

Saudi Arabia annual inflation rate reaches 1.6% in August2024

The annual inflation rate in Saudi Arabia reached 1.6% in August 2024, compared to August 2023. This is primarily attributed to the rise in the prices of housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels by 8.9%, as well as the increase in prices of food and beverages by 0.9%. Meanwhile, prices of transportation decreased by 3.4%.

Rental prices main driver of inflation in August 2024 compared to August 2023

Actual housing rents increased by 10.7% in August 2024, influenced by the increase in apartment rental prices by 10.8%. The increase in this category had a significant impact on maintaining the annual inflation rate for August 2024, given the weight this group represents (21.0%). Similarly, food and beverage prices increased by 0.9%, influenced by a 4.6% rise in vegetables prices. Prices of restaurants and hotels also rose by 1.6%, affected by a 1.6% increase in catering service prices. Meanwhile, the education sector witnessed an increase of 1.6%, driven by the rise in fees for intermediate and secondary education by 3.8%. On the other hand, prices of furnishing and home equipment decreased by 3.5%, influenced by a decline in furniture, carpets, and flooring prices by 6.2%. Similarly, prices of clothing and footwear decreased by 3.2%, influenced by a 5.6% decline in ready-made clothing prices. Transportation prices also decreased by 3.4%, affected by a 4.9% decrease in vehicle purchase prices.

Prices increase by 0.1% in August2024 compared to July 2024

In August 2024, the consumer price index recorded a slight increase of 0.1% compared to July 2024. This monthly inflation index was influenced by a 0.4% increase in housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels, which in turn, was affected by a 0.5% increase in actual housing rents and prices.

The index also witnessed an increase in the prices of food and beverage by 0.4%, affected by a 1.8% increase in rise in vegetables and prices.

However, the index witnessed a decrease in the prices of restaurants and hotels by 0.2%, transportation by 0.2%, clothing and footwear by 0.6%, furnishing and home equipment by 0.4% , and recreation and culture by 0.1%.

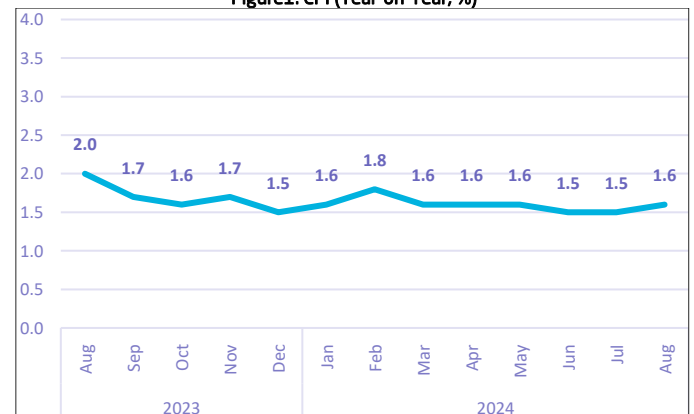
On the other hand, prices of education, personal goods and services, health, communications, and tobacco did not show any significant change in August 2024.

Table1. Annual and monthly change in CPI by category (August2024) (%)

General Index, Categories	Percent change in August 2024 compared to	
	Aug 2023	Jul 2024
General Index	1.6	0.1
Food & Beverages	0.9	0.4
Tobacco	-1.3	0.0
Clothing and Footwear	-3.2	-0.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	8.9	0.4
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Maintenance	-3.5	-0.4
Health	-1.1	0.0
Transport	-3.4	-0.2
Communications	-1.5	0.0
Recreation & Culture	-3.0	-0.1
Education	1.6	0.0
Restaurants & Hotels	1.5	-0.2
Personal Goods and Services	0.7	0.0

Source: tables.

Figure1. CPI (Year-on-Year, %)



CPI Reference Metadata

Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 490 items. The basket was selected based on the results of the household income and expenditure survey conducted in 2018, according to which the items and their weights were determined. The prices are collected through field visits to points of sale. The CPI statistics are published monthly. For more details, click [Reference Metadata](#)