



## Consumer Prices increase by 5.3% in April 2021

The Consumer Price Index for April 2021 was up by 5.3% compared to the same month last year (April 2020), also higher than March 2021 (4.9%). Noting that consumer prices still reflect an increase of the Value Added Tax (VAT) from 5% to 15% in July 2020, the rise of the CPI resulted mainly from higher prices of **Food and Beverages** (+8.4%) and **Transport** (+14.9%).

## Food prices are the main driver of inflation in April 2021

- Prices of **Food and Beverages** recorded the highest annual increase of 8.4%, mainly due to the increase in Food prices (+8.3%). In particular, the increase in prices of Meat (+9.7%) and Vegetables (+6.1%) was remarkable. Due to their high importance in the Saudi consumer basket (with a weight of 17%), Food prices were the main driver of the inflation rate in April 2021.
- **Transport** prices increased by 14.9%, mainly due to the increase in prices of Purchasing Vehicles (+10.3%).
- **Tobacco** prices recorded an increase of 13.1% due to the rise in Cigarettes prices (+14.1%).
- **Communication** services prices increased by 13.5%, mainly due to rising prices for Telephone and Telefax Services (+15.4%).
- Prices of **Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance** increased by 7.4%, mainly resulting from the rising prices of Furniture, Carpets and Other Floor Coverings (+9.5%).
- Prices of **Various Personal Goods and Services** increased by 4.8%, mainly resulting from an increase in prices of Jewelry, clocks and watches (+14.5%).
- On the other hand, prices for **Education** declined by 9.1% due to a decrease in prices of Pre-Primary and Primary Education (-14.3%) and Secondary Education (-11.0%). Prices of **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels** also declined by 2.6% due to the decrease in prices of actual rentals for housing (-3.7%).

## Prices up by 0.2% compared to March 2021

- The monthly inflation rate was affected by the increase in **Transport** prices by 0.8%, which in turn were affected by an increase in personal transport equipment prices (+2.8%).
- **Food and Beverages** prices increased by 0.4%, influenced by the rise in Food prices (+0.5%).
- Prices of **Education** increased by 0.4%, **Health** 0.3%, **Restaurants and Hotels** 0.2%, **Clothing and Footwear** 0.2%, **Tobacco** 0.2%, **Furniture, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance** 0.2%, and **Various Personal Goods and Services** 0.1%.
- Contrarily, prices for **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels** decreased by 0.2%, **Recreation and Culture** 0.5%.
- On the other hand, prices of **Communication services** did not register any significant changes in April 2021.



## Methodology

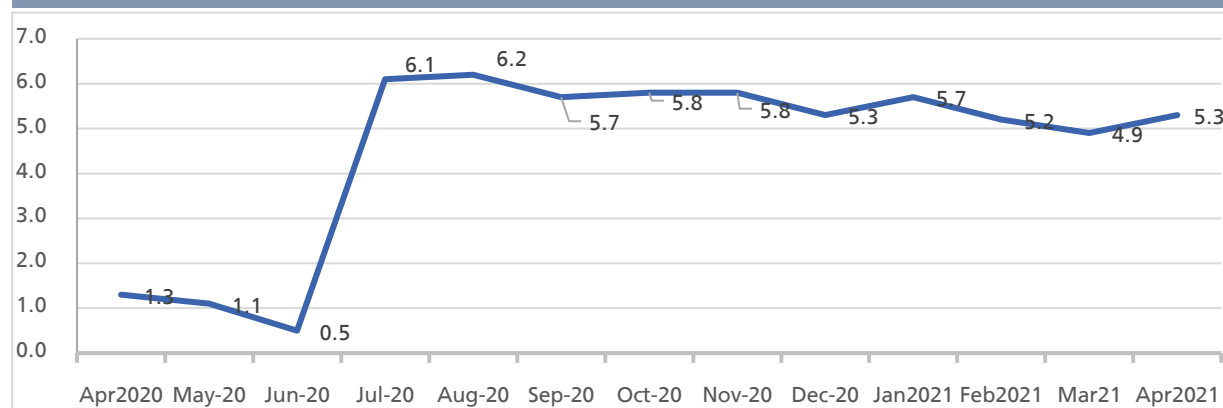
The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the prices paid by consumers for a fixed basket of goods and services consisting of 490 items. This basket resulted from the Expenditure and Income Survey conducted in 2018, according to which the items and their weights were determined. The respective prices are 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, April 2021

Expenditure Category	*Percent change in April 2021 compared to	
	April 2020	March 2021
GENERAL INDEX	5.3	0.2
FOOD AND BEVERAGES	8.4	0.4
TOBACCO	13.1	0.2
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	5.8	0.2
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	-2.6	-0.2
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE	7.4	0.2
HEALTH	3.3	0.3
TRANSPORT	14.9	0.8
COMMUNICATION	13.5	0.0
RECREATION AND CULTURE	4.7	-0.5
EDUCATION	-9.1	0.4
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	8.3	0.2
PERSONAL GOODS AND SERVICES	4.8	0.1

\*round to one decimal place.

### CPI by Month (year-over-year, %)



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