



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء  
General Authority for Statistics

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# Metadata Report of Average Prices of Goods and Services

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V-2.0

Quality Management

Last update: 05.02.2023



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## 1. Contact

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1.2. Contact organization unit	Price Statistics Department
1.3. Contact person function	Director of Price Statistics Department
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1.6. Contact phone number	920020081

## 2. Metadata Update

2.1. Metadata last update	08/03/2023
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## 3. Statistical Presentation

3.1. Data description
<p>The average prices of goods and services display data on the average price of a good or service and its change rate in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</p>



The Average Prices of Goods and Services is a survey conducted to collect data on the main characteristics as following:

1. The provision of the average price of a good or service (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, annually) from the basket of the average prices of goods and services program.
2. The provision of the rate or percentage of change between a current period and a previous period (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually).
3. Contribute to satisfying Vision 2030 objectives, as well as local needs such as those set by the Saudi Contractors Authority, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.

The data is further used to estimate:

1. Cost of the monthly goods and services basket for the consumer.
2. Cost of basic construction materials

### 3.2. Classification system

The following classifications are applied in the average prices of goods and services:

- **Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP):**  
The Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP) is used in the average prices program, with the section headings modified to fit the items selected within the relevant section, as follows:

Sections	Number of Items
Food & Beverage	92
Tobacco	1
Clothing	10
Constructional Goods	38
Detergents	4



Health	3
Maintenance and Repair of Means of Personal Transport	2
Fodder and Livestock	14
Hotels and Furnished Apartments	2
Miscellaneous Personal Goods and Services	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>

- Classification of establishments included in the survey:
  1. All points of sale and provision of services at retail price in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
  2. Goods and services within the basket of average prices.

The classifications are available on the GASTAT's website: [www.stats.gov.sa](http://www.stats.gov.sa)

### 3.3. Sector coverage

The Average Prices of Goods and Services the following main economic sectors:

- Food products, beverages, tobacco, textiles.
- Agriculture and fishing
- Ore & Metals

### 3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Average Prices of Goods and Services Terms and Concepts:

- Average Prices: A statistical measure of average prices of goods and services with a set and precise specification and period.
- Percentage of Change: Change rate between a current period and a previous one.
- Goods and Services: The main goods and services most consumed by the household consumer for living purposes.
- Points of Sale: Establishments or units from which the price data of goods and services included in the basket of goods is collected, such as retail stores including groceries, clothing stores, construction materials stores, in addition to stores providing various services to the consumer such as (doctors, sewing, car maintenance, apartments and hotels, laundry and ironing, barbershop) and other service stores.
- Constructional Goods: The main goods related to housing construction and government contracts such as (iron, cables, cement, wood, ready-mixed concrete).
- Continuity: Ensure that the point of sale continues to practice the activity for a long time.
- Frequency: Purchasing movement at the point of sale.



- Percentage of Change: Change rate between a current period and a previous one.

### 3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical unit in the average prices of goods and services is the primary observation units. These are the observation units withdrawn in the first phase of the survey sample design. Establishment (point of sale) is considered to be the secondary and final observation units at the same time, which are the observation units withdrawn in the second phase of the survey sample design. Each secondary observation unit is part of the primary observation units.

### 3.6. Statistical population

All prices of the goods and services at the retail prices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that are within the survey sample.

### 3.7. Reference area

The survey sample is a representative sample of the 13 administrative regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

### 3.8. Time coverage

Data available from January 2009 until this month.

### 3.9. Base period

Not applicable.

## 4. Unit of measure

The average price indicator of a good or service is measured by riyals  
The percentage change indicator for a good or service is measured by percentage





## 5. Reference period

1. The collected data is based on the calendar month in which the price data is collected, and the results of the average prices of goods and services are published at all levels on a monthly basis.
2. There are annual aggregate reports published at the end of the calendar year.

## 6. Confidentiality

### 6.1. Confidentiality - policy

According to the Royal Decree No. 23 dated 07-12-1397, data must always be kept confidential, and must be used by GASTAT only for statistical purposes. Therefore, the data are protected in the data servers of the Authority.

### 6.2. Confidentiality - data treatment

Data were displayed in appropriate tables to facilitate its summarization, comprehension, and results extraction. Also, to compare data with other data and extract statistical meanings for the study community. It is also easier to check tables without the need to see any sensitive or confidential data, which violates data confidentiality of statistical data.

## 7. Release policy

### 7.1. Release calendar

The Average Prices of Goods and Services results are bound by a release calendar.



## 7.2. Release calendar access

Available on the: <https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/future-releases>

## 7.3. User access

One of GASTAT's objectives is to meet better its clients' needs, so it immediately provides them with the publication's results once the Average Prices of Goods and Services is published. It also receives questions and inquiries of the clients about the Publication and its results through various communication channels, such as:

- GASTAT's Official Website [www.stats.gov.sa](http://www.stats.gov.sa)
- GASTAT official e-mail [info@stats.gov.sa](mailto:info@stats.gov.sa)
- Client Support email [cs@stats.gov.sa](mailto:cs@stats.gov.sa)
- Official visits to GASTAT's official head office in Riyadh or one of its branches in Saudi Arabia.
- Official letters.
- Statistical telephone (92002008).

## 8. Frequency of dissemination

Monthly

## 9. Accessibility and clarity

### 9.1. News release

The announcements for each publication are available on release calendar as mentioned in 8.2. Release calendar access. The news release can be viewed on the website of GASTAT in the link <https://www.stats.gov.sa/en/news>.



## 9.2. Publications

GASTAT issues the Average Prices of Goods and Services' publications and reports on a regular basis within a pre-prepared publishing plan and installed on the GASTAT's website. GASTAT is keen to publish its publications in a manner that serves all users of different types, including publications in different formats that contain (publication tables, data graphs, indicators, metadata, methodology, and used questionnaires) in both English and Arabic. The results of the Average Prices of Goods and Services are available at (<https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/160>).

## 9.3. On-line database

Not available

## 9.4. Micro-data access

Not applicable.

## 9.5. Other

Not available.

## 9.6. Documentation on methodology

The Average Prices of Goods and Services data is based on the field survey of the average prices of goods and services, which is conducted by the General Authority for Statistics on a monthly basis and is classified as (economic statistics) in which prices are collected through field visits to predetermined points of sale in all administrative regions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the completion of an electronic form containing a number of goods and services, through which indicators related to the average prices of goods and services are provided.



## 9.7. Quality documentation

Quality documentation covers documentation on methods and standards for assessing, measuring, and monitoring the quality of statistical process and output. It is based on standard quality criteria such as relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, comparability, and coherence.

# 10. Quality management

## 10.1. Quality assurance

GASTAT declares that it considers the following principles: impartiality, user orientated, quality of processes and output, effectiveness of statistical processes, reducing the workload for respondents.

Quality controls and validation of data are actions carried out throughout the process in different stages such as the data input and data collection and other final controls.

## 10.2. Quality assessment

GASTAT performs all statistical activities according to a national model (Generic Statistical Business Process Model - GSBPM). According to the GSBPM, the final phase of statistical activities is overall evaluation using information gathered in each phase or sub-process. This information is used to prepare the evaluation report which outlines all the quality issues related to the specific statistical activity and serves as input for improvement actions.

# 11. Relevance

## 11.1. User needs

External users who benefit greatly from the (Average Prices of Goods and Services) data include:

- Government Entities: Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Investment, Consumer Protection Association, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Saudi



Contractors Authority, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources.

- Regional and international organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Group of Twenty.
- Research institutions.
- International investors.

The disseminated key variables that mostly used by key users:

Ministry of Commerce	Price averages and rate of change
Ministry of Investment	Price averages and rate of change
Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture	Price averages and rate of change
Saudi Contractors Authority	Price averages and rate of change
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Price averages and rate of change

### 11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

### 11.3. Completeness

The average price data for goods and services is based on retail points of sale as the main source of price savings for goods and services.

## 12. Accuracy and reliability

### 12.1. Overall accuracy

The data collected is improved through the researchers, that have been selected according to a set of practical and objective criteria and training program related to the field of work.



The electronic data collection form of the Average Prices of Goods and Services questionnaire includes alert, prevention rules and correction rules during the data collection process in order to improve data quality.

Overall, the data is checked with previous years to identify any significant changes in the data. The internal consistency of the data is checked before it is finalized. The links between variables are checked and coherence between different data series is confirmed.

## 13. Timeliness and punctuality

### 13.1. Timeliness

GASTAT uses the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) issued by the International Monetary Fund. According to this Standard, all statistics agencies are required to publish data on a monthly basis, and with a delay of not more than (30 days) after the end of the reference period. If the data are from different source, they may be published in a different frequency.

### 13.2. Punctuality

Publication takes place in accordance with published release dates for the Average Prices of Goods and Services in the GASTAT webpage. The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled the release calendar.

## 14. Coherence and comparability

### 14.1. Comparability - geographical

The data is fully comparable over the time period (month vs. month).

### 14.2. Comparability - over time

The survey stated in 2009 as a monthly, continuous and comparable survey of average price indicators at the monthly, quarterly or annual level.



### 14.3. Coherence- cross domain

Not applicable

#### 14.3.1. Coherence - sub annual and annual statistics

Not applicable.

#### 14.3.2. Coherence- National Accounts

Not applicable.

### 14.4. Coherence - internal

The Average Prices of Goods and Services estimates for a given reference period have full internal coherence, as they are all based on the same corpus of microdata, and they are calculated using the same estimation methods.

## 15. Resources used

Description	Total
Total staff (GASTAT's staff, researchers)	40
Number of surveyed Number of prices of the survey	23646
Total days of data collection period (end date - start date)	21
Average conducted interviewer per day (during data collection)	1126

## 16. Data revision

### 16.1. Data revision - policy

Not applicable, only final results will be published.



## 16.2. Data revision - practice

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

# 17. Statistical processing

## 17.1. Source data

- The first source of the survey of average prices of goods and services: Data is collected from a sample of 2,133 depending on the pricing plan defined for each item. The sample size is around 23,646 pricings. The main published variants of the survey data are:
  1. The average prices of the goods and services on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually and annually basis for each item.
  2. Monthly and annual percentage change for each item.
  3. Time series of average prices of goods and services from the start of publication in January 2009.

## 17.2. Frequency of data collection

Monthly

## 17.3. Data collection

Data collection from survey:

The Average Prices of Goods and Services data collection is carried out through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI).

The data were saved on GASTAT's databases, data have been audited and reviewed according to the statistical method and recognized quality standards, in case of defect quality issues or errors in the data we refer back to data source.





## 17.4. Data validation

Data are reviewed and matched to ensure their accuracy and precision in a way that suits their nature with the aim of giving the presented statistics quality and accuracy.

The data of the publication's current year are compared with the data of the previous year to ensure their integrity and consistency in preparation for processing data and extracting and reviewing results.

In addition to data processing and tabulation to ensure accuracy, all outputs calculated by GASTAT are recorded and uploaded to the database to be reviewed and processed by the Price Statistics Department specialists using advanced technologies and software designed for this purpose.

## 17.5. Data compilation

### **Data Coding**

In the Average Prices of Goods and Services, interviewers collect from respondents a detailed description of the nature of fields. This information is then encoded internally through an automated process, which is reviewed by a small-dedicated team of coding experts using a series of consistency checks.

### **Data Editing**

During this phase, Price Statistics Department specialists conducted data processing and analysis based on several procedures, as follows:

- Sort and arrange data in groups or different categories in a serial order.
- Summarize detailed data into main points or main data.
- Link between many parts of data and make them connected.
- Process incomplete or missing data.
- Process illogical data.
- Convert data into statistically significant data.
- Organize, display and interpret data.

### **Imputation (for Non-Response or Incomplete Data Sets)**

Not applicable.

### **Extrapolation and weighting**

After processing the data collected from the responding points of sale, the average and change percentage of each item were calculated to produce the indicator tables.



## 17.6. Adjustment

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

## 18. Comment