



MAURITIUS

# Economic and Social Indicators

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- 1 ⇨ **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
1st Quarter 1998
- 2 ⇨ **PRODUCER PRICE INDEX - MANUFACTURING (PPI-M)**  
Food, Beverages and Tobacco  
(October - December 1997)

Rs 20.00

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION  
PORT LOUIS  
MAURITIUS

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1ST QUARTER 1998

### 1. Main Movements in the Consumer Price Index - 1st Quarter 1998.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) which stood at 103.9 in December 1997 registered an increase of 2.8 points (or 2.7%) during the first quarter of 1998 to reach 106.7 in March 1998. An increase of 2.3% was noted for the corresponding quarter of 1997.

This 2.7% rise is mainly attributable to price changes in a variety of commodities such as frozen fish, powdered milk, fresh vegetables, cigarettes, textile goods, educational services and other school requisites (Table 3.)

### 2. Changes by Major Commodity Groups.

Table 2 shows the evolution of the sub indices of the different major commodity groups of the index from December 1997 to March 1998.

The highest increase was observed in the group " *Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services* " (+ 8.7%) which was affected mainly by price increases of commodity items related to the resumption of school activities. The main items which contributed to that increase were private tuition (+18%), pre-primary school fees (+14%) and other school requisites (+9.3%). The 8.7% rise in that group influenced the index by a +0.5 point rise during the first quarter.

"*Food and non alcoholic beverages*" showed an overall increase of more than 4% between December 1997 and March 1998. The most significant price increases which occurred in the group were potatoes (+ 55.6%) , fresh vegetables (+17.1%) and frozen fish (+12.9%). As from January 1998 the price of potatoes was no longer controlled and those of fresh vegetables were affected by adverse climatic conditions in February 1998. This group contributed to about 60% of the net increase of 2.8 points registered in the first quarter.

The "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*" and "*Clothing and footwear*" sub-indices registered increases of 2% as a result of prices changes in cigarettes (+3.8%) and some textile goods (+2.5%) respectively.

The “ *Miscellaneous goods and services*” sub-index was 1% higher at the end of the first quarter compared to December 1997.

With the exception of “ *Fuel and light*” which kept its level of December 1997, the other remaining groups registered marginal increases of less than 1%.

3. *Rate of inflation*

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

On the basis of available figures for the past months and of foreseeable price movements, it is estimated that the rate of inflation for financial year 1997/98 will be around 5.2%.

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**PORT LOUIS**

April 1998

**Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index - ( January 1994 - March 1998 )**

<u>Month</u>	<u>( Base : July 1991 - June 1992 = 100 )</u>			<u>( Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100 )</u>		
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7
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	
<i>Yearly average</i>	<i>122.7</i>	<i>130.1</i>	<i>138.7</i>		<i>102.5</i>	
<i>Annual change(%) (Inflation rate)</i>	<i>+ 7.3</i>	<i>+ 6.0</i>	<i>+ 6.6</i>		<i>+ 6.6</i>	



**Table 3 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index  
in the first quarter of 1998.**

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between Dec 97 &amp; March 98</u>
Frozen fish	+0.2	+12.9
Powdered milk	+0.2	+3.1
Potato	+0.3	+55.6
Fresh vegetables	+0.8	+17.1
Other food products	+0.2	-
Cigarettes	+0.2	+3.8
Textile goods	+0.1	+2.5
Pre-primary school fees	+0.1	+14.0
Private tuition	+0.3	+18.0
Other school requisites	+0.1	+9.3
Other goods and services	+0.3	-
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<u>Total</u>	<u>+2.8</u>	

**Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 1998**

<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
		1997 - 98	<i>Around 5.2</i> 1/

1/ *Forecast*