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MAURITIUS

# Economic Indicators

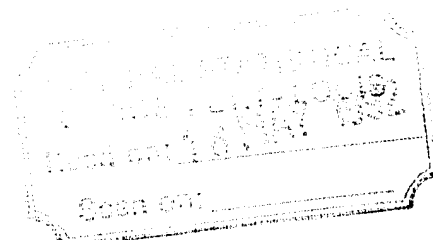
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
- 1st QUARTER 1992 -

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1st Quarter 1992

### 1. Movements in Consumer Price Index - 1st Quarter 1992

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.), which stood at 148.8 in December 1991, increased by 2.7 points during the first quarter of 1992 to reach 151.5 in March 1992. It must be remembered that during the corresponding quarter of 1991 a negligible increase of 0.3 point was noted (Table 1).

The 2.7 points rise is attributable mainly to price changes of some food commodities (of which fresh vegetables alone contributed 1.0 point), cigarettes (0.9), school requisites and education services and a variety of goods and services, (Table 3).

### 2. Changes by commodity group

During the first quarter of 1992, the highest increase occurred in the group "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco". A 7% rise in the group was the result of the upward revision of prices of cigarettes at the end of December 1991.

An increase of the order of 2% was observed for the group "Food and non-alcoholic beverages", which comprises a large number of basic commodity items, especially fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, fresh fish, etc. However, upward price movements in some items have been offset by downward changes in others, so that the net overall change in that group is marginal.

Groups "Medical care and health expenses", "Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services" and "Miscellaneous goods and services" underwent similar increases of about 2%. The remaining groups remained almost unchanged over the period.

### 3. Rate of inflation

The current annual rate of inflation for the twelve month ending March 1992 is 3.9% compared to 13.4% for the corresponding period ending March 1991. This rate was 7% for calendar year 1991 and 12.8% for financial year 1990-91 (Table 4).

On the basis of the current price trends shown by the indices of the first nine months of the financial year 1991-92 and foreseeable price movements for the coming months, the rate of inflation for the financial year 1991-92 can be expected to be about 2.8%.

Central Statistical Office  
Ministry of Economic Planning  
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Port Louis

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index (July 1987 - March 1992)

(Base: July 86-June 87 = 100)

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
January		102.4	116.8	131.9	152.0	150.6
February		101.7	118.6	133.4	151.0	151.3
March		101.4	118.5	135.2	149.0	151.5
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	150.0	
November	100.2	117.4	128.1	149.2	150.2	
December	100.3	116.1	128.7	148.7	148.8	
Yearly average	100.1	109.3	123.1	139.7	149.5	
Annual change (%)	0.6	9.2	12.6	13.5	7.0	



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

Major Commodity Group	%	Yearly avg. 1991	1991				1992
			1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	
1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	41.9	149.2	151.3	144.1	151.8	149.5	149.9
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	7.2	184.1	183.0	184.2	184.4	184.8	197.7
3. Clothing and footwear	8.4	127.1	128.4	126.8	126.5	126.9	127.0
4. Fuel and light	5.7	118.3	122.5	118.3	116.0	116.3	116.5
5. Housing and household operations	13.5	138.9	138.0	137.8	139.8	140.0	140.1
6. Medical care and health expenses	3.0	156.0	154.9	156.6	156.3	156.0	157.6
7. Transport and communications	9.3	173.7	175.2	173.1	173.3	173.4	173.7
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	6.0	148.9	148.7	148.7	148.9	149.2	151.9
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	5.0	156.6	154.6	156.9	156.9	155.9	157.7
All Groups	100.0	149.5	150.7	147.2	150.6	149.7	151.1

Table 3- Net contributions of main commodities that have affected the C.P.I. during the first quarter of 1992.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>
Meals and snacks	+0.1
Fresh fish	-0.2
Eggs	+0.1
Cooking oil	+0.2
Fresh fruits	+0.1
Fresh vegetables	+1.0
Pulses	+0.1
Other food products	-0.1
Cigarettes	+0.9
School requisites and educational services	+0.2
Personal care	+0.1
Other goods and services	+0.2
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T O T A L	+2.7
	<hr/>

Table 4- Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 1992

<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	7.0	1990-91	12.8
		1991-92*	2.8

\* - Forecast