



№ 11

Economic Research Center NEWSLETTER





August 11/2008

Projects

The results of the July month of this year's statistical price observations

The Economic Research Center (ERC) presents the results of the June month of this year's statistical price observations. This research was conducted with the partially financed by Think Thank Fund OSI, Budapest within the framework of Institutional Core Funding, in 11 districts of Azerbaijan as a part of ERC's Alternative Inflation Methodology Development Project. According to the price observations on July of 2008, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Azerbaijan was calculated at a rate of 0.72 % with Baku being 0.44 % and districts -1.09 %. The highest inflation rate on commodity groups was observed in food items — 0.91%, non-food items – 0.67%, and in service sector – 0.29%. According ERC researches consumer price index (CPI) during 7 months of this year was 15.58%. Yearly inflation made 29.01% as compared July of this year with the previous years.

Statistic researches showed the highest rise in prices on July of 2008, on food items – greens (66.55%), melon (56.07%), sugar (21.77%), strawberry (14.74%), cucumber (14.12); on non-food items – hallway furniture (13.25%), air-conditioners (11.99%), bicycle (2.53%), on service sector – food service by restaurant (14.94%), room service by hotel and inn (11.09%). The lowest rise in prices on food items – tomato (14.75%) lemon (11.28%), potato (11.03%), peach (6.94), wheat flour (4.12%)

Meeting of Town Municipalities Association

On August 18, 2008 project coordinator of “Strengthening local self government organizations in Azerbaijan” project, Vusal Gasimli and project assistant, Rajab Imanov met with the chairman of Town Municipalities Association, Ilham Khalilov within the project. During the meeting, chairman of Association gained wide information about project goals and objectives, moreover books containing explanation of usage rules of “Transparent budget” and “Applied budget analysis” computer programs prepared within the project were presented. There was also discussed perspectives to spread these programs through municipality associations.

In order to make available usage of “Transparent budget” and “Applied budget analysis” programs widespread in country municipalities after discussions, it was decided to held meetings and discussions with the associates of city, town and village associations.



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Economic Research Center started implementation of a new project

Since August 26, Economic Research Center started implementation of "Evaluation of activity and accountability of corporate social responsibility" project with assistance of State Support Council to Non-government Organizations by the President of Azerbaijan Republic. According to project manager, Tural Mammadov social responsibility and level of accountability of large corporations operating in Azerbaijan will be evaluated within the project and emerged problems in this field will be socialized and recommendations for their solution will be prepared.

For research of social responsibility problems of large business corporations there will be conducted survey among them and qualified experts.



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Meetings

On July 28, 2008 Chairman of the Economic Research Center (ERC) Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu in Baku office of the UN met with resident coordinator of the organization in Azerbaijan Republic and representative of the UN Development Program, Bruno Puezza and head advisor of UNDP, Gulshan Rzayeva. Economic advisor of the USAID, Paul Davis and associate professor of Vidsor University of Canada, research mentor of “Household budget survey methodology development” project implemented by the ERC, Nazim Habibov participated in the meeting. “Household budget survey methodology development” project implemented by the ERC with financial support of the USAID was presented in the meeting. Survey questionnaire that will be held in households within the project was discussed during the presentation. It was decided to continue these discussions with experts of other operating institutions of the UN in Azerbaijan.

There was held first meeting of working group in the office of the UNDP on August 4, 2008. Gender and public relations advisor of UNFPA, Nigina Abaszada, head advisor of UNDP, Gulshan Rzayeva, representative of USAID/PHCS Program, Aybaniz Ibrahimova, expert on health funding policy of the World Health Organization, Jenni Kehler, economic advisor of the USAID, Paul Davis, Chairman of the Economic Research Center (ERC) Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu, Deputy-Chairman of the ERC Management Board, Vusal Gasimli, ERC “Household budget survey methodology development” project research mentor, Nazim Habibov participated in the meeting. There was made presentation of survey questionnaire prepared by ERC research group by the associate professor of Vindsor University of Canada, research mentor of ERC project, Nazim Habibov at first. There were held discussions on comments and suggestions made to the survey.

On August 6, 2008 Chairman of Economic Research Center (ERC) Management Board ,Gubad Ibadoglu held discussions on “Household budget survey methodology development” project implemented by the ERC with the Director of South-East Asia Office of Global Economy Advising Service of the Montague Lord International organization, Montague Lord and economic advisor of the USAID, Paul Davis. During the discussion, main attention was drawn to the affecting issues of trade gap to poverty. Comments of Mr. Montague Lord in this field were discussed.



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On August 8, 2008, Chairman of Economic Research Center (ERC) Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu, Deputy Chairman Vusal Gasimli, met with the Programme Planning Officer of UNICEF, Siraj Mahmudov and discussed survey questionnaire of the "Household budget survey methodology development" project implemented by the ERC. There were made some changes in the questionnaire to measure child poverty as a result of the research with suggestion of Siraj Mahmudov.

On August 13, 2008, Chairman of Economic Research Center (ERC), Gubad Ibadoglu, Deputy Chairman Vusal Gasimli, economic advisor of the USAID, Paul Davis held discussions on "Household budget survey methodology development" project implemented by the ERC with the Director of the International Monetary Funds' Agency in Azerbaijan, Koba Gvenetadze and associate of the agency, Mubariz Huseynguliyev. At the same time, there were exchange of views concerning regressions between achieved survey results and macroeconomic indicators.

Associate of Oxfam Novib organization visited Center

On August 19, 2008, Chairman of Economic Research Center (ERC), Gubad Ibadoglu, Deputy Chairman Vusal Gasimli, Members of Management Board, Dunya Sakit and Fuat Rasulov met with Financial Officer of Netherlands' Oxfam Novib organization, Jessica Gachet. Financial Manager of the ERC, Anar Bayramov, chief accountant, Oksana Mammadova, HR Jeyran Nasibova and External Communications Officer, Nigar Mammadova participated in meeting. During the meeting, Chairman of the ERC Management Board, Gubad Ibadoglu informed guest about program activity of the organization, and Financial Manager, Anar Bayramov informed about fiscal-accounting policy. Main discussions of the meeting were about organization of ERC management and financial policy.

Jessica Gachet mostly was interested in fiscal accounting policy of the ERC. Financial manager gave detailed answers to her questions in this field. Moreover, during the meeting J.Gachet informed about fiscal-accounting policy of Oxfam Novib organization, about financial report standards.

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Associates were awarded

Economic Research Center continues reward associates who are successful in their activity. Thus, with submission of HR department of the Center and decision of Management Board of the Center three associates of the organization were rewarded for best results achieved in their activities in August. These are: Accountant – Oksana Mammadova, Office Manager – Shohlat Salimov and External Communications Officer – Nigar Mammadova.

With the decision of the Management Board above mentioned employees were awarded with 100AZN and received appreciation.

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