

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

3rd Quarter 2003

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index - 3rd Quarter 2003

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) which stood at 106.9 in June registered an increase of +1.0 point (or 0.9%) over the third quarter of 2003 to reach 107.9 in September 2003 (*Table 1*). The main contributors to this change were increases in the price of fruits (+0.2 point), some other food products (+0.1 point), cigarettes (+0.1 point), services for maintenance and repair of dwellings (+0.1 point), domestic services (+0.1 point), telephone services (+0.2 point), and other goods and services (+0.4 point) coupled with price decreases of motor cars (-0.2 point) as shown in *Table 2*.

2. Changes in sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure

Table 3 shows the evolution of the indices (sub-indices) for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure during the third quarter of 2003.

The sub-index for “*Food and non-alcoholic beverages*” increased by 1.1%. This was mainly attributable to increases in price indices of fruits (13.6%), trader’s rice (2.9%), fish (1.3%), fresh vegetables (0.8%), beef (2.2%) and frozen mutton (3.7%) together with price decreases of eggs (8.7%) and chicken (1.1%).

The sub-index for “*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*” went up by 0.5%. This was mainly due to price increases of cigarettes (4.4%) as from 10 June 2003, higher prices of wine (1.7%) as well as price decreases of whisky (5.3%).

The “*Clothing and footwear*” sub-index recorded an increase of 0.4% following price increases of footwear (0.8%), ready made clothing (0.2%) and higher tailoring charges (1.5%).

The sub-index for “*Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*” rose by 1.4%. This was mainly attributable to higher charges for maintenance and repair of dwellings (14.6%), and increases in waste water tax (15.9%) as from 1 August 2003.

The sub-index for “*Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance*” went up by 1.3% as the combined result of higher charges for domestic services (5.9%), price increases of household appliances (3.1%) and price decreases of some tools and equipment for house and garden (8.6%).

A rise of 1.6% was observed in the sub-index for “*Health*” due to higher prices of some medicinal products (2.4%) and higher clinic charges (2.5%).

The “*Transport*” sub-index declined by 1.1%, being the net effect of price decreases of motor cars (5.2%) and price increases of air tickets (2.0%).

The sub-index for “*Communication*” increased by 6.1% due to price increases of mobile phones (6.9%) and higher rates for telephone services (11.8%) as from 15 September 2003. It is to be noted that the increase for telephone services was the result of higher charges for telephone rental and local calls, and lower rates for international calls.

The sub-index for “*Recreation and culture*” went up by 0.7% mainly because of higher prices of cinema tickets (12.8%).

An increase of 1.3% was registered in the “*Education*” sub-index mainly due to higher fees for tertiary education (8.1%).

The sub-index for “*Restaurants and hotels*” went up by 0.3% reflecting higher prices in bars and restaurants (0.1%) and higher rent of bungalows (2.3%).

The sub-index for “*Miscellaneous goods and services*” increased by 2.6%. This was mainly due to increases in charges for some services (25.0%) such as driving test and in prices of some goods for personal care and hygiene (0.7%).

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for financial year 2002/2003 was 5.1% compared to 6.3% for financial year 2001/2002. The rate of inflation for calendar year 2002 was 6.4% (*Table 4*). On the basis of trends in previous years, it is expected that the inflation rate for calendar year 2003 will be around 4%.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

Port Louis

October 2003.

**Contact person: Mr. L. Persand
Statistician, CPI Unit
Phone: 212 2316 / 17**

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 1998 - September 2003

<u>Month</u>	<u>(Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)</u>					<u>(Base : July 2001 - June 2002 = 100)</u>	
	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
January	105.5	114.6	120.0	125.9	133.5		105.5
February	106.0	114.9	120.6	126.5	134.7		105.7
March	106.7	115.1	121.0	126.3	135.4		105.6
April	107.4	115.6	120.9	126.5	135.7		105.8
May	108.0	115.8	121.0	126.8	135.9		106.5
June	109.6	117.4	121.0	127.8	135.9		106.9
July	109.7	117.8	121.3	129.7		103.1	107.5
August	110.0	118.3	121.7	129.9		103.6	107.4
September	112.1	118.5	121.9	130.1		104.0	107.9
October	112.7	118.5	124.6	130.5		105.0	
November	113.1	118.9	124.8	131.1		104.9	
December	113.4	119.6	125.2	131.8		104.8	
Yearly average	109.5	117.1	122.0	128.6		103.0	
Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)	+ 6.8	+ 6.9	+ 4.2	+ 5.4		+ 6.4	

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that affected the index during the third quarter of 2003

Commodity	Change in overall index point	% change in price index between June & September 2003
Fruits	+ 0.2	+ 13.6
Other food products	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Cigarettes	+ 0.1	+ 1.2
Services for maintenance and repair of dwellings	+ 0.1	+ 14.6
Domestic services	+ 0.1	+ 5.9
Motor cars	- 0.2	- 5.2
Telephone services	+ 0.2	+ 6.3
Other goods and services	+ 0.4	+ 0.7
Total	+ 1.0	+ 0.9

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, January - September 2003

(Base: July 2001 - June 2002 = 100)

Division	Description	Weight	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	Jul-03	Aug-03	Sep-03	% change between June & September 2003
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	299	103.9	104.2	104.1	104.2	105.5	106.2	106.6	106.5	107.4	+ 1.1
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	86	106.6	106.5	106.4	106.9	108.0	110.0	110.8	110.6	110.6	+ 0.5
03	Clothing and footwear	60	102.8	103.0	102.9	101.7	103.3	103.4	103.6	103.8	103.8	+ 0.4
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	96	103.7	104.0	104.1	104.1	104.2	104.3	105.7	105.9	105.8	+ 1.4
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	80	104.9	105.0	104.6	104.9	104.8	104.9	106.3	106.0	106.3	+ 1.3
06	Health	28	107.9	108.2	108.3	108.6	108.6	109.1	110.0	109.9	110.9	+ 1.6
07	Transport	139	106.0	106.0	105.6	106.2	106.3	106.6	107.2	105.8	105.4	- 1.1
08	Communication	31	122.0	122.4	123.3	122.5	122.5	121.3	121.7	121.7	128.7	+ 6.1
09	Recreation and culture	53	103.9	104.1	103.9	104.3	104.5	104.5	105.1	105.1	105.2	+ 0.7
10	Education	24	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	108.5	108.5	108.5	+ 1.3
11	Restaurants and hotels	50	106.3	106.7	106.8	106.8	108.0	107.9	108.0	108.1	108.2	+ 0.3
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	54	108.4	109.0	108.8	109.4	109.4	109.7	110.1	112.4	112.6	+ 2.6
	Total	1,000	105.5	105.7	105.6	105.8	106.5	106.9	107.5	107.4	107.9	+ 0.9

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 2003

<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
2002	6.4	2001 - 2002	6.3
2003 ¹	Around 4	2002 - 2003	5.1

¹ Forecast