

Consumer Price Indices for November 2021

The Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) released today (December 21) the Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures for November 2021. According to the Composite CPI, overall consumer prices rose by 1.8% in November 2021 over the same month a year earlier, marginally larger than the corresponding increase (1.7%) in October 2021. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rate of increase in the Composite CPI (i.e. the underlying inflation rate) in November 2021 was 1.2%, also marginally larger than that in October 2021 (1.1%). The larger increase was mainly due to the enlarged increases in electricity charges and prices of fresh vegetables, as well as the smaller decreases in the charges for information and communications services.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the average monthly rate of increase in the Composite CPI for the 3-month period ending November 2021 was 0.2%, the same as that for the 3-month period ending October 2021. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the corresponding rates of increase were both 0.1%.

Analysed by sub-index, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.2%, 1.7% and 1.5% respectively in November 2021, as compared to 2.1%, 1.6% and 1.5% respectively in October 2021. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the year-on-year rates of increase in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 1.2%, 1.1% and 1.2% respectively in November 2021, as compared to 1.1%, 1.0% and 1.2% respectively in October 2021.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, for the 3-month period ending November 2021, the average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were all 0.2%. The corresponding rates of increase for the 3-month period ending October 2021 were 0.1%, 0.2% and 0.2% respectively. Netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures, the average monthly rates of increase in the seasonally adjusted CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) for the 3-month period ending November 2021 were all 0.1%, and the corresponding rates of increase for the 3-month period ending October 2021 were 0.1%, 0.1% and 0.2% respectively.

Amongst the various components of the Composite CPI, year-on-year increases in prices were recorded in November 2021 for electricity, gas and water (31.1%); clothing and footwear (6.7%); transport (5.3%); meals out and takeaway food (2.5%); basic food (1.9%); durable goods (1.8%) and miscellaneous services (1.1%).

On the other hand, year-on-year decreases in the components of the Composite CPI were recorded in November 2021 for miscellaneous goods (-1.0%), alcoholic drinks and tobacco (-0.6%) and housing (-0.6%).

Taking the first 11 months of 2021 together, the Composite CPI rose by 1.5% over a year earlier. The respective increases in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.8%, 0.9% and 0.8% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 0.5%, 0.8%, 0.3% and 0.5% respectively.

For the 3 months ending November 2021, the Composite CPI rose by 1.7% over a year earlier, while the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) rose by 2.0%, 1.5% and 1.5% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 1.1%, 1.0%, 1.0% and 1.2% respectively.

For the 12 months ending November 2021, the Composite CPI was on average 1.3% higher than that in the preceding 12-month period. The respective increases in the CPI(A), CPI(B) and CPI(C) were 2.5%, 0.7% and 0.7% respectively. The corresponding increases after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures were 0.5%, 0.8%, 0.3% and 0.4% respectively.

Commentary

A Government spokesman said that the underlying consumer price inflation rate edged up to 1.2% in November from 1.1% in October. While the year-on-year increase in prices of energy-related items widened further and those of certain major CPI components such as clothing and footwear and transport were more visible, price pressures on many other major components remained broadly in check.

Looking ahead, inflation pressure is likely to increase further in view of the notable rise in import prices and the on-going economic recovery. Nonetheless, as domestic cost pressures remain limited, the underlying inflation should stay largely contained in the near term. The Government will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Further information

The CPIs and year-on-year rates of change at section level for November 2021 are shown in Table 1. The time series on the year-on-year rates of change in the CPIs before and after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures are shown in Table 2. For discerning the latest trend in consumer prices, it is also useful to look at the changes in the seasonally adjusted CPIs. The corresponding time series on the average monthly rates of change during the latest 3 months for the seasonally adjusted CPIs are shown in Table 3. The rates of change in the original and the seasonally adjusted Composite CPI and the underlying inflation rate are presented graphically in Chart 1.

More detailed CPI data (including year-on-year comparison, month-to-month comparison, seasonally adjusted data series and the CPIs by the Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose (COICOP)) are available in the monthly reports. Users can download the November 2021 issue of the "Monthly Report on the Consumer Price Index"

(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=B1060001&scode=270), the time series of CPIs at detailed level
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600001&scode=270), the time series of CPIs at COICOP division level
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600002&scode=270) and the time series of CPIs after netting out the effects of all Government's one-off relief measures
(www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?pcode=D5600003&scode=270) at the website of the C&SD.

The new 2019/20-based CPI series, as was first announced by the C&SD on May 28, 2021, is compiled on the basis of the expenditure patterns obtained from the Household Expenditure Survey (HES) conducted during October 2019 to September 2020. It replaces the old 2014/15-based series for analysing consumer price changes. Concurrent with the new CPI series, the old 2014/15-based CPI series will continue to be compiled and published monthly until the reference month of December 2021.

For enquiries about the CPIs, please contact the Consumer Price Index Section of the C&SD (Tel: 3903 7374 or email: cpi@censtatd.gov.hk).