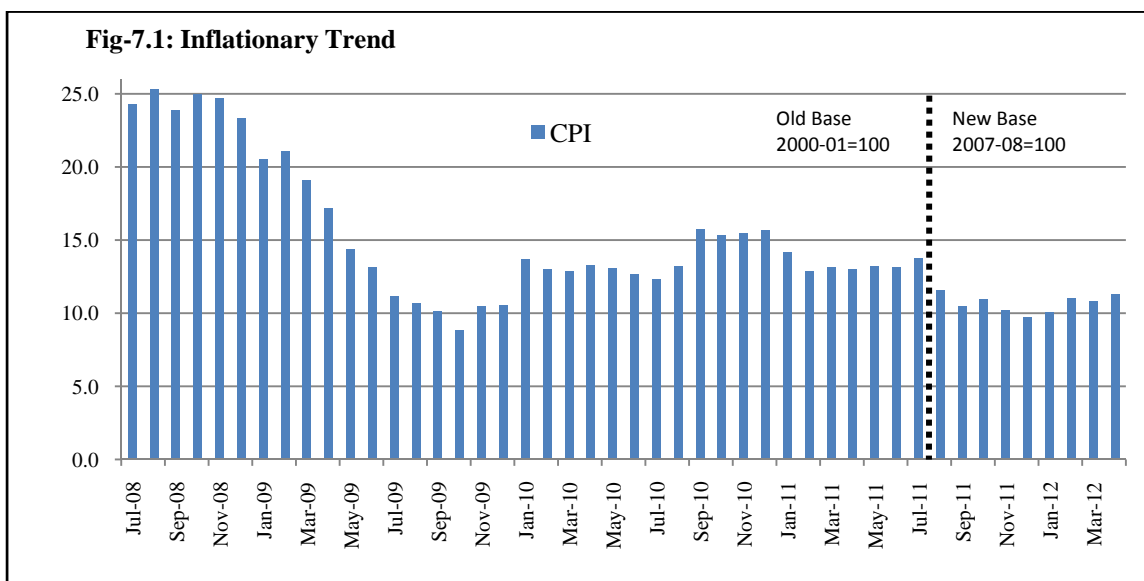


# Inflation

The global economy experienced significant financial crises in 2007-08. The financial crisis emanated in subprime mortgage loan portfolio and shocked the confidence of the international institutions and markets which in turn badly deteriorated the economic development and balance of payments across the world. In the developing countries, the crisis was seen at the time when they were already experiencing severe terms of trade and slower economic growth. The financial meltdown led to a backlash on consumer

markets and broadly on the process of investment in the production of goods and services. This coupled with spike in commodity and oil prices led to a decline in the aggregate demand and raised inflation the world over. In Pakistan the affect was felt much severely as the country was also experiencing internal security issues and campaign against terrorism. The surge in food and commodity prices witnessed during 2008-09 pushed the consumer prices index (CPI) to a record level of 25.3 percent in August 2008.



The rising trend in domestic prices in tandem with global food and fuel prices affect several macro-economic dynamics - consumption, investment, inflation, trade and fiscal balances and ultimately resulted in slow down of GDP growth.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) report of 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 titled "Food Price Escalation in South Asia" noted that the region suffers from a higher

overall food inflation rate than the rest of developing Asia. The report further pointed out that the region, with a large number of people already living close to the poverty line, is one of the most vulnerable regions in the world to food price shocks. The World Bank has also rated high food prices as the biggest challenge facing most developing countries. This rising trend in inflation is not specific to Pakistan. Regional inflation is

estimated to have also risen in India, Bangladesh and Thailand (Table 7.1).

**Table: 7.1 Regional Countries Food Price Inflation**

	Pakistan		India		Bangladesh		Thailand		Sri Lanka	
	CPI	Food	CPI	Food	CPI	Food	CPI	Food	CPI	Food
Jul-11	12.4	17.1	8.4	8.2	11.0	13.4	4.1	7.2	7.4	9.3
Aug-11	11.6	13.2	9.0	9.6	11.3	12.7	4.2	8.4	7.0	8.2
Sep-11	10.5	9.9	10.1	9.6	12.0	13.8	4.1	8.9	6.4	6.6
Oct-11	11.0	11.7	9.4	10.2	11.6	10.9	4.2	9.9	5.1	3.8
Nov-11	10.2	10.0	9.3	8.5	11.6	12.5	4.1	10.2	4.7	2.1
Dec-11	9.7	9.5	6.5	0.7	10.6	10.4	3.6	9.1	4.9	2.5
Jan-12	10.1	9.2	5.3	-0.5	11.6	10.9	3.4	7.7	3.8	-0.2
Feb-12	11.0	10.5	8.8	6.1	10.4	8.9	3.4	7.2	2.7	-4.1
Mar-12	10.8	9.8	9.5	9.9	10.1	8.3	3.4	7.1	5.5	-2.5
Apr-12	11.3	10.7	-	-	9.9	8.1	2.7	4.9	6.1	0.2

Source: PBS, BBS, Ministry of Commerce & Industry India, Bank of Thailand.

Food insecurity is a multi dimensional problem and deserves to be tackled through a multi pronged strategic approach where demand, supply and distribution factors need to be taken into account. Availability and access, two important components of food security needs to be addressed simultaneously. Food carries the largest weight in three price indices and hence influences the movement of these indices even with slight variation in prices. The most visible impact of rising food prices on the economy is acceleration of inflationary pressure. In such a situation controlling the inflation becomes unmanageable. Pakistan is experiencing double-digit inflation over the last several years mainly due to increase in prices of food.

Inflation is generally measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The other measures of inflation used in Pakistan are the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI).

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) has changed the base year of the price indices from 2000-01 to 2007-08, which by comparison with the previous base has undergone considerable change in terms of revision to commodity groups; their weights derived from Family Budget Survey 2007-08; and, coverage of items to capture the changing pattern of consumption of the people.

The old basket of commodities in the CPI has been revised and the commodities increased from 374 to 487 items and the commodity groups from 10 to

12. The coverage of cities has also been increased from 35 to 40. Proper representation has been given to large cities (population of 500,000 and above), medium cities (population 100,000 to 500,000), medium small cities (population 50,000 to 100,000) and small cities (population below 50,000). The food group weight has been reduced from 40.3 percent to 34.8 percent and 21 items in the old basket have been dropped while 111 new items have been added. Health and Restaurant two new sub indexes have been included. The sub index of transport and communication in the old base year has been split into two separate sub groups as transport and communication group. Rent being an important component of CPI is now computed on the basis of real rental value rather than using wage rates and prices of construction materials. In the CPI series with base 2000-01, the coverage in terms of income groups is as below:

- i. Up to Rs. 3000
- ii. Rs. 3001 to Rs. 5000
- iii. Rs. 5001 to Rs. 12000, and
- iv. Above Rs. 12000

In the new series with base 2007-08, the income groups have been divided into five income quintiles as under:

- i. Up to Rs. 8000
- ii. Rs. 8001 to Rs. 12000
- iii. Rs. 12001 to Rs. 18000, and
- iv. Rs. 18001 to Rs. 35000
- v. Above Rs. 35000

The basket of goods that makes up the WPI has also been revised for the base year 2007-08 due to change of consumption patterns. In the current series of WPI, items are categorized into five commodity groups namely: (i) food products, beverages and tobacco, textiles, apparel and leather products (ii) agriculture forestry and fishery products (iii) ores and minerals, electricity gas and water (iv) other transportable goods except metal products, machinery and equipment (v) metal product machinery and equipment. A set of 463 items have been selected instead of 425 items to

accommodate changes in the production and sales of commodities in the wholesale market in 21 major cities instead of 18; with coverage of 112 commodities.

The SPI indicates the weekly change of prices of 53 selected items of daily use prevailing in 17 major cities as consumed by six groups (Table 7.2) whose monthly income ranges from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 35,000 per month and an overall households (“combined”) category.

**Table:7.2 Inflation by Consumer Income Groups**

Combined	Upto Rs.8000	Upto Rs. 8001-12000	Upto Rs. 12001-18000	Upto Rs. 18001-35000	Above Rs.35000
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Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

The key changes in the computation of the various indices are summarized in Table 7.3 below:

**Table:7.3 Price Indices in Pakistan**

Base Year 2007-08=10				Base Year 2000-01=100			
Features	CPI	SPI	WPI	Features	CPI	SPI	WPI
Cities covered	40	17	21	Cities covered	35	17	18
Markets covered	76	53	21	Markets covered	71	53	18
Items covered	487	53	463	Items covered	374	53	425
Commodities covered	89	-	112	Commodities covered	92	-	106
No. of commodity groups	12	-	5	No. of commodity groups	10	-	5
No. of price quotations	148048	11236	2366	No. of price quotations	106,216	11236	1,550
Reporting Frequency	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly	Reporting Frequency	Monthly	Weekly	Monthly
Income Groups (in base year) with separate basket	Six Quintile	Six Quintile	-	Income Groups (in base year) with separate basket	Four	Four	-

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

### Inflationary Trends

The year 2011-12 (Jul-Apr) witnessed both demand pull and cost push inflation when viewed in the backdrop of the affects of the floods of 2010 and heavy rains in 2011, which almost wiped out the major and minor standing crops in Sindh province, created disruption in the supply chain which resulted in surging inflation. The global spikes in commodities and fuel prices also exerted pressure on domestic inflation.

Inflation on year to year basis reveals that the CPI was highest in July 2011 at 12.4 percent. However, in December 2011 it declined to single digit at 9.7

percent. Thereafter it increased steadily and reached 11.3 percent in April 2012. Food inflation on a year to year basis was highest in July 2011 and lowest in January 2012 at 9.2 percent. Non-food inflation was lowest in July 2011 at 9.2 percent and highest at 11.6 percent in April 2012. Core inflation during the last nine months of the year remained almost at double digit levels except in July 2011 when it dropped to single digit at 9.5 percent (Table 7.4). The main factor contributing to the rise of non-food inflation was the upward adjustment of energy, gas and fuel prices.

**Table 7.4 Inflation on year on year (Y-o-Y) Basis %Change**

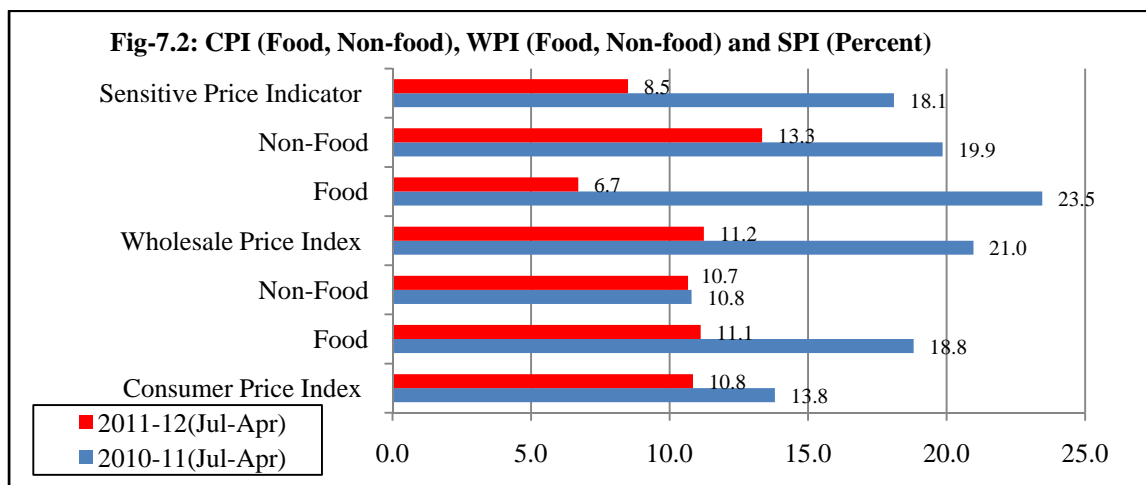
Commodity	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12
<b>CPI</b>	12.4	11.6	10.5	11.0	10.2	9.7	10.1	11.0	10.8	11.3
<b>Food</b>	17.1	13.2	9.9	11.7	10.0	9.5	9.2	10.5	9.8	10.7
<b>Non-Food</b>	9.2	10.4	10.9	10.4	10.3	9.9	10.7	11.5	11.5	11.6
<b>Core</b>	9.5	10.0	10.6	10.4	10.4	10.1	10.2	10.6	10.8	10.8
<b>WPI</b>	20.3	18.7	17.0	15.4	12.0	8.3	8.7	7.2	4.5	3.8
<b>SPI</b>	12.7	11.9	8.7	8.2	5.9	5.1	6.8	8.3	8.4	9.7

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) on average basis recorded as 10.8 percent during Jul-Apr 2011-12 as compared to 13.8 percent during the same period last year. The two broad component of CPI, food and non-food inflation recorded an increase of 11.1 percent and 10.7 percent respectively during the period under review compared to 18.8 percent and 10.8 percent during Jul-Apr 2010-11. While the

Wholesale Price Index (WPI), during Jul-Apr 2011-12 recorded as 11.2 percent as against 21 percent last year. Food and non-food under WPI was noted as 6.7 percent and 13.3 percent during current period whereas it was recorded to be 23.5 percent and 19.9 percent during the same period last year. The following table and graph represent the trends in the CPI, WPI and SPI.

**Table:7.5 Rate of Inflation on the basis of various price indices** (Average percent)

	Items	2010-11(Jul-Apr)	2011-12(Jul-Apr)
A	Consumer Price Index	13.8	10.8
	Food	18.8	11.1
	Non-Food	10.8	10.7
B	Wholesale Price Index	21.0	11.2
	Food	23.5	6.7
	Non-Food	19.9	13.3
C	Sensitive Price Indicator	18.1	8.5



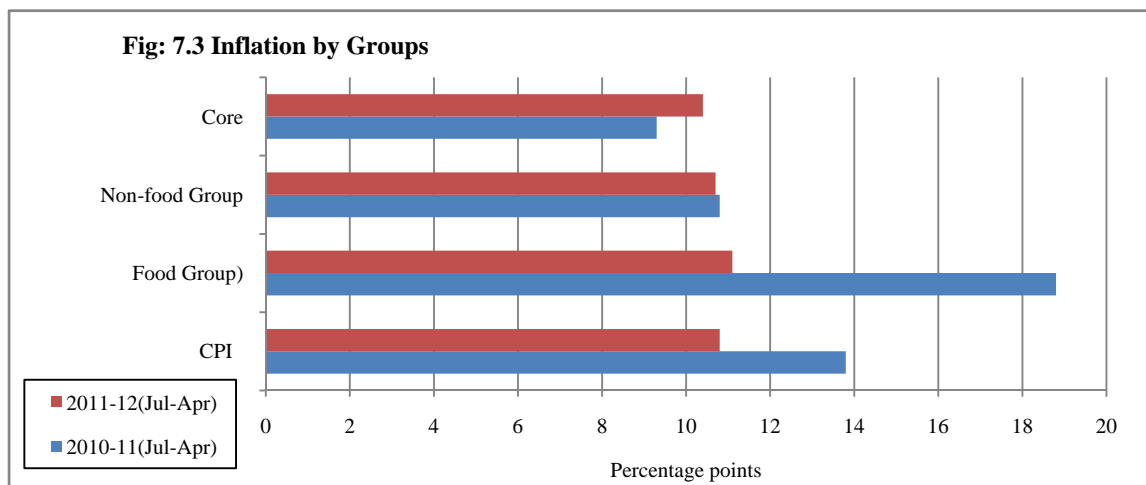
CPI inflation during the period (Jul-Apr) 2011-12 increased by 10.8 percent on average and that of food increased by 11.1 percent. The food group with 34.8 percent weight in the CPI basket has a

considerable effect on overall prices. A slight variation in food prices has a large impact on inflation (Table 7.6).

**Table:7.6 Rate of Inflation on the basis of Food and Non-Food Groups**

	Items	2010-11(Jul-Apr)	2011-12(Jul-Apr)
A	Consumer Price Index (CPI)	13.8	10.8
B	Food Group)	18.8	11.1
C	Non-food Group	10.8	10.7
D	Core	9.3	10.4

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics



Both supply and demand side factors are responsible for food price escalation. These included supply disruption on account of the natural calamities during the year as well as the increase in transportation cost due to high fuel prices; on the demand side, the price hike is the consequence of the inflationary gap measured as the difference between monetary expansion and growth of overall national productivity.

The reasons for the rising food prices are manifold. The demand and supply side factors responsible for the food price hike in 2007-08 also seem to continue in the current food price hike. These include rapid economic growth in emerging countries leading to the increase in international food demand, lower agricultural productivity due

to the scarcity of water in certain regions, supply short fall in the global food markets and oil supply shocks resulting from geopolitical instability in the Middle East etc.

The non-food prices increased at a slower pace of 10.7 percent than food prices. The divergent trend is due to different factors influencing these two broad components of CPI differently, such as items coverage, nature of items and impact of seasonal variation and availability etc. Among the non-food items, the hike in fuel related items such as diesel, petrol, gas, CNG and power tariff rates pushed the production and transportation cost up thereby accelerating inflation.

Core inflation which is nonfood - nonenergy is estimated at 10.4 percent during Jul-Apr 2011-12.

**Table-7.7: (Percent) Change In Price Indices**

Commodity	Weights	On Average Basis		(%) Point Contribution	
		July –Apr	July –Apr	July -Apr	July –Apr
		2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
General (CPI)	100.0	13.8	10.8	13.8	10.8
Food, & Non Alcoholic Beverages	34.8	18.8	11.1	6.6	3.9
Alcoholic Beverages& Tobacco	1.4	11.8	7.5	0.2	0.1
Non-Food	65.2	10.8	10.7	7.0	6.9

**Table-7.7: (Percent) Change In Price Indices**

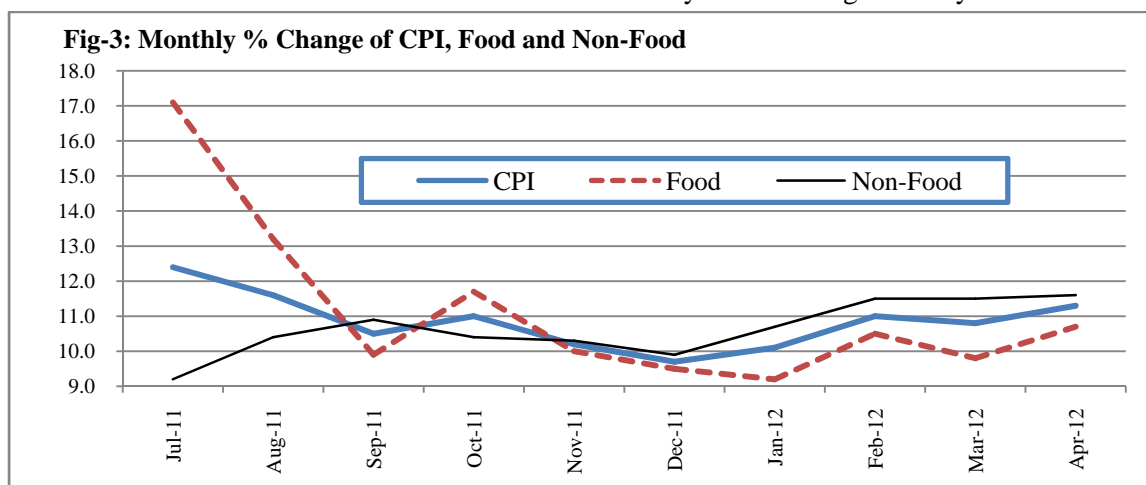
Commodity	Weights	On Average Basis		(% Point Contribution	
		July –Apr	July –Apr	July -Apr	July –Apr
		2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
Non-Food Non Energy	53.5	9.3	10.4	5.0	5.6
Clothing & Foot wear	7.6	11.4	14.9	0.9	1.1
Housing, Water ,Elec. Gas & other Fuel	29.4	11.0	7.5	3.2	2.2
Furnishing &Household Equip. Maintenance	4.2	9.2	17.4	0.4	0.7
Health	2.2	8.1	11.1	0.2	0.2
Transport	7.2	11.2	15.5	0.8	1.1
Communication	3.2	13.8	0.6	0.4	0.02
Recreation & culture	2.0	5.3	5.7	0.1	0.1
Education	3.9	6.6	12.3	0.3	0.5
Restaurant & Hotels	1.2	16.5	13.7	0.2	0.2
Miscellaneous	2.1	13.3	19.9	0.3	0.4

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

**Inflation by Income Groups**

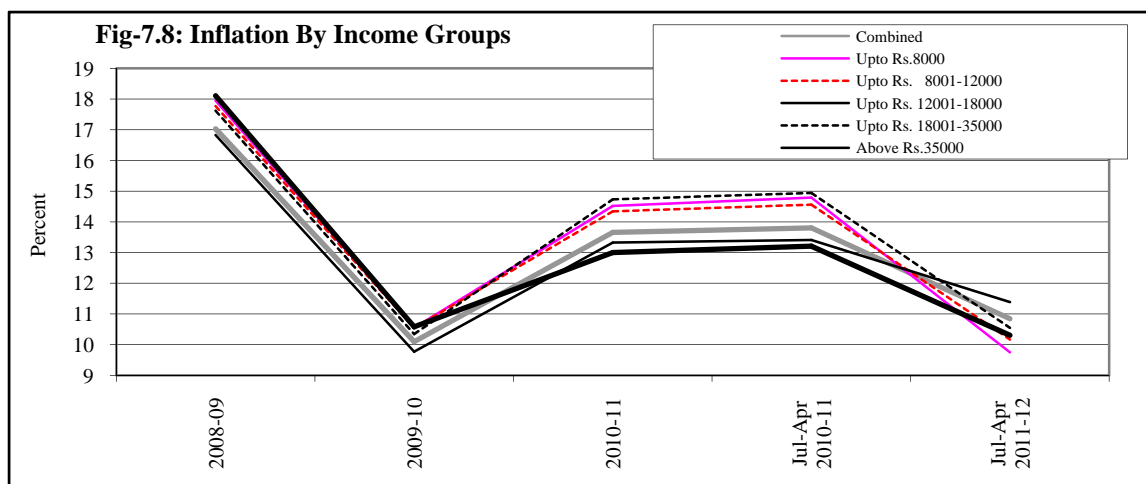
Inflation by income groups affects the consumption pattern of various income groups. The current CPI covers the consumption of those households whose monthly income ranges from Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 35,000 per month. Table 7.8

reflects the highest incidence of inflation (11.4 percent) in the highest income earning group. As already stated food carries the highest weight (34.8 percent) in consumer items. This reveals the fact that a greater portion of expenditure of an average household is spent on food whereas the prices have recently increased significantly.

**Table:7.8 Inflation by Consumer Income Groups**

Fiscal Year	Combined	Upto Rs.8000	Upto Rs. 8001-12000	Upto Rs. 12001-18000	Upto Rs. 18001-35000	Above Rs.35000
Spliced with Base Year 2007-08 = 100						
2008-09	17.0	18.0	17.8	18.1	17.6	16.8
2009-10	10.1	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.3	9.8
2010-11	13.7	14.5	14.3	13.0	14.7	13.3
<u>Jul-Apr</u>						
2010-11	13.8	14.8	14.6	13.2	14.9	13.4
2011-12	10.8	9.8	10.2	10.3	10.6	11.4

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)



### Wholesale Price Index

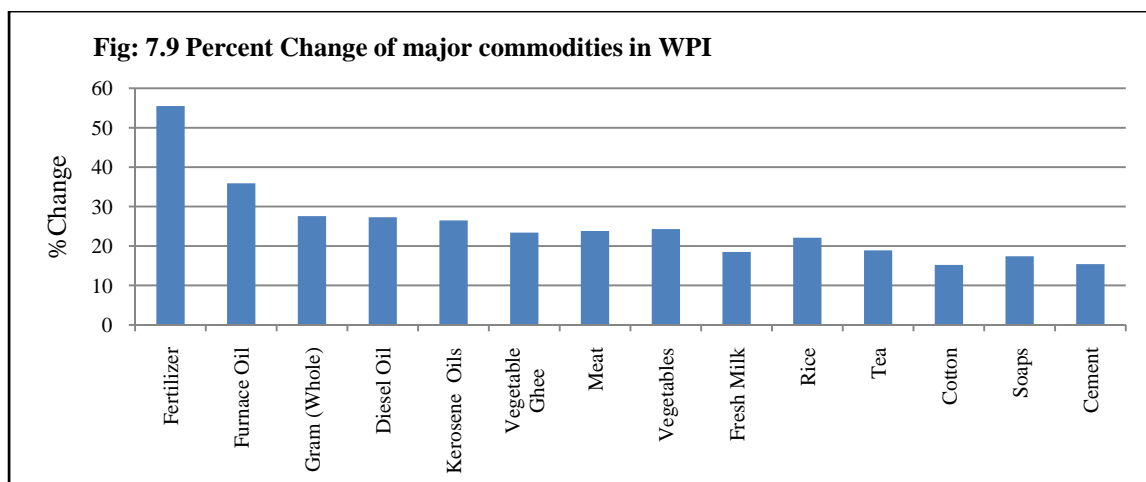
The wholesale price index on annual average basis has increased by 11.2 percent during (Jul-Apr) 2011-12. The increase in the food and non-food group averaged 6.7 percent and 13.3 percent respectively. The 14 major commodities covered under various sub groups of WPI contributed about 8 percent point to the overall increase in WPI. The

largest increase in wholesale prices was recorded for fertilizer at 55.5 percent, followed by furnace oil 36 percent, gram (whole), diesel and kerosene oil at 27 percent each (Table 7.9). Further analysis of the acceleration in wholesale prices reveals the considerable spike in prices of cotton, cement, vegetable ghee, fresh vegetable, milk, meat, rice and tea are the major contributory factors in the increase in WPI.

**Table: 7.9 Percentage point contribution of major WPI items**

	Weight	%Change	Impact
Fertilizer	2.9	55.5	1.6
Furnace Oil	3.3	35.9	1.2
Gram (Whole)	0.5	27.6	0.1
Diesel Oil	5.3	27.3	1.4
Kerosene Oils	0.2	26.5	0.1
Vegetable Ghee	1.6	23.4	0.4
Meat	3.5	23.8	0.8
Vegetables	1.2	24.3	0.3
Fresh Milk	4.4	18.5	0.8
Rice	2.4	22.1	0.5
Tea	0.7	18.9	0.1
Cotton	1.2	15.2	0.2
Soaps	0.8	17.4	0.1
Cement	1.8	15.4	0.3
Total	30		8.0

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

**Table: 7.10 (Percent) Change In Price Indices**

Commodity	Weights	On Average Basis		(% Point Contribution	
		July –Apr	July -Apr	July –Apr	July –Apr
		2010-11	2011-12	2010-11	2011-12
General(WPI)	100.0	21.0	11.2	21.0	11.2
Agriculture Forestry & Fishery	42.1	30.7	1.6	12.9	0.7
Non-Food	57.9	19.8	13.3	11.5	7.7
Ores & Minerals	12.0	15.1	11.2	1.8	1.4
Food Products, Beverages	31.1	23.4	6.7	7.3	2.1
Other Transportable Goods	22.4	11.6	28.3	2.6	6.3
Metal Products Machinery	8.7	13.1	21.4	1.1	1.9

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

**Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI)**

The SPI measures the changes in weekly prices of 53 essential items. During the current fiscal year (July–April) 2011-12, the increase in SPI is estimated at 8.5 percent over the corresponding increase of 18 percent last year. An item wise review of these 53 items which can be further categorized into food, non-food, utility and transport groups, indicates that the majority of the

increase came from the increase in the prices of 11 basic items. These few items account for 40 percent of the weight in the SPI and contributed around 4.0 percent to the overall increase in the SPI. The contribution of onion is estimated at 0.6 percent, gram pulse 0.2 percent, tomatoes 0.2 percent, tea 0.4 percent, beef 0.5 percent, mutton 0.2 percent, rice 0.2 and vegetable ghee 0.1 percent (Table 7.11).

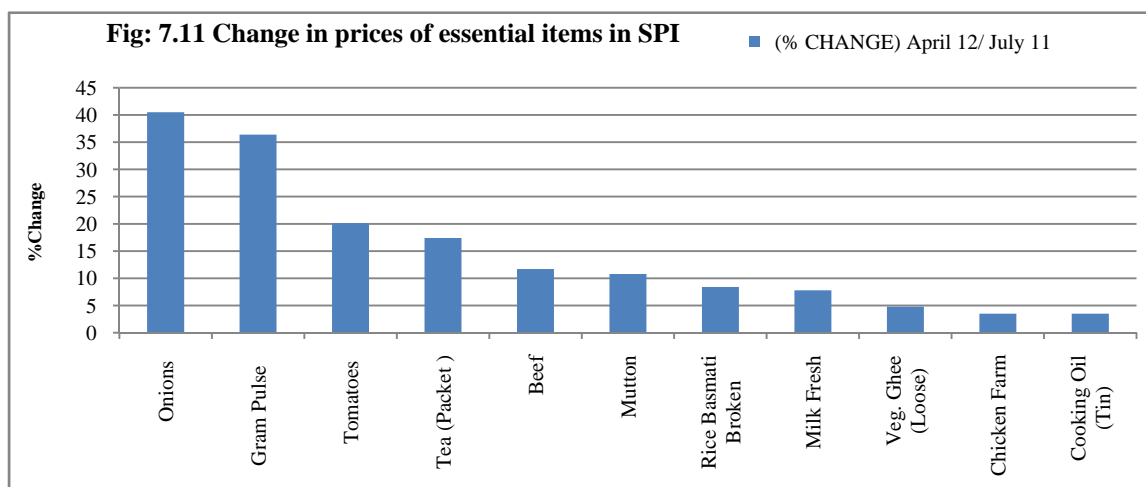
**Table: 7.11 Essential items point contribution in SPI**

Items	Unit	SPI Weight	(% Change) April 12/ July 11	Contribution
Onions	KG	1.4	40.5	0.6
Gram Pulse	KG	0.6	36.4	0.2
Tomatoes	KG	1.2	20.1	0.2
Tea (Packet )	200 GM.	2.2	17.4	0.4
Beef	KG	4.3	11.7	0.5
Mutton	KG	2.1	10.8	0.2
Rice Basmati Broken	KG	1.9	8.4	0.2



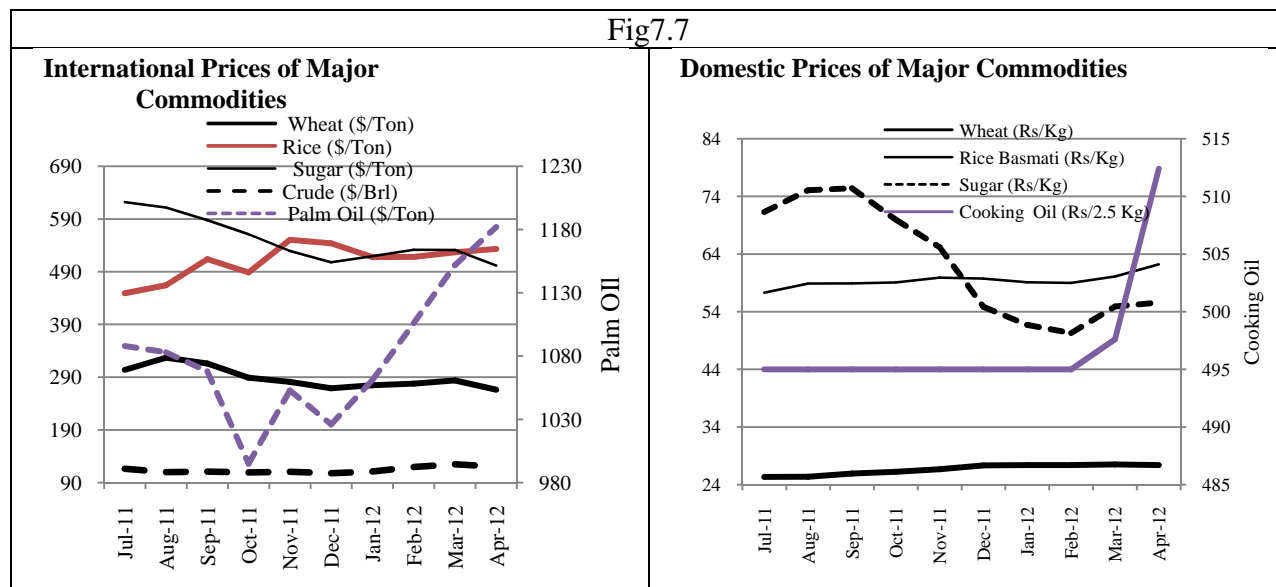
**Table:7.11 Essential items point contribution in SPI**

Items	Unit	SPI Weight	(% Change) April 12/ July 11	Contribution
Milk Fresh	LTR	16.8	7.8	1.3
Veg. Ghee (Loose)	KG	2.7	4.8	0.1
Chicken Farm	KG	3.6	3.5	0.1
Cooking Oil (Tin)	KG	2.3	3.5	0.1
Total		40.0		4.0



The current increase in the prices of edible oil and rice represents the global price trend in the prices of these commodities and the domestic demand-supply situation. Palm oil prices in international market increased from \$1,088 per ton in July 2011 to \$1,152 per ton in March 2012; an increase of 6 percent. When the prices of basic inputs increase,

the overall price is bound to show an increase too. The price of rice has increased by 17.2 percent in the international market. Pakistan, being part of the global economy, cannot remain immune to such global developments on the price front. These are then reflected in the local markets.

**Fig7.7**

A review of the price trend of essential commodities during the period (Jul-Apr) 2011-12 suggests that the current price hike is the outcome of rising food prices which influenced overall inflation. Prices of vegetable, fruit, meat and chicken (farm) etc. experienced larger increase during the period July 2011 to April 2012. The prices of essential items have increased for a

variety of reasons. The increase in price of chicken (farm), fresh milk, beef and mutton is attributable to supply shortage of these items in the market. The increase in prices of tomatoes and onion is owing to damage to the crops by the floods as well as seasonal volatility. Details of the commodity wise movement of prices are given below: (Table-7.12).

**Table:7.12 Prices of Essential Items**

Items	Unit	July 2011	Aug 2011	Sep 2011	Oct 2011	Nov 2011	Dec 2011	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	%Change
Wheat	Kg	25.4	25.4	25.9	26.2	26.7	27.3	27.4	27.4	27.5	27.4	7.9
Wheat Flour	Kg	29.7	28.6	29.7	29.9	30.2	30.7	30.7	30.8	30.9	31.0	4.4
Rice Basmati	Kg	57.3	58.9	58.9	59.1	59.9	59.7	59.1	59.0	60.1	62.1	8.4
Rice Irri-6	Kg	43.7	44.7	45.3	45.2	45.2	45.0	45.4	45.4	46.0	46.9	7.3
Masoor Pulse	Kg	107.5	106.0	106.1	105.7	104.6	101.2	98.8	98.3	101.6	100.9	-6.1
Moong Pulse	Kg	140.3	139.5	137.1	134.0	129.6	124.3	120.9	118.8	122.5	122.6	-12.6
Mash Pulse	Kg	154.5	153.3	150.8	148.6	147.3	145.1	143.0	141.4	143.4	141.8	-8.2
Gram Pulse	Kg	72.4	72.9	72.7	72.5	71.6	71.4	70.9	75.2	97.3	98.7	36.3
Beef	Kg	233.7	239.8	244.6	249.1	252.2	252.2	253.5	257.1	259.6	261.0	11.7
Mutton	Kg	451.1	458.1	463.6	469.9	477.1	479.8	485.0	491.9	498.6	499.9	10.8
Eggs	Dozen	79.0	79.8	81.8	82.7	88.5	100.4	116.8	103.5	90.4	72.4	-8.4
Sugar	Kg	71.3	75.1	75.4	70.0	65.2	53.7	51.7	50.3	54.9	55.6	-22.0
Milk Fresh	Liter	55.9	56.0	56.1	56.5	57.1	57.7	57.8	58.0	59.0	60.2	7.7
Veg.Ghee	2.5Kg	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	497.6	512.4	3.5
Veg.Ghee (loose)	Kg	166.2	166.4	165.9	161.8	160.8	160.4	161.5	161.6	170.3	174.2	4.8
Cooking oil	2.5Ltr.	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	495.0	497.6	512.4	3.5
Potato	Kg	31.6	31.0	31.4	29.4	28.5	21.8	18.6	18.3	18.9	23.5	-25.6
Onion	Kg	18.2	24.0	32.3	42.7	53.2	36.0	43.4	37.6	31.8	25.6	40.7
Tomato	Kg	41.8	36.8	47.7	76.5	78.1	61.6	49.4	43.1	33.3	50.3	20.3
Red chillies	Kg	253.4	252.6	283.1	313.8	319.5	318.2	316.4	311.7	307.5	308.4	21.7
Tea pack	200 Gms	121.1	121.1	131.6	131.6	131.6	131.6	131.6	134.5	140.0	142.1	17.3
Chicken Farm	Kg	160.8	164.4	143.5	132.1	127.1	131.9	160.3	162.2	156.9	166.5	3.5

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

The prices of pulses show a mixed trend. The gram pulse presents an increase of 36 percent. This was due to the prolonged winter season and unfavourable climate resulted in delay of its supply as a result gram pulse was imported while the prices in international market were also rising. Tomato being a heavy weight item, its prices remained high during April 2012, and at one point

in time it showed an increase of 67 percent, this was due to seasonal affect as major crops of tomatoes in Sindh was destroyed. Now with the arrival of this vegetable from Punjab, a declined trend in its prices was noted in May 2012. The SPI of the last two weeks of April and first two weeks of May 2012 suggests a negative trend as given in the table below.

**Table 7.13: SPI (53 Items) 2007-08=100**

Week ended on	SPI for lowest income group	Percentage Change over		Combined SPI	Percentage Change over	
		prev. week 2011-12	corr. Week 2010-11		prev. week 2011-12	corr. Week 2010-11
05/04/2012	174.76	0.95	7.89	183.66	1.05	9.87
12/04/2012	175.47	0.41	7.88	184.54	0.48	10.00
19/04/2012	175.22	-0.14	7.29	184.36	-0.10	9.48
26/04/2012	174.41	-0.46	7.03	183.53	-0.45	9.24
03/05/2012	174.17	-0.14	7.90	183.31	-0.12	9.30
10/05/2012	174.07	-0.06	7.55	183.28	-0.02	8.97

### Regional Prices

Prices of essential consumer items prevailing on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2012 in Pakistan as compared with neighboring countries including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Iran and Afghanistan indicate that prices of rice, beef, chicken (farm), sugar and red

chilies were lower in Pakistan than in the other regional countries. Prices of 08 items i.e. rice basmati, beef, mutton, chicken (farm), sugar, tomatoes, red chilies and garlic are lower in Pakistan as compared to India.

Items	Unit	Islamabad 10/5/2012	New Delhi 10/5/2012	Dhaka 2/5/2012	Colombo 2/5/2012	Tehran 15/4/2012	Kabul 12/4/2012
Wheat	Kg	27.8	27.2	39.1	--	--	54.0
Wheat Flour	Kg	30.3	28.9	38.0	85.0	--	58.0
Rice Basmati	Kg	100.1	160.5	150.7	127.5	216.8	135.0
Masoor Pulse	Kg	118.1	91.8	111.6	106.2	222.2	220.0
Moong Pulse	Kg	131.9	119.0	122.8	106.2	259.2	202.0
Mash Pulse	Kg	156.9	143.5	122.8	106.2	--	276.0
Gram Pulse	Kg	113.8	88.4	78.1	106.2	222.2	127.0
Beef	Kg	280.0	283.0	290.2	368.3	1133.3	496.0
Mutton	Kg	556.9	567.0	502.3	708.2	1851.6	652.0
Chicken Farm	Kg	148.9	321.0	178.6	311.6*	318.5	309.0
Eggs	Dozn	85.1	83.0	117.2	76.4	171.8	127.0
Sugar	Kg	58.8	59.5	69.2	87.1	133.3	92.0
Veg. Ghee (loose)	Kg	206.0	147.9	468.9	--	--	190.0
Edible Oil(Dalda)	Ltr	206.0	183.6	145.1	208.9	244.4	181.0
Potato	Kg	35.8	28.9	22.3	70.8	459.2	54.0
Onion	Kg	36.9	23.8	20.1	63.7	459.6	54.0
Tomato	Kg	36.3	37.4	16.7	56.7	162.9	127.0
Red Chilies	Kg	321.3	378.0	--	--	888.8	398.0
Garlic	Kg	126.3	227.0	78.1	141.6	259.2	147.0
Tea	Kg	710.6	544.0	362.8	424.9	--	469.0

Source: Planning & Development Division

-- Not available, \* : Price of chicken is without feather

### Price Stabilization Measures

The government is focused to restrict inflation to 12 percent during the current fiscal year 2012. Different policy measures have been taken to deal with food and fuel price hikes and to contain the inflation through monetary policy, augmenting supply, streamlining distribution and interventions to stimulate productivity.

Given that the average inflation for (Jul-Apr) 2011-12 was 10.84 percent and in view of the international food and fuel price trend the government is keeping a close watch on the movement of price trend through weekly ECC and Cabinet Meetings. In addition to the above, the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC)

also monitors the prices of essential commodities in consultation with the Provincial governments and the concerned Federal Ministries/ Divisions and Organizations. The NPMC has so far held twelve meetings to monitor the price and supply situation. The SBP controls inflation through the policy rate under the monetary policy. The recent inflationary pressure has necessitated a tight monetary policy to suppress aggregate demand. The State Bank of Pakistan continued to keep money supply on a tight leash. To maintain fiscal discipline, the government has also focused on prudent expenditure management. Expenditures are being contained through austerity measures and administrative mechanisms. The Senate Standing Committee on Finance Revenue, Economic Affairs, Statistics and Planning Division has

recently approved the report of the sub committee on the control of price of essential commodities which is primarily aimed at finding ways and means to control prices.

### Flood Impact

Severe monsoon rains have triggered floods in Southern Pakistan of unprecedented scale, both in terms of volume and spatial coverage. According to report of ADB, it is estimated that approximately 9.6 million people have been affected in Sindh and Balochistan as a result of the floods. The overall damage from 2011 floods is estimated at Rs 324.5 billion (1.6 percent of GDP),

with direct damages amounting to 1.3 percent of GDP and indirect losses of 0.2 percent of GDP. The floods remained confined to Sindh and Balochistan, with almost 96 percent of the damage occurred in Sindh. The flood in terms of their economic impact, especially in Sindh was more devastating and caused an estimated damage of Rs 311 billion (6.1 percent of provincial GDP) in the province. The floods impacted the richer districts on the left bank of Indus, the agricultural heartland of the province. The damage just in agriculture is estimated to be Rs. 151 billion. On the other hand, damages in Balochistan in 2011, are Rs. 12 billion, (1.4 percent of provincial GDP).

**Table 7.15: 2011 Kharif Area Affected by Flood**

Province	Crop Area Damaged (000" ha)	Area Damaged (000 Ha)						
		Cotton	Rice	Sugarcane	Maize	Vegetables	Fruit	Other
Balochistan	21.42	1.29	14.30	-	-	1.78	0.17	3.88
Sindh	859.61	494.94	163.85	88.40	-	99.24	13.19	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>881.03</b>	<b>496.22</b>	<b>178.14</b>	<b>88.40</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>101.03</b>	<b>13.36</b>	<b>3.88</b>

The floods have had a large and direct impact on the Kharif cropping season. It has been estimated by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, that about 10 percent (142,434 ha) of the affected Kharif crop area will not be available for cultivation in Rabi and 5 percent in the Kharif 2012. The main Rabi crop in Pakistan is wheat which is grown on some 8.5 million ha. In Sindh 95 percent of the land was allocated to wheat in Rabi 2010. There is a high possibility that wheat planting in Sindh may face substantial constraints, mainly due to fact that the flood waters have not fully receded. In Balochistan, water have receded except for some low lying areas and, provided the necessary support system for land clearing and input supplies are put in place for the planting season, wheat planting may not be substantially affected. However, damage to watercourses and tube wells, which are a critical source of supplementary water, may affect yields. Another factor that may contribute to decrease in the area under wheat will be the delayed start of sugarcane crushing but a recovery in the gap may be filled by the early clearing of the damaged cotton areas. SUPARCO estimates 0.5 million tons loss of

wheat production in Sindh due to non availability of land. These damages of crops may affect the supply position and as a result prices may rise. The increase in wheat procurement prices from Rs. 950 per maund to Rs. 1,050 per maund may add to price increase.

### Future Outlook

The government is focusing on restricting inflation to 12 percent during the current fiscal year 2011-12. The current trend of inflation reported during the first 10 months Jul-Apr 2011-12 suggests that inflation has been stabilized on account of pursuing tight monetary policy and declining trend in global commodity prices. Inflation is likely to further decelerate gradually over the next few months, as better crops production and better management of supply chain may bring price stability in the country. The decline in inflation may continue further by falling global commodity prices and steps towards fiscal consolidation to contain inflation. However, long term solutions lie increase in agricultural investment; strong market integration; and, regional cooperation to secure food supplies for the country's growing population.