

# Food prices fall

Travel and clothing costs rise in Bahrain from January to May 2025, according to iGA data

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Prices of everyday goods in Bahrain have dropped in recent months, while spending on travel and luxury items has crept up, according to government data covering the period from January to May 2025.

The figures, released by the Information and eGovernment Authority (iGA), show a sharp fall in the cost of seafood, which dropped by 11.2 per cent. This was the steepest fall across all categories.

Vegetables and legumes were down by 2.1 per cent.

Food prices as a whole declined by an average of 1.6 per cent, while the broader category of food and non-alcoholic drink slipped by 1.4 per cent.



Seafood prices take a dive – the sharpest drop among all categories. (Image used for illustrative purposes only)

## Pressure

These shifts are easing pressure on household budgets at a time when wages remain largely unchanged and expenses elsewhere continue to climb.

Luxury items and services,

however, are pulling in the other direction. Shoe prices climbed by 2.7 per cent.

Packaged holidays rose by 2.3 per cent, a change that suggests renewed appetite for travel following several lean years.



The cost of personal luggage increased by 2.2 per cent. Clothing prices edged up by 0.98 per cent. On the whole, clothing and footwear prices together saw an annual rise of 1.2 per cent.

## Stable

Other categories have remained largely stable. Health services showed little movement.

Transport prices saw some wobble, mostly tied to fuel costs and regional developments.

Telecommunications recorded slight drops in the price of certain devices and equipment, owing to market rivalry and ongoing discount plans.

School fees and related costs in the education sector showed no clear sign of major change.

## Trends

As these trends play out, there are growing calls for sharper oversight of the markets.

Some are urging wider use of technology to track prices and a firmer hand when dealing with practices that interfere with people's access to everyday goods.

The aim is to keep living costs in check and ensure shelves remain within reach.

## Acquittal sought in expired food products case

● July hearing set

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A lawyer has urged the acquittal of two company owners and 20 workers accused in a case involving expired food products, after a warehouse employee filmed expiry dates being stripped and replaced with false ones.

The court has given the prosecution until 22 July to respond.

The defence, led by Rabab Al Arrayed, told the court that none of the seized goods had been tested to determine whether they were spoiled or harmful.

In the absence of any analysis, she argued, there was no proof the products were unfit for consumption and therefore no basis for the charges.

The second defendant appeared in court with the 20 Asian workers. The first defendant, identified as the owner of the two firms, was not present.

# Workshop on midday work ban and heat stress prevention

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The Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the Bahrain Health and Safety Society and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), organized a workshop titled "Midday Work Ban and Heat Stress Prevention."

The event was held in the presence of His Highness Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour, and Ayesha Ehma Sherif, Chief of the IOM Mission, with participation from representatives of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), labour unions,



HH Shaikh Khalifa bin Salman bin Mohammed Al Khalifa with distinguished guests and attendees

and federations.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness about preventive

measures to safeguard workers' health and safety during the summer months by pro-

moting safe and healthy practices to prevent heat-related complications.

It also reinforced the importance of maintaining a safe working environment through

compliance with national legislation designed to protect workers from natural hazards.

Discussions during the event highlighted key summer-related illnesses affecting workers exposed to high temperatures and humidity. Experts shared practical and health-focused strategies to prevent and mitigate these conditions.

A key component of the workshop was a panel discussion on Ministerial Order No. (3) of 2013, as amended by Order No. (11) of 2025, which enforces the ban on outdoor work under direct sunlight from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. between June 15 and September 15.

# Bahrain's Young Voices Lead Global Ocean Call

● UN summit inspires youth

● Bahrain hosts marine dialogue

● Film and forum spark action

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A new generation of Bahrainis stepped forward as ocean advocates during a public event on Wednesday that echoed the global momentum sparked by the recent United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3) in France.

Held at the Bahrain Science Centre for SDGs in Isa Town, the 'Bahar Talks' initiative brought together marine experts, young climate leaders, and local organisations for an evening of dialogue and reflection on ocean conservation. The event, hosted by the French Embassy and the Bahrain Science Centre in partnership with the Ministry of Youth



Affairs, and Alliance Française Bahreïn, marked one of the first major youth-centred follow-ups to UNOC3 in the region.

## From Film to Forum

The evening opened with a screening of Tara, the Coral Odyssey, a French documentary chronicling expeditions by Fondation Tara Océan to study coral ecosystems threatened by climate change. The film set the tone for a spirited roundtable moderated by Aysha Alsherooqi, SDG specialist and Bahrain's representative to the Arab Youth Council for Climate Change.

Panelists included Dr Reem Al Mealla, founder of local ma-



rine NGO NUWAT, and Khaled Al Saeed, president of the Bahrain Diving Volunteer Team and CEO of Sea World Expo Bahrain 2025. They were joined by marine biologists Sylvain Kreuter



Marine experts, young climate leaders, and local organisations discuss ocean conservation

and Rahma Aleskafi, alongside Fatima Alzaki, a rising youth leader who attended the UNOC3 summit in Nice after being selected through the 3rd Green Youth Hackathon.

## Ocean Momentum

Speakers highlighted the critical role of young people in shaping Bahrain's environmental future and stressed the impor-

tance of local actions aligning with global sustainability goals. Discussions revolved around Sustainable Development Goal 14 - Life Below Water - with an emphasis on combining scientific research with public engagement.

Bahar Talks was described by participants as a meaningful continuation of UNOC3's message, ensuring it resonates not only on the international stage but also in grassroots movements and local policymaking circles.

The event drew attention to the growing appetite among Bahrain's youth to take the lead in ocean conservation initiatives at home and abroad.