

# Wholesale inflation quickened to record high of 15.1% in April

Price gains at the highest level in current data series spurred by fuel, food costs

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Inflation in wholesale prices quickened to 15.1% in April, the fastest pace in the current data series, driven largely by a spike in fuel and food prices, especially of perishables such as fruits, vegetables and milk. The rate was 14.5% in March.

The previous inflation record in the current series of the Wholesale Price Index using 2011-12 as base year was 14.9% in November 2021. There was negligible base effect at work as wholesale price inflation stood at 10.7% last April.

“The all-time high level of wholesale price inflation in



**Withering heights:** The heatwave sent prices of perishables such as fruits and vegetables soaring. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

April was driven by the rise in prices across the board, with manufactured products and fuel and power leading the charge,” said CARE Ratings chief economist Rajani Sinha. Producers are expect-

ed to pass on rising costs to consumers, which could push retail inflation even higher than the 95-month high of 7.8% seen in April.

Fuel and power inflation quickened to 38.7% last

month, from March’s 34.5%, while manufactured products inflation inched up to 10.9%, from 10.7%, and food price inflation ticked up to 8.9%, from 8.7%.

Primary articles were the only group to see a deceleration in inflation, easing a tad to 15.45%, from 15.54% in March. Petrol and diesel registered a rise of 60.6% and 66.1%, respectively. Among food items, inflation in potatoes was at 19.8%, while vegetables hit 23.2%.

Fruit prices clocked 10.9% inflation, slightly faster than the 10.6% reported in March. Wheat prices rose 10.7% as per official data, cooling off from March’s 14% pace.