

Annual inflation in the Kingdom reaches 1.6% in March 2024 compared to March 2023

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the Kingdom increased by 1.6% during the month of March 2024, compared to the same period last year. This is attributed to an 8.8% increase in prices of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, as well as a 0.9% increase in prices of food and beverages. Meanwhile, prices of transportation decreased by 1.8%, and prices of personal goods and services decreased by 1.1%.

Rental prices main driver of inflation in March 2024 compared to March 2023

Actual housing rents increased by 10.5% in March 2024, influenced by the increase in villa rents by 9.7%. This increase had a significant impact on the annual inflation rate for March 2024, due to the weight of this category (21.0%).

Similarly, food and beverage category increased by 0.9%, influenced by a 6.8% rise in vegetable prices. Prices in the restaurants and hotels category also rose by 2.4%, affected by a 2.2% increase in food services prices.

Furthermore, the recreation and culture sector recorded a 0.7% increase, influenced by a 5.1% rise in holiday and tourism prices. Meanwhile, the education category saw a 1.2% increase, driven by a 4.3% increase in secondary education fees.

On the other hand, prices in furnishing and home equipment sector decreased by 3.2%, driven by a 5.3% decline in furniture, carpet, and flooring prices. Similarly, prices in the clothing and footwear category decreased by 4.0%, influenced by a 6.6% decline in ready-made clothing prices. Transportation prices also decreased by 1.8%, affected by a 3.0% decrease in vehicle purchase prices.

Slight decrease in prices by 0.1% in March 2024 compared to February2024

In March 2024, the Consumer Price Index recorded a slight decrease of 0.1% compared to February 2024. This monthly inflation index was influenced by a 0.7% decrease in the food and beverage sector, which, in turn, was affected by a 0.6% decline in meat and poultry prices.

Furthermore, the index witnessed decreases in the prices of the following categories: transportation by 0.7%, furnishing and home equipment by 0.7%, recreation and culture by 0.9%, communications by 0.3%, and tobacco by 0.1%.

On the other hand, prices increased in the housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel category by 0.7%, personal goods and services category by 0.3%, and clothing and footwear category by 0.1%.

However, prices of services such as education, restaurants and hotels, and health did not show any significant change in March 2024.

Table1. Annual and monthly change in CPI by category (March2024) (%)

| General Index, Categories | Percent change in March2024 compared to | |
|--|---|-------------|
| | March 2023 | Feb 2024 |
| General Index | 1.6 | -0.1 |
| Food & Beverages | 0.9 | -0.7 |
| Tobacco | -1.1 | -0.1 |
| Clothing and Footwear | -4.0 | 0.1 |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels | 8.8 | 0.7 |
| Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance | -3.2 | -0.7 |
| Health | -0.9 | 0.0 |
| Transport | -1.8 | -0.7 |
| Communications | -2.0 | -0.3 |
| Recreation & Culture | 0.7 | -0.9 |
| Education | 1.2 | 0.0 |
| Restaurants & Hotels | 2.4 | 0.0 |
| Personal Goods and Services | -1.1 | 0.3 |

Source: tables.

Figure1. CPI (Year-on-Year, %)



CPI Reference Metadata

Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 490 items. The basket was selected based on the results of the household income and expenditure survey conducted in 2018, according to which the items and their weights were determined. The prices are collected through field visits to points of sale. The CPI statistics are published monthly. For more details, click [Reference Metadata](#)