



MAURITIUS

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- 1 ⇨ **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**
1st Quarter 1999

- 2 ⇨ **EDUCATION STATISTICS 1998**

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTIVITY
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PORT LOUIS

MAURITIUS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1ST QUARTER 1999

1. Main Movements in the Consumer Price Index.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) stood at 115.1 in March 1999. From December 1998 to March 1999, the CPI advanced by +1.7 points or 1.5%. An increase of 2.8 points (or 2.7%) was registered for the corresponding quarter of 1998, (*Table 1*).

The main contributors to that +1.7 points rise were commodity items of food (+0.8 point) and that of education (+0.3 point). *Table 3* gives the net contribution of the commodities that have affected the index during the first quarter of 1999.

2. Changes by Major Commodity Groups.

Table 2 shows the evolution of the sub indices of the different major commodity groups of the CPI from December 1998 to March 1999. All major groups have registered increases, except that of "*Fuel and light*" which remains at the same level as July 1997.

The highest increase of 3.7% was observed in the group "*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*". This rise was mainly caused by price increases of most educational items in January 1999 due to the resumption of all school activities. The main educational items which contributed to that increase were private tuition fees (+5.7%), school books (+15.4%) and other educational goods and services (+13.0%).

"*Food and non alcoholic beverages*" which is the most important group of the CPI basket rose by 1.8% from December 1998 to March 1999. The main food items which affected the index were potatoes (+37.1%), fresh fruits (+3.0%) and fresh vegetables (+5.0%).

The "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*" index advanced by +1.9% as a result of an increase of 4.3% in the prices of cigarettes.

A rise of 1.0% was observed in the index of the group "*Housing and household operations*" and was mainly influenced by some higher prices of rent paid by private households for rented buildings.

The other remaining groups index registered slight increases of the order of less than 1%, except that of the "*Miscellaneous goods and services*" index which rose by 2% due to increase in prices of personal care items and alcoholic drinks purchased in table-service restaurants.

3. Rate of inflation

The annual rate of inflation for calendar year 1998 was 6.8% and that for financial year 1997/98 was 5.4%.

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 1998/99 will be in the range of 7.5% and 8.0%.

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development,
PORT LOUIS

April 1999

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index - (January 1994 - March 1999)

<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>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5	114.6
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0	114.9
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7	115.1
April	121.0	128.8	134.9	146.1		107.4	
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7		108.0	
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9		109.6	
July	123.2	130.0	140.4		103.0	109.7	
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0	
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1	
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5	112.7	
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1	
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4	
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	109.5	
<i>Annual change(%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	+ 6.8	

Table 2 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group - (December 1998 to March 1999).

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Change between Dec 98 & Mar 99 (%)
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	364	113.7	115.6	115.9	115.8	+1.8
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	87	129.3	129.2	131.7	131.7	+1.9
3. Clothing and footwear	79	109.6	110.4	110.5	110.6	+0.9
4. Fuel and light	44	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	-
5. Housing and household operations	132	108.3	108.4	108.4	109.4	+1.0
6. Medical care and health expenses	38	113.8	113.9	114.4	114.6	+0.7
7. Transport and communication	142	113.2	113.8	113.2	113.3	+0.1
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	60	118.3	122.5	122.6	122.7	+3.7
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	54	109.8	110.8	111.1	112.0	+2.0
ALL GROUPS	1000	113.4	114.6	114.9	115.1	+1.5

**Table 3 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index
in the first quarter of 1999.**

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between December 98 & March 99</u>
Potatoes	+0.3	+37.1
Fresh fruits	+0.1	+3.0
Fresh vegetables	+0.4	+5.0
Cigarettes	+0.2	+4.3
Readymade clothing	+0.1	+1.2
Rent of dwellings	+0.1	+3.5
Private tuition fees	+0.1	+5.7
School books	+0.1	+15.4
Other educational goods & services	+0.1	+13.0
Other goods and services	<u>+0.2</u>	-
TOTAL	<u><u>+1.7</u></u>	

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%) , 1975 - 1999

<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
1998	6.8	1997 - 98	5.4
		1998 -99	Between 7.5 and 8% 1/

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS
 Monthly indices (July 97 - March 99)
 Base: July 96 - June 97 = 100

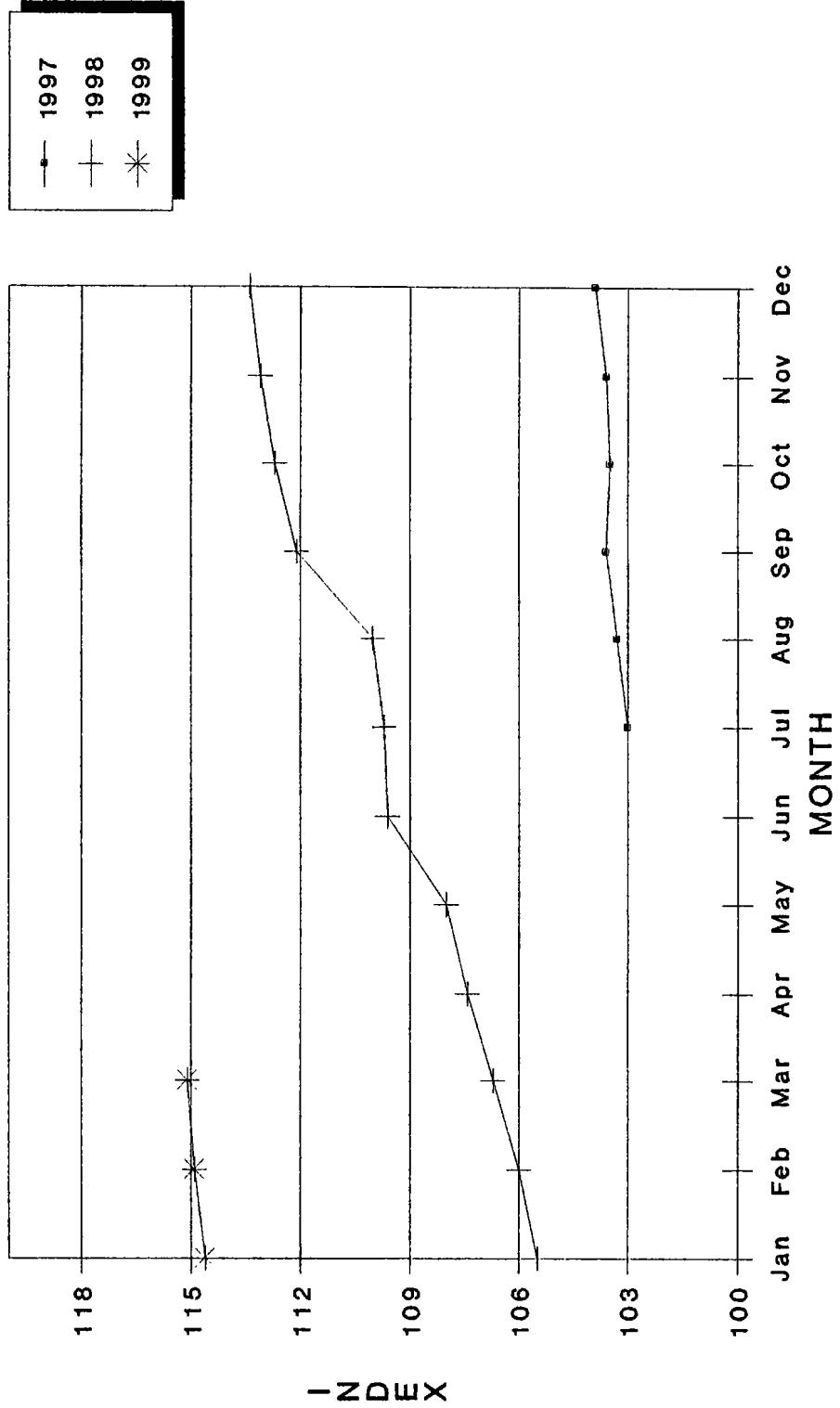


Fig. 1

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
Rate of Inflation (%)
Calendar Year

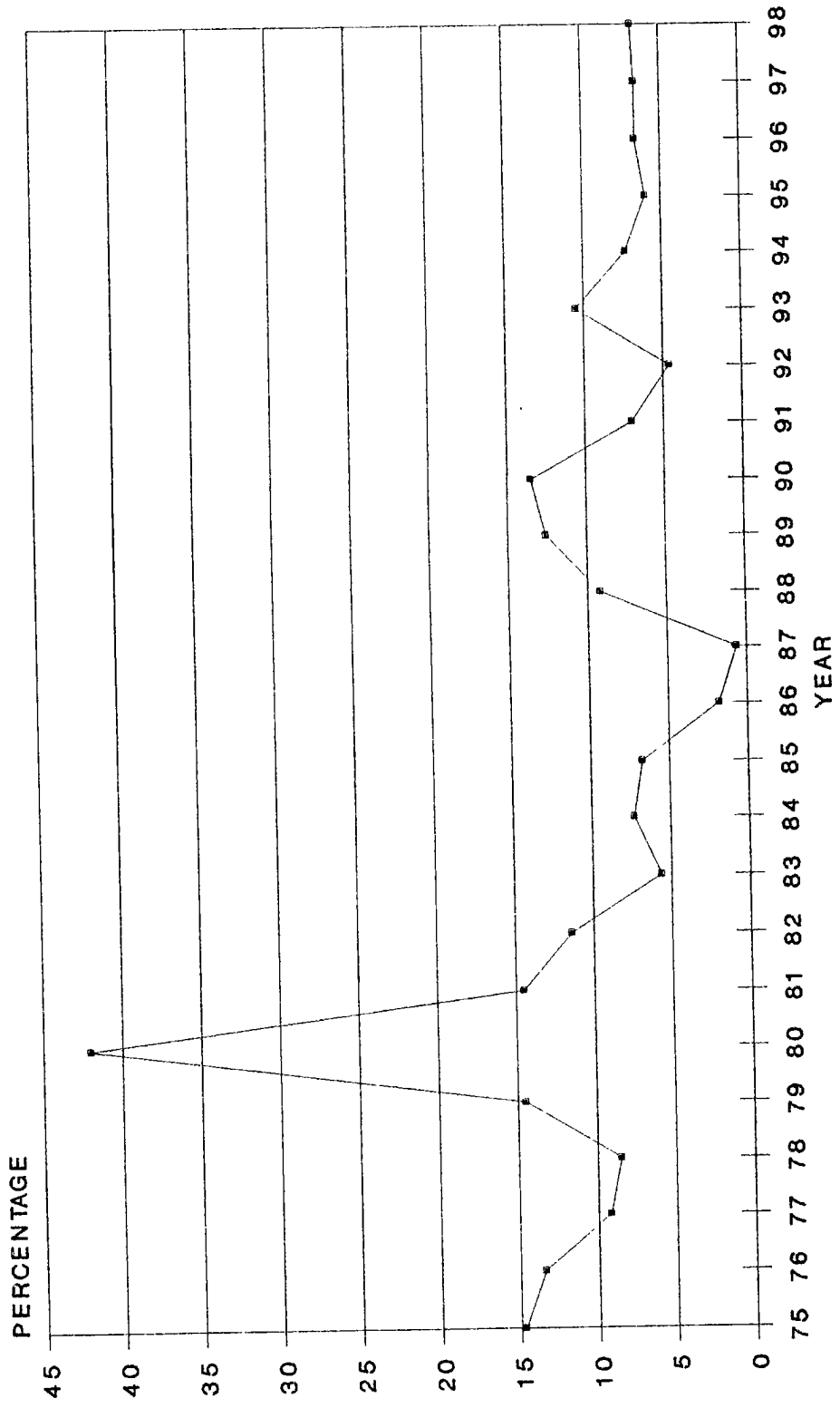


Fig. II

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Rate of Inflation (%)
Financial Year

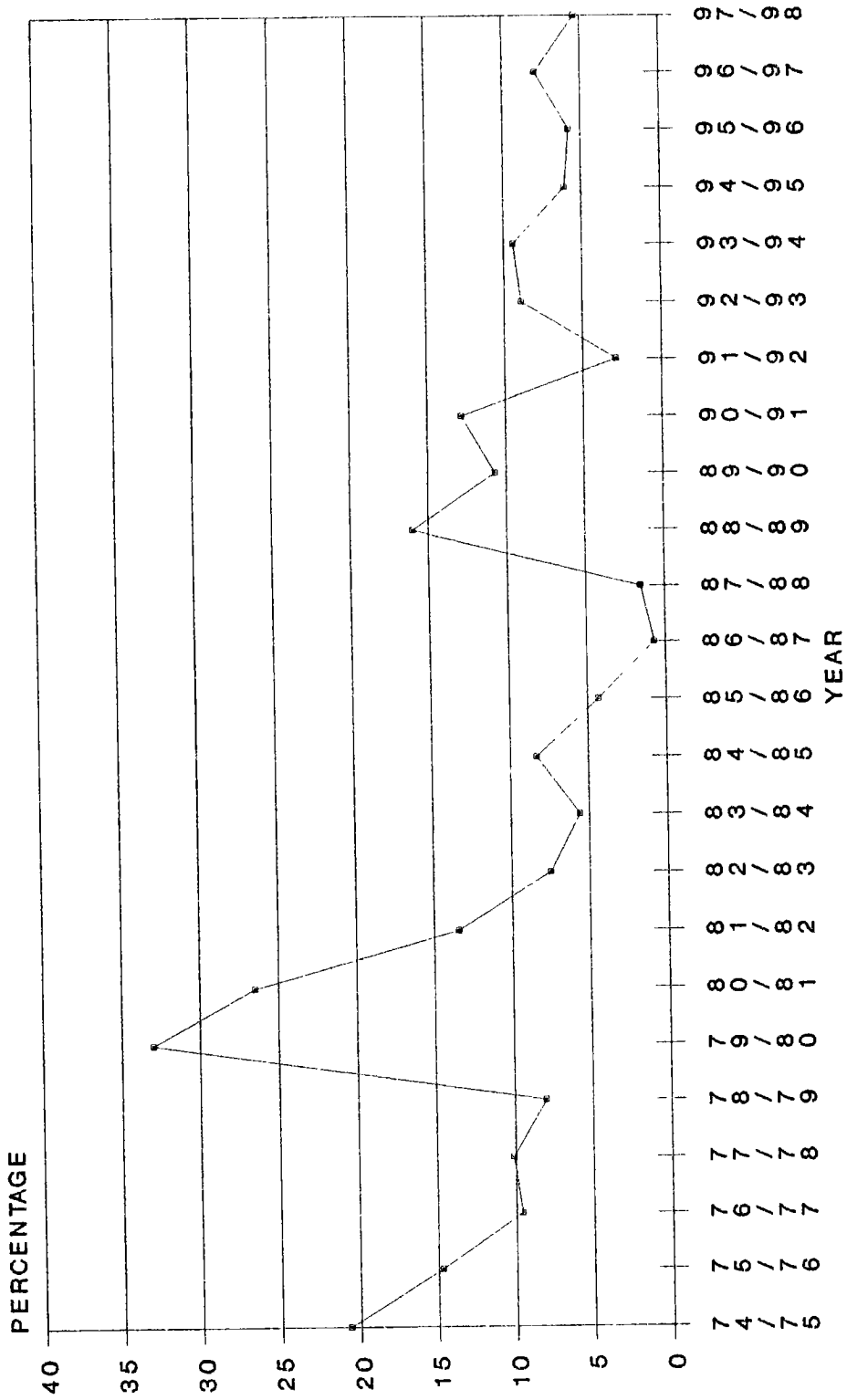


Fig.III