



INFLATION FALLS

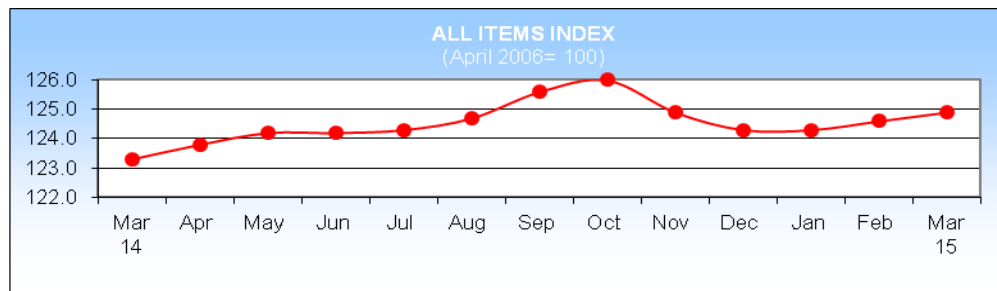
Consumers paid 1.2 per cent more in March 2015 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The level of inflation dropped 0.4 percentage points from the 1.6 per cent measured in February 2015.

Between February 2015 and March 2015, the average cost of goods and services in the Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 per cent. The all-items index climbed to 124.8 index points in March. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2006 now cost \$124.80.

YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Health & Personal Care sector was the largest contributor to the year-over-year increase in the consumer price index, increasing 7.3 per cent.

The Food sector and Household Goods, Services & Communications sector also had a strong impact on the year-over-year increase to the consumer price index. Price shifts in these two sectors were 2.7 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively.



**Inflation
Rate
1.2%**

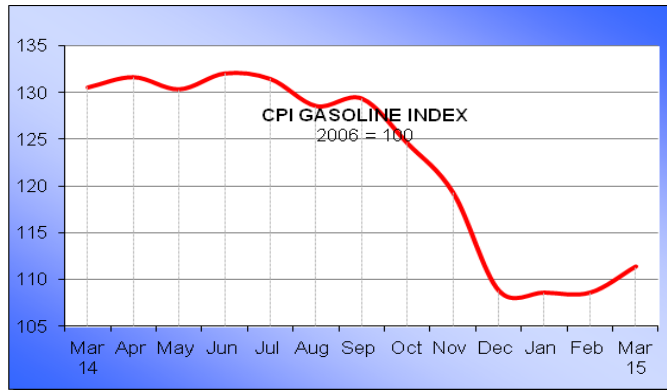
The compilation of the CPI involves the processing of several thousand price quotations. The Department of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required price data.

SUMMARY STATISTICS					
Period	Monthly		Period	Quarterly	
	Index	Annual per cent Change		Index	Annual per cent Change
2014			2013		
Mar	123.3	+2.0	Q1	120.6	+2.0
Apr	123.8	+1.9	Q2	121.7	+1.8
May	124.2	+2.1	Q3	122.3	+1.7
Jun	124.2	+1.8	Q4	122.4	+1.6
Jul	124.3	+1.9			
Aug	124.7	+2.1	2014		
Sep	125.6	+2.4	Q1	122.8	+1.8
Oct	126.0	+2.6	Q2	124.1	+2.0
Nov	124.9	+2.3	Q3	124.9	+2.1
Dec	124.3	+1.5	Q4	125.1	+2.2
2015			2015		
Jan	124.3	+1.4	Q1	124.6	+1.5
Feb	124.6	+1.6			
Mar	124.8	+1.2			

MONTH-TO-MONTH ANALYSIS

Transport & Vehicles

The Transport & Vehicle sector increased 0.7 per cent in March, following an increase of 1.9 per cent in February. The average price of premium fuel rose 2.4 per cent, but was partially offset by a decrease in the average cost of overseas accommodations of 6.5 per cent.



Food

The Food sector increased 0.3 per cent in March, following a 0.2 per cent increase in February. Leading factors behind the increase were the price of pasta (6.4 per cent), powdered drink mix (3.9 per cent) and ice cream (2.3 per cent).

Fuel & Power

The Fuel & Power sector rose 1.3 per cent in March, the first increase since September 2014. On average, consumers paid 1.4 per cent more for electricity.

Rent

The Rent sector increased 0.1 per cent in March as average rental prices for rent controlled properties increased by 0.1 per cent.

Tobacco & Liquor

The Tobacco & Liquor sector rose 0.1 per cent in March as the average cost of spirits edged up 0.2 per cent.

Health & Personal Care

The Health and Personal Care sector was static in March. Prescribed medicines prices increased 0.3 per cent, while average prices for toiletries, cosmetics & perfumes decreased 0.1 per cent.

Clothing & Footwear

There was no movement recorded in the Clothing & Footwear sector in March.

Household Goods, Services & Communications

The Household Goods, Services & Communications sector was unchanged for the month. The average price of detergents & bleaches decreased 2.0 per cent, however the average cost of food wraps & trash bags increased 1.1 per cent.

Education, Recreation & Reading

The Education, Recreation & Reading sector decreased 0.1 per cent in March. Pet care costs fell 1.0 per cent.

COMPUTING PRICE INCREASES

The Department of Statistics receives numerous calls daily requesting the rate of inflation over specific periods of time. The following calculations are provided to guide users as to how to compute rates of price increases. The monthly index numbers can be obtained from our website www.statistics.gov.bm.

A) Month-to-Month Price Change

The price change between November and December, 2013 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Dec 13 index} - \text{Nov 13 index}}{\text{Nov 13 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{122.4 - 122.1}{122.1} \times 100$$

$$= -0.3\%$$

B) Year-to-Year Price Change

The price change between December 2012 and December, 2013 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Dec 13 index} - \text{Dec 12 index}}{\text{Dec 12 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{122.4 - 120.1}{120.1} \times 100$$

$$= 1.9\%$$

C) Particular Period Price Change

The price change between February 2010 and January, 2014 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Jan 14 index} - \text{Feb 10 index}}{\text{Feb 10 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{122.5 - 111.7}{111.7} \times 100$$

$$= 9.7\%$$

BERMUDA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

APRIL 2006 = 100

	All Items	Food	Rent	Clothing & Footwear	Tobacco & Liquor	Fuel & Power	Household Goods, Services & Communications	Transport & Vehicles	Education, Recreation & Reading	Health & Personal Care
2004 WEIGHT	1000	146	325	37	20	30	140	139	71	92
ANNUAL AVERAGE (per cent)										
2010	+2.4	+3.0	+1.3	+2.4	+1.9	-0.8	+1.6	+1.8	+2.5	+8.1
2011	+2.7	+2.3	+1.1	+5.7	+3.1	+11.3	+2.0	+0.6	+2.6	+7.5
2012	+2.4	+3.5	+0.2	+4.3	+2.5	+9.3	+1.0	+1.6	+2.7	+6.6
2013	+1.8	+3.0	-0.3	+0.1	+4.4	-1.9	+0.5	+1.4	+2.5	+8.3
2014	+2.0	+3.1	+0.8	+2.0	+2.4	-2.4	+0.8	+1.7	+1.9	+6.7
MONTHLY (per cent)										
2013										
Mar	+0.2	+0.4	-0.5	Nil	Nil	+2.8	Nil	+1.4	Nil	+0.1
Apr	+0.5	+0.4	-0.3	+0.8	+1.7	Nil	Nil	-1.9	Nil	+6.3
May	+0.1	-0.4	Nil	Nil	+2.0	-2.7	+0.1	+1.2	Nil	+0.7
Jun	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	Nil	+0.4	+1.8	-0.1	+1.6	-0.1	+0.1
Jul	Nil	+0.3	+0.2	+0.2	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	-1.8	-0.1	+0.1
Aug	+0.1	+0.8	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	+0.9	+0.4	-0.5	+0.1	Nil
Sep	+0.4	+0.2	Nil	Nil	-0.1	+0.8	-0.1	+2.2	+1.6	Nil
Oct	+0.1	-0.1	+0.1	+1.0	Nil	-0.8	+0.1	+0.5	-0.1	+0.4
Nov	-0.6	-0.4	Nil	+0.2	+0.4	-2.7	Nil	-3.2	-0.1	Nil
Dec	+0.3	-0.8	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	Nil	Nil	+2.6	+0.1	+0.1
2014										
Jan	+0.1	+1.5	+0.5	+0.7	+0.4	-2.9	Nil	-1.7	-0.1	Nil
Feb	+0.1	+0.3	Nil	Nil	-0.1	-2.1	Nil	+1.2	+0.2	-0.1
Mar	+0.5	+1.2	Nil	Nil	Nil	+2.1	+0.1	+2.0	Nil	Nil
Apr	+0.4	-0.2	+0.1	-0.3	+0.4	+1.1	Nil	-2.4	+0.2	+5.3
May	+0.3	-0.2	Nil	Nil	+0.1	+0.8	Nil	+2.6	+0.1	Nil
Jun	Nil	+0.2	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	+0.7	+0.5	-1.2	+0.1	+0.1
Jul	Nil	+0.7	Nil	+0.2	+0.1	+1.8	+0.2	-1.4	+0.1	+0.1
Aug	0.3	+0.7	Nil	Nil	-0.1	+1.3	Nil	+1.4	+0.1	Nil
Sep	0.7	+0.1	+0.1	Nil	Nil	+0.8	Nil	+4.3	+1.5	+0.1
Oct	0.3	+0.1	Nil	+0.5	+0.1	-2.6	+0.1	+1.0	-0.1	+1.7
Nov	-0.9	Nil	Nil	Nil	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	-7.2	Nil	Nil
Dec	-0.5	-0.7	Nil	Nil	-0.1	-9.0	Nil	Nil	-0.1	-0.1
2015										
Jan	Nil	1.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.3	-2.5	+0.4	-1.7	Nil	+0.1
Feb	+0.2	+0.2	Nil	Nil	+0.1	Nil	Nil	+1.9	-0.6	Nil
Mar	+0.2	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	+1.3	Nil	+0.7	-0.1	Nil
Mar '15	124.8	137.0	111.8	123.6	137.6	139.7	113.1	109.2	133.1	177.7
<u>Mar '15</u>	+1.2	+2.7	+0.4	+0.6	+1.2	-6.6	+1.3	-2.5	+1.2	+7.3
Mar '14										

WHAT IS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistical tool used for measuring changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households.

The index measures price movements of a given quality and quantity of goods and services. The mix of these consumer goods and services comprising the index, are figuratively thought of as a “shopping basket.” In constructing this “shopping basket”, the selected goods and services are organized first by commodity type. They are then divided into sub-components and assigned to a major expenditure group. The Bermuda CPI is structured into nine expenditure groups or sectors:

- Food
- Rent
- Clothing & Footwear
- Tobacco & Liquor
- Fuel & Power
- Transport & Vehicles
- Household Goods, Services & Communications
- Education, Recreation & Reading
- Health & Personal Care

CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Base Period

The time period which is used as a reference point for measuring the price change of goods and services. The base period for the Bermuda CPI is April 2006.

Price Index Number

A single figure that shows how a set of prices has changed over a specified period of time. An index number on its own means nothing. It must be compared with an index number from another period to have meaning. For example, a comparison of the index number 79.1 for January 1998 with 82.9 for January 2000, reveals that prices have increased by 4.8 percent.

Laspeyres Equation

The CPI is computed using this statistical equation. This formula calculates the total amount of money a household needs today to purchase the same basket of goods and services that it bought in the base period, April 2006.

WEIGHTED AVERAGE

A mathematical formula that takes into account the relative importance of an item’s price change compared to the overall change in the sector or CPI.

Inflation

Inflation is the process of rising prices, resulting in diminishing purchasing power of a given sum of money.

Cost of Living Index

Many individuals refer to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a cost-of-living index. The CPI is an index of pure price change only. A cost-of-living index reflects the changes in buying or consumption patterns that consumers would ordinarily make to adjust to any change in the price of a good or service.

A COMPARISON OF RATES OF INFLATION (%) Selected Countries & Bermuda

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Mar 15
Bermuda	2.7	2.4	1.8	2.0	+1.2
United States¹	3.0	1.7	1.5	0.8	-0.1
Canada²	2.9	1.5	0.9	1.9	+1.2
United Kingdom³	5.2	3.2	3.0	2.4	+0.9

Sources:

1. US Bureau of Labour Statistics
2. Statistics Canada
3. UK Office of National Statistics

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