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2nd Quarter 2000**

**2 ⇨ BUSINESS ACTIVITY STATISTICS
1999**

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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

2nd Quarter 2000

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index - 2nd Quarter 2000.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) stood at 121.0 at the end of June 2000, i.e. at the same level as that of the end of the first quarter (*Table 1*). This was however the net effect of price increases in a variety of products, mainly fish (+0.1 point), fresh eggs (+0.1 point), some other food products (+0.1) and other goods and services (+0.3 point), coupled with price decreases of fresh vegetables (-0.4 point), household appliances (-0.1 point) and personal transport (-0.1 point) (*Table 2*).

It might be noted that the C.P.I increased by 2.3 points or 2% during the second quarter of 1999.

2. Changes in Major Commodity Group Sub-indices.

Table 3 shows the evolution of the major commodity group indices (sub-indices) during the first six months of the year. Except for the "*Fuel and light*" sub-index, all the sub-indices registered changes during the second quarter of 2000.

The highest percentage rise (+0.6 %) occurred in the sub-index for "*Miscellaneous goods and services*". This was mainly the result of price increases of alcoholic beverages in bars and restaurants and in some personal care goods .

The sub index for major commodity group "*Clothing and footwear*" increased by 0.4 % due to higher tailoring charges (+0.7 %) and price increases of some ready made clothing (+0.4%) and footwear (+0.4 %).

An increase of 0.3 % was recorded in the sub index for "*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*". This is attributable to higher prices of some recreational and sports goods offset to some extent by price decreases of audio equipment.

The sub index for the major group "*Medical care and health expenses*" went down by 1.1 % mainly due to lower prices of some medicinal products (-2.3 %).

Following government decision to reduce custom duties on some household goods and appliances in the last budget, the sub index for "*Housing and household operations*" decreased by 0.4 %. This was mainly due to price decreases of refrigerators (-22.9 %), microwave ovens (-18.3 %), grinders and blenders (-13.4 %) and electric showers (-11.9 %).

The "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*" sub index went down by 0.2 %, mainly as the result of a decrease in the price of cane spirit (-5.8 %).

The sub index for the major group "*Food and non alcoholic beverages*" registered a decrease of 0.1 %. This was the net effect of price decreases of cooking oil (-8.6 %), food drinks (-5.1 %) and fresh vegetables (-3.5 %) together with price increases of fresh eggs (+13.1 %), prepared meals (+8.1 %), pastry (+2.3 %) and fish (+2.1 %).

Another 0.1 % decrease was registered in the sub index for "*Transport and communication*", caused mainly by a fall in the price of motorcycles (-3.5 %).

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for financial year 1999/2000 was 5.3 %, compared to 7.9 % for financial year 1998/99. This rate was 6.9 % for calendar year 1999 (*Table 4*).

Central Statistical Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity and Regional Development

Port Louis

July 2000.

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 1994 - June 2000

<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>	<u>2000</u>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5	114.6	120.0
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0	114.9	120.6
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7	115.1	121.0
April	121.0	128.8	134.9	146.1		107.4	115.6	120.9
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7		108.0	115.8	121.0
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9		109.6	117.4	121.0
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	
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	109.5	117.1	
Annual change(%) (Inflation rate)	+ 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 the second quarter of 2000.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between March 2000 & June 2000</u>
Fish	+0.1	+2.1
Fresh eggs	+0.1	+13.1
Fresh vegetables	-0.4	-3.5
Other food products	+0.1	-
Household appliances	-0.1	-6.5
Personal transport	-0.1	-1.2
Other goods and services	<u>+0.3</u>	-
TOTAL	<u>-</u>	

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group, January 2000 - June 2000

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Jan-00	Feb-00	Mar-00	Apr-00	May-00	Jun-00	% Change between March 2000 & June 2000
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	364	118.5	117.7	118.2	117.7	118.2	118.1	-0.1
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	87	153.3	153.3	154.6	154.5	154.7	154.3	-0.2
3. Clothing and footwear	79	114.2	114.3	114.3	114.6	114.5	114.8	+0.4
4. Fuel and light	44	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	101.0	-
5. Housing and household operations	132	112.6	119.2	119.6	119.6	119.7	119.1	-0.4
6. Medical care and health expenses	38	122.5	123.5	123.8	123.9	122.5	122.4	-1.1
7. Transport and communication	142	117.7	117.5	117.4	117.3	116.9	117.3	-0.1
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	60	124.3	124.4	124.6	124.6	125.1	125.0	+0.3
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	54	117.0	118.5	119.3	119.7	120.0	120.0	+0.6
ALL GROUPS	1000	120.0	120.6	121.0	120.9	121.0	121.0	-

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 - 2000	5.3