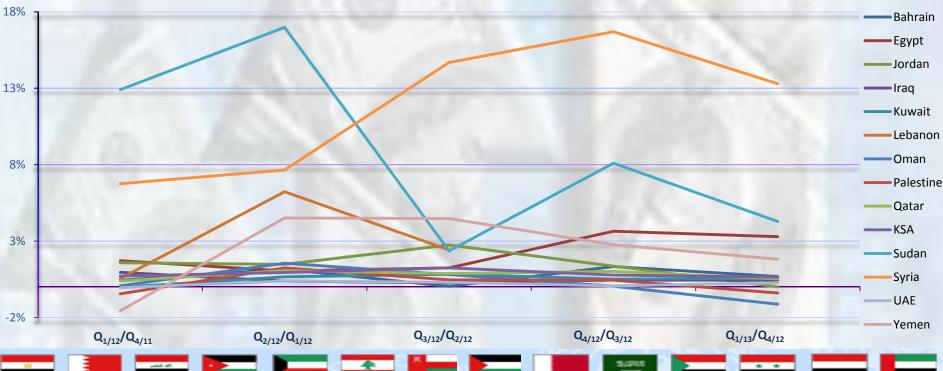


Quarterly Inflation Outlook Western Asia Region

Quarterly	Q _{2/12} /Q _{1/12}	Q _{3/12} /Q _{2/12}	0	00	Q _{2/13} /Q _{1/13}					
Inflation Rate	Q2/12/ Q1/12	Q3/12/ Q2/12	Q _{4/12} / Q _{3/12}	Q _{1/13/} Q _{4/12}	Q2/13/ Q1/13					
Bahrain	0.44%	1.17%	0.03%	1.33%	0.68%					
Egypt	1.72%	1.04%	1.25%	3.64%	3.28%					
Iraq	0.96%	0.38%	0.26%	0.45%	0.45%					
Jordan	1.59%	1.47%	2.74%	1.36%	0.00%					
Kuwait	-0.02%	0.66%	0.83%	0.52%	0.57%					
Lebanon	0.55%	6.23%	2.42%	N/A	N/A					
Oman	0.07%	1.55%	0.81%	0.05%	-1.12%					
Palestine	-0.45%	1.25%	0.46%	0.45%	-0.40%					
Qatar	0.39%	1.07%	0.87%	1.02%	0.53%					
KSA	0.72%	0.95%	1.25%	0.78%	0.64%					
Sudan	12.91%	16.98%	2.36%	8.09%	4.28%					
Syria	6.76%	7.65%	14.69%	16.70%	13.30%*					
UAE	-0.05%	0.39%	0.31%	0.07%	0.28%					
Yemen	-1.56%	4.51%	4.47%	2.77%	1.82%					
*Only for Annil and Mary										

*Only for April and May



Syria still marks the highest inflation rate in the region with a 13.3% increase, which according to official sources is expected to strike even higher when including the third month. Moreover, Syria's 'Food and Beverage' group recorded a shocking 18% increase describing a food security and access problem in the country.



Sudan's inflation rate for the second quarter of 2013 reached almost half its rate for the previous quarter, marking only a 4.3% increase, whereas the 'Recreation and Culture' group hit the highest inflation rate among its groups marking an approximate inflation rate of 10%.



Whereas Jordan and Palestine maintained a somehow stable price level, Oman witnessed a deflation rate of 1.12% in the second quarter of 2013.

Quarterly Inflation Rate by Group - Q2 2013

Quarterly Inflation Rate by Group	Bahrain	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Kuwait	Lebanon	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	KSA	Sudan	Syria*	UAE	Yemen
1. Food & Beverages	0.14%	4.86%	0.62%	0.63%	1.52%	N/A	-1.02%	-0.72%	0.98%	1.44%	3.10%	18.03%	0.87%	2.24%
2. Clothing & Footwear	-0.15%	2.88%	1.27%	-0.48%	0.53%	N/A	0.15%	-0.38%	-0.17%	-0.63%	6.63%	9.09%	0.52%	3.53%
3. Housing Utilities & Equipment	2.67%	0.63%	0.40%	0.31%	0.40%	N/A	-0.04%	0.24%	0.49%	1.10%	5.62%	7.22%	0.23%	0.49%
4. Transport & Communication	-0.84%	0.59%	-0.12%	-1.46%	0.32%	N/A	0.46%	-1.00%	1.54%	-0.23%	3.53%	13.49%	0.07%	0.97%
5. Recreation & Culture	-1.03%	0.56%	-0.45%	-1.13%	0.92%	N/A	-1.28%	-0.67%	0.81%	-0.19%	10.04%	12.98%	0.04%	2.44%
6. Health Care Services	0.06%	2.38%	3.45%	0.39%	-0.13%	N/A	1.55%	0.66%	0.78%	1.18%	8.87%	7.33%	0.02%	1.50%
7. Education	0.00%	0.00%	1.90%	0.07%	0.22%	N/A	0.00%	4.31%		0.00%	5.80%	7.80%	0.00%	0.00%
8. Restaurants and Hotels	1.63%	7.55%	1.80%	0.32%		N/A		1.21%		0.82%	7.17%	9.97%	0.12%	0.69%
9. Miscellaneous Goods & Services * Only for April and May	-0.21%	0.09%	-3.28%	-1.95%	-0.74%	N/A	-8.46%	-2.20%	-2.36%	-1.01%	8.83%	9.94%	-0.37%	0.40%

Food & Beverages **Housing Utilities & Equipment Clothing & Footwear** 10% 8% 18% 7% 8% 6% 13% 6% 5% 4% 8% 4% 3% 2% 2% 3% 1% 0% 0% sur Oatal Arabia -2% FENDE Sudan -2% Bahrain syria UAE yemen Kuwai Lebanon Onan Palestine JA Palestin udiArah EBYPE Han jordan want aband on an alestine catal said sudar 03 6 Leba **Recreation & Culture Health Care Services Transport & Communication** 14% 10% 13% 9% 12% 8% 11% 10% 7% 9% 6% 8% 5% 7% 6% 4% 5% 4% 3% 2% 3% 2% 1% 1% 0% 0% -1% -2% UAE 0310 Bahrain Sudan Vemen Vemen Lebanor Palestine 4UN31 Qatat Arabia Saudi Arabic JAY FENDE JAE Stila Palestin omar Leban om Education **Restaurants & Hotels Miscellaneous Goods & Services** 10% 10% 8% 9% 8% 7% 8% 6% 6% 7% 4% 5% 6% 2% 4% 5% 0% 3% 4% -2% Arabia 3% Sudar 2% -4% 2% 1% -6% 1% 0% -8% 0% -10% Balter Early had polar way tonnor on a still have such she up to tend barrain there was born that the stand out a stand being card brand stand out the same

An Exclusive Interview

with

Special Focus The Director General of the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) in Lebanon



The Statistics Division at ESCWA conducted an interview with CAS Director, Dr. Maral Tutelian, to enquire more about Lebanon's practices in compiling consumer price indices and the challenges faced when producing the CPI data.

1- Would you kindly provide us with a brief overview of the CPI methodology used by CAS to collect and produce sales for the purpose of compiling the monthly average of **Consumer Price Indices?**

CAS identified the list of goods and services constituting the fixed CPI basket which is used for the CPI calculation based on the results of "The National Survey of Household Budget Survey 2004-2005" which were revised in 2007.

assistance. This software included secondary softwares CPI expenditure weights based on the new BHS survey. ensuring the electronic distribution of points of sales among the Price Collectors. Other softwares were 4- We noticed that CPI data was not reported for the first developed for price data entry, multilevel data editing, computations of CPI and finally dissemination of results.

CPI consists of 12 time series designed to measure the when it comes to CPI production? annual and monthly inflation of prices of all CPI goods purchased by households. The weights which CAS uses are The main challenge facing CAS in the continuous process extracted from the "The National Survey of Household of the CPI production is maintaining an official approval Living Conditions and budget 2004-2005". These weights for the field workers of the CPI team to be able to show the average household's expenditures on goods and continue working on price collection regularly and on services and not taking into account the household's size, time. Due to the latest gap in CPI production, there is

income and social status. The current CPI basket is divided currently a technical assistance mission from IMF to help into 12 divisions according to "The Classification of CAS fill this missing gap. Individual Consumption by Purpose"(COICOP) as recommended by the UN. The CPI is computed using the 5- What do you think are some of the most pressing Geometric Laspeyers equation.

2- What is the CPI geographic coverage, and what is the well benefited of and correctly utilized for these issues? size of the CPI basket in Lebanon?

CAS conducts several surveys on all Lebanese territory National accounts, indexation of salary in both public and using specially developed questionnaires for the collection of available goods' specifications in the Lebanese market. to index the salary, travel agencies to rate the tickets, Price collection is extended over more than 1800 points of etc.. 70,000 prices of goods and services within the CPI basket.

3- Currently the CPI data produced is weighted against a private agencies and is being used by some parties Household Budget Survey conducted in 2004; when do instead of the official indices produced by CAS? you believe a new HBS will be conducted to update the **CPI expenditure weights?**

by CAS employees without any external technical and there is a technical assistance from IMF to update the the updated expenditure weights which altogether results

five months of 2013. How will this gap be covered for, and what are the main challenges and obstacles facing Lebanon's Central Administration of Statistics (CAS)

issues in Lebanon today that require the use of Consumer Price Indices, and do you believe that the CPI is being

CPI is used in many purpose in Lebanon such as :

private sectors, Central bank for interest rate, embassies

6- Finally, what would be your comment regarding the non-official CPI data which is being published by some

The strength of CPI compiled by CAS relies on the geographical coverage (covering all the Lebanese CAS built a "self automated process" software developed CAS conducted a new Household Budget Survey in 2012 territory), the COICOP coverage that includes rent, and in CAS Consumer Price Index that complies to international recommendations.

> The Director General of the Central Administration of Statistics in Lebanon, Dr. Maral Tutelian, has been recently elected as the co-chair of the Forum of Euro-Mediterranean Statisticians during the first meeting of the forum in Luxembourg, 13-14 May 2013.

Contact us:

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