

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

1st Quarter 2002

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index – 1st Quarter 2002.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) rose from 131.8 in December 2001 to reach 135.4 in March 2002 (*Table 1*), representing an increase of +3.6 points or 2.7% during the first quarter of 2002. As shown in *Table 2*, the main contributors to this rise were:

- price increases of meat, fish, milk, eggs fresh fruits, fresh vegetables and some other food products,
- higher rates for electricity and waste water,
- price increases of housecleaning supplies,
- higher fees for doctors, MBC Tv licence and private tuition.

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 2002. Except for “*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*”, all sub-indices registered changes during the first three months of 2002.

The sub-index for “*Food and non alcoholic beverages*” increased by 4.6%. This was mainly due to increases in price indices of fresh vegetables (18.6%), fresh fruits (14.9%), eggs (31.1%), milk (2.2%), fish (1.5%) and meat (1.0%).

The sub-index for “*Clothing and footwear*” went up by 0.3% following price increases of some ready made clothing (0.4%).

The “*Fuel and light*” sub-index registered an increase of 8.2% as a result of higher rates for electricity (12.4%).

A rise of 2.3% was recorded in the sub-index for “*Housing and household operations*”. This is attributable to an increase in waste water rates (47.5%) and higher prices of housecleaning supplies (4.1%).

The sub-index for “*Medical care and health expenses*” increased by 1.6%, mainly because of higher fees for doctors (3.9%) and price increases of some medicinal products (1.0%).

The sub-index for “*Transport and communication*” decreased by 0.4%. This was the net effect of lower prices of some types of cars (1.2%) and air tickets (4.8%), together with higher charges for motor-vehicle repair (0.8%).

An increase of 5.6% was recorded in the sub-index for “*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*”. This was mainly due to a rise in the fees for MBC Tv licence (29.1%), private tuition (6.0%) and pre-primary schools (4.5%) as well as price increases of school textbooks (2.2%).

The sub-index for “*Miscellaneous goods and services*” went up by 2.2% reflecting price increases of some personal care goods (2.6%) and higher charges in bars and restaurants (0.6%).

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for calendar year 2001 was 5.4% and that for financial year 2000/2001 was 4.4% (*Table 4*).

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Note: Monthly Consumer Price Index data are available on CSO website <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu> within 5 working days after the end of the reference month.

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 1994 - March 2002

<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>	<i>2002</i>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9	105.5	114.6	120.0	125.9	133.5	
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9	106.0	114.9	120.6	126.5	134.7	
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2	106.7	115.1	121.0	126.3	135.4	
April	121.0	128.8	134.9	146.1	107.4	115.6	120.9	126.5		
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7	108.0	115.8	121.0	126.8		
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9	109.6	117.4	121.0	127.8		
July	123.2	130.0	140.4		103.0	109.7	117.8	121.3	129.7	
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0	118.3	121.7	129.9	
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1	118.5	121.9	130.1	
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5	112.7	118.5	124.6	130.5	
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1	118.9	124.8	131.1	
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4	119.6	125.2	131.8	
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	109.5	117.1	122.0	128.6	
<i>Annual change (%)</i> <i>(Inflation rate)</i>	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	+ 6.8	+ 6.9	+ 4.2	+ 5.4	

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index during the first quarter of 2002

Commodity	Change in overall index point	% change in price index between December 2001 & March 2002
Meat	+0.1	+1.0
Fish	+0.1	+1.5
Milk	+0.1	+2.2
Eggs	+0.1	+31.1
Fresh fruits	+0.2	+14.9
Fresh vegetables	+1.4	+18.6
Other food products	+0.2	+0.9
Electricity	+0.5	+12.4
Waste water	+0.2	+47.5
Housecleaning supplies	+0.1	+4.1
Doctor's fee	+0.1	+3.9
MBC Tv licence	+0.2	+29.1
Private tuition	+0.1	+6.0
Other goods and services	+0.2	+0.4
Total	+3.6	+2.7

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group, December 2001 - March 2002

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	December 2001	January 2002	February 2002	March 2002	% Change between December 2001 & March 2002
<i>1. Food and non alcoholic beverages</i>	364	127.3	129.2	131.4	133.2	+4.6
<i>2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</i>	87	176.0	176.0	176.0	176.0	-
<i>3. Clothing and footwear</i>	79	117.4	117.5	117.5	117.7	+0.3
<i>4. Fuel and light</i>	44	125.5	135.8	135.8	135.8	+8.2
<i>5. Housing and household operations</i>	132	124.1	126.2	126.5	126.9	+2.3
<i>6. Medical care and health expenses</i>	38	130.2	130.4	132.1	132.3	+1.6
<i>7. Transport and communication</i>	142	136.3	136.0	135.7	135.8	- 0.4
<i>8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services</i>	60	132.8	135.4	140.2	140.3	+5.6
<i>9. Miscellaneous goods and services</i>	54	124.6	126.8	127.2	127.4	+2.2
ALL GROUPS	1000	131.8	133.5	134.7	135.4	+2.7

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 2001

<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
2001	5.4	2000 - 2001	4.4