



الهيئة العامة للإحصاء  
General Authority for Statistics

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## Metadata Report of Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

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V-2.0

Quality Management

Last update: 05.02.2023



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## 1. Contact

1.1. Contact organization	General Authority of Statistics
1.2. Contact organization unit	Price Statistics
1.3. Contact person function	Director of Price Statistics Department
1.4. Contact mail address	P.O. Box: 3735 Riyadh, 11481 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
1.5. Contact email address	<a href="mailto:info@stats.gov.sa">info@stats.gov.sa</a>
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 Wholesale Price Index covers data related to wholesale prices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>The Wholesale Price Index is a survey conducted to collect data on the main characteristics as following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide statistics on fluctuations of good prices in the pre-retail phase.</li><li>2. Provide a time series of statistical data on wholesale price indices.</li></ol> <p>The data is further used to estimate:</p>



- 1- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by divisions.
- 2- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by sections.
- 3- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by groups.
- 4- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by categories.
- 5- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by sub-categories.
- 6- Monthly and annual wholesale price index by items.
- 7- Annual average wholesale prices by divisions.
- 8- Annual average wholesale prices by sections.
- 9- Annual average wholesale prices by groups.
- 10- Annual average wholesale prices by categories.
- 11- Annual average wholesale prices by sub-categories.
- 12- Annual average wholesale prices by items.

### 3.2. Classification system

The following classifications apply in the Wholesale Price Index:

- Central Product Classification (CPC2) issued by the United Nations in 2008

Detailed data are collected through the interview to allow output to be produced in accordance with all relevant classifications.

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

### 3.3. Sector coverage

The Wholesale Price Index covers the following main economic activities (ISIC4):

1. Agriculture and fishing
2. Ore & Metals
3. Food products, beverages, tobacco, textiles.
4. Other transportable goods.
5. Metal products, machinery & equipment

### 3.4. Statistical concepts and definitions

Terminologies and concepts of Wholesale Price Index:

- **Price Index:** A relative figure that measures the change in the prices of a basket of goods and services relative to a specified base period weighting.



- **Wholesale Price Index:** A statistical tool to measure the percentage of change in the prices of local and imported goods in the primary (wholesale markets) between two different time periods.
- **Goods Basket:** The group of goods selected according to their importance in the import balance and the local product value estimation.
- **Points of Sale:** Establishments or units from which wholesale price data for goods included in the WPI program basket is collected.
- **Shadow Sample:** A group of backup points of sale that are referred to when one of the main points of sale is required to be replaced because the price cannot be obtained from it for any reason, such as the shop is permanently closed or good is permanently unavailable.
- **Comparison Period Price:** It is the recorded price of a good or a service in the current period of time.
- **Base Period Price:** The recorded price of the good in a previous period with which the current price is compared.
- **Base Year:** The year for which the prices of the comparison period are attributed.

### 3.5. Statistical unit

The statistical unit is the prices of goods within the wholesale basket.

### 3.6. Statistical population

All prices within in the wholesale basket in the three administrative regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Khobar.

### 3.7. Reference area

The survey sample is a representative sample of the 3 administrative regions of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Khobar.

### 3.8. Time coverage

Data are available from 2015 to the current month.



### 3.9. Base period

The year 2014 is the base year used for calculating the wholesale price index.

## 4. Unit of measure

The results are reported as a percentage (EX. Monthly change and annual change).

## 5. Reference period

References period to the variables or dataset as following:

The collected data is based on the calendar month in which the price data is collected, and the results of the wholesale price indices are published at all levels on a monthly basis.

## 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 Wholesale Price Index 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 bulletin's results once the Wholesale Price Index Publication 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 Wholesale Price Index's 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. Results of the Wholesale Price Index are available at <https://www.stats.gov.sa/ar/397>

### 9.3. On-line database

The data is published in the statistical database:  
<https://database.stats.gov.sa/home/indicator/99968>

### 9.4. Micro-data access

Not applicable.

### 9.5. Other

Not available.

### 9.6. Documentation on methodology

The Wholesale Price Index drives its data from a WSI field survey conducted by GASTAT on a monthly basis as part of the (economic statistics) classification in which prices are collected through visits to the wholesale price points of sale in three cities (Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam)



as representatives of all wholesale price points of sale in the Kingdom, where electronic questionnaires containing a number of questions are completed, through which indicators related to the wholesale price index are provided, according to the Central Product Classification (CPC2) issued by the UN in 2008.

### 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



Internal GASTAT's users, which make use of the Wholesale Price Index data, include:

- National accounts

External users who make significant use of the Wholesale Price Index data include, but is not limited to:

- Government entities
- Regional and international organizations
- Research institutions.
- Media.
- Individuals.

The disseminated key variables that mostly used by key users:

Ministry of Economy and Planning	Annual change in the wholesale price index
Saudi Central Bank	Annual change in the wholesale price index

## 11.2. User satisfaction

Not available.

## 11.3. Completeness

Wholesale Price Index data is collected from the field through wholesale POS units in the search cities of Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Khobar.

# 12. Accuracy and reliability

## 12.1. Overall accuracy

The data collected is improved through the researchers, which 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 Wholesale Price Index 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. In accordance with this standard, all statistical bodies are required to publish data on monthly basis, 17 days after the reference month.

### 13.2. Punctuality

Publication takes place in accordance with published release dates for the Wholesale Price Index in the GASTAT webpage. The data are available at the expected time, as scheduled the release calendar, if the publication delayed the reasons would be provided.

## 14. Coherence and comparability

### 14.1. Comparability - geographical

Data are fully comparable.

### 14.2. Comparability - over time

- The survey started in 1985. The first publication of indices was issued during Q1 of the same year for a basket of goods consisting of 57 items.
- 1988: The number of goods has been increased to 160 items, where the program covers the main cities (Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam)



- 2014: The base year has been updated and the number of goods increased to 343 items.

### 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 Wholesale Price Index 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)	25
Number of surveyed Number of points of sale for the survey	2149
Total days of data collection period (end date - start date)	21
Average conducted interviewer per day (during data collection)	102

## 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

18. The first source of the Wholesale Price Index survey:  
The data is collected from a sample of (wholesale points) according to the research of establishments.

The sample size is around 2149 POS.

Key Variables:

1. Monthly change in the wholesale price index.
2. Annual change in the wholesale price index

• The second source of Wholesale Price Index is the records as a sample framework:

1. Lists of foreign trade of export and import items.
2. List of products from the Ministry of Agriculture

## 17.2. Frequency of data collection

Monthly

## 17.3. Data collection

Data collection from survey:

The Wholesale Price Index data collection is carried out through Computer-Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI).



## 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 Wholesale Price Index, 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)**

The point of sale is changed to another point of sale according to the method and procedures followed for this end.

### **Extrapolation and weighting**

After processing the data collected from the responding points of sale, survey weights were generated to produce indicator tables by following two main steps to create survey weights, namely:

- Adjustment for nonresponse
- Weight calibration.





### **Applied statistical estimation**

GASTAT has relied on the formulas approved by the international standards in calculating the Wholesale Price Index indicators, as follows:

- Laspeyres equation

### 17.6. Adjustment

Not applicable, only final results will be published.

## 18. Comment