



# Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (1) – January 2024



## Preface

The bulletin provides an independent assessment of consumer prices and inflation rates in all Syrian regions based on a monthly survey of consumer prices carried out by the Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) since October 2020. The SCPR had developed a methodology for building a price index based on components of the consumer basket, weighting, and market selection (See [SCPR's Consumer Price Index in Syria](#))

This bulletin presents the findings of the monthly consumer price survey and the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for **January 2024** (with 2021 as the base year) broken down by region and the major consumption groups. Based on the CPI changes, the bulletin provides an estimate of the cost of living and poverty lines at the local level in all Syrian regions.

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## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA	Autonomous Administration
CPI	Consumer Price Index
GoS	Government of the Syrian regime
M-o-M	Month on month
SCPR	Syrian Center for Policy Research
SIG	Syrian Interim Government
SSG	Syrian Salvation Government
SYP	Syrian Pound
TL	Turkish Lira
USD	United States Dollar
Y-o-Y	Year on year

## 1. Inflation in Syria, January 2024

In January 2024, the general CPI achieved an annual inflation (Y-o-Y) of 134.3 per cent and monthly inflation (M-o-M) of 6 per cent.

The Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils group recorded the highest monthly inflation rate in January 2024 at 11.7 per cent, with the average monthly rent for homes across Syria rising from SYP 900 thousand in December 2023 to SYP 1 million in January 2024, and electricity prices from private generators (amperes) rose to reach an average price per kWh of SYP 5394 in January 2024 after it was around SYP 3980 in December 2024.

**Table (1): Monthly consumer price inflation in Syria for January 2024 by consumption group (base year 2021 =100) and (inflation in percentages)**

#	Group	CPI in December 2023	CPI in January 2024	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	<b>All commodities</b>	<b>569.9</b>	<b>604.1</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	584.0	608.5	4.2%
2	Tobacco	448.0	454.6	1.5%
3	Clothes and shoes	653.0	695.5	6.5%
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	589.2	658.2	11.7%
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	588.6	615.6	4.6%
6	Health	639.3	667.9	4.5%
7	Transportation	635.5	675.9	6.4%
8	Communications	268.8	243.6	-9.4%
9	Entertainment and culture	585.3	603.4	3.1%
10	Education	503.2	521.0	3.5%
11+12	Various commodities and services	549.1	576.4	5.0%

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The Clothes and shoes group recorded monthly inflation of 6.5 per cent, with cotton clothing prices rising, especially in GoS areas, which control only 28 per cent of the areas planned for cotton cultivation and suffer from scarce water resources.<sup>1</sup> The average price of a men's underwear set reached SYP 74000, the boy's jeans prices reached SYP 126000, and the women's mixed shirt prices reached SYP 162000 within Syria.

The Transportation group recorded a monthly inflation rate of 6.4 per cent during January 2024, as the average price of a liter of gasoline reached SYP 8200, affected by the decisions of the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection to raise the liter subsidized gasoline prices twice during January 2024, the first one was on the 8th of the month, when the price was set at SYP 9500 instead of SYP 9000, and the second one was on the 22nd of the month when the price was set at SYP 10000.<sup>2</sup> Diesel prices also rose on the black market with the issuance of a decision by the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection to raise the selling price of a liter of diesel designated for

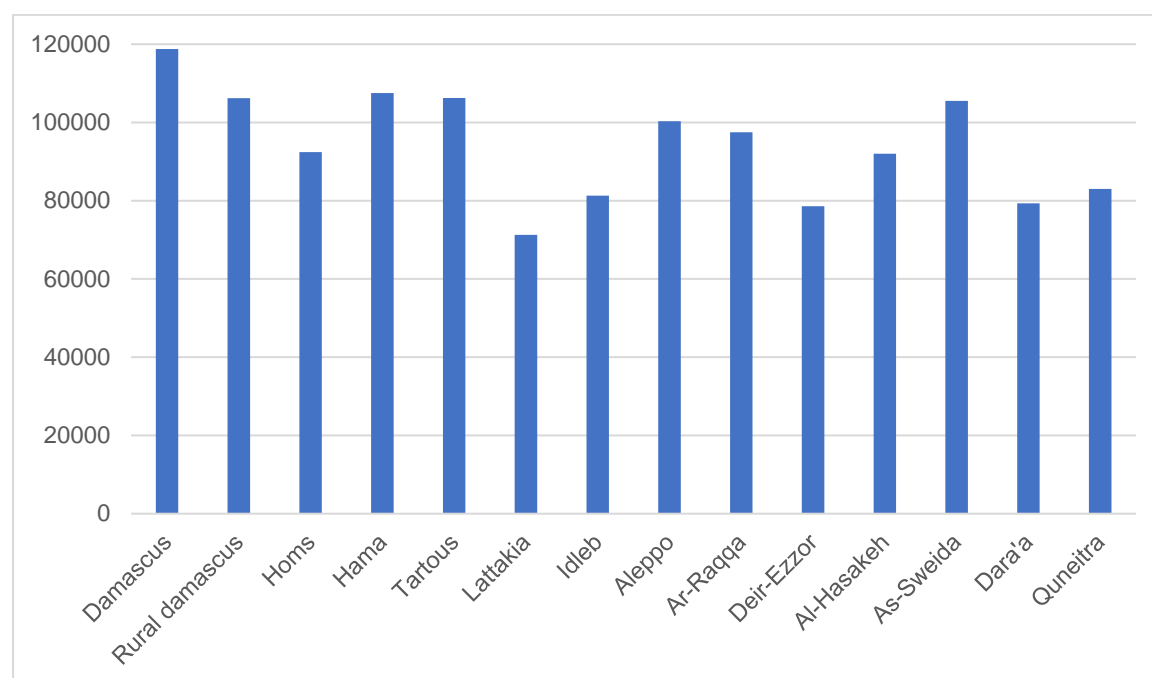
<sup>1</sup> Syriandays. (2024, 16 January). [Agriculture: About 14419 hectares Cotton cultivation plan for the 2023-2024 agricultural season](#). (in Arabic)

<sup>2</sup> Syria News. (2024, 22January). [Internal Trade raises the price of 90 and 95-octane gasoline and free diesel](#). (in Arabic)

vehicles (not designated for transporting passengers) to SYP 11880 after it was SYP 2000.<sup>3</sup>

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group recorded a monthly inflation rate of 4.2 per cent in January 2024. At the level of its sub-groups, the prices of the Fish and seafood group also rose by 9 per cent, with the average price of a kg of sea fish (Gilt Head Bream) reaching SYP 138000 within Syria, and river fish (Cyprinus carpio) reaching SYP 43000. The Oils and fats group recorded a high monthly inflation rate of 8.8 per cent, as the average price of a kilogram of olive oil reached SYP 92000 within Syria, with price variations between governorates.

**Figure (1): The price of olive oil by governorates during January 2024  
(in Syrian pounds per kg)**



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The prices of Legumes and vegetable group increased by 8.3 per cent. The average price of local tomatoes reached SYP 8300 per kg, with the interruption of Hawran tomatoes and the transportation of coastal tomatoes to all inland areas at high transportation prices, affected by the rise in diesel prices.<sup>4</sup>

Meat group prices also rose by 6.7 per cent, with the average price of lamb reaching SYP 170000 per kg, and beef reaching SYP 138000 within Syria. The increase was evident in the SIG & SSG areas, and the AA areas, where red meat prices rose by 17 per cent, while they rose by 11 per cent in the GoS areas during January 2024 compared to December 2023. The rise in lamb prices led farmers and livestock breeders in Northwestern Syria to refrain from slaughtering the youngest lambs and selling them to the butchers hoping to benefit from the females in livestock reproduction and achieve additional profits, in light of the decline in the number of sheep in the region and the lack of supply. As for Northern

<sup>3</sup> North Press. (2024, 3 January). [Syrian government raises diesel prices for vehicles to more than SYP 11000 thousand](#). (in Arabic)

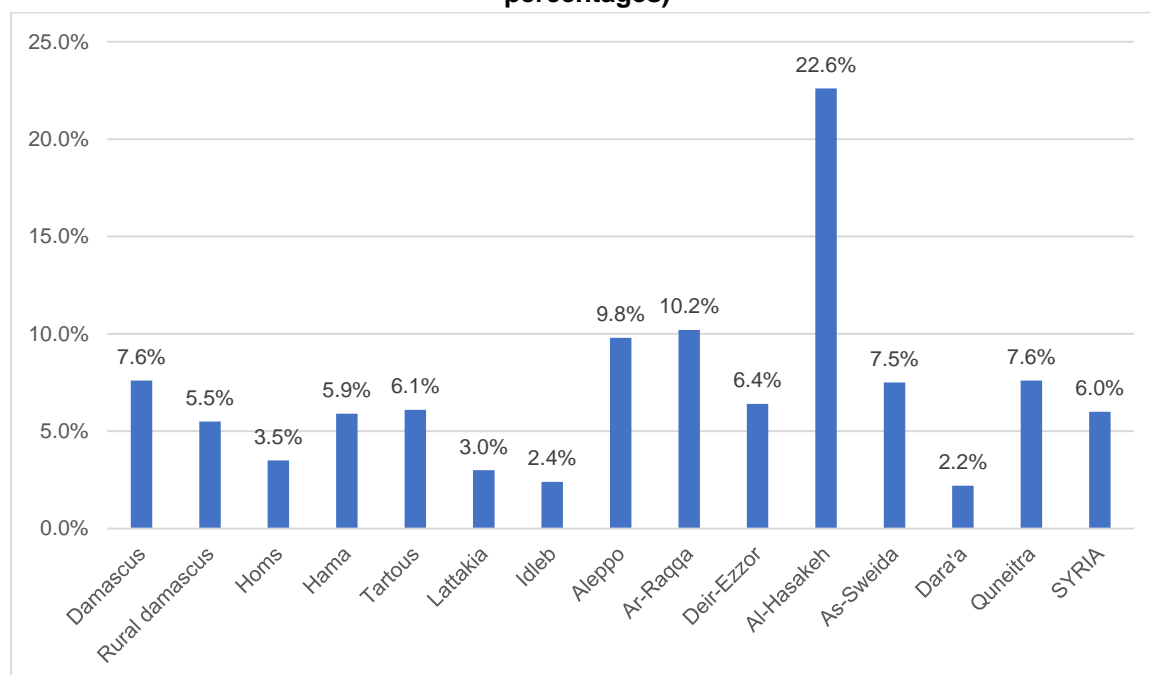
<sup>4</sup> Enab Baladi. (2024, 9 January). [Due to the power outage in Hawranayah, high prices for coastal tomatoes in Daraa markets](#). (in Arabic)

and Eastern Syria, where traders in Northern and Western Syria relied on their sheep, allowing the exports from Manbij and the Eastern regions to Erbil has significantly affected meat prices there.<sup>5</sup>

## 2. Inflation by Governorate

In January 2024, Al-Hasakeh Governorate recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M), at 22.6 per cent, followed by Ar-Raqqa at 10.2 per cent, then Aleppo at 9.8 per cent, while Dara'a recorded the lowest monthly inflation rate at 2.2 per cent, followed by Idleb at 2.4 per cent.

**Figure (2): Monthly inflation (M-o-M) of consumer prices in Syria during January 2024 (in percentages)**



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The AA areas recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for all goods and services during January 2024 at 13.9 per cent. Prices in the Northeastern regions of Syria were affected by the Turkish bombing of several oil and gas fields, which destroyed the Sweideya gas plant in mid-December 2023.<sup>6</sup> As a result, fuel prices rose significantly, with the official price of a local gas cylinder set at USD 10 (equivalent to SYP 150000) compared to SYP 10000 in previous months. Its price also rose on the black market, in light of the decrease in supply, to reach SYP 400000 after it was around SYP 150000 in the previous month.

The monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) in the GoS areas reached 6 per cent and in the SIG & SSG areas 3.1 per cent during January 2024. It is worth noting that the SIG government in the Aleppo countryside raised the price of subsidized bread by 50 per cent during January 2024, so that the price of bread reached TL 7.5 per kg after it was TL 5.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Enab Baladi. (2024, 11 January). [Record meat prices in Idleb.. low numbers and export to Iraq](#). (in Arabic)

<sup>6</sup> North Press. (2024, 16 January). [Energy Office: Sweidiah Gas Facility 100% Destroyed and Cannot Be Rehabilitated](#). (in Arabic)

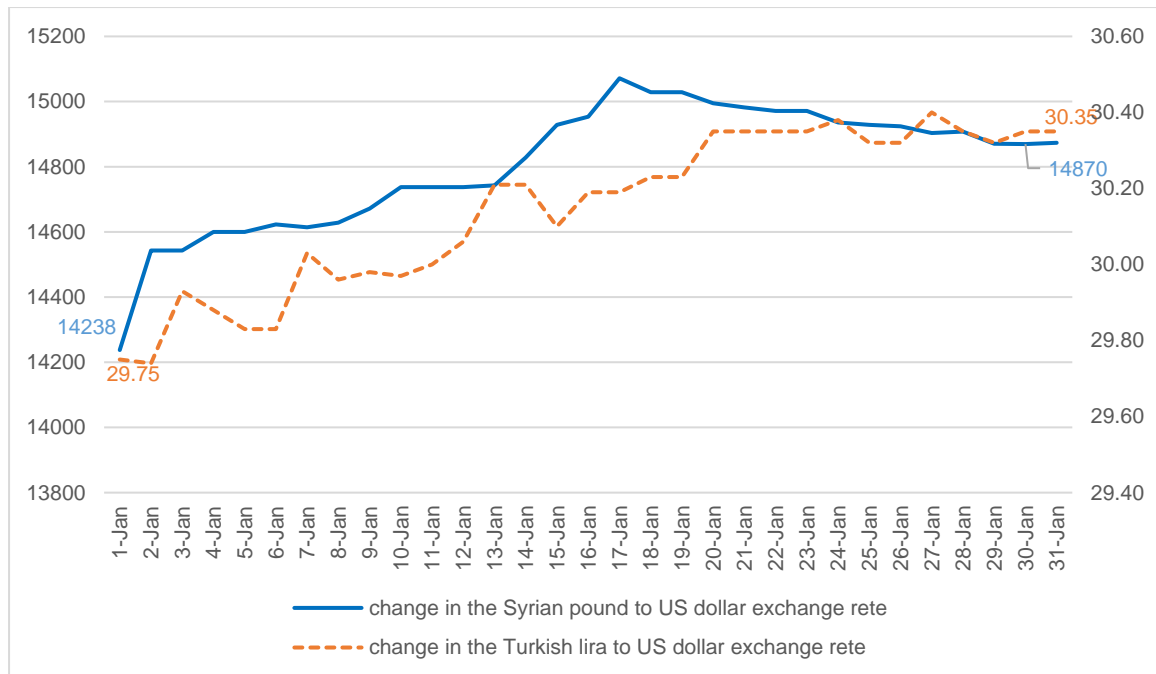
<sup>7</sup> North Press. (2024, 12 January). [The interim government raises the price of bread in areas under its control](#). (in Arabic)



### 3. Exchange rate

There was a decline in the value of the Syrian pound against the US dollar by 3.8 per cent on January 2024 compared to the previous month, as the monthly average exchange rate of the SYP against the USD reached SYP 14806 in January 2024 compared to SYP 14268 in December 2023. The exchange rate of the Syrian pound closed at SYP 14873 per USD at the end of January 2024. On the other hand, the Turkish lira lost 2.7 per cent of its value in the Northwestern regions of Syria during January 2024, as the average exchange rate of the TL against the USD reached TL 30.15 per USD in January 2024 after it was around TL 29.36 in December 2023. The exchange rate closed at TL 30.35 per USD at the end of January 2024. It is worth noting that the Turkish Central Bank raised the interest rate from 42.5 per cent to 45 per cent on 25 January 2024.<sup>8</sup>

**Figure (3): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP in the unofficial market and the exchange rate of the TL against the USD during January 2024**



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The Central Bank of Syria (CBS) raised the Money transfers and cash foreign exchange bulletin rate twice during January 2024, the first time on the third of the month, when it set the exchange rate at SYP 13000 per USD instead of SYP 12700, and the second time on the fourteenth of the month, when it set the rate at SYP 13200 per USD. Meanwhile, the Official market foreign exchange bulletins rate remained at SYP 12562 per USD throughout the month.<sup>9</sup>

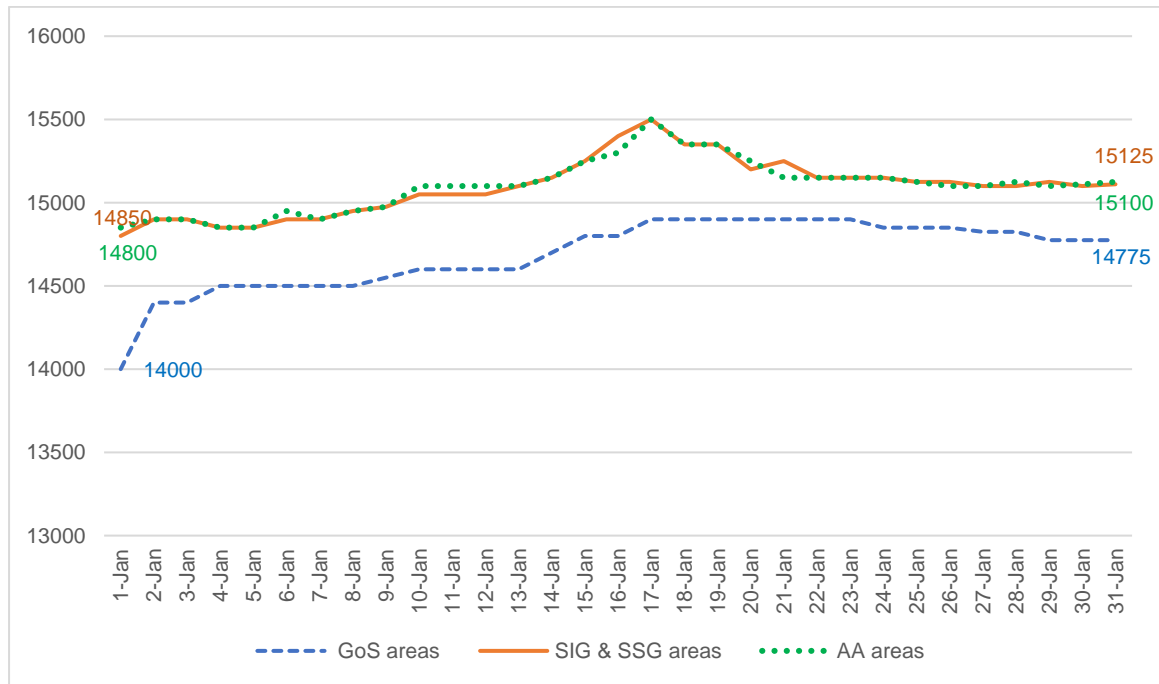
There is a noticeable discrepancy in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the USD in the black market between the control areas in Syria, as the value of the Syrian pound against the USD decreases in the AA areas, the SIG & SSG areas compared to the GoS areas. This is due to government pressure on dealing with USD in the black market, tightening sanctions, and restricting imports in the GoS areas. The average

<sup>8</sup> Alhurra. (2024, 25 January). [Turkey.. Central Bank raises key interest rate to 45 per cent.](#) (in Arabic)

<sup>9</sup> The Central Bank of Syria. [Exchange rate bulletin.](#)

exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the USD reached SYP 14690 per USD in the GOS areas during January 2024, while it reached SYP 15099 and 15095 in the AA areas and the SIG & SSG areas.

**Figure (4): Comparison of changes in the exchange rate of the SYP against the USD in the black market between control areas during January 2024**

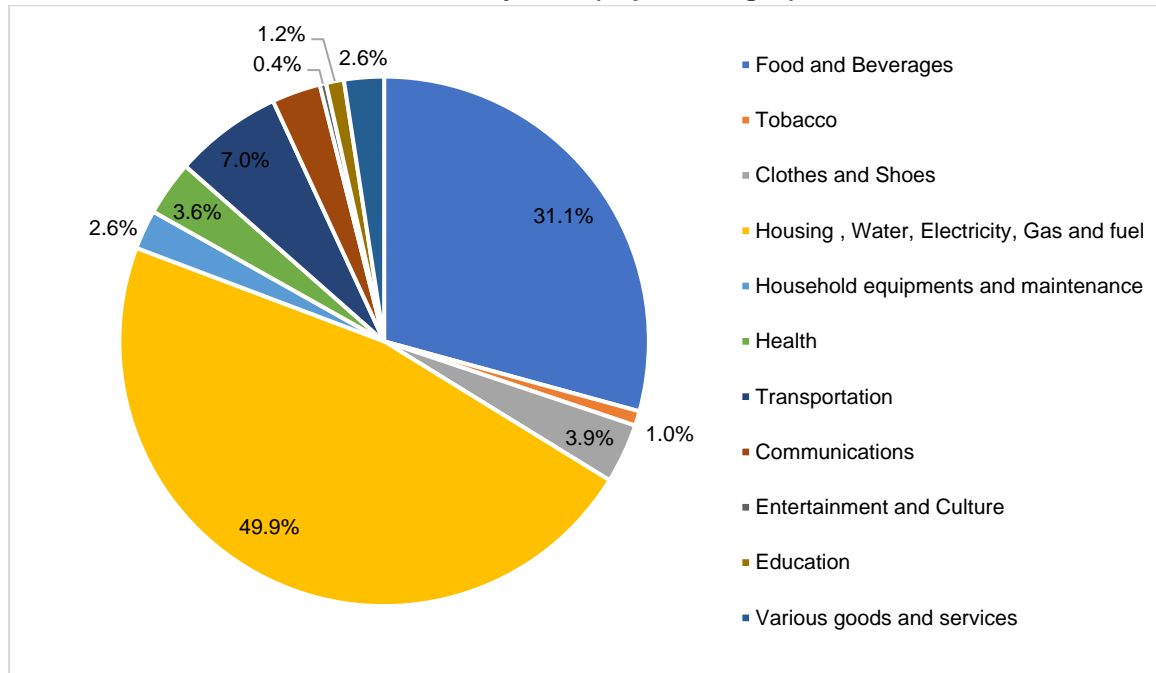


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

#### 4. Contributors to Inflation

In January 2024, the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group<sup>10</sup> contributed significantly to the monthly inflation (M-o-M) with 6 per cent, making up 49.9 per cent of the total, followed by the group of Food and non-alcoholic beverages with a contribution of 31.1 per cent, trailed by the Transportation group at 7 per cent.

**Figure (5): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for January 2024 (in percentages)**



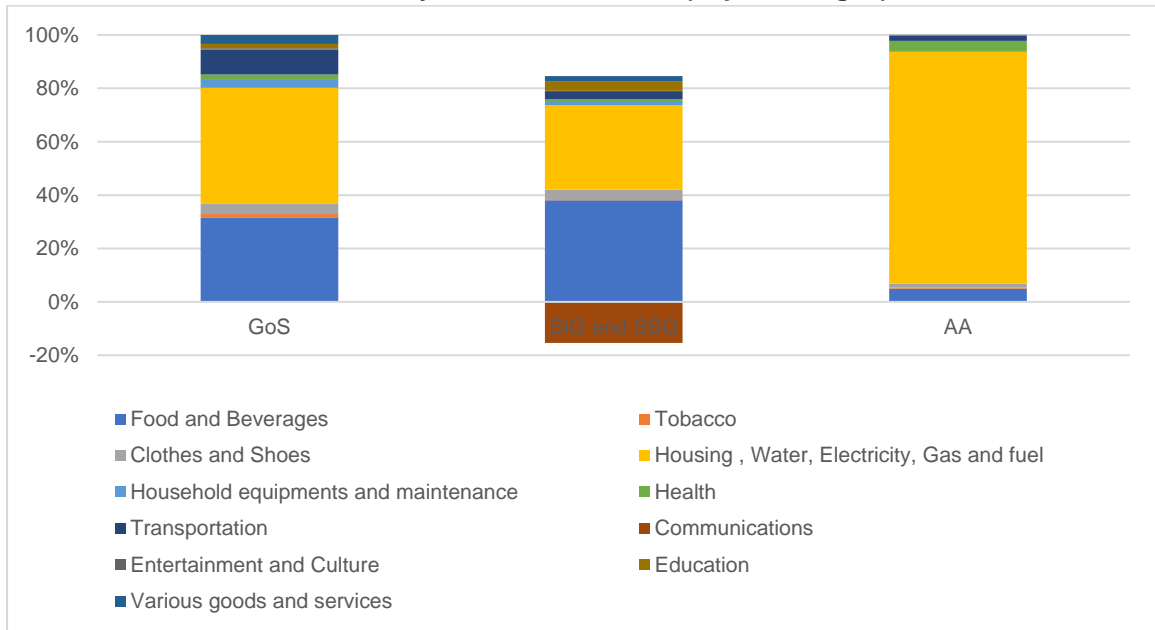
Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group contributed with the largest share to monthly inflation in the AA areas during January 2024 at 87 per cent, due to the very large increase in local gas prices there (15 times), which caused a price shock in the Electricity, gas, and fuel group in Northeastern Syria. While the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group contributed by 46 per cent of monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas, and 44 per cent of monthly inflation in the GoS areas.

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group contributed by 55 per cent of the monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas during January 2024, and 32 per cent of the monthly inflation in the GoS areas, and 5 per cent of the monthly inflation in the AA areas.

<sup>10</sup> The contribution rate to inflation means the percentage of the contribution of each consumption group to annual inflation out of 100%.

**Figure (6): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for January 2024 control areas (in percentages)**



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The Transportation group contributed by 9 per cent of the monthly inflation in the GoS areas in light of the decisions issued during the month to raise the prices of gasoline and diesel. In contrast, the Communications group contributed to reducing the inflation rate in the SIG & SSG areas during January 2024, due to the spread of the new communications service "SyriaFon" across all city centers in Idleb governorate and in most rural areas, and the residents' use of its lines due to their cheaper prices compared to the previous "Ilux" lines.

## 5. Wages in Syria, January 2024

In January 2024, the wages at current prices increased slightly within Syria. The average monthly salary stood at approximately SYP 584 thousand for a university-educated employee newly appointed in the public sector. The wages in the private sector reached around SYP 857 thousand, while counted in the civil sector at SYP 2.38 million.

Upon comparing wage levels between control areas in Syria, it is evident that wages in both the public and private sectors in the SIG & SSG areas are the highest, followed by wages in AA areas, and lastly wages in GoS areas. Furthermore, the wages of the public and private sectors were lower than in the civil sector, as wages in the private and public sectors were approximately 36 and 24 per cent in the civil one within Syria.<sup>11</sup>

**Table (2): Average monthly wages in Syria during January 2024 (SYP)**

	GoS areas	SIG & SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
<b>A- Public sector workers</b>				
Staff wages (professor)	726696	7037447	3090000	<b>1858831</b>
Staff wages (university-educated)	207667	2076001	1060000	<b>583723</b>
Staff wages (4th grade)	190692	1278291	1040000	<b>470290</b>
<b>B- Private sector workers</b>				
Company director salary	2135606	5097394	2783333	<b>2636626</b>
Shop worker salary	700206	1737520	951771	<b>857229</b>
<b>C- Civil sector workers</b>				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1333344	6314682	4326552	<b>2383197</b>

Note: Employees' wages in the SSG areas are denominated in USD dollars or their equivalent in Turkish lira, and those in the SIG areas are paid in Turkish lira. The wage values in this table have been converted to the Syrian pound for comparison with other areas.

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The inflation that occurred in January 2024 led to a decrease in the real wages<sup>12</sup> of workers in the public sector in the GoS areas by 5.6 per cent compared to December 2023. Inflation also led to a decrease in the real wages of employees in the institutions of the Autonomous administration by 12.2 per cent, the real wages of employees in the institutions of the SIG & SSG areas increased by 42.2 per cent, with the SIG government raising the wages of workers in its institutions by 45 per cent during January 2024.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Although the wages of civil sector workers in the GoS areas are relatively high compared to public and private sector wages, they are low compared to the rest. It equates to 30 per cent of the civil sector worker wage in the AA areas and 21 per cent in the SSG and SIG areas in January 2024.

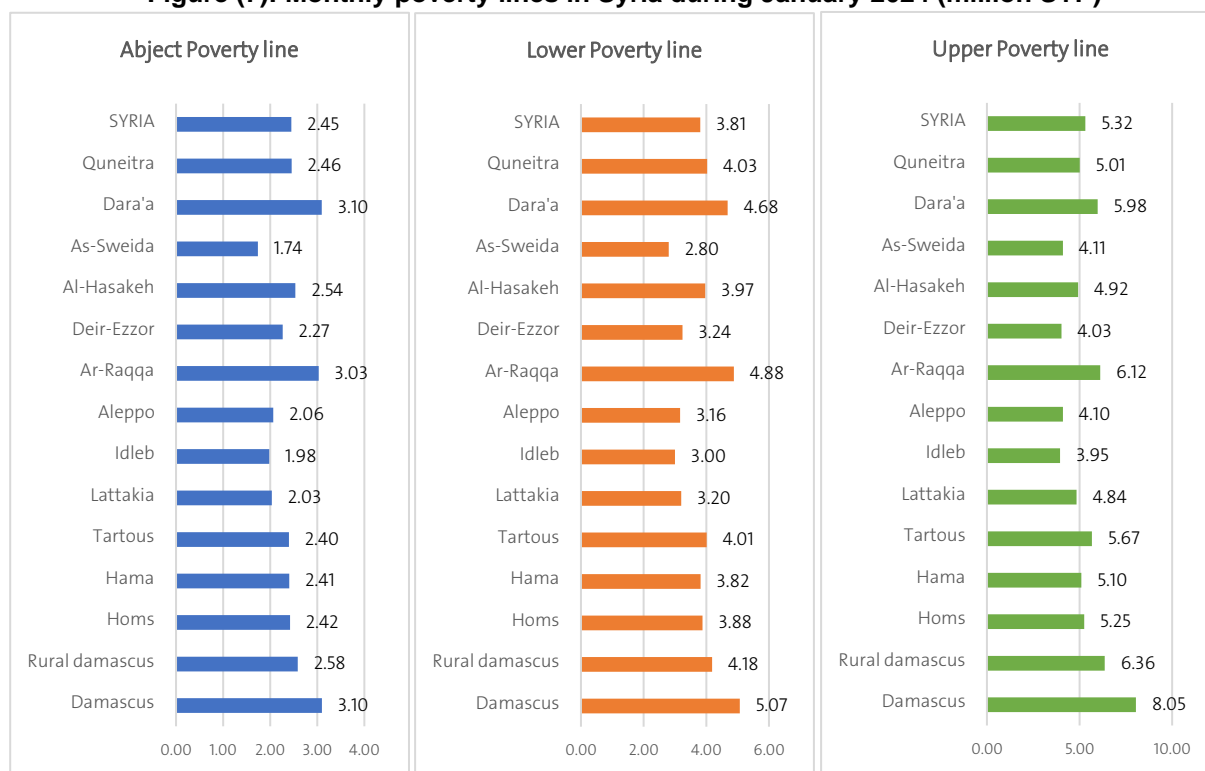
<sup>12</sup> Real wages were calculated by dividing nominal wages by the CPI index. For details, see ILO. (2010). [Global Wage Report 2010-2011: Wage Policies in Times of Crisis](#).

<sup>13</sup> Focus Aleppo. (2023, 24 December). [Increasing employees' wages in northern Aleppo does not lift them out of the living crisis](#). (in Arabic)

## 6. Poverty Lines in Syria, January 2024

In January 2024, the abject poverty line for families,<sup>14</sup> serving as an indicator of food insecurity, rose to SYP 2.45 million per month, marking an increase of SYP 126 thousand from December 2023. The lower poverty line increased by SYP 157 thousand from the previous month to reach 3.8 million, while the upper poverty line saw an SYP 274 thousand increase, reaching 5.3 million. The highest values for poverty lines were recorded in the governorates of Damascus, Ar-Raqqa, and Dara'a, while Idleb and As-Sweida recorded the lowest poverty lines in January 2024.

**Figure (7): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during January 2024 (million SYP)**



Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

Comparing control areas shows that AA areas ranked the highest in abject and lower poverty lines in January 2024, where the abject poverty line reached SYP 2.64 million and the lower poverty line SYP 4 million. Following were the GoS areas with an abject poverty line of SYP 2.4 million and a lower poverty line exceeding SYP 3.8 million per month. Lastly, the SIG & SSG areas had an abject poverty line of SYP 1.87 million and a lower poverty line above SYP 2.7 million. The GoS is ranked the highest level of the monthly upper poverty line during January 2024, reaching SYP 5.3 million, followed by the AA areas with an amount of SYP 5 million, and finally, the SIG & SSG areas with an amount of SYP 3.56 million.

<sup>14</sup> The poverty lines (abject, lower and upper) were calculated by measuring the impact of inflation on the 2009 poverty lines.

A comparison between nominal wages in current prices and monthly poverty lines reveals that the wage gap<sup>15</sup> from the abject poverty line within Syria level in January 2024 reached about 76.2 per cent for a university-educated employee in the public sector, 65 per cent for a private sector worker, and 2.6 per cent for a civil sector worker. Notably, wages of civil sector workers in the SIG & SSG areas, and the AA areas surpassed the abject poverty line by 254 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively. Wages in the civil sector in the GoS areas were 45 per cent lower than the abject poverty line, highlighting the disparity between regions and the relatively high wages of this sector compared to others in the SIG, SSG, and AA areas.

**Table (3): Monthly wage gap from poverty lines in Syria during January 2024 (in percentages)**

	GoS areas	SIG & SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
<b>A- Wage gap from the abject poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-91.5%	16.2%	-59.8%	<b>-76.2%</b>
Private sector worker	-71.2%	-2.7%	-63.9%	<b>-65.0%</b>
Civil sector worker	-45.1%	253.5%	64.1%	<b>-2.6%</b>
<b>B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-94.6%	-24.3%	-73.8%	<b>-84.7%</b>
Private sector worker	-81.8%	-36.7%	-76.5%	<b>-77.5%</b>
Civil sector worker	-65.3%	130.1%	7.1%	<b>-37.4%</b>
<b>C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line</b>				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-96.1%	-41.6%	-79.0%	<b>-89.0%</b>
Private sector worker	-86.8%	-51.2%	-81.1%	<b>-83.9%</b>
Civil sector worker	-74.9%	77.6%	-14.1%	<b>-55.2%</b>

Note: Negative (-) indicates a gap and positive (+) indicates excess.

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

The gap between the wages of public sector employees and the upper poverty line reached 96.1 per cent in the GoS areas, 79 per cent in the AA areas, and 41.6 per cent in the SIG & SSG areas. This means that the wages of government employees in all control areas in Syria are unable to cover the basic requirements for a decent life. The employee in the GoS areas is considered the most suffering because his monthly wage barely covers 4 per cent of the family's basic needs, while the monthly wage in the AA areas covers about 24 per cent of basic needs, and the monthly wage in the SIG & SSG areas covers about 59 per cent of basic needs. These percentages express the severity of the misery that Syrians suffer from in light of rampant inflation and the deterioration of the purchasing power of their wages.

<sup>15</sup> Equals the relative difference between the monthly wage and the poverty line. ILO. For details, see [International Labour Organization. \(2013\). Equal Pay – an introductory guide](#). Geneva.

## Appendix

### Appendix (1): Consumer Price Index in Syria by Major Consumption Groups in January 2024, (2021 = 100)

	Damascus	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Tartous	Lattakia	Idleb	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Deir-Ezzor	Al-Hasakeh	As-Sweida	Dara'a	Quneitra	SYRIA
<b>All commodities</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>604</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	635	639	655	643	661	638	392	569	592	583	697	635	635	647	609
Tobacco	478	475	464	481	505	481	298	370	374	491	482	494	495	462	455
Clothing and footwear	610	752	546	703	937	899	423	582	878	536	1,079	944	610	584	696
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	992	659	570	560	753	556	494	634	979	436	1,016	605	711	723	658
Household equipment and maintenance	861	664	710	728	695	670	286	425	585	569	835	622	766	839	616
Health	646	711	694	643	729	715	391	583	961	584	697	593	886	628	668
Transportation	877	643	674	689	684	729	474	588	566	614	626	807	669	926	676
Communications	323	325	322	321	324	325	140	358	330	325	336	318	320	317	244
Culture and entertainment	530	713	618	589	794	537	293	589	845	503	871	518	709	496	603
Education	560	441	541	467	687	381	560	439	676	465	707	436	567	482	521
Various goods and services	475	620	630	641	721	578	375	564	643	463	520	648	586	625	576

Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.





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