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2. EXTERNAL TRADE - 3RD QUARTER 1992

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
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MAURITIUS



## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 3rd Quarter 1992

### 1. Introduction

As from July 1992, a new Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) has been introduced. This new series is based on an updated market basket of goods and services derived from the 1991-92 Household Budget Survey. The reference period is the twelve months of the survey period, that is, July 1991 to June 1992.

The C.P.I. as published prior to July 1992 were computed with base period July 1986 - June 1987, with a different system of weights reflecting the pattern of consumption of households for that period. It is therefore not deemed appropriate to link the new series with the old one and comparison of the two series will not be attempted. All updated C.P.I. figures will henceforth refer to the new base period July 1991 - June 1992 = 100.

### 2. Movements in Consumer Price Index during the 3rd Quarter of 1992.

The updated C.P.I. for the month of July 1992 stood at 104.0. From July 1992 to September 1992, the C.P.I. increased by 2.4 points (or 2.3 %) to reach 106.4. This increase in the index in the third quarter is attributed mainly to price increases of some food commodities, such as pastries, sugar, soft drinks and fresh fruits, and also some commodity items such as electricity and water tariffs, rent, textile goods as well as football admission.

Table 2 shows the monthly indices by major commodity groups. The two major commodity groups "Fuel and light" and "Housing and household operations" have both undergone a substantial increase of about 7% due to the increase in the domestic tariffs of electricity (0.4 point) and water (0.7) in August and in a rise in the rent of dwellings (0.1 point) in September.

The major commodity group "Food and non alcoholic beverages" remains the most important group of the new C.P.I. basket of goods and services though its weight has decreased from 419 to 392 per thousand. However, during the third quarter of 1992, the commodity items of that group underwent price rises of the order of 2%, pushing up the index by +0.9 point.

Major commodity groups "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" and "Transport and communication" remained unchanged while the other remaining major commodity groups showed marginal increases in the range of 1.1% to 1.5 %.

Table 3 gives details of the main changes that have affected the index during this quarter.

### 3. Rate of inflation

The current annual rate of inflation for the twelve months ending September 1992 works out to 2.8% compared to 10.8% for the corresponding twelve months of 1991.

The inflation rate for calendar year 1991 was 7% and for financial year 1991-92, 2.9%. On the basis of current trends for the past months and foreseeable price movements in the coming months, it is estimated that the rate of inflation for calendar year 1992 will be around 5%.

Central Statistical Office,  
Ministry of Economic Planning And Development,  
PORT LOUIS.

December 1992

Table 1- Monthly Consumer Price Index - January 1989- September 1992

Month	Base July 1986 to June 1987 = 100				Base July 91-June 92=100
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1992
January	116.8	131.9	152.0	150.6	
February	118.6	133.4	151.0	151.3	
March	118.5	135.2	149.0	151.5	
April	121.7	134.9	148.3	151.0	
May	122.3	135.7	146.2	153.1	
June	122.6	135.4	147.0	156.4	
July	121.0	139.9	151.9		104.0
August	123.9	139.9	150.1		105.6
September	126.0	146.1	149.8		106.4
October	126.4	146.6	150.0		
November	128.1	149.2	150.2		
December	128.7	148.7	148.8		
Yearly average	123.1	139.7	149.5		
Annual change (%)	12.6	13.5	7.0		5.0 <sup>1/</sup>

1/ Forecast

Table 2- Subindices by major commodity group (Base: July 1991= June 92=100)

Major Commodity Group	weight	July 1991	June 92	September
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	594	102.1	103.3	101.7
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	84	119.3	119.1	119.1
3. Clothing and footwear	63	103.8	103.8	101.5
4. Fuel and light	54	100.1	107.3	107.3
5. Housing and household operations	131	101.1	107.5	106.1
6. Medical care and health expenses	36	103.1	103.1	103.9
7. Transport and communication	91	105.3	105.3	105.3
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	66	100.9	101.0	102.3
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	30	101.3	105.5	105.6
ALL GROUPS	1000	101.0	105.0	106.1

Table 3 - Net contributions of main commodities that have affected the index during the third quarter of 1992.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>
Pastries	+ 0.2
Fresh fruits	+ 0.1
Sugar	+ 0.1
Soft drinks	+ 0.3
Other food products	+ 0.2
Textile goods	+ 0.3
Electricity	+ 0.4
Rent of dwellings	+ 0.1
Water charges	+ 0.7
Football admission	+ 0.1
Other goods and services	+ 0.1
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TOTAL	+ 2.4
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Table 1- Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 1992

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Inflation Rate</u>	<u>Financial Year</u>	<u>Inflation</u>
1975	11.7	1971-75	20.6
1976	13.1	1975-76	14.7
1977	9.2	1976-77	9.6
1978	8.5	1977-78	10.1
1979	11.5	1978-79	8.9
1980	12.0	1979-80	33.0
1981	11.5	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	3.3
1986	1.3	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