

Producer Price Index - Agriculture (PPI-A)

(January - March 2003)

1. Introduction

The Producer Price Index-Agriculture (PPI-A) gives a measure of the average change in the selling prices which producers receive for their agricultural products. It covers about 90% of total agricultural production, excluding forestry and fishing.

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents monthly PPI-A indices for the months of January, February and March 2003 as well as figures for preceding months updated in the light of additional information that have now become available.

A technical note on the construction of the PPI-A is annexed.

2. Producer Price Index – Agriculture : 1st Quarter 2003

2.1 Structure of the PPI-A (Base period: 1997=100)

The PPI-A covers two sub-groups, namely "Crop Products" and "Animals and Animal Products". "Crop Products" is further subdivided into "Sugar Cane" and "Other Crop Products". Sugar cane heavily influences both the "overall" index and that of sub-group "Crop Products", of which it constitutes 69.6% and 82.2% respectively. The price of sugar cane itself becomes available in final form only at the end of the crop year (July to June) and this price is assumed to have prevailed during the whole of the crop year.

2.2 Changes in the monthly index

The PPI-A stood at 127.8 at the end of March 2003, following a decrease of 2.2% in January, and then consecutive increases of 4.1% and 3.6% in February and March respectively. Compared to 121.1 in December 2002, the index for March 2003 registered a rise of 5.5% (Table 1).

The index for the sub-group "Crop Products", which carries 84.6% of the total weight, increased by 5.9% or 7.3 points from 123.4 in December 2002 to 130.7 in March 2003.

Producer prices for "Other Crop Products" went up considerably by 29.3% with the index rising from 140.4 in December 2002 to 181.5 in March 2003. The index declined by 13.9% or 19.5 points in January 2003 following decreases of 43.7% and 9.8% in the prices of fruits and fresh vegetables respectively. On the other hand, the index rose in the next two consecutive months: 25.9% or 31.3 points to reach 152.2 in February and 19.3% or 29.3 points to attain 181.5 in March, mainly influenced by increases in the prices of fresh vegetables (55.3% in February and 35.8% in March) following the passage of cyclone Gerry in February 2003.

The index for the sub-group "Animals and Animal Products" registered three consecutive increases of 1.1%, 1.1% and 0.6% in January, February and March respectively, mainly due to the following price rises: poultry (1.7%) and milk (5.6%) in January and eggs (3.8% in February and 2.4% in March).

More details of changes on a month-to-month basis are given in Table 2 and changes over the corresponding month of the previous year in Table 3.

2.3 Changes in the quarterly index

Table 4 gives the evolution of the Producer Price Index - Agriculture on a quarterly basis. The overall index for the first quarter of 2003 showed a rise of 1.8% over the previous quarter and a similar increase over the corresponding quarter of 2002.

Percentage changes on a quarterly basis and the net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change are presented in Table 5.

2.4 Annual index

The annual indices for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, annual changes and the net contributions of commodity

groups and products to the change are presented in Table 6. The Producer Price Index - Agriculture for 2002 stood at 118.6, representing an increase of 10.5% over 2001, mainly due to an increase of 11.0% or 11.3 points in the average price of sugar cane in 2002.

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(January - March 2003)

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Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)
(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 1: Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2001 - March 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	2003		
		January	February	March
Crop Products	846.2	119.9	125.5	130.7
Sugar cane ¹	695.9	119.7	119.7	119.7
Other crop products	150.3	120.9	152.2	181.5
Root Crops	13.2	146.9	153.5	141.5
Fruits	18.7	157.9	134.3	106.0
Fresh vegetables	89.4	102.3	158.9	215.8
Flowers, Ornamental plants ²	14.2	142.9	142.9	142.9
Tea ²	8.8	141.0	141.0	141.0
Tobacco ²	6.0	143.3	143.3	143.3
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	109.9	111.1	111.8
Cattle	4.2	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	129.8	129.8	129.8
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	133.2	133.2	133.2
Poultry	86.2	108.1	108.1	108.1
Eggs	43.2	110.2	114.4	117.2
Milk	6.4	105.6	105.6	105.6
Overall Index	1,000.0	118.4	123.3	127.8

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 1(Cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2001 - March 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	2002											
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Crop Products	846.2	116.8	124.6	127.8	116.8	111.4	113.1	120.0	120.8	122.2	122.1	121.1	123.4
Sugar cane	695.9	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	119.7 ¹					
Other crop products	150.3	158.2	202.5	220.4	158.4	127.8	137.9	121.5	125.9	133.9	133.5	127.8	140.4
Root Crops	13.2	139.7	164.2	179.2	142.2	170.2	160.0	157.3	155.9	157.7	156.2	154.5	157.0
Fruits	18.7	156.8	137.1	125.5	135.9	134.5	138.1	146.0	153.2	143.9	122.1	220.3	280.5
Fresh vegetables	89.4	171.3	246.3	277.8	177.4	121.7	139.2	109.6	115.4	130.4	133.9	106.2	113.4
Flowers,Ornamental plants	14.2	114.2	113.7	106.7	102.5	105.4	106.8 ¹	109.9 ¹	111.1 ¹	112.5 ¹	116.0 ¹	101.9 ¹	109.2 ¹
Tea	8.8	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	141.0 ¹					
Tobacco ²	6.0	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	109.7	112.2	112.3	113.2	115.2	115.9	116.7	116.5	113.7	108.6	106.4	108.7
Cattle	4.2	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	106.8	117.3	117.3	117.3	117.3	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8	129.8
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	128.9	130.3	130.3	130.3	130.3	132.9	133.2	133.2
Poultry	86.2	106.5	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.7	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3
Eggs	43.2	117.5	124.5	125.0	128.0	135.1	136.6	139.3	138.8	128.5	110.3	102.1	110.3
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Overall Index	1,000.0	115.7	122.7	125.4	116.2	111.9	113.5	119.5	120.1	120.9	120.0	118.8	121.1

¹ Revised

² Provisional

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)
(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 1(Cont'd) : Monthly indices by commodity groups and products, January 2001 - March 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	2001											
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Crop Products	846.2	98.2	100.6	98.1	101.6	104.5	106.1	111.8	109.7	107.8	109.6	108.2	111.9
Sugar cane	695.9	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	97.2	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8
Other crop products	150.3	102.9	116.1	102.3	122.2	138.4	147.4	130.5	118.4	107.9	118.0	110.0	130.7
Root Crops	13.2	118.4	101.5	96.4	113.6	114.2	121.1	140.6	140.5	140.8	140.2	140.3	141.0
Fruits	18.7	130.5	112.7	82.2	83.2	87.4	86.7	87.1	90.5	101.8	148.0	113.3	133.9
Fresh vegetables	89.4	87.7	116.4	101.0	132.6	159.0	172.7	137.7	116.2	95.4	105.5	99.9	129.9
Flowers,Ornamental plants	14.2	109.2	107.9	103.7	97.8	97.3	100.1	123.6	125.8	130.6	113.5	110.6	112.5
Tea	8.8	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3
Tobacco	6.0	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	108.3	112.1	111.1	111.7	113.3	118.2	120.1	119.8	117.1	114.3	112.2	112.1
Cattle	4.2	82.1	82.1	82.1	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	6.2	85.5	90.0	94.7	107.9	107.9	107.9	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2	113.2
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	6.2	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.6	127.4	127.4	127.4	127.4	128.9	128.9	128.9
Poultry	86.2	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.3	106.5	106.5
Eggs	43.2	117.5	130.5	126.1	126.1	131.9	148.4	154.4	153.0	143.5	133.3	125.5	125.5
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Overall Index	1,000.0	99.8	102.4	100.1	103.2	105.9	108.0	113.1	111.3	109.2	110.3	108.8	111.9

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 2 : Percentage changes from previous month by commodity groups and products , April 2002 - March 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Mar 02 to	Apr 02 to	May 02 to	June 02 to	July 02 to	Aug 02 to	Sept 02 to	Oct 02 to	Nov 02 to	Dec 02 to	Jan 03 to	Feb 03 to
		Apr 02	May 02	June 02	July 02	Aug 02	Sept 02	Oct 02	Nov 02	Dec 02	Jan 03	Feb 03	Mar 03
Crop Products	846.2	-8.6	-4.6	1.5	6.1	0.7	1.2	-0.1	-0.8	1.9	-2.8	4.7	4.1
Sugar cane	695.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other crop products	150.3	-28.1	-19.3	7.9	-11.9	3.6	6.4	-0.3	-4.3	9.9	-13.9	25.9	19.3
Root Crops	13.2	-20.6	19.7	-6.0	-1.7	-0.9	1.2	-1.0	-1.1	1.6	-6.4	4.5	-7.8
Fruits	18.7	8.3	-1.0	2.7	5.7	4.9	-6.1	-15.1	80.4	27.3	-43.7	-14.9	-21.1
Fresh vegetables	89.4	-36.1	-31.4	14.4	-21.3	5.3	13.0	2.7	-20.7	6.8	-9.8	55.3	35.8
Flowers,Ornamental plants	14.2	-3.9	2.8	1.3	2.9	1.1	1.2	3.1	-12.2	7.2	30.9	0.0	0.0
Tea	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tobacco	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.7	-0.2	-2.4	-4.5	-2.0	2.2	1.1	1.1	0.6
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pigs	6.2	0.0	0.0	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	6.2	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Poultry	86.2	0.0	0.0	-0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.7	0.0	0.0
Eggs	43.2	2.4	5.5	1.1	2.0	-0.4	-7.4	-14.2	-7.4	8.0	-0.1	3.8	2.4
Milk	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Overall Change	1,000.0	-7.3	-3.7	1.4	5.3	0.5	0.7	-0.7	-1.0	1.9	-2.2	4.1	3.6

Monthly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 3 : Percentage changes from corresponding month of previous year by commodity groups and products , April 2002 - March 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage changes from											
		Apr 01 to	May 01 to	Jun 01 to	Jul 01 to	Aug 01 to	Sept 01 to	Oct 01 to	Nov 01 to	Dec 01 to	Jan 02 to	Feb 02 to	Mar 02 to
		Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02	Sept 02	Oct 02	Nov 02	Dec 02	Jan 03	Feb 03	Mar 03
Crop Products	846.2	15.0	6.6	6.6	7.3	10.1	13.4	11.4	11.9	10.3	2.7	0.7	2.3
Sugar cane	695.9	10.9	10.9	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Other crop products	150.3	29.6	-7.7	-6.4	-6.9	6.3	24.1	13.1	16.2	7.4	-23.6	-24.8	-17.6
Root Crops	13.2	25.2	49.0	32.1	11.9	11.0	12.0	11.4	10.1	11.3	5.2	-6.5	-21.0
Fruits	18.7	63.3	53.9	59.3	67.6	69.3	41.4	-17.5	94.4	109.5	0.7	-2.0	-15.5
Fresh vegetables	89.4	33.8	-23.5	-19.4	-20.4	-0.7	36.7	26.9	6.3	-12.7	-40.3	-35.5	-22.3
Flowers,Ornamental plants	14.2	4.8	8.3	6.7	-11.1	-11.7	-13.9	2.2	-7.9	-2.9	25.1	25.7	33.9
Tea	8.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Tobacco	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	1.3	1.7	-1.9	-2.8	-2.8	-2.9	-5.0	-5.2	-3.0	0.2	-1.0	-0.4
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Pigs	6.2	8.7	8.7	20.3	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.7	21.5	10.7	10.7
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deer	6.2	6.9	6.9	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Poultry	86.2	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	1.5	1.3	1.3
Eggs	43.2	1.5	2.4	-8.0	-9.8	-9.3	-10.5	-17.3	-18.6	-12.0	-6.2	-8.1	-6.2
Milk	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	5.6	5.6
Overall Change	1,000.0	12.6	5.7	5.1	5.7	7.9	10.7	8.8	9.2	8.2	2.3	0.5	1.9

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)
(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 4: Quarterly indices ¹ by commodity groups and products, 2nd Quarter 2001 - 1st Quarter 2003

Commodity Group	2001			2002				2003
	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	1st Qr
Crop Products	104.4	109.8	109.8	122.3	113.5	121.0	122.9	125.0
Sugar cane	97.2	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	119.7 ²	119.7 ²	119.7 ²
Other crop products	138.0	119.0	118.8	189.7	139.7	127.1	137.8	149.5
Root Crops	117.9	140.7	140.6	145.6	159.3	157.1	155.9	147.0
Fruits	85.8	93.3	130.4	146.6	136.2	147.5	242.2	143.5
Fresh vegetables	157.9	116.5	110.8	225.9	143.1	118.5	117.1	153.5
Flowers,Ornamental plants	98.4	126.7	112.2	111.5	104.9 ²	111.2 ²	109.0 ²	142.9 ³
Tea	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	137.3	141.0 ²	141.0 ²	141.0 ²
Tobacco	143.3	143.3	143.3	143.3 ³				
Animals & Animal Products	114.4	119.0	112.8	111.4	114.8	115.6	107.9	110.9
Cattle	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8	84.8
Pigs	107.9	113.2	113.2	113.8	121.5	129.8	129.8	129.8
Goat	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2	112.2
Deer	122.9	127.4	128.9	128.9	129.4	130.3	133.1	133.2
Poultry	106.3	106.3	106.4	106.6	106.6	106.3	106.3	108.1
Eggs	135.5	150.3	128.0	122.3	133.2	135.5	107.6	113.9
Milk	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	105.6
Overall Index	105.9	111.2	110.3	120.6	113.7	120.2	120.6	122.8

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

² Revised

³ Provisional

Quarterly Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)

(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 5: Quarterly changes (%) and Net Contributions of commodity groups and products to the change, 1st Quarter 2002 - 1st Quarter 2003

Commodity Group	Weight	Percentage Changes from previous quarter				Percentage Changes from corresponding quarter of previous year				Net Contributions from			
		1st Qr 02	2nd Qr 02	3rd Qr 02	4th Qr 02	2nd Qr 01	3rd Qr 01	4th Qr 01	1st Qr 02	1st Qr 02	2nd Qr 02	3rd Qr 02	4th Qr 02
		to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
		2nd Qr 02	3rd Qr 02	4th Qr 02	1st Qr 03	2nd Qr 02	3rd Qr 02	4th Qr 02	1st Qr 03	2nd Qr 02	3rd Qr 02	4th Qr 02	1st Qr 03
Crop Products	846.2	-7.2	6.6	1.6	1.7	8.7	10.2	11.9	2.2	-7.50	6.38	1.59	1.76
Sugar cane	695.9	0.0	11.0	0.0	0.0	10.9	11.0	11.0	11.0	0.00	8.28	0.00	0.00
Other crop products	150.3	-26.4	-9.0	8.4	8.5	1.2	6.8	16.0	-21.2	-7.50	-1.90	1.59	1.76
Root Crops	13.2	9.4	-1.4	-0.8	-5.7	35.1	11.7	10.9	1.0	0.18	-0.03	-0.02	-0.12
Fruits	18.7	-7.1	8.3	64.2	-40.8	58.7	58.1	85.7	-2.1	-0.19	0.21	1.77	-1.85
Fresh vegetables	89.4	-36.7	-17.2	-1.2	31.1	-9.4	1.7	5.7	-32.0	-7.40	-2.20	-0.13	3.25
Flowers,Ornamental plants	14.2	-5.9	6.0	-2.0	31.1	6.6	-12.2	-2.9	28.2	-0.09	0.09	-0.03	0.48
Tea	8.8	0.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.7	2.7	2.7	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Tobacco	6.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	3.1	0.7	-6.7	2.8	0.3	-2.9	-4.3	-0.4	0.52	0.13	-1.19	0.47
Cattle	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pigs	6.2	6.8	6.8	0.0	0.0	12.6	14.7	14.7	14.1	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00
Goat	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deer	6.2	0.4	0.7	2.1	0.1	5.3	2.3	3.3	3.3	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.00
Poultry	86.2	0.0	-0.3	0.0	1.7	0.3	0.0	-0.1	1.4	0.00	-0.03	0.00	0.16
Eggs	43.2	8.9	1.7	-20.6	5.9	-1.7	-9.8	-15.9	-6.9	0.47	0.10	-1.21	0.27
Milk	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Total	1,000.0	-5.7	5.7	0.3	1.8	7.4	8.1	9.3	1.8	-6.98	6.51	0.40	2.23

Annual Producer Price Index -Agriculture (PPI-A)
(Base period:Year 1997=100)

Table 6 : Annual indices, Annual changes (%) and Net contributions of commodity groups and products to the change, 2000 - 2002

Commodity Group	Weight	Annual index ¹			Percentage Changes from		Net Contributions from	
		2000	2001	2002	2000 to 2001	2001 to 2002	2000 to 2001	2001 to 2002
Crop Products	846.2	102.7	106.1	119.7	3.3	12.8	2.93	11.44
Sugar cane	695.9	100.6	102.5	113.8	1.9	11.0	1.32	7.86
Other crop products	150.3	112.3	123.0	146.8	9.5	19.3	1.61	3.58
Root Crops	13.2	123.4	138.9	156.0	12.6	12.3	0.20	0.23
Fruits	18.7	120.1	116.4	190.4	-3.1	63.6	-0.07	1.38
Fresh vegetables	89.4	106.1	121.2	143.3	14.2	18.2	1.35	1.98
Flowers, Ornamental plants	14.2	108.2	111.1	109.2	2.7	-1.7	0.04	-0.03
Tea	8.8	136.3	137.3	139.2	0.7	1.4	0.01	0.02
Tobacco	6.0	130.0	143.0	143.3	10.0	0.2	0.08	0.00
Animals & Animal Products	153.8	104.6	114.2	112.5	9.2	-1.5	1.48	-0.27
Cattle	4.2	82.1	84.0	84.8	2.3	1.0	0.01	0.00
Pigs	6.2	78.7	106.3	123.9	35.1	16.6	0.17	0.11
Goat	1.4	112.2	112.2	112.2	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
Deer	6.2	117.9	124.9	130.4	5.9	4.4	0.04	0.03
Poultry	86.2	105.3	106.3	106.5	0.9	0.2	0.09	0.02
Eggs	43.2	107.6	134.6	124.7	25.1	-7.4	1.17	-0.43
Milk	6.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
Total	1,000.0	103.0	107.3	118.6	4.2	10.5	4.41	11.17

¹ using data for base period as weights, and not a simple average of the monthly indices

Technical Note

Producer Price Index - Agriculture (PPI-A)

Methodology for the construction of the PPI-A

Weighting scheme

The weights are derived by multiplying the average of production during 1996, 1997 and 1998 by the average of unit prices in 1997, the reference period. The weight is assigned to each commodity group on the basis of total production (as a proxy for sales) pertaining to the particular group. At commodity level, the weights are apportioned within the commodity group on the basis of production of each product.

Quarterly and annual indices have been computed using a weighting system based on the production value for the base period.

Price collection

In principle, prices collected should refer to farm-gate prices, but it is extremely difficult to obtain such prices for vegetables, not only because of the enormous resources to be mobilised but also because of the unavailability of a list of planters. Hence, in lieu of the farm-gate price, the wholesale price of the produce is recorded at the two auction markets (Vacoas and Port-Louis) once a week.

In the case of commodities for which prices are fairly stable, data suppliers are visited on a quarterly basis, but prices are collected for each month of the quarter.

Prices of the main commercial crops like sugarcane, tea leaf and tobacco leaf, which are normally fixed for the crop year, are supplied by the respective marketing agencies.

Index calculation

The PPI-A is calculated according to a modified Laspeyres formula:

$$I_t = \frac{\sum W_i (P_{ti}/P_{oi})}{\sum W_i} \times 100$$

where :

I_t is the index for the current period t

P_{ti} is the price of commodity i in the current period t

P_{oi} is the price of the commodity i in the reference period o (1997)

W_i is the weight associated with commodity i