

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base period: January – December 2012 = 100)

1st Quarter 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first quarter 2016. 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 106.9 in December 2015, registered a net increase of 4.2 points (or 4.0%) to reach 111.1 in March 2016 (Table 2a).

On a monthly basis, the CPI increased by 1.4 points in January, 1.8 points in February and 1.0 point in March.

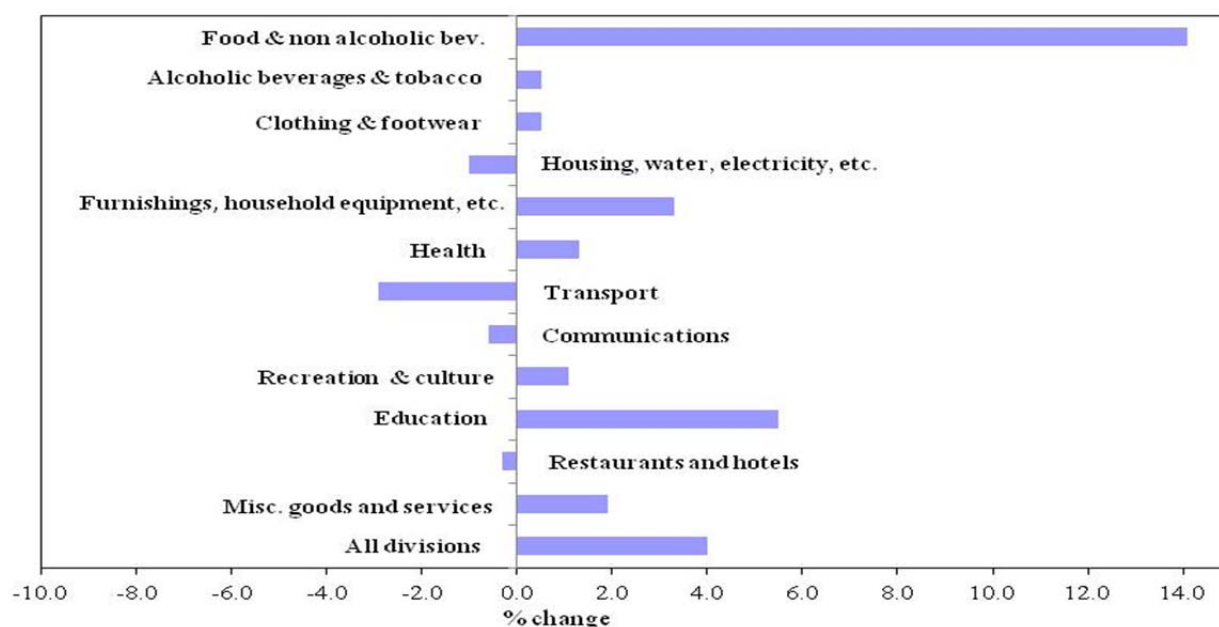
2.2 Overview of CPI movements

The main reasons for the net increase in the CPI from December 2015 to March 2016 (Table 3) were:

- (a) significantly higher prices for vegetables (+86.0%) and some other food products (+1.0%);
- (b) higher prices of washing materials and softeners (+5.0%);
- (c) higher tuition fees (+10.8%);
- (d) higher university fees (+2.9%);
- (e) higher prices of goods for personal care (+3.5%);
- (f) higher prices of some other goods and services (+0.4%);
partly offset by
- (g) lower electricity rates (-2.0%);
- (h) lower prices of gasoline (-6.0%), diesel (-9.9%) and air tickets (-7.4%).

3. MOVEMENT OF CPI SUB INDICES

Chart 1 : Percentage change in CPI sub indices from December 2015 to March 2016



The changes in the sub-indices (Table 4) for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure from December 2015 to March 2016 were as follows:

<i>Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+14.1%)</i>	The increase of 14.1% was mainly the result of higher prices of vegetables (+86.0%), margarine (+9.1%), traders' rice (+1.8%) and meat (+0.7%), partly offset by lower prices of fruits (-3.3%).
<i>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+0.5%)</i>	The increase of 0.5% was mainly due to price increases of rum and other cane spirits (+0.9%) and, beer and stout (+1.0%)
<i>Clothing and footwear (+0.5%)</i>	The increase of 0.5% was mainly due to price increases in some ready-made clothing (+0.1%) and footwear (+1.5%).
<i>Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (-1.0%)</i>	The decrease of 1.0% was due to lower electricity rates for low income households (-2.0%), lower interest on housing loan (-1.3%) and revocation of charges for households consuming less than 6 cubic metres of water (-3.9%).
<i>Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (+3.3%)</i>	The increase of 3.3% was mainly due to higher prices of washing materials and softeners (+5.0%) and major household appliances (+4.4%).
<i>Health (+1.4%)</i>	The increase of 1.4% was mainly the effect of higher doctors' fees (+2.0%) and higher clinic fees (+1.2%).
<i>Transport (-2.9%)</i>	The decrease of 2.9% was mainly due to lower prices of gasoline (-6.0%), diesel (-9.9%) and air tickets (-7.4%).
<i>Communication (-0.5%)</i>	The decrease of 0.5% was mainly due to lower prices of mobile phones (-8.5%).
<i>Recreation and culture (+1.1%)</i>	The increase of 1.1% was mainly the result of higher prices of audio visual equipments (+6.7%) and textbooks (+0.9%).
<i>Education (+5.5%)</i>	The increase of 5.5% was mainly the effect of higher university fees (+2.9%) and higher tuition fees (+10.8%).
<i>Restaurants and hotels (-0.3%)</i>	The decrease of 0.3% was mainly due to lower rates for accommodation in hotels (-11.3%).
<i>Miscellaneous goods and services (+1.9%)</i>	The increase of 1.9% was mainly attributable to higher prices of goods for personal care (+3.5%).

4. INFLATION RATE

The headline inflation rate was 1.3% for year 2015 compared to 3.2% for year 2014 (Table 6).

The headline inflation rate excluding 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' was 1.2% for year 2015 compared to 2.9% for year 2014.

The headline inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2016 works out to 0.9%, compared to 2.4% for the twelve months ending March 2015.

The headline inflation rate excluding "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" for the twelve months ending March 2016 works out to 0.7% compared to 2.2% for the twelve months ending March 2015.

5. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF INFLATION RATE

The table below compares the inflation rate (as measured by the percentage change in the average CPI for a given year relative to the previous year) of Mauritius with those of our main importing countries and some countries in the region for year 2015.

Table 1 - Inflation rate (%) of selected countries, year 2015

Country	Inflation rate (%)	Country	Inflation rate (%)
France	0.0	Australia	1.5
United Kingdom	0.1	United States	0.1
China	1.4	Botswana	3.1
India	5.9	Mauritius	1.3
Japan	0.8	Seychelles	4.0
Singapore	-0.5	South Africa	4.6

Source – National Statistical Office of respective countries

Note :

- (i) This publication is available on the website of Statistics Mauritius at <http://statsmauritius.govmu.org> 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.

Contact persons:

- (1) Mr Sanjev Bhonoo
Statistician
sbhonoo@govmu.org
- (2) Mrs Gyantee Jugoo
Senior Statistical Officer
gjugoo@govmu.org

CPI Unit
Statistics Mauritius
LIC Building, Port Louis
Tel: (230) 212 2316/17
Fax: (230) 211 4150
Email: cso_cpi@govmu.org

Table 2a - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 2008 - March 2016

<i>Month</i>	<i>(Base : July 2006 - June 2007 = 100)</i>						<i>(Base : Jan - Dec 2012 = 100)</i>			
	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
January	109.6	115.3	118.2	125.8	131.9	135.7		107.2	107.9	108.3
February	110.7	115.8	118.6	126.7	131.9	136.6		108.5	110.7	110.1
March	110.8	116.1	118.8	127.4	132.3	137.1		107.7	110.1	111.1
April	111.9	116.2	119.3	127.6	132.5		103.4	107.7	110.0	
May	113.0	116.2	119.1	127.6	132.5		103.3	106.8	107.3	
June	113.4	117.1	119.9	127.8	132.8		103.4	106.8	107.2	
July	115.6	117.8	120.2	128.2	133.0		103.6	106.8	107.4	
August	116.3	117.5	120.6	128.4	133.2		103.3	107.2	108.4	
September	116.7	117.8	120.7	128.3	133.3		103.5	106.5	108.6	
October	117.2	117.3	121.0	128.2	133.6		103.9	105.9	107.5	
November	116.5	117.3	121.9	130.4	134.4		105.0	105.9	107.0	
December	115.5	117.2	124.4	130.4	134.6		105.3	105.5	106.9	
<i>Yearly average</i>	<i>113.9</i>	<i>116.8</i>	<i>120.2</i>	<i>128.1</i>	<i>133.0</i>		<i>103.5</i>	<i>106.9</i>	<i>108.3</i>	
<i>Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+ 9.7	+ 2.5	+ 2.9	+ 6.5	+ 3.9		+ 3.5	+ 3.2	+ 1.3	

Table 2b - Comparative Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 2008 - March 2016 ^{1/}
(Base: January - December 2012 = 100)

<u>Month</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
January	82.4	86.7	88.9	94.6	99.2	102.0	107.2	107.9	108.3
February	83.2	87.1	89.2	95.3	99.2	102.7	108.5	110.7	110.1
March	83.3	87.3	89.3	95.8	99.5	103.1	107.7	110.1	111.1
April	84.1	87.4	89.7	95.9	99.6	103.4	107.7	110.0	
May	85.0	87.4	89.5	95.9	99.6	103.3	106.8	107.3	
June	85.3	88.0	90.2	96.1	99.8	103.4	106.8	107.2	
July	86.9	88.6	90.4	96.4	100.0	103.6	106.8	107.4	
August	87.4	88.3	90.7	96.5	100.2	103.3	107.2	108.4	
September	87.7	88.6	90.8	96.5	100.2	103.5	106.5	108.6	
October	88.1	88.2	91.0	96.4	100.5	103.9	105.9	107.5	
November	87.6	88.2	91.7	98.0	101.1	105.0	105.9	107.0	
December	86.8	88.1	93.5	98.0	101.2	105.3	105.5	106.9	
<i>Yearly average</i>	<i>85.7</i>	<i>87.8</i>	<i>90.4</i>	<i>96.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>103.5</i>	<i>106.9</i>	<i>108.3</i>	
Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)	+ 9.7	+ 2.5	+ 2.9	+ 6.5	+ 3.9	+ 3.5	+ 3.2	+ 1.3	

^{1/} The CPI for January 2008 to March 2013, originally based on July 2006-June 2007, has been converted to the new base January - December 2012=100 using a linking factor of 1.33. Example: the monthly CPI for January 2013 has been converted to the new base by dividing 135.7 by 1.33 (=102.0)

Table 3 - Net contribution of main commodities that affected the index from December 2015 to March 2016

Commodity	Contribution to change in overall index point	Percentage change in price index
Vegetables	+ 3.8	+ 86.0
Other food products	+ 0.3	+ 1.0
Electricity	-0.1	-2.0
Washing materials & softeners	+ 0.1	+ 5.0
Gasolene	-0.2	-6.0
Air tickets	-0.1	-7.4
Diesel	-0.1	-9.9
Tuitions fees	+ 0.2	+ 10.8
University fees	+ 0.1	+ 2.9
Goods for personal care	+ 0.1	+ 3.5
Other goods & services	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Overall	+ 4.2	+ 4.0

Table 4 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, December 2015 to March 2016

(Base: January - December 2012 = 100)

Division	Description	Weight	December-15	January-16	February-16	March-16	% change between December 2015 and March 2016
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	273	106.5	110.2	117.4	121.5	+14.1
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	96	119.4	119.9	120.0	120.0	+0.5
03	Clothing and footwear	45	118.7	119.0	119.5	119.3	+0.5
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	120	100.4	99.6	99.7	99.4	-1.0
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	61	105.1	107.6	108.1	108.6	+3.3
06	Health	40	114.7	115.5	115.5	116.2	+1.4
07	Transport	151	100.6	100.1	98.4	97.7	-2.9
08	Communication	39	94.9	94.9	94.9	94.3	-0.5
09	Recreation and culture	44	109.7	110.7	110.8	110.9	+1.1
10	Education	45	105.6	110.5	111.4	111.4	+5.5
11	Restaurants and hotels	45	115.5	115.6	115.1	115.1	-0.3
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	41	104.6	105.8	106.0	106.6	+1.9
All Divisions		1,000	106.9	108.3	110.1	111.1	+4.0

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Table 5 - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure, December 2015 - March 2016*(Base: January - December 2012 = 100)*

Description	Wgt	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Division 01 - Food and non alcoholic beverages	273	106.5	110.2	117.4	121.5
Group 1 - Food	254	106.2	110.1	117.7	122.1
Group 2 - Non-alcoholic beverages	19	110.2	112.8	113.5	113.0
Division 02 - Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	96	119.4	119.9	120.0	120.0
Group 1 - Alcoholic beverages	51	114.7	115.6	115.9	115.9
Group 2 - Tobacco	45	124.7	124.7	124.7	124.7
Division 03 - Clothing and footwear	45	118.7	119.0	119.5	119.3
Group 1 - Clothing	34	119.5	119.7	120.1	119.8
Group 2 - Footwear	11	116.0	116.8	117.9	117.7
Division 04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	120	100.4	99.6	99.7	99.4
Group 1 - Actual rentals for housing	13	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.5
Group 2 - Mortgage interest on housing loan	30	91.0	89.9	89.9	89.9
Group 3 - Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	12	120.2	121.7	122.1	122.1
Group 4 - Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	12	101.1	101.1	101.1	97.7
Group 5 - Electricity, gas and other fuels	53	100.4	99.0	99.0	99.0
Division 05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	61	105.1	107.6	108.1	108.6
Group 1 - Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	16	99.2	101.0	101.1	101.1
Group 2 - Household textiles	3	111.4	112.9	113.7	113.7

Table 5 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure, December 2015 - March 2016
(Base: January - December 2012 = 100)

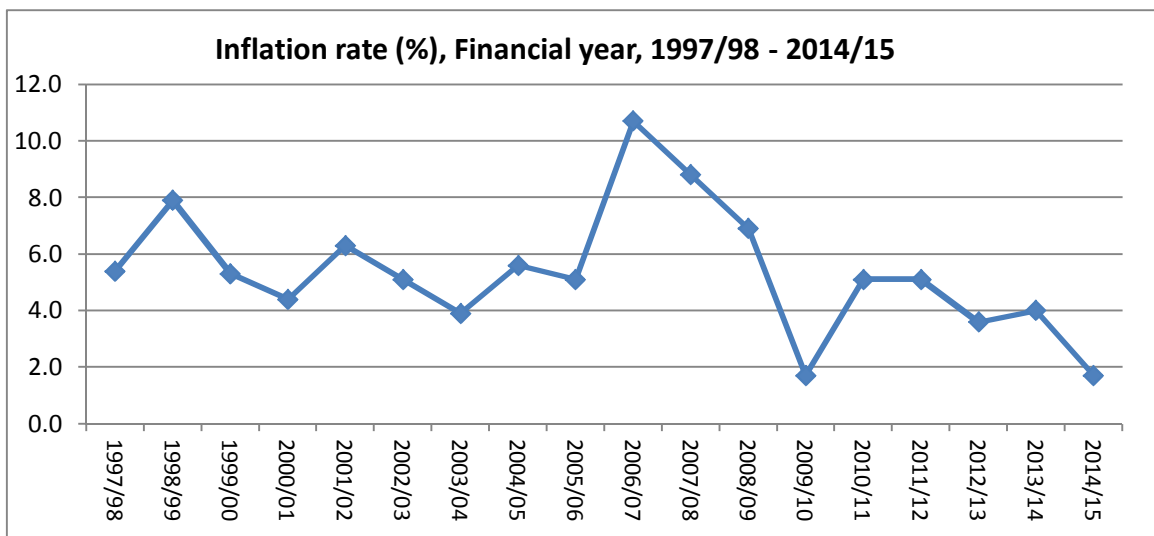
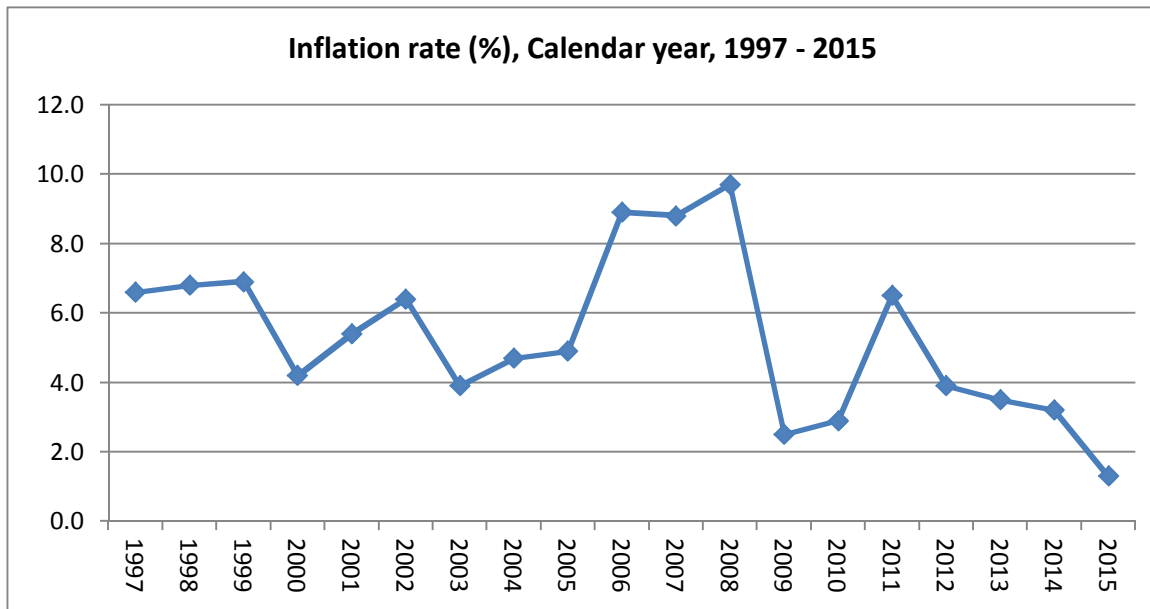
Description	Wgt	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Group 3 - Household appliances	12	104.1	107.6	107.5	108.2
Group 4 - Glassware, tableware and household utensils	2	114.1	114.1	118.6	118.6
Group 5 - Tools and equipment for house and garden	2	106.8	106.6	107.2	107.4
Group 6 - Goods and services for routine household maintenance	26	107.7	110.6	111.3	112.1
Division 06 - Health	40	114.7	115.5	115.5	116.2
Group 1 - Medical products, appliances and equipment	14	106.2	106.4	106.4	107.0
Group 2 - Outpatient services	17	122.2	123.2	123.2	124.5
Group 3 - Hospital services	9	113.7	115.0	115.0	115.0
Division 07 - Transport	151	100.6	100.1	98.4	97.7
Group 1 - Purchase of vehicles	52	114.8	114.9	115.8	114.5
Group 2 - Operation of personal transport equipment	66	88.7	88.9	84.5	84.1
Group 3 - Transport services	33	102.2	99.4	98.7	98.7
Division 08 - Communication	39	94.9	94.9	94.9	94.3
Group 2 - Telephone and telefax equipment	3	79.8	79.8	79.8	73.0
Group 3 - Telephone and telefax services	36	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1
Division 09 - Recreation and culture	44	109.7	110.7	110.8	110.9
Group 1 - Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	12	90.3	93.2	92.6	92.6
Group 3 - Other recreational items and equipment, gardens and pets	5	111.9	111.8	112.2	112.1
Group 4 - Recreational and cultural services	12	124.6	124.7	124.7	125.2

Table 5 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure, December 2015 - March 2016
(Base: January - December 2012 = 100)

Description	Wgt	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Group 5 - Newspapers, books and stationery	15	112.7	113.3	113.9	113.8
Division 10 - Education	45	105.6	110.5	111.4	111.4
Group 1 - Pre-primary and primary education	7	116.2	122.3	122.3	122.3
Group 2 - Secondary education	16	105.3	115.4	115.4	115.4
Group 3 - Post-secondary and non-tertiary education	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 4 - Tertiary education	20	102.6	103.4	105.4	105.4
Group 5 - Education not definable by level	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Division 11 - Restaurants and hotels	45	115.5	115.6	115.1	115.1
Group 1 - Catering services	43	115.2	115.4	115.4	115.5
Group 2 - Accomodation services	2	122.2	119.5	108.4	108.4
Division 12 - Miscellaneous goods and services	41	104.6	105.8	106.0	106.6
Group 1 - Personal care	21	105.6	108.0	108.2	109.1
Group 3 - Personal effects, not elsewhere classified	3	99.4	98.8	98.9	101.3
Group 4 - Social protection	1	115.5	115.5	115.5	115.5
Group 5 - Insurance	12	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 6 - Financial services not elsewhere classified	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 7 - Other services not elsewhere classified	3	119.3	119.7	120.0	119.8
All divisions	1000	106.9	108.3	110.1	111.1

Table 6 - Headline inflation rate (%), 1997 - 2015

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>
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	2009/10	1.7
2010	2.9	2010/11	5.1
2011	6.5	2011/12	5.1
2012	3.9	2012/13	3.6
2013	3.5	2013/14	4.0
2014	3.2	2014/15	1.7
2015	1.3		



Technical note

1. Methodology used for the computation of the Consumer Price Index (Base period: January - December 2012 = 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 households in a reference period, currently January to December 2012. The composition of the current CPI basket has been derived from the 2012 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, 42 groups and 80 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 1,020 item indicators from some 500 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 January to December 2012, 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 2012 Methodological Report and updated CPI](#)”.