



Monthly Bulletin for Consumer Price Index and Inflation in Syria

Issue (9) – September 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 **September 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, September 2024

In September 2024, the general CPI achieved annual inflation (Y-o-Y) of 40.6 per cent and monthly inflation (M-o-M) of 2 per cent.

The Education group recorded the highest monthly inflation rate in September 2024 at 33.5 per cent, as the Syrian government raised parallel and private education fees by rates ranging between 45 and 100 per cent, bringing the price of an hour of study in private universities to SYP 205 thousand for the faculties of administrative sciences, SYP 350 thousand for civil engineering, and SYP 700 thousand for human medicine.¹ Government universities in the SIG areas raised their fees significantly, so that the annual registration fee at the Free University of Aleppo reached TL 4100 after it was TL 500 the previous year. Private schools also doubled their tuition fees in most Syrian governorates at the beginning of the new academic year (2024-2025). The average annual tuition for a private school for secondary education (without transportation) within Syria reached SYP 6.7 million in September 2024, noting that it was around SYP 4.5 million in the previous academic year (2023-2024).

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

#	Group	CPI in August 2024	CPI in September 2024	Monthly Inflation (M-o-M)
	All commodities	693.1	706.6	2.0%
1	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	658.4	657.8	-0.1%
2	Tobacco	528.5	533.8	1.0%
3	Clothes and shoes	800.5	799.5	-0.1%
4	Housing, water, electricity, and other fuel oils	816.8	848.6	4.0%
5	Household equipment, supplies, and maintenance	671.7	675.4	0.6%
6	Health	777.6	788.4	1.4%
7	Transportation	824.3	820.8	-0.4%
8	Communications	233.2	233.3	0.1%
9	Entertainment and culture	722.9	728.4	0.8%
10	Education	578.0	771.6	33.5%
11+12	Various commodities and services	708.7	739.5	4.4%

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

¹ Syria TV. (2024, August 26). [Medicine for 30 million liras.. How much are the tuition fees of private universities in Syria?](#)

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels group recorded monthly inflation of 4 per cent during September 2024. There was a noticeable increase in housing rents in the Rural Damascus and Homs governorates after the displacement of more than 235 thousand people from Lebanon to Syria during the period (23 – 30 September 2024) due to the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.² The average monthly rent for housing in Homs governorate reached SYP 880 thousand compared to SYP 650 thousand in the previous month, and the average monthly rent for housing in the Rural Damascus governorate reached SYP 1.38 million compared to SYP 1.18 million in the previous month.

The Autonomous Administration issued a new price for electricity generated by private generators (amperes), bringing the price of one ampere for subscribers on the 8-hour-a-day system to SYP 15000 after it was SYP 14000 in the previous month, and for subscribers on the 16-hour-a-day system to SYP 140 thousand compared to SYP 52500 in the previous month, and raise the price for subscribers on the 24-hour-a-day system to SYP 150 thousand compared to SYP 95 thousand.³ The reason for the large increase is due to the AA stopping the supply of fuel at the subsidized price for the period exceeding 8 hours a day.

² According to the head of the International Organization for Migration office in Lebanon.

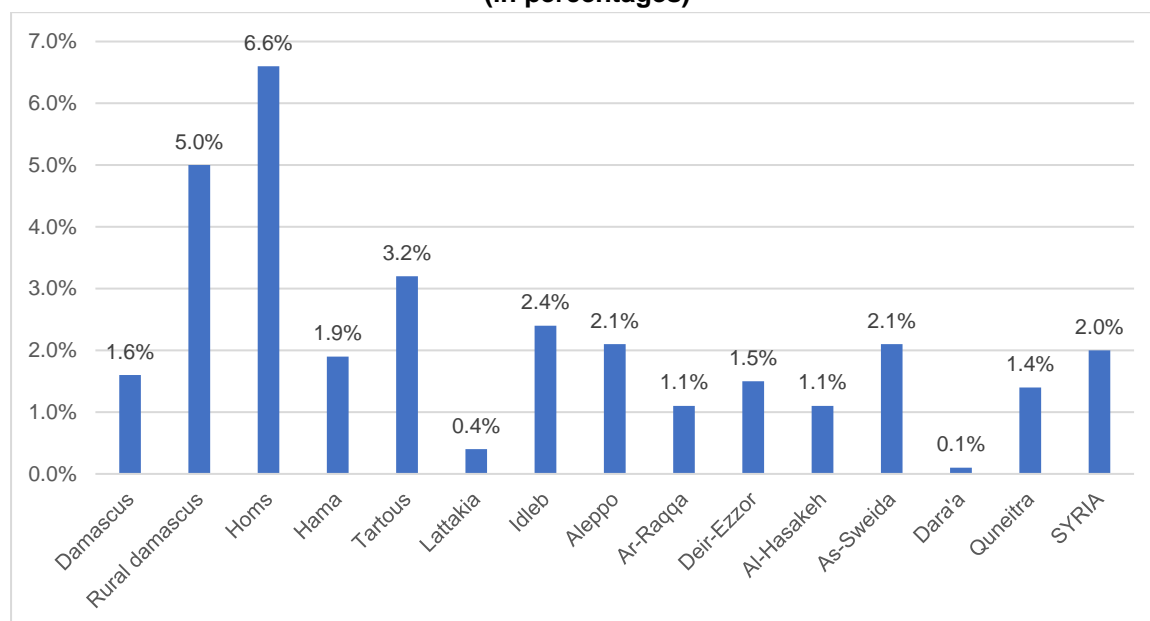
³ Arta Agency. (2024, August 29). [New prices for generator amperes set in Qamishli](#).

2. Inflation by Governorate

In September 2024, Homs Governorate recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M), at 6.6 per cent, followed by Rural Damascus at 5 per cent, then Tartous at 3.2 per cent, while Dara'a recorded the lowest inflation rate in September 2024 at 0.1 per cent.

The GoS areas recorded the highest monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for all goods and services during September 2024 at 2.2 per cent, followed by the SIG & SSG areas at 2 per cent, then the AA areas at 0.9 per cent.

Figure (1): Monthly inflation (M-o-M) of consumer prices in Syria during September 2024 (in percentages)



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

3. Exchange rate

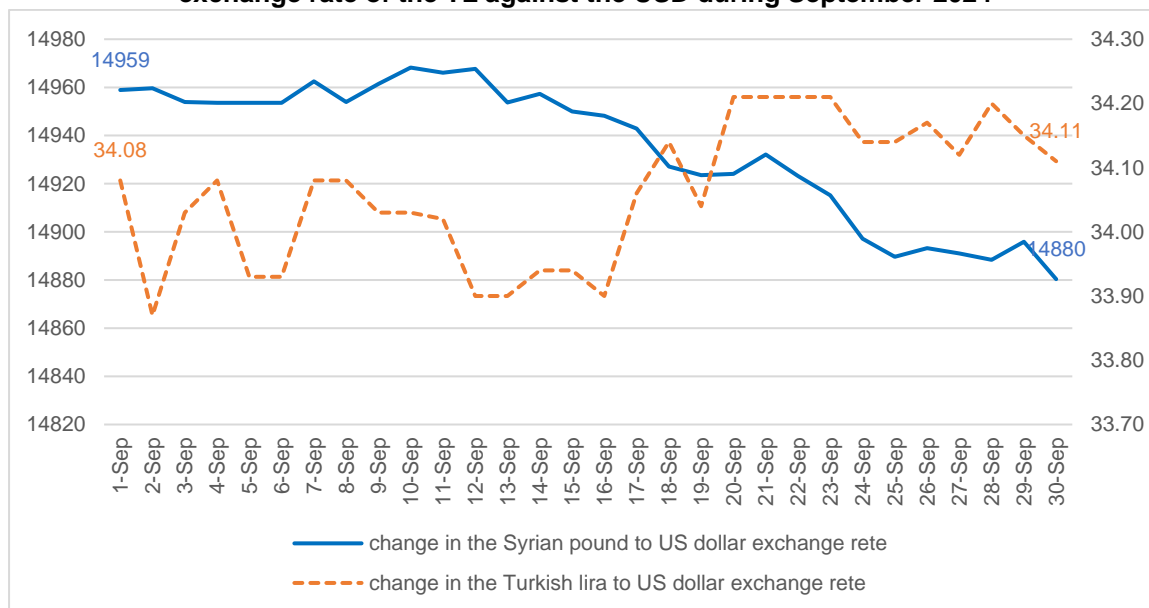
There was a decline in the value of the Syrian pound against the US dollar by 0.3 per cent in September 2024 compared to the previous month, as the monthly average exchange rate of the Syrian pound against the US dollar reached SYP 14935 in September 2024 compared to SYP 14976 in August 2024. September 2024 closed at SYP 14880 per USD. On the other hand, the Turkish lira lost 1 per cent of its value in the Northwestern regions of Syria during September 2024, as the average exchange rate of the Turkish lira against the US dollar reached TL 34.06 per USD in September 2024 after it was around TL 33.73 in August 2024. September 2024 closed at an exchange rate of TL 34.1 per USD.

The Central Bank of Syria fixed the Money transfers and cash foreign exchange bulletin rate during September 2024 at the price of SYP 13668 per USD. Meanwhile, the Official market foreign exchange bulletins rate remained at SYP 12562 per USD throughout the month.⁴ It is worth noting that the Syrian government suspended the implementation of Resolution No. 46 of 2020, which stipulates the disbursement of an amount of USD 100 by Syrian citizens and those in a similar position upon their entry into Syrian territory for a period of one week starting from 29 September 2024, due to the emergency

⁴ The Central Bank of Syria. [Exchange rate bulletin](#).

circumstances related to displacement. The decision came a week after the arrival of Syrian returnees from Lebanon.

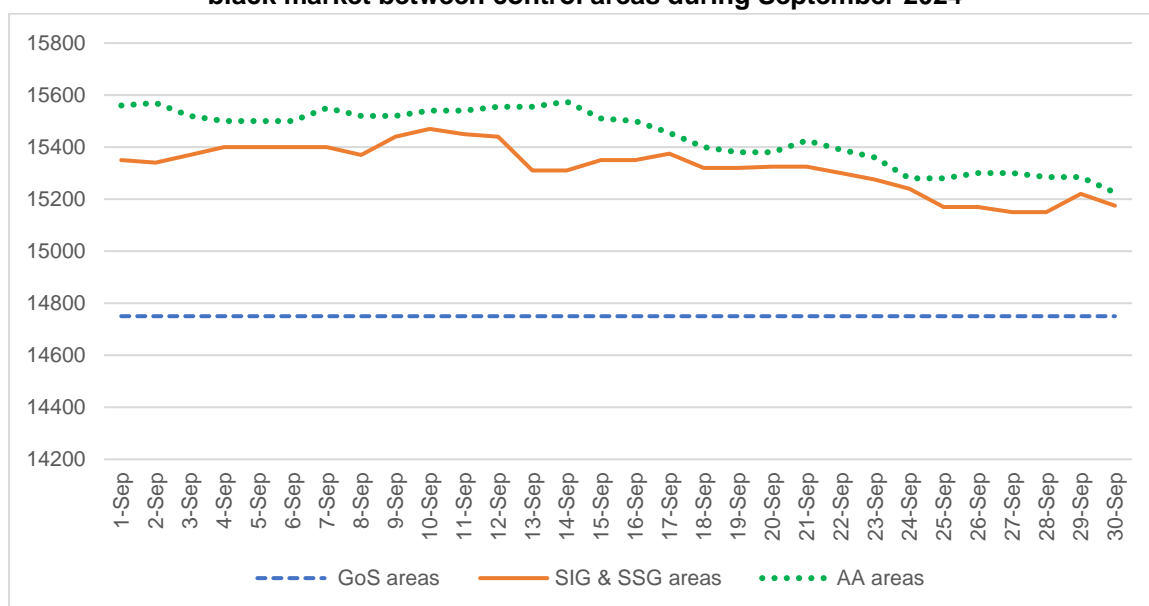
Figure (2): Changes in the exchange rate of the SYP in the unofficial market and the exchange rate of the TL against the USD during September 2024



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 14750 per USD in the GOS areas during September 2024, while it reached 15442 and 15322 per USD in the AA areas and the SIG & SSG areas.

Figure (3): Comparison of changes in the exchange rate of the SYP against the USD in the black market between control areas during September 2024

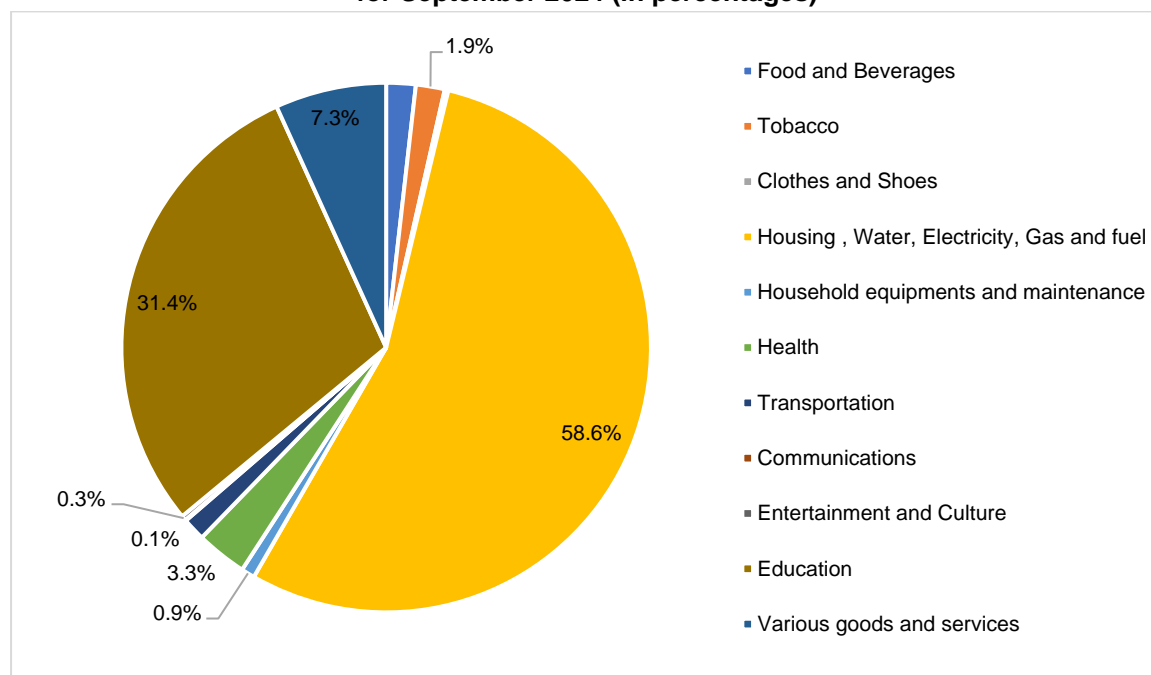


Source: Syrian Center for Policy Research, Monthly consumer price survey in Syria 2024.

4. Contributors to Inflation

In September 2024, the Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group⁵ contributed significantly to the monthly inflation (M-o-M) with 2 per cent, making up 58.6 per cent of the total, followed by the Education group with a contribution of 31.4 per cent.

Figure (4): Contribution of major consumption groups to the monthly inflation rate (M-o-M) for September 2024 (in percentages)



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

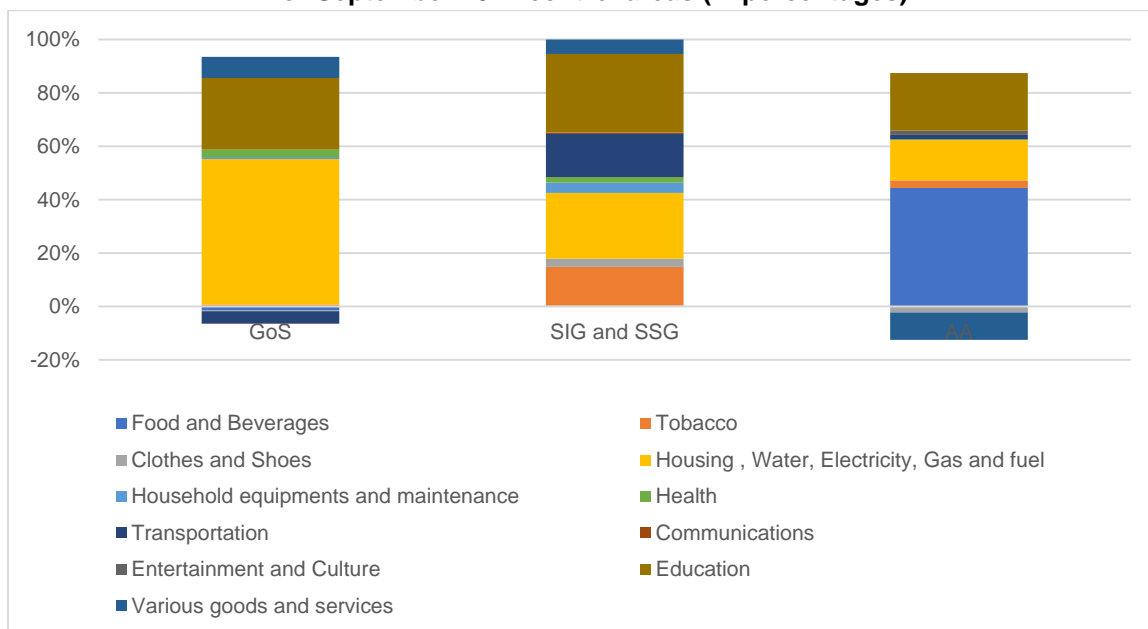
The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group made the largest contribution to the monthly inflation of the GoS areas during September 2024 (with 2.2 per cent) at 62.7 per cent, followed by the Education group with a contribution of 30.8 per cent.

The Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuel oils group contributed 24.7 per cent of the monthly inflation in the SIG & SSG areas (with 2 per cent), followed by the Education group at 29.4 per cent.

⁵ The contribution rate to inflation means the percentage of the contribution of each consumption group to annual inflation out of 100%.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverage group contributed 59.3 per cent of the monthly inflation in the AA areas (with 0.8 per cent), followed by the Education group with 28.9 per cent.

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



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

5. Wages in Syria, September 2024

In September 2024, the wages at current prices increased slightly within Syria. The average monthly salary stood at approximately SYP 569 thousand for a university-educated employee newly appointed in the public sector. The wages in the private sector reached around SYP 1 million, while counted in the civil sector at SYP 2.78 million. The reason for the decrease in the average monthly wage of a public sector employee compared to the previous month is due to the decrease in the wages of workers in the SSG institutions by 50 per cent for September, due to the SSG deducting 50 per cent of the wages of workers in its institutions during this month in support of the war effort.⁶ The average monthly wage of a university employee in the SSG reached USD 94 after it was around USD 188 in the previous month.

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 38 and 20 per cent in the civil one within Syria.⁷

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

	GoS areas	SIG and SSG areas	AA areas	Whole of Syria
A- Public sector workers				
Staff wages (professor)	1090044	5619900	3090000	1899677
Staff wages (university-educated)	311501	1438351	1060000	569265
Staff wages (4th band)	286038	915811	1040000	488286
B- Private sector workers				
Company director salary	2951136	6386251	2775000	3347829
Shop worker salary	953431	1800780	1047753	1066840
C- Civil sector workers				
Staff wages (university-educated)	1649751	7050420	4682507	2783367

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 September 2024 led to a decrease in the real wages⁸ of workers in the public sector in the GoS areas by 2.2 per cent compared to August 2024. Inflation also led to a decrease in the real wages of employees in the institutions of the AA areas by 0.9 per cent. The real wages of employees in the institutions of the SIG & SSG areas decreased by 30 per cent after reducing the wages of employees in the SSG institutions by 50 per cent.

⁶ Enab Baladi. (October 5, 2024). Idle.. [“Salvation” deducts half of its employees’ salaries.](#)

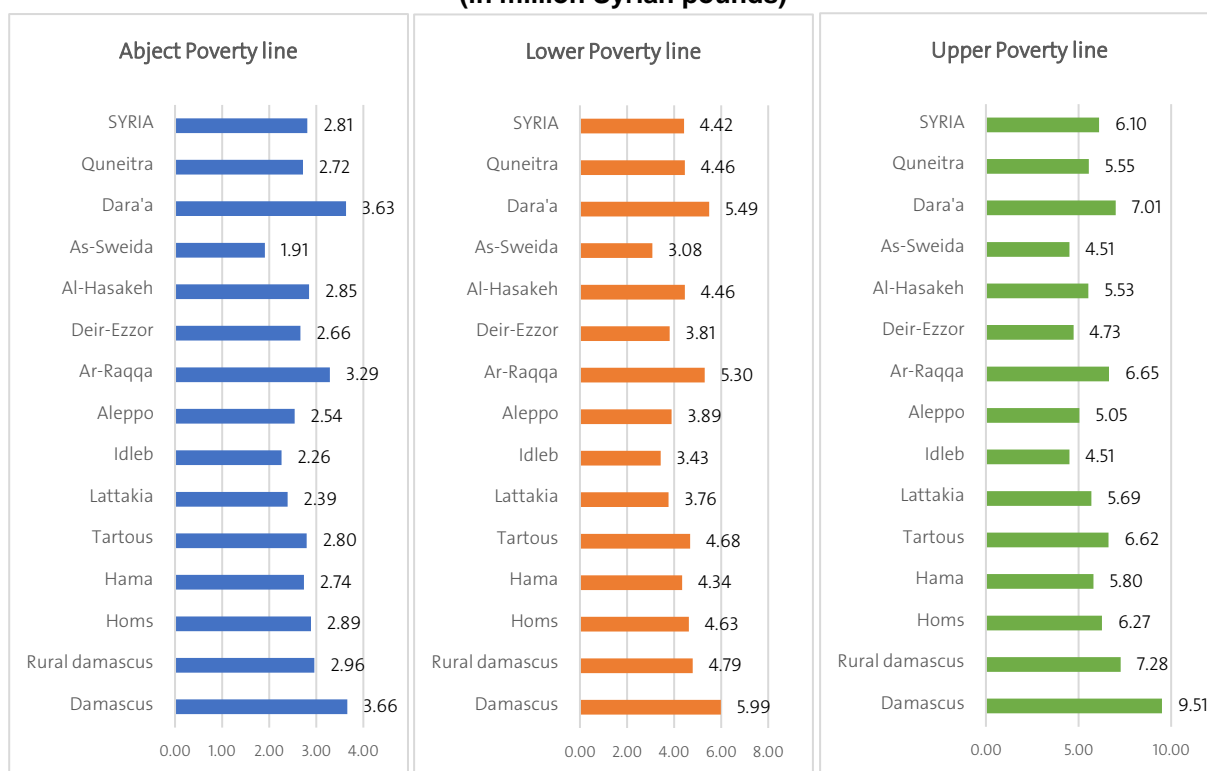
⁷ Although the wages of civil sector workers in the GoS areas are relatively high compared to public and private sector wages, they are low compared to the rest. It equates to 35 per cent of the civil sector worker wage in the AA areas and 23 per cent in the SSG and SIG areas in September 2024.

⁸ 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, September 2024

In September 2024, the abject poverty line for families,⁹ serving as an indicator of food insecurity, rose to SYP 2.81 million per month, marking an increase of SYP 38 thousand from August 2024. The lower poverty line increased by SYP 60 thousand from the previous month to reach SYP 4.4 million, while the upper poverty line saw an SYP 82 thousand increase, reaching SYP 6.1 million. The highest values for poverty lines were recorded in the governorates of Damascus, Dara'a, and Ar-Raqqa, while As-Sweida, Idlib, Deir-Ezzor recorded the lowest poverty lines in September 2024.

Figure (6): Monthly poverty lines in Syria during September 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 September 2024, with an abject poverty line of SYP 2.07 million, a lower poverty line of SYP 3.16 million, and an upper poverty line of SYP 4.13 million. The AA areas topped the ranking in terms of the abject and lower poverty lines in September 2024, as the abject poverty line reached SYP 2.95 million, and the lower poverty line reached SYP 4.52 million. It was followed by the GoS areas, with an abject poverty line of SYP 2.82 million, and a lower poverty line of SYP 4.46 million per month. The value of the upper poverty line in the GoS areas exceeded SYP 6.17 million per month, while it reached SYP 5.63 million in the AA areas.

⁹ 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 gap¹⁰ from the abject poverty line within Syria level in September 2024 reached about 79.8 per cent for a university-educated employee in the public sector, 62.1 per cent for a private sector worker, and 1 per cent for a civil sector worker. The impact of reducing the wages of workers in the SSG institutions was clearly evident when calculating the wage gap from the abject poverty line. In the previous month of August, there was no gap between the wages of workers in the SIG & SSG institutions and the abject poverty line, but their wages were higher than the abject poverty line by 5.4 per cent. In September, there was a gap between the wages and the abject poverty line by 30.6 per cent.

**Table (3): Monthly wage gap from poverty lines in Syria during September 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	-89.0%	-30.6%	-64.0%	-79.8%
Private sector worker	-66.2%	-13.1%	-64.5%	-62.1%
Civil sector worker	-41.5%	240.1%	58.9%	-1.0%
B- Wage gap from the lower poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-93.0%	-54.5%	-76.5%	-87.1%
Private sector worker	-78.6%	-43.0%	-76.8%	-75.9%
Civil sector worker	-63.0%	123.2%	3.6%	-37.1%
C- Wage gap from the upper poverty line				
University-educated employees in the public sector	-95.0%	-65.2%	-81.2%	-90.7%
Private sector worker	-86.69%	-83.36%	-78.39%	-80.05%
Civil sector worker	-73.3%	70.8%	-16.8%	-54.4%

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

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

Notably, wages of civil sector workers in the SIG, the SSG, and the AA areas surpassed the abject poverty line by 240 per cent and 59 per cent, respectively. Wages in the civil sector in the GoS areas were 41.5 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.

The wage gap between public sector employees in the areas of the GoS areas and the upper poverty line reached 95 per cent, 81.2 per cent in the AA areas, and 65.2 per cent in the SIG & SSG areas during September 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 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 18.8 per cent of the basic needs required for a decent life, while the wages of workers in the SIG & SSG areas cover 34.8 per cent of the basic needs.

¹⁰ 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 September 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	907	755	795	718	851	740	468	711	744	650	890	730	785	746	707
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	703	689	760	688	738	720	444	634	630	665	727	632	698	695	658
Tobacco	551	574	565	564	612	562	400	448	433	579	513	613	550	531	534
Clothing and footwear	641	865	696	777	1,034	1,096	494	725	885	559	1,282	942	851	688	800
Housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels	1,243	983	960	815	1,146	853	563	838	1,080	637	1,301	935	983	930	849
Household equipment and maintenance	909	655	783	896	709	666	345	555	594	652	963	625	904	831	675
Health	777	841	828	735	895	877	421	729	968	809	811	771	1,106	683	788
Transportation	948	762	780	781	779	810	569	742	747	739	979	927	879	980	821
Communications	334	333	337	334	335	333	91	492	330	333	337	336	337	335	233
Culture and entertainment	535	780	689	556	833	674	363	725	1,680	668	896	692	810	567	728
Education	833	664	820	747	933	793	1,112	619	942	545	865	715	930	577	772
Various goods and services	842	725	855	785	942	645	422	772	693	727	510	859	771	695	740

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



scpr-syria.org
info@scpr-syria.org