

المركز السوري
لبحوث
السياسات
Syrian Center For
Policy
Research



Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria Issue (6) – June 2024

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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 **June 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, June 2024

In June 2024, the general CPI achieved annual inflation (Y-o-Y) of 108.5 per cent and monthly inflation (M-o-M) of 1.5 per cent.

The Entertainment and Culture group recorded the highest monthly inflation rate in June 2024 at 5.4 per cent, as the average price of a laptop for a university student in the Faculty of Civil Engineering reached SYP 10.5 million, and the average price of a television screen (32 inches) reached SYP 3 million.

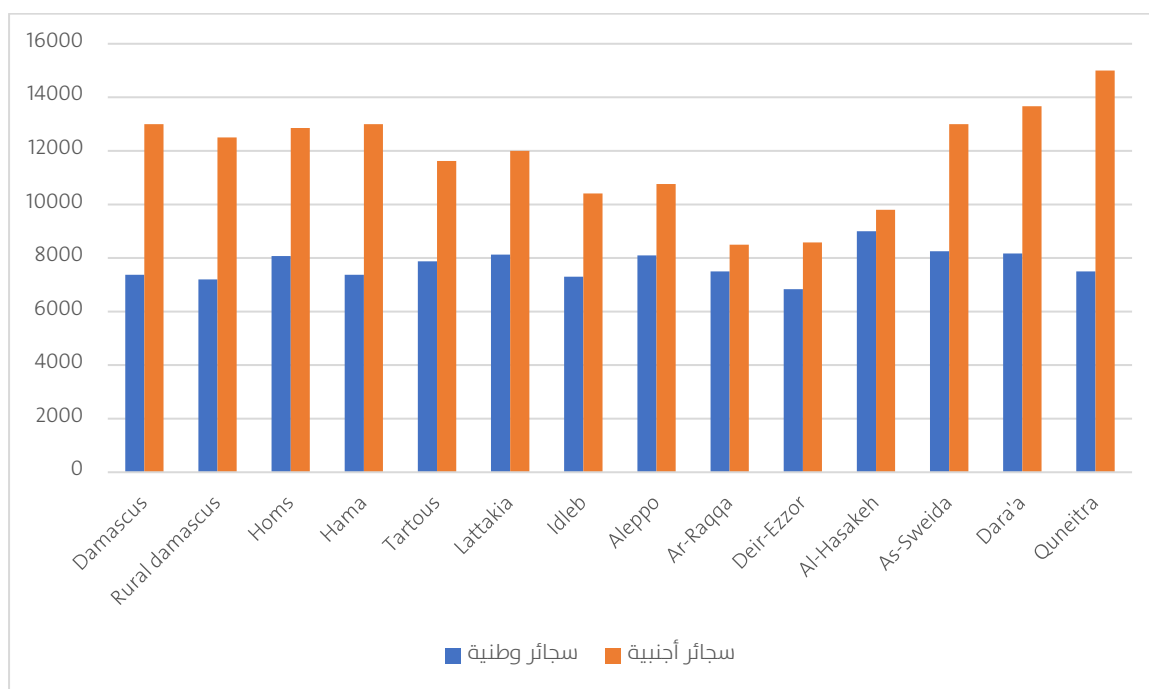
Table (1): Monthly consumer price inflation in Syria for June 2024 by consumption group (base year 2021 =100) and (inflation in percentages)

#	Group	CPI in May 2024	CPI in June 2024	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	All commodities	660.7	670.9	1.5%
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	635.8	644.9	1.4%
2	Tobacco	484.9	500.2	3.2%
3	Clothes and shoes	786.3	792.3	0.8%
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	762.9	774.0	1.4%
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	658.2	665.2	1.1%
6	Health	738.9	748.5	1.3%
7	Transportation	797.1	816.3	2.4%
8	Communications	220.9	221.4	0.2%
9	Entertainment and culture	654.6	689.7	5.4%
10	Education	563.9	566.8	0.5%
11+12	Various commodities and services	657.8	672.9	2.3%

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

The Tobacco group recorded a high monthly inflation rate of 3.2 per cent during June 2024, as the average price of a pack of national cigarettes (Hamra) reached SYP 7800 within Syria. The price of national cigarettes varied between control areas, reaching SYP 7600 in the GoS areas, SYP 8250 in the SIG & SSG areas, and SYP 7700 in the AA areas. The reason for the increase in the SIG & SSG areas, and the AA areas is due to the increase in transportation costs and fees at the crossings. On the contrary, foreign cigarettes are considered the highest priced in areas of the GoS areas compared to the AA areas and SIG & SSG areas due to import restrictions and their smuggling into them.

Figure (1): The average price of local and foreign cigarettes in the Syrian governorates during June 2024 (Syrian pounds per Packet)



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

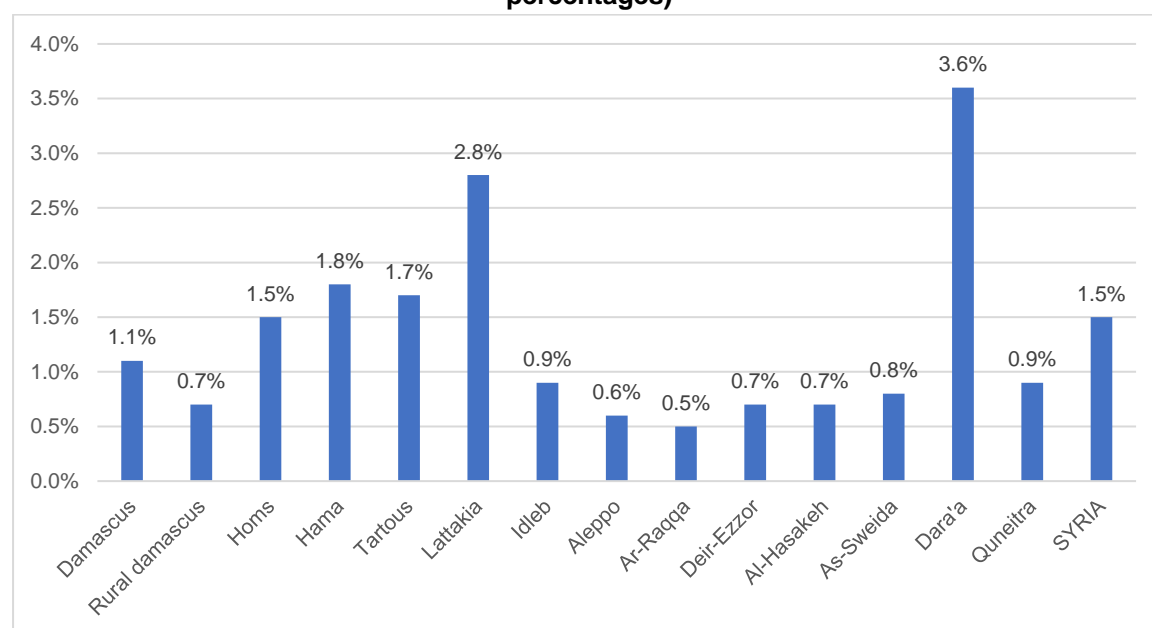
The Transport group recorded a monthly inflation of 2.4 per cent as gasoline prices rose on the black market, with the average price of a liter of it reaching SYP 20000 within Syria. The increase was noticeable in the GoS areas in light of the decrease in the supply of the material.

2. Inflation by Governorate

Dara'a Governorate recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) in June 2024, at 3.6 per cent, followed by Lattakia at 2.8 per cent, and the monthly inflation rate in the rest of governorates ranged between 0.6 per cent and 1.8 per cent during June 2024 compared to May 2024.

The GoS areas recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for all goods and services during June 2024 at 1.8 per cent, followed by the AA areas at 0.6 per cent, then the SIG & SSG areas at 0.3 per cent.

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



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

3. Exchange rate

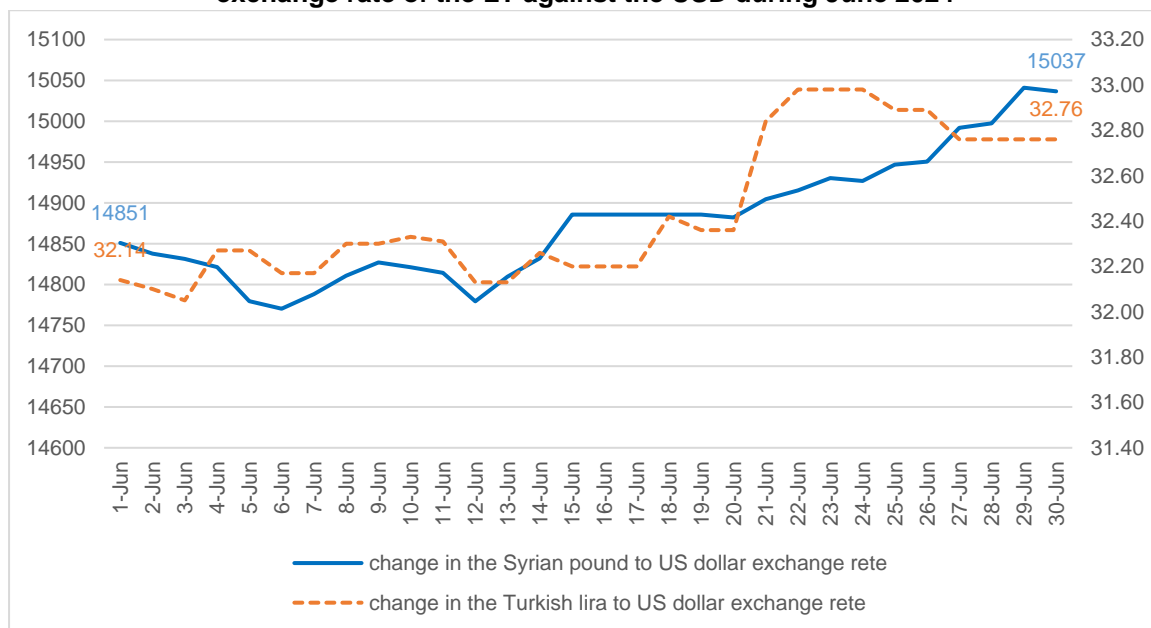
There was an improvement in the value of the Syrian pound against the US dollar by 0.5 per cent on June 2024 compared to the previous month, as the monthly average exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar reached SYP 14878 in June 2024 compared to SYP 15950 in May 2024. The exchange rate of Syrian pound closed at SYP 15037 per USD at the end of June 2024.

On the other hand, the Turkish lost 0.9 per cent of its value in the Northwestern regions of Syria during June 2024, as the average exchange rate of the Turkish lira against the US dollar reached TL 32.4 per USD in June 2024 after it was around TL 32.2 in May 2024. The exchange rate of Turkish lira closed at TL 32.8 per USD at the end of June 2024.

The Central Bank of Syria fixed the Money transfers and cash foreign exchange bulletin at SYP 13500 per USD from the beginning of June until 22 June 2024, raised the rate to SYP 13668 per USD on 23 June 2024, and fixed this rate until the end of the month. The Central Bank also fixed the Official market foreign exchange bulletin rate at SYP 12562 per USD throughout the month.¹

¹ The Central Bank of Syria. [Exchange rate bulletin](#).

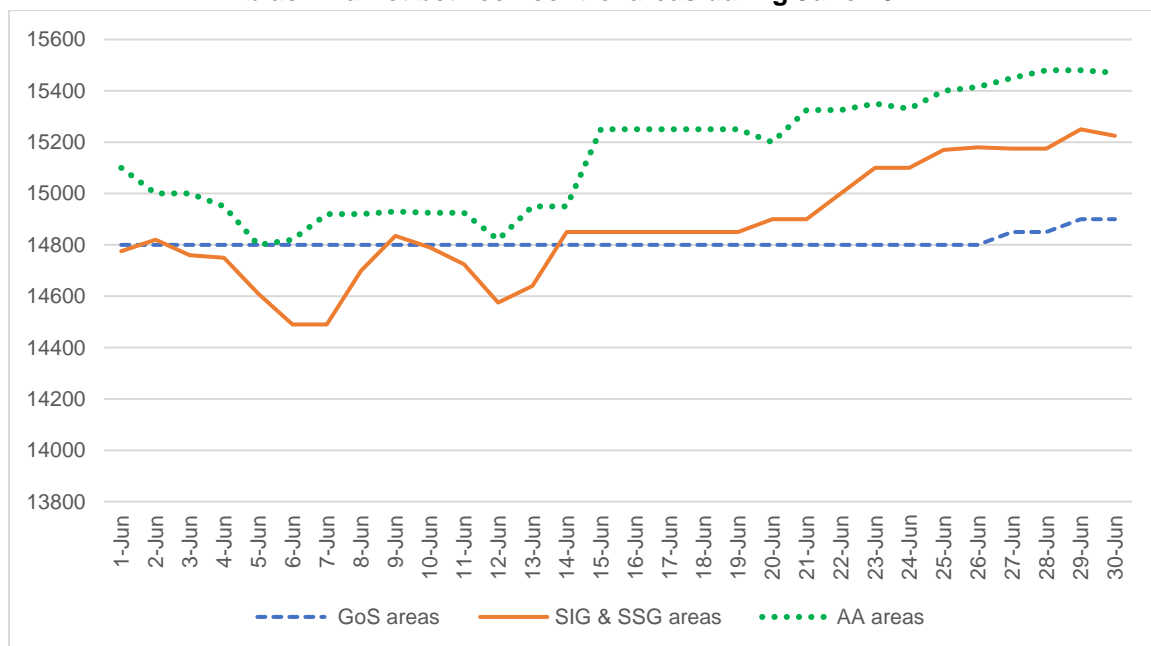
Figure (3): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP in the unofficial market and the exchange rate of the LT against the USD during June 2024



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

There is a noticeable discrepancy in the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar 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 exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar reached SYP 14810 per USD in the GOS areas during June 2024, while it reached SYP 15150 per USD in the AA areas and SYP 14875 per USD in 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 June 2024

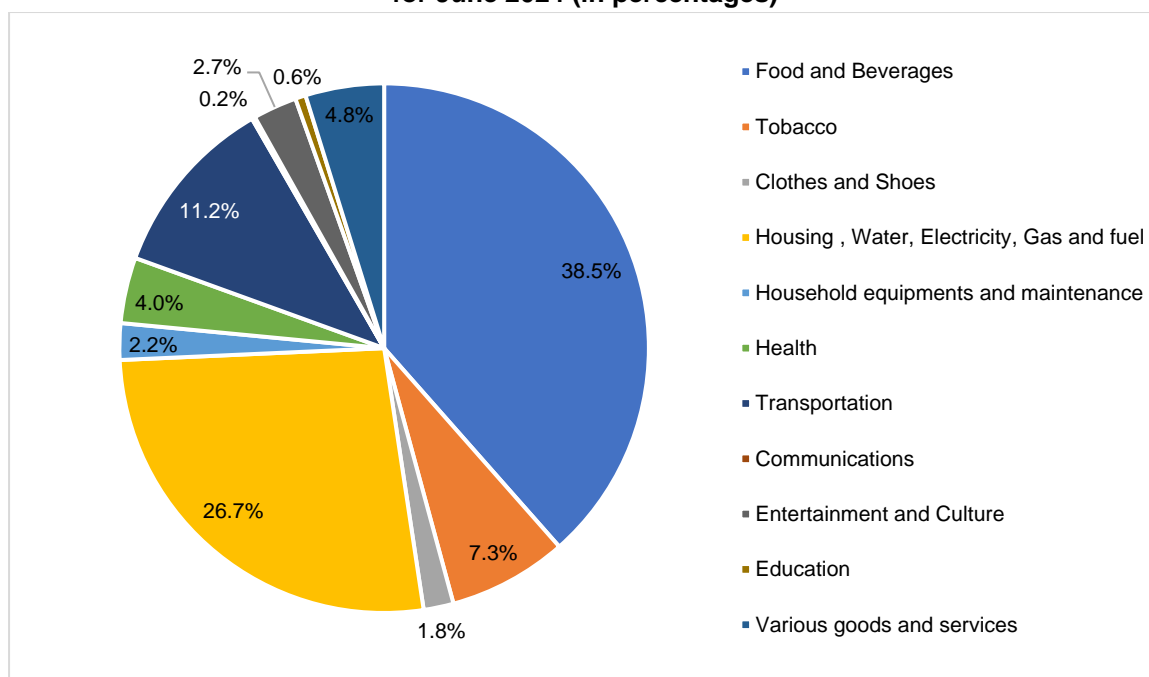


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

4. Contributors to Inflation

In June 2024, the Food and non-alcoholic beverages group² contributed significantly to the monthly inflation (M-o-M) with 1.5 per cent, making up 38.5 per cent of the total, followed by the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group of with a contribution of 26.7 per cent, trailed by the Transportation group at 11.2 per cent. Then the Tobacco group at 7.3 per cent.

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



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

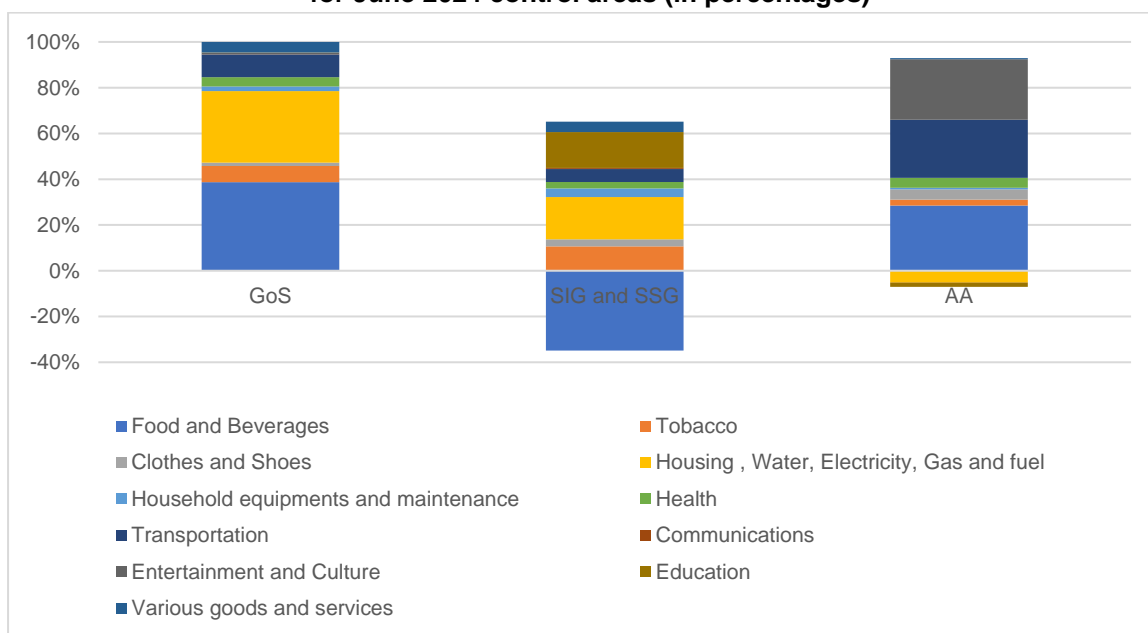
The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group contributed the largest share to monthly inflation in the AA areas during June 2024 at 38.7 per cent and 33 per cent of the monthly inflation in the GoS areas, while it contributed to reducing the inflation rate in the SIG & SSG areas as a result of the decrease in the prices of most seasonal food commodities there during this month.

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group contributed 61 per cent of monthly inflation for the AA areas and 31 per cent for the GoS areas.

The Transportation group contributed 31 per cent of the monthly inflation in the AA areas with the increase in internal transportation fares in light of the increase in the prices of diesel allocated for transportation and its interruption in the markets. The education group contributed 52 per cent of the monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas with the increase in the prices of private lessons for secondary education during the final exam season.

² 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 June 2024 control areas (in percentages)



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

5. Wages in Syria, June 2024

In June 2024, the wages at current prices increased slightly within Syria. The average monthly salary stood at approximately SYP 658 thousand for a university-educated employee newly appointed in the public sector. The wages in the private sector reached around SYP 974 thousand, while counted in the civil sector at SYP 2.63 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 and the SSG areas are the highest, followed by wages in AA . areas. And lastly comes the 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 37 and 25 per cent in the civil one within Syria.³

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

	GoS areas	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Public sector workers				
Staff wages (professor)	1090044	7162752	3090000	2140462
Staff wages (university-educated)	311501	2042975	1060000	657640
Staff wages (4th band)	286038	1239079	1040000	535824
B- Private sector workers				
Company director salary	2701894	5502635	2775000	3062725
Shop worker salary	872911	1656115	985444	973837
C- Civil sector workers				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1557554	6435285	4628000	2630723

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 June 2024 led to a decrease in the real wages⁴ of workers in the public sector in the GoS areas by 1.8 per cent compared to May 2024. Inflation also led to a decrease in the real wages of employees in the institutions of the AA areas by 0.6 per cent, the real wages of employees in the institutions of the SIG & SSG areas increased by 1.1 per cent.

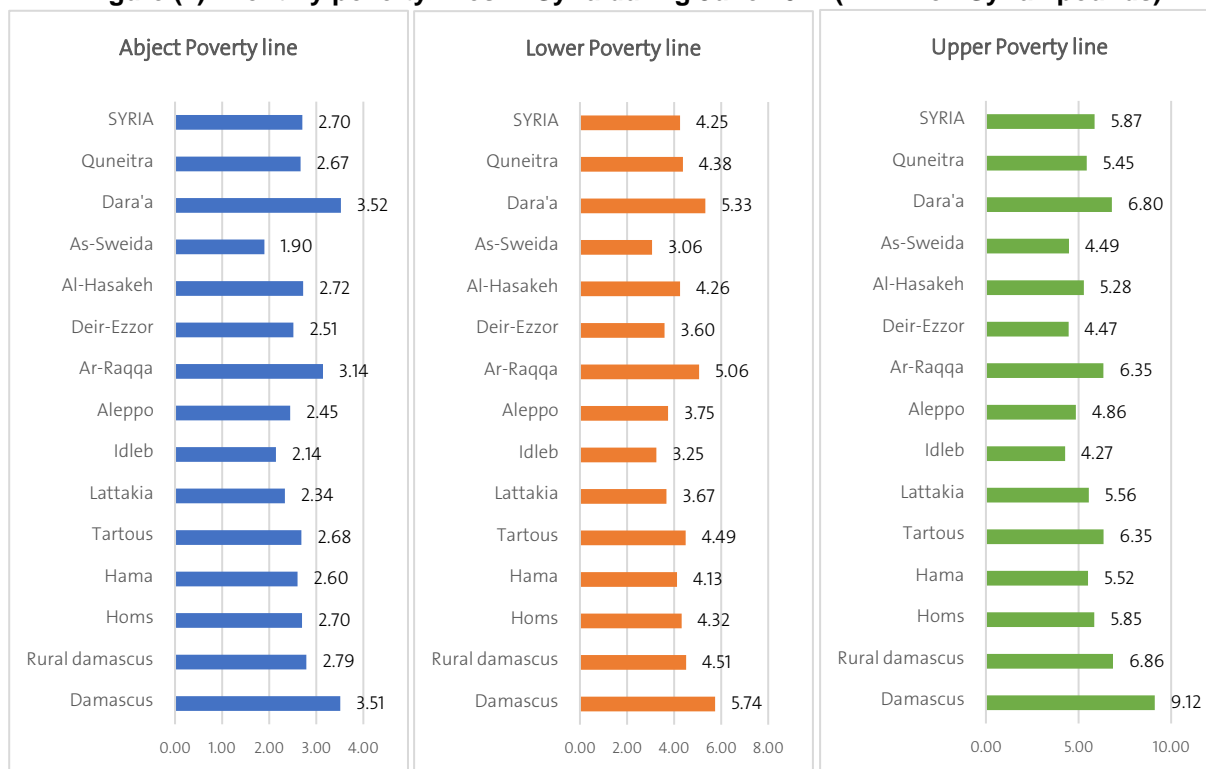
³ Although the wages of civil sector workers in the GoS areas are relatively high compared to public and private sector wages, they are low compared to the rest. It equates to 33 per cent of the civil sector worker wage in the AA areas and 24 per cent in the SSG and SIG areas in May 2024.

⁴ 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.

6. Poverty Lines in Syria, June 2024

In June 2024, the abject poverty line for families,⁵ serving as an indicator of food insecurity, rose to SYP 2.7 million per month, marking an increase of SYP 52 thousand from May 2024. The lower poverty line increased by SYP 82 thousand from the previous month to reach 4.25 million, while the upper poverty line saw an SYP 113 thousand increase, reaching 5.87 million. The highest values for poverty lines were recorded in the governorates of Damascus, Dara'a, and Ar-Raqqa, while As-Sweida, Idleb, Deir-Ezzor, and Aleppo recorded the lowest poverty lines in June 2024.

Figure (7): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during June 2024 (in million Syrian pounds)



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

⁵ The poverty lines (abject, lower and upper) were calculated by measuring the impact of inflation on the 2009 poverty lines.

In comparison between the control areas, the SIG & SSG areas recorded the lowest values for the three poverty lines during June 2024, with an abject poverty line of SYP 1.95 million, a lower poverty line of SYP 2.98 million, and an upper poverty line of SYP 3.89 million. The AA areas topped the ranking in terms of the abject and lower poverty lines in June 2024, as the abject poverty line reached SYP 2.82 million, and the lower poverty line reached SYP 4.33 million. It was followed by the GoS areas, with an abject poverty line of SYP 2.72 million, and a lower poverty line of SYP 4.3 million per month. The value of the upper poverty line in the GoS areas exceeded SYP 5.94 million per month, while it reached SYP 5.4 million in the AA areas.

A comparison between wages in current prices and monthly poverty lines reveals that the wage gap⁶ from the abject poverty line within Syria level in June 2024 reached about 75.7 per cent for a university-educated employee in the public sector, 64 per cent for a private sector worker, and 2.7 per cent for a civil sector worker. Notably, wages of civil sector workers in the SIG, the SSG, and the AA areas surpassed the abject poverty line by 229 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively. Wages in the civil sector in the GoS areas were 43 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 June 2024 (in percentages)

	GoS areas	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Wage gap from the abject poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-88.5%	4.5%	-62.5%	-75.7%
Private sector worker	-67.9%	-15.3%	-65.1%	-64.0%
Civil sector worker	-42.7%	229.3%	64.0%	-2.7%
B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-92.8%	-31.4%	-75.5%	-84.5%
Private sector worker	-79.7%	-44.4%	-77.2%	-77.1%
Civil sector worker	-63.7%	116.1%	6.9%	-38.1%
C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-94.8%	-47.5%	-80.3%	-88.8%
Private sector worker	-91.64%	-82.85%	-77.97%	-82.15%
Civil sector worker	-73.8%	65.4%	-14.1%	-55.2%

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

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

The wage gap between public sector employees in the areas of the GoS areas and the upper poverty line reached 94.8 per cent, 80.3 per cent in the AA areas, and 47.5 per cent in the SIG & SSG areas during June 2024. This is a dangerous indicator that all government employees in the three areas receive wages that do not cover the minimum required goods and services they need for a decent life, and the severity of suffering varies between areas; public sector employees in the areas of the GoS areas are the most suffering because their wages cover only 5.2 per cent of their basic needs despite a 50 per cent increase in wages in March 2024, while the wages of employees in the AA areas cover 19.7 per cent of the basic needs required for a decent life, while the wages of workers in the SIG & SSG areas cover 52.5 per cent of the basic needs.

⁶ 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 J 2024, (2021 = 100)

	Damascus	Rural Damascus	Homs	Hama	Tartous	Lattakia	Idleb	Aleppo	Ar-Raqqa	Deir-Ezzor	Al-Hasakeh	As-Sweida	Dara'a	Quneitra	SYRIA
All commodities	866	693	720	672	802	716	445	673	713	615	848	713	757	735	671
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	701	673	698	671	713	724	444	639	599	633	728	653	684	677	645
Tobacco	519	508	558	520	531	565	339	424	374	491	530	586	550	511	500
Clothing and footwear	748	845	697	759	1,042	1,131	491	727	876	568	1,186	938	807	655	792
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,182	796	805	720	1,053	779	535	776	1,066	615	1,177	841	945	937	774
Household equipment and maintenance	896	687	769	816	734	688	303	489	581	573	930	639	916	826	665
Health	715	832	807	669	839	827	415	669	967	762	777	753	1,022	682	749
Transportation	935	754	790	793	786	824	516	719	741	704	961	928	869	981	816
Communications	324	325	325	322	324	326	87	423	330	325	336	318	320	315	221
Culture and entertainment	536	816	674	587	834	568	316	648	1,459	663	853	571	761	604	690
Education	577	461	548	467	756	422	803	451	672	482	705	549	607	482	567
Various goods and services	556	713	822	687	789	621	404	705	690	622	545	848	765	695	673

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