



MAURITIUS

# Economic and Social Indicators

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3rd 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 - 1998

### 1. Main Movements in the Consumer Price Index in 1998.

The upward price movement continued in 1998 with an inflation rate of 6.8% compared to 6.6% for the previous year.

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) has increased by 9.5 points from 103.9 in December 1997 to 113.4 in December 1998. The highest monthly rise in the C.P.I. occurred in September when the index rose by 2.1 points.

The main reasons for price increases in 1998 were:

- (a) Price increases of educational items in the first quarter.
- (b) Higher prices of fresh vegetables due to adverse climatic conditions which prevailed during the first two and last quarters of the year.
- (c) The upward revision of excise duty on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages.
- (d) The introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) in September 1998 on a large variety of goods and services.

### 2. Changes by Major Commodity Groups.

Table 2 shows the monthly sub indices of the CPI by major commodity groups from December 1997 to December 1998. All sub indices showed increases in the range of 5.5% to 16.5%, except that of "*Fuel and light*" which has not registered any change as items in that group have remained at the same level since July 1997.

The highest increase of 16.5% was for the major group "*Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*". The increases in prices of alcoholic beverages (+6.4%), rum and other cane spirits (+24.4%) and cigarettes (+21.0%) were due to the upward revision of excise duty in June 1998 and the introduction of VAT in September 1998.

The 12.5% rise in the group "*Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services*" was attributed to price increases of educational items such as pre-primary school fees (+14.5%), private tuition fees (+18.9%) and other school requisites (+5.2%) at the beginning of the year together with price increases of newspapers and magazines (+17.5%) after the introduction of VAT in September 1998.

The major group "*Food and non alcoholic beverages*" whose index has been increasing during all the months of the year registered an overall rise of 10.4%. It is noted that fresh vegetables (+33.7%) has greatly influenced that increase. The other main contributors were prepared meals (+7.4%), cakes and snacks (+11.8%), poultry (+15.0%), frozen fish (+18.7%), fresh fish (+5.6%), dairy products (+7.0%), edible oil (+17.0%) and some other food products.

Prices of medicinal products (+9.8%) and medical services (+10.2%) went up significantly in September 1998 pushing up the index of the "*Medical care and health expenses group*" by 10.0%.

Commodity items of the group "*Clothing and footwear*" have undergone slight changes during the first two quarters of the year and an overall rise of 8.2% was registered in that group. However, a 3% increase was observed in the group in September mainly due to rise in prices of some textile goods (+9.3%) and footwear (+6.0%).

The group "*Transport and communication*" moved up by 7.5% as a result of major price increases in personal transport (+19.4%), motor vehicles spare parts and accessories (+20.9 %), motor vehicles repairs (+18.8%), postal services (+37.2%) and telephone services (+8.4%).

The major groups "*Housing and household operations*" and "*Miscellaneous goods and services*" rose by 5.5% and 6.5% respectively.

Table 3 gives the net contribution of main commodities that affected the index during the year.

Central Statistical Office  
Ministry of Economic Development, Productivity & Regional Development,  
PORT LOUIS  
January 1999

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

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>( Base : July 1991 - June 1992 = 100 )</u></b>				<b><u>( Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100 )</u></b>	
	<b><u>1994</u></b>	<b><u>1995</u></b>	<b><u>1996</u></b>	<b><u>1997</u></b>	<b><u>1997</u></b>	<b><u>1998</u></b>
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	112.7
November	124.9	132.9	142.5		103.6	113.1
December	125.6	133.1	142.9		103.9	113.4
Yearly average	122.7	130.1	138.7		102.5	109.5
<b><i>Annual change(%) (Inflation rate)</i></b>	<b>+ 7.3</b>	<b>+ 6.0</b>	<b>+ 6.6</b>		<b>+ 6.6</b>	<b>+ 6.8</b>

**Table 2 : Monthly sub-indices by major commodity group - ( December 1997 to December 1998 ).**

(Base: July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)

Major Commodity Group	Weight	Dec-97	Jan-98	Feb-98	Mar-98	Apr-98	May-98	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98	Oct-98	Nov-98	Dec-98	% Change between Dec. 97 & Dec. 98
1. Food and non alcoholic beverages	364	103.0	104.8	105.5	107.4	109.1	110.1	110.6	110.1	110.9	112.2	112.9	113.3	113.7	+10.4
2. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	87	111.0	113.0	113.0	113.2	113.5	113.5	127.1	127.3	127.2	129.3	129.5	129.4	129.3	+16.5
3. Clothing and footwear	79	101.3	101.9	103.2	103.3	103.1	104.0	104.0	103.8	104.0	107.2	108.6	109.5	109.6	+8.2
4. Fuel and light	44	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	100.3	-
5. Housing and household operations	132	102.7	103.1	103.3	103.4	103.7	103.8	104.0	105.1	105.4	106.5	107.3	107.6	108.3	+5.5
6. Medical care and health expenses	38	103.5	103.4	103.7	104.3	104.6	105.1	105.2	105.9	106.2	112.6	113.8	113.9	113.8	+10.0
7. Transport and communication	142	105.3	106.0	106.3	106.0	106.2	106.6	107.3	107.5	107.7	111.4	111.8	112.8	113.2	+7.5
8. Recreation, entertainment, education and cultural services	60	105.2	114.0	114.4	114.4	114.4	115.3	115.4	115.2	115.2	117.4	117.5	117.9	118.3	+12.5
9. Miscellaneous goods and services	54	103.1	104.1	104.9	104.5	104.6	105.4	107.3	107.8	107.8	109.3	109.6	109.9	109.8	+6.5
<b>ALL GROUPS</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>103.9</b>	<b>105.5</b>	<b>106.0</b>	<b>106.7</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>109.6</b>	<b>109.7</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>112.1</b>	<b>112.7</b>	<b>113.1</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>+9.1</b>

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

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Change in index point</u>	<u>% change in price between Dec. 97 &amp; Dec. 98</u>
Prepared meals	+0.1	+7.4
Cakes & snacks	+0.1	+11.8
Poultry	+0.3	+15.0
Fresh fish	+0.1	+5.6
Frozen fish	+0.3	+18.7
Dairy products	+0.3	+7.0
Edible oil	+0.2	+17.0
Fresh vegetables	+1.7	+33.7
Other food products	+1.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	+0.2	+6.4
Rum & cane spirits	+0.4	+24.4
Cigarettes	+1.0	+21.0
Textile goods	+0.4	+9.3
Footwear	+0.1	+6.0
Domestic services	+0.1	+6.6
Other household goods	+0.6	-
Medicinal products	+0.1	+9.8
Medical services	+0.1	+10.2
Personal transport	+0.3	+19.4
Motor vehicles spare parts & accessories	+0.1	+20.9
Motor vehicles repairs	+0.1	+18.8
Postal services	+0.1	+37.2
Telephone services	+0.2	+8.4
Pre-primary school fees	+0.1	+14.5
Private tuition	+0.3	+18.9
Other school requisites	+0.1	+5.2
Newspapers & magazines	+0.1	+17.5
Personal care goods	+0.1	+5.7
Consumption in bars & restaurants	+0.1	+9.6
Other goods & services	+0.8	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+9.5</b>	

**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	6.8	1997 - 98	5.4

# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - ALL GROUPS

Monthly indices ( July 97 - December 98)

Base: July 96 - June 97 = 100

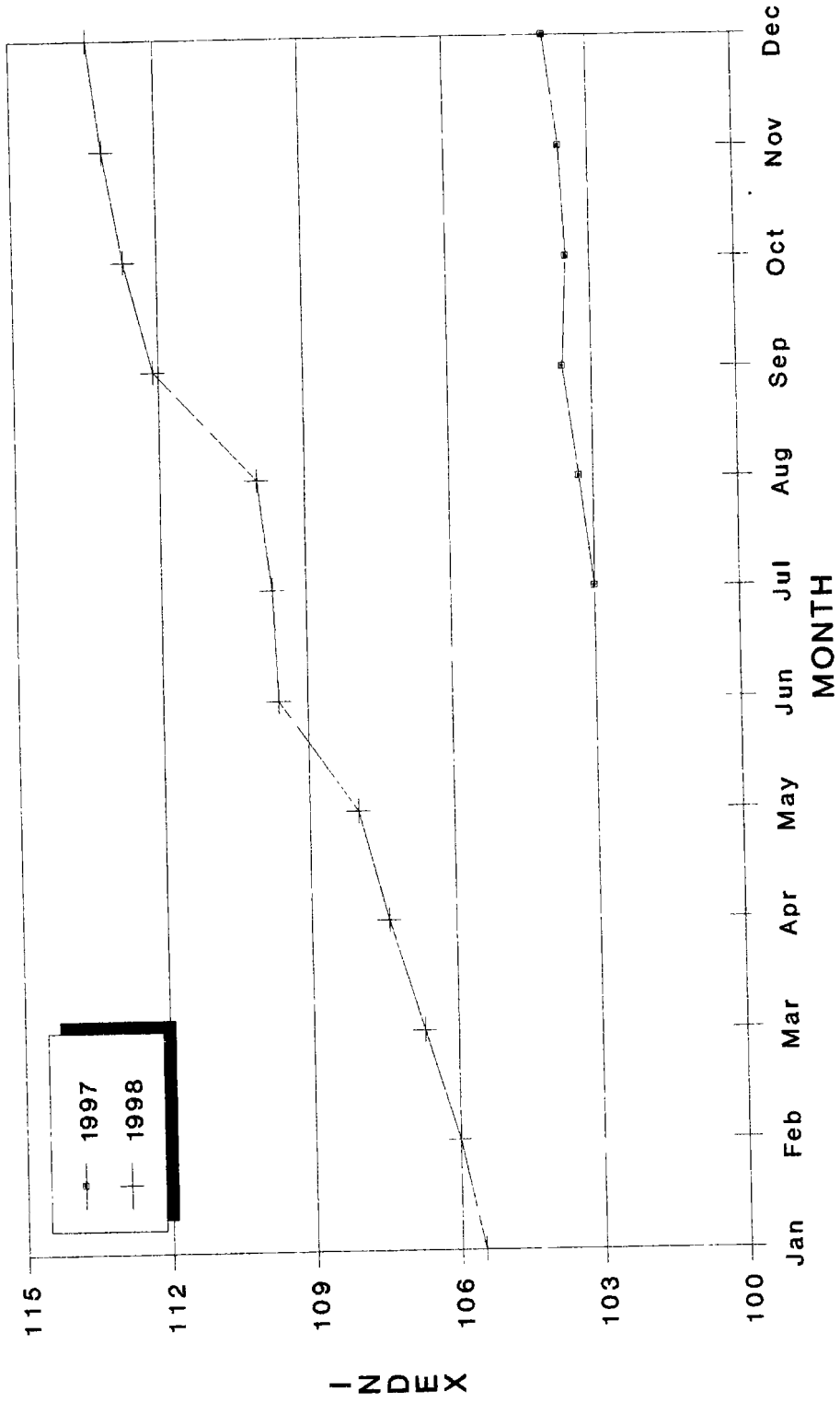


Fig. 1



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Annual Rate of Inflation (Calendar Year)  
1975 - 1998

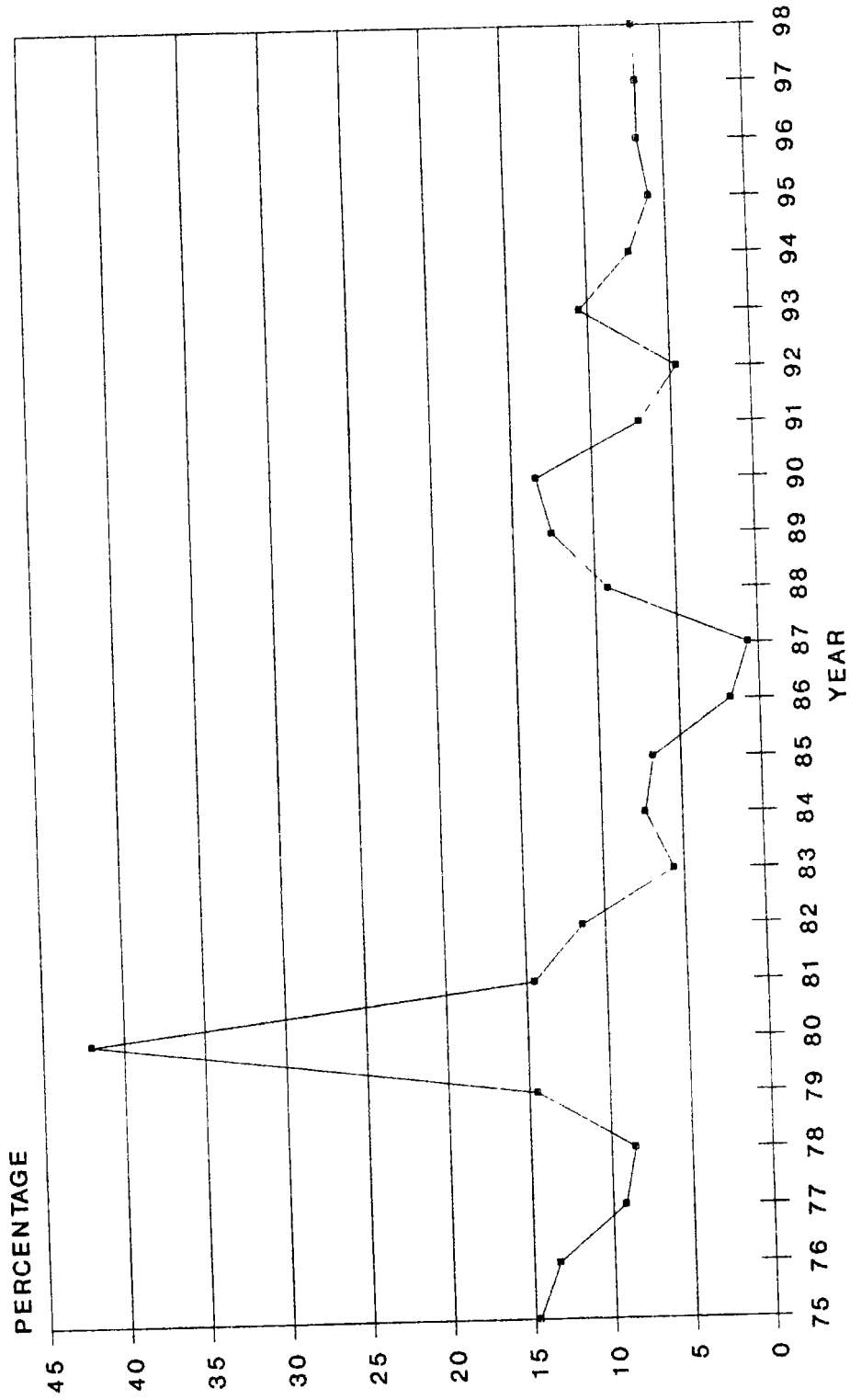


Fig. II