

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

1st Quarter 2001

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index – 1st Quarter 2001.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) rose from 125.2 in December 2000 to reach 126.3 in March 2001, representing an increase of +1.1 points or 0.9% over the first quarter of 2001. (*Table 1*). This was the net effect of price changes in a variety of products as shown in *Table*

2. The main changes were:-

- higher private tuition fees,
- higher prices of milk, beer and stout, newspapers and magazines,
- higher rates for waste water,
- price decreases of fresh vegetables.

2. Changes in Major Commodity Group Sub-indices.

Table 3 shows the evolution of the major commodity group indices (sub-indices) during the first quarter of 2001. Except for “*Fuel and light*”, all other sub-indices registered changes during the first three months of 2001.

The sub-index for “*Food and non alcoholic beverages*” increased by 0.1% during the first quarter of 2001. This was the combined effect of price increases of milk (5.0%), fresh eggs (31.4%), soft drinks (5.4%), prepared meals and snacks (1.4%) and meat (1.0%), and price decreases of fresh vegetables (7.6%)

The sub-index for the major commodity group “*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*” increased by 1.6%. This was mainly due to an increase in the price of beer and stout (6.0%).

The sub-index for “*Clothing and footwear*” increased by 0.1% as a result of price increases of some ready made clothing.

A rise of 1.6% was recorded in the sub-index for “*Housing and household operations*”. This is attributable to an increase in rates for waste water (84.4%) and higher prices of some household goods (0.4 %).

The sub-index for the major commodity group “*Medical care and health expenses*” increased by 1.1%, mainly because of higher fees for medical services and price increases of some medicinal products.

The sub-index for “*Transport and communication*” went up by 0.3%, mainly as a result of higher rates for motor vehicle insurance (12.8%) and repairs (7.3%), partly offset by a decrease in the price of personal transport items (2.0%).

An increase of 5.9% was recorded in the sub index for “*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*”. This was mainly the result of higher prices of newspapers and magazines (24.7%) and higher private tuition fees (8.5%).

The sub-index for “*Miscellaneous goods and services*” went up by 0.6%. This was the net effect of price increases of writing and drawing equipment and supplies (7.3%), higher rates for the rent of bungalows (1.2%), and lower prices of some personal care goods (0.5%).

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for calendar year 2000 was 4.2% and that for financial year 1999/2000 was 5.3% (*Table 4*).

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

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Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 1994 - March 2001

<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>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5	114.6	120.0	125.9
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0	114.9	120.6	126.5
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7	115.1	121.0	126.3
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	121.3	
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0	118.3	121.7	
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1	118.5	121.9	
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5	112.7	118.5	124.6	
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1	118.9	124.8	
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4	119.6	125.2	
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	109.5	117.1	122.0	
Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	+ 6.8	+ 6.9	+ 4.2	

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index during the first quarter of 2001

Commodity	Change in index point	% change in price between December 2000 & March 2001
Milk	+0.2	+5.0
Prepared meals and snacks	+0.1	+1.4
Fresh and frozen meat	+0.1	+1.0
Fresh eggs	+0.1	+31.4
Fresh vegetables	-0.6	-7.6
Soft drinks	+0.1	+5.4
Beer and stout	+0.2	+6.0
Waste water tax	+0.2	+84.4
Some household goods	+0.1	+0.4
Medicinal products and services	+0.1	+1.1
Personal transport	-0.1	-2.0
Motor vehicle repair charges	+0.1	+7.3
Motor vehicle insurance	+0.1	+12.8
Newspapers and magazines	+0.2	+24.7
Private tuition	+0.2	+8.5
Overall	+1.1	+0.9

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group, December 2000 - March 2001

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	December 2000	January 2001	February 2001	March 2001	% Change between December 2000 & March 2001
<i>1. Food and non alcoholic beverages</i>	364	120.7	120.9	121.3	120.8	+0.1
<i>2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</i>	87	159.2	160.3	161.3	161.7	+1.6
<i>3. Clothing and footwear</i>	79	115.6	115.6	115.7	115.7	+0.1
<i>4. Fuel and light</i>	44	121.9	121.9	121.9	121.9	-
<i>5. Housing and household operations</i>	132	119.2	119.3	120.8	121.1	+1.6
<i>6. Medical care and health expenses</i>	38	123.6	124.6	124.7	125.0	+1.1
<i>7. Transport and communication</i>	142	129.7	130.7	130.6	130.1	+0.3
<i>8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services</i>	60	124.6	129.3	131.6	132.0	+5.9
<i>9. Miscellaneous goods and services</i>	54	122.1	123.0	123.1	122.8	+0.6
ALL GROUPS	1000	125.2	125.9	126.5	126.3	+0.9

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

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>	<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>
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
2000	4.2	1999 - 2000	5.3