

Media Release

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Increase of 0.2% in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), August 2019

- The CPI increased 0.2% in August 2019 compared to July 2019. It was 101.0 points compared to 100.8 points in the previous month (base: average 2018 = 100.0 points). The CPI excluding energy has also increased 0.2% and was 101.1 points. The CPI excluding vegetables and fruit and the CPI excluding housing increased 0.1% each and were 101.0 and 100.5 points, respectively.
- Prices of the following items increased in particular: fresh fruit and vegetables 4.2% and culture and entertainment 2.6%.
- Prices of the following items decreased in particular: clothing 1.5%, communication 0.7% and miscellaneous 0.7%.
- Since the start of the year the CPI increased 0.8%, the CPI excluding fruit and vegetables increased 0.9%, the CPI excluding energy increased 0.7% and the CPI excluding housing increased 0.6%.
- Over the past 12 months (August 2019 compared to August 2018) the CPI increased 0.6%, the CPI excluding energy increased 0.8%, the CPI excluding vegetables and fruit increased 0.7% and the CPI excluding housing increased 0.1%.
- The seasonally adjusted CPI and the seasonally adjusted CPI excluding housing increased 0.2%, each in August 2019 and the seasonally adjusted CPI excluding vegetables, fruit and housing increased 0.1%.
- Based on the trend data for the period May 2019 – August 2019, the annual pace of decrease in the CPI was 0.3%, the annual pace of decrease in the CPI excluding housing was 0.9%; in contrast the annual pace of increase in the CPI excluding vegetables, fruit and housing was 0.3%.

Please note: This Press Release is for Publication

After 18:30 PM on Sunday, September 15, 2019

Diagram 1 – Monthly Percentage Change in CPI during the Past 12 Months

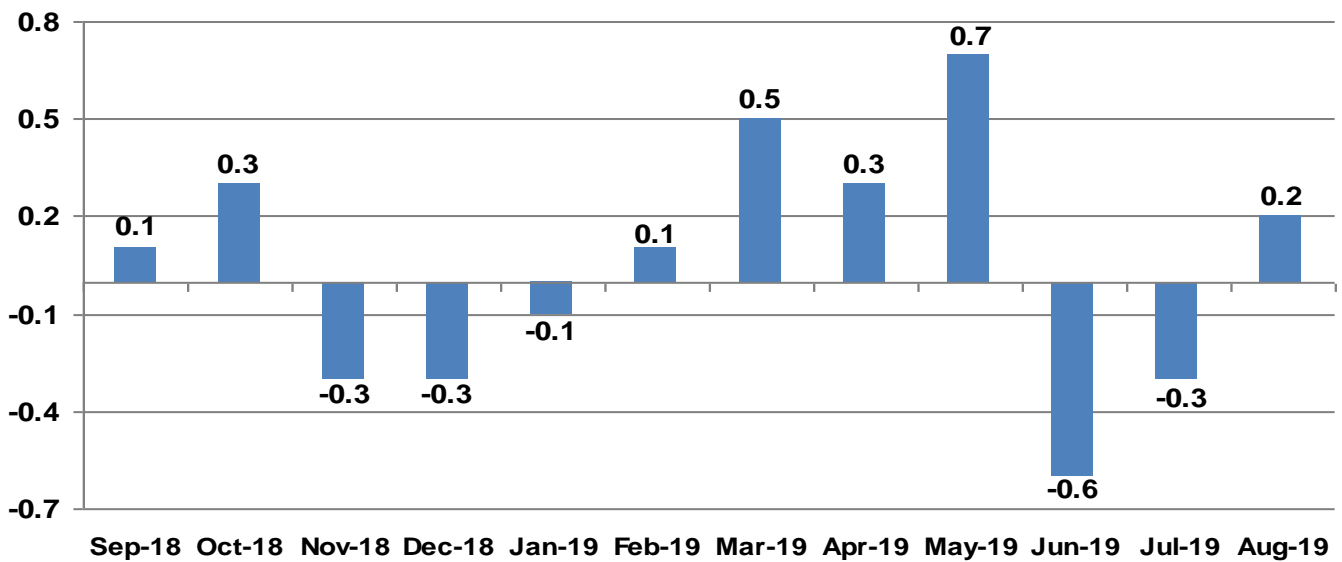


Diagram 2 – CPI 12-Month Inflation Rate for the Past 10 Years Product and Service Groups that Particularly Influenced the Index This Month:

<i>Product / Service Group</i>	<i>Percentage Change</i>	<i>Contribution to Index's Percentage Change</i>
recreation, holidays and trips	15.9	0.1300
fresh fruit and vegetables	4.2	0.1006
owned dwellings services	0.4	0.0683
chicken and parts thereof	3.1	0.0373
telephone and Internet services and communications products	-0.8	-0.0161
cigarettes, manufactured abroad	-1.4	-0.0266
clothing	-1.5	-0.0335
expenditures for travel abroad and domestic flights	-1.2	-0.0576

Major Changes in Primary Consumption Items

Food (excluding vegetables and fruit)

The food price index remained unchanged.

The following increased in particular: crackers (various) (7.9%), chicken and parts thereof (3.1%), raw rice (2.2%), syrups and maple syrup (2.2%), beef, internal parts (1.9%), soft drinks, non-carbonated (1.9%), soda water and mineral water (1.7%), sugar (1.4%), candy and miscellaneous sweets (1.4%), instant coffee (1.4%), sweet, cooking, and whipped cream (1.1%) and baby food (1.1%).

The following decreased in particular: beer (3.9%), natural fruit juices (3.4%), cookies and biscuits (3.0%), malt beer (3.0%), baking and cake decorating products (2.8%), oil (2.7%), fresh fish (2.6%), chocolate (2.0%), wafers (1.9%), mutton (1.6%), prepared fish products (1.6%), various cereals (1.5%), canned meat, sausage and hot dogs (1.5%), chocolate spread, butterscotch spread and peanut butter (1.2%) and cocoa (1.0%).

Vegetables and Fruit

The vegetables and fruit index increased 3.1%.

The fresh fruit index increased 4.7% and the fresh vegetables index increased 3.8%. In contrast, the dried, preserved and frozen fruit index decreased 0.6% and the frozen, pickled and canned vegetables index decreased 0.1%.

Among the fresh fruit, the following increased in particular: watermelon (28.0%), bananas (27.0%), sugar melons (20.2%), oranges (5.3%), apples (4.5%) and lemons (3.5%).

The following decreased in particular: mangos (23.9%), table grapes (12.2%), peaches (5.7%) and plums (3.4%).

Among the fresh vegetables, the following increased in particular: tomatoes (25.2%), cabbage (18.1%), eggplant (13.1%), kohlrabi (8.3%), beans (6.9%), corn on the cob (5.2%), lettuce (3.8%), squash (3.6%), carrots (1.7%) and onions (1.0%).

The following decreased in particular: pumpkin and butternut squash (6.5%), cauliflower (6.0%), peppers (4.1%), broccoli (3.0%) and potatoes and sweet potatoes (1.9%).

Among the processed vegetables and fruit, the following decreased in particular: peanuts (2.4%), dried fruit (1.3%) and frozen vegetables (1.2%).

The following increased in particular: canned tomatoes and tomato puree (2.5%), pickled cucumbers (1.7%) and seeds (1.3%).

Housing

The housing price index increased 0.4%.

The owned dwellings services index increased 0.4% and the rent index increased 0.1%.

Owned Dwellings Services

The owned dwellings services index showed an increase in August 2019 compared to July 2019. This increase reflects the changes in rental prices set in contracts signed in July 2019 – August 2019, compared to contracts signed in June 2019 – July 2019.

Dwelling Maintenance

The dwelling maintenance index increased 0.1%.

The following increased in particular: housecleaning products (1.5%), painting and whitewashing services (1.2%) and gas for domestic consumption (1.0%).

The following decreased in particular: deodorizers (1.8%), diesel oil for heating (1.3%) and electricity repairs services (1.0%).

Furniture and Household Equipment

The furniture and household equipment index decreased 0.2%.

The following decreased in particular: candles and air fresheners (3.4%), blankets (3.3%), mirrors, clocks, and frames (3.1%), curtains and upholstery fabrics (2.6%), outdoor furniture (2.4%), sheets (2.4%), electrical equipment for heating and cooling the dwelling (1.5%), bookcases/bookshelves (1.4%), other household electrical equipment (1.2%), accessories for electrical equipment (1.2%), carpets (1.1%) and closets (1.0%).

The following increased in particular: pillows and cushions (6.4%), tablecloths and napkins (5.5%), cooking and baking utensils (3.9%), mugs, cups, and glasses (2.6%), cutlery (2.4%), serving dishes and storage containers (1.8%) and kitchen accessories (1.5%).

Clothing and Footwear

The clothing and footwear index decreased 1.2%; the seasonally adjusted index increased 0.2%.

The clothing index decreased 1.5% and the footwear index decreased 0.1%.

Among clothing item, the following decreased in particular: miscellaneous clothing such as hats, ties, and swimsuits (5.4%), outerwear (1.6%) and sports and exercise clothes (1.3%).

Among footwear item, the following decreased in particular: children's footwear (1.8%) and women's footwear (1.2%).

The following increased in particular: men's footwear (2.3%).

Health

The health index decreased 0.2%.

The following decreased in particular: glasses and associated optical products (1.7%).

The following increased in particular: dietary supplements (2.2%) and body hygiene products (1.2%).

Education, Culture and Entertainment

The education, culture and entertainment index increased 1.2%.

The education services index increased 0.1% and the culture and entertainment index increased 2.6%.

The following increased in particular: recreation, holidays and trips (15.9%), tickets or subscription to sporting event (rose 7.8% compared to May 2019) and religious books (1.0%).

The following decreased in particular: fiction books (2.1%) and photography equipment and services (1.0%).

Transport and Communication

The transport and communication index decreased 0.3%.

The transport index decreased 0.3% and the communication index decreased 0.7%.

The following decreased in particular: expenditures for travel abroad and domestic flights (1.2%).

The following increased in particular: driving lessons, car rentals etc. (1.7%).

Miscellaneous

The miscellaneous index decreased 0.7%.

The following decreased in particular: bags, school bags, etc. (2.9%), creams, perfume, and facial products (1.6%), cigarettes, manufactured abroad (1.4%) and diapering products and accessories for babies (1.4%).