



Consumer Price Index, **February 2014**

(Base year 2007)

Detailed by:

- Expenditure groups
- Household welfare levels
- Household type
- Region

March 9, 2014

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Introduction

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is an important statistical indicator for the purposes of planning and research in various disciplines. Statistics centers and agencies in different countries consistently compile these indices, which depend on the prices of a basket of goods and services consumed by the household sector. The figures thus calculated constitute a time series that provides a measure of changes in the cost of living over time.

Therefore, Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi has always taken interest in collecting the prices of those goods and services on a regular basis and publishes the indicators derived from this data, following the methodologies adopted internationally in this field.

The Price Indices Section at the Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi compile CPI according to households' levels of welfare and type and by region. For the welfare level approach, the population is divided into five segments (quintiles), which represent five standard of living levels based on average annual expenditure per capita.

For the household type approach, the population is divided into three types of households as set out in the results of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (2007-2008), namely, Citizen, Non-Citizen and Share households.

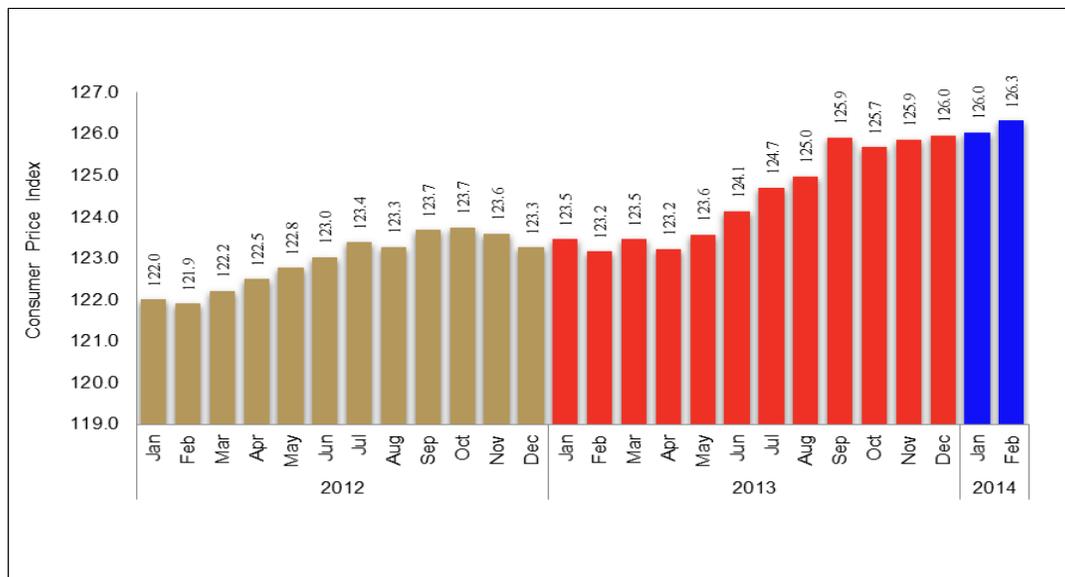
To represent all regions of the Emirate, the selected sample of items included in the Consumer Price Index basket uses actual data from the 2007/ 2008 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The sample of outlets were selected in such a way to represent points of purchase for a large base of consumers all over the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, taking into account the geographical distribution of sources within the Emirate.

Key Points

This report provides an analysis of the results of the CPI for the month of February 2014 with the base year 2007. In addition, the report provides the results of the CPI by household welfare levels and by household type. The main findings of this analysis are outlined below:

- The inflation rate in consumer prices for the first two months of 2014 was 2.3%, compared with the same period of 2013, as shown by the increase in the CPI to 126.2 points during the first two months of 2014, up from 123.3 points during the same period of 2013.
- The CPI increased by 2.6% in February 2014, compared with the same period of 2013, as shown by the increase in the CPI from 123.2 points in February 2013 to 126.3 points in February 2014.
- The CPI increased by 0.2% in February 2014 compared with January 2014.

Figure (1): CPI for the months of 2012, 2013, 2014



Source: Statistics Centre- Abu Dhabi

- An overall rise of 2.3% in consumer prices during the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013, has led to an increase of 2.1% in consumer prices for households of the bottom welfare quintile over this period of comparison.

As for the other welfare levels, consumer prices grew by 2.4% for the middle and 2.2% for the top welfare quintile.

- The rise in consumer prices for the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013, pushed up consumer prices for citizen by 2.4% while the non-citizen and share households increased by 2.3%.

- The rise in consumer prices for the first two months 2014 compared with the same period in 2013, pushed up consumer prices by region for Abu Dhabi region by 2.1%, Al Ain region and Al Gharbia by 2.3%

Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Month of February, 2014 (2007=100)

A. Percentage changes in the CPI

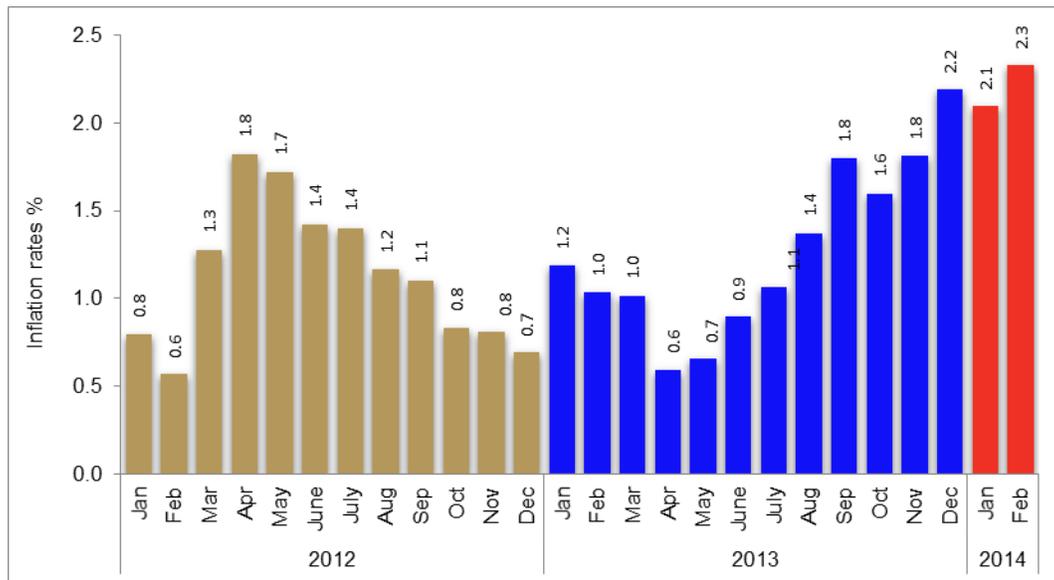
During the first two months of 2014, the average consumer prices rose by 2.3% compared with the same period of 2013, with the CPI for the first two months of 2014 at 126.2 points, compared with 123.3 points for the same period of 2013. This rise in prices reflects the net change in the consumer basket prices (resulting from upward and downward movement) during the two periods compared.

Table (1): Consumer price index

Year	Jan	Feb	Jan - Feb
CPI			
2013	123.5	123.2	123.3
2014	126.0	126.3	126.2
— % —			
Percentage change	2.1	2.6	2.3

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Figure (2): Annual inflation rates for the months of 2012, 2013 and 2014



Source: Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi

B. Average CPI for the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013

Table (2) shows the twelve major expenditure groups, as per the Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP), and the Weight or relative importance of each one of the main expenditure groups. The Weight of any group is the households' expenditure on that group as a proportion of total expenditure on all groups. The table also shows the relative change, which is the percentage rate of change in the prices of any given group for the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013. The percentage contribution reflects the expenditure group's contribution to the overall change in the prices of all groups, which was 2.3% for the comparison period.

Table (2): Major expenditure groups by Weights, relative change and contribution for the first two months of 2014

Main Expenditure Groups	Weight	Relative change	Contribution
Food and beverages	16.1	3.9	29.7
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.3	0.0	0.0
Clothing and footwear	9.8	4.0	13.6
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	37.9	1.5	25.0
Furnishings, household equipment	4.8	4.2	8.9
Health	0.8	-0.4	-0.1
Transport	9.7	0.9	3.7
Communication	7.7	-0.2	-0.6
Recreation and culture	2.4	-0.1	-0.1
Education	2.6	3.9	5.8
Restaurants and hotels	3.4	5.1	9.4
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.6	2.5	4.8
Total	100		100

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

The above table shows that the "Food and beverages" group accounted for the largest rise in the index during the first two months 2014 compared with the same period of 2013, contributing 29.7% to the change. The rises in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" group came as a result of increases in the prices of most subgroups included in this group. The prices of the "Fish and seafood" subgroups rose by 21.5%, "Vegetables" by 11.4%, "Coffee, tea and cocoa" by 8.4% and "Food products n.e.c." by 5.6%.

The second highest contributor to the overall increase in the CPI over the first two months of 2014 was the “Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels” group with a 25.0% contribution to the rise in consumer prices for the periods compared, while its prices increased by 1.5%.

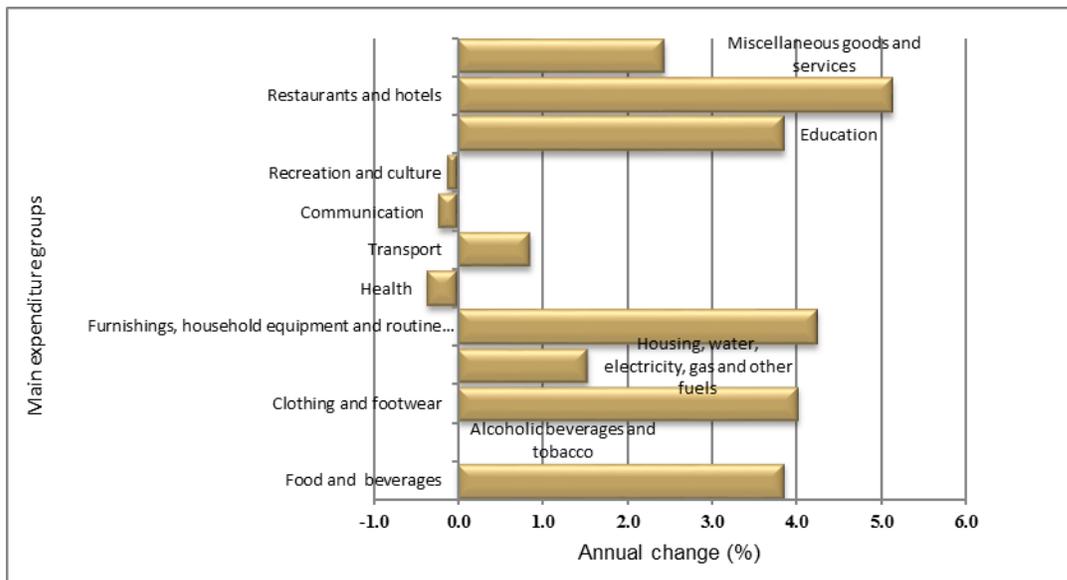
The “Clothing and footwear” group, contributed for 13.6% of the increase to CPI over the comparison period. This contribution resulted from an increase of 4.0% in the prices of this group

The prices of “Restaurants and hotels” rose by 5.1% during the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013. This group contributed 9.4% of the total increase achieved by all groups.

The “Furnishings, household equipment” group accounted for 4.2% of the overall increase occurring during the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013. This contribution resulted from an increase of 8.9% in the prices of this groups.

Among the main groups that slowed down the rise in consumer prices during the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013, was the “Communication” group, which contributed -0.6%.The prices of this group decreased by 0.2%.

Figure (2): Annual change in CPI for main groups (first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013)



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

C. CPI of February 2014

1. Comparing the CPI of February 2014 with the CPI of February 2013

The average consumer prices increased by 2.6% in February 2014 compared with February 2013, with the CPI at 126.3 points in February 2014, up from 123.2 points in February 2013. This increase in prices is due to the net movement (increases and decreases) of consumer prices during these months.

The most significant groups, which experienced increases in prices during February 2014 compared with February 2013, were the groups of “Restaurants and hotels” by 6.6%, “Miscellaneous goods and services” by 4.5% ,“Clothing and footwear” by 4.2%, and “Food and non-alcoholic beverages”, "which increased by 4.1%, Meanwhile the prices for the “Communication” group decreased by 0.2% over the period.

Table (3): Main expenditure group by Weights, relative change and contribution, February 2014 compared with February 2013

Main Expenditure Groups	Weight	Relative change	Contribution
Food and beverages	16.1	4.1	28.8
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.3	0.0	0.0
Clothing and footwear	9.8	4.2	13.0
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	37.9	1.5	22.8
Furnishings, household equipment	4.8	4.0	7.7
Health	0.8	-0.1	0.0
Transport	9.7	0.7	2.6
Communication	7.7	-0.2	-0.6
Recreation and culture	2.4	1.7	1.4
Education	2.6	3.9	5.3
Restaurants and hotels	3.4	6.6	11.0
Miscellaneous goods and services	4.6	4.5	8.0
Total	100		100

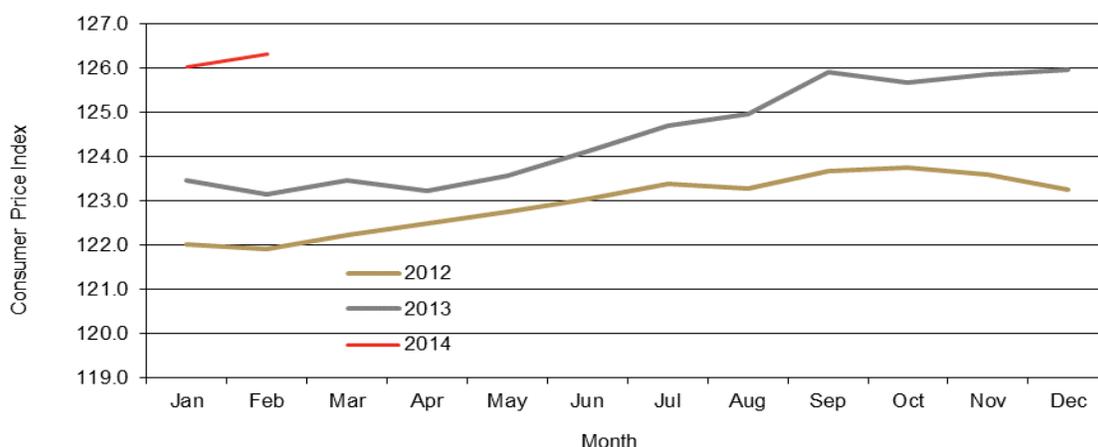
Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

2. Comparing the CPI of February 2014 with the CPI of January 2014

The average consumer prices increased by 0.2% in February 2014 compared with January 2014. This overall increase in prices between the two months reflects the net movement (increases and decreases) of consumer prices during the periods compared.

The most significant groups, which experienced increases in prices during February 2014 compared with January 2014, were the “Miscellaneous goods and services” which increased by 4.0%.

Figure (4): Consumer price index for the months of 2012, 2013 and 2014



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

D. CPI by household welfare level

1. Comparing the average CPI by household welfare level for the first two months of 2014 with the same period of 2013

The rise of 2.3% in consumer prices during the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period in 2013, resulted in an increase of 2.1% in consumer prices for households of the bottom welfare quintile for the same period of comparison. The corresponding rise for other welfare levels was 2.4% for the middle quintile and 2.2% for the top quintile.

Table (4): Average CPI values by household welfare level for the first two months of 2013 and 2014

Period	Bottom	Bottom-Middle	Middle	Top-Middle	Top	All households
— CPI —						
2013	124.1	124.6	124.2	123.6	122.3	123.3
2014	126.8	127.6	127.2	126.6	125.1	126.2
— % —						
Relative Change	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.3

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

2. Comparing the average CPI by household welfare level for February 2014 with February 2013

The rise in consumer prices in February 2014 by 2.6% compared with February 2013 caused a rise in consumer prices for households in the bottom welfare quintile of 1.9%, while prices increased for households in the middle quintile by 2.7%, and the top welfare quintile by 2.6%.

Table (5): Average CPI values by household welfare level for the months of February 2013 and February 2014

Period	Bottom	Bottom-Middle	Middle	Top-Middle	Top	All households
— CPI —						
Feb -13	124.0	124.5	124.1	123.5	122.2	123.2
Feb - 14	126.4	127.6	127.4	126.8	125.3	126.3
— % —						
Relative Change	1.9	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

3. Comparing the average CPI by household welfare level for February 2014 with January 2014

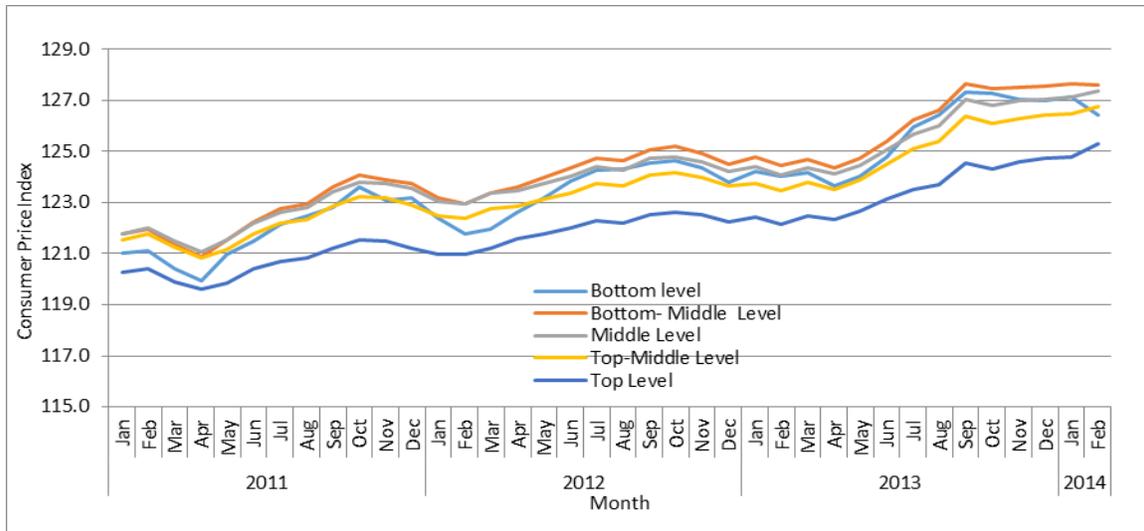
In February 2014, consumer prices increased by 0.2% compared with January 2014. This caused increases of 0.2% in consumer prices for households in the middle quintile and 0.4% in the top welfare quintile.

Table (6): Average CPI values by household welfare level for the months of February 2014 and January 2014

Period	Bottom	Bottom-Middle	Middle	Top-Middle	Top	All households
— CPI —						
Jan 14	127.1	127.7	127.1	126.5	124.8	126.0
Feb 14	126.4	127.6	127.4	126.8	125.3	126.3
— % —						
Relative Change	-0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Figure (5): Monthly CPI movements by household welfare levels from January 2012 to February 2014.



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

E. CPI by household type

1. Comparing the average CPI by household type for the first two months of 2014 with the same period of 2013

The 2.3% rise in consumer prices for the first two months of 2014 compared with the same period of 2013, pushed up consumer prices for citizen households by 2.4%, while non-citizen households and share households increased by 2.3%.

Table (7): Average CPI values for the first two months of 2013 and 2014 by household type

Period	Citizen	Non-Citizen	Share	All households
— CPI —				
2013	122.7	123.9	124.0	123.3
2014	125.6	126.7	126.8	126.2
— % —				
Relative Change	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

2. Comparing the average CPI by household type for the month of February 2014 with February 2013

The 2.6% rise in consumer prices in February 2014 compared with February 2013 caused a 2.8% rise in consumer prices for citizen and 2.4% for non-citizen households during the same period, while prices for share households increased by 2.1%.

Table (8): Average CPI values during February 2013 and February 2014 by household type

Period	Citizen	Non-Citizen	Share	All households
— CPI —				
February 2013	122.5	123.8	123.9	123.2
February 2014	125.9	126.8	126.6	126.3
— % —				
Relative Change	2.8	2.4	2.1	2.6

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

3. Comparing the average CPI by household type for the month of February 2014 with January 2014

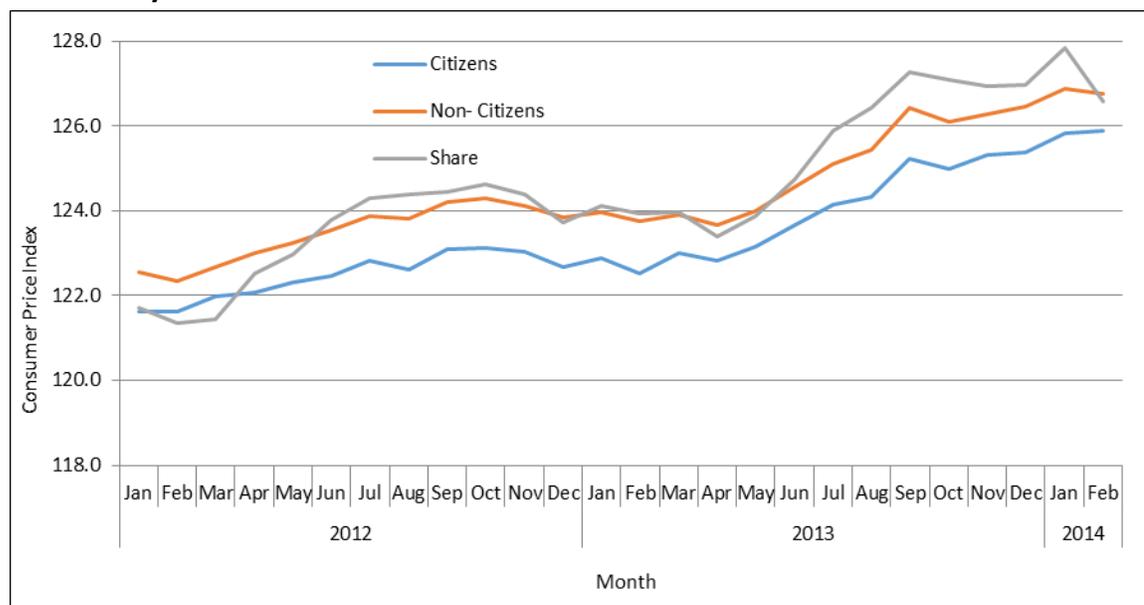
The 0.2% increase in consumer prices in February 2014 compared with January 2014 caused a 0.4% increase in consumer prices for citizen households and 0.1% for non-citizen households during the same period.

Table (9): Average CPI values during February 2014 and January 2014 by household type

Period	Citizen	Non-Citizen	Share	All households
— CPI —				
January 2014	125.4	126.6	127.1	126.0
February 2014	125.9	126.8	126.6	126.3
— % —				
Relative Change	0.4	0.1	-0.4	0.2

Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

Figure (6): Monthly CPI movements by household type for the period January 2012 to February 2014.

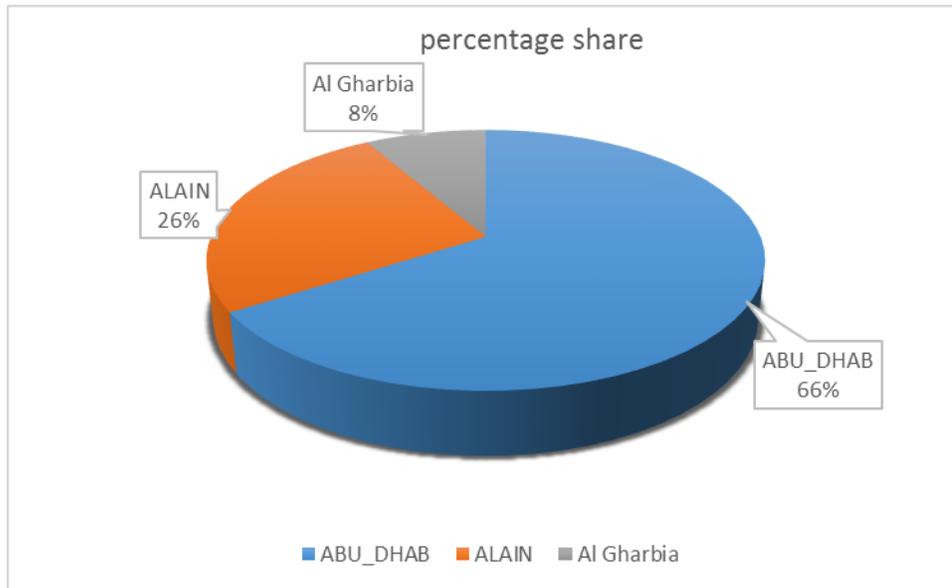


Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

F. CPI by Region

The 0.2% increase in the CPI in February 2014 compared with January 2014 resulted in an increase of 0.2% in the CPI for Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Al Gharbia region. The increase in the CPI in Abu Dhabi Region contributed 66% of the total increase achieved during the two months, Al-Ain Region contributed 26%.while Al Gharbia region contributed 8% of the total increase achieved during the period.

Figure (6): Share of the regions in the average price change In Abu Dhabi Emirates in February 2014 compared with January 2014.



Source: Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi

1. Consumer Price Index – Abu Dhabi Region

- The inflation rate in the Abu Dhabi region was 2.1% in the first two months of 2014, compared with the same period of 2013.
- The inflation rate in the Abu Dhabi region increased by 2.5% in February 2014, compared with the same month in 2013.

- The CPI increased by 0.2% in February 2014, compared with January 2014. The major groups that increased in February 2014 compared with January 2014 were "Recreation and culture" by 3.8%, "Miscellaneous goods and services" by 3.2% and "Restaurants and hotels" with an increase of 2.7%.

2. Consumer Price Index- Al Ain Region

1. The inflation rate in the Al Ain region was 2.3% in the first two months of 2014, compared with the same period of 2013.
2. The inflation rate in the Al Ain region increased by 2.6% in February 2014, compared with the same month in 2013.
3. The CPI increased by 0.2% in February 2014, compared with January 2014. The major groups that increased in February 2014 compared with January 2014 were "Restaurants and hotels" by 1.6%, "Food and beverages" by 0.5%, and "Miscellaneous goods and services" with an increase of 0.4%.

3. Consumer Price Index, Al Gharbia Region

- The inflation rate in the Al Gharbia region was 2.3% in the first two months of 2014, compared with the same period of 2013.
- The inflation rate in the Al Gharbia region increased by 2.7% in February 2014, compared with the same month in 2013.
- The CPI increased by 0.2% in February 2014, compared with January 2014. The major groups that increased in February 2014 compared with January 2014 were "Miscellaneous goods and services" group by 3.1%, "Food and beverages" by 0.3%, and the "Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance" with an increase of 0.2%.

Next release:

The CPI for March 2014 will be released on 10 April 2014. For more information on prices and other official statistics, please visit the SCAD website at <http://www.scad.ae>

CPI Methodology

Introduction

Statistics Centre- Abu Dhabi is the sole official body responsible for calculating and publishing the Consumer Price Index (CPI) within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The Centre updated the CPI base year to 2007 for both prices and weights. Weights that are used in the new CPI were calculated using the results derived from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2007-2008, which was carried out in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The methodology used in calculating the CPI follows best international recommendations and practices in this field.

What is the Consumer Price Index?

The CPI is a tool that measures the rate of change in the prices of a basket of goods and services between two periods. The period against which prices are compared is known as the base period and the period under review is known as the comparison period.

Importance of the Consumer Price Index

The CPI provides monthly estimates on the rate of change in the prices of a consumer price basket in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. Some of the significant utilizations of the CPI are:

- The CPI is used as an important economic indicator to calculate inflation rates. The Inflation rate is a key statistic for economic policy making and is used for the purpose of adjusting payments (such as rents and wages).
- Salaries and wages are being adjusted by international entities and big corporations based on the change taking place in the CPI.
- The CPI is used as a deflator while producing national accounts at constant prices.

Updating the Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index weights are updated on a regular basis once the necessary data becomes available. Usually the update takes place after releasing the results of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey, which is carried out periodically about every five years. Updating weights of goods and services of the CPI basket ensure that these weights represent as close as possible the current consumption pattern of households.

The last CPI update in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi took place in 2007-2008, where 2007 was regarded as the new CPI base year for both weights and prices.

1. CPI Compilation

The CPI is calculated using the Laspeyres method
$$CPI_L = \sum \frac{P_{1i}}{P_{0i}} \times W_{0i}$$

Prices of goods and services of the CPI basket are collected periodically, except for vegetables, fruits, meat, fish and chicken groups which are collected on a weekly basis due to the continuous change that occur in their prices. Rentals prices are collected quarterly, while education fee prices are collected semi- annually.

The current CPI uses 2007 as the base year in Abu Dhabi region. The current CPI basket consists of 334 goods and services, while the consumer basket contains 760 goods and services. The new CPI included the CPI of residential units occupied by their owners; this was done by adding the weight of this item to the weight of the rented residential units followed by calculation of a single index for all rented units.

The average item price is calculated “on the main group level” using the geometric mean of elementary aggregates. The price ratio is calculated by dividing the comparison price by the base price, while the new price is calculated by multiplying by the base price.

To calculate the CPI on the sub- group level, the new weight of all goods and services of the sub-group should be added and then divided by the base price of the same group. The CPI of the main groups and the general CPI are calculated using the same method.

2. Weights

The Consumer Price Index is a weighted average of the change in the price of goods and services of the CPI basket. The weight of the good or service reflects its relative importance. The weight of good (C) is calculated by dividing the total expenditure of all households on the good (C) by the total expenditure of households on all goods and services.

The relative importance¹ of goods and services were calculated based on the results of the 2007-2008 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. Goods and services with a weight of 0.002 per cent or more were included in the CPI basket of goods and services. Goods with weights below this value were distributed proportionally among the other goods in the same group.

¹ Relative importance of a given good or the weight of the good is the total expenditure of all households on the good divided by the total expenditure of all households on all groups

3. CPI basket and Consumer basket

After calculating weights and identifying goods and services representing the CPI, the 334 goods and services in the consumer basket was identified. Each item in the CPI basket is represented by one good or service or more, therefore the consumer basket is larger than the CPI basket. The consumer basket includes 760 goods and services.

4. Classifications used in the CPI

The Classification of Individual Consumption according to Purpose (COICOP) is used in the construction of the CPI. The COICOP is a United Nations classification, which is used for statistical purposes. Based on the COICOP, goods and services of the CPI basket were classified into the main 12 groups, 34 subgroups (two digits) and 63 subgroups (three digits). The following table shows the main groups (one digit) and their weights:

COICOP Classification	Main Expenditure Groups	Weight
	Total	100.0
1	Food and beverages	16.1
2	Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.3
3	Clothing and footwear	9.8
4	Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	37.9
5	Furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance	4.8
6	Health	0.8
7	Transport	9.7
8	Communication	7.7
9	Recreation and culture	2.4
10	Education	2.6
11	Restaurants and hotels	3.4
12	Miscellaneous goods and services	4.6

5. The Classification used in the CPI by household welfare

According to this classification, households were divided into five segments based on the average expenditure per capita in 2007, when the last Household Income and Expenditure Survey was carried out.

The bottom welfare quintile represents the segment with the lowest income, while the top welfare quintile represents the segment with the highest income.

Average expenditure per capita

Welfare	Lowest	Highest	Average
Low	2,683.3	11,122.0	7,838.7
Low middle	11,125.8	16,887.4	14,069.6
Middle	16,896.2	23,716.1	20,260.2
Upper middle	23,732.4	34,606.9	28,685.6
Top	34,631.6	422,932.4	52,720.3

6. Classification used in the CPI by household type

According to this classification, households were divided into three types, citizen, non-citizen and share household:

- Citizen household: is one person or more from the UAE citizens, who live permanently in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. They should have a head of household, while their members might be related to each other or not and they should share accommodation and food.
- Non- citizen household; is one person or more who are non UAE citizen. The members of the non-citizen household should share accommodation and food, while they might be related or not and they should have a head a head of household. The household is considered non- citizen if the head is non-citizen and wife is non-citizen, even if the wife has citizen children from a previous marriage.
- Share household: is a group of persons (more than two) regardless of their nationalities. It should have a head of household and their members might be

related to each other or not. The members of the share household share accommodation but they normally do not share food.

7. Geographical Scope

The current geographical scope of SCAD covers the Emirate of Abu Dhabi including all sub regions. However, the comprehensive coverage to the whole Emirate is essential but it requires a huge effort in order to collect the prices on a regular basis from all the regions of the Emirate.

8. Sources of Goods and Services

Sources used for the collection of price data were determined through field visits conducted by a team from SCAD's Price Indices Section. The team updates SCAD on a regular basis if any source closes down or relocates premises. When choosing a source, it has been taken into consideration that it should represent a large segment of consumers in the Emirates of Abu Dhabi. Price data are currently collected from 180 sources.

9. Collection of Price Data

Price data collection is a crucial stage that requires a significant amount of time and effort. A group of employees who are well trained conducts the collection of price data. To ensure the accuracy of the collected prices, the price of a sample of goods and service are reviewed through field visits. Each group of prices is collected differently, some are collected weekly, and others are collected monthly and quarterly.

In order to develop the price collection mechanism and cope with the latest IT trends, SCAD developed a comprehensive system that aims at calculating CPI using tablets.

The system aims at:

- Implementation of all CPI stages
- Provision of electronic programs and tools required for the price data collection (field collection) and transfer of data to the tablets, in addition to receiving data and transfer to the prices database.
- Ability to examine data accuracy and integration at all stages of the system, including preparation of the goods and services basket, the fieldwork and calculating the index.
- Ability to calculate the CPI for any region of the Emirate (according to the geographical scope).

- Ability to deal with special situations that may arise during data collection or CPI calculation such as disappearance of goods, resources, and changes in the goods.
- Determining goods and services basket of the base year with the relative weights of the groups, in addition to calculating the prices of goods and services of the base year.
- Assisting data collectors while editing data by connecting the current database with the previous one.

10. Publishing

SCAD publishes the CPI and prices of consumer goods and service on a monthly basis, seven days after the end of the month. SCAD also publish annual CPI results and inflation rates. The CPI can also provided on CDs upon request.

11. How to read the CPI

The CPI reflects the rate of the change in the prices of a specified goods and services basket between two times, the base period and the comparison period. For example, if the price of the goods and services basket during a specified base period is AED 100, and the CPI of the comparison period was 105.0, this means that prices of goods and services increased by about 5%.

In order to measure the change in the prices of the current period and the previous period, the current CPI should be divided by the previous CPI, then multiply the result by (100) and then subtract 100.