



Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (7) – July 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 **July 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, July 2024

In July 2024, the general CPI achieved annual inflation (Y-o-Y) of 76.2 per cent and monthly inflation (M-o-M) of 1.7 per cent.¹ The Entertainment and culture group recorded the highest monthly inflation rate in July 2024 at 3.7 per cent. The Tobacco group recorded a monthly inflation rate of 3.6 per cent.

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

#	Group	CPI in June 2024	CPI in July 2024	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	All commodities	670.9	682.1	1.7%
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	644.9	652.1	1.1%
2	Tobacco	500.2	518.5	3.6%
3	Clothes and shoes	792.3	787.9	-0.6%
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	774.0	791.5	2.3%
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	665.2	670.5	0.8%
6	Health	748.5	764.8	2.2%
7	Transportation	816.3	835.4	2.3%
8	Communications	221.4	224.6	1.5%
9	Entertainment and culture	689.7	715.1	3.7%
10	Education	566.8	570.3	0.6%
11+12	Various commodities and services	672.9	692.3	2.9%

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

The Transportation group recorded a monthly inflation rate of 2.3 per cent, the increase was significant in the GoS areas after the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection changed the price of subsidized gasoline twice during July 2024; the first time on the 8th of the month, when it raised the price per liter from SYP 11881 to SYP 12360 (by 4 per cent), and the second time on July 21, 2024, when it lowered the price to SYP 12306 (by 0.4 per cent). Gasoline prices rose on the black market, with the average price of a liter within Syria reaching SYP 21000. Transportation tariff by bus between governorates increased, with the cost of one km reaching SYP 227. Transportation fares vary between control areas; The cost of one km for the governorates connecting between the GoS areas is SYP 133,² and in the governorates connecting the AA areas it is SYP 225, while it is SYP 833 in SIG & SSG areas due to the liberalization of diesel and gasoline prices there and the lack of support for transportation companies.

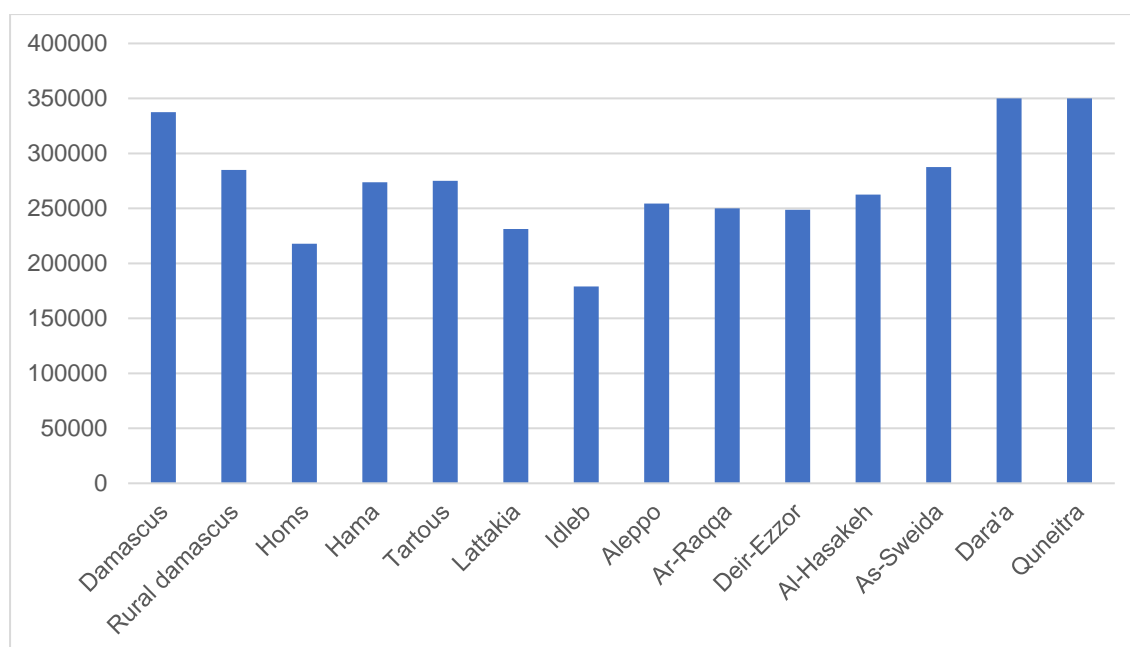
¹ The reason for the decrease in the annual inflation rate (Y-o-Y) in July 2024 compared to the previous month is due to a price shock in July 2023, when the monthly inflation rate reached 20.5 percent. For details, see: [The Syrian Center for Policy Research. \(2023\). Monthly Bulletin of Consumer Prices and Inflation in Syria, Issue \(7\) - July 2024.](#)

² Since 2021, the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection has added 20 per cent to the kilometer fare for buses heading to the eastern regions [as a risk allowance until the reasons are removed](#) and has kept this addition until now.

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group recorded monthly inflation of 2.3 per cent, as the prices of drinking water purchased via tankers rose to an average price of SYP 47000 per cubic meter (5 barrels) within Syria, with temperatures rising and water outages occurring in areas of Northern and Eastern Syria. The electricity company in the SIG areas also raised the price of a kWh of electricity to TL 3.6 instead of TL 2.8 in the previous month (an increase of 28.6 per cent).³

The prices of local gas have increased on the black market, with the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection raising the price of a gas cylinder for the excluded people from subsidized SYP 100 thousand to SYP 131 thousand (by 31 per cent), and the extended period of receiving a subsidized gas cylinder in GoS areas, which reaches up to 90 days. The price of a gas cylinder was reduced from USD 10 to USD 7 at the end of July in the AA areas⁴, but the price remained high compared to its price before the Suwaydiya station was bombed by Turkey at the ending of 2023.

Figure (1): The price of a local gas cylinder on the black market according to the governorates during July 2024 (in Syrian pounds)



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

³ Syria TV. (2024, July 01). [The rise in local and industrial electricity prices in northern Aleppo.. How much did it reach?](#)

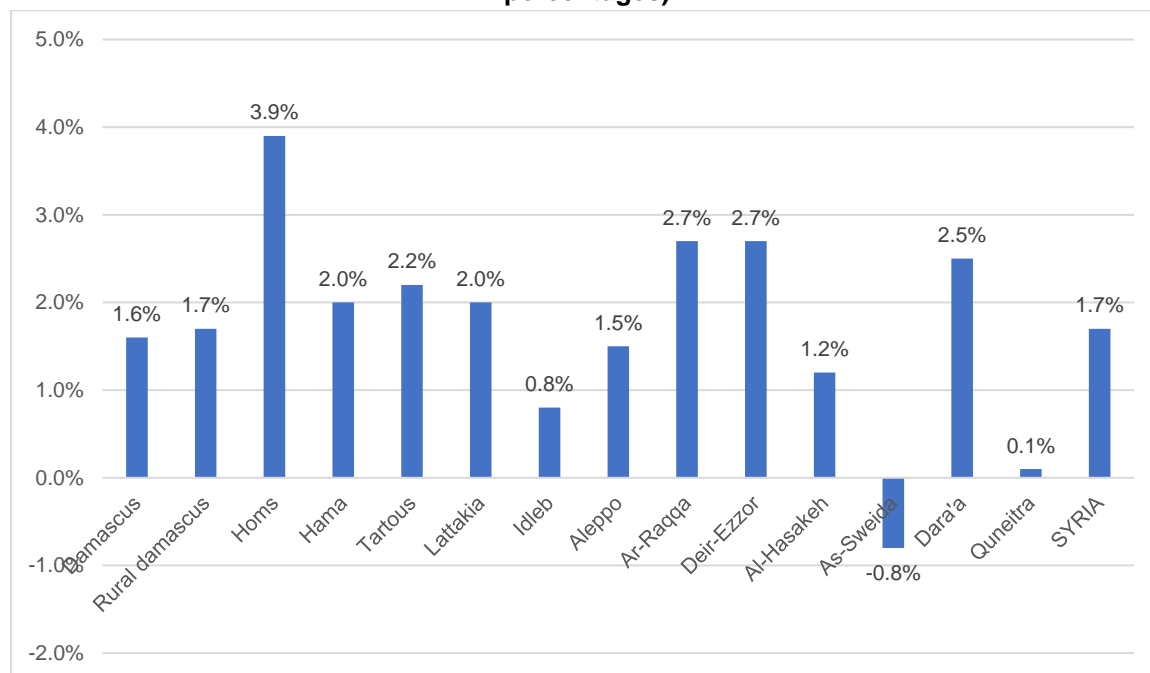
⁴ Arta FM. (2024, July 31). [Reducing the price of a gas cylinder from USD 10 to USD 7.](#)

2. Inflation by Governorate

In July 2024, Homs Governorate recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M), at 3.9 per cent, followed by Deir Ezzor at 2.7 per cent, while As-Sweida achieved a decrease in the general price level by 0.8 per cent.

The AA areas recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for all goods and services during July 2024 at 1.9 per cent, followed by the GoS areas at 1.8 per cent, then the SIG & SSG areas at 1.2 per cent.

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



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

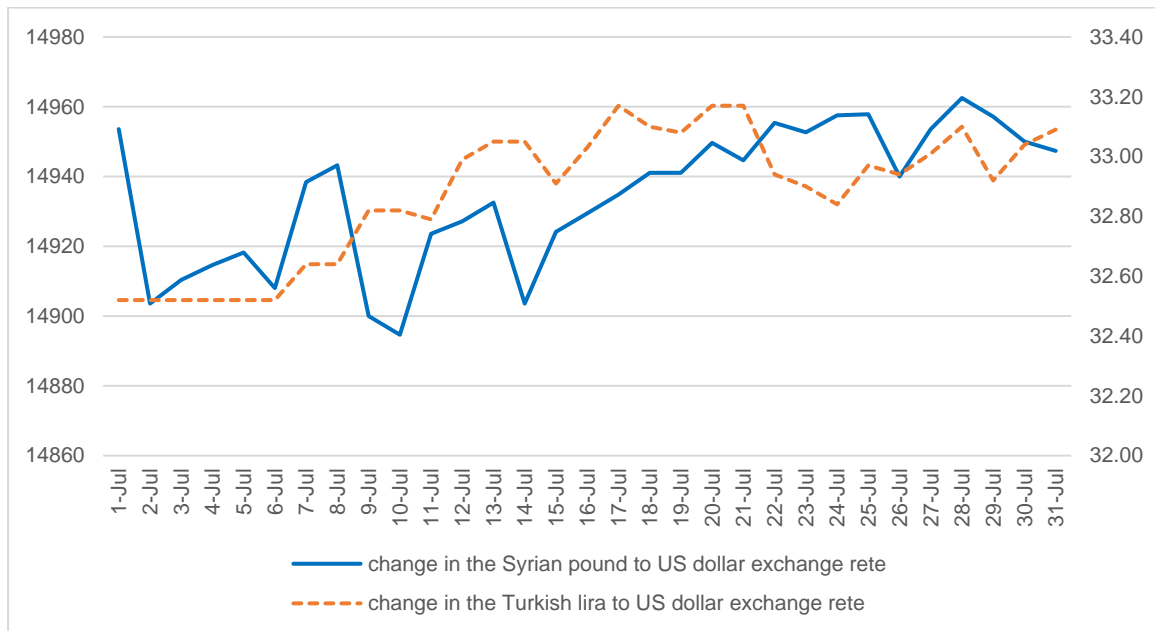
3. Exchange rate

There was a decline in the value of the Syrian pound against the US dollar by 0.4 per cent on July 2024 compared to the previous month, as the monthly average exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar reached SYP 14935 in July 2024 compared to SYP 14878 in June 2024. The exchange rate of the Syrian pound closed at SYP 14947 per USD at the end of July 2024. On the other hand, the Turkish lira lost 1.4 per cent of its value in the Northwestern regions of Syria during July 2024, as the average exchange rate of the Turkish lira against the US dollar reached TL 32.9 per USD in July 2024 after it was around TL 32.4 in June 2024. The exchange rate of the Turkish lira closed at TL 33.09 per USD at the end of July 2024.

The Central Bank of Syria fixed the Money transfers and cash foreign exchange bulletin rate during July 2024 at the price of SYP 13668 per USD in July 2024. Meanwhile, the Official market foreign exchange bulletins rate remained at SYP 12562 per USD throughout the month.⁵

⁵ The Central Bank of Syria. [Exchange rate bulletin](#).

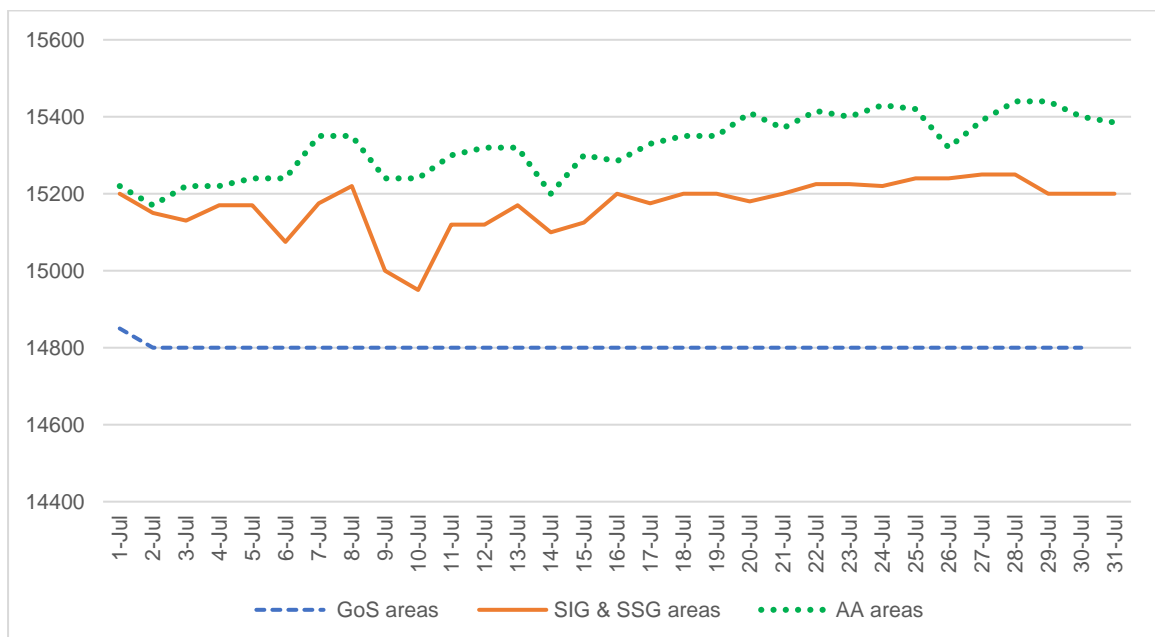
Figure (3): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP in the unofficial market and the exchange rate of the TL against the USD during July 2024



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 14802 per USD in the GOS areas during July 2024, while it reached SYP 15325 and SYP 15170 per USD 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 July 2024

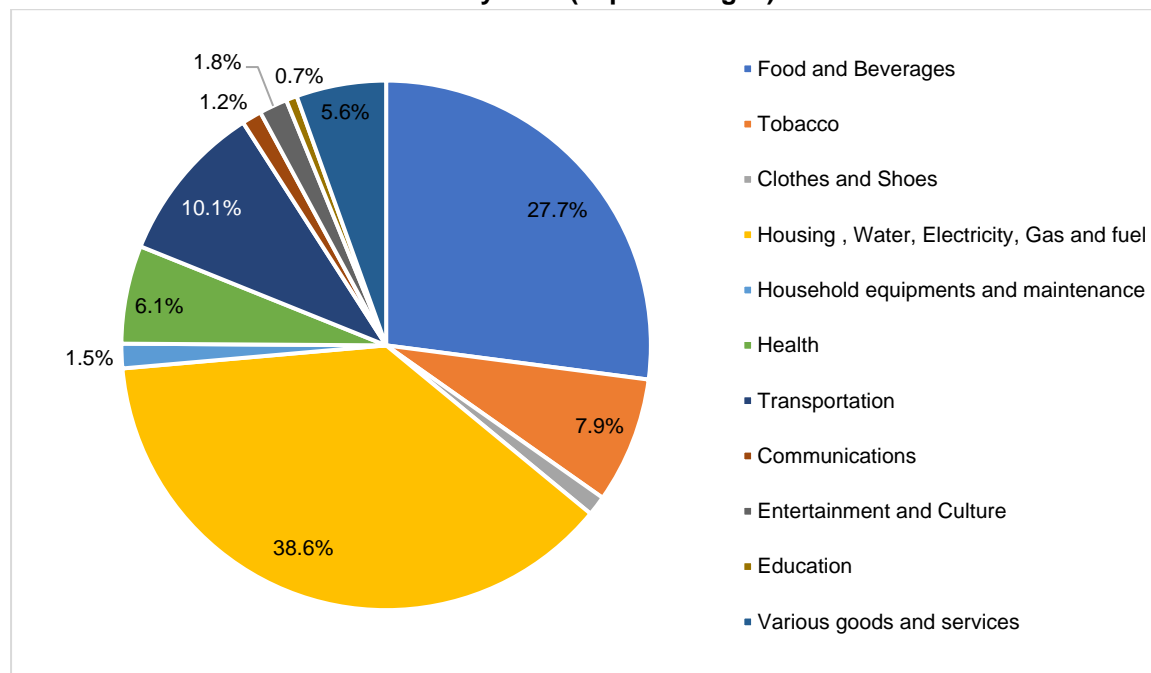


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

4. Contributors to Inflation

In July 2024, the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group⁶ contributed significantly to the monthly inflation (M-o-M) with 1.7 per cent, making up 38.6 per cent of the total, followed by the group of Food and non-alcoholic beverages with a contribution of 27.7 per cent, trailed by the Transportation group at 10 per cent.

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



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

The Food and non-alcoholic beverages group made the largest contribution to monthly inflation in the AA areas during July 2024, at 56 per cent, and contributed 21 per cent of monthly inflation in the GoS areas, and 5 per cent of inflation in the SIG & SSG areas.

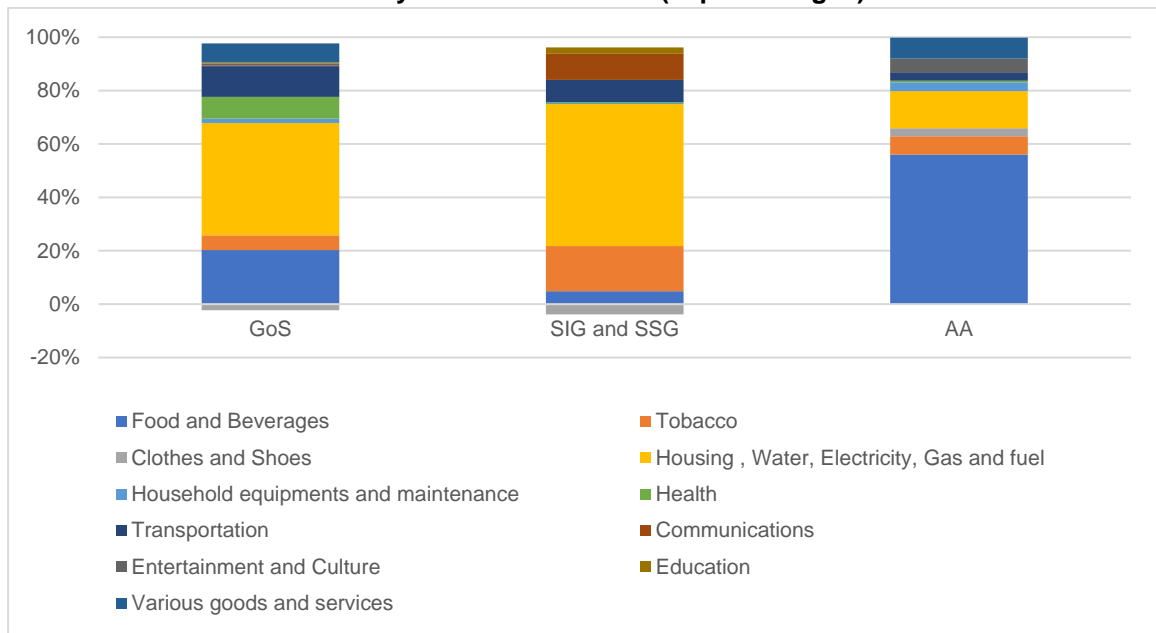
The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group contributed 55 per cent of the monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas, 44 per cent of the monthly inflation in the GoS areas, and 14 per cent of the monthly inflation in the AA areas.

The Transportation group contributed 12 per cent of the monthly inflation in the AA areas with the increase in internal transportation tariff in light of the Autonomous Administration stopping the distribution of subsidized diesel to transportation companies (buses) and forcing them to buy a liter at a price of SYP 4700 instead of SYP 525, which raised the fare per kilometer between governorates in the AA areas from SYP 170 to SYP 225 (an increase of 32 per cent).⁷

⁶ The contribution rate to inflation means the percentage of the contribution of each consumption group to annual inflation out of 100%.

⁷ The Middle East. (2024, July 31). [Elimination of diesel subsidies halts transport companies in northeastern Syria.](#)

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



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

5. Wages in Syria, July 2024

In July 2024, the wages at current prices increased slightly within Syria. The average monthly salary stood at approximately SYP 660 thousand for a university-educated employee newly appointed in the public sector. The wages in the private sector reached around SYP 991 thousand, while counted in the civil sector at SYP 2.7 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.⁸

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

	GoS areas	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Public sector workers				
Staff wages (professor)	1090044	7278810	3090000	2154150
Staff wages (university-educated)	311501	2061950	1060000	660350
Staff wages (4th band)	286038	1259411	1040000	538729
B- Private sector workers				
Company director salary	2835985	5577270	2775000	3176034
Shop worker salary	891742	1670030	986611	990871
C- Civil sector workers				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1618880	6522570	4660667	2695124

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 July 2024 led to a decrease in the real wages⁹ of workers in the public sector in the GoS areas by 1.77 per cent compared to June 2024. Inflation also led to a decrease in the real wages of employees in the institutions of the AA areas by 1.8 per cent. The real wages of employees in the institutions of the SIG & SSG areas increased by 0.3 per cent.

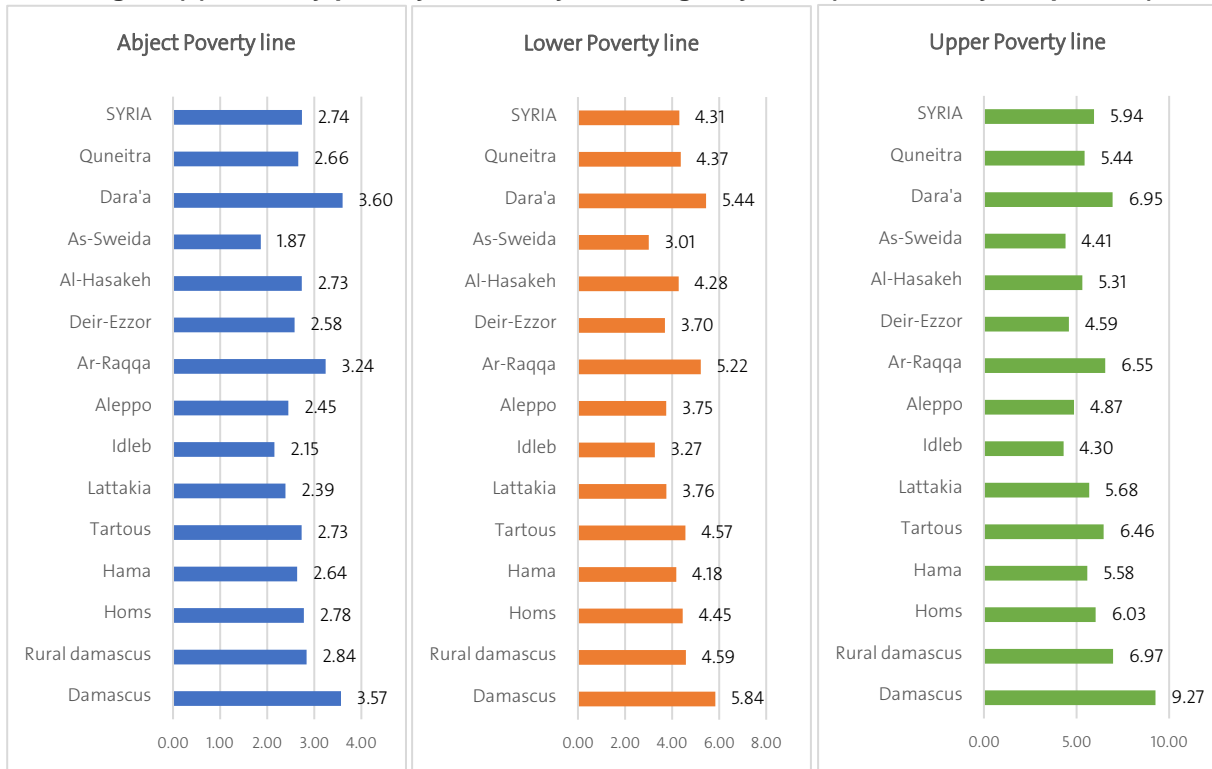
⁸ Although the wages of civil sector workers in the GoS areas are relatively high compared to public and private sector wages, they are low compared to the rest. It equates to 35 per cent of the civil sector worker wage in the AA areas and 25 per cent in the SSG and SIG areas in July 2024.

⁹ 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, July 2024

In July 2024, the abject poverty line for families,¹⁰ serving as an indicator of food insecurity, rose to SYP 2.74 million per month, marking an increase of SYP 34 thousand from June 2024. The lower poverty line increased by SYP 54 thousand from the previous month to reach 4.31 million, while the upper poverty line saw an SYP 74 thousand increase, reaching 5.94 million. The highest values for poverty lines were recorded in the governorates of Damascus, Dara'a, and Ar-Raqqa, while As-Sweida, Idleb, and Deir-Ezzor recorded the lowest poverty lines in July 2024.

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



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

In comparison between the control areas, the SIG & SSG areas recorded the lowest values for the three poverty lines during July 2024, with an abject poverty line of SYP 1.98 million, a lower poverty line of SYP 3 million, and an upper poverty line of SYP 3.9 million. The AA areas topped the ranking in terms of the abject and lower poverty lines in July 2024, as the abject poverty line reached SYP 2.88 million, and the lower poverty line reached SYP 4.42 million. It was followed by the GoS areas, with an abject poverty line of SYP 2.75 million, and a lower poverty line of SYP 4.35 million per month. The value of the upper poverty line in the GoS areas exceeded SYP 6 million per month, while it reached SYP 5.5 million in the AA areas.

¹⁰ The poverty lines (abject, lower and upper) were calculated by measuring the impact of inflation on the 2009 poverty lines.

A comparison between wages in current prices and monthly poverty lines reveals that the wage gap¹¹ from the abject poverty line within Syria level in July 2024 reached about 76 per cent for a university-educated employee in the public sector, 63.8 per cent for a private sector worker, and 1.6 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 230 per cent and 61.6 per cent, respectively. Wages in the civil sector in the GoS areas were 41 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 July 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	-88.7%	4.4%	-63.3%	-75.9%
Private sector worker	-67.6%	-15.5%	-65.8%	-63.8%
Civil sector worker	-41.2%	230.2%	61.6%	-1.6%
B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-92.8%	-31.5%	-76.0%	-84.7%
Private sector worker	-79.5%	-44.5%	-77.7%	-77.0%
Civil sector worker	-62.8%	116.7%	5.4%	-37.4%
C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-94.8%	-47.6%	-80.8%	-88.9%
Private sector worker	-88.65%	-83.21%	-77.92%	-82.18%
Civil sector worker	-73.1%	65.8%	-15.4%	-54.7%

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, 80.8 per cent in the AA areas, and 47.6 per cent in the SIG & SSG areas during July 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 employee's wages in the AA areas cover 18.8 per cent of the basic needs required for a decent life, while the employee's wages in the SIG & SSG areas cover 52.4 per cent of the basic needs.

¹¹ 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 July 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	880	705	748	686	820	730	448	684	733	631	858	707	776	736	682
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	709	685	747	673	723	748	441	630	618	639	736	630	706	676	652
Tobacco	522	553	562	561	584	573	363	427	385	541	529	586	550	531	519
Clothing and footwear	710	856	704	720	1,031	1,116	470	709	887	562	1,226	928	825	657	788
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,212	797	827	749	1,093	785	543	794	1,098	642	1,189	844	954	935	792
Household equipment and maintenance	897	694	770	846	739	657	307	492	592	621	952	636	910	829	671
Health	725	843	825	719	852	850	415	716	967	762	777	772	1,068	682	765
Transportation	956	784	807	807	798	850	519	735	749	751	967	942	911	987	835
Communications	323	324	325	322	326	326	88	487	330	325	336	336	320	315	225
Culture and entertainment	542	817	678	588	822	575	327	647	1,679	664	895	619	810	608	715
Education	577	468	548	467	756	422	811	454	668	480	704	549	626	482	570
Various goods and services	540	730	824	747	794	643	416	755	690	736	562	859	771	695	692

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



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