

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base period: January – December 2017 = 100)

Year 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

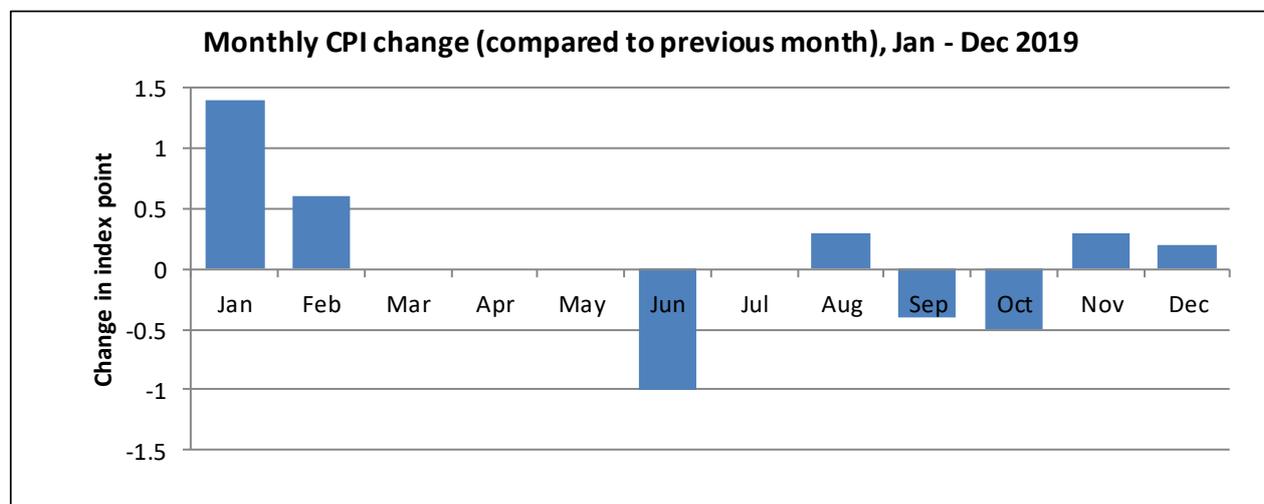
This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the year 2019. The methodology used for computing the CPI and the inflation rate is given in the technical note at Annex.

2. KEY POINTS

2.1 Overall CPI

The Consumer Price Index, which stood at 102.4 in December 2018, registered a net increase of 0.9 point (or 0.9%) to reach 103.3 in December 2019 (Table 1a).

The monthly CPI changes in 2019 are shown in the chart below. Increases were noted in January, February, August, November and December and ranged from 0.2 to 1.4 points with the highest increase in the month of January 2019. On the other hand, decreases which ranged from -0.4 to -1.0 point were noted in the months of June, September and October, with the highest decrease in June 2019. The CPI remained unchanged from March to May 2019 and in the month of July.



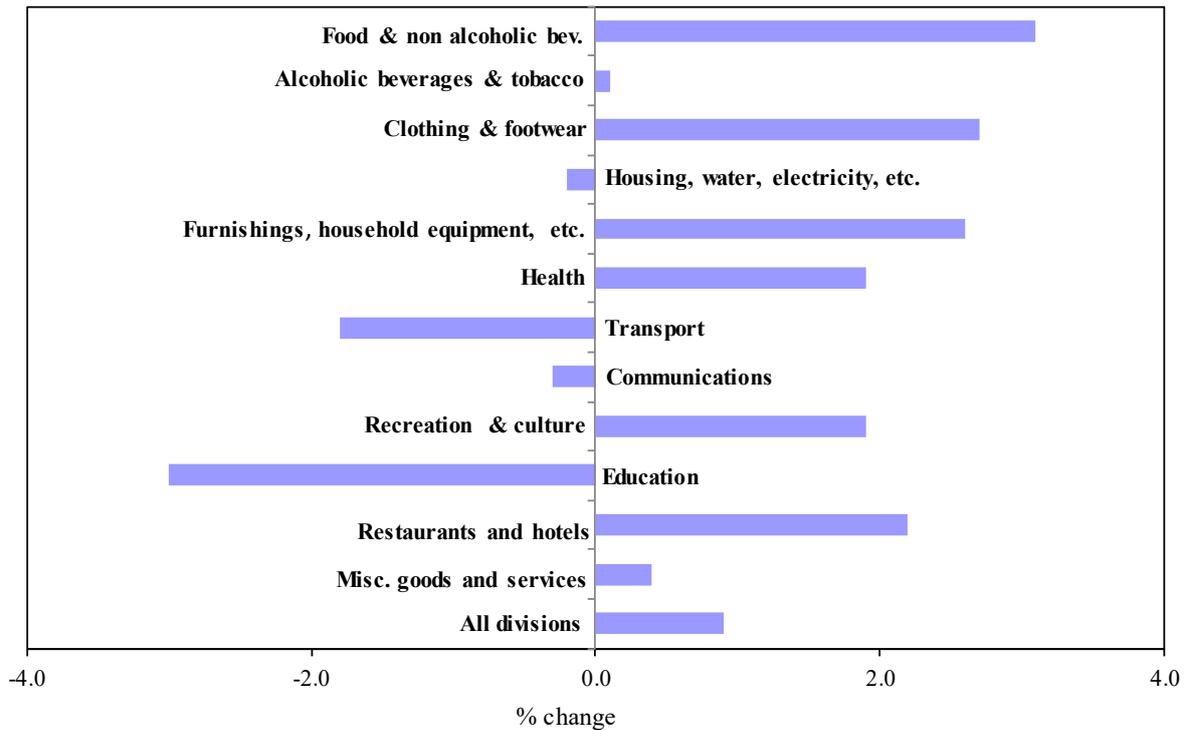
2.2 Overview of CPI movements

The main reasons for the net increase in CPI during the year 2019 (Table 2) were:

- (a) higher prices for vegetables, fruits, milk, meat, and some other food products;
 - (b) higher prices of ready-made clothing;
 - (c) higher prices of motor vehicles and air tickets;
 - (d) higher prices for prepared foods; and
 - (e) higher prices of some other goods and services;
- partly offset by
- (f) lower prices of cooking gas;
 - (g) lower prices of gasoline and diesel; and
 - (h) lower university fees.

3. MOVEMENT OF CPI SUB INDICES

Percentage change in CPI sub indices for year 2019



The changes in the sub-indices (Table 3) for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure during the year 2019 were as follows:

<u>Division of consumption expenditure</u>	<u>Main contributors to change</u>
<i>Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+3.1%)</i>	Higher prices of vegetables (+9.6%), fruits (+8.6%), powdered milk (+4.9%), meat (+2.1%), fish (+1.8%) and culinary herbs (+15.1%), partly mitigated by lower prices of pulses (-11.9%).
<i>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+0.1%)</i>	Higher prices of beer and stout (+0.3%).
<i>Clothing and footwear (+2.7%)</i>	Higher prices of ready-made clothing (+2.3%) and footwear (+4.1%).
<i>Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (-0.2%)</i>	Lower prices of cooking gas (-12.5%), partly offset by higher workman's wages (+6.0%) and higher interest rates on housing loan (+1.0%).
<i>Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (+2.6%)</i>	Higher prices of some major household appliances (+4.4%), furniture (+1.9%) and higher charges for domestic services (+3.0%).

<i>Health (+1.9%)</i>	Higher clinic charges (+3.9%) and doctors' fees (+1.7%).
<i>Transport (-1.8%)</i>	Lower prices of gasoline (-11.4%) and diesel (-12.5%), partly offset by higher prices of motor vehicles (+4.3%), air tickets (+5.8%) and taxi fare (+6.7%).
<i>Communication (-0.3%)</i>	Lower prices of mobile phone equipment (-3.0%).
<i>Recreation and culture (+1.9%)</i>	Higher prices of stationery (+7.7%), private TV subscription fee (+1.2%), newspapers and magazines (+4.8%) and information processing equipment (+2.7%).
<i>Education (-3.0%)</i>	Lower university fees (-79.1%) and vocational and technical courses (-44.8%) following implementation of the scheme to provide free higher education in public tertiary education institutions, partly offset by higher secondary tuition fees (+5.0%) and university fees in private institutions (+1.5%).
<i>Restaurants and hotels (+2.2%)</i>	Higher prices of prepared foods (+2.0%), higher charges for food and drinks in bars and restaurants (+2.8%), and higher fees for accommodation services (+3.9%).
<i>Miscellaneous goods and services (+0.4%)</i>	Higher fees for medical insurance (+4.2%) and higher prices of jewellery (+10.3%), partly offset by lower prices of goods for personal care (-2.2%).

4. INFLATION RATE

The headline inflation rate decreased from 3.2% in year 2018 to 0.5% in year 2019 (Table 5).

The headline inflation rate excluding 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' decreased from 3.1% in year 2018 to 0.4% in year 2019.

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 trading partners and some countries in the region for year 2018.

Inflation rate (%) of selected countries, year 2018

Country	Inflation rate (%)	Country	Inflation rate (%)
France	2.1	Australia	2.0
United Kingdom	2.5	United States	2.4
China	2.1	Botswana	3.2
India	3.4	Mauritius	3.2
Japan	1.0	Seychelles	3.7
Singapore	0.4	South Africa	4.6

Source – World Economic Outlook Database, October 2019

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 Rajive Ajodhea
Statistician
rajodhea@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 1A - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 2013 - December 2019

<i>Month</i>	<i>(Base : Jan to Dec 2012 = 100)</i>						<i>(Base : Jan - Dec 2017 = 100)</i>	
	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
January	102.0	107.2	107.9	108.3	110.2	117.0		103.8
February	102.7	108.5	110.7	110.1	111.5	119.3		104.4
March	103.1	107.7	110.1	111.1	112.5	120.0		104.4
April	103.4	107.7	110.0	110.2	113.4		103.8	104.4
May	103.3	106.8	107.3	108.2	114.6		103.6	104.4
June	103.4	106.8	107.2	108.4	115.3		102.8	103.4
July	103.6	106.8	107.4	108.5	114.3		102.6	103.4
August	103.3	107.2	108.4	109.4	114.4		101.9	103.7
September	103.5	106.5	108.6	109.6	113.4		102.0	103.3
October	103.9	105.9	107.5	109.1	112.9		102.4	102.8
November	105.0	105.9	107.0	109.4	113.3		102.8	103.1
December	105.3	105.5	106.9	109.4	114.0		102.4	103.3
<i>Yearly average</i>	<i>103.5</i>	<i>106.9</i>	<i>108.3</i>	<i>109.3</i>	<i>113.3</i>			<i>103.7</i>
<i>Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+ 3.5	+ 3.2	+ 1.3	+ 1.0	+ 3.7		+ 3.2	+ 0.5

Table 1B - Comparative Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 2013 - December 2019 ^{1/}
(Base: January - December 2017 = 100)

<i><u>Month</u></i>	<i><u>2013</u></i>	<i><u>2014</u></i>	<i><u>2015</u></i>	<i><u>2016</u></i>	<i><u>2017</u></i>	<i><u>2018</u></i>	<i><u>2019</u></i>
January	90.0	94.6	95.2	95.6	97.3	103.2	103.8
February	90.6	95.7	97.7	97.2	98.4	105.3	104.4
March	90.9	95.0	97.1	98.1	99.3	105.9	104.4
April	91.2	95.0	97.1	97.3	100.1	103.8	104.4
May	91.1	94.2	94.7	95.5	101.1	103.6	104.4
June	91.2	94.2	94.5	95.7	101.7	102.8	103.4
July	91.4	94.2	94.8	95.7	100.9	102.6	103.4
August	91.1	94.6	95.6	96.5	100.9	101.9	103.7
September	91.3	94.0	95.8	96.7	100.1	102.0	103.3
October	91.7	93.4	94.9	96.2	99.6	102.4	102.8
November	92.7	93.4	94.4	96.5	100.0	102.8	103.1
December	92.9	93.1	94.3	96.5	100.6	102.4	103.3
<i>Yearly average</i>	<i>91.4</i>	<i>94.3</i>	<i>95.5</i>	<i>96.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>103.2</i>	<i>103.7</i>
<i>Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)</i>	<i>+ 3.5</i>	<i>+ 3.2</i>	<i>+ 1.3</i>	<i>+ 1.0</i>	<i>+ 3.7</i>	<i>+ 3.2</i>	<i>+ 0.5</i>

^{1/} *The CPI for January 2013 to March 2018, originally based on January to December 2012, has been converted to the new base January - December 2017=100 using a linking factor of 1.133167. Example: the monthly CPI for January 2018 has been converted to the new base by dividing 117.0 by 1.133167 (=103.2)*

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that affected the index from December 2018 to December 2019

Commodity	Contribution to change in overall index point	Percentage change in price index
Vegetables	+ 0.4	+ 9.6
Fruits	+ 0.1	+ 8.6
Milk	+ 0.1	+ 4.9
Meat	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Other food products	+ 0.1	+ 0.8
Ready made clothing	+ 0.1	+ 2.3
Cooking gas	-0.1	-12.5
Gasolene	-0.6	-11.4
Motor vehicles	+ 0.2	+ 4.3
Air Tickets	+ 0.1	+ 5.8
Diesel	-0.1	-12.5
University fees Undergraduate Public	-0.3	-79.1
Prepared foods	+ 0.1	+ 2.0
Other goods and services	+ 0.7	+ 1.2
Overall	+ 0.9	+ 0.9

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, December 2018 to December 2019 - (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)

Division	Description	Weight	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Percentage change between December 2018 and December 2019
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	248	101.6	105.6	109.2	110.0	109.6	109.5	106.3	105.9	106.6	105.1	102.9	103.2	104.8	+ 3.1
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	110	104.2	105.0	105.3	105.0	104.8	104.9	105.2	105.0	105.2	105.3	105.0	105.1	104.3	+ 0.1
03	Clothing and footwear	46	102.9	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.8	104.7	104.9	104.9	105.0	105.1	105.7	+ 2.7
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	112	97.7	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.2	97.5	97.6	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.6	- 0.2
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	59	100.9	103.0	103.6	103.3	103.1	103.5	103.6	104.1	104.1	104.5	104.0	104.6	103.5	+ 2.6
06	Health	38	103.2	105.2	105.3	105.3	105.2	105.0	105.0	105.1	105.1	105.2	105.1	105.2	105.2	+ 1.9
07	Transport	147	107.0	105.4	103.6	103.1	104.0	104.4	103.0	103.8	104.0	103.7	104.0	104.8	105.2	- 1.8
08	Communication	44	99.0	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.0	99.0	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7	- 0.3
09	Recreation and culture	42	100.9	101.1	101.8	101.3	101.8	101.4	101.7	102.1	102.2	102.4	102.4	102.7	102.8	+ 1.9
10	Education	50	104.2	105.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.1	101.1	101.1	-3.0
11	Restaurants and hotels	54	104.1	105.5	105.1	105.1	105.1	104.4	104.5	104.6	104.9	104.9	105.9	106.0	106.4	+ 2.2
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	50	101.0	102.7	103.6	103.0	103.2	103.2	103.8	102.9	103.2	103.1	102.9	103.0	101.4	+ 0.4
All Divisions		1000	102.4	103.8	104.4	104.4	104.4	104.4	103.4	103.4	103.7	103.3	102.8	103.1	103.3	+ 0.9

**Table 4 - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,
December 2018 to December 2019 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)**

Description	Wgt	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19
Division 01 - Food and non alcoholic beverages	248	101.6	105.6	109.2	110.0	109.6	109.5	106.3	105.9	106.6	105.1	102.9	103.2	104.8
Group 1 - Food	230	101.6	105.7	109.6	110.4	110.0	109.8	106.4	106.0	106.7	105.1	102.8	103.1	104.9
Group 2 - Non-alcoholic beverages	18.0	101.8	104.4	104.7	104.3	104.5	105.6	104.6	104.9	104.7	105.3	103.5	104.7	103.1
Division 02 - Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	110	104.2	105.0	105.3	105.0	104.8	104.9	105.2	105.0	105.2	105.3	105.0	105.1	104.3
Group 1 - Alcoholic beverages	61	101.6	103.1	103.6	103.0	102.6	102.9	103.4	103.0	103.5	103.5	103.0	103.2	101.8
Group 2 - Tobacco	49	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4
Division 03 - Clothing and footwear	46	102.9	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.8	104.7	104.9	104.9	105.0	105.1	105.7
Group 1 - Clothing	36	103.1	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.9	104.8	104.9	104.9	105.0	105.2	105.5
Group 2 - Footwear	10	102.3	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.8	104.8	104.9	104.9	106.5
Division 04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	112	97.7	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.2	98.2	97.5	97.6	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.6
Group 1 - Actual rentals for housing	10	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.4	101.7	101.7	101.7	101.8
Group 2 - Mortgage interest on housing loan	31	93.4	93.4	93.4	93.4	93.4	93.4	93.4	94.6	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4
Group 3 - Maintenance and repair of the dwelling	13	103.7	107.3	107.3	107.5	107.6	107.7	107.7	107.7	108.0	108.1	108.1	108.1	108.1
Group 4 - Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling	11	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 5 - Electricity, gas and other fuels	47	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6	97.6	96.1	95.3	95.3	95.3	95.3	95.3	95.3
Division 05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	59	100.9	103.0	103.6	103.3	103.1	103.5	103.6	104.1	104.1	104.5	104.0	104.6	103.5
Group 1 - Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings	14	99.4	101.6	101.6	101.6	101.2	101.6	102.3	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.3	101.3
Group 2 - Household textiles	5	101.6	102.2	102.5	102.5	102.5	103.1	103.3	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.5
Group 3 - Household appliances	12	98.5	99.7	101.3	100.9	100.8	101.5	101.7	101.1	101.5	101.4	102.5	103.1	102.8

**Table 4 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,
December 2018 to December 2019 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)**

Description	Wgt	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19
Group 4 - Glassware, tableware and household utensils	2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.5	99.5	99.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.4	100.4
Group 5 - Tools and equipment for house and garden	2	103.0	103.0	103.0	103.0	103.4	103.4	103.4	103.2	103.2	103.5	103.0	103.4	103.4
Group 6 - Goods and services for routine household maintenance	24	102.7	105.8	106.4	105.9	105.8	106.0	105.8	107.5	107.3	108.2	106.5	107.9	105.4
Division 06 - Health	38	103.2	105.2	105.3	105.3	105.2	105.0	105.0	105.1	105.1	105.2	105.1	105.2	105.2
Group 1 - Medical products, appliances and equipment	14	100.8	100.9	101.2	101.2	100.9	100.3	100.3	100.5	100.6	100.8	100.7	100.8	100.9
Group 2 - Outpatient services	15	104.9	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4
Group 3 - Hospital services	9	104.1	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2	108.2
Division 07 - Transport	147	107.0	105.4	103.6	103.1	104.0	104.4	103.0	103.8	104.0	103.7	104.0	104.8	105.2
Group 1 - Purchase of vehicles	50	99.5	99.8	99.8	99.9	101.2	100.4	100.4	100.7	100.7	100.8	101.4	103.8	103.8
Group 2 - Operation of personal transport equipment	64	112.5	109.5	107.8	107.8	107.8	107.8	104.1	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3	102.3
Group 3 - Transport services	33	108.0	105.6	101.2	99.0	101.0	104.1	105.0	111.6	112.4	111.1	111.5	111.1	112.7
Division 08 - Communication	44	99.0	99.5	99.5	99.5	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.0	99.0	98.7	98.7	98.7	98.7
Group 2 - Telephone and telefax equipment	5	91.0	95.1	95.1	95.5	92.5	92.5	92.5	91.1	91.1	88.4	88.4	88.4	88.3
Group 3 - Telephone and telefax services	39	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Division 09 - Recreation and culture	42	100.9	101.1	101.8	101.3	101.8	101.4	101.7	102.1	102.2	102.4	102.4	102.7	102.8
Group 1 - Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment	9	95.1	95.3	96.1	94.3	96.3	94.1	95.3	95.4	95.4	95.7	95.7	96.0	96.3
Group 3 - Other recreational items and equipment, gardens and pets	6	102.5	102.6	102.7	101.9	102.0	102.4	102.7	102.7	103.2	103.1	102.9	103.6	102.9

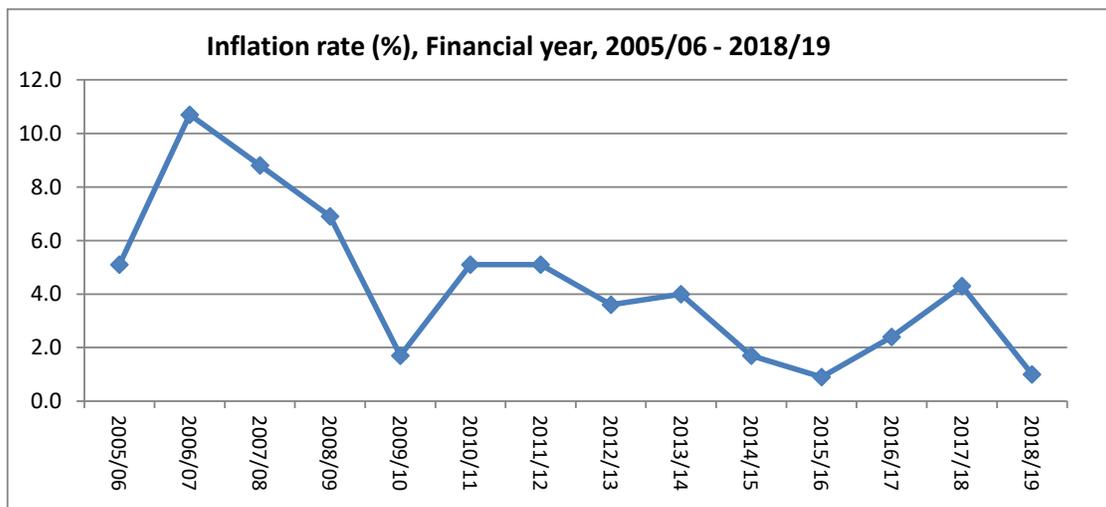
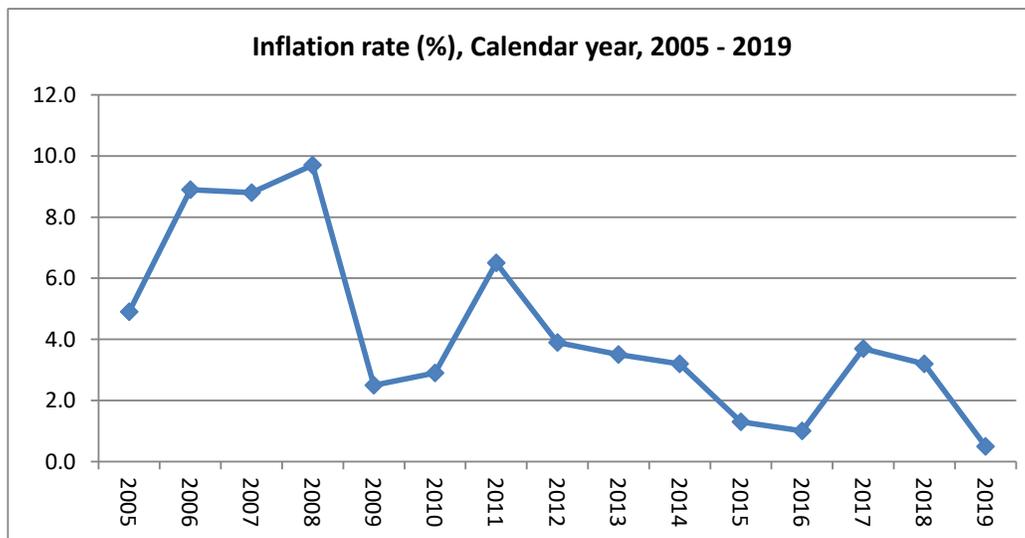
Table 4 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,

December 2018 to December 2019 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)

Description	Wgt	Dec-18	Jan-19	Feb-19	Mar-19	Apr-19	May-19	Jun-19	Jul-19	Aug-19	Sep-19	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19
Group 4 - Recreational and cultural services	15	100.4	100.4	100.8	100.8	100.8	100.8	100.8	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	102.0	102.1
Group 5 - Newspapers, books and stationery	12	105.2	105.6	106.9	106.8	107.0	107.2	107.2	107.1	107.3	107.7	107.8	108.1	108.5
Division 10 - Education	50	104.2	105.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	101.1	101.1	101.1
Group 1 - Pre-primary and primary education	5	106.4	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6	110.6
Group 2 - Secondary education	10	104.2	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1	109.1
Group 3 - Post-secondary and non-tertiary education	0.5	100.0	100.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0
Group 4 - Tertiary education	34	103.9	103.9	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1	96.1	97.6	97.6	97.6
Group 5 - Education not definable by level	0.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	55.2	55.2	55.2	55.2	55.2	55.2	55.2	55.2
Division 11 - Restaurants and hotels	54	104.1	105.5	105.1	105.1	105.1	104.4	104.5	104.6	104.9	104.9	105.9	106.0	106.4
Group 1 - Catering services	51	103.7	105.1	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.3	105.4	105.7	105.7	105.7	105.9	105.9
Group 2 - Accommodation services	3	110.9	110.9	104.9	104.9	104.9	90.7	90.7	90.7	90.7	90.7	108.9	108.9	115.2
Division 12 - Miscellaneous goods and services	50	101.0	102.7	103.6	103.0	103.2	103.2	103.8	102.9	103.2	103.1	102.9	103.0	101.4
Group 1 - Personal care	22	100.0	102.0	104.0	102.7	103.1	103.0	104.2	102.1	102.8	102.4	102.0	102.3	98.4
Group 3 - Personal effects, not elsewhere classified	2	102.9	103.7	103.8	104.1	104.1	104.9	106.9	107.2	108.1	108.4	108.8	108.8	110.0
Group 4 - Social protection	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 5 - Insurance	21	102.0	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7	103.7
Group 6 - Financial services not elsewhere classified	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Group 7 - Other services not elsewhere classified	3	100.0	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9	101.9
All divisions	1000	102.4	103.8	104.4	104.4	104.4	104.4	103.4	103.4	103.7	103.3	102.8	103.1	103.3

Table 5 - Headline inflation rate (%), 2005 - 2019

<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>	<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Inflation rate</i>
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	2015/16	0.9
2016	1.0	2016/17	2.4
2017	3.7	2017/18	4.3
2018	3.2	2018/19	1.0
2019	0.5		



Technical note

1. Methodology used for computation of Consumer Price Index

(Base period: January - December 2017 = 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 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) CPI basket

The CPI basket is based on the expenditures of private households in a reference period, currently January to December 2017. The composition of the current CPI basket has been derived from the 2017 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 8,000 price quotations are collected in respect of 1,093 item indicators from some 520 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 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 2017, 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 CPI is available online in the publication ‘ [HBS 2017 Methodological Report and updated CPI](#) ’