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- 1 ⇨ **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**
3rd Quarter 1998
- 2 ⇨ **QUARTERLY EXPORT PRICE INDEX (EPI)**
2nd Quarter 1998
(Base Year 1993 = 100)

Price: Rs 20.-

<http://ncb.intnet.mu/medrc.htm>

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
PORT LOUIS
MAURITIUS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - 3RD QUARTER 1998

1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index - 3rd Quarter 1998

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I.) which stood at 109.6 in June 1998 registered a rise of 2.5 points (or 2.3%) during the third quarter of 1998 to reach 112.1 in September 1998. Marginal increases were registered during the months of July and August while a substantial price increase of +1.9% was observed in September, due mainly to the introduction of the value added tax on various goods and services.

2. Changes in Major Commodity Group Sub-indices

Table 2 shows the evolution of the major commodity group indices (sub-indices) during the first nine months of the year. Except for the group "Fuel & light", which remained at the same level as in June 1998, all the remaining major commodity groups registered increases during the third quarter of 1998 in the range of 1.7 to 7.0%.

An overall increase of 1.4% in the major group "Food and non alcoholic beverages" index was registered price changes of prepared meals (+5.7%), cakes and snacks (+8.5%), poultry (+6.7%), fresh fish (+9.9%), frozen fish (+5.3%), dairy products (+1.9%), edible oil (+25.8%) and fresh vegetables (+2.3%), mitigated by decreases in prices of potatoes (-31.9%).

The "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*" index rose marginally by 1.7% due mainly to price increases of alcoholic drinks (+3.4%).

Price increases of some ready made clothing (+3%) and footwear (+3.7%) contributed to an increase of 3.1% in the index of the major commodity group "**Clothing and footwear**".

The sub index for the group "*Housing and household operations*" advanced by 2.4% as a result of changes in prices of some house cleaning materials such as washing powder and other detergents, household durables, furniture and domestic services.

"*Medical care and health expenses*" group registered the highest increase of 7% during the third quarter of 1998 which was attributable to price increases of some medicinal products (+5.1%) and medical services (+9.4%).

Telephone charges were revised upwards by about 10% as a result on the introduction of the value added tax in September 1998. Such increases coupled with price changes of personal transport, motor vehicles spare parts and motor vehicle repair charges caused the index of the major commodity group "Transport and communication" to advance by 3.8%.

The major commodity group "*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*" index moved further by less than 2%. This was mainly the result of price increases in some newspapers, magazines and recreational goods.

The "*Miscellaneous goods and services*" major group index showed an increase of 1.9%, attributable to price increases of jewellery and some items of personal care goods.

Table 3 gives a list of the main commodities that have affected the index during the third quarter of 1998.

3. Rate of Inflation

The current rate of inflation for financial year 1997.98 was 5.4% compared to 7.9% for the financial year 1996/97. This rate was 6.6% for calendar year 1997. On the basis of the price movements for the past nine months, the rate of inflation for 1998 is estimated at around 7%. (Table 4).

CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
Ministry of Economic Development and Regional Co-operation
PORT LOUIS

October 1998

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index - (January 1994 - September 1998)

<u>Month</u>	<u>(Base : July 1991 - June 1992 = 100)</u>				<u>(Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)</u>	
	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>
January	119.4	126.9	133.7	145.9		105.5
February	119.9	127.4	134.3	145.9		106.0
March	120.8	128.2	134.3	146.2		106.7
April	121.0	128.8	134.9	146.1		107.4
May	122.6	129.0	135.6	146.7		108.0
June	123.2	129.8	139.6	147.9		109.6
July	123.2	130.0	140.4		103.0	109.7
August	123.8	131.4	141.7		103.3	110.0
September	124.2	131.7	141.7		103.6	112.1
October	124.2	132.4	142.3		103.5	
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	
<i>Annual change(%) (Inflation rate)</i>	+ 7.3	+ 6.0	+ 6.6		+ 6.6	

Table 2 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group - (January 1998 to September 1998).

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	Change between June 98 & Sept 98 (%)
<i>1. Food and non alcoholic beverages</i>	364	104.8	105.5	107.4	109.1	110.1	110.6	110.1	110.9	112.2	+1.4
<i>2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco</i>	87	113.0	113.0	113.2	113.5	113.5	127.1	127.3	127.2	129.3	+1.7
<i>3. Clothing and footwear</i>	79	101.9	103.2	103.3	103.1	104.0	104.0	103.8	104.0	107.2	+3.1
<i>4. Fuel and light</i>	44	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	-
<i>5. Housing and household operations</i>	132	103.1	103.3	103.4	103.7	103.8	104.0	105.1	105.4	106.5	+2.4
<i>6. Medical care and health expenses</i>	38	103.4	103.7	104.3	104.6	105.1	105.2	105.9	106.2	112.6	+7.0
<i>7. Transport and communication</i>	142	106.0	106.3	106.0	106.2	106.6	107.3	107.5	107.7	111.4	+3.8
<i>8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services</i>	60	114.0	114.4	114.4	114.4	115.3	115.4	115.2	115.2	117.4	+1.7
<i>9. Miscellaneous goods and services</i>	54	104.1	104.9	104.5	104.6	105.4	107.3	107.8	107.8	109.3	+1.9
ALL GROUPS	1000	105.5	106.0	106.7	107.4	108.0	109.6	109.7	110.0	112.1	+2.3

**Table 3 - Net contribution of main commodities that have affected the index
in the third quarter of 1998.**

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between June 98 & September 98</u>
Prepared Meals	+0.1	+5.7
Cakes And Snacks	+0.1	+8.5
Poultry	+0.2	+6.7
Fresh Fish	+0.1	+9.9
Frozen Fish	+0.1	+5.3
Dairy Products	+0.1	+1.9
Edible Oil	+0.1	+25.8
Potato	-0.4	-31.9
Fresh Vegetables	-0.1	+2.3
Other Food Products	+0.3	-
Alcoholic Beverages	+0.2	+3.4
Readymade Clothing	+0.1	+3.0
Footwear	+0.1	+3.7
Household Goods	+0.2	+2.1
House Cleaning Supplies	+0.1	+2.9
Domestic Services	+0.1	+6.6
Medicinal Product	+0.1	+5.1
Medical Services	+0.1	+9.4
Personal Transport	+0.2	+8.5
Spare Parts And Accessories	+0.1	+9.3
Motor Vehicles Repairs	+0.1	+9.8
Telephone Services	+0.2	+10.0
Newspapers And Magazines	+0.1	+11.0
Personal Care Goods	+0.1	+2.7
Other Goods And Services	+0.1	-
TOTAL	+2.5	

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%) , 1975 - 1998

<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
1994	7.3	1993 - 94	9.4
1995	6.0	1994 - 95	6.1
1996	6.6	1995 - 96	5.8
1997	6.6	1996 - 97	7.9
1998	<i>Around 7.0 1/</i>	1997 - 98	5.4

1/ Forecast