

# CDPR NEWSLETTER

MARCH

## 2025

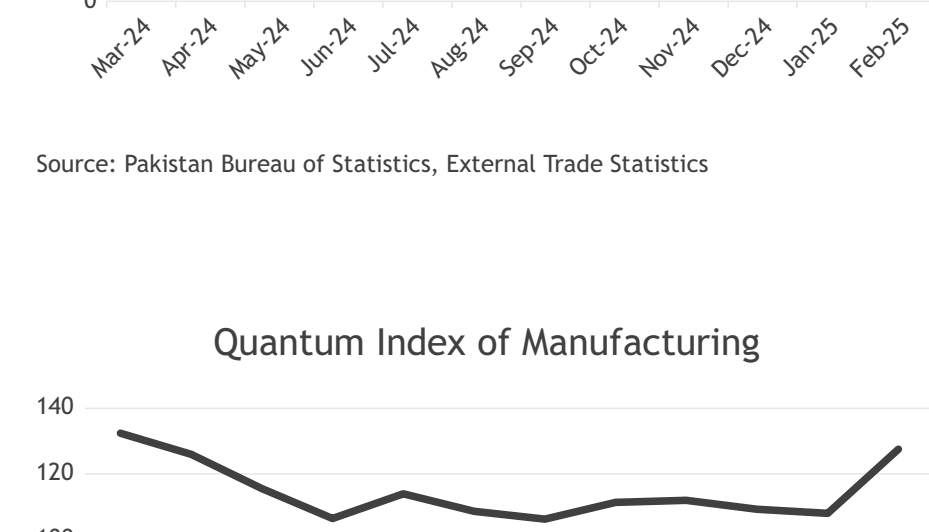
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## MACRODATA

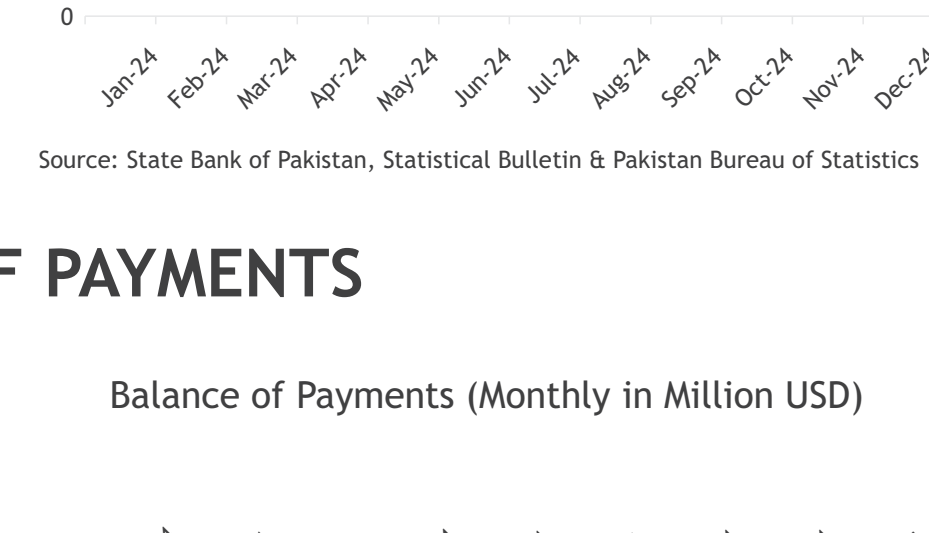
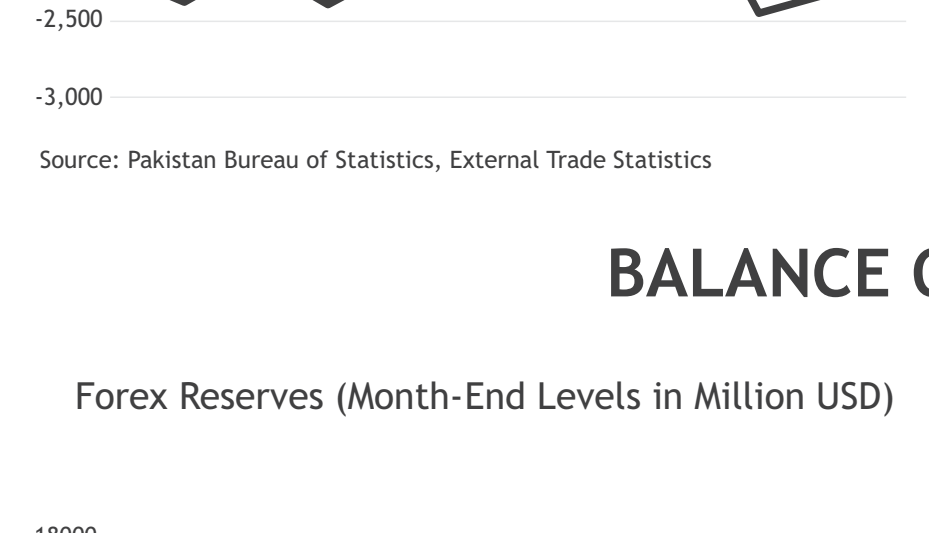
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### TRADE



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

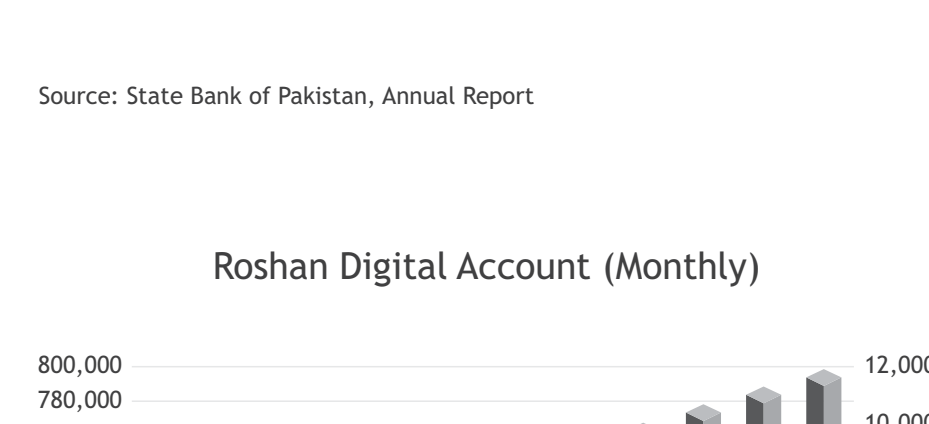
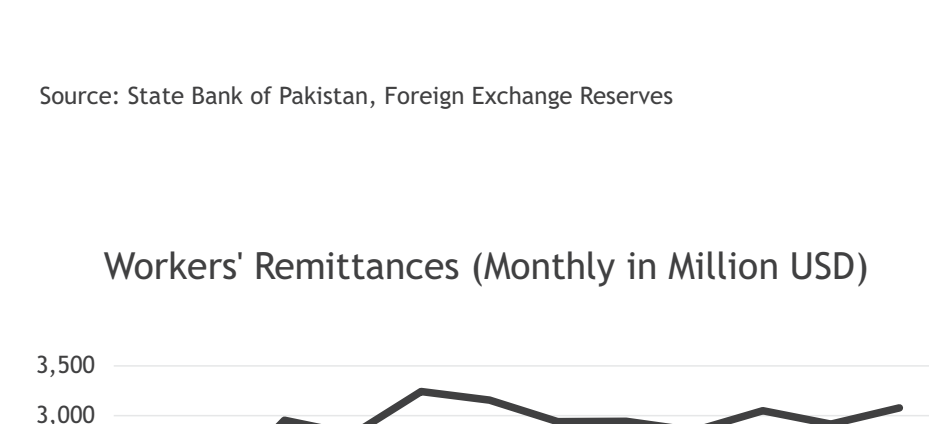
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, External Trade Statistics

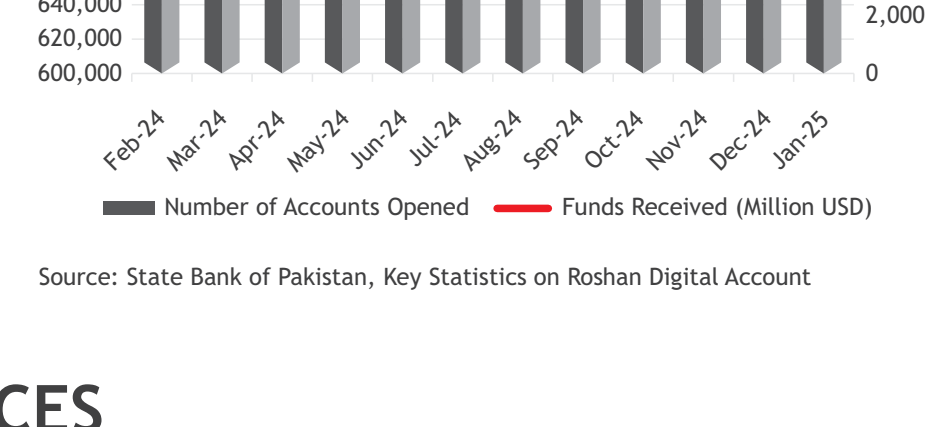
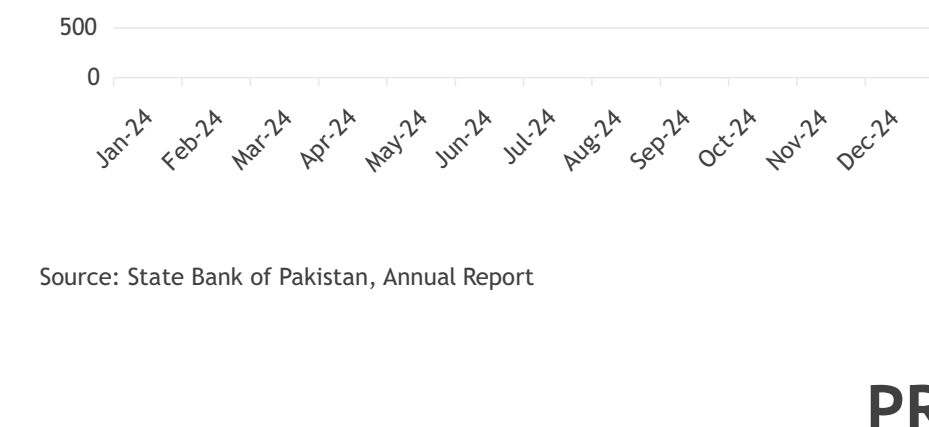
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Statistical Bulletin & Pakistan Bureau of Statistics

### BALANCE OF PAYMENTS



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Foreign Exchange Reserves

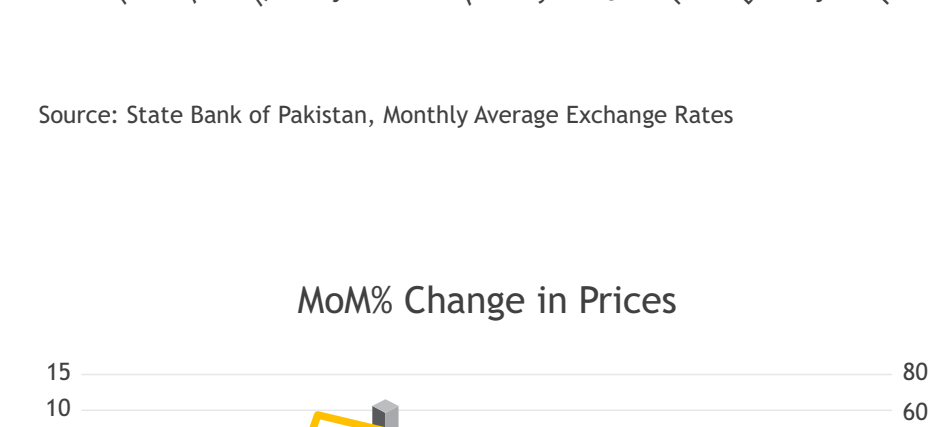
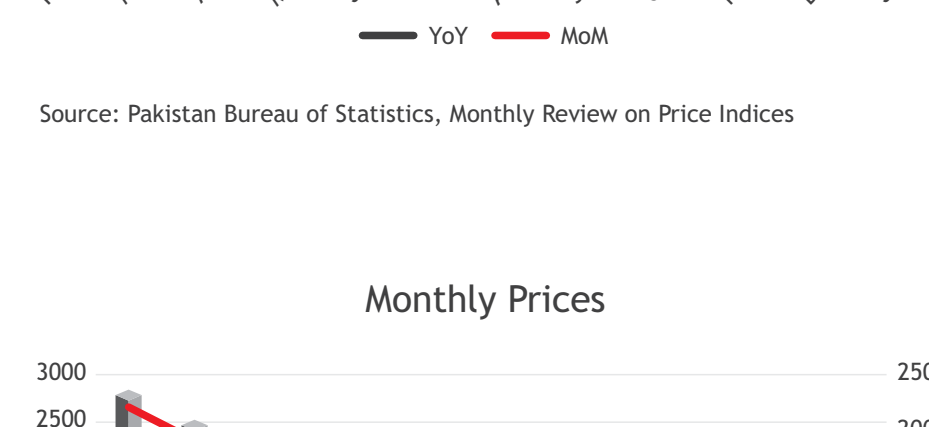
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report



Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Annual Report

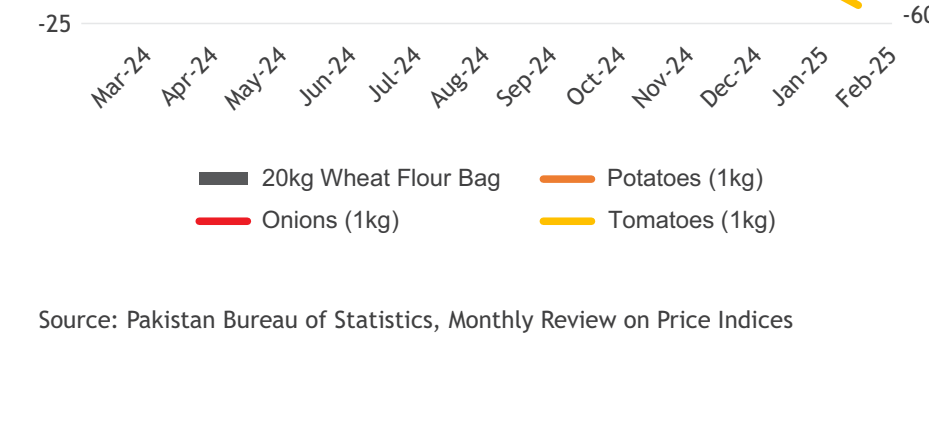
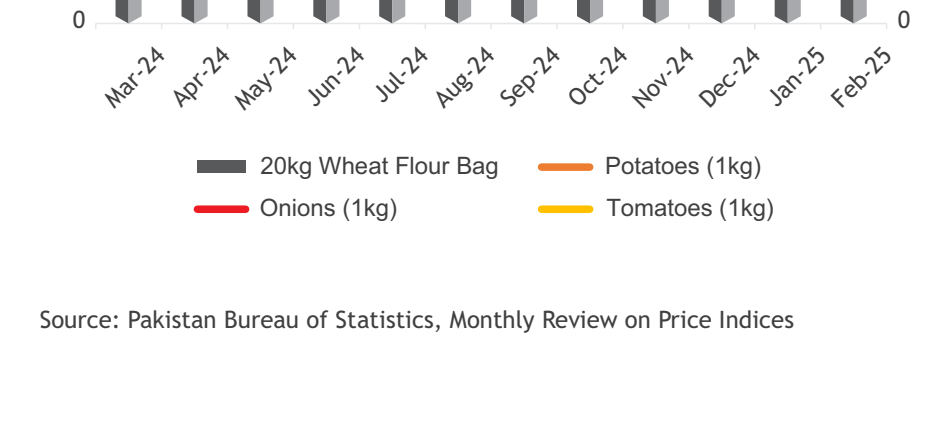
Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Key Statistics on Roshan Digital Account

### PRICES



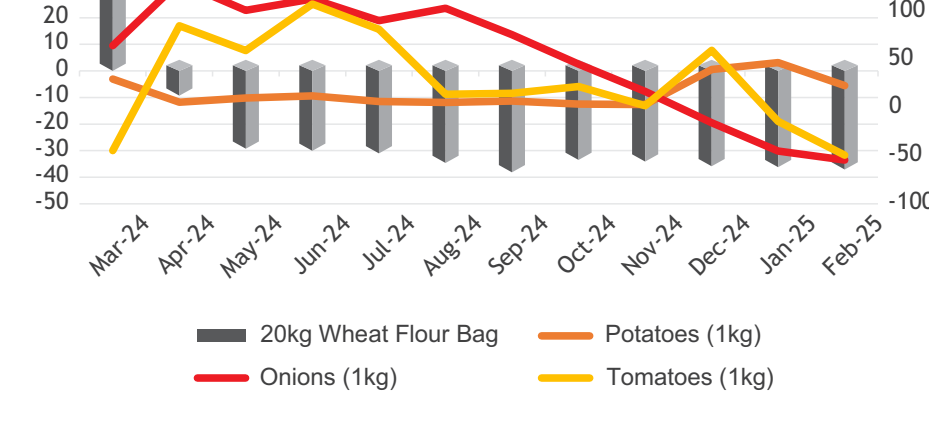
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: State Bank of Pakistan, Monthly Average Exchange Rates



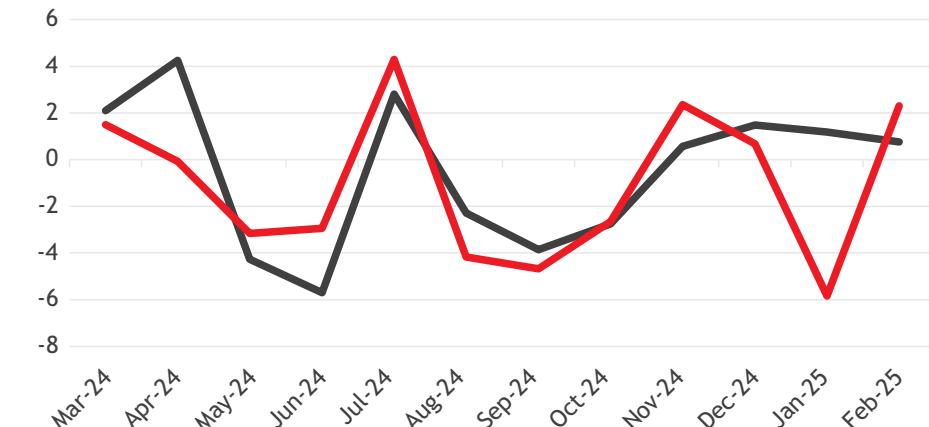
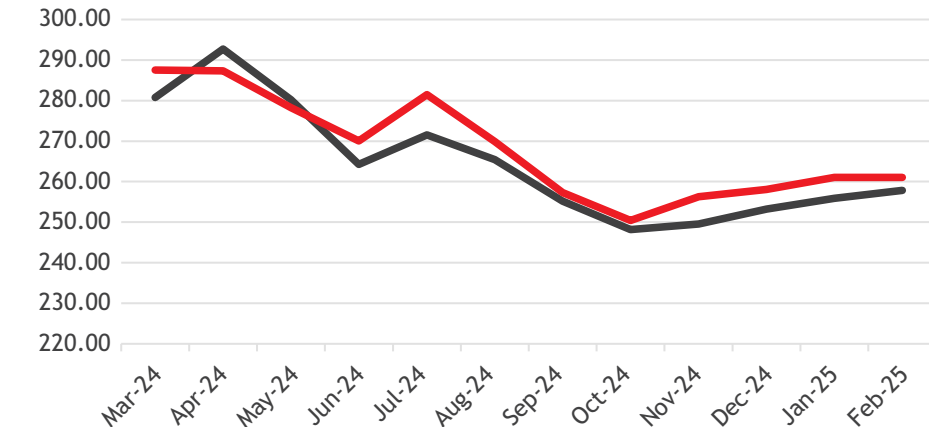
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



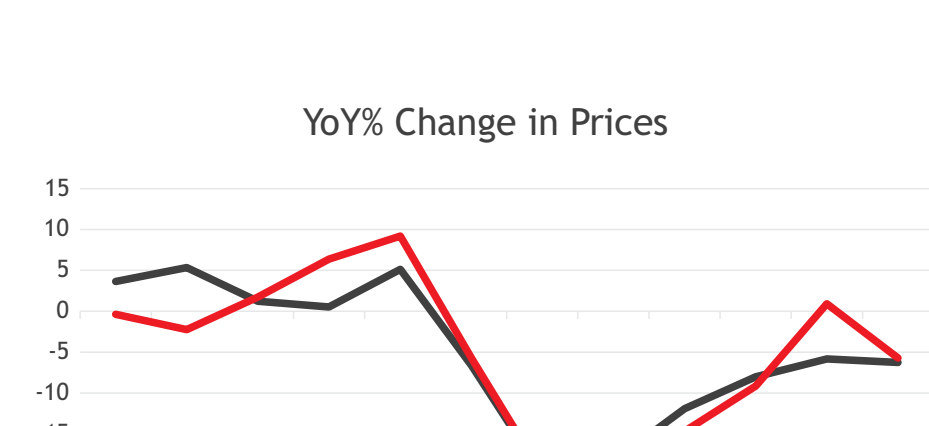
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

### ENERGY

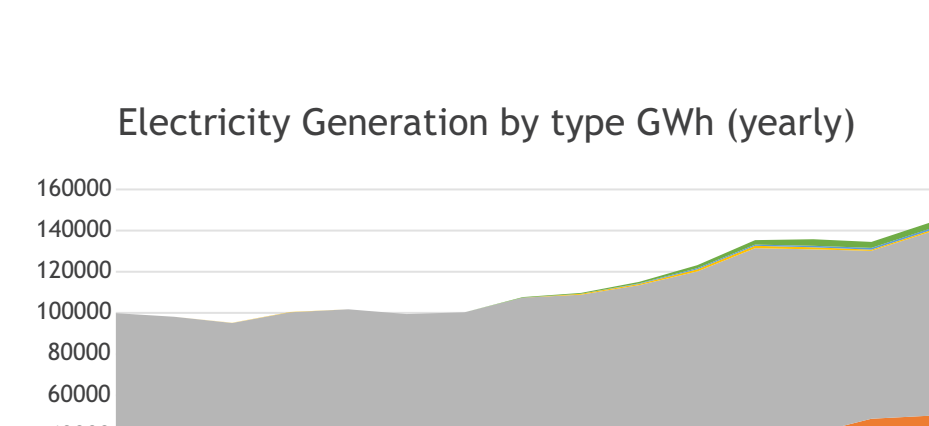


Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices

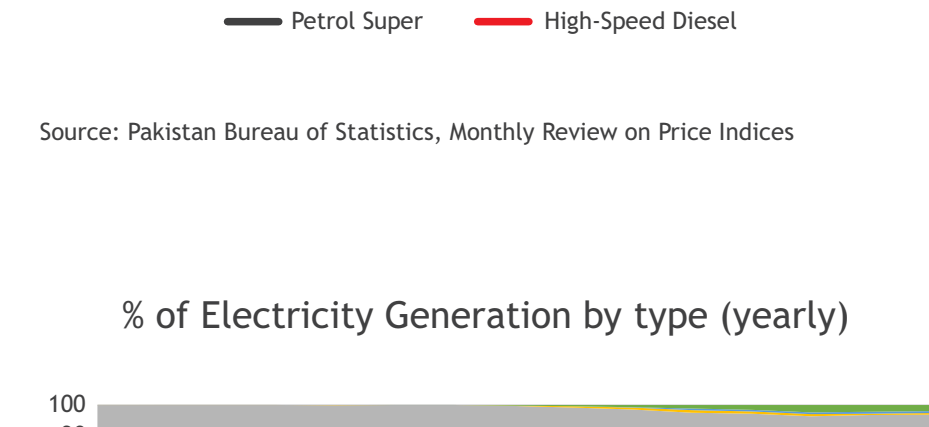
Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Monthly Review on Price Indices



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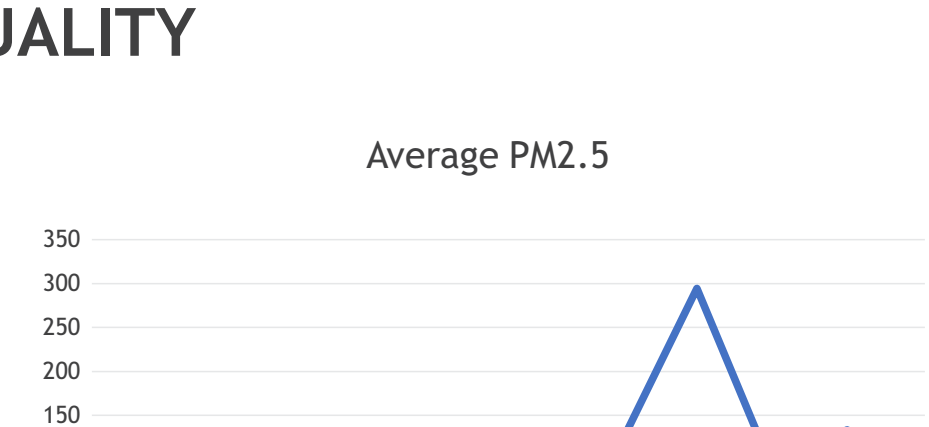
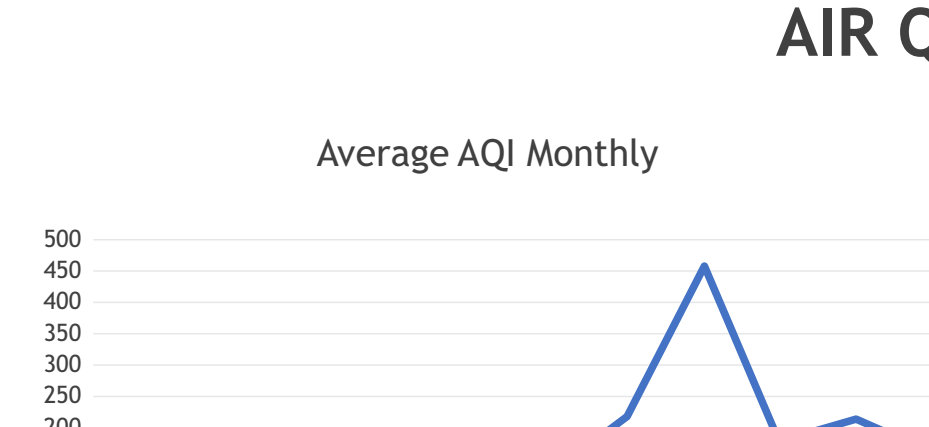


Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Trends in Electricity Generation



Source: Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Trends in Electricity Generation

### AIR QUALITY



Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

Source: Air Quality Index (AQI)

## INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

**Potential of Behavioral Insights to Improve Tax Compliance in Pakistan**

This month's Insights for Change article explores why tax compliance remains consistently low in Pakistan, and how behavioral insights can be leveraged to shift social norms and engage citizens. The article also explores how tax compliance can be incentivized through consumer involvement and simplification of tax processes.

The author, Sher Afghan Asad is an Assistant Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

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## POLICY ANALYSIS

**Women's Mobility and Labour Supply: Experimental Evidence from Pakistan**

In this month's policy analysis section, we include a IGC funded working paper on assessing women's mobility restrictions and labour force participation. The principal investigators are Kate Vyborny (Associate Director, DevLab at Duke) and Erica Field (Associate Professor, Duke University).

In cities with conservative norms or high crime, female workers may face greater restrictions on their physical mobility. This limits women's labor market opportunities and the pool of workers that firms can attract. In this paper, they investigate the constraints on women's labor force participation due to limited safe mobility for the daily commute to and from work.

They experimentally vary access to a transport service in Lahore, Pakistan, to quantify the overall impact of transport to work on men, women, and the differential impact of transport exclusively for women. The study shows that reducing physical mobility constraints has a large impact on job searching for women, including women who are not searching at baseline. Women are more responsive when the transport is women centric treatment, suggesting that safety and social acceptability, rather than simply cost, are key constraints.

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## LET'S TALK DEVELOPMENT

CDPR and IGC's podcast series called 'Let's Talk Development' is about understanding Pakistan's crucial economic and development problems. We engage experts in exploring critical development issues and trends in Pakistan.

**From Crisis to Resilience: Rethinking Water Management in Pakistan?**

In Pakistan, poor water management coupled with climate change has severely intensified the frequency and intensity of floods. The unpredictable rainfall patterns and inadequate infrastructure has further worsened Pakistan's water calamity. In this episode, Dr. Muhammad Azeem Ali Shah and Amen Jalal discuss water management issues prevailing in the country, recurring floods as a result of the climate crisis as well as climate smart agricultural interventions to improve water productivity.

[WATCH](#) [LISTEN HERE](#)

## EVENTS

**Women Rising: Navigating Barriers and Biases on the Path to Leadership**

CDPR in collaboration with the International Growth Center (IGC) organized a session of the Lahore Policy Exchange "Women Rising: Navigating Barriers and Biases on the Path to Leadership" on the 21st of February 2025. The session explored women's journey to leadership positions; the barriers and biases they overcome to get to these positions and how they eventually navigate these roles. It explored how women make themselves heard and influence decision-making in a society where leadership spaces are predominately male-dominated.

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## FELLOWS' ARTICLES

**FAISAL BARI**

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**UMAIR JAVED**

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**HOMI KHARAS**

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In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uninformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.