



INFLATION FALLS

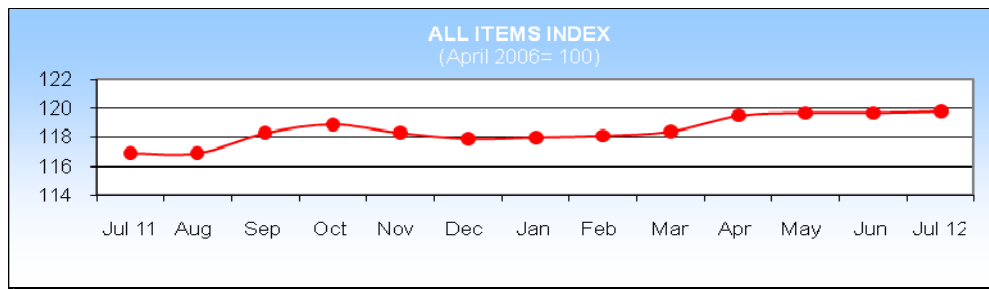
Consumers paid 2.5 per cent more in July 2012 than they did a year ago for the CPI basket of goods and services. This inflation level was lower than the rate measured in June 2012.

Between June and July 2012, the average cost of goods and services in the Consumer Price Index rose 0.1 per cent. The all-items index increased from 119.7 to 119.8 index points. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2006 now cost \$119.80.

YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Health & Personal Care sector continued to be the largest contributor to the twelve-month increase in the Consumer Price Index. On average, the cost of Health & Personal care items increased 5.8 per cent year-over-year.

The Food and Fuel & Power sectors also impacted strongly on the annual rate of inflation, as price shifts in these sectors were 4.5 per cent and 16.9 per cent, respectively.



Inflation Rate
2.5 %

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
2011			2010		
Jul	116.9	+2.8	Q1	112.1	+1.6
Aug	116.9	+2.5	Q2	113.6	+2.8
Sep	118.3	+2.6	Q3	114.4	+2.6
Oct	118.9	+2.9	Q4	114.9	+2.7
Nov	118.2	+3.1	2011		
Dec	117.9	+2.9	Q1	115.0	+2.6
2012			Q2	116.5	+2.6
Jan	118.0	+3.0	Q3	117.4	+2.6
Feb	118.1	+2.4	Q4	118.3	+3.0
Mar	118.4	+2.8	2012		
Apr	119.5	+2.5	Q1	118.2	+2.8
May	119.7	+2.9	Q2	119.6	+2.7
Jun	119.7	+2.7			
Jul	119.8	+2.5			

MONTH-TO-MONTH ANALYSIS

Fuel & Power

The Fuel & Power sector increased 2.4 per cent in July. Residential electricity costs rose by 2.5 per cent in response to a 5.1 per cent jump in the fuel adjustment rate.

Food

The food sector rose 0.2 per cent in July. Notable price changes for selected food items included: lettuce (+8.6 per cent), eggs (+5.7 per cent), and oranges (+4.9 per cent).

Household Goods, Services & Communications

The Household Goods, Services & Communications sector increased 0.2 per cent for the month. The cost of funeral services rose by 4.2 per cent. In contrast, consumers paid 0.3 per cent less for household supplies.

Tobacco & Liquor

The Tobacco & Liquor sector rose 0.5 per cent reflecting increases in the average price of wines (+1.0 per cent) and cigarettes (+0.7 per cent).

Education, Recreation & Reading

The Education, Recreation and Reading sector recorded no change during July.

Health & Personal Care

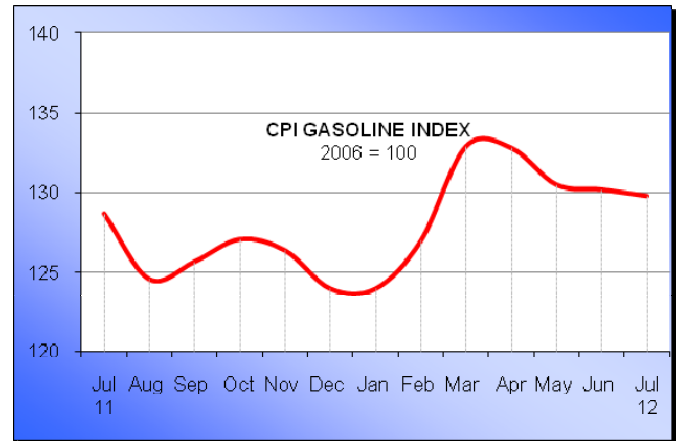
The Health & Personal Care slipped 0.1 per cent in July. This decrease was due to a 0.5 per cent fall in the cost of toiletries, cosmetics and perfumes.

Rent

The Rent sector fell 0.1 per cent in July. A 0.2 per cent increase in properties subject to rent control was offset by a 0.3 per cent decrease in rental units not subject to rent control.

Transport & Vehicles

The Transport & Vehicles sector prices fell 0.5 per cent on average. Capital costs of motor cycles decreased by 7.2 per cent. Additionally, car repair & maintenance and fuel prices fell by 1.4 and 0.3 per cent, respectively.



Clothing & Footwear

The Clothing & Footwear sector fell 1.8 per cent. Average costs for the men and women’s clothing sub-sectors, declined 0.4 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, 2007 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{March 12 index number} - \text{Feb 12 index number}}{\text{Feb 12 index number}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{118.4 - 118.1}{118.1} \times 100$$

$$= 0.2\%$$

b) Year-to-Year Price Change (annual rate of inflation)

The price change between December, 2006 and December, 2007 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{March 12 index number} - \text{March 11 index number}}{\text{March 11 index number}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{118.4 - 115.2}{115.2} \times 100$$

$$= 2.8\%$$

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)										
2006	+3.1	+2.0	+3.9	+3.3	+2.1	+9.5	+1.4	+1.2	+3.8	+5.7
2007	+3.8	+3.5	+2.6	+0.2	+1.9	+5.5	+2.2	+6.6	+4.8	+6.8
2008	+4.8	+5.6	+2.4	+2.7	+9.3	+31.8	+2.6	+3.9	+5.1	+6.6
2009	+1.8	+5.4	+1.9	+3.0	+5.9	-6.3	+0.7	-4.3	+5.3	+6.7
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
MONTHLY (per cent)										
2010										
July	+0.2	+0.1	+0.1	+0.3	+0.2	Nil	Nil	+1.1	Nil	+0.1
Aug	+0.4	+2.0	+0.3	Nil	+0.2	+4.0	+1.0	-2.4	+0.1	Nil
Sept	+1.1	-0.4	+0.2	Nil	-0.1	Nil	+0.2	+7.1	+1.5	+0.2
Oct	+0.2	+0.5	+0.1	-0.7	+0.3	+3.9	-0.1	-0.9	+0.6	+0.4
Nov	-0.8	+0.1	+0.1	Nil	+0.2	Nil	Nil	-6.3	Nil	Nil
Dec	Nil	-1.6	Nil	Nil	+0.5	Nil	Nil	+1.5	+0.1	Nil
2011										
Jan	Nil	+0.8	+0.1	-0.1	+0.6	Nil	+0.7	-1.4	+0.1	Nil
Feb	+0.6	+0.8	+0.1	Nil	+0.7	Nil	Nil	+3.4	-0.1	Nil
Mar	-0.1	Nil	+0.2	Nil	+0.2	Nil	-0.1	-1.3	+0.1	+0.1
Apr	+1.3	-0.6	Nil	+4.7	Nil	Nil	-0.1	+3.8	+0.2	+6.6
May	-0.3	+0.4	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	-3.6	-0.1	Nil
Jun	+0.3	+0.5	+0.1	Nil	+0.2	+2.8	+1.2	-0.4	-0.4	+0.1
Jul	+0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	+0.6	+1.8	+0.1	+1.1	+0.4	+0.1
Aug	Nil	+2.1	Nil	+0.1	+0.2	+3.8	+0.2	-4.2	+0.2	+0.1
Sep	+1.2	+0.1	-0.4	Nil	+0.1	+3.7	+0.4	+8.0	+2.0	+0.1
Oct	+0.5	+0.4	+0.1	+4.6	+0.2	+0.6	+0.1	+1.5	-0.1	+0.1
Nov	-0.6	+0.2	Nil	Nil	+0.1	+0.1	+0.1	-4.9	+0.1	Nil
Dec	-0.2	-1.4	-0.1	Nil	+0.1	Nil	-0.1	+0.5	+0.1	0.2
2012										
Jan	+0.1	+1.6	Nil	Nil	-0.1	Nil	+0.1	-1.7	Nil	Nil
Feb	+0.1	-0.2	+0.1	Nil	+0.4	Nil	+0.1	+1.0	-0.1	Nil
Mar	+0.2	+0.9	+0.1	Nil	+0.2	Nil	+0.1	+0.4	-0.1	+0.1
Apr	+0.9	Nil	+0.1	+1.5	+0.7	Nil	Nil	+1.3	+0.2	+5.6
May	+0.2	+0.5	-0.1	+0.2	-0.1	Nil	Nil	+1.1	+0.2	Nil
Jun	Nil	+0.2	+0.2	Nil	+0.4	+5.3	-0.7	-1.8	+0.3	+0.1
Jul	+0.1	+0.2	-0.1	-1.8	+0.5	+2.4	+0.2	-0.5	Nil	-0.1
Jul '12	119.8	126.4	110.9	120.4	128.3	168.5	110.3	105.8	126.3	151.0
<u>Jul'12</u> Jul'11	+2.5	+4.5	-0.1	+4.5	+2.6	+16.9	+0.4	+0.1	+2.9	+5.8

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 (PER CENT) Selected Countries & Bermuda

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Jul 12
Bermuda	4.8	1.8	2.4	2.7	+2.5
United States¹	3.8	2.7	1.5	3.0	+1.4
Canada²	2.3	0.3	1.8	1.8	+1.3
United Kingdom³	3.6	-0.5	4.6	5.2	+3.2

Sources:

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

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