



Republic of Mauritius

Andreas

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS

An Occasional Paper

ISSUE NO. 315

21 February, 2000

1 ⇨ CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
4th Quarter 1999

2 ⇨ SOCIAL SECURITY STATISTICS
1993/1994 - 1998/1999

<http://ncb.intnet.mu/medrc.htm>

Price: Rs 30.-

Central Statistical Office
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development
Port-Louis
Republic of Mauritius

Note: Readers are invited to make the distinction between official data which are published in the Economic Indicators and the analysis presented for the benefit of general readers. Differences of opinion may arise regarding the analytical part but these do not in any way, undermine the quality of the data. The Editors welcome constructive critical comments.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 1999

1. Main Movements in the Consumer Price Index in 1999.

Upward price movements continued during 1999, resulting in an inflation rate of 6.9%, compared to 6.8% in 1998.

During calendar year 1999, the CPI increased by 6.2 points (5.5%), from 113.4 in December 1998 to 119.6 in December 1999 (Table 1). The monthly increase during 1999 averaged 0.5 point compared to 0.8 point in 1998 with the highest increase in the month of June 1999 when the CPI rose by 1.6 points. The evolution of the monthly CPI for the past few years is illustrated in Figure 1.

Table 2 shows the net contribution of the main commodities that have influenced the CPI in 1999.

The main causes for the increases in 1999 were:

- (a) Higher prices of educational items in the first quarter;
- (b) The upward revision of excise duty on cigarettes and alcoholic drinks in June 1999;
- (c) Higher prices of fresh vegetables due to prevailing drought conditions;
- (d) Higher prices of personal transport items and
- (e) The 20% rise in bus fares as from the end of November 1999.

2. Changes by Major Commodity Groups.

Table 3 shows the monthly sub-indices of the CPI by major commodity groups for the months of December 1998 to December 1999. All sub-indices showed increases, ranging between 0.7% and 18.5%.

The sub index for "*Food and non alcoholic beverages*" registered an overall increase of 4.3% during the year 1999. This was mainly due to increases in the price of potatoes (+36.6%), fresh vegetables (+11.0%), traders' rice (+12.7%), fresh fruits (+11.0%) and fresh fish (+7.3%), partly offset by price decreases of food items such as edible oil (-10.9%) and fresh beef (-10.8%).

The "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*" sub-index was affected by the upward revision of excise duties on alcoholic drinks and tobacco in June 1999. Price increases of rum (+25.4%), beer and stout (+17.2%), wine (+6.7%) and cigarettes (+19.0%) were the main contributors to the overall increase of 18.5% in the sub-index.

The sub index for "***Clothing and footwear***" moved up by 3.9% during the year, as a result of increases in prices of ready made clothing (+4.9%), clothing materials (+4.5%) and footwear (+2.0%).

The sub index for "***Fuel and light***" rose slightly by 0.7% - the net effect of a fall in the price of kerosene (-19.4%) in June 1999 and an increase in some electricity rates as from July 1999 (+1.8%).

The "***Housing and household operations***" sub index registered a net rise of 2.9%, the main reasons being price increases in rent of dwellings (+3.7%), planks (+9.2%), municipal rates (+7.6%), and domestic services (+8.5%).

The sub index for "***Medical care and health expenses***" rose by 6.2%, following price increases of medicinal products (+4.1%) and medical services (+8.4%).

The "***Transport and communication***" sub index moved up by 3.8%, this being the combined effect of increases in personal transport items (+7.0%) and bus fares (+19.7%) and a fall in prices of gasoline (-9.6%) and diesel (-11.4%).

Price increases of school text books (+17.1%), school requisites (+4.1%) and other educational services (+13.2%) together with higher private tuition fees at the beginning of the year were the main contributors to the 3.9% rise in the "***Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services***" sub index.

The index for "***Miscellaneous goods and services***" moved up by 5.9% due to price increases in some items of personal care (+4.4%), in bars and restaurants (+7.5%) and in hotels and bungalows (+10.3%).

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE.

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development,

PORT LOUIS

January 2000.

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

<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>	<u>1999</u>
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	115.6
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7		108.0	115.8
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9		109.6	117.4
July	123.2	130.0	140.4		103.0	109.7	117.8
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0	118.3
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1	118.5
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5	112.7	118.5
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1	118.9
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4	119.6
<u>Yearly average</u>	<u>122.7</u>	<u>130.1</u>	<u>138.7</u>		<u>102.5</u>	<u>109.5</u>	<u>117.1</u>
<i>Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	+6.8	+6.9

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index in 1999.

Commodity	Change in index point	% change in price between Dec 98 & Dec 99
Trader's rice	+0.1	+12.7
Fresh fish	+0.2	+7.3
Edible oil	-0.1	-10.9
Fresh fruits	+0.2	+11.0
Potatoes	+0.3	+36.6
Fresh vegetables	+0.9	+11.0
Other food products	+0.3	-
Rum	+0.5	+25.4
Beer	+0.4	+17.2
Cigarettes	+1.0	+19.0
Ready made clothing	+0.2	+4.9
Electricity charges	+0.1	+1.8
Rent of private dwellings	+0.1	+3.7
Domestic services	+0.1	+8.5
Other household goods	+0.1	+1.8
Medical services	+0.2	+8.4
Personal transport	+0.3	+7.0
Gasoline	-0.3	-9.6
Bus fare	+0.6	+19.7
Private tuition	+0.1	+3.7
School textbooks	+0.1	+17.1
Other educational services	+0.1	+13.2
Other goods & services	+0.7	-
Total	+6.2	

Table 3 : Monthly indices by major commodity group - (December 1998 to December 1999)

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Dec-98	Jan-99	Feb-99	Mar-99	Apr-99	May-99	Jun-99	Jul-99	Aug-99	Sep-99	Oct-99	Nov-99	Dec-99	Change between December 98 & December 99 (%)
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	364	113.7	115.6	115.9	115.8	116.7	117.1	117.6	117.0	117.8	117.8	117.5	118.2	118.6	+4.3
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	87	129.3	129.2	131.7	131.7	132.6	133.1	152.0	152.5	153.0	153.0	153.1	153.1	153.2	+18.5
3. Clothing and footwear	79	109.6	110.4	110.5	110.6	110.8	110.9	110.9	112.6	112.9	113.3	113.4	113.4	113.9	+3.9
4. Fuel and light	44	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	99.8	99.8	100.4	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	+0.7
5. Housing and household operations	132	108.3	108.4	108.4	109.4	109.5	109.5	109.4	111.2	111.3	111.5	111.5	111.4	111.4	+2.9
6. Medical care and health expenses	38	113.8	113.9	114.4	114.6	114.4	114.7	115.1	119.2	119.2	119.5	120.6	120.8	120.8	+6.2
7. Transport and communication	142	113.2	113.8	113.2	113.3	113.3	113.2	111.1	111.1	111.8	112.8	113.2	113.9	117.5	+3.8
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	60	118.3	122.5	122.6	122.7	122.7	122.8	122.8	122.9	122.9	123.0	122.8	122.8	122.9	+3.9
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	54	109.8	110.8	111.1	112.0	113.8	114.1	115.5	115.5	116.0	115.8	115.8	116.2	116.3	+5.9
ALL GROUPS	1000	113.4	114.6	114.9	115.1	115.6	115.8	117.4	117.8	118.3	118.4	118.5	118.9	119.6	+5.5

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
1999	6.9	1998 - 99	7.9

Figure 1 - Consumer Price Index - All groups
Monthly indices (July 1997 - December 1999)
(Base: July 96 - June 97 = 100)

