

# Media Release

[info@cbs.gov.il](mailto:info@cbs.gov.il) [www.cbs.gov.il](http://www.cbs.gov.il) Fax: 02-6521340

Jerusalem,  
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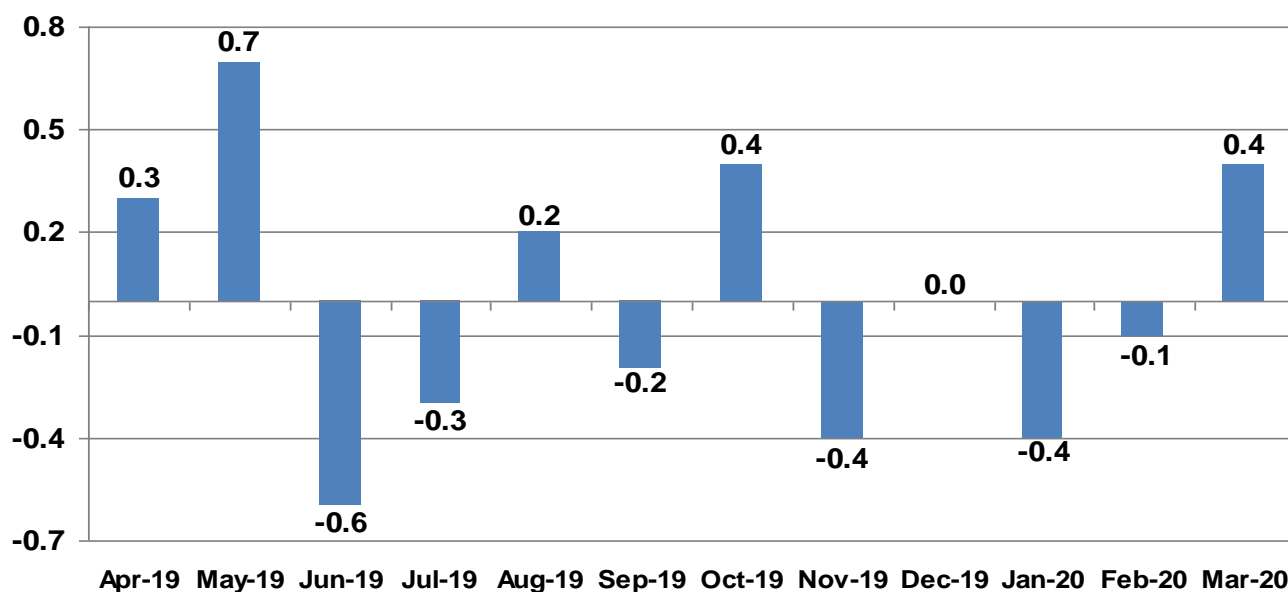
## Increase of 0.4% in the Consumer Price Index, March 2020

- The CPI increased 0.4% in March 2020 compared to February 2020. It was 100.7 points compared to 100.3 points in the previous month (base: average 2018 = 100.0 points). The CPI excluding vegetables and fruit and the CPI excluding energy increased 0.5%, each and were 100.6 and 101.1 points, respectively. The CPI excluding housing increased 0.3% and was 99.7 points.
- Prices of the following items increased in particular: clothing and footwear 3.2%, fresh fruit 1.8%, housing 0.9% and food 0.6%.
- Prices of the following items decreased in particular: fresh vegetables 1.9%.
- Since the start of the year, the CPI decreased 0.1%, the CPI excluding housing decreased 0.3%, the CPI excluding fruit and vegetables decreased 0.2%; in contrast the CPI excluding energy increased 0.2%.
- Over the past 12 months (March 2020 compared to March 2019) the CPI remained unchanged, the CPI excluding housing decreased 0.7%; in contrast the CPI excluding energy increased 0.2% and the CPI excluding vegetables and fruit increased 0.1%.
- In March 2020 the seasonally adjusted CPI and the seasonally adjusted CPI excluding vegetables, fruit and housing increased 0.1%, each; in contrast the seasonally adjusted CPI excluding housing remained unchanged.
- Based on the trend data for the period December 2019 – March 2020, the annual pace of increase in the CPI was 0.6%; in contrast the annual pace of decrease in the CPI excluding housing was 0.3% and the annual pace of decrease in the CPI excluding vegetables, fruit and housing was 0.6%.

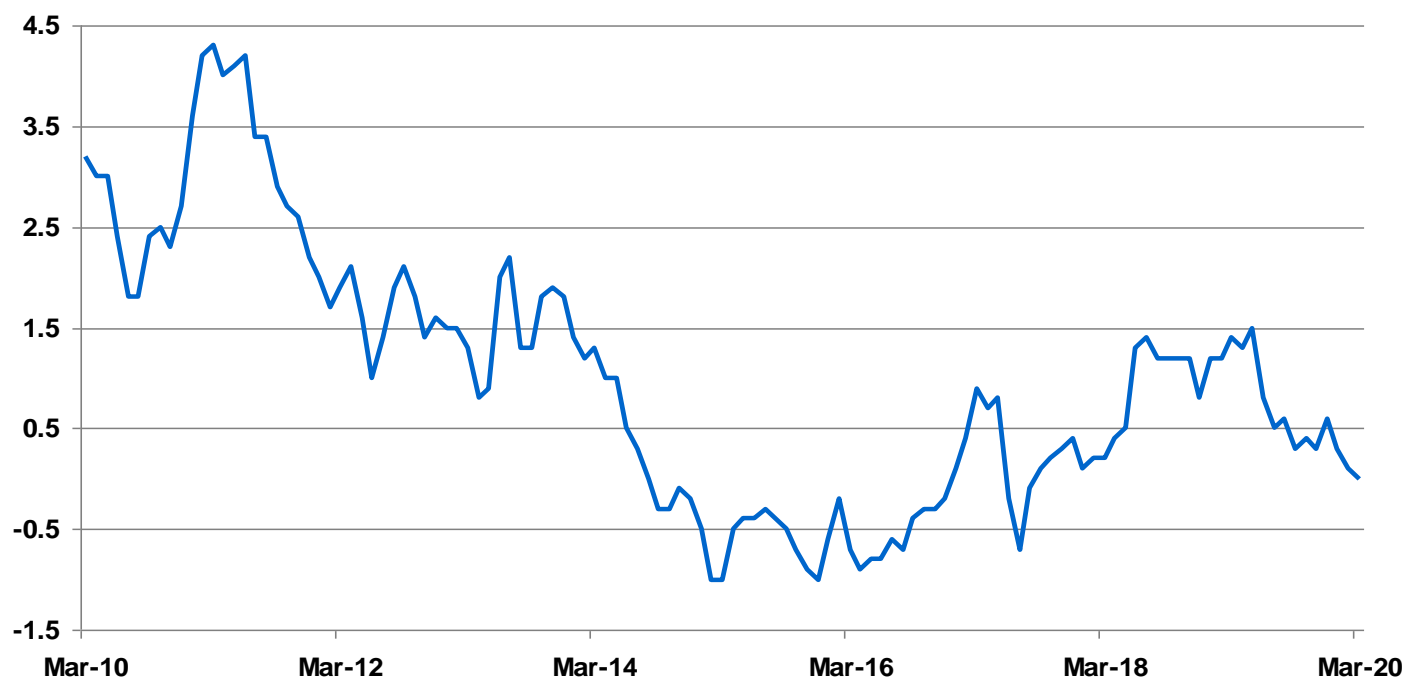
**Please note: This Press Release is for Publication**

**After 14:00 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**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> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| owned dwellings services           | 1.2                      | 0.2060                                           |
| clothing                           | 3.5                      | 0.0770                                           |
| chicken and parts thereof          | 5.4                      | 0.0644                                           |
| bread, cereals and pastry products | 0.9                      | 0.0201                                           |
| fresh fruit                        | 1.8                      | 0.0197                                           |
| recreation, holidays and trips     | 2.5                      | 0.0173                                           |
| fresh vegetables                   | -1.9                     | -0.0281                                          |
| vehicle fuel and lubricants        | -1.1                     | -0.0347                                          |

## **Major Changes in Primary Consumption Items**

### **Food (excluding vegetables and fruit)**

The food price index increased 0.6%.

The following increased in particular: chicken and parts thereof (5.4%), brined cheese (3.8%), pastry products (2.3%), tea (2.2%), halvah, all types (2.1%), various cereals (2.0%), wafers (1.9%), beef, minced (1.5%), bread (1.3%), sugar (1.3%), frozen fish (1.2%), vinegar, mustard, sauces, and dressings (1.2%), crackers (various) (1.1%), sausage, pastrami and hot dogs (1.1%) and pasteurized milk (1.0%).

The following decreased in particular: tahini (4.3%), prepared vegetable salads (3.1%), honey (2.9%), raw rice (2.7%), pork (2.0%), oils (1.5%), chocolate (1.2%), spices (various) (1.2%), soft drinks, non-carbonated (1.0%) and beer (1.0%).

### **Vegetables and Fruit**

The vegetables and fruit index decreased 0.5%.

The fresh vegetables index decreased 1.9%; in contrast the fresh fruit index increased 1.8%. The frozen, pickled and canned vegetables index decreased 1.5% and the dried, preserved and frozen fruit index decreased 0.5%.

Among the fresh vegetables, the following decreased in particular: artichoke (40.7%), squash (8.1%), cabbage (7.7%), eggplant (6.6%), broccoli (5.5%), kohlrabi (5.4%), carrots (4.1%), cucumbers (2.8%), lettuce (2.8%), tomatoes (2.5%), pumpkin and butternut squash (2.3%), sprouts (2.1%), fennel (1.5%) and leaf vegetables (1.0%).

The following increased in particular: beans (11.8%), cauliflower (7.0%), onions (2.3%) and beets (2.2%).

Among the fresh fruit, the following increased in particular: bananas (25.7%), sugar melons (5.9%), oranges (4.7%), lemons (4.5%), persimmons (2.0%) and clementine (1.4%).

The following decreased in particular: strawberries (22.5%) and pomelos (5.0%).

Among the processed vegetables and fruit, the following decreased in particular: frozen vegetables (5.9%), other pickled vegetables (1.7%), olives (1.7%) and walnuts and pistachio nuts (1.7%).

The following increased in particular: peanuts (2.8%) and canned vegetables (1.9%).

## **Housing**

The housing price index increased 0.9%.

The owned dwellings services index increased 1.2% and the rent index increased 0.1%.

### **Owned Dwellings Services**

The owned dwellings services index showed an increase in March 2020 compared to February 2020. This increase reflects the changes in rental prices set in contracts signed in February 2020 – March 2020, compared to contracts signed in January 2020 – February 2020.

### **Dwelling Maintenance**

The dwelling maintenance index increased 0.1%.

The following increased in particular: deodorizers (3.5%), dishwashing products (2.2%) and disinfectants and pesticides (1.2%).

The following decreased in particular: kerosene and diesel oil for heating (1.9%), other cleaning materials (1.9%), gas for domestic consumption (1.4%) and paint and whitewash for dwelling (1.4%).

### **Furniture and Household Equipment**

The furniture and household equipment index increased 0.5%.

The following increased in particular: bedding and towels (6.0%), cooking and baking utensils (2.3%), home decorations (2.1%), bathroom accessories (1.9%) and electrical equipment for heating and cooling the dwelling (1.2%).

The following decreased in particular: outdoor furniture (1.6%) and beds and mattresses (1.1%).

### **Clothing and Footwear**

The clothing and footwear index increased 3.2%; the seasonally adjusted index increased 1.4%.

The clothing index increased 3.5% and the footwear index increased 1.7%.

Among clothing item, the following increased in particular: outerwear (4.8%).

The following decreased in particular: sports and exercise clothes (4.4%), socks (1.3%) and miscellaneous clothing such as hats, scarves, and ties (1.1%).

Among footwear item, the following increased in particular: children's footwear (7.8%) and women's footwear (1.1%).

The following decreased in particular: men's footwear (1.0%).

### **Health**

The health index decreased 0.1%.

The following decreased in particular: oral hygiene products (2.9%) and contact lenses and solutions (2.0%).

The following increased in particular: body hygiene products (5.7%).

### **Education, Culture and Entertainment**

The education, culture and entertainment index increased 0.3%.

The education services index increased 0.2% and the culture and entertainment index increased 0.4%.

The following increased in particular: recreation, holidays and trips (2.5%) and computers and peripheral equipment (1.9%).

The following decreased in particular: reading books (2.6%).

### **Transport and Communication**

The transport and communication index increased 0.2%.

The transport index increased 0.2% and the communication index increased 0.1%.

The following increased in particular: cars (1.0%).

The following decreased in particular: car rental for domestic travel (7.6%) and vehicle fuel and lubricants (1.1%).

### **Miscellaneous**

The miscellaneous index increased 0.1%.

The following increased in particular: toiletries and bath products (1.3%), inheritances, wills, and legal consultation (1.3%), jewellery (1.2%), bags, satchels, school bags, etc. (1.2%) and toilet paper, tissues and wipes (1.0%).

The following decreased increased in particular: make-up and cosmetics (2.8%) and creams, perfume, and facial products (1.2%).

The price indices will be published at the following times during the next 12 months:

| <b>Index for Month</b>                   | <b>To be published on date</b> | <b>Time</b> |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| April 2020                               | Friday, May 15, 2020           | 14:00       |
| May 2020                                 | Monday, June 15, 2020          | 18:30       |
| June 2020                                | Wednesday, July 15, 2020       | 18:30       |
| July 2020                                | Friday, August 14, 2020        | 14:00       |
| August 2020                              | Tuesday, September 15, 2020    | 18:30       |
| September 2020                           | Thursday, October 15, 2020     | 18:30       |
| October 2020                             | Sunday, November 15, 2020      | 18:30       |
| November 2020                            | Tuesday, December 15, 2020     | 18:30       |
| December 2020 and Annual Summary of 2020 | Friday, January 15, 2021       | 14:00       |
| January 2021                             | Monday, February 15, 2021      | 18:30       |
| February 2021                            | Monday, March 15, 2021         | 18:30       |
| March 2021                               | Wednesday, April 14, 2021      | 14:00       |