

Bahrain

Official title

Consumer Price Index.

Scope

The index is computed monthly and covers all private households. All regions of the country are represented in the Index.

Official base

March 1983-March 1984 = 100. The series of CPI are available since June 1985.

Source of weights

The weights were derived from the 1983/84 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The survey covered 1536 households distributed over all regions of Bahrain. Data were collected on 4 different weeks for each sampled household. The reference period of the weights is the same as the base period of the Index.

Weights and composition

Household consumption expenditure

Not available.

Sample selection

Since the Bahrain is a small country, there was no problem to choose localities and outlets for price collection. The big outlets that contain all or most of the items are selected for price collection. Items were selected on the basis of popularity.

Method of data collection

Prices for all commodity group, with the exception of vegetables and fruit, are collected monthly on a day between the 10th and the 25th day of the month. Vegetables and fruits prices are collected on the 15th day of the month. Most of the prices are collected by personal visit. Telephone is also used to collect prices of some commodities such as: Electricity, Gas and Water, Medical care, Education, Transport and Communication.

Housing

Data on rents are collected monthly from selected renting offices.

Specification of varieties

The item specifications are given only in terms of the country of origin, trademark and unit.

Substitution, quality change, etc.

If a product is no longer available in the outlet, a similar product to the original is substituted.

Seasonal items

The price of the latest season month is kept constant.

Computation

The index is computed according to the Laspeyres formula as a weighted arithmetic average with fixed basket, using weights corresponding to the base period.

First, monthly average prices are derived for each priced commodity. Price indexes are then calculated as ratios of the corresponding average prices in the given month and in the base year.

Other information

A new family expenditures survey was scheduled to be carried out in 1993. On the completion of the survey, a new market basket and new set of weights have had to be defined but the relevant methodological information was not available in the ILO at the time the present volume was published.

Organisation and publication

Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture - agency responsible for data collection. The Central Statistics Organisation - agency responsible for computation.