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PORT LOUIS  
MAURITIUS

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX *4th QUARTER 1997*

### 1. Main Movements in the Consumer Price Index - 4th Quarter 1997.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) registered a rise of 0.3 point (or 0.3%) during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 1997 to reach 103.9 in December 1997. An increase of 0.8% was noted for the corresponding quarter of 1996.

The average level of prices in the year 1997 has increased by 6.6% as compared to 1996.

The main contributors to the increase of 0.3 point during the fourth quarter of 1997 were increases in the price of edible oil (+0.1 point), other food products (+0.1 point), household goods (+0.1 point) and other goods and services (+0.2 point). The increases were offset to some extent by a fall in prices of fresh eggs (-0.2 point). (*Table 3*)

### 2. Changes by Major Commodity Groups.

*Table 2* shows the monthly sub indices for the new series of the CPI by major commodity groups from July 1997 to December 1997. The sub index for major group "*Food and Non alcoholic beverages*" which is the most important group of the C.P.I basket remained at the same level as that of September 1997. However, it must be noted that during the fourth quarter, some items in this group have undergone changes whose net effect is negligible. The major group "*Fuel and light*" also showed no change as items in that group have remained at the same level for some months of the year.

The major group “ *Miscellaneous goods and services*” registered the highest increase of 1.7% as a result of price increases of personal care items. Price increases of items of recreation and sport goods influenced the major commodity group “ *Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*” by a rise of 0.8%.

The other remaining major groups registered small increases in the range of 0.2% to 0.5%, except that of “ *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*” which registered a fall of 0.3% accounted for by price decreases of some alcoholic drinks.

### **3. Rate of inflation**

The annual rate of inflation for calendar year 1997 is 6.6%, the same as for calendar year 1996. The inflation rate for financial year 1996/97 was 7.9%.

Central Statistical Office  
Ministry of Economic Development & Regional Co-operation,  
PORT LOUIS  
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**Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index - ( January 1994 - December 1997 )**

<i>Month</i>	<i>( Base : July 1991 - June 1992 = 100 )</i>				<i>( Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100 )</i>
	<i>1994</i>	<i>1995</i>	<i>1996</i>	<i>1997</i>	<i>1997</i>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9	
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9	
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2	
April	121.0	128.8	134.9	146.1	
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7	
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9	
July	123.2	130.0	140.4		103.0
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		
<i>Annual change(%)</i> <i>(Inflation rate)</i>	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6

**Table 2 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group - ( July 1997 to December 1997 ).**

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Jul-97	Aug-97	Sep-97	Oct-97	Nov-97	Dec-97	Change between Dec 97 & Sept 97 (%)
<i>1. Food and non alcoholic beverages</i>	364	101.7	102.5	103.0	102.6	102.8	103.0	-
<i>2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</i>	87	111.0	111.2	111.3	111.3	111.3	111.0	-0.3
<i>3. Clothing and footwear</i>	79	100.5	100.5	101.1	101.0	101.0	101.3	+0.2
<i>4. Fuel and light</i>	44	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	-
<i>5. Housing and household operations</i>	132	102.0	102.0	102.2	102.2	102.2	102.7	+0.5
<i>6. Medical care and health expenses</i>	38	102.7	102.8	103.0	103.0	103.1	103.5	+0.5
<i>7. Transport and communication</i>	142	105.1	105.1	105.0	105.1	105.2	105.3	+0.3
<i>8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services</i>	60	103.6	103.6	104.4	104.5	104.6	105.2	+0.8
<i>9. Miscellaneous goods and services</i>	54	101.1	101.4	101.4	102.1	102.2	103.1	+1.7
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>103.6</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>+0.3</b>

**Table 3 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index  
in the fourth quarter of 1997.**

<b><u>Commodity</u></b>	<b><u>Change in index point</u></b>	<b><u>% change in price between Sep 97 &amp; Dec 97</u></b>
<b>Fresh eggs</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>--34.7</b>
<b>Edible oil</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>+6.7</b>
<b>Other food products</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Household goods</b>	<b>+0.1</b>	<b>+0.7</b>
<b>Other goods &amp; services</b>	<b>+0.2</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b><u>+0.2</u></b>	
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>+0.3</u></b>	

**Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 1997**

<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
1992	4.6	1991 - 92	2.9
1993	10.5	1992 - 93	8.9
1994	7.3	1993 - 94	9.4
1995	6.0	1994 - 95	6.1
1996	6.6	1995 - 96	5.8
1997	6.6	1996 - 97	7.9