



## Wholesale prices grow slower at 3.3% in March 2020

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI, 2014=100) increased by 3.3% in March 2020 on a year-on-year basis, breaking the increasing trend that peaked at 4.5% in the previous month. The increase in WPI was mainly influenced by higher prices in General Purpose Machinery (+15.6%), Refined Petroleum Products (+3.4%), and Transport Equipment (+5.6%), given their weight in the index.

### Prices of agricultural and fishery products increase most on an annual basis

- Wholesale prices of Agricultural and Fishery Products increased by 6.2% on a year-on-year basis, mainly due to increase in prices of Live Animals and Animal Products (17.8%), particularly Live Animals (+23.7%).
- Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment registered an increase of 5.1%, originating mainly from the increase in prices of General Purpose Machinery (+15.6%) and Transport Equipment (+5.6%). The increase in prices of Medical Equipment was also notable (+7.2%).
- In the category of Other Transportable Goods, where prices rose by 2.2%, the increase in prices of Refined Petroleum Products was most influential (+3.4%). On the other hand, prices of Basic Chemicals recorded a significant decline (-9.4%).
- In Food Products, Beverages, Tobacco and Textiles, the prices increased by 1.3%, mainly due to increasing prices of Meat, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, Oils and Fats (+5.3%), while prices of Dairy Products dropped by 3.1%.
- Ores and Minerals prices decreased by 3.2% due to the decrease in prices of Stones and Sand (-3.2%), particularly Building Stones (-7.7%).

### Wholesale prices down 0.5% from February

The Wholesale Price Index declined by 0.5% in March 2020 on a monthly basis, influenced mainly by the decrease in prices of Refined Petroleum Products (-4.0%) and Fabricated Metal Products (-0.3%).

Of the main product categories, Other Transportable Goods registered a decrease of 1.8%, resulting mainly from the decrease in prices of Refined Petroleum Products.

Ores and Minerals also recorded a decrease (-0.3%), with prices of Stones and Sand declining by 0.3%.

On the other hand, Agricultural and Fishery Products increased by 1.3%, mainly due to a rise in the prices of Live Animals and Animal Products (+3.5%).

Food Products, Beverages, Tobacco and Textiles increased by 0.4%, with prices of Meat, Fish, Fruit, Vegetables, Oils and Fats increasing by 1.3%.

Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment increased by 0.3%, mainly due to the increase of prices of Basic Metals (+0.7%) and Transport Equipment (+0.7%).

### Methodology

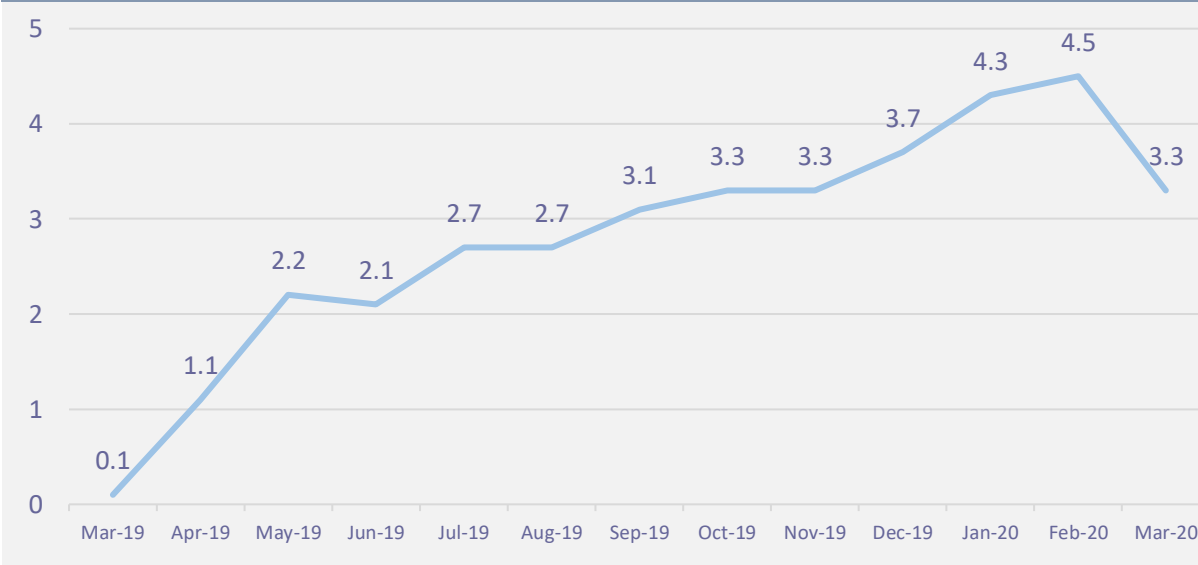
The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflects the movements of pre-retail prices of goods against a fixed basket of 343 items. The prices are collected for three cities (Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam) through field visits to points of sale. The year 2014 was determined as the base year. WPI statistics are published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



### Annual and monthly change in wholesale price index by division, March 2020

Divisions	Percentage change (%) in March 2020 compared to:	
	February 2020	March 2019
<b>General Index</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Agriculture and fishery products	1.3	6.2
Ores and Minerals	-0.3	-3.2
Food products, beverages and tobacco and textiles	0.4	1.3
Other transportable goods	-1.8	2.2
Metal products, machinery and equipment	0.3	5.1

### Annual Change in WPI (%)



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