



Economic and Social Indicators

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Consumer Price Index

1st Quarter 2024

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Statistics Mauritius
LIC Centre,
John Kennedy Street,
Port Louis, MAURITIUS
T: +230 208 1800
F: +230 211 4150
W: <https://statsmauritius.govmu.org>
E: statsmauritius@govmu.org

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

(Base period: January – December 2017 = 100)

1st Quarter 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

This issue of Economic and Social Indicators presents the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the first quarter 2024. The methodology used for computing CPI and inflation rate is given in the technical note at Annex.

2. KEY POINTS

2.1 Overall CPI

The Consumer Price Index, which stood at 132.0 in December 2023, registered a net increase of 5.6 points (or +4.2%) to reach 137.6 in March 2024 (Table 1A).

On a monthly basis, the CPI increased by 3.2 points in January, 3.4 points in February and decreased by 1.0 point in March.

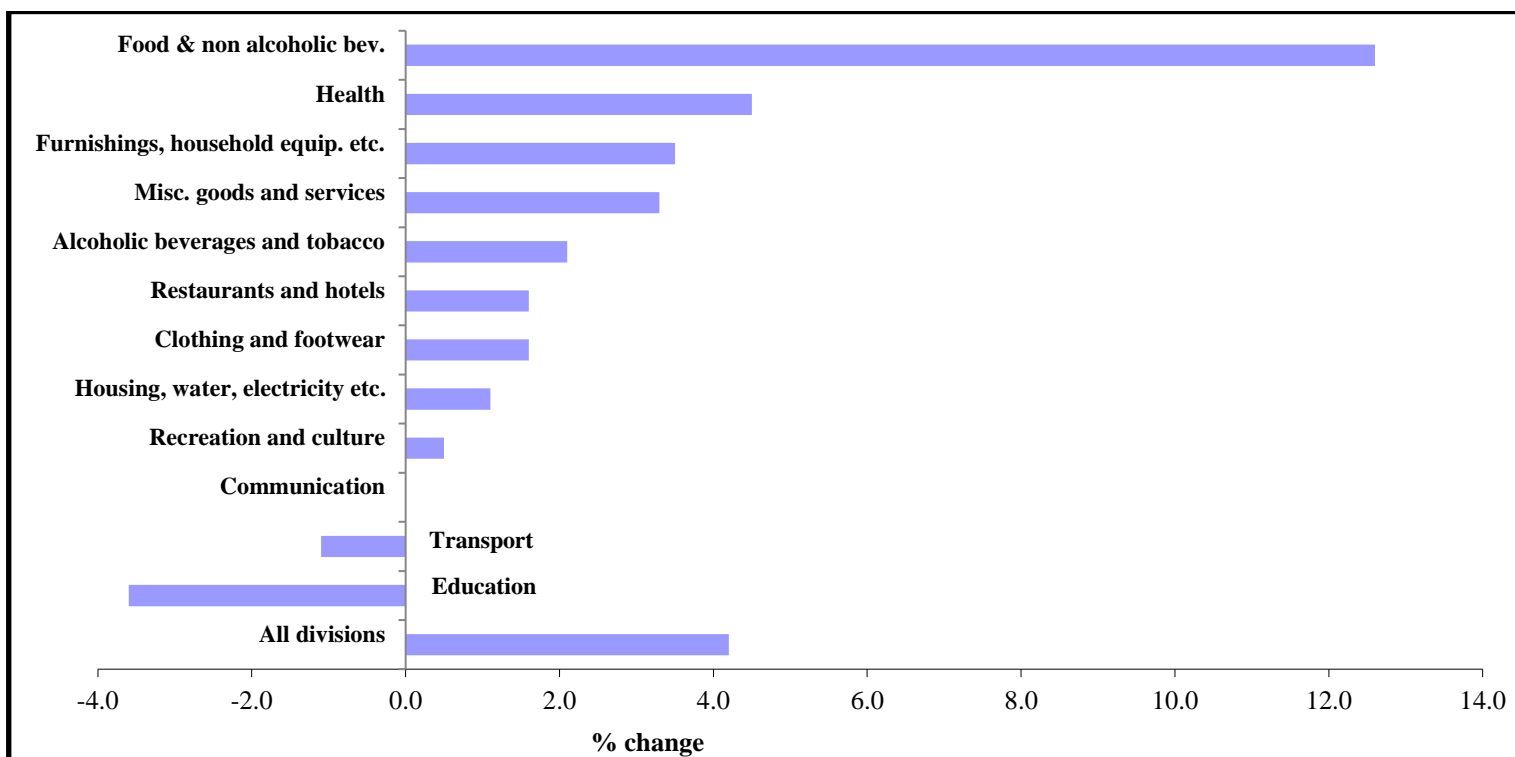
2.2 Overview of CPI movements

The main contributors for the net increase in CPI from December 2023 to March 2024 (Table 2) were:

- (a) higher prices of vegetables (+3.5 points), fruits (+0.3 point), culinary herbs (+0.2 point), meat (+0.1 point), frozen semi-prepared foods (+0.1 point) and other food products (+0.4 point);
- (b) higher prices of beer and stout (+0.2 point) and whisky (+0.1 point);
- (c) higher prices of ready-made clothing (+0.1 point);
- (d) higher workman's wages (+0.1 point);
- (e) higher charges for domestic services (+0.2 point);
- (f) higher doctors' fees (+0.2 point);
- (g) higher prices of motor vehicles (+0.1 point);
- (h) higher prices of goods for personal care (+0.1 point) and, other goods and services (+0.4 point); partly offset by
- (i) lower prices of gasoline (-0.3 point) and,
- (j) lower fees in private pre-primary school (-0.2 point);

3. MOVEMENT OF CPI SUB INDICES

Percentage change in CPI sub-indices from December 2023 to March 2024



The changes in the sub-indices (Table 3) for the twelve divisions of consumption expenditure from December 2023 to March 2024 were as follows:

| <u>Division of consumption expenditure</u> | <u>Main contributors to change</u> |
|---|--|
| <i>Food and non-alcoholic beverages (+12.6%)</i> | Higher prices of vegetables (+54.8%), fruits (+15.3%), culinary herbs (+51.6%), meat (+0.9%), frozen semi-prepared foods (+5.3%), biscuits (+7.0%), ice cream and sweets (+14.0%), milk preparations (+6.1%), ginger (+22.5%), concentrated juice and syrups (+6.7%) and other food products n.e.c. (+4.1%), partly offset by lower prices of traders' rice (-1.3%) and, margarine and ghee (-3.9%). |
| <i>Alcoholic beverages and tobacco (+2.1%)</i> | Higher prices of beer and stout (+4.7%), whisky (+10.3%), rum and other cane spirits (+0.4%) and wine (+0.7%). |
| <i>Clothing and footwear (+1.6%)</i> | Higher prices of ready-made clothing (+1.8%), footwear (+0.9%) and clothing materials (+0.9%) and, higher tailoring charges (+4.6%). |
| <i>Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels (+1.1%)</i> | Higher workman's wages (+14.0%), partly offset by lower prices of materials for the maintenance and repairs of dwelling (-0.7%). |
| <i>Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (+3.5%)</i> | Higher charges for domestic services (+16.5%) and, higher prices of washing materials and softeners (+2.6%) and some major household appliances (+2.1%), partly offset by lower prices of some furniture (-0.4%) and major tools and equipment (-2.5%). |
| <i>Health (+4.5%)</i> | Higher doctor's fees (+8.7%) and clinic fees (+4.5%) |
| <i>Transport (-1.1%)</i> | Lower prices of gasoline (-4.1%) and air tickets (-0.5%), partly mitigated by higher prices of motor vehicles (+1.2%) and higher servicing charges for motor vehicles (+1.2%). |
| <i>Communication</i> | Unchanged. |
| <i>Recreation and culture (+0.5%)</i> | Higher charges for some recreational services (+9.3%) and higher prices of pet foods (+2.5%), stationery (+0.9%) and, some toys and games (+1.2%). |

Education (-3.6%)

Lower private pre-primary schools' fees (-99.9%) following the implementation of the Grant-in-Aid scheme for free pre-primary education.

Restaurants and hotels (+1.6%)

Higher charges for expenditure in bars (+3.4%) and, higher prices of prepared foods (+1.1%).

Miscellaneous goods and services (+3.3%)

Higher prices of goods for personal care (+3.8%) and higher medical insurance (+4.2%), nursery fees (+23.3%) and beautician services (+9.7%).

4. INFLATION RATE

The headline inflation rate was 7.0% for year 2023, compared to 10.8% for year 2022 (Table 5).

The headline inflation rate excluding 'Alcoholic beverages and tobacco' was 6.6% for year 2023, compared to 11.0% for year 2022.

The headline inflation rate for the twelve months ending March 2024 worked out to 5.8%, compared to 11.1% for the twelve months ending March 2023.

The headline inflation rate excluding "Alcoholic beverages and tobacco" for the twelve months ending March 2024 worked out to 5.3%, compared to 11.4% for the twelve months ending March 2023.

5. INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF INFLATION RATE

The table below compares inflation rate (as measured by the percentage change in the average CPI for a given year relative to the previous year) of Mauritius with those of our main importing countries and some countries in the region for year 2023.

Inflation rate (%) of selected countries, year 2023

| Country | Inflation rate (%) | Country | Inflation rate (%) |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| France | 5.6 | Australia | 5.8 |
| United Kingdom | 7.7 | United States | 4.1 |
| China | 0.7 | Botswana | 5.9 |
| India | 5.5 | Mauritius | 7.0 |
| Japan | 3.2 | Seychelles | -0.8 |
| Singapore | 5.5 | South Africa | 5.8 |

Source – World Economic Outlook Database, October 2023

Note:

- (i) This publication is available on the website of Statistics Mauritius at <https://statsmauritius.govmu.org> From the homepage, choose “Publications” followed by “Economic and Social Indicators”, then “Consumer Price Index”.
- (ii) The monthly CPI is also available on our website. It is posted within 5 working days after the reference month.
- (iii) More detailed information on CPI can be made available upon request.

Contact persons:

- (1) Ms. Ashwinee Devi Soobhug
Statistician
asoobhug@govmu.org
- (2) Mrs. Gyantee Jugoo
Principal Statistical Officer
gjugoo@govmu.org

CPI Unit
Statistics Mauritius
LIC Building, Port Louis
Tel: (+230) 208 1800
Fax: (+230) 211 4150
Email: csocpi@govmu.org

Table 1A - Monthly Consumer Price Index, January 2013 - March 2024

| <i>Month</i> | <i>(Base : Jan - Dec 2012 = 100)</i> | | | | | | <i>(Base : Jan - Dec 2017 = 100)</i> | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| | <i>2013</i> | <i>2014</i> | <i>2015</i> | <i>2016</i> | <i>2017</i> | <i>2018</i> | <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023</i> | <i>2024</i> |
| January | 102.0 | 107.2 | 107.9 | 108.3 | 110.2 | 117.0 | | 103.8 | 105.9 | 107.0 | 114.9 | 128.5 | 135.2 |
| February | 102.7 | 108.5 | 110.7 | 110.1 | 111.5 | 119.3 | | 104.4 | 106.6 | 107.9 | 117.6 | 130.5 | 138.6 |
| March | 103.1 | 107.7 | 110.1 | 111.1 | 112.5 | 120.0 | | 104.4 | 107.4 | 108.5 | 120.1 | 131.1 | 137.6 |
| April | 103.4 | 107.7 | 110.0 | 110.2 | 113.4 | | 103.8 | 104.4 | 108.8 | 109.0 | 121.0 | 131.0 | |
| May | 103.3 | 106.8 | 107.3 | 108.2 | 114.6 | | 103.6 | 104.4 | 107.3 | 109.8 | 121.6 | 131.2 | |
| June | 103.4 | 106.8 | 107.2 | 108.4 | 115.3 | | 102.8 | 103.4 | 105.2 | 111.4 | 122.1 | 131.7 | |
| July | 103.6 | 106.8 | 107.4 | 108.5 | 114.3 | | 102.6 | 103.4 | 104.9 | 111.7 | 124.0 | 131.3 | |
| August | 103.3 | 107.2 | 108.4 | 109.4 | 114.4 | | 101.9 | 103.7 | 105.3 | 111.6 | 124.4 | 131.7 | |
| September | 103.5 | 106.5 | 108.6 | 109.6 | 113.4 | | 102.0 | 103.3 | 106.0 | 111.7 | 125.0 | 131.6 | |
| October | 103.9 | 105.9 | 107.5 | 109.1 | 112.9 | | 102.4 | 102.8 | 106.1 | 112.3 | 125.7 | 131.5 | |
| November | 105.0 | 105.9 | 107.0 | 109.4 | 113.3 | | 102.8 | 103.1 | 106.3 | 113.1 | 126.8 | 131.9 | |
| December | 105.3 | 105.5 | 106.9 | 109.4 | 114.0 | | 102.4 | 103.3 | 106.1 | 113.3 | 127.1 | 132.0 | |
| <i>Yearly average</i> | <i>103.5</i> | <i>106.9</i> | <i>108.3</i> | <i>109.3</i> | <i>113.3</i> | | | <i>103.7</i> | <i>106.3</i> | <i>110.6</i> | <i>122.5</i> | <i>131.2</i> | |
| <i>Annual change (%)</i> | + 3.5 | + 3.2 | + 1.3 | + 1.0 | + 3.7 | | + 3.2 | + 0.5 | + 2.5 | + 4.0 | + 10.8 | + 7.0 | |

Table 1B - Comparative Monthly Consumer Price Index , January 2013 - March 2024 ^{1/}*(Base: January - December 2017 = 100)*

| <i>Month</i> | <i>2013</i> | <i>2014</i> | <i>2015</i> | <i>2016</i> | <i>2017</i> | <i>2018</i> | <i>2019</i> | <i>2020</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023</i> | <i>2024</i> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| January | 90.0 | 94.6 | 95.2 | 95.6 | 97.3 | 103.2 | 103.8 | 105.9 | 107.0 | 114.9 | 128.5 | 135.2 |
| February | 90.6 | 95.7 | 97.7 | 97.2 | 98.4 | 105.3 | 104.4 | 106.6 | 107.9 | 117.6 | 130.5 | 138.6 |
| March | 90.9 | 95.0 | 97.1 | 98.1 | 99.3 | 105.9 | 104.4 | 107.4 | 108.5 | 120.1 | 131.1 | 137.6 |
| April | 91.2 | 95.0 | 97.1 | 97.3 | 100.1 | 103.8 | 104.4 | 108.8 | 109.0 | 121.0 | 131.0 | |
| May | 91.1 | 94.2 | 94.7 | 95.5 | 101.1 | 103.6 | 104.4 | 107.3 | 109.8 | 121.6 | 131.2 | |
| June | 91.2 | 94.2 | 94.5 | 95.7 | 101.7 | 102.8 | 103.4 | 105.2 | 111.4 | 122.1 | 131.7 | |
| July | 91.4 | 94.2 | 94.8 | 95.7 | 100.9 | 102.6 | 103.4 | 104.9 | 111.7 | 124.0 | 131.3 | |
| August | 91.1 | 94.6 | 95.6 | 96.5 | 100.9 | 101.9 | 103.7 | 105.3 | 111.6 | 124.4 | 131.7 | |
| September | 91.3 | 94.0 | 95.8 | 96.7 | 100.1 | 102.0 | 103.3 | 106.0 | 111.7 | 125.0 | 131.6 | |
| October | 91.7 | 93.4 | 94.9 | 96.2 | 99.6 | 102.4 | 102.8 | 106.1 | 112.3 | 125.7 | 131.5 | |
| November | 92.7 | 93.4 | 94.4 | 96.5 | 100.0 | 102.8 | 103.1 | 106.3 | 113.1 | 126.8 | 131.9 | |
| December | 92.9 | 93.1 | 94.3 | 96.5 | 100.6 | 102.4 | 103.3 | 106.1 | 113.3 | 127.1 | 132.0 | |
| <i>Yearly average</i> | <i>91.4</i> | <i>94.3</i> | <i>95.5</i> | <i>96.5</i> | <i>100.0</i> | <i>103.2</i> | <i>103.7</i> | <i>106.3</i> | <i>110.6</i> | <i>122.5</i> | <i>131.2</i> | |
| <i>change (%) (Inflation rate)</i> | <i>+ 3.5</i> | <i>+ 3.2</i> | <i>+ 1.3</i> | <i>+ 1.0</i> | <i>+ 3.7</i> | <i>+ 3.2</i> | <i>+ 0.5</i> | <i>+ 2.5</i> | <i>+ 4.0</i> | <i>+ 10.8</i> | <i>+ 7.0</i> | |

^{1/} *The CPI for January 2013 to March 2018, originally based on January to December 2012, has been converted to the new base January - December 2017=100 using a linking factor of 1.133167. Example: the monthly CPI for January 2018 has been converted to the new base by dividing 117.0 by 1.133167 (=103.2)*

Table 2 - Net contribution of main commodities that affected the index from December 2023 to March 2024

| Commodity | Contribution to change in overall index point | Percentage change in price index |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Vegetables | + 3.5 | + 54.8 |
| Fruits | + 0.3 | + 15.3 |
| Culinary herbs | + 0.2 | + 51.6 |
| Meat | + 0.1 | + 0.9 |
| Frozen semi-prepared foods | + 0.1 | + 5.3 |
| Other food products | + 0.4 | + 1.9 |
| Beer and Stout | + 0.2 | + 4.7 |
| Whisky | +0.1 | +10.3 |
| Ready made clothing | + 0.1 | + 1.8 |
| Workman's wages | + 0.1 | + 14.0 |
| Charges for Domestic Services | + 0.2 | + 16.5 |
| Doctor's fees | + 0.2 | + 8.7 |
| Gasoline | - 0.3 | - 4.1 |
| Motor Vehicles | + 0.1 | + 1.2 |
| Pre-primary school fees | - 0.2 | - 99.9 |
| Goods for personal care | + 0.1 | + 3.8 |
| Other goods and services | + 0.4 | + 0.7 |
| Overall | + 5.6 | + 4.2 |

Table 3 : Monthly sub-indices by division of consumption expenditure, December 2023 to March 2024

(Base: January - December 2017 = 100)

| Division | Description | Weight | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 | Percentage change ¹ between December 2023 and March 2024 |
|----------------------|--|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| 01 | Food and non-alcoholic beverages | 248 | 146.4 | 156.0 | 169.8 | 164.9 | +12.6 |
| 02 | Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | 110 | 140.3 | 141.5 | 143.3 | 143.3 | +2.1 |
| 03 | Clothing and footwear | 46 | 118.5 | 119.2 | 119.2 | 120.5 | +1.6 |
| 04 | Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | 112 | 110.1 | 111.3 | 111.3 | 111.3 | +1.1 |
| 05 | Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance | 59 | 134.8 | 138.6 | 139.5 | 139.6 | +3.5 |
| 06 | Health | 38 | 132.1 | 138.2 | 138.1 | 138.1 | +4.5 |
| 07 | Transport | 147 | 140.4 | 140.7 | 138.9 | 138.9 | - 1.1 |
| 08 | Communication | 44 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 98.7 | - |
| 09 | Recreation and culture | 42 | 119.6 | 119.7 | 120.0 | 120.2 | +0.5 |
| 10 | Education | 50 | 116.9 | 113.4 | 112.7 | 112.7 | - 3.6 |
| 11 | Restaurants and hotels | 54 | 137.0 | 137.3 | 137.6 | 139.2 | +1.6 |
| 12 | Miscellaneous goods and services | 50 | 124.8 | 127.8 | 129.1 | 128.9 | +3.3 |
| All Divisions | | 1000 | 132.0 | 135.2 | 138.6 | 137.6 | +4.2 |

∞

Note: Percentage change has been computed from unrounded indices and hence may vary slightly from the change in rounded indices.

- Nil

Table 4 - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,
December 2023 to March 2024 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)

| Description | Wgt | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Division 01 - Food and non alcoholic beverages | 248 | 146.4 | 156.0 | 169.8 | 164.9 |
| Group 1 - Food | 230 | 146.4 | 156.6 | 171.4 | 165.8 |
| Group 2 - Non-alcoholic beverages | 18.0 | 146.5 | 147.8 | 148.7 | 153.0 |
| Division 02 - Alcoholic beverages and tobacco | 110 | 140.3 | 141.5 | 143.3 | 143.3 |
| Group 1 - Alcoholic beverages | 61 | 136.8 | 138.9 | 142.3 | 142.2 |
| Group 2 - Tobacco | 49 | 144.7 | 144.7 | 144.7 | 144.7 |
| Division 03 - Clothing and footwear | 46 | 118.5 | 119.2 | 119.2 | 120.5 |
| Group 1 - Clothing | 36 | 117.5 | 118.0 | 118.1 | 119.7 |
| Group 2 - Footwear | 10 | 122.2 | 123.3 | 123.3 | 123.3 |
| Division 04 - Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels | 112 | 110.1 | 111.3 | 111.3 | 111.3 |
| Group 1 - Actual rentals for housing | 10 | 101.8 | 101.8 | 101.8 | 101.8 |
| Group 2 - Mortgage interest on housing loan | 31 | 112.9 | 112.9 | 112.9 | 112.9 |
| Group 3 - Maintenance and repair of the dwelling | 13 | 139.5 | 149.8 | 149.8 | 149.8 |
| Group 4 - Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling | 11 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Group 5 - Electricity, gas and other fuels | 47 | 104.3 | 104.3 | 104.3 | 104.3 |
| Division 05 - Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance | 59 | 134.8 | 138.6 | 139.5 | 139.6 |
| Group 1 - Furniture and furnishings, carpets and other floor coverings | 14 | 127.3 | 128.4 | 127.3 | 126.8 |
| Group 2 - Household textiles | 5 | 123.0 | 123.4 | 123.6 | 124.5 |
| Group 3 - Household appliances | 12 | 126.2 | 126.5 | 127.7 | 128.7 |

**Table 4 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,
December 2023 to March 2024 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)**

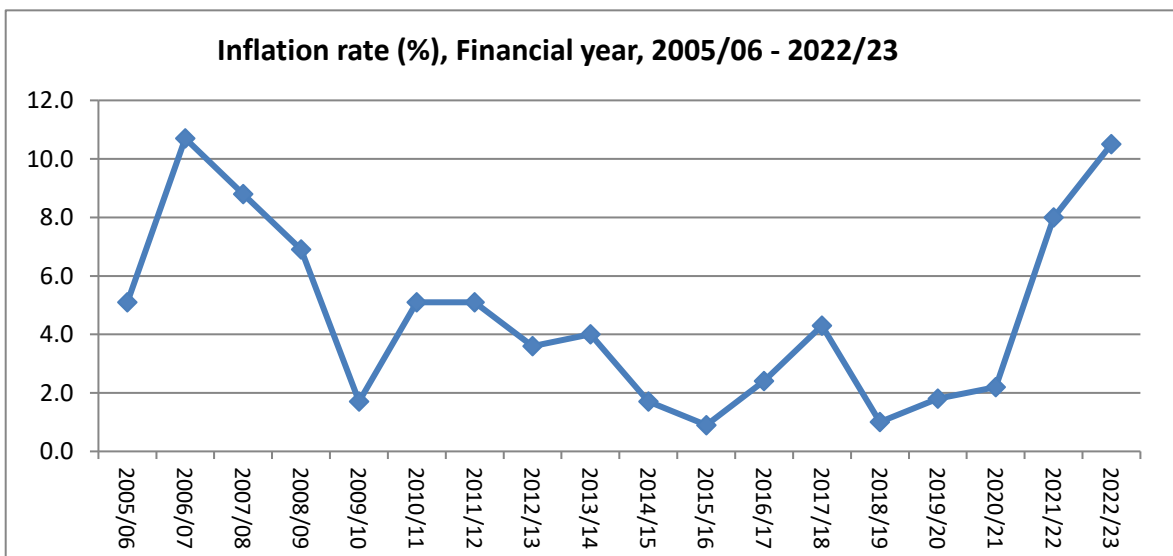
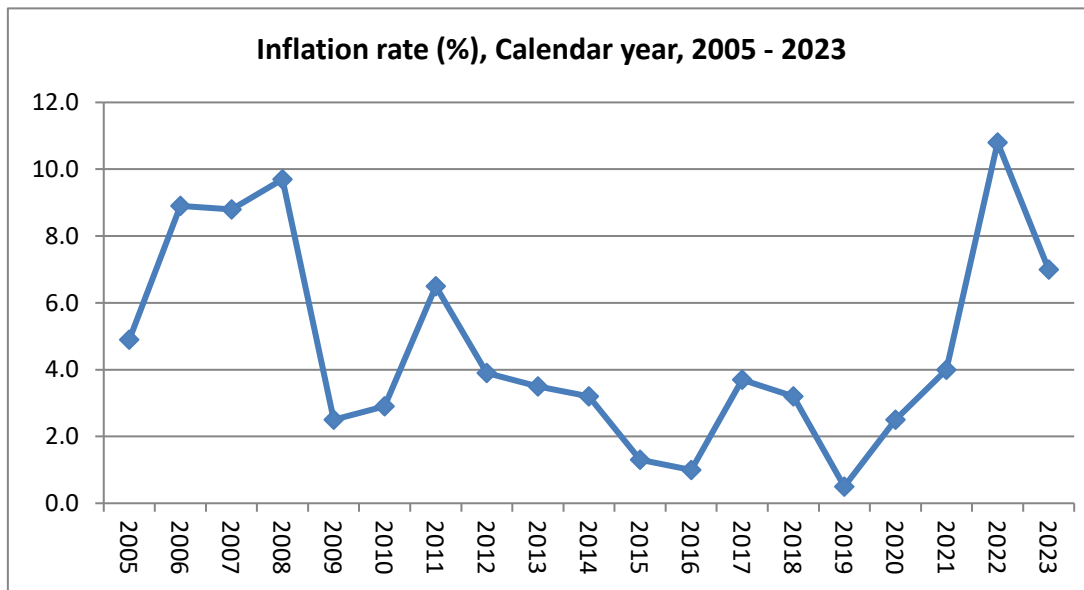
| Description | Wgt | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Group 4 - Glassware, tableware and household utensils | 2 | 127.4 | 129.1 | 131.0 | 131.0 |
| Group 5 - Tools and equipment for house and garden | 2 | 123.1 | 123.1 | 123.1 | 121.6 |
| Group 6 - Goods and services for routine household maintenance | 24 | 147.6 | 155.8 | 158.0 | 157.9 |
| Division 06 - Health | 38 | 132.1 | 138.2 | 138.1 | 138.1 |
| Group 1 - Medical products, appliances and equipment | 14 | 123.1 | 123.6 | 123.5 | 123.4 |
| Group 2 - Outpatient services | 15 | 146.4 | 158.0 | 158.0 | 158.0 |
| Group 3 - Hospital services | 9 | 122.3 | 127.8 | 127.8 | 127.8 |
| Division 07 - Transport | 147 | 140.4 | 140.7 | 138.9 | 138.9 |
| Group 1 - Purchase of vehicles | 50 | 133.4 | 135.1 | 134.6 | 135.1 |
| Group 2 - Operation of personal transport equipment | 64 | 153.1 | 152.5 | 148.5 | 148.5 |
| Group 3 - Transport services | 33 | 126.4 | 126.5 | 126.6 | 126.0 |
| Division 08 - Communication | 44 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 98.7 | 98.7 |
| Group 2 - Telephone and telefax equipment | 5 | 88.3 | 88.3 | 88.3 | 88.3 |
| Group 3 - Telephone and telefax services | 39 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Division 09 - Recreation and culture | 42 | 119.6 | 119.7 | 120.0 | 120.2 |
| Group 1 - Audio-visual, photographic and information processing equipment | 9 | 114.0 | 114.0 | 114.0 | 114.0 |
| Group 3 - Other recreational items and equipment, gardens and pets | 6 | 126.1 | 126.3 | 126.0 | 127.7 |

Table 4 (contd.) - Monthly CPI by division and group of consumption expenditure,**December 2023 to March 2024 (Base: January - December 2017 = 100)**

| Description | Wgt | Dec-23 | Jan-24 | Feb-24 | Mar-24 |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Group 4 - Recreational and cultural services | 15 | 108.8 | 109.6 | 109.6 | 109.6 |
| Group 5 - Newspapers, books and stationery | 12 | 134.2 | 133.3 | 134.5 | 134.6 |
| Division 10 - Education | 50 | 116.9 | 113.4 | 112.7 | 112.7 |
| Group 1 - Pre-primary and primary education | 5 | 118.1 | 77.1 | 77.1 | 77.1 |
| Group 2 - Secondary education | 10 | 111.5 | 114.3 | 114.3 | 114.3 |
| Group 3 - Post-secondary and non-tertiary education | 0.5 | 135.0 | 135.0 | 135.0 | 135.0 |
| Group 4 - Tertiary education | 34 | 118.8 | 118.8 | 117.8 | 117.8 |
| Group 5 - Education not definable by level | 0.5 | 64.1 | 64.1 | 64.1 | 64.1 |
| Division 11 - Restaurants and hotels | 54 | 137.0 | 137.3 | 137.6 | 139.2 |
| Group 1 - Catering services | 51 | 137.2 | 137.6 | 138.0 | 139.6 |
| Group 2 - Accommodation services | 3 | 131.9 | 131.9 | 131.9 | 131.9 |
| Division 12 - Miscellaneous goods and services | 50 | 124.8 | 127.8 | 129.1 | 128.9 |
| Group 1 - Personal care | 22 | 130.4 | 133.4 | 136.3 | 136.0 |
| Group 3 - Personal effects, not elsewhere classified | 2 | 153.5 | 156.3 | 155.5 | 155.5 |
| Group 4 - Social protection | 1 | 132.9 | 163.9 | 163.9 | 163.9 |
| Group 5 - Insurance | 21 | 116.7 | 118.9 | 118.9 | 118.9 |
| Group 6 - Financial services not elsewhere classified | 1 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| Group 7 - Other services not elsewhere classified | 3 | 127.3 | 127.3 | 127.9 | 127.9 |
| All divisions | 1000 | 132.0 | 135.2 | 138.6 | 137.6 |

Table 5 - Headline inflation rate (%), 2005 - 2023

| <i>Calendar year</i> | <i>Inflation rate</i> | <i>Financial Year</i> | <i>Inflation rate</i> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2005 | 4.9 | 2005/06 | 5.1 |
| 2006 | 8.9 | 2006/07 | 10.7 |
| 2007 | 8.8 | 2007/08 | 8.8 |
| 2008 | 9.7 | 2008/09 | 6.9 |
| 2009 | 2.5 | 2009/10 | 1.7 |
| 2010 | 2.9 | 2010/11 | 5.1 |
| 2011 | 6.5 | 2011/12 | 5.1 |
| 2012 | 3.9 | 2012/13 | 3.6 |
| 2013 | 3.5 | 2013/14 | 4.0 |
| 2014 | 3.2 | 2014/15 | 1.7 |
| 2015 | 1.3 | 2015/16 | 0.9 |
| 2016 | 1.0 | 2016/17 | 2.4 |
| 2017 | 3.7 | 2017/18 | 4.3 |
| 2018 | 3.2 | 2018/19 | 1.0 |
| 2019 | 0.5 | 2019/20 | 1.8 |
| 2020 | 2.5 | 2020/21 | 2.2 |
| 2021 | 4.0 | 2021/22 | 8.0 |
| 2022 | 10.8 | 2022/23 | 10.5 |
| 2023 | 7.0 | | |



Technical note

1. Methodology used for the computation of the Consumer Price Index (Base period: January - December 2017 = 100)

(a) Definition

The **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) is an indicator of changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services acquired by Mauritian consumers.

(b) Measurement of the CPI

The CPI measures price change by comparing, through time, the cost of a fixed basket of goods and services. As prices vary over time, the total cost of the basket also changes and thus the CPI measures the change in the cost of this basket. It provides a way to compare what this basket costs at a given period relative to a reference or base period.

The cost of the CPI basket is assigned a value of 100 in the base period and the costs in other periods are expressed as percentage changes compared to the base period. For example, if the CPI is 110, this means that there has been an increase of 10% in the cost of the basket since the base year; similarly an index of 90 means a 10% decrease in the cost of the basket.

(c) The CPI basket

The CPI basket is based on the expenditures of private households in a reference period, currently January to December 2017. The composition of the current CPI basket has been derived from the 2017 Household Budget Survey (HBS) data. It has been determined in accordance with latest ILO and SADC recommendations.

The items constituting the basket have been selected on the basis of the importance of household consumption expenditure on them. The basket includes all important items on which consumption expenditure is significant, i.e. accounting for around 0.1% or more of total household consumption expenditure. Each item's relative importance, which is called the "weight" (usually expressed on a total of 1000), is the expenditure share of the item. Non-consumption items such as income tax, social security contributions, purchase of land, shares and life insurance are excluded.

The commodities in the basket are classified according to the UN COICOP (Classification of Consumption Expenditure according to Purpose) with 12 divisions, 42 groups and 80 classes.

(d) Price coverage

The prices used in the CPI calculation are those that any member of the public would have to pay to purchase the specified goods or services. Any taxes on products attached to the goods are included.

Price collection is done on a regular basis. Each month, around 8,000 price quotations are collected in respect of 1,093 item indicators from some 520 outlets selected to be representative of regions across the islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues.

Prices of non-perishable items are collected monthly in the nine geographical districts of the island of Mauritius and in Rodrigues.

Prices of fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and fish are collected on a weekly basis from 9 markets in Port Louis, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Vacoas, Mahebourg, Flacq, Goodlands, Pamplemousses and Port Mathurin.

Information on rent is obtained from a quarterly rent survey of some 100 rented dwellings.

(e) Formula for computation of the CPI

The CPI is computed according to the Laspeyres Formula as a weighted average of price relatives of individual items. The weights are fixed and correspond to the base period expenditures. The Laspeyres Index measures the cost of a basket of goods and services at different points in time, relative to the cost of the same basket in the base period.

The formula used for computing the CPI at time t is

$$I_t = \frac{\sum W_i (P_{it} / P_{i0})}{\sum W_i} \times 100$$

where,

I_t : CPI for period t with reference to a base period 0

P_{i0} : Price of item i at time 0, i.e. during base period

P_{it} : Price of item i at time t

W_i : Weight of item i

The base period is January to December 2017, the period during which the latest HBS was conducted.

2. Inflation

(a) Definition of Inflation

Inflation is the percentage change in the level of prices (as measured by the CPI) from one period to another.

(b) Calculating the Inflation Rate

The headline inflation rate in Mauritius, like in many other countries, is calculated by using the annual average method, i.e. by comparing the average level of prices during a twelve-month period with the average level during the corresponding previous twelve-month period. This type of

inflation rate is more appropriate for adjusting wages, salaries and pensions to compensate for loss of purchasing power. *All inflation rates presented in this publication relate to the headline inflation.*

Another commonly used method of calculating the inflation rate is the so called ‘year-on-year’ method. The year-on-year inflation rate is calculated as the percentage change in the CPI for a given month with respect to the CPI for the corresponding month of the previous year. It is generally used by central banks for monetary policy decisions. Year-on-year inflation rates are not presented in this publication but can be easily calculated through the available monthly CPI.

Note: More information about the concept, computation and use of the CPI is available online in the publication ‘[Household Budget Survey](#)’.