

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

2nd Quarter 2003

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1. Main movements in the Consumer Price Index – 2nd Quarter 2003

The Consumer Price Index (C.P.I) rose from 105.6 in March 2003 to reach 106.9 in June 2003 (*Table 1*) representing an increase of +1.3 points (or 1.2%) during the second quarter of 2003.

As shown in *Table 2*, the main contributors to this rise were increases in price indices of fresh vegetables (+0.4 point), eggs (+0.1 point), soft drinks (+0.1 point), some other food products (+0.1 point), cigarettes (+0.2 point), rum and cane spirits (+0.1 point), motor cars (+0.1 point), catering services (+0.1 point) and other goods and services (+0.2 point) coupled with price decreases of telephone equipment and services (-0.1 point).

2. Changes in sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure.

Table 3 shows the evolution of the sub-indices for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure during the second quarter of 2003. Except for "Education", all sub-indices registered changes during the second quarter of 2003.

The "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sub-index increased by 2.0% mainly as a result of increases in price indices of fresh vegetables (10.2%), eggs (40.8%), soft drinks (6.3%) and, milk and milk preparations (1.0%) together with price decreases of fruits (2.8%).

The sub-index for "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" went up by 3.4%. This was mainly the effect of price increases of rum and cane spirits (4.6%) and beer and stout (3.5%) coupled with the partial effect of price increases of cigarettes (4.4%) as from 10 June 2003 following recent budgetary measures.

The "Clothing and footwear" sub-index registered an increase of 0.5% due to higher prices of some ready-made garments (0.6%) and footwear (0.4%).

The sub-index for "Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels" went up by 0.2% mainly due to price increases of paints (4.5%) and adhesive cement (7.1%).

The sub-index for "Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance" increased by 0.3%. This was mainly due to price increases of laundry soap (6.9%) and, washing powder and softeners (2.0%) together with price decreases of some household appliances (2.8%).

The sub-index for "Health" increased by 0.7% mainly as a result of price increases of some medicinal products (1.2%).

The "Transport" sub-index went up by 0.9% mainly due to price increases of motor cars (2.2%), air tickets (3.3%) and motor oil (14.4%) coupled with price decreases of parts and accessories for motor vehicles (3.8%).

The sub-index for "Communication" decreased by 1.6% due to lower rates of telephone services (1.4%) and price decreases of mobile phones (6.5%).

The "Recreation and culture" sub-index increased by 0.6% as a result of higher prices of newspapers and magazines (1.1%), pet foods (6.7%) and some audio and video equipment (0.7%).

The sub-index for "Restaurants and hotels" went up by 1.0% mainly due to higher charges in bars and restaurants (2.0%).

The sub-indices for "Miscellaneous goods and services" registered an increase of 0.8% following price increases of goods for personal care and hygiene (1.6%) and hairdressing services (0.5%).

3. Rate of inflation

The rate of inflation for financial year 2002/2003 was 5.1% compared to 6.3% for financial year 2001/2002. The rate of inflation for calendar year 2002 was 6.4% (*Table 4*). On the basis of trends in previous years, it is expected that the inflation rate for the calendar year 2003 will be around 4%.

Central Statistics Office

Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs

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Contact Person:

Mr L. Persand
Statistician - CPI Unit
Central Statistics Office
L.I.C Centre
J.Kennedy Street
Port Louis
Telephone: 2122316 / 17
Fax: 211 4150
Email: cso@mail.gov.mu

Note: Monthly Consumer Price Index data are available on CSO website <http://statsmauritius.gov.mu> within 5 working days after the end of the reference month.

Table 1 - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 1998 - June 2003

Month	(Base : July 1996 - June 1997 = 100)					(Base : July 2001- June 2002= 100)	
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2002	2003
January	105.5	114.6	120.0	125.9	133.5		105.5
February	106.0	114.9	120.6	126.5	134.7		105.7
March	106.7	115.1	121.0	126.3	135.4		105.6
April	107.4	115.6	120.9	126.5	135.7		105.8
May	108.0	115.8	121.0	126.8	135.9		106.5
June	109.6	117.4	121.0	127.8	135.9		106.9
July	109.7	117.8	121.3	129.7		103.1	
August	110.0	118.3	121.7	129.9		103.6	
September	112.1	118.5	121.9	130.1		104.0	
October	112.7	118.5	124.6	130.5		105.0	
November	113.1	118.9	124.8	131.1		104.9	
December	113.4	119.6	125.2	131.8		104.8	
Yearly average	109.5	117.1	122.0	128.6		103.0	
Annual change (%) (Inflation rate)	+ 6.8	+ 6.9	+ 4.2	+ 5.4		+ 6.4	

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that affected the index during the second quarter of 2003

Commodity	Change in overall index point	% change in price index between March & June 2003
Fresh vegetables	+ 0.4	+ 10.2
Eggs	+ 0.1	+ 40.8
Soft drinks	+ 0.1	+ 6.3
Other food products	+ 0.1	+ 0.1
Cigarettes	+ 0.2	+ 3.2 ¹
Rum and other cane spirits	+ 0.1	+ 4.6
Motor cars	+ 0.1	+ 2.2
Telephone equipment & services	- 0.1	- 1.7
Catering services	+ 0.1	+ 1.1
Other goods and services	+ 0.2	+ 0.6
Total	+ 1.3	+ 1.2

¹ Prices of cigarettes increased by 4.4% as from 10 June 2003.

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, January - June 2003**(Base:July 2001 - June 2002 = 100)**

Division	Description	Weight	Jan-03	Feb-03	Mar-03	Apr-03	May-03	Jun-03	% change between March & June 2003
01	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	299	103.9	104.2	104.1	104.2	105.5	106.2	+ 2.0
02	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	86	106.6	106.5	106.4	106.9	108.0	110.0	+ 3.4
03	Clothing and footwear	60	102.8	103.0	102.9	101.7	103.3	103.4	+ 0.5
04	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	96	103.7	104.0	104.1	104.1	104.2	104.3	+ 0.2
05	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	80	104.9	105.0	104.6	104.9	104.8	104.9	+ 0.3
06	Health	28	107.9	108.2	108.3	108.6	108.6	109.1	+ 0.7
07	Transport	139	106.0	106.0	105.6	106.2	106.3	106.6	+ 0.9
08	Communication	31	122.0	122.4	123.3	122.5	122.5	121.3	- 1.6
09	Recreation and culture	53	103.9	104.1	103.9	104.3	104.5	104.5	+ 0.6
10	Education	24	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	107.1	-
11	Restaurants and hotels	50	106.3	106.7	106.8	106.8	108.0	107.9	+ 1.0
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	54	108.4	109.0	108.8	109.4	109.4	109.7	+ 0.8
	Total	1,000	105.5	105.7	105.6	105.8	106.5	106.9	+ 1.2

Table 4 - Inflation rate (%), 1975 - 2003

Calendar year	Inflation rate	Financial year	Inflation rate
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
1999	6.9	1998 - 99	7.9
2000	4.2	1999 - 2000	5.3
2001	5.4	2000 - 2001	4.4
2002	6.4	2001 - 2002	6.3
2003 ¹	Around 4	2002 - 2003	5.1

¹ Forecast

