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2.4% the average increase in the prices of wholesale trade for the fourth quarter of 2018 compared with the same period of 2017

Data issued by the Department of Statistics on the wholesale trade prices indicate an increase in the wholesale trade prices Index for the fourth quarter of 2018 by 2.4% to reach 98.5 in 2018 compared with 96.2 during the same period in 2017. This was a result of an increase in the prices of the group "sale of motor vehicles and their parts and motorcycles" by 8.8%, this group has increased the index number by 1.66 percentage points, The group of "trade of raw agricultural materials, cereals and food products, beverages & tobacco" by 3.3% which represent 1.23 percentage points, "Sale of fuel, metals and construction materials and fitting" by 1.6% which represent 0.33 percentage points. which their relative importance constitute 19.8%, 39.2% and 20.8% respectively.

While the prices of some commodity groups have been decreased which are the group of "Sale of machinery, equipment and supplies" by 7.9% representing 0.67 percentage points, "sale of garments, clothes and housing and personal commodities" by 1.2% representing 0.12 percentage points, which their relative importance constitute 9.3% and 10.9% respectively.

The report also indicates an increase in the general wholesale trade price index for the fourth quarter of 2018 by 0.2% compared with third quarter of 2018. This was a result of an increase in the prices of the group "trade of raw agricultural materials, cereals and food products, beverages & tobacco" by 1.2% this group was contributed in the increase of the index number by 0.44 percentage points, "sale of motor vehicles and supplies and their parts" by 0.2%, this group was contributed in the increase of the index number by 0.03 percentage points and "sale of garments, clothes and housing and personal

commodities" by 0.1% which represent 0.01percentage points. Which their relative importance constituted 39.2%, 19.8% and 10.9% respectively.

While there was a decrease in prices of the group of "Sale of machinery, equipment and supplies" by 3.0% which represent 0.27 percentage points, "sale of fuel, metals and construction materials and fitting" by 0.3% which represent 0.05 percentage points which their relative importance constitute 9.3% and 20.8% respectively.

The report also indicate to the increase in the wholesale trade prices Index average of 2018 by 2.3% compared with 2017. This was a result of an increase in the prices of price index of "sale of motor vehicles and supplies and their parts" by 8.7% which represent 1.63 percentage points, "trade of raw agricultural materials ,cereals and food products, beverages & tobacco" by 1.8% representing 0.68 percentage points, "sale of fuel, metals and construction materials and fitting" by 1.5% representing 0.31 percentage points and "sale of garments, clothes and housing and personal commodities" by 1.7%, this group was contributed in the increase of the index number by 0.18 percentage points.

While there was a decrease in the prices of "Sale of machinery, equipment and supplies" by 6.0% representing 0.49 percentage points.

Its worthy to mention that the base year has been modified to 2010 instead of 1998, Where the prices data are collected by the Department of Statistics through a sample that includes (330) commercial Establishments, covering the prices of (1590) commodities traded in wholesale market, in addition to fruits and vegetables whose prices are obtained from the central market bulletin.

The following figure shows the general trend of index number of wholesale trade prices for 2017 & 2018.

Fig 1: Index Number for Wholesale Trade for 2017 & 2018

