



MAURITIUS

Economic Indicators

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1st Quarter 1994
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Republic of Mauritius, Year 1993
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MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1st Quarter 1994

1. Movements in Consumer Price Index-1st Quarter 1994.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) increased by 2.3 points or 1.9% from the beginning of the year 1994 to reach 120.8 in March 1994. This compares favourably with the increase for the corresponding period a year ago when the index rose by 2.9% (Table 1). It is to be noted that in 1993, the index was adversely affected, among other things, by drought conditions.

Since the beginning of the year, the C.P.I. has been influenced mainly by higher prices of cigarettes, items of the "Educational group" and especially fresh vegetables after the passage of cyclone Hollanda in February 1994. There was a shortage of fresh vegetables from mid February to mid March 1994. However, as from the second fortnight of March, fresh vegetables were again abundant and were available at reasonably lower prices on the market.

2. Changes by Major Commodity Group and Items.

Apart from "Fuel and light" which remained stable, all the major commodity groups have undergone increases within the range of 0.5% to 5%.

With the resumption of school in January 1994, the educational group advanced by about 5% as a result of increases in prices of most educational items such as pre-primary school fees, school textbooks, tuition fees and other school requisites at the beginning of the first quarter.

The upward revision in prices of cigarettes in the range of 9% to 36% contributed most of the 4% rise in the group "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco".

The Food index rose by about 2% during the first quarter. Much of this increase was attributable to higher prices of fresh vegetables due to a scarcity of those items, following the cyclone Hollanda in February 1994. Higher prices were also registered for other food items such as powdered milk, fresh eggs and a large variety of some food products even if they were offset to some extent by low prices of fresh fish.

The group "Medical care" increased by about 3% as a result of price increases of some medical services and medicinal products.

Table 2 gives the evolution of the sub-indices of the major commodity groups of the index. The other remaining group underwent marginal increases of the order of 2% or less.

Table 3 gives the net contribution of commodities that have affected the index during the first quarter of 1994.

3. Rate of inflation

The annual rate of inflation for calendar year 1993 was 10.5%, compared to 4.6% for the previous year. This rate was 8.9% for financial year 1992/93. On the basis of available figures for the past months, and of foreseeable price movements, the rate of inflation for financial year 1993/94 has been revised downwards and will most probably lie between 9% and 9.5%.

Central Statistical Office.
Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
PORT LOUIS

April 1994

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index - January 1990 - March 1994

Month	Base: July 1986 - June 1987 =100			Base : July 1991 - June 1992 =100		
	1990	1991	1992	1992	1993	1994
January	131.9	152.0	150.6		109.0	119.4
February	133.4	151.0	151.3		110.2	119.9
March	135.2	149.0	151.5		110.7	120.8
April	134.9	148.3	151.0		111.1	
May	135.7	146.2	153.1		114.0	
June	135.4	147.0	156.4		114.7	
July	139.9	151.9		104.0	115.4	
August	139.9	150.1		105.6	116.3	
September	146.1	149.8		106.4	117.2	
October	146.6	150.0		106.6	117.3	
November	149.2	150.2		106.8	117.9	
December	148.7	148.8		107.6	118.5	
Yearly average	139.7	149.5		103.5	114.4	
Annual change (%)	+13.5	+7.0		+4.6	+10.5	

Table 2.: Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group - December 1993 - March 1994.

(Base: July 1991 - June 1992 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	1993		1994		
		December	January	February	March	
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	392	122.1	121.8	122.9	124.9	
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	82	121.2	126.6	126.6	126.6	
3. Clothing and footwear	88	116.3	116.9	116.9	117.0	
4. Fuel and light	52	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	
5. Housing and household operations	131	118.0	118.4	118.4	118.5	
6. Medical care and health expenses	36	119.8	119.8	121.2	123.0	
7. Transport and communication	97	114.0	114.1	114.2	114.4	
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	66	114.3	119.4	119.4	119.8	
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	56	116.4	117.8	118.1	118.2	
ALL GROUPS	1000	118.5	119.4	119.9	120.8	

Table 3 - Net contributions of commodities that have affected the index during the first quarter of 1994.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>
Fresh fish	- 0.1
Powdered milk	+ 0.1
Fresh eggs	+ 0.1
Fresh vegetables	+ 0.8
Other food products	+ 0.1
Cigarettes	+ 0.4
Medicines and medical services	+ 0.1
Pre-primary school fees	+ 0.1
Educational services	+ 0.1
School textbooks	+ 0.1
School requisites	+ 0.1
Other goods and services	+ 0.4

<u>Total</u>	+ 2.3

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%) - 1975 - 1993

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Inflation rate</u>	<u>Financial year</u>	<u>Inflation rate</u>
1975	14.7	1974 - 75	20.6
1976	13.4	1975 - 76	14.7
1977	9.2	1976 - 77	9.6
1978	8.5	1977 - 78	10.1
1979	14.5	1978 - 79	8.0
1980	42.0	1979 - 80	33.0
1981	14.5	1980 - 81	26.5
1982	11.4	1981 - 82	13.4
1983	5.6	1982 - 83	7.5
1984	7.3	1983 - 84	5.6
1985	6.7	1984 - 85	8.3
1986	1.8	1985 - 86	4.3
1987	0.6	1986 - 87	0.7
1988	9.2	1987 - 88	1.5
1989	12.6	1988 - 89	16.0
1990	13.5	1989 - 90	10.7
1991	7.0	1990 - 91	12.8
1992	4.6	1991 - 92	2.9
1993	10.5	1992 - 93	8.9
		1993 - 94	(9 - 9.5) 1/

1/ Forecast

Table 5: Quarterly sub-indices by major commodity group (Base: July 1991 - June 1992 = 100).

Major Commodity Group	Weight	1993					1994	
		1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Yearly Average	1st Quarter	
		392	109.5	115.9	119.4	121.3	116.5	123.2
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	82	119.8	120.1	120.7	121.0	120.4	126.6	
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	88	105.4	106.8	111.8	115.3	109.8	116.9	
3. Clothing and footwear	52	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	107.4	
4. Fuel and light	131	109.8	111.6	115.9	117.5	113.7	118.4	
5. Housing and household operations	36	107.3	109.7	116.2	119.4	113.2	121.3	
6. Medical care and health expenses	97	110.1	111.4	112.8	113.6	112.0	114.2	
7. Transport and communication	66	108.6	110.9	112.3	114.0	111.4	119.5	
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	56	111.4	112.7	115.2	116.2	113.9	118.0	
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	1000	110.0	113.3	116.3	117.9	114.4	120.0	
ALL GROUPS								

POPULATION AND VITAL STATISTICS
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, YEAR 1993

N O T E S

1. Vital statistics : The statistics pertaining to vital events which include live births, deaths, still births, marriages and divorces
2. Sex ratio : The number of males to every 100 females
3. Natural increase : The excess of births over deaths
4. Crude birth rate : The number of live births in a year per 1,000 mid-year population
5. Crude death rate : The number of deaths in a year per 1,000 mid-year population
6. Infant mortality rate : The number of deaths in a year of infants aged under one year per 1,000 live births during the year
7. Still birth rate : The number of still births in a year per 1,000 total births (live births and still births) during the year
8. Marriage rate : The number of persons married in a year per 1,000 mid-year population
9. Divorce rate : The number of persons to whom divorce is granted in a year per 1,000 mid-year population
