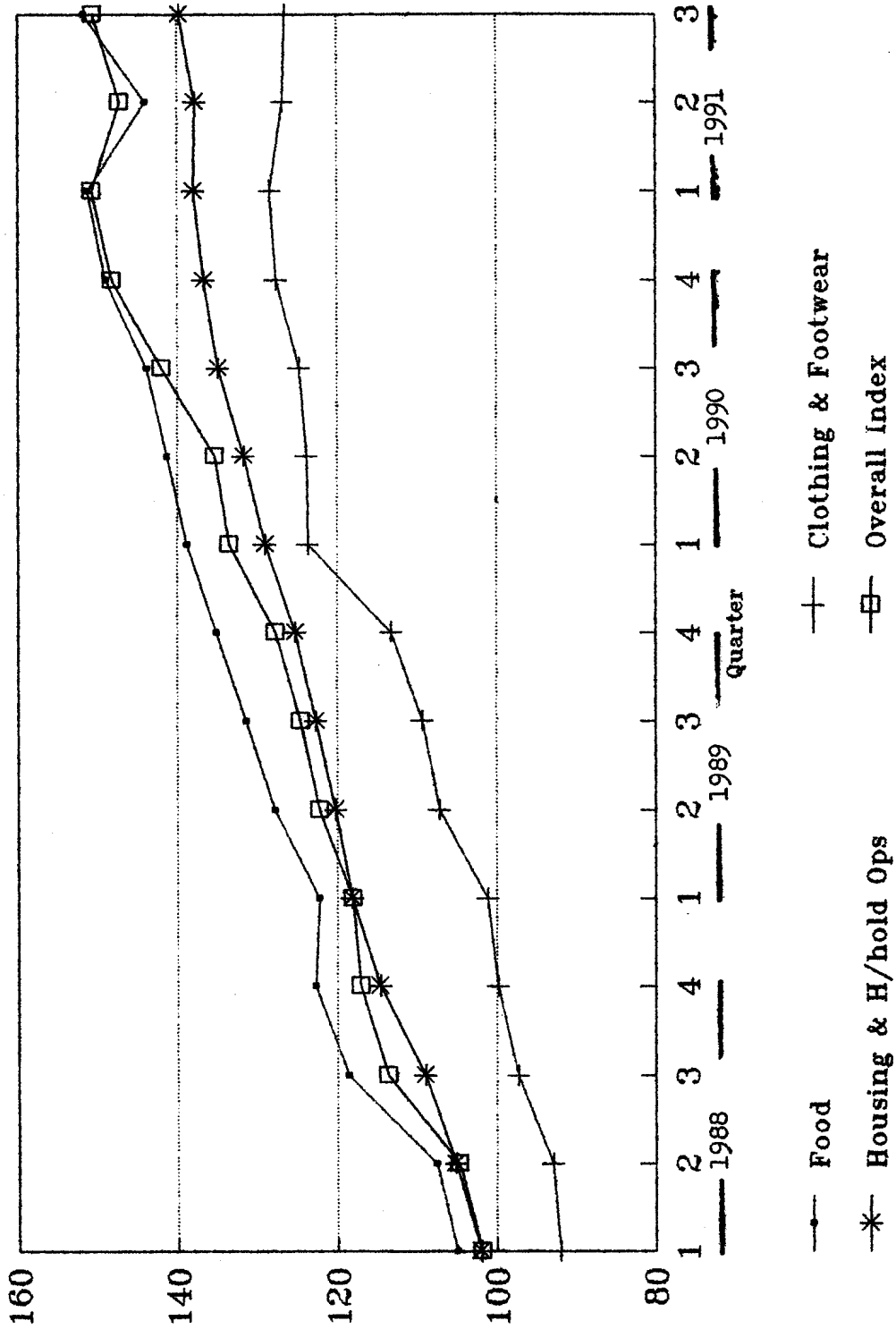


Table 3 - Net contributions of main commodities that have influenced the movement of the C.P.I. during the third quarter of 1991.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>
Cakes and snacks	+ 0.1
Fresh fish	+ 0.3
Salted fish	+ 0.1
Fresh vegetables	+ 1.7
Other food products	+ 0.1
Wages of construction and domestic services	+ 0.3
Motor vehicle repairs	+ 0.1
Other goods and services	+ 0.1
Total	<hr/> + 2.8 -----

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 1991

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Inflation Rate</u>	<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Inflation Rate</u>
1975	14.7	1974 - 75	20.6
1976	13.4	1975 - 76	14.7
1977	9.2	1976 - 77	9.6
1978	8.5	1977 - 78	10.1
1979	14.5	1978 - 79	8.0
1980	42.0	1979 - 80	33.0
1981	14.5	1980 - 81	26.5
1982	11.4	1981 - 82	13.4
1983	5.6	1982 - 83	7.5
1984	7.3	1983 - 84	5.6
1985	6.7	1984 - 85	8.3
1986	1.8	1985 - 86	4.3
1987	0.6	1986 - 87	0.7
1988	9.2	1987 - 88	1.5
1989	12.6	1988 - 89	16.0
1990	13.5	1989 - 90	10.7
1991	around 7% ^{1/}	1990 - 91	12.8

^{1/} Forecast