

Price index rises to 3.4% in July, up 0.2%
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The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for July rose 3.4 per cent to 103.4, from 100 recorded in the same month last year, and when compared with June 2011, it was up 0.2 per cent.

For the January-July 2011 period, the CPI was up 3.1 per cent to 102.7 compared with 99.6 registered in the same period last year, the Statistics Department said in a statement today.

The index for food & non-alcoholic beverages and non-food for July 2011, compared with the same month in 2010, showed increases of 4.9 per cent and 2.7 per cent respectively.

Compared with the previous month, the index for food & non-alcoholic beverages and non-food increased by 0.4 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

For the January-July 2011 period, the index for food & non-alcoholic beverages and non-food increased by 4.6 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively against the previous corresponding period.

The 3.1 per cent increase in CPI for January-July was brought about by increases observed in the indices of all the main groups except for clothing & footwear (-0.4 per cent) and communication (-0.1 per cent).

Notable increases among these main groups with high weights were transport (+5.0 per cent), food & non-alcoholic beverages (+4.6 per cent) and; housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels (+1.6 per cent), it said.

The three main groups, food & non-alcoholic beverages; housing, water, electricity, gas & other fuels and transport together accounted for 81.4 per cent of the overall increase recorded for the January-July period.

Food items that recorded notable increases in July compared with June included red chillies, infant powdered milk, chicken, eggs, black pomfret and red snapper while prices were down for garlic, choy sum, spinach, brinjals, shallots, cucumber and kai lan.

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