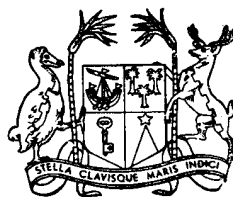


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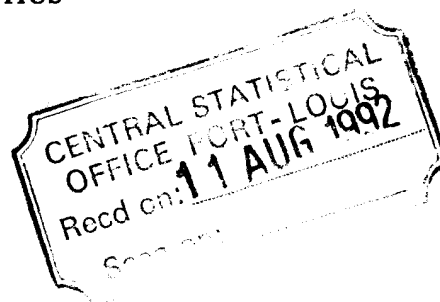
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

- 2ND QUARTER 1992 -

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 2nd Quarter 1992

1. Movements in Consumer Price Index - 2nd Quarter 1992

After a period of relative stability since August 1991, the Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) has shown a significant upward movement during the second quarter of 1992, especially as from May 1992. The Consumer Price Index rose by + 4.9 points (3.2%) during the second quarter of 1992 and stood at 156.4 in June 1992. During the corresponding quarter of 1991, the C.P.I. registered a fall of -2.0 points from 149.0 in March 1991 to 147.0 in June 1991 (Table 1).

While a -0.5 point fall was observed during April 1992, the months of May and June 1992 have witnessed major increases of the order of +2.1 points and +3.3 points respectively. The increases were mainly the result of the upward revision of the tariffs of bus fares in May and of excise duty on tobacco and alcoholic beverages in June. These items have affected the index by +1.8 points, +1.3 points and +1.6 points respectively during the second quarter. Other items which have contributed to the rise in the index are frozen fish, cakes and snacks, fresh meat, frozen mutton and eggs (Table 3). The only commodity which has shown decreases is vegetables whose net fall during that quarter is -1.0 point due to the continuing fall in prices of vegetables during that period.

2. Changes by commodity group

During the second quarter the major commodity group "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" has undergone a significant increase of 18% which is accounted for by the 20% rise of excise duty on alcoholic beverages and tobacco in June 1992.

Another major commodity group which has also shown a considerable increase is "Transport and communication". In May 1992, tariffs of bus fares have gone up by about 20% and this mainly contributed to the increase of 11% in that group.

A slight increase of about 1% occurred in the group "Medical care and health expenses". It might be recalled that a 2% rise has been observed during the first quarter.

The most important group of the C.P.I. basket, "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" showed no marked overall change in spite of the fact that changes in the prices of a large varieties of food items have been observed during the second quarter. Examples are increase in prices of cakes and snacks (+0.3 point), fresh meat(+0.1), frozen mutton(+0.1), frozen fish (+0.4) and eggs (+0.1) which have been offset by lower prices of vegetables.

The remaining commodity groups remained almost stable over the second quarter.

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for financial year 1991/92 is 2.9% compared to 12.8% for financial year 1990/91. This rate was 13.5% and 7% for calendar years 1990 and 1991 respectively.

On the basis of the past trends shown by the indices of the first semester of 1992 and of foreseeable price movements for the next six months it is ~~expected that the rate of inflation for the present calendar year 1992~~ will be around 5%.

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Planning
and Development
Port Louis

July 1992

MAURITIUS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (1987-92)

Base: July 86-June 87=100

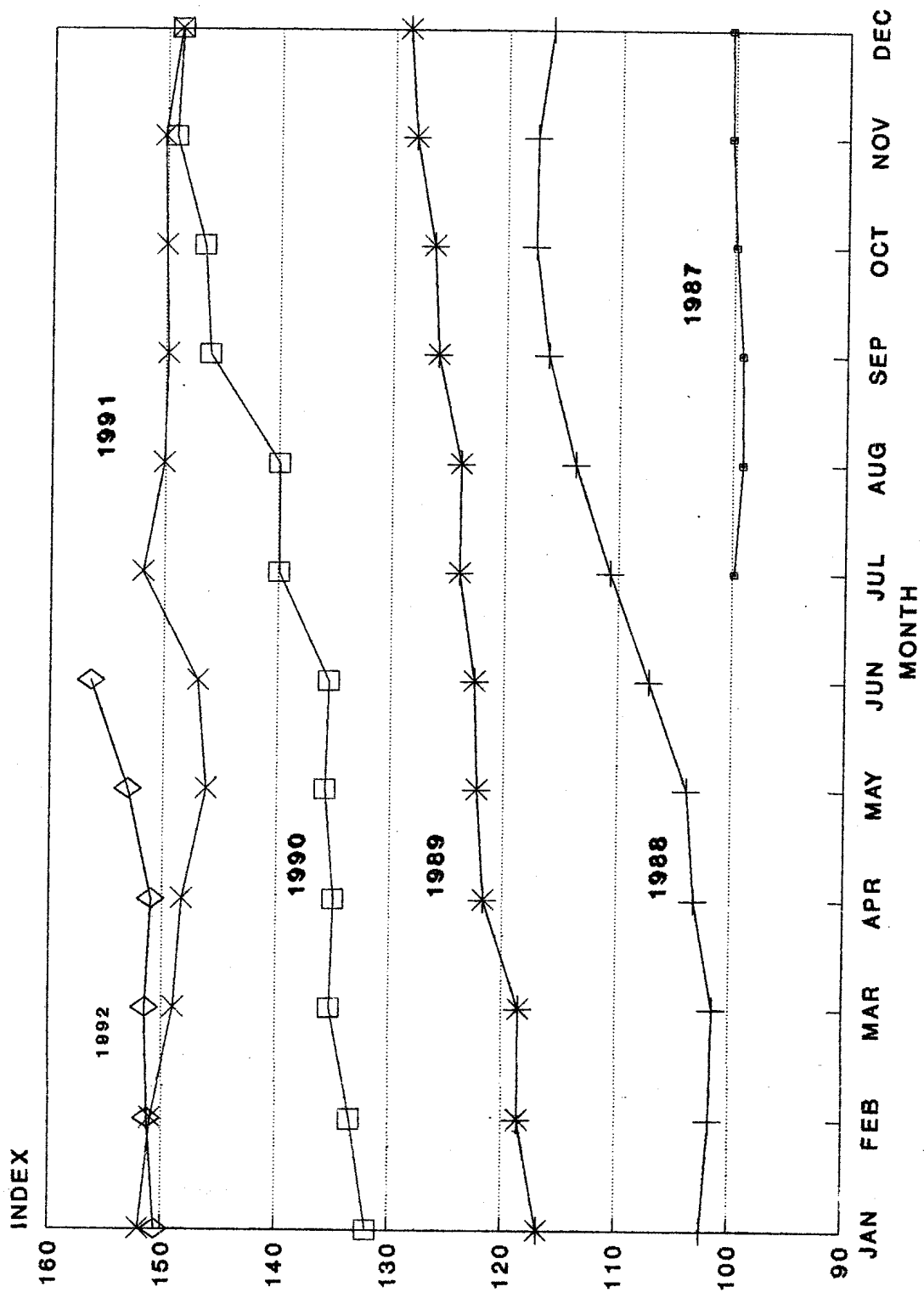


Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index (July 1987 - June 1992)

(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	151.0
May		103.8	122.3	135.7	146.2	153.1
June		107.2	122.6	135.4	147.0	156.4
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	% Weight	Yearly avg. 1991	1991				1992	
			1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr	2nd Qr
1. Food and non-alcoholic beverages	41.9	149.2	151.3	144.1	151.8	149.5	149.9	149.7
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	7.2	184.1	183.0	184.2	184.4	184.8	197.7	210.1
3. Clothing and footwear	8.4	127.1	128.4	126.8	126.5	126.9	127.0	127.2
4. Fuel and light	5.7	118.3	122.5	118.3	116.0	116.3	116.5	116.5
5. Housing and household operations	13.5	138.9	138.0	137.8	139.8	140.0	140.1	140.4
6. Medical care and health expenses	3.0	156.0	154.9	156.6	156.3	156.0	157.6	159.7
7. Transport and communications	9.3	173.7	175.2	173.1	173.3	173.4	173.7	186.8
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	6.0	148.9	148.7	148.7	148.9	149.2	151.9	151.9
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	5.0	156.6	154.6	156.9	156.9	155.9	157.7	161.7
All Groups	100.0	149.5	150.7	147.2	150.6	149.7	151.1	153.5

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

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>
Cakes and snacks	+0.3
Fresh meat	+0.1
Frozen mutton	+0.1
Frozen fish	+0.4
Eggs	+0.1
Fresh vegetables	-1.0
Alcoholic beverages	+1.6
Cigarettes	+1.3
Medicinal products	+0.1
Bus fare	+1.8
Other goods and services	+0.1
	<hr/>
TOTAL	+4.9
	<hr/>

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

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Inflation Rate</u>	<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Inflation</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
1992	5.0 *	1991-92	2.9

* Forecast