

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base period: July 2006–June 2007 = 100)

1st Quarter 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first quarter of 2010. The methodology used for computing the CPI and the inflation rate is given in the technical note at Annex.

2. KEY POINTS

2.1 The overall CPI

The Consumer Price Index, which stood at 117.2 in December 2009, registered a net increase of 1.6 points (or 1.4%) to reach 118.8 in March 2010 (Table 2a).

On a monthly basis, the index increased by 1.0 point in January, 0.4 point in February and 0.2 point in March 2010.

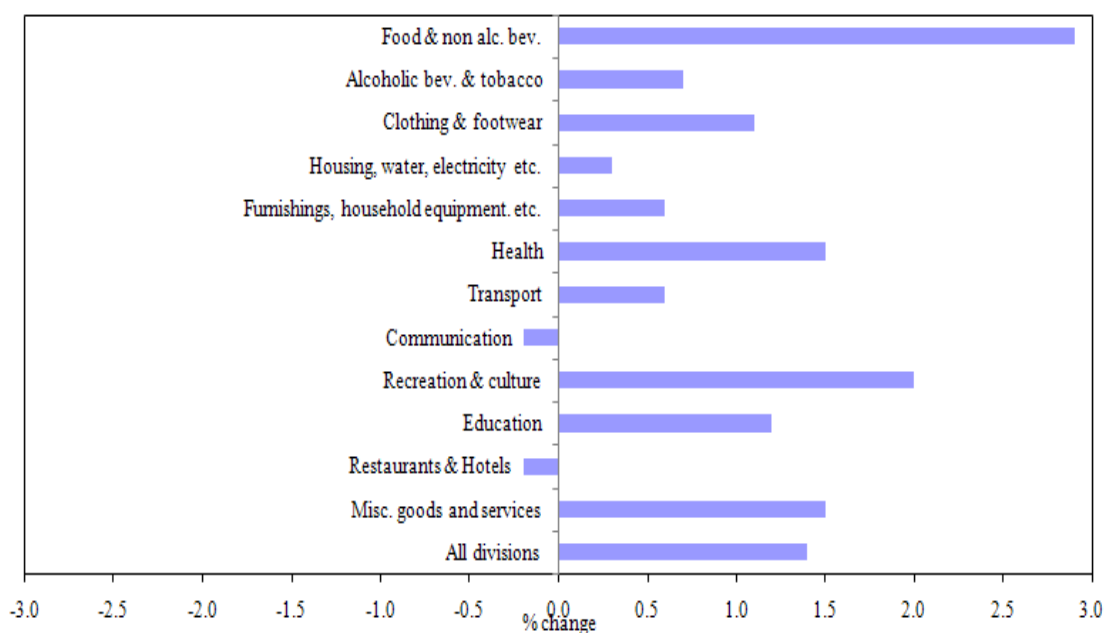
2.2 Overview of CPI movements

The main reasons for the net increase in the CPI from December 2009 to March 2010 were:

- (a) higher food prices mainly vegetables, milk, sugar, meat, fish and fruits;
- (b) higher prices of some alcoholic beverages;
- (c) higher prices of gasoline; and
- (d) lower prices of air tickets.

3. MOVEMENT OF CPI SUB INDICES

Figure 1: % change in CPI sub indices between December 2009 and March 2010



The changes in the sub-indices for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure during the first quarter of 2010 were as follows:

<i>Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+2.9%)</i>	The rise of 2.9% was the result of higher prices of vegetables (+3.9%), milk (+4.6%), sugar (+28.6%), meat (+1.6), fish (+2.8%), and fruits (+5.5%).
<i>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+ 0.7%)</i>	The rise of 0.7% was attributable mainly to price increases of wine (+3.7%) and cane spirits (+1.2%).
<i>Clothing and footwear (+ 1.1%)</i>	The increase of 1.1% was mainly due to higher prices of footwear (+2.4%).
<i>Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (+0.3%)</i>	The rise of 0.3% was the result of higher workman's wages (+2.9%) and higher housing rent (+1.4%).
<i>Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (+ 0.6%)</i>	The rise of 0.6% was largely due to higher charges for household and domestic services (+1.9).
<i>Health (+ 1.5%)</i>	The increase of 1.5% was mainly attributable to higher clinic charges (+3.3%).
<i>Transport (+ 0.6%)</i>	The 0.6% rise in transport costs was the net effect of higher prices of gasoline (+4.2%) and diesel oil (+5.4%) partly offset by lower prices of airfare (-4.6%) and motor vehicles (-1.0%).
<i>Communication (-0.2%)</i>	The fall of 0.2% was essentially due to lower prices of mobile phones (-12.8%).
<i>Recreation and culture (+ 2.0%)</i>	The increase of 2.0% was largely attributable to higher prices of school textbooks (+6.9%) and newspapers (3.4%).
<i>Education (+1.2%)</i>	The rise of 1.2% was due to higher fees for pre-primary, primary and secondary schools (+2.5%) as well as for private tuition (+1.7%).
<i>Restaurants and hotels (-0.2%)</i>	The fall of 0.2% was mainly the result of lower rates for accommodation in hotels and bungalows (-15.2%).
<i>Miscellaneous goods and services (+1.5%)</i>	The rise of 1.5% was mainly attributable to price increases of some goods for personal care and hygiene (+2.4%).

4. INFLATION RATE

The inflation rate for calendar year 2009 (as measured by the percentage change in the average CPI for 2009 relative to 2008) was 2.5 % while that for financial year 2008/09 was 6.9% (Table 6).

On the basis of trends in previous years and recent price changes, the inflation rate for financial year 2009/10 is forecasted at around 2%.

5. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF INFLATION RATE

The table below compares the inflation rate of Mauritius with those of our main importing countries and some countries in the region for the latest available year, namely 2008.

Table 1- Inflation rate (%) of selected countries, year 2008

Country	Inflation rate (%)	Country	Inflation rate (%)
France	3.2	Australia	3.7
United Kingdom	3.9	United States	0.7
China	2.8	Botswana	13.7
India	9.7	Mauritius	9.7
Japan	0.4	Seychelles	63.3
Singapore	5.4	South Africa	9.5

Source – International Monetary Fund, revised data as at October 2009.

Note :

- (i) This publication is available on the website of the Central Statistics Office at <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu>. From the homepage, choose “Publications” followed by “Economic and Social Indicators”, then “Consumer Price Index”.
- (ii) The monthly CPI is also available on our website. It is posted within 5 working days after the reference month.
- (iii) More detailed information on CPI can be made available upon request.

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Table 2a - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 2003 - March 2010

<i>Month</i>	<i>(Base : July 2001 - June 2002 = 100)</i>					<i>(Base : July 2006 - June 2007 = 100)</i>			
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
January	105.5	109.7	116.1	123.1	133.9		109.6	115.3	118.2
February	105.7	110.1	116.7	123.5	134.9		110.7	115.8	118.6
March	105.6	110.1	117.1	124.2	136.1		110.8	116.1	118.8
April	105.8	110.4	117.1	124.0	137.5		111.9	116.2	
May	106.5	110.7	117.2	124.3	138.1		113.0	116.2	
June	106.9	111.3	117.3	126.2	138.8		113.4	117.1	
July	107.5	112.5	118.0	129.9		103.7	115.6	117.8	
August	107.4	112.7	118.0	130.9		104.1	116.3	117.5	
September	107.9	113.1	117.3	131.7		105.3	116.7	117.8	
October	108.3	114.6	118.2	132.3		106.8	117.2	117.3	
November	108.4	114.7	118.8	133.3		107.6	116.5	117.3	
December	108.9	115.0	119.5	133.7		108.2	115.5	117.2	
Yearly average	107.0	112.1	117.6	128.1		103.8	113.9	116.8	
<i>Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+3.9	+ 4.7	+ 4.9	+ 8.9		+ 8.8	+ 9.7	+ 2.5	

Table 2b - Comparative Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 2003 - March 2010 ^{1/}

<u>Month</u>	<u>(Base : July 2006 - June 2007 = 100)</u>							
	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
January	78.6	81.7	86.5	91.7	99.7	109.6	115.3	118.2
February	78.8	82.0	87.0	92.0	100.5	110.7	115.8	118.6
March	78.7	82.0	87.2	92.5	101.3	110.8	116.1	118.8
April	78.8	82.3	87.2	92.4	102.4	111.9	116.2	
May	79.3	82.4	87.3	92.6	102.9	113.0	116.2	
June	79.6	82.9	87.3	94.0	103.4	113.4	117.1	
July	79.6	83.8	87.9	96.8	103.7	115.6	117.8	
August	80.0	83.9	87.9	97.5	104.1	116.3	117.5	
September	80.4	84.2	87.3	98.1	105.3	116.7	117.8	
October	80.7	85.4	88.1	98.5	106.8	117.2	117.3	
November	80.7	85.4	88.5	99.3	107.6	116.5	117.3	
December	81.1	85.6	89.0	99.6	108.2	115.5	117.2	
Yearly average	79.7	83.5	87.6	95.4	103.8	113.9	116.8	
Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)	+3.9	+ 4.7	+ 4.9	+ 8.9	+ 8.8	+ 9.7	+ 2.5	

^{1/} The CPI for January 2003 to June 2007, originally based on July 2001-June 2002, has been converted to the new base July 2006 - June 2007=100

Table 3 - Main commodities that affected the CPI between December 2009 and March 2010

Index point contribution and percentage change in price index

Commodity	Contribution to change in overall index point	% change in price index
Vegetables	+0.2	+3.9
Milk	+0.2	+4.6
Sugar	+0.1	+28.6
Meat	+0.1	+1.6
Fish	+0.1	+2.8
Fruits	+0.1	+5.5
Other food products	+0.2	+1.7
Alcoholic beverages	+0.1	+0.7
Gasoline	+0.2	+4.2
Air tickets	-0.1	-4.6
Books	+0.1	+6.9
Goods for personal care & hygiene	+0.1	+2.4
Other goods & services	+0.2	+0.5
All commodities	+1.6	+1.4

Table 4 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, December 2009 - March 2010*(Base: July 2006 - June 2007 = 100)*

Division	Description	Weight	December 2009	January 2010	February 2010	March 2010	% change between December 2009 & March 2010
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	286	128.9	131.7	131.9	132.6	+ 2.9
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	92	116.7	117.4	117.4	117.5	+ 0.7
03	Clothing and footwear	51	119.8	120.6	120.8	121.1	+ 1.1
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	131	105.2	105.3	105.4	105.5	+ 0.3
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	64	116.8	117.6	117.7	117.5	+ 0.6
06	Health	30	118.7	120.0	120.2	120.5	+ 1.5
07	Transport	147	112.9	111.5	113.5	113.6	+ 0.6
08	Communication	36	95.7	95.7	95.6	95.5	-0.2
09	Recreation and culture	48	102.3	103.9	104.0	104.3	+ 2.0
10	Education	32	110.9	112.2	112.2	112.2	+ 1.2
11	Restaurants and hotels	43	126.4	126.0	126.1	126.2	-0.2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	40	118.6	120.3	120.3	120.4	+ 1.5
All Divisions		1,000	117.2	118.2	118.6	118.8	+ 1.4

Table 5 - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure, December 2009 - March 2010

(Base: July 2006-June 2007=100)

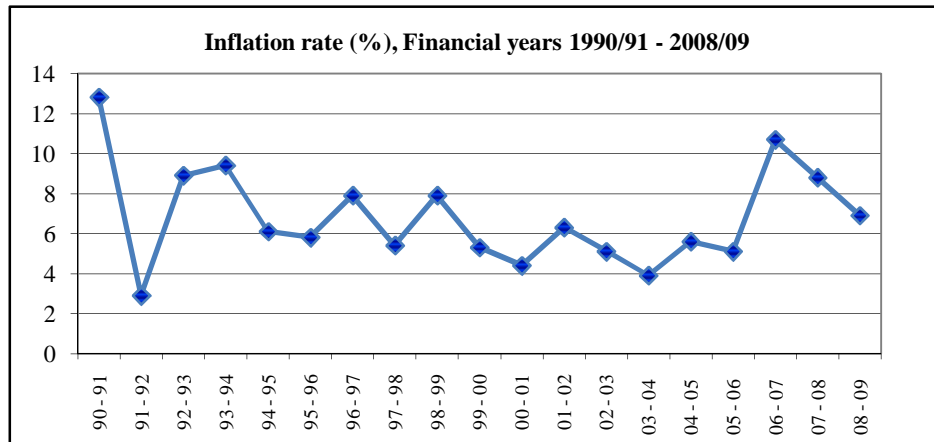
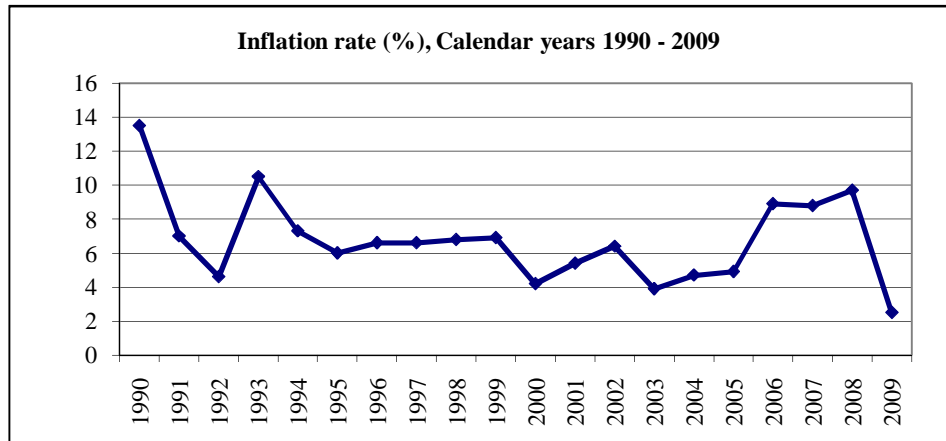
Description	Weight	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
Division 01 - Food and non alcoholic beverages	286	128.4	128.7	128.7	129.8	130.0	130.1	129.7	129.2	129.7	128.9	131.7	131.9	132.6
Group 1 - Food	265	129.9	130.1	129.9	131.1	131.3	131.4	131.0	130.5	130.9	130.0	132.7	132.8	133.5
Group 2 - Non-alcoholic beverages	21	110.7	110.4	112.6	113.2	113.9	113.1	113.4	112.9	114.6	114.2	118.7	120.6	120.3
Division 02 - Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	92	116.5	116.5	116.6	116.9	116.9	116.9	117.0	117.0	117.3	116.7	117.4	117.4	117.5
Group 1 - Alcoholic beverages	50	113.4	113.4	113.5	114.1	114.2	114.1	114.3	114.2	114.8	113.7	115.0	114.9	115.2
Group 2 - Tobacco	42	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3	120.3
Division 03 - Clothing and footwear	51	112.7	112.3	112.8	114.6	115.3	116.7	116.5	116.5	118.1	119.8	120.6	120.8	121.1
Group 1 - Clothing	39	112.3	112.4	112.8	114.7	115.7	117.2	117.0	116.7	118.6	120.7	121.4	121.4	121.5
Group 2 - Footwear	12	114.0	111.9	112.5	114.1	114.1	114.8	114.8	115.9	116.4	117.1	117.9	118.6	119.9
Division 04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	131	107.4	105.0	105.0	104.9	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.3	105.4	105.5
Group 1 - Actual rentals for housing	14	105.3	105.3	105.3	105.3	105.3	105.3	105.7	105.7	105.7	105.7	105.7	105.7	107.2
Group 2 - Mortgage interest on housing loan	37	86.7	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1	78.1
Group 3 - Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	14	111.3	111.0	111.0	110.6	111.0	111.1	111.1	111.3	111.3	111.3	112.9	112.9	112.1
Group 4 - Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	16	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2	103.2
Group 5 - Electricity, gas and other fuels	50	123.6	123.6	123.6	123.6	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.0	124.1	124.1
Division 05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household	64	113.4	114.6	114.8	115.4	116.0	116.1	116.0	115.9	116.5	116.8	117.6	117.7	117.5
Group 1 - Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	17	108.4	108.4	108.6	108.8	108.9	108.9	108.9	108.9	108.9	108.6	108.8	108.8	108.8
Group 2 - Household textiles	4	106.5	104.9	105.2	105.3	106.0	104.9	105.1	105.1	109.2	109.6	111.3	111.9	111.9
Group 3 - Household appliances	9	109.2	109.6	109.0	110.4	109.9	109.7	110.5	111.3	111.2	111.2	109.9	109.9	110.1
Group 4 - Glassware, tableware and household	3	110.8	111.0	111.4	112.0	112.8	112.8	112.4	112.4	113.2	113.7	113.8	115.1	115.1
Group 5 - Tools and equipment for house and	2	105.8	105.9	106.1	106.1	108.8	114.6	114.5	114.1	114.4	119.0	119.0	119.2	119.2
Group 6 - Goods and services for routine household	29	119.4	122.2	122.5	123.1	124.3	124.3	123.9	123.4	124.1	124.5	126.4	126.3	125.8

Table 5 - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure, December 2009 - March 2010*(Base: July 2006-June 2007=100)*

Description	Weight	Mar-09	Apr-09	May-09	Jun-09	Jul-09	Aug-09	Sep-09	Oct-09	Nov-09	Dec-09	Jan-10	Feb-10	Mar-10
Division 11 - Restaurants and hotels	43	123.2	123.2	123.3	123.6	124.1	124.2	124.2	124.4	125.7	126.4	126.0	126.1	126.2
Group 1 - Catering services	42	123.4	123.7	123.9	124.3	124.5	124.7	124.8	124.9	125.8	125.8	125.9	126.1	126.2
Group 2 - Accomodation services	1	112.1	103.0	95.5	95.5	104.4	104.4	99.4	102.0	120.3	149.7	127.0	127.0	127.0
Division 12 - Miscellaneous goods and services	40	116.1	116.0	116.7	117.2	117.9	117.6	117.6	117.7	118.1	118.6	120.3	120.3	120.4
Group 1 - Personal care	23	115.1	114.9	115.8	116.5	117.3	116.8	116.5	116.5	116.8	115.9	118.8	118.7	118.4
Group 3 - Personal effects, not elsewhere classified	3	126.0	125.9	127.7	129.7	130.0	130.3	132.0	134.4	136.1	137.8	137.7	139.7	141.2
Group 4 - Social protection	1	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	118.5	120.4	120.4	120.4
Group 5 - Insurance	10	116.9	116.9	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	117.2	120.4	120.4	120.4	120.4
Group 7 - Other services not elsewhere classified	3	110.4	110.4	110.4	110.4	112.1	112.7	112.7	111.9	113.2	113.2	114.2	113.1	114.2
All divisions	1000	116.1	116.2	116.2	117.1	117.8	117.5	117.8	117.3	117.3	117.2	118.2	118.6	118.8

Table 6 - Inflation rate (%), 1990 - 2009

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>	<i>Financial year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>
1990	13.5	1990/91	12.8
1991	7.0	1991/92	2.9
1992	4.6	1992/93	8.9
1993	10.5	1993/94	9.4
1994	7.3	1994/95	6.1
1995	6.0	1995/96	5.8
1996	6.6	1996/97	7.9
1997	6.6	1997/98	5.4
1998	6.8	1998/99	7.9
1999	6.9	1999/00	5.3
2000	4.2	2000/01	4.4
2001	5.4	2001/02	6.3
2002	6.4	2002/03	5.1
2003	3.9	2003/04	3.9
2004	4.7	2004/05	5.6
2005	4.9	2005/06	5.1
2006	8.9	2006/07	10.7
2007	8.8	2007/08	8.8
2008	9.7	2008/09	6.9
2009	2.5		



Technical note

1. Methodology used for the computation of the Consumer Price Index (Base July 2006 – June 2007 = 100)

(a) Definition

The **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) is an indicator of changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services acquired by Mauritian consumers.

(b) Measurement of the CPI

The CPI measures price change by comparing, through time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services. As prices vary over time, the total cost of the basket also changes and thus the CPI measures the change in the cost of this basket. It provides a way to compare what this basket costs at a given period relative to a reference or base period.

The cost of the CPI basket is assigned a value of 100 in the base period and the costs in other periods are expressed as percentage changes compared to the base period. For example, if the CPI is 110, this means that there has been an increase of 10% in the cost of the basket since the base year; similarly an index of 90 means a 10% decrease in the cost of the basket.

(c) The CPI basket

The CPI basket is based on the expenditures of private Mauritian households in a reference period, currently July 2006 to June 2007. The composition of the current CPI basket has been derived from the 2006/07 Household Budget Survey (HBS) data. It has been determined in accordance with latest ILO and SADC recommendations.

The items constituting the basket have been selected on the basis of the importance of household consumption expenditure on them. The basket includes all important items on which consumption expenditure is significant, i.e. accounting for around 0.1% or more of total household consumption expenditure. Each item's relative importance, which is called the "weight" (usually expressed on a total of 1000), is the expenditure share of the item. Non-consumption items such as income tax, social security contributions, purchase of land, shares and life insurance are excluded.

The commodities in the basket are classified according to the UN COICOP (Classification of Consumption Expenditure according to Purpose) with 12 divisions, 43 groups and 84 classes.

(d) Price coverage

The prices used in the CPI calculation are those that any member of the public would have to pay to purchase the specified goods or services. Any taxes on products attached to the goods are included.

Price collection is done on a regular basis. Each month, around 7,800 price quotations are collected in respect of 1,080 item indicators from some 400 outlets selected to be representative of regions across the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Prices of non-perishable items are collected monthly in the nine geographical districts of the island of Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

Prices of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and fish are collected on a weekly basis from 9 markets in Port Louis, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, Mahebourg, Flacq, Goodlands, Pamplemousses and Port Mathurin.

Information on rent is obtained from a quarterly rent survey of some 100 rented dwellings.

(e) Formula for computation of the CPI

The CPI is computed according to the Laspeyres Formula as a weighted average of price relatives of individual items. The weights are fixed and correspond to the base period expenditures. The Laspeyres Index measures the cost of a basket of goods and services at different points in time, relative to the cost of the same basket in the base period.

The formula used for computing the CPI at time t is

$$I_t = \frac{\sum W_i (P_{it} / P_{i0})}{\sum W_i} \times 100$$

where,

- I_t : CPI for period t with reference to a base period 0
 P_{i0} : Price of item i at time 0, i.e. during base period
 P_{it} : Price of item i at time t
 W_i : Weight of item i

The base period is July 2006 to June 2007, the period during which the latest HBS was conducted.

2. Inflation

(a) Definition of Inflation

Inflation is the percentage change in the level of prices (as measured by the CPI) from one period to another.

(b) Calculating the Inflation Rate

The headline inflation rate in Mauritius, like in many other countries, is calculated by using the annual average method, i.e. by comparing the average level of prices during a twelve-month period with the average level during the corresponding previous twelve-month period. This type of inflation rate is more appropriate for adjusting wages, salaries and pensions to compensate for loss of purchasing power. *All inflation rates presented in this publication relate to the headline inflation.*

Another commonly used method of calculating the inflation rate is the so called ‘year-on-year’ method. The year-on-year inflation rate is calculated as the percentage change in the CPI for a given month with respect to the CPI for the corresponding month of the previous year. It is generally used by central banks for monetary policy decisions. Year-on-year inflation rates are not presented in this publication but can be easily calculated through the available monthly CPI.

Note: More information about the concept, computation and use of the CPI is available online in the publication “HBS 2006/07 and updated CPI” [<http://www.gov.mu/portal/goc/cso/ei664/toc.htm>]