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

1st Quarter 2000

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index - 1st Quarter 2000.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) which stood at 119.6 at December 1999, registered an increase of +1.4 points (or 1.2%) during the first quarter of 2000 to reach 121.0 in March 2000. The corresponding increase during the first quarter of 1999 was +1.7 points or 1.5% (*Table 1*).

The 1.2% rise during the first quarter of 2000 is attributable mainly to increases in water tariffs (+0.9 point), sewerage tax (+0.1 point) and pre-primary school fees (+0.1 point) together with higher prices of rum (+0.1 point), some household goods (+0.1 point), medical services (+0.1 point) and some other goods and services (+0.2 point). These increases were slightly offset by the effects of lower prices of some food products (-0.2 point) as shown in *Table 2*.

2. Changes in Major Commodity Group Sub-indices.

Table 3 shows major commodity group indices by month. Except for '*Fuel and light*', where there was no change from its December 1999 level of 101.0, all the other major commodity groups were affected by price changes during the first quarter of year 2000. While declines of the order of -0.3% and -0.1% were observed in "*Food and non-alcoholic beverages*" and "*Transport and communication*", the other groups showed increases ranging between +0.4% and as much as +7.4% in the case of "*Housing and household operations*"

In '*Housing and household operations*', the 7.4% increase in the sub-index was mainly the effect of a 67% increase of water charges, and a 23% increase in sewerage tax.

The '*Miscellaneous goods and services*' sub-index registered an increase of 2.6%. This was mainly the result of price increases in bars and restaurants and in some personal care goods.

An increase of about 5% in the price of medical services caused the sub-index for '*Medical care and health expenses*' to move up by 2.5%.

The 1.4% rise in the '*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*' sub-index was mainly due to higher pre-primary school fees which went up by about 13% in January 2000.

The '*Food and non alcoholic beverages*' sub-index registered a slight decrease of 0.3% during the first quarter. The main reasons were price decreases of edible oil (-9.1%) and fresh fruits (-7.4%) partly offset by a rise of 8.6% in the prices of colas and aerated minerals.

The sub-index for '*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*' increased slightly by 0.9% mainly due to a rise of 6% in the price of rum.

The '*Clothing and footwear*' sub-index went up marginally by 0.4%. This was the effect of price changes in some ready-made clothes and footwear.

3. Rate of inflation.

The annual rate of inflation for calendar year 1999 was 6.9% and that for financial year 1998/99 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 1999/2000 will be around 5.5% *Table 4.*

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

April 2000.

Table 1: Monthly Consumer Price Index - (January 1995 - March 2000)

<u>Month</u>	<u>(Base : July 1991 - June 1992 = 100)</u>			<u>(Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)</u>			
	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
January	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5	114.6	120.0
February	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0	114.9	120.6
March	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7	115.1	121.0
April	128.8	134.9	146.1		107.4	115.6	
May	129.0	135.6	146.7		108.0	115.8	
June	129.8	139.6	147.9		109.6	117.4	
July	130.0	140.4		103.0	109.7	117.8	
August	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0	118.3	
September	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1	118.5	
October	132.4	142.3		103.5	112.7	118.5	
November	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1	118.9	
December	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4	119.6	
<u>Yearly average</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>	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	+6.8	+6.9	

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index during the 1st Quarter 2000.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between Dec 99 & March 2000</u>
Edible oil	-0.1	-9.1
Fresh fruits	-0.1	-7.4
Colas & aerated minerals	+0.1	+8.6
Other food products	-0.1	-
Rum	+0.1	+6.0
Water charges	+0.9	+67.2
Sewerage tax	+0.1	+23.3
Other household goods	+0.1	-
Medical services	+0.1	+4.8
Pre-primary school fees	+0.1	+13.3
Other goods & services	+0.2	-
Total	+1.4	

Table 3 : Monthly indices by major commodity group. (December 1999 to March 2000)

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Dec-99	Jan-00	Feb-00	Mar-00	Change between December 99 & March 2000 (%)
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	364	118.6	118.5	117.7	118.2	-0.3
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	87	153.2	153.3	153.3	154.6	+0.9
3. Clothing and footwear	79	113.9	114.2	114.3	114.3	+0.4
4. Fuel and light	44	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	-
5. Housing and household operations	132	111.4	112.6	119.2	119.6	+7.4
6. Medical care and health expenses	38	120.8	122.5	123.5	123.8	+2.5
7. Transport and communication	142	117.5	117.7	117.5	117.4	-0.1
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	60	122.9	124.3	124.4	124.6	+1.4
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	54	116.3	117.0	118.5	119.3	+2.6
ALL GROUPS	1000	119.6	120.0	120.6	121.0	+1.2

Table 4: Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 2000.

<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
		1999 - 00 *	Around 5.5

* Forecast