

February 2010 Consumer Price Index

Early sign of deflation coming to an end?

Qatar's monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 0.1 percent in February. The CPI now stands at 121.3 (2006=100), down 4.6 percent from a year ago. The index is a measure of the general price level of goods and services consumed by the average household in Qatar. The index has been trending downwards since the beginning of 2009 following a period of high inflation in 2008 and has been strongly affected by falling rental prices. This month saw a levelling off of those rental price decreases.

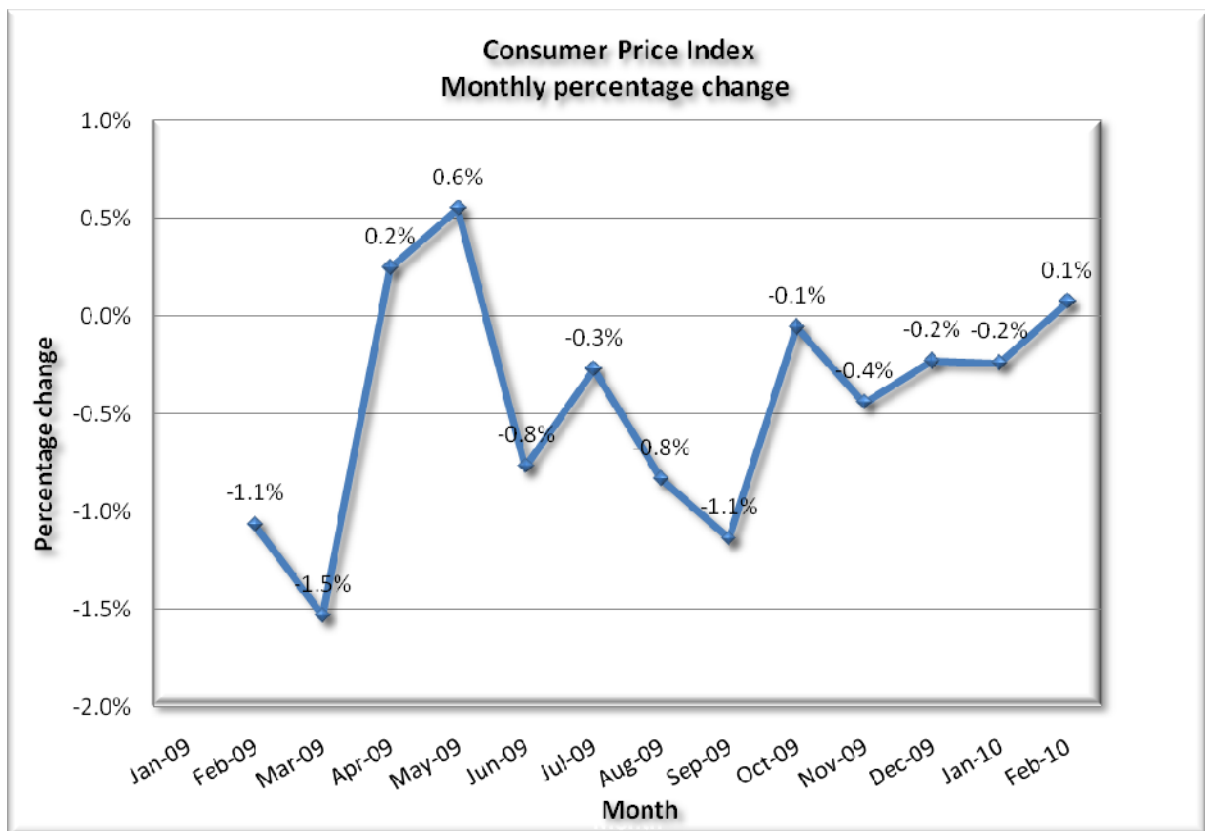


Figure 1: Total Monthly CPI

Some highlights for February 2010 were:

- The rental price index rose by 0.2 percent, the first rise since May 2009.
- Food prices rose 0.5 percent as prices for fresh fruits and meat increased.
- Car prices dropped by 1.7 percent.

Overall CPI – monthly price changes

| CPI Section | % of CPI basket | Dec/2009 | Jan/2010 | Feb/2010 |
|---|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Household Consumption (CPI) | 100% | -0.2% | -0.2% | 0.1% |
| Food, Beverages & Tobacco | 13.2% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.5% |
| Clothing & Footwear | 5.8% | -1.6% | -0.5% | -0.8% |
| Housing, utilities and related services | 32.2% | -0.5% | -1.4% | 0.2% |
| Furniture, Textiles & Home Appliances | 8.2% | -2.0% | 1.5% | 0.1% |
| Medical Care & Health Services | 2.0% | 0.0% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| Transport & Communication | 20.5% | 1.3% | 0.3% | -0.6% |
| Entertainment, Recreation and Culture | 10.9% | -1.2% | 0.7% | 1.2% |
| Miscellaneous Goods & services | 7.2% | 1.2% | -0.6% | -0.6% |

Further information:

For more detailed information, please visit www.qsa.gov.qa