**Quarterly Export and Import Price Indices**

**1st Quarter 2024**

**(Base year: 2018=100)**

**1. Introduction**

The Export Price Index (EPI) provides an overall measure of pure price changes (in Mauritian rupees) of goods exported to other countries. The Import Price Index (IPI), on the other hand, measures pure price changes (in Mauritian rupees) of goods purchased from other countries.

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents a series of export and import price indices for the period covering the 2nd quarter of 2022 to the 1st quarter of 2024 with the year 2018 as base year. The weights have been derived from exports and imports data for the base year, while the average import and export prices of representative products in 2018 have been used as base prices. To facilitate analysis, chain-linked indices with base year 2018 for the period 1st quarter of 2009 to 1st quarter of 2024 are given in Tables 4 and 8.

Detailed indices prior to 2nd quarter of 2022 are posted on Statistics Mauritius website in the historical series at:

<https://statsmauritius.govmu.org/Pages/Statistics/By_Subject/Indices/SB_Indices.aspx>

The methodologies used for the computation of EPI and IPI are at Annex 1 and Annex 2.

**2. Terms of trade**

The terms of trade index is the 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. During the first quarter of 2024, export and import prices increased by 3.2% and 3.4% respectively, when compared to the previous quarter. During the same period, the terms of trade index decreased by 0.1 point (-0.1%) to reach 98.4 from 98.5 in the fourth quarter of 2023. Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, export prices increased by 4.3% and import prices decreased by 4.6%. During the same period, the terms of trade increased by 8.5 points (+9.5%) from 89.9 to 98.4.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Price indices** | **2023** | | | | | **2024** |
| 1st Qr | 2nd Qr | 3rd Qr | 4th Qr | **Year** | 1st Qr |
| **Export** | 153.0 | 156.0 | 156.7 | 154.6 | **155.1** | 159.6 |
| **Import** | 170.1 | 164.1 | 172.2 | 156.9 | **165.8** | 162.2 |
| **Terms of trade** | 89.9 | 95.1 | 91.0 | 98.5 | **93.5** | 98.4 |

**3. Export Price Index (EPI) – (Tables 1 - 4)**

**3.1 Structure of EPI**

EPI covers four of the 10 sections of the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev. 4), namely “Food and live animals”, “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s”, “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”. Exports of

goods falling under these sections covered 87% of total exports in the base year. Sub-indices are also available at the division and section levels of the SITC (Table 1).

**3.2 Changes in quarterly EPI (1st quarter 2024)**

3.2.1 Overall Index

The average quarterly EPI increased from 154.6 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 159.6 in the first quarter of 2024, representing an increase of 3.2%. That was mainly due to increases in the prices of “Food and live animals” (+3.4%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” (+3.1%).

Compared to price levels in the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 4.3% which was mainly due to increases in the prices of “Food and live animals” (+11.1%).

### 3.2.2 Section 0: Food and live animals

“Food and live animals” carries 40.6% of the total weight. It consists mainly of “Fish and fish preparations” (64.5%) and “Sugar, sugar preparations and honey” (22.1%).

The index for “Food and live animals” increased by 3.4% from 158.5 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 163.9 in the first quarter of 2024. That was mainly explained by increases in the prices of “Fish and fish preparations” (+4.3%) and “Live animals” (+12.1%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index rose by 11.1%, mainly due to increases in the prices of “Sugar, sugar preparations and honey” (+27.2%), “Live animals” (+31.7%) and “Fish and fish preparations” (+2.9%).

### 3.2.3 Section 5: Chemicals and related products, n.e.s

During the first quarter of 2024, the index for “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” stood at 145.4 compared to 139.1 in the fourth quarter of 2023, representing an increase of 4.5%. That was explained by increases in the prices of “Medicinal and pharmaceutical products” (+5.7%) and “Organic chemicals” (+3.5%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 4.9%, as a result of increases in the prices of “Organic chemicals” (+6.0%) and “Medicinal and pharmaceutical products” (+3.7%).

### 3.2.4 Section 6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material

### The index for “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” increased by 2.0% from 138.3 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 141.1 in the first quarter of 2024. This rise is explained by an increase of 2.0% in the prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., & related products”.

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index decreased by 1.3%, due to a decrease of 1.3% in the prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., & related products”.

### 3.2.5 Section 8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles

“Miscellaneous manufactured articles” which carries 45.3% of the total weight, is the most important section covered by the export price index. It consists mainly of “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories” (85.5%).

The index for “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased from 156.2 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 161.0 in the first quarter of 2024, representing a rise of 3.1%. That was mainly explained by increases in the prices of “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories” (+2.7%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index decreased by 0.4%, explained by decreases in the prices of “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories” (-0.7%) and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles, n.e.s” (-3.8%), partly mitigated by increases in the prices of “Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks” (+9.3%) and “Professional, scientific and controlling instruments and apparatus, n.e.s.” (+6.1%).

**4. Import Price Index (IPI) (Tables 5 - 8)**

**4.1 Structure of IPI**

IPI covers nine out of the 10 SITC sections. The only section not covered is “Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere”, because of the heterogeneity of the products and the inherent difficulties in pricing items of constant quality. Imports of goods falling under the covered sections make up 84% of total imports in the base year. Sub-indices are also available at the division and section levels of the SITC (Table 5).

**4.2 Changes in quarterly IPI (1st quarter 2024)**

4.2.1 Overall Index

The Import Price Index (IPI), calculated on a quarterly basis, increased by 3.4% from 156.9 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 162.2 in the first quarter of 2024. That was mainly the effect of increases in the prices of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (+3.6%), “Food and live animals” (+2.3%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (+5.3%) and “Machinery and transport equipment” (+2.4%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index fell by 4.6%, mainly as a result of decreases in the prices of “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” (-9.7%), “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” (-5.4%) and “Animal and vegetable oils, fats and waxes” (-24.9%), partly mitigated by increases in the prices of “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” (+6.1%).

### 4.2.2 Section 0: Food and live animals

“Food and live animals” carries 21.7% of the total weight of the import price index. The two main components of this section are “Fish and fish preparations” (28.4%) and “Cereals and cereal preparations” (21.6%).

The index for this section increased by 2.3% from 153.8 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 157.4 in the first quarter of 2024. That was mainly attributable to increases in the prices of “Fish and fish preparations” (+2.6%), “Miscellaneous edible products and preparations” (+4.9%) and “Dairy products and birds' eggs” (+2.3%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index decreased by 0.8%, mainly due to decreases in the prices of “Cereals and cereal preparations” (-9.7%) and “Meat and meat preparations” (-8.8%), partly mitigated by increases in the prices of “Fish and fish preparations” (+8.3%).

### 4.2.3 Section 1: Beverages and Tobacco

The index for “Beverages and Tobacco” increased by 1.6% from 133.0 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 135.1 in the first quarter of 2024, as a result of increases in the prices of “Beverages” (+4.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 0.4%, due to price increases in “Tobacco and tobacco manufactures” (+0.6%) and “Beverages” (+0.4%).

## 4.2.4 Section 2: Crude materials, inedible, except fuels

The index for “Crude materials, inedible, except fuels” increased by 8.4% to 163.4 in the first quarter of 2024 from 150.8 in the fourth quarter of 2023, mainly due to increases in the prices of “Textile fibres and their wastes” (+9.1%) and “Cork and wood” (+9.9%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 3.6%, mainly due to increases in the prices of “Textile fibres and their wastes” (+4.6%).

## 4.2.5 Section 3: Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials

“Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” consisting mainly of “Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials”, make up for 37.7% of the weight of the IPI.

The index for “Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials” increased by 3.6% from 177.3 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 183.7 in the first quarter of 2024, mainly due to increases in the prices of “Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials” (+3.0%) and “Gas, natural and manufactured” (+13.0%).

Compared to the corresponding period of 2023, the index fell by 9.7%, due to decreases in the prices of “Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials” (-9.6%) and “Coal, coke and briquettes” (-29.5%), partly mitigated by increases in the prices of “Gas, natural and manufactured” (+15.7%).

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## 4.2.6 Section 5: Chemicals and related products, n.e.s

The index for “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s” increased by 4.5% from 138.6 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 144.9 in the first quarter of 2024. That was mainly explained by the effect of increases in the prices of “Medicinal and pharmaceutical products” (+4.2%) and “Essential oils and resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, etc.” (+5.9%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 6.1%, mainly explained by increases in the prices of “Essential oils and resinoids & perfume materials; toilet, etc.” (+11.0%) and “Medicinal and pharmaceutical products” (+4.0%).

## 4.2.7 Section 6: Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material

The index for “Manufactured goods classified chiefly bymaterial” increased by 5.3% from 144.2 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 151.8 in the first quarter of 2024, mainly due to higher prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s” (+10.7%), “Iron and steel” (+5.0%) and “Non-ferrous metals” (+4.0%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index fell by 5.4%, mainly due to decreases in the prices of “Iron and steel” (-15.2%), “Non-ferrous metals” (-10.4%), “Paper, paperboard and articles of paper pulp” (-25.8%), “Cork and wood manufactures (excluding furniture)” (-29.5%) and “Non-metallic mineral manufactures, n.e.s.” (-4.0%), partly mitigated by increases in the prices of “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s” (+9.6%).

## 4.2.8 Section 7: Machinery and transport equipment

The index for “Machinery and transport equipment”, with 15.2% of the total weight, stood at 138.2 in the first quarter of 2024. Compared to the previous quarter’s figure of 134.9, an increase of 2.4% is noted, mainly due to higher prices of “Road vehicles” (+3.4%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index rose by 0.9%, from 137.0 to 138.2 in the first quarter of 2024, mainly due to increases in the prices of “Road vehicles” (+1.0%), “General industrial machinery & equipment, n.e.s.” (+5.2%) and “Machinery specialized for particular industries” (+10.7%), partly offset by decreases in the prices of “Office machines and automatic data processing machines” (-2.6%).

## 4.2.9 Section 8: Miscellaneous manufactured articles

The index for “Miscellaneous manufactured articles” increased by 4.1% from 137.3 in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 142.9 in the first quarter of 2024. That was mainly due to increases in the prices of “Footwear” (+5.0%) and “Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks” (+7.8%).

Compared to the corresponding quarter of 2023, the index increased by 2.4% from 139.6 to 142.9 in the first quarter of 2024, mainly as a result of higher prices of “Photographic apparatus, equipment and supplies and optical goods, n.e.s.; watches & clocks” (+14.3%), partly offset by decreases in the prices of “Professional, scientific and controlling inst. and app” (-9.5%).

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### Annex 1

**Export Price Index (EPI)**

**Methodology for the computation of the EPI**

**1. Definition**

The Export Price index (EPI) provides an overall measure of pure price changes in Mauritian Rupees of goods exported to other countries. This index is constructed from the export prices of a "constant" well-defined representative basket of commodities selected from trade data in the base year.

The concepts and definitions of the EPI largely follow the guidelines provided in the “IMF Export and Import Price Index Manual, Theory and Practice, 2009”.

**2. Scope**

The 2018 index is based on the Nomenclature of the Standard International Trade Classification of the United Nations (SITC Rev 4). The EPI covers four of the 10 sections of the SITC, namely “Food and live animals”, “Chemicals and related products, n.e.s”, “Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material” and “Miscellaneous manufactured articles”. Exports of goods falling under these sections covered 87% of total exports in the base year. Separate sub-indices are produced for each SITC section and division.

The EPI covers total exports (domestic exports and re-exports). The most important commodities in the 2018 EPI are “Articles of apparel and clothing accessories”, “Fish and fish preparations”, “Sugar” and “Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, n.e.s., and related products”.

However, some commodities were excluded in the computation of the weights because of their heterogeneity and the inherent difficulties in pricing them to a constant quality. Those were precious stones, jewellery, recorded media and free publications, and all products classified within the Sections 1, 3, 7 and 9 of the SITC; together they accounted for around 20% of total exports in 2018. In addition, SITC sections 2 and 4 were not represented due to low exports value.

The index thus covers about 80% of the value of merchandise exported during 2018. Commodities directly represented (i.e, price movements followed) constitute 62% of the total value of exports. For the 18% not directly represented, their prices are considered to move similarly to those represented directly.

**3. Selection of products to be priced and outlets**

Around 56 exporters (outlets) have been selected from trade declarations submitted to the Customs Department in 2018 for pricing of the commodities through quarterly price surveys. These exporters are the major ones trading on a regular basis.

A total of around 125 products, representing the 33 commodities directly represented in the index, were selected for pricing on the basis of their share in total exports, regularity of trade

of exports and also their importance in the trader’s exports. There must also be a sustained demand for the product variety.

Specifications of products to be priced (physical and qualitative) were established in collaboration with the selected exporters to ensure that same items are priced at each price survey. Specifications include: pricing basis, contract basis, country of destination, unit of measurement, mode of transport, terms of payment, currency and any other conditions like quality and quantity of the product, that have a bearing on the price.

**4. Price collection**

A preliminary survey of the selected exporters was conducted in 2021 to gather information on products (specific brand and type) relating to the selected commodities and monthly prices

for 2018 onwards were collected. Hereafter, the selected exporters are visited every quarter but prices are collected for each month of the quarter for the computation of monthly and quarterly indices. The collected prices are reported on a free on board (F.O.B.) basis and are mostly contract prices.

**5. Updating of weights**

Weights for each section, division, group and commodity are based on their export values. Products selected for pricing purposes represent all commodities that fall within that weight group.

**5.1 Historical background**

Statistics Mauritius first published the EPI in August 1996 with 1993 as base period (1993 = 100). The base year was subsequently revised to 1997, 2003, 2007 and 2013.

The current weights have been updated with year 2018 as base period.

**6. Uses of the EPI**

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

1. measure changes in prices of exports
2. analyse the effect of export price changes on the various sectors of the economy
3. calculate changes in the volume of exports
4. calculate the terms of trade (that is the ratio of export prices to import prices)
5. analyse the effect of exchange rates on export prices.

It also serves 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.

**7. Calculation of the EPI**

The lowest level (SITC 7 digit) indices are calculated as a geometric average of the price relatives of the basic observations (products). Laspeyres formula, based on the weighted average of price relatives, is used to calculate higher level indices. The mathematical form of the formula is shown below:

 Where 1ot is the index for period t compared to base period 0

wi is the weight of the ith element

Pio is the base price of the ith element

Pit is the price of the ith element in period t

is the price relative of the ith element in period t relative to base period 0

Pit

Pot

Σ means summation over all selected elements

**8. Missing Prices**

In case of missing prices for a product, imputation is carried out as recommended in the “IMF Export and Import Price Index Manual, Theory and Practice, 2009”.

### Annex 2

**Import Price Index (IPI)**

**Methodology for the computation 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. This index is constructed from import prices of a "constant" well-defined representative basket of commodities selected from imports data in the base year.

The concepts and definitions of the IPI largely follow the guidelines provided in the “IMF Export and Import Price Index Manual, Theory and Practice, 2009”.

**2. Scope**

The commodities are classified according to the United Nations Standard International Trade Classification (SITC Rev 4). The IPI covers nine out of the 10 Standard International Trade Classification sections. The only section not covered is “Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere”, because of the heterogeneity of the products and the inherent difficulties in pricing items of a constant quality.

For the computation of the 2018 weights, some commodities accounting for around 16% of total imports in 2018 were excluded because of their heterogeneity and the inherent difficulties in pricing them to a constant quality. Those were: precious stones, jewellery, cellular telephones, recorded media and free publications, aircraft, helicopters and marine vessels, certain machine parts, textile wastes and Section 9 of the SITC described as “Commodities and transactions not classified elsewhere”.

Thus, the index covers about 84% of the value of merchandise imported in 2018. Commodities directly represented (price movements followed) constitute around 57% of the total value of imports. For the 27% not directly represented, their prices are considered to move similarly to those represented directly.

**3. Selection of products to be priced and outlets**

Some 178 importers (outlets) have been selected from trade declarations submitted to the Customs Department in 2018 for the pricing of the commodities. These importers are the major ones importing the selected commodities on a regular basis.

A total of around 275 products, representing the 112 commodities directly represented, were selected for pricing on the basis of regularity of imports and also their importance in the trader’s imports. There must also be a sustained demand for the product variety.

Specifications of products to be priced (physical and qualitative) were established in collaboration with the selected importers to ensure that same items are priced every quarter. Specifications include: pricing basis, contract basis, country of origin, unit of measurement,

mode of transport, terms of payment, currency and any other conditions like quality and quantity of the product, that have a bearing on the price.

**4. Price collection**

A preliminary survey of the selected importers was conducted in 2021 to gather information on the products (specific brand and type) relating to the selected commodities and to collect prices for the four quarters of 2018. Hereafter, the selected importers are visited every quarter to collect the required prices for updating the index. Given that most imports occur at intervals longer than a month, prices refer to the last consignment of the quarter. The collected prices are reported on a cost, insurance, freight (C.I.F) basis and are mostly contract prices.

# 5. Updating of weights

Weights for each section, division, group and commodity are based on their import values. Products selected for pricing purposes represent all commodities that fall within that weight group.

**5.1 Historical background**

The first series of IPI were calculated with year 2002 as base and reference prices for the year 2003. It was subsequently rebased to years 2007, 2013 and the present series has as base period year 2018.

**6. Petroleum products and rice**

It is to be noted that the index for petroleum products is calculated differently given that these products, namely gasoline, gas oil, aviation fuel, fuel oil, LPG are imported more than once during a quarter. All prices available for the quarter are collected and average prices for the quarter are computed for each product. The same pricing system is applicable for rice imported by the State Trading Corporation.

**7. Uses of the Import Price Index**

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

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

**8. Calculation of the IPI**

The lowest level indices (SITC 7 digit) are determined as a geometric average of the price relatives of the basic observations (products). Laspeyres formula, based on the weighted average of price relatives, is used to calculate higher level indices.

The mathematical form of the formula is shown below:

 Where 1ot is the index for period t compared to base period 0

wi is the weight of the ith element

Pio is the base price of the ith element

Pit is the price of the ith element in period t

is the price relative of the ith element in period t relative to base period 0

Pit

Pot

Σ means summation over all selected elements

**9. Missing Prices**

In case of missing prices for a product, imputation is carried out as recommended in the “IMF Export and Import Price Index Manual, Theory and Practice, 2009”.