



Wholesale prices rise by 6.0% in September 2020

The wholesale price index rose by 6.0% in September 2020 on an annual basis, slightly higher than in August (+5.6%). The increase of the index resulted mainly from higher prices of **Agriculture and Fishery Products** by (+15.9%), due to their weight in the index, in addition to an overall impact of the increase of the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 5% to 15% in July 2020. A dampening factor on wholesale price inflation were lower prices of *refined petroleum products*, which fell by 17.1% from September 2019.

The largest annual increase in prices registered by agricultural products

- **Agriculture Fishery Products** recorded the largest increase in wholesale prices by 15.9% over the last 12 months until September, due to an increase in the agricultural products prices, 13.2% as well as higher prices of *Live Animals and Animal Products* (+24.8%).
- The increase in prices of **Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment** 13.9% resulted mainly from higher prices of *Transport Equipment* 15.5% and *Base Metals* by 14.4%.
- **Food Products, Beverages, Tobacco and Textiles** increased by 12% as a result of higher prices of *Meat, Fish, Fruits, Vegetables, Oils and Fats* (+19.1%), in addition to *Cereal, Starch Products and Other Food Products* (+12.3%).
- **Ores and Minerals** decreased by 6.7% as a result of the decline in the prices of *Stones and Sand* by 6.7%.
- **Other Goods** decreased by 5.1% on an annual basis in September, 2020 due to lower prices of *Refined Petroleum Products* (-17.1%).

Wholesale prices increase by 0.5% from August

The wholesale price index increased by 0.5% on a monthly basis in September 2020, mainly influenced by higher prices of **Metal Products, Machinery and Equipment**, which increased by 1.1% from the previous months as a result of the 3.1% increase in the prices of *Machinery Used for General Purposes*.

In addition, two main categories recorded increases: **Ores and Metals** by 0.8% and **Other Transportable Goods** by 0.3%.

On the other hand, **Agriculture and Fishery Products** recorded a decline in their prices by (0.1%). **Food Products, Beverages, Tobacco and Textiles** prices did not record any percentage change in September 2020.



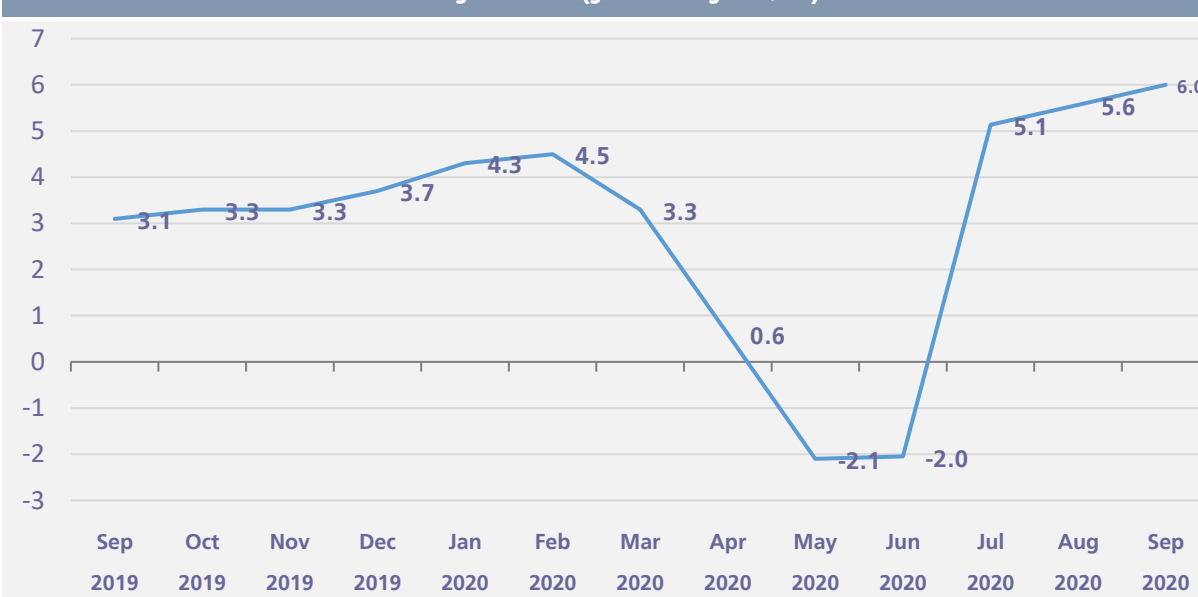
Methodology

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) reflects the movements of pre-retail prices of goods of a fixed basket including 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 main product category, September 2020

Product Category	Percentage change (%) in September 2020 compared to:	
	September 2019	August 2020
General Index	6.0	0.5
Agriculture and fishery products	15.9	-0.1
Ores and Minerals	6.7	0.8
Food products, beverages and tobacco and textiles	12.4	0.0
Other transportable goods	-5.1	0.3
Metal products, machinery and equipment	13.9	1.1

WPI by month (year-on-year, %)



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