

Quarterly Inflation Rate	Q2/12/Q1/12	Q3/12/Q2/12	Q4/12/Q3/12	Q1/13/Q4/12	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 April and May



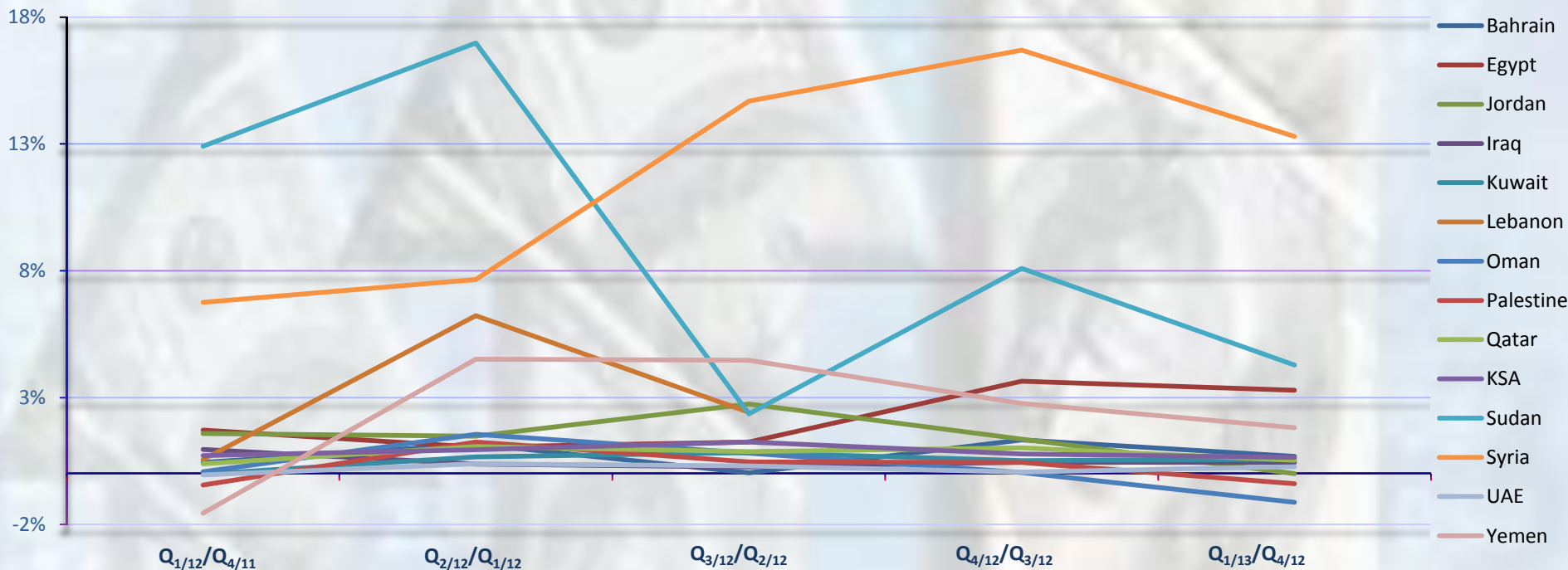
Syria still marks the highest inflation rate in the region with a 13.3% increase, which according to official sources is expected to strike even higher when including the third month. Moreover, Syria's 'Food and Beverage' group recorded a shocking 18% increase describing a food security and access problem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

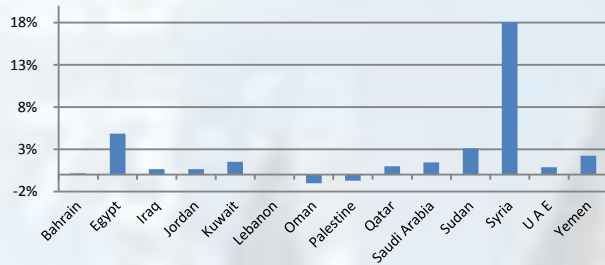


Quarterly Inflation Rate by Group – Q2 2013

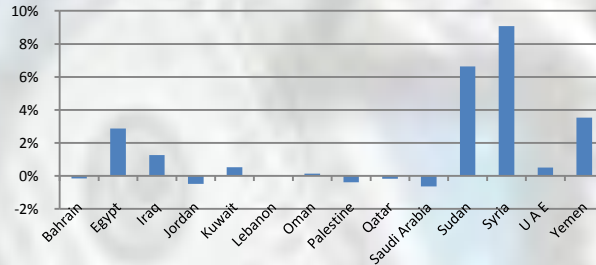
Quarterly Inflation Rate by Group	Bahrain	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Kuwait	Lebanon	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	KSA	Sudan	Syria*	U A E	Yemen
1. Food & Beverages	0.14%	4.86%	0.62%	0.63%	1.52%	N/A	-1.02%	-0.72%	0.98%	1.44%	3.10%	18.03%	0.87%	2.24%
2. Clothing & Footwear	-0.15%	2.88%	1.27%	-0.48%	0.53%	N/A	0.15%	-0.38%	-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	-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%

* Only for April and May

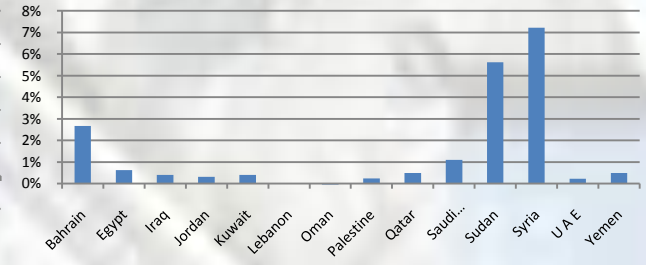
Food & Beverages



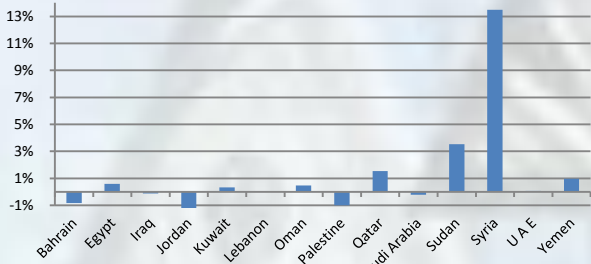
Clothing & Footwear



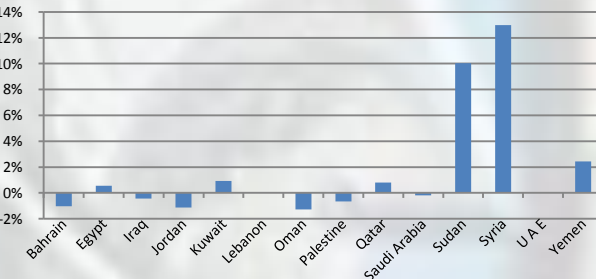
Housing Utilities & Equipment



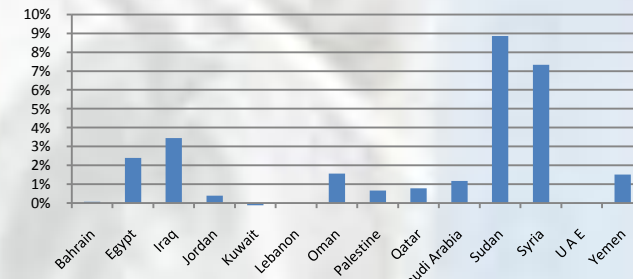
Transport & Communication



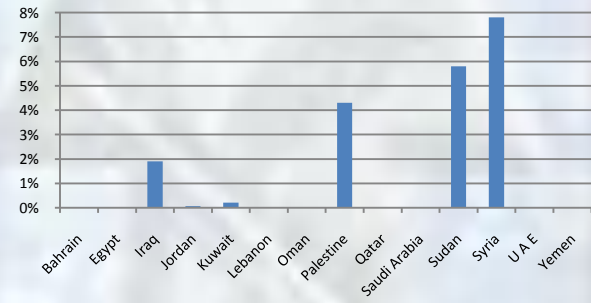
Recreation & Culture



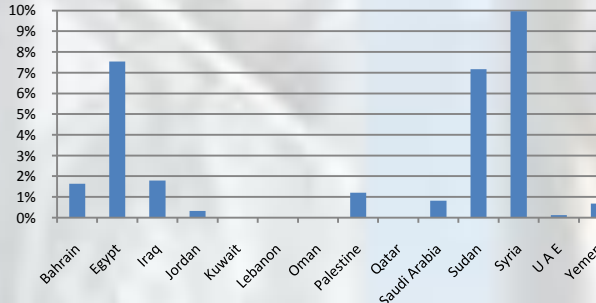
Health Care Services



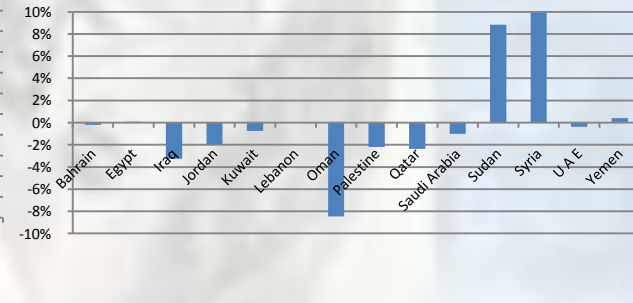
Education



Restaurants & Hotels



Miscellaneous Goods & Services



An Exclusive Interview

with

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.

income and social status. The current CPI basket is divided into 12 divisions according to "The Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose"(COICOP) as recommended by the UN. The CPI is computed using the Geometric Laspeyers equation.

currently a technical assistance mission from IMF to help CAS fill this missing gap.

2- What is the CPI geographic coverage, and what is the size of the CPI basket in Lebanon?

CAS conducts several surveys on all Lebanese territory using specially developed questionnaires for the collection of available goods' specifications in the Lebanese market. Price collection is extended over more than 1800 points of sales for the purpose of compiling the monthly average of 70,000 prices of goods and services within the CPI basket.

5- What do you think are some of the most pressing issues in Lebanon today that require the use of Consumer Price Indices, and do you believe that the CPI is being well benefited of and correctly utilized for these issues?

CPI is used in many purpose in Lebanon such as : National accounts, indexation of salary in both public and private sectors, Central bank for interest rate, embassies to index the salary , travel agencies to rate the tickets, etc..

3- Currently the CPI data produced is weighted against a Household Budget Survey conducted in 2004; when do you believe a new HBS will be conducted to update the CPI expenditure weights?

CAS conducted a new Household Budget Survey in 2012 and there is a technical assistance from IMF to update the CPI expenditure weights based on the new BHS survey.

6- Finally, what would be your comment regarding the non-official CPI data which is being published by some private agencies and is being used by some parties instead of the official indices produced by CAS?

The strength of CPI compiled by CAS relies on the geographical coverage (covering all the Lebanese territory), the COICOP coverage that includes rent, and the updated expenditure weights which altogether results in CAS Consumer Price Index that complies to international recommendations.

4- We noticed that CPI data was not reported for the first 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) when it comes to CPI production?

The main challenge facing CAS in the continuous process of the CPI production is maintaining an official approval for the field workers of the CPI team to be able to continue working on price collection regularly and on time. Due to the latest gap in CPI production, there is

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.

1- Would you kindly provide us with a brief overview of the CPI methodology used by CAS to collect and produce 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.

CAS built a "self automated process" software developed by CAS employees without any external technical assistance. This software included secondary softwares ensuring the electronic distribution of points of sales among the Price Collectors. Other softwares were 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 annual and monthly inflation of prices of all CPI goods purchased by households. The weights which CAS uses are extracted from the "The National Survey of Household Living Conditions and budget 2004-2005". These weights show the average household's expenditures on goods and services and not taking into account the household's size,

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