

Quarterly Export and Import Price Indices
2nd Quarter 2005
(Reference year: 2003=100)

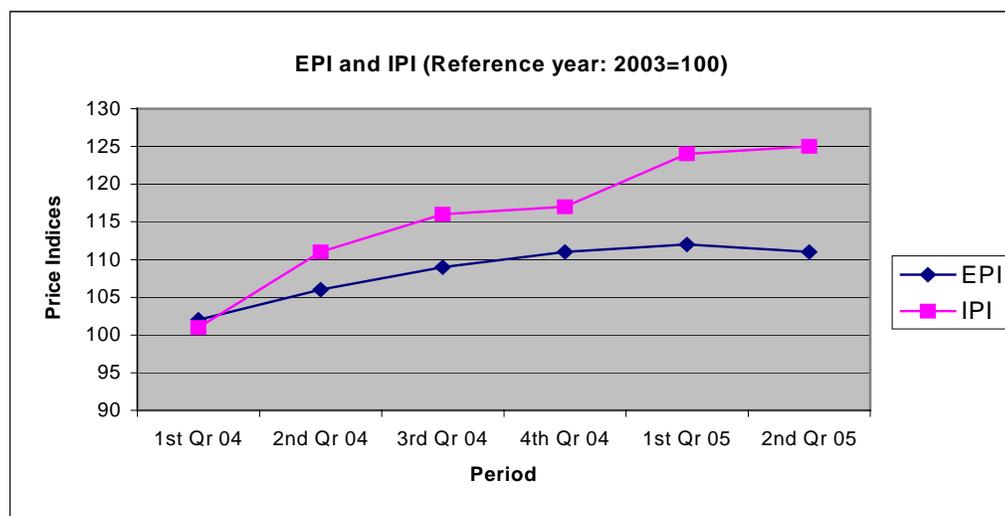
1. Introduction

This issue of the Economic and Social Indicators presents quarterly Export and Import Price Indices for the second quarter of 2005 and for the year 2004.

The Export Price Index (EPI) provides an overall measure of pure price changes (in Mauritian rupees) of domestically produced goods exported to other countries. The Import Price Index (IPI) measures price change of goods purchased from other countries. The weights used for the compilation of the indices have been derived from trade data for the year 2002 while the year 2003 is used as reference year (i.e. 2003=100). Details on the construction of the EPI and IPI are annexed.

2. Terms of trade (reference year: 2003 = 100)

During the second quarter of 2005, the terms of trade index, which shows price movements of exports relative to those of imports, decreased by one percentage point to reach 89. This movement was due to the combined effect of a fall of 0.9% in export prices and a 0.8% increase in import prices.



3. Domestic exports (Jan-Jun 2005)

Domestic exports for the first semester of 2005 stood at Rs 18,629 million, representing a decrease of 4% in nominal terms compared to the corresponding period

of 2004 (Table 2). This decrease was due to a 7% rise in prices and a contraction of 10% in volume.

4. Imports (Jan-Jun 2005)

Compared to the first semester of 2004, total imports soared by 13% to reach Rs 37,405 million (Table 3). The overall import prices climbed by 18% while import volume fell by 4%.

5. Export Price Index (EPI) (Tables 4-7)

5.1 Structure of the EPI

The EPI covers five sections of the SITC, namely "Food and live animals", "Crude materials, inedible, except fuels", "Chemicals and related products", "Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material" and "Miscellaneous manufactured articles". Exports of goods falling under these sections covered 99% of domestic exports in reference year 2003. Distribution of weights for the different sections, groups of commodities and items are given in Table 4. In addition to the overall index, separate sub-indices are also given for different product categories.

5.2 Changes in Export Price Index (2nd quarter 2005)

5.2.1 Overall Index

During the second quarter of 2005, the EPI decreased slightly by 0.4% to reach 111.3, from 111.8 in the first quarter of 2005.

Compared to price levels in the corresponding quarter of 2004, the index showed an overall increase of 4.8%. Increases were registered in export prices of goods falling under all sections.

5.2.2 Sub-indices by section and commodity

Section 0: Food and live animals

During the second quarter of 2005, the sub-index for "Food and live animals", with 29% of the total weight, moved from 108.6 to 109.0, representing a slight increase of 0.4%. This can be explained mainly by a rise of 2.9% in the export prices of "Fish and fish preparations".

When compared to the second quarter of 2004, the index for this section was up by 7.2%, mainly as a result of a 6.3% jump in the export price of sugar.

Section 2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels

The index for this section went down from 93.6 in the first quarter of 2005 to 87.3 in the second quarter, as a result of a 6.7% fall in the export price of fresh cut flowers. When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2004, the index was 4.4% higher.

Section 5: Chemicals and related products

A reduction of 2.0% in the export price of fertilisers in the second quarter of 2005 has caused the sub-index for "Chemicals and related products" to move downward from 135.8 to 133.1. Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2004, the index showed an increase of 5.6%.

Section 6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material

Export prices of goods in this section, which consists mainly of textile fabrics, dropped by 1.4%, the index moving from 100.1 in the first quarter of 2005 to 98.7 in the second quarter. The export prices of "Textile yarn and fabrics", the major component of this section, decreased by 0.3%.

Compared to the second quarter of 2004, the index was 1.0% higher, being mainly the outcome of a 0.5% rise in prices of "Textile yarn and fabrics".

Section 8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles

This is the most important section of the index as it carries about 67% of the total weight. It consists mostly of articles of wearing apparel from the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

The index for this section showed a slight decrease of 0.8%, going down from 113.7 in the first quarter of 2005 to 112.8 in the second quarter. Export prices of "Articles of apparel and clothing accessories", accounting for 98% of the weight for this section, fell by 0.8% while those of "Optical goods, watches and clocks" rose by 1.8%.

Compared to the second quarter of 2004, the index went up by 4.0% following increases of 3.7% in prices of "Articles of apparel and clothing accessories", and 15.3% in "Optical goods, watches and clocks".

6. Import Price Index (IPI) (Tables 8-12)

6.1 Structure of the IPI

The IPI covers eight out of the 10 Standard International Trade Classification (SITC, Rev. 3) sections, namely “Food and live animals”, “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels”, “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials”, “Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes”, “Chemical materials and related products, n.e.s”, “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials”, “Machinery and transport equipment” and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”.

The two SITC sections not covered are “Beverages and tobacco” and “Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere”. Goods in these sections represented only one per cent of all imports in 2002. They are not included because of the heterogeneity of the products and the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality.

Thus, the index, either directly or indirectly, covers about 99% of merchandise imported during 2002. Sixty one per cent of the items are directly represented; of those items which are not directly represented, the prices are considered to move similarly to those represented directly.

6.2 Changes in Import Price Index – 2nd quarter 2005

6.2.1 Overall Index

The Import Price Index (IPI) for the second quarter of 2005 stood at 125.0, representing a rise of 1.1% over the figure of 123.6 for the previous quarter. Increases in the following sections contributed to pushing up the index: “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+2.2%), “Food and live animals” (+1.3%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+1.0%), and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+0.1).

Compared to the corresponding period of 2004, the index moved up by 13.1%, resulting mostly from increases of 36.5% in prices of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related material”, 8.3% in those of “Food and live animals” and 6.8% in prices of “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material”.

6.2.2 Sub-indices by SITC section and division

Section 0: Food and live animals

The index for the section “Food and live animals”, representing about 16% of total weight, went up by 1.3%, from 121.2 in the first quarter of 2005 to 122.8 in the second quarter of 2005. This rise was mainly the consequence of increases of 1.8% in the import prices of “Cereals and cereal preparations”, 1.9% in prices of “Fish, crustaceans, etc and preparations” and 1.4% in prices of “Dairy products”. These increases were partially offset by lower prices of “Miscellaneous edible products and

preparations” (-1.4%).

Compared to the second quarter of 2004, the index went up by 8.3% with increases in import prices of goods falling under all divisions.

Section 2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels

The index for “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” (about 2% of total weight) rose from 126.9 in the first quarter of 2005 to 131.4 in the second quarter (+3.5%), being mainly the effect of an upward pressure exerted by a 5.0% increase in import prices of “Cork and wood”. Compared to the corresponding period of last year, the index shows an increase of 17.2%, as a result of prices of “Cork and wood” going up by 23.7%.

Section 3: Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials

The index for the section “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials”, with nearly 18% of the total weight, stood at 167.1 in the second quarter of 2005, that is 2.2% higher than the previous quarter. The main contributor to this change was a 2.3% increase in import prices of petroleum and petroleum products, which account for 87% of the weight for this section.

When compared to the second quarter of 2004, the index shows a jump of 36.5%, resulting mainly from a 36.8% rise in prices of petroleum and petroleum products.

Section 4: Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes

The section “Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes” covers only about one per cent of the total weight. Its index dropped by 1.7% over the previous quarter to reach 110.2. When compared to the corresponding quarter of 2004, it shows a decrease of 2.9%.

Section 5: Chemical materials and related products, not elsewhere specified (n.e.s)

The index “Chemical materials and related products, n.e.s” (about 5% of total weight) stood at 113.1 in the second quarter of 2005, showing a slight increase of 0.4% over the previous quarter. During this quarter increases in import prices were registered in “Medical and pharmaceutical products” (+0.7%), and “Chemical materials and products, n.e.s” (+1.4%). However, the overall increase was moderated by lower prices in “Essential oils, perfume materials, etc.” (-1.7%).

The index increased by 10.4% when compared to the corresponding period of 2004.

Section 6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material

This is the most important section, carrying about 38% of the total weight. The index was up by 1.0% from the first quarter of 2005 to reach 115.8. Import prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up-articles n.e.s”, accounting for 69% of this section, rose slightly by 0.7%.

The index shows a 6.8% increase when compared to the second quarter of 2004. The increase was greatly influenced by higher prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up-articles n.e.s” (+2.7%) and those of “Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s” (+16.0%).

Section 7: Machinery and transport equipment

The index for “Machinery and transport equipment” was 108.5 in the second quarter of 2005, showing a slight increase of 0.1% over the previous quarter. Increases were recorded in the import prices of “Office machines and automatic data processing machines” (+2.0) and “General industrial machinery and equipment” (+0.6). On the other hand, decreases were registered in import prices of “Road vehicles” (-0.5%) and “Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus” (-0.4).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2004, the index went up by 7.2%. This rise was attributable to price increases in all divisions, mainly “Road vehicles” (+5.1%) and “Office machines and automatic data processing machines” (+14.0%).

Section 8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles

The index for “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” fell by 0.4% from the first quarter of 2005 to reach 110.9 in the second quarter. This was mainly the result of lower import prices of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s” (-0.4%).

However, the index shows a 4.7% increase when compared to the second quarter of 2004, mainly attributable to higher import prices of “Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s” (+10.6).

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Table 1 - Price indices of exports and imports and terms of trade, 2004-2005

Period		Price indices		Terms of trade ¹
		Export	Import	
Reference year : 2003 = 1 0 0				
2004		107	111	96
2004	1st Qr	102	101	101
	2nd Qr	106	111	95
	3rd Qr	109	116	94
	4th Qr	111 ²	117	95
2005 ³	1st Qr	112 ²	124	90
	2nd Qr	111	125	89

¹ Ratio of export price index to import price index. A rise in this ratio indicates that the terms of trade have moved in favour of Mauritius.

² Revised

³Provisional

Table 2 -Percentage change in the price and volume of domestic exports, Jan-Jun 2004 to Jan-Jun 2005

Commodity/Sector	Weight	F.O.B Value (Rs Mn)		% change		
		Jan-Jun 2004	Jan-Jun 2005	Value	Price	Volume ¹
Overall	10,000	19,402	18,629	-4	+ 7	- 10
0 - Food and live animals	2,942	4,207	5,360	+27	+ 8	+ 18
<i>of which:</i>						
<i>Sugar</i>	2,296	2,630	3,215	+22	+ 6	+ 15
2 - Crude materials, inedible except fuels	31	134	170	+27	+ 8	+ 18
5 - Chemicals & related products, n.e.s	21	152	132	-13	+ 9	- 20
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	293	1,629	1,684	+3	+ 4	- 1
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6,713	13,171	11,161	-15	+ 7	- 21

¹ Volume change has been derived from the ratio of value to price change

Table 3 - Percentage change in the price and volume of imports, Jan-Jun 2004 to Jan-Jun 2005

S.I.T.C. Section	Weight	C.I.F Value (Rs Mn)		% change		
		Jan-Jun 2004	Jan-Jun 2005	Value	Price	Volume ¹
Total imports (excluding aircraft) :	10,000	33,085	37,405	+13	+18	- 4
0 - Food and live animals	1,621	4,978	5,776	+16	+14	+ 2
2 - Crude materials, inedible except fuels	221	1,024	1,110	+8	+17	- 8
3 - Mineral fuels, lubricants & related materials	1,789	4,461	6,697	+50	+44	+ 4
4 - Animals and vegetables oils & fats	113	345	440	+28	+3	+ 24
5 - Chemicals & related products, n.e.s	467	2,748	3,144	+14	+13	+ 1
6 - Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	9,016	8,696	-4	+10	- 13
7 - Machinery & transport equipment (excluding aircraft)	1,134	7,504	8,341	+11	+10	+ 1
8 - Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	2,646	2,789	+6	+10	- 4

¹ Volume change has been derived from the ratio of value to price change

Note: Imports values exclude transactions of the freeport

Table 4 - Quarterly Export Price Index by SITC¹, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

SITC ¹ Section	Description	Weight	2003	2004					2005	
			Average	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr ²	4th Qr ²	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
	Overall	10,000	100.0	102.0	106.2	109.3	110.9	107.1	111.8	111.3
0	Food and live animals	2,942	100.0	100.4	101.7	106.3	106.9	103.8	108.6	109.0
	Fish and fish preparations	521	100.0	89.4	96.1	100.3	102.8	97.2	101.7	104.6
	Cereals and cereal preparations	55	100.0	127.1	129.8	132.7	141.0	132.7	146.7	142.8
	Sugar	2,296	100.0	102.6	102.6	109.1	109.1	105.9	109.1	109.1
	Molasses	15	100.0	79.5	79.5	157.1	157.1	118.3	157.1	157.1
	Feeding stuff for animals	55	100.0	90.6	94.9	100.1	101.0	96.7	100.2	100.6
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	31	100.0	83.9	83.6	88.6	90.3	86.6	93.6	87.3
	Crude animal and vegetable materials	31	100.0	83.9	83.6	88.6	90.3	86.6	93.6	87.3
5	Chemicals and related products	21	100.0	120.9	126.1	131.1	136.3	128.6	135.8	133.1
	Fertilisers	21	100.0	120.9	126.1	131.1	136.3	128.6	135.8	133.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	293	100.0	94.2	97.7	99.1	100.5	97.9	100.1	98.7
	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	24	100.0	94.1	99.3	103.0	104.3	100.2	100.0	91.4
	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s & related products	226	100.0	94.2	97.0	97.6	98.0	96.7	97.8	97.5
	Non-metallic mineral manufactures	43	100.0	94.0	100.9	104.9	111.6	102.9	111.8	109.2

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 4 (cont'd) - Quarterly Export Price Index by SITC¹, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

SITC ¹ Section	Description	Weight	2003	2004					2005	
			Average	1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6,713	100.0	103.1	108.5	110.3	112.3	108.6	113.7	112.8
	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	6,589	100.0	102.9	108.5	110.3	112.1	108.5	113.4	112.5
	<i>Men's or boys' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</i>	1,772	100.0	102.8	107.3	110.0	112.5	108.2	115.2	113.8
	<i>Women's or girls' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</i>	1,125	100.0	89.7	99.5	101.9	102.2	98.3	102.2	102.2
	<i>Men's or boys' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</i>	286	100.0	110.7	116.4	119.5	120.3	116.7	121.8	120.6
	<i>Women's or girls' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</i>	172	100.0	93.9	99.4	102.5	103.7	99.9	104.0	103.6
	<i>Articles of apparel, of textile fabrics, whether or not knitted or crocheted</i>	3,209	100.0	107.5	112.1	112.9	115.1	111.9	116.0	115.2
	<i>Clothing accessories, of textile fabrics, whether or not knitted or crocheted</i>	25	100.0	101.6	104.7	108.8	115.4	107.6	117.4	114.5
	Optical goods,n.e.s, watches and clocks	124	100.0	110.7	113.0	114.3	121.2	114.8	128.0	130.3
	<i>Optical goods</i>	38	100.0	96.3	100.8	102.4	105.9	101.4	107.7	106.8
	<i>Watches and clocks</i>	86	100.0	117.0	118.4	119.6	128.0	120.8	137.0	140.7

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 5 - Export Price Index: Percentage change by SITC¹, 1st Qr 2004 - 2nd Qr 2005

Reference year 2003=100

SITC ¹ Section	Description	Weight	Percentage changes (%) from						
			1st Qr 04 to 2nd Qr 04	2nd Qr 04 to 3rd Qr 04	3rd Qr 04 to 4th Qr 04	4th Qr 04 to 1st Qr 05	1st Qr 05 to 2nd Qr 05	1st Qr 04 to 1st Qr 05	2nd Qr 04 to 2nd Qr 05
	Overall	10,000	4.1	2.9	1.5	0.8	-0.4	9.6	4.8
0	Food and live animals	2,942	1.3	4.5	0.6	1.6	0.4	8.2	7.2
	Fish and fish preparations	521	7.5	4.4	2.5	-1.1	2.9	13.8	8.8
	Cereals and cereal preparations	55	2.1	2.2	6.3	4.0	-2.7	15.4	10.0
	Sugar	2,296	0.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.3	6.3
	Molasses	15	0.0	97.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	97.6	97.6
	Feeding stuff for animals	55	4.7	5.5	0.9	-0.8	0.4	10.6	6.0
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	31	-0.4	6.0	1.9	3.7	-6.7	11.6	4.4
	Crude animal and vegetable materials	31	-0.4	6.0	1.9	3.7	-6.7	11.6	4.4
5	Chemicals and related products	21	4.3	4.0	4.0	-0.4	-2.0	12.3	5.6
	Fertilisers	21	4.3	4.0	4.0	-0.4	-2.0	12.3	5.6
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	293	3.7	1.4	1.4	-0.4	-1.4	6.3	1.0
	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp, of paper or of paperboard	24	5.5	3.7	1.3	-4.1	-8.6	6.3	-8.0
	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s & related products	226	3.0	0.6	0.4	-0.2	-0.3	3.8	0.5
	Non-metallic mineral manufactures	43	7.3	4.0	6.4	0.2	-2.3	18.9	8.2

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

Table 5 (cont'd) - Export Price Index: Percentage change by SITC¹, 1st Qr 2004 - 2nd Qr 2005

Reference year 2003=100

SITC ¹ Section	Description	Weight	Percentage changes (%) from						
			1st Qr 04 to 2nd Qr 04	2nd Qr 04 to 3rd Qr 04	3rd Qr 04 to 4th Qr 04	4th Qr 04 to 1st Qr 05	1st Qr 05 to 2nd Qr 05	1st Qr 04 to 1st Qr 05	2nd Qr 04 to 2nd Qr 05
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6,713	5.2	1.7	1.8	1.2	-0.8	10.3	4.0
	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	6,589	5.4	1.7	1.6	1.2	-0.8	10.2	3.7
	<i>Men's or boys' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</i>	1,772	4.4	2.5	2.3	2.4	-1.2	12.1	6.1
	<i>Women's or girls' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, not knitted or crocheted</i>	1,125	10.9	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	13.9	2.7
	<i>Men's or boys' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</i>	286	5.1	2.7	0.7	1.2	-1.0	10.0	3.6
	<i>Women's or girls' coats, jackets, suits, blazers, trousers, shorts, shirts etc, knitted or crocheted</i>	172	5.9	3.1	1.2	0.3	-0.4	10.8	4.2
	<i>Articles of apparel, of textile fabrics, whether or not knitted or crocheted</i>	3,209	4.3	0.7	1.9	0.8	-0.7	7.9	2.8
	<i>Clothing accessories, of textile fabrics, whether or not knitted or crocheted</i>	25	3.1	3.9	6.1	1.7	-2.5	15.6	9.4
	Optical goods,n.e.s, watches and clocks	124	2.1	1.2	6.0	5.6	1.8	15.6	15.3
	<i>Optical goods</i>	38	4.7	1.6	3.4	1.7	-0.8	11.8	6.0
	<i>Watches and clocks</i>	86	1.2	1.0	7.0	7.0	2.7	17.1	18.8

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

Table 6 - Quarterly Export Price Index by SITC¹, Year 2003

SITC ¹ Section	Description	Weight	2003 Average	2003			
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr
	Overall	10,000	100.0	98.1	98.5	101.9	101.5
0	Food and live animals	2,942	100.0	98.1	97.8	102.4	101.7
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	31	100.0	95.6	98.8	102.8	102.8
5	Chemicals and related products	21	100.0	94.2	98.7	103.0	104.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	293	100.0	99.4	99.2	101.9	99.6
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	6,713	100.0	98.1	98.7	101.6	101.6

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

Table 7 - Quarterly Export Price Index (EPI), 1999 - 2005

Reference year 1997 = 100		
1999	Qr 1	111.0
	Qr 2	110.0
	Qr 3	109.7
	Qr 4	109.7
	Year	110.1
2000	Qr 1	108.2
	Qr 2	105.3
	Qr 3	101.6
	Qr 4	102.4
	Year	104.4
2001	Qr 1	108.1
	Qr 2	107.4
	Qr 3	112.6
	Qr 4	114.8
	Year	110.7
2002	Qr 1	117.6
	Qr 2	120.2
	Qr 3	126.5
	Qr 4	126.8
	Year	122.8
2003	Qr 1	124.9
	Qr 2	126.5
	Qr 3	131.2
	Qr 4	132.2
	Year	128.7
Reference year 2003 = 100		
2004	Qr 1	102.0
	Qr 2	106.2
	Qr 3 ¹	109.3
	Qr 4 ¹	110.9
	Year	107.1
2005	Qr 1 ¹	111.8
	Qr 2 ²	111.3

¹ Revised² Provisional

Note: A crude method of converting an index from the new reference year to the old one is to multiply the new index by 1.287. Conversely, an index on the old reference period can be converted to the new reference period by dividing the old index by 1.287.

Table 8: Quarterly Import Price Index by SITC¹ section, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section	Description	Weight	Average 2003	2004					2005	
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
	Overall Index	10,000	100.0	100.9	110.5	115.6	117.4	111.1	123.6	125.0
0	Food and live animals	1,621	100.0	100.1	113.4	118.1	117.3	112.2	121.2	122.8
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	221	100.0	107.8	112.1	121.0	123.6	116.1	126.9	131.4
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,789	100.0	106.5	122.4	132.6	136.5	124.5	163.5	167.1
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	113	100.0	102.3	113.5	122.1	106.6	111.1	112.1	110.2
5	Chemical materials & related products, n.e.s	467	100.0	98.2	102.4	105.2	109.2	103.7	112.7	113.1
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	100.0	100.8	108.4	112.0	113.2	108.6	114.6	115.8
7	Machinery and transport equipment	1,134	100.0	96.3	101.2	104.0	108.8	102.6	108.4	108.5
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	100.0	96.8	105.9	110.1	111.5	106.1	111.4	110.9

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 9: Quarterly Import Price Index by SITC¹ section & division, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Division	Description	Weight	Average 2003	2004					2005	
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
	Overall Index	10,000	100.0	100.9	110.5	115.6	117.4	111.1	123.6	125.0
Section 0	Food and live animals	1,621	100.0	100.1	113.4	118.1	117.3	112.2	121.2	122.8
Div 01	Meat and meat preparations	101	100.0	110.4	114.3	114.2	115.5	113.6	117.7	118.4
Div 02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	266	100.0	98.4	105.0	101.8	108.3	103.4	118.8	120.5
Div 03	Fish, crustaceans, etc. and preparations thereof	388	100.0	102.1	135.4	152.2	134.8	131.1	135.3	137.9
Div 04	Cereals and cereal preparations	472	100.0	93.6	106.4	108.6	108.5	104.3	117.8	119.9
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Wheat (including spelt) & meslin, unmilled</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>86.0</i>	<i>88.7</i>	<i>90.3</i>	<i>89.7</i>	<i>88.7</i>	<i>110.3</i>	<i>113.9</i>
Div 05	Vegetables and fruit	227	100.0	107.6	104.7	107.0	117.9	109.3	111.7	112.9
Div 09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	167	100.0	100.4	106.3	109.0	115.6	107.8	117.1	115.5
Section 2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	221	100.0	107.8	112.1	121.0	123.6	116.1	126.9	131.4
Div 24	Cork and wood	102	100.0	105.8	115.1	124.1	129.8	118.7	135.6	142.4
Div 26	Textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	119	100.0	109.5	109.5	118.4	118.4	113.9	119.5	121.9
Section 3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,789	100.0	106.5	122.4	132.6	136.5	124.5	163.5	167.1
Div 32	Coal, coke and briquettes	94	100.0	118.8	160.4	180.3	180.3	159.9	201.5	198.6
Div 33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	1,554	100.0	107.4	122.7	132.9	134.1	124.3	164.1	167.8
Div 34	Gas, natural and manufactured	141	100.0	88.3	93.6	97.9	133.7	103.4	130.6	139.1
Section 4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	113	100.0	102.3	113.5	122.1	106.6	111.1	112.1	110.2
Div 42	Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	113	100.0	102.3	113.5	122.1	106.6	111.1	112.1	110.2

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 9 (cont'd): Quarterly Import Price Index by SITC¹ section & division, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Division	Description	Weight	Average 2003	2004					2005	
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
Section 5	Chemical materials & related products, n.e.s	467	100.0	98.2	102.4	105.2	109.2	103.7	112.7	113.1
Div 54	Medical and pharmaceutical products	252	100.0	97.5	102.5	103.6	106.4	102.5	108.1	108.9
Div 55	Essential oils and resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, etc.	103	100.0	101.3	104.7	108.6	114.1	107.2	116.9	114.9
Div 59	Chemical materials & products, n.e.s	112	100.0	96.9	100.1	105.4	111.0	103.3	119.3	121.0
Section 6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	100.0	100.8	108.4	112.0	113.2	108.6	114.6	115.8
Div 64	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp	305	100.0	97.3	94.4	109.3	113.8	103.7	115.2	108.0
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Paper and paperboard</i>	226	100.0	94.6	103.6	108.6	110.8	104.4	112.2	115.9
Div 65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s	2,590	100.0	99.8	106.3	107.8	108.4	105.6	108.4	109.2
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Textile yarn</i>	1,141	100.0	106.0	110.4	111.0	110.8	109.6	109.3	111.0
	<i>Cotton fabrics, woven (not including narrow or special fabrics)</i>	755	100.0	93.2	102.9	104.8	105.7	101.7	106.5	105.7
	<i>Fabrics, woven, of man-made textile materials</i>	235	100.0	96.1	99.7	103.3	105.4	101.1	107.3	109.3
	<i>Knitted/crocheted fabric including tubular knit, fabrics, n.e.s</i>	217	100.0	100.0	111.5	113.0	112.4	109.2	113.5	115.8
Div 66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	652	100.0	106.1	117.2	121.8	124.5	117.4	129.7	136.0
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Lime, cement & fab. const. materials (except glass & clay mats.)</i>	236	100.0	116.6	136.2	139.6	139.7	133.0	147.4	149.8
	<i>Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, unworked or worked</i>	292	100.0	99.7	107.6	112.9	116.8	109.3	121.1	133.1
Div 67	Iron and steel	76	100.0	94.7	152.7	170.4	170.7	147.1	181.7	184.4
Div 69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	153	100.0	104.6	110.8	117.6	117.6	112.7	119.8	122.5

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 9 (cont'd): Quarterly Import Price Index by SITC¹ section & division, 2004 - 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Division	Description	Weight	Average 2003	2004					2005	
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr	Average	1st Qr ²	2nd Qr ³
Section 7	Machinery and transport equipment	1,134	100.0	96.3	101.2	104.0	108.8	102.6	108.4	108.5
Div 74	General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s.	157	100.0	95.5	98.3	101.4	105.6	100.2	106.9	107.5
Div 75	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	194	100.0	86.3	95.5	98.0	104.4	96.0	106.8	108.9
Div 76	Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	216	100.0	92.8	99.2	102.7	106.3	100.2	105.1	104.7
Div 78	Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles)	567	100.0	101.2	104.8	107.2	112.2	106.4	110.7	110.1
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Motor cars & other motor vehicles for the transport of persons</i>	378	100.0	102.1	104.4	106.5	108.9	105.5	112.8	112.7
Section 8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	100.0	96.8	105.9	110.1	111.5	106.1	111.4	110.9
Div 87	Professional, scientific and controlling inst. and app.	179	100.0	90.9	118.1	119.8	111.6	110.1	100.7	100.1
Div 89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s.	700	100.0	98.3	102.8	107.6	111.5	105.1	114.2	113.7
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Articles, n.e.s. of plastics</i>	195	100.0	100.7	113.3	120.9	132.6	116.9	142.4	135.9
	<i>Jewellery, goldsmiths' & silversmiths' wares of precious/semi-precious, n.e.s.</i>	233	100.0	96.1	100.1	102.8	102.6	100.4	101.2	102.8

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

² Revised

³ Provisional

Table 10 - Import Price Index : Percentage change by SITC¹ section, 1st quarter 2004 - 2nd quarter 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section	Description	Weight	Percentage change from						
			1 st Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 04	2 nd Qr 04 to 3 rd Qr 04	3 rd Qr 04 to 4 th Qr 04	4 th Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	1 st Qr 05 to 2 nd Qr 05	1 st Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	2 nd Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 05
	Overall Index	10,000	9.5	4.6	1.6	5.3	1.1	22.5	13.1
0	Food and live animals	1,621	13.3	4.1	-0.7	3.3	1.3	21.1	8.3
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	221	4.0	7.9	2.1	2.7	3.5	17.8	17.2
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,789	14.9	8.3	2.9	19.8	2.2	53.5	36.5
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	113	11.0	7.6	-12.7	5.2	-1.7	9.6	-2.9
5	Chemical materials & related products, n.e.s	467	4.3	2.7	3.8	3.2	0.4	14.8	10.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	7.5	3.3	1.1	1.2	1.0	13.7	6.8
7	Machinery and transport equipment	1,134	5.1	2.8	4.6	-0.4	0.1	12.6	7.2
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	9.4	4.0	1.3	-0.1	-0.4	15.1	4.7

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¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

Note : Figures for 2005 are provisional

Table 11 - Import Price Index: Percentage change by SITC¹ section & division, 1st quarter 2004 - 2nd quarter 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Division	Description	Weight	Percentage change from						
			1 st Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 04	2 nd Qr 04 to 3 rd Qr 04	3 rd Qr 04 to 4 th Qr 04	4 th Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	1 st Qr 05 to 2 nd Qr 05	1 st Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	2 nd Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 05
	Overall Index	10000	9.5	4.6	1.6	5.3	1.1	22.5	13.1
Section 0	Food and live animals	1621	13.3	4.1	-0.7	3.3	1.3	21.1	8.3
Div 01	Meat and meat preparations	101	3.5	-0.1	1.1	1.9	0.6	6.6	3.6
Div 02	Dairy products and birds' eggs	266	6.7	-3.0	6.4	9.7	1.4	20.7	14.8
Div 03	Fish, crustaceans, etc, and preparations thereof	388	32.6	12.4	-11.4	0.4	1.9	32.5	1.8
Div 04	Cereals and cereal preparations	472	13.7	2.1	-0.1	8.6	1.8	25.9	12.7
	<i>of which:</i>								
	<i>Wheat (including spelt) & meslin, unmilled</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>28.4</i>
Div 05	Vegetables and fruit	227	-2.7	2.2	10.2	-5.3	1.1	3.8	7.8
Div 09	Miscellaneous edible products and preparations	167	5.9	2.5	6.1	1.3	-1.4	16.6	8.7
Section 2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	221	4.0	7.9	2.1	2.7	3.5	17.8	17.2
Div 24	Cork and wood	102	8.8	7.8	4.6	4.5	5.0	28.2	23.7
Div 26	Textile fibres and their wastes (not manufactured into yarn or fabric)	119	0.0	8.1	0.0	0.9	2.0	9.2	11.3
Section 3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1789	14.9	8.3	2.9	19.8	2.2	53.5	36.5
Div 32	Coal, coke and briquettes	94	35.0	12.4	0.0	11.8	-1.4	69.6	23.8
Div 33	Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials	1554	14.3	8.3	0.9	22.4	2.3	52.8	36.8
Div 34	Gas, natural and manufactured	141	6.0	4.6	36.6	-2.3	6.5	47.9	48.6
Section 4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	113	11.0	7.6	-12.7	5.2	-1.7	9.6	-2.9
Div 42	Fixed vegetable fats and oils, crude, refined or fractionated	113	11.0	7.6	-12.7	5.2	-1.7	9.6	-2.9

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¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

Note : Figures for 2005 are provisional

Table 11(cont'd) - Import Price Index: Percentage change by SITC¹ section & division, 1st quarter 2004 - 2nd quarter 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Group	Description	Weight	Percentage change from							
			1 st Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 04	2 nd Qr 04 to 3 rd Qr 04	3 rd Qr 04 to 4 th Qr 04	4 th Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	1 st Qr 05 to 2 nd Qr 05	1 st Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	2 nd Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 05	
			Section 5	Chemical materials & related products, n.e.s	467	4.3	2.7	3.8	3.2	0.4
Div 54	Medical and pharmaceutical products	252	5.1	1.1	2.7	1.6	0.7	10.9	6.2	
Div 55	Essential oils and resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, etc,	103	3.4	3.7	5.1	2.5	-1.7	15.4	9.7	
Div 59	Chemical materials & products, n.e.s	112	3.3	5.3	5.3	7.5	1.4	23.1	20.9	
Section 6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	7.5	3.3	1.1	1.2	1.0	13.7	6.8	
Div 64	Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp	305	-2.9	15.8	4.1	1.2	-6.3	18.4	14.4	
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Paper and paperboard</i>	226	9.5	4.8	2.0	1.3	3.3	18.6	11.9	
Div 65	Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles nes	2,590	6.5	1.4	0.6	0.0	0.7	8.6	2.7	
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Textile yarn</i>	1,141	4.2	0.5	-0.2	-1.4	1.6	3.1	0.5	
	<i>Cotton fabrics, woven (not including narrow or special fabrics)</i>	755	10.4	1.8	0.9	0.8	-0.8	14.2	2.7	
	<i>Fabrics, woven, of man-made textile materials</i>	235	3.8	3.6	2.0	1.8	1.9	11.7	9.6	
	<i>Knitted/crocheted fabric including tubular knit, fabrics nes</i>	217	11.5	1.3	-0.5	1.0	2.0	13.5	3.9	
Div 66	Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.	652	10.5	3.9	2.2	4.2	4.9	22.2	16.0	
	<i>of which:</i>									
	<i>Lime, cement & fab. const. materials (except glass & clay mats.)</i>	236	16.8	2.5	0.1	5.5	1.6	26.4	10.0	
	<i>Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, unworked or worked</i>	292	7.9	4.9	3.5	3.7	9.9	21.5	23.7	
Div 67	Iron and steel	76	61.2	11.6	0.2	6.4	1.5	91.9	20.8	
Div 69	Manufactures of metals, n.e.s.	153	5.9	6.1	0.0	1.9	2.3	14.5	10.6	

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev 3)

Note : Figures for 2005 are provisional

Table 11(cont'd) - Import Price Index: Percentage change by SITC¹ section & division, 1st quarter 2004 - 2nd quarter 2005

Reference year 2003=100

Section/ Division	Description	Weight	Percentage change from						
			1 st Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 04	2 nd Qr 04 to 3 rd Qr 04	3 rd Qr 04 to 4 th Qr 04	4 th Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	1 st Qr 05 to 2 nd Qr 05	1 st Qr 04 to 1 st Qr 05	2 nd Qr 04 to 2 nd Qr 05
Section 7	Machinery and transport equipment	1,134	5.1	2.8	4.6	-0.4	0.1	12.6	7.2
Div 74	General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s.	157	2.9	3.2	4.1	1.2	0.6	11.9	9.4
Div 75	Office machines and automatic data processing machines	194	10.7	2.6	6.5	2.3	2.0	23.8	14.0
Div 76	Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	216	6.9	3.5	3.5	-1.1	-0.4	13.3	5.5
Div 78	Road vehicles (including air-cushion vehicles) <i>of which:</i>	567	3.5	2.3	4.7	-1.3	-0.5	9.4	5.1
	<i>Motor cars & other motor vehicles for the transport of persons</i>	378	2.3	2.0	2.3	3.6	-0.1	10.5	8.0
Section 8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	9.4	4.0	1.3	-0.1	-0.4	15.1	4.7
Div 87	Professional, scientific and controlling inst. and app.	179	29.9	1.4	-6.8	-9.8	-0.6	10.7	-15.2
Div 89	Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s. <i>of which:</i>	700	4.6	4.7	3.6	2.4	-0.4	16.1	10.6
	<i>Articles, n.e.s. of plastics</i>	195	12.5	6.7	9.7	7.4	-4.6	41.4	19.9
	<i>Jewellery, goldsmiths' & silversmiths' wares of precious/semi-precious, n.e.s.</i>	233	4.2	2.7	-0.2	-1.4	1.6	5.3	2.7

¹ The Standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

Note : Figures for 2005 are provisional

Table 12: Quarterly Import Price Index by SITC¹ section, Year 2003

Section	Description	Weight	Average 2003	2003			
				1st Qr	2nd Qr	3rd Qr	4th Qr
	Overall Index	10,000	100.0	100.6	97.1	101.4	100.9
0	Food and live animals	1,621	100.0	99.4	95.6	102.8	102.2
2	Crude materials, inedible, except fuels	221	100.0	91.6	92.8	101.7	113.8
3	Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials	1,789	100.0	113.0	90.7	99.9	96.4
4	Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes	113	100.0	104.7	95.1	106.4	93.8
5	Chemical materials & related products, n.e.s	467	100.0	97.7	99.2	101.7	101.4
6	Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material	3,776	100.0	97.9	99.4	101.3	101.3
7	Machinery and transport equipment	1,134	100.0	97.6	100.6	102.0	99.9
8	Miscellaneous manufactured articles	879	100.0	96.4	98.7	100.2	104.7

¹ The standard International Trade Classification Revision 3 (SITC Rev. 3)

Technical Note

Export Price Index (EPI)

Methodology for the Construction of the EPI

Definition

The Export Price Index (EPI) is a measure of price change of domestically produced Mauritian products shipped to other countries, i.e it excludes re-exports. In addition to the overall index, separate sub-indices are also calculated for different product categories at more detailed level.

The first series of EPI was calculated with the year 1993 as base and reference period. The index was first revised in 1997 and subsequently revised in 2003.

Comparison with Unit Value Index

The Unit Value Export Index provides only a proxy measure for price changes of exported goods. It is derived from value and quantity data of products or groups of products obtained from trade returns and is thus highly dependent on the degree of homogeneity of the groups of products considered. On the other hand, the EPI measures pure price changes and is based on actual price measurements of relatively more homogeneous group of products. It requires elaborate specifications of products and takes into account all the main price determining factors such as country of destination, quality, mode of transport and mode of payment.

Scope and Classification

The EPI covers all domestic exports, the most important commodities being sugar and textile fabrics and articles of apparel and clothing accessories produced by the EPZ sector.

The index is based on the Nomenclature of the Standard International Trade Classification of the United Nations (SITC Rev 3). Separate sub-indices are produced for each SITC section and for more detailed groups where possible.

Selection of Items and Firms

A representative sample of 38 firms has been selected from trade declarations submitted to the Customs and Excise Department in 2002. The sample was drawn from exporting firms on the basis of regularity of their trade and their volume of exports. A total of 80 items (Entry Level Items, ELI's) which represent 36 products are priced from the selected enterprises.

Weighting Scheme

The weights are derived from the 2002 domestic exports. Weights assigned to each section and group are based on their export values in 2002. Each product or group of products selected for pricing purposes represents all products that fall within that weight group.

Base and Reference Period

The base period for the EPI is calendar year 2002 and the reference period 2003. Bench mark data for the year 2002, based on trade returns, have been used to derive weights. The selected firms have supplied prices of selected commodities for each of the 12 months in 2003. The yearly average price of each product has then been worked out and is used as base price for that product.

Price Collection

Prices are collected directly from co-operating export firms. As far as possible price quotations are reported on a free on board (F.O.B.) basis and are mostly contract prices. Each reporting firm is visited once every quarter but prices are supplied on a monthly basis and are averaged for each quarter.

Sugar and Molasses

Due to their specificity, sugar and molasses have been treated differently. Sugar and molasses produced during a crop year, which normally extends between July and June of the following year, are usually exported during that same crop year. Export prices of these commodities, sugar in particular, are mostly negotiated prices. These prices can be quite volatile between quarters depending on the destination of the shipments. Therefore, in order to eliminate these price distortions between quarters, the same average yearly price for the crop year is used for the four quarters comprising that crop year. The base price of these commodities for the year 2003 is the average price for crops years 2002/03 and 2003/04.

Calculation of the EPI

A modified Laspeyres formula based on the weighted average of price relatives is used to calculate the EPI: the mathematical form of the formula is shown below:

$$I_{ot} = \frac{\sum w_i \times \frac{P_{it}}{P_{io}} \times 100}{\sum w_i}$$

Where I_{ot} is the index for period t compared to base period 0

w_i is the weight of the i^{th} element

P_{io} is the base price of the i^{th} element

P_{it} is the price of the i^{th} element in period t

$\frac{P_{it}}{P_{io}}$ is the price relative of the i^{th} element
in period t relative to base period 0

Σ means summation over all selected elements

Uses

The primary use of the EPI is to deflate export trade statistics. It provides quarterly measures of price trends of Mauritian products sold abroad and can be used for calculating changes in the volume of exports.

It can also serve as a basis to assess the competitiveness of Mauritian products in relation to price trends of common products of other countries with which Mauritius competes for markets.

Technical Note

Import Price Index (IPI)

Methodology for the construction of the IPI

1. Definition

The Import Price Index (IPI) provides an overall measure of pure price changes (in Mauritian Rupees) of goods imported into the country.

Unlike Unit Value Import Index which is affected by product mix and country of imports, the IPI is based on actual price measurements of a fixed basket of imported goods. It requires elaborate specifications of products and takes into account all the main price determining factors such as country of origin and quality.

2. Scope and Classification

The commodities are classified according to the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev 3). Under this nomenclature, commodities are classified under 3,118 basic headings arranged into 261 groups. These groups are, in turn, assembled into 67 divisions designed to summarise the groups according to their broader characteristics. The divisions are finally consolidated into 10 sections.

Sub-indices are produced for each SITC section and for more detailed groups where possible.

The Import Price Index covers eight out of the 10 SITC sections, namely “Food and live animals”, “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels”, “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials”, “Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes”, “Chemical materials and related products, n.e.s”, “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials”, “Machinery and transport equipment” and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”.

The two SITC sections not covered are “Beverages and tobacco” and “Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere”. Goods in these sections represent a low one per cent of all imports in 2002. They are not included because of the heterogeneity of the products and the inherent difficulties in pricing the items to a constant quality.

Thus, the index, either directly or indirectly, covers about 99% of the value of merchandise imported during 2002. Items directly represented constitute 61% of the total value of imports, and for those items which are not directly represented, their prices are considered to move similarly to those represented directly.

3. Weighting scheme

The weights were derived from total imports in 2002. Weights assigned to each section and group are based on their import values in that year. Each product or group of products selected for pricing purposes represents all products that fall within that weight group.

4. Reference Period

The base price for the calculation of the indices refers to calendar year 2003 to be in line with the reference period used for the Export Price Index. The firms have supplied prices of selected commodities for each quarter in 2003. The yearly average price of each product has been used as base price for that product.

5. Selection of items and firms

The commodities forming the basket were selected according to the following criteria:

- (i) As far as possible, an item is included if it is imported regularly and frequently
- (ii) The items selected had to be, to a large extent, representative of the bulk of the trader's import
- (iii) There must be a sustained demand of the commodity variety
- (iv) Items had to be specific and detailed enough for pricing.

Similarly, an importer for a particular product is selected provided that he imports that product on a regular basis.

At the end of the selection process, 171 importers and 142 commodities were selected for subsequent price collection.

6. Price collection

There are two common practices for the collection of prices of items falling in the basket. Prices for the specified goods are collected each month from importers and average quarterly prices are then derived for compiling the index, or, in case where most imports occur at intervals longer than a month, prices are collected only once every quarter and refer to the last consignment. A preliminary survey of the importers has shown that, in the case of Mauritius, the second practice is more suitable.

Prices are reported on a cost, insurance and freight (c.i.f) basis and are expressed in Mauritian Rupees. Exchange rates from the Customs and Excise Department are used in case prices are reported in foreign currencies.

Though the frequency of imports has been taken into consideration in selecting items and importers, it may happen that some items in the basket have not been imported during a certain period. In such cases, the prices are estimated using the variations in the exchange rate of the currency of imports. The underlying assumption is that the only factor affecting the price is the value of the Mauritian Rupee relative to the transaction currency.

7. Uses of the Import Price Index

The Import Price Index is an important economic indicator which is used, inter alia, to:

- measure changes in prices of imports
- analyse the effect of import price changes on the various sectors of the economy
- calculate changes in the volume of imports
- calculate the terms of trade (that is the ratio of export prices to import prices)
- analyse the effect of exchange rates on import prices.

8. Calculation of the IPI

The compilation of the Import Price Index involves first the derivation of weighted averages through the four levels of the SITC, namely item, group, division and section as follows:

(a) Commodity item level

The price relative of each item forms the most basic level for the compilation of higher aggregate indices:

$$\text{Price index at commodity level: } I_{it} = \frac{\sum P_{it}}{\sum P_{io}} \times 100$$

where I_{it} is the price relative of the i^{th} commodity in period t relative to the base period

- $\sum P_{it}$ is the sum of the prices of all commodity varieties imported in period t
- $\sum P_{io}$ is the sum of the prices of all commodity varieties imported in the base period

(b) Group level

The group index is derived as a weighted average of the commodity indices:

$$\text{Price index at group level: } I_{G(j)} = \frac{\sum W_i I_{it}}{\sum W_i}$$

where $I_{G(j)}$ is the index for group j
 W_i is the weight of commodity i

(c) Division level

Similarly a weighted average of the group indices yields the index at division level:

$$\text{Price Index at division level: } I_{D(k)} = \frac{\sum W_j I_{G(j)}}{\sum W_j}$$

where $I_{D(k)}$ is the index for division k
 W_j is the weight of group j

(d) Section level

The index at the division level is then derived as a weighted average of the indices of the divisions falling within that section.

$$\text{Price index at section level: } I_{s(l)} = \frac{\sum W_k I_{D(k)}}{\sum W_k}$$

where $I_{s(l)}$ is the index for section k
 W_k is the weight of group k

(e) Overall index

Finally, the overall Import Price Index is computed as a weighted average of the indices of the sections.

$$\text{Overall Import Price index: } I_{o(m)} = \frac{\sum W_m I_{s(l)}}{\sum W_m}$$

where $I_{o(m)}$ is the overall Price Index
 W_m is the weight of section m