

Consumer Prices increase by 1.2% in December 2021

In December 2021, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.2% compared to December 2020, higher than November 2021 (1.1%). The rise of the CPI resulted mainly from higher prices of Transport 7.2% and Food and Beverages 1.1%.

Transport Prices Main Driver of Inflation in December 2021

Transport prices increased by 7.2%, mainly due to the increase in gasoline prices by 50.0%. Transport prices were the main driver of the inflation rate in December 2021 due to their high relative importance in the Saudi consumer basket (with a weight of 13.0%).

Food and Beverages prices increased by 1.1%, mainly due to the increase in Food prices 1.2%. In particular, vegetable prices by 6.3% in December 2021.

Communication services prices increased by 1.4%, mainly due to the increase in Telephone and Telefax Services prices by 2.3%.

Education prices increased by 4.8%, mainly resulting from an increase in Secondary education prices by 13.6%. Restaurants and Hotels prices increased by 1.8%, mainly resulting from an increase in Catering services prices by 1.3%. Recreation and Culture prices increased by 2.8%, due to the rise in holidays packages prices by 3.4%.

Contrarily, Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels prices declined by 1.6% due to the decline in the actual rentals for housing by 1.9%, as well as Clothing and Footwear prices by 1.6%, due to a decrease in Clothing prices by 1.0%.

Prices relatively stable compared to November 2021

Compared to November 2021, consumer prices remained relatively stable and slightly decrease by 0.1%.

The monthly inflation index was affected by a decrease in Food and Beverages prices by 0.7%, mainly due to a decrease in Food prices by 0.8%, which in turn was affected by a decrease in Meat prices by 1.1%.

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels prices decreased by 0.1%, due to a decrease in the actual rentals for housing by 0.2%, as well as Prices of Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance by 0.2%, and Clothing and Footwear prices by 0.1%.

Contrarily, Recreation and Culture prices increased by 0.6%, as well as, Restaurants and Hotels by 0.3%, Transport by 0.3%, Communication services by 0.2%, Tobacco by 0.1%, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services by 0.1%.

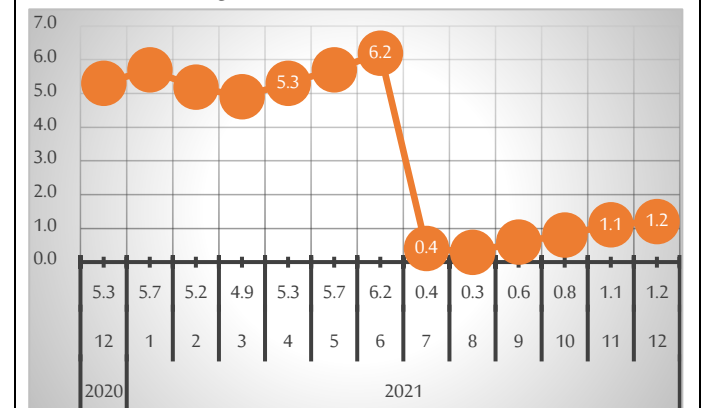
On the other hand, prices for Health, Education, did not register any significant changes in December 2021.

Table 7. Annual and Monthly Change in CPI by Main Expenditure Category (December 2021)

Expenditure Category	Percent change in December 2021 compared to	
	Dec 2020	Nov 2021
General Index	1.2	-0.1
Food & Beverages	1.1	-0.7
Tobacco	0.1	0.1
Clothing And Footwear	-1.6	-0.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	-1.6	-0.1
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance	0.6	-0.2
Health	-0.2	0.0
Transport	7.2	0.3
Communication	1.4	0.2
Recreation & Culture	2.8	0.6
Education	4.8	0.0
Restaurants & Hotels	1.8	0.3
Personal Goods and Services	1.4	0.1

Source: [Tables](#).

Figure 1. CPI (Year-on-Year, %)



CPI 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 monthly. For more info click [Methodology](#)