



Wholesale prices increases slow to 0.6% in April 2020

The Wholesale Price Index (2014=100) rose by 0.6% year-on-year in April 2020, well below the previous month's rate of 3.3% and the lowest in a year. The rise of the index originated mainly from higher prices of general-purpose machinery (+13.3%), products of agriculture (+10.8%), and live animals and animal products (+30.0%), given their weight in the index. On the other hand, the lower prices of refined petroleum products (-11.9%) came as the most offsetting factor on the wholesale price inflation.

The largest price increases in agricultural and fishery products

Wholesale prices of **agricultural and fishery products** increased by 15.1% year-on-year in April 2020, mostly due to higher prices of products of agriculture (+10.8%), among them mainly cereals (+14.6%) and live animals (+33.9%). **Metal products, machinery and equipment** recorded an increase of 4.7%, originated primarily from higher prices of general-purpose machinery (+13.3%), mainly water pumps (+22.8%), and transport equipment (+5.6%), mainly motorized vehicles and trailers (+5.6%).

The increase in wholesale prices of **food products, beverages and tobacco and textiles** was 1.6%, coming mainly from higher prices of meat, fish, fruit, vegetables, oils and fats (+5.9%), while prices of dairy products declined by 3.7%.

On the other hand, **ores and minerals** (-3.4%) and **other transportable goods** (-5.6%) registered a decrease in their wholesale prices. The former was the result of falling prices of stones and sand (-3.4%) while the latter was mostly affected by lower prices of refined petroleum products (-11.9%) and basic chemicals (-7.5%).

Wholesale prices down 1.8% from March

On a monthly basis, the Wholesale Price Index fell by 1.8% in April 2020, mainly influenced by lower prices of *refined petroleum products*, which declined 11.9% from the previous month. For the same reason, average prices of **other transportable goods** declined most (-6.1%). Of the other major product categories, **ores and minerals** also registered a decline in their prices (-0.2%) while **agricultural and fishery products** recorded a price increase of 8.3%, with *products of agriculture* increasing by 6.4% and *live animals and animal products* rising by up to 14.4%.

Prices of **food products, beverages and tobacco and textiles** increased by 0.4% while **metal products, machinery and equipment** didn't show any significant change.

Methodology

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflects the movements of pre-retail prices of goods against a fixed basket of 343 items. The prices are collected for three cities (Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam) through field visits to points of sale. The year 2014 was determined as the base year. WPI statistics are published on a monthly basis.



Annual and monthly change in wholesale price index
by main product category, April 2020

Divisions	Percentage change (%) in April 2020 compared to:	
	March 2020	April 2019
General Index	-1.8	0.6
Agriculture and fishery products	8.3	15.1
Ores and Minerals	-0.2	-3.4
Food products, beverages and tobacco and textiles	0.4	1.6
Other transportable goods	-6.1	-5.6
Metal products, machinery and equipment	0.0	4.7

Monthly WPI (yoy in %)



Links: [All Tables](#), [Methodological Note](#)