



04-05/09

Economic Research Center NEWSLETTER





April & May 04-05/2009

Projects

Inflation indicator for the first term was presented

On April 13, 2009 Economic Research Center (ERC) presents statistical findings of prices of March of 2009 in 11 regions of Azerbaijan within the "Calculation of Alternative Inflation Level" program implemented within the Institutional Support project of OSI Budapest Foundation. Statistical observations indicate that there was observed 0.84% decrease in consumer price index (CPI) in Azerbaijan during March. Deflation in Baku was 1.05%, in regions – 0.63%. The highest deflation rate on commodity groups was observed on non-food production – 1.78%. The most price decrease was observed in construction materials (2.67%), cloth and foot-wear (1.65%) and household goods (1.60%). From food products the most price decrease was observed in milk and milk products, egg (6.34%) and fruit-vegetable (2.26%). Consumer price index (CPI) increased 1.97% on March of 2009 compared to March of last year.

3.16% price decrease was observed in Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the first term of this year.

Inflation indicators of April months were presented

On May 14, 2009 Economic Research Center (ERC) presents statistical findings of prices of April of 2009 in 11 regions of Azerbaijan within the "Calculation of Alternative Inflation Level" program implemented within the Institutional Support project of OSI Budapest Foundation. According to the information given in the briefing by the ERC Acting Director, Vusal Gasimli results of statistical observations indicates that deflation process on April comparatively to March of this year rather weakened. As, 0.36 % deflation (0.84% in March) was observed in Consumer Price Index (CPI). Moreover, deflation in Baku was 0.08%, in regions – 0.64%.

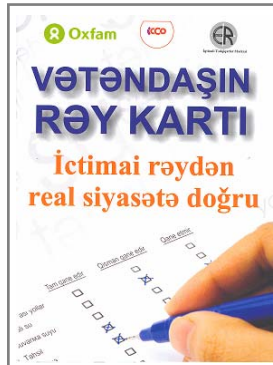
The highest deflation rate on commodity groups as in the last month was observed on non-food products – 0.76%. The most price decrease was observed in construction materials (2.92%), cloth and foot-wear (0.73%) and household goods (0.23%). From food products the most price decrease was observed in milk and milk products, egg (3.68%) and fruit-vegetable (2.43%). There was observed annual deflation for the first time in last ten years on April compared to April of 2008. Thus, based on results of this month consumer price index decreased 1.47% within 12 months. Here, most price decrease was observed in food products – 4.92%. During the reporting period, 1.69% price decrease was observed on non-food products, and 3.88% -- services. Consumer Price Index has decreased 3.51% since the beginning of the year.

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“Citizen Report Card: from Public opinion to real policy” Book published

Economic Research Center published “Citizen Report Card: from Public opinion to real policy” book within the “Strengthening local-self governments in Azerbaijan” project financed by “Oxfam” Great Britain and Netherland’s ICCO organizations. Information about citizen report card survey of the Center conducted within the project in municipalities of Agjabadi, Tartar, Barda districts, and its role in increasing of public participation in local-selfgovernments were reflected in this book.

Note, that on November of 2008 Citizen Report Card (CRC) survey was conducted within the project in Ranjbarlar, Galabadin municipalities of Agjabadi district, I Garadamirchi, Daymadagildi, Muganli, Mustafaagali, Garatapa, Mollali municipalities of Barda district, Ismayilbayli of Tartar district and in the area of Sahlabad municipalities. The aim of citizen report card is to learn opinion of residents to quantity and quality indicators of public services. Unlike public opinion survey CRC learns opinion of user of specific service. CRC learning residents opinions and outreach to future, serves for delivering citizen’s position to state and municipality organs. Thus, the survey allows to prepare good grounds for increasing quality of services in future based on opinions and proposals of residents in service fields.





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Meetings

Chairman of ERC Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu attended conference organized by Asian Development Bank Institute in the capital of Philippines, Manila on the topic "Strengthening Governance for Infrastructure Service Delivery: The Role of Public – Private Sector Partnerships", on March 9-12, 2009. Representatives of public sectors, training institutes, national and regional administrations of Asia-Pacific, Central Asia regions, and overall 23 representatives from 19 countries participated in this conference. The focus of three day conference was to enhance the role of leadership and stakeholder involvement in achieving effective and efficient public services, increasing need for transparent and accountable procurement practices in achieving value for money and improved public service delivery and develop important role of sub-national governments and local administrations in ensuring quality infrastructure services as cost effectively delivered to public. During the conference, Dr.Ibadoglu met with number of experts representing international financial-credit organizations, prominent consulting and audit companies, regional countries and held discussions. He made contributions through a multi-media presentation on the situation in Azerbaijan and active participation in panel discussions. This contribution of Dr. Ibadoglu was appraised by Asian Development Bank Institute, and personally thanked by the Director of the Asian Development Bank Institute at the end of the conference.

On March 23-27, 2009 Chairman of ERC Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu attended conference on "Health Budget Monitoring and Analyses", organized by Open Society Institute-New York, in Istanbul, Turkey. There were 24 representatives from 6 countries at the Conference. G.Ibadoglu together with his Azerbaijani colleague held analysis of current situation in health budget formation, public participation and advocacy and related issues in budget process and acquainted conference participants with results. At the end of the Conference country presentations heard and group-discussion on proposed project proposals with participation of experts held. As a result of discussions, it was decided to continue cooperation of Open Society Institute – New York office with "Call for Health" NGO Alliance and Harm Reduction Network.

Chairman of ERC Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu as a participant of JFDP 2008-2009 with invitation of Bureau on American Education and Culture within the US State Department



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completed his activity in North Carolina University located in Chapell Hill in USA and returned to Baku. As a program participant his activity was mainly in academic circles of North Carolina University and Duke University. During his stay in USA he publicized Azerbaijan and made speeches related to his academic activity in both universities, and held meetings in World Bank in Washington DC, American Educational Council and other organizations, as well as Revenue Watch Institute in New York.

Gubad Ibadoglu as an invited professor of North Carolina University together with his academic advisor Patrick Conway presented a research project prepared by him on "Dutch Disease in Azerbaijan" topic to national contest announced by Delaware University with financial support of US State Department and won. This project was started in North Carolina University and it's intended to continue it in Economic Research Center. The project started on April of 2009 and decided to finish till November.

On April of 2009, Deputy-Chairman of ERC Management Board, Vusal Gasimli met with economist of Japan's JICA organization, M.Nagata. V.Gasimli informed about investment projects implementing in Azerbaijan. As a result of the meeting, official agreement for three month was signed between ERC and JICA.

On April of 2009, Deputy-Chairman of ERC Management Board, Vusal Gasimli met with the head economist of Revenue Watch Institute, Akram Aslanov. There was given information about research projects, as well as macroeconomic models of ERC as a think tank during the meeting.

On May, Deputy-Chairman of Economic Research Center's Management Board, Vusal Gasimli met with associate of Swiss Embassy in Azerbaijan, Naila Safarova. Mainly there were discussions about impact of global economic crisis in financial sector of Azerbaijan.



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On May 13, 2009 Member of ERC Management Board, Dunya Jamalova met with Ph.D Candidate at Ruhr University of Germany, Elisabeth Bell. During the meeting, the guest was informed about refugee and IDP problem in Azerbaijan that was investigating. D.Jamalova noted that for the first time Azerbaijan met this problem during its independence in 1988-1989 years when Azerbaijanis living in Armenia were faced with forced deportation from their lands, that time 300 thousand refugees came to the country. She also noted that in few year when Armenian invaders captured Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts the country faced with even more huge number of refugees and IDPs, more than a million people drove out their homeplaces. D.Jamalova informed about the results of project implemented by the ERC and monitoring of efficiency and transparency of food aid, allocated resources to cover communal service fees of refugees and IDPs as well.

At the end of the meeting E.Bell noted that her research is specially on this topic and expressed her willing to cooperate with ERC in the next stage.

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