



Consumer Prices increase by 0.3% in August 2021

The Consumer Price Index for August 2021 increased by 0.3% compared to the same month of last year (August 2020). The rise of the CPI resulted mainly from higher prices of Transport (+6.5%) and Food and Beverages (+1.9%).

Transport prices are the main driver of inflation for August 2021

- Transport prices increased by 6.5%, mainly due to the increase in operation of personal transport equipment prices (+21.9%), which in turn was affected by the increase in prices of Fuels and lubricants (+44.3%). Transport prices were the main driver of the inflation rate in August 2021 due to their high importance in the Saudi consumer basket (with a weight of 13%).
- Food and Beverages prices increased by 1.9%, mainly due to the increase in prices of Food (+2.0%).
- Communication services prices increased by 2.6%, mainly due to rising prices for Telephone and Telefax Services (+4.2%).
- Tobacco prices recorded an increase by 0.6% due to the rise in Cigarettes prices (+1.3%).
- Prices of Miscellaneous Goods and Services increased by 0.3%, mainly resulting from an increase in prices of Maid application costs, including visa fees (+4.7%).
- Prices of Restaurants and Hotels increased by 0.6%, mainly resulting from an increase in prices of Accommodation services (+2.4%).
- On the other hand, prices for Education declined by 7.8% due to a decrease in prices of Pre-Primary and Primary Education (-13.4%) and Secondary Education (-7.2%), and Prices of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels also declined by 3.5% due to the decrease in prices of actual rentals for housing (-4.2%).

Prices are stable compared to July 2021

- Compared to the previous month (July 2021), consumer prices remained relatively stable and rose by 0.1%.
- The rise in prices compared to July 2021 was mainly due to an increase in Food and Beverage prices by 0.8%, which in turn was affected by an increase in Vegetables prices (+3.8%).
- Miscellaneous Goods and Services prices increased by 0.3% influenced by a rise in Maid application costs, including visa fees prices (+1.9%), Furnishings, Household Equipment and Maintenance by 0.3%.
- Contrarily, prices for Transport decreased by 0.3% compared to the previous month, as well as Clothing and Footwear (-0.3%), Communication services (-0.2%), Recreation and Culture (-0.2%), and Restaurants and Hotels (-0.2%).
- On the other hand, prices for Education and Health did not register any significant changes in August 2021.



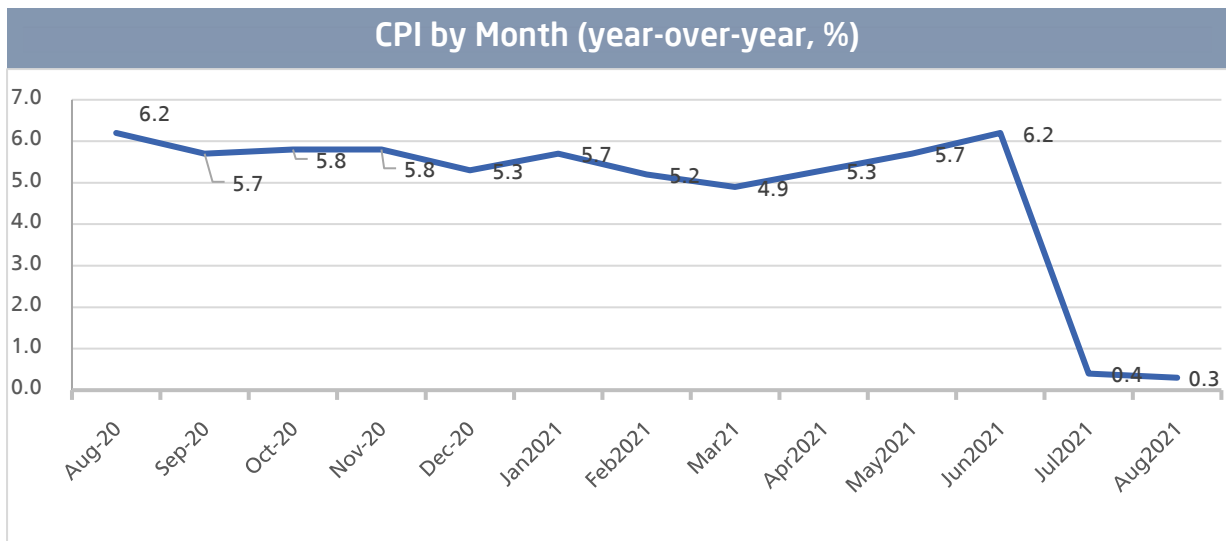
Methodology

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 490 items. This basket resulted from the Expenditure and Income Survey conducted in 2018, according to which the items and their weights were determined. The respective prices are collected through field visits to points of sale. The CPI statistics are published on a monthly basis.

Annual and Monthly Change in CPI by Main Expenditure Category, August 2021

Expenditure Category	*Percent change in August 2021 compared to	
	August 2020	July 2021
GENERAL INDEX	0.3	0.1
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	1.9	0.8
TOBACCO	0.6	-0.1
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	-1.1	-0.3
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	-3.5	-0.1
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	0.4	0.3
HEALTH	0.6	0.0
TRANSPORT	6.5	-0.3
COMMUNICATION	2.6	-0.2
RECREATION AND CULTURE	0.7	-0.2
EDUCATION	-7.8	0.0
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	0.6	-0.2
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	0.3	0.3

*=round to one decimal place.



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