



## INFLATION RISES

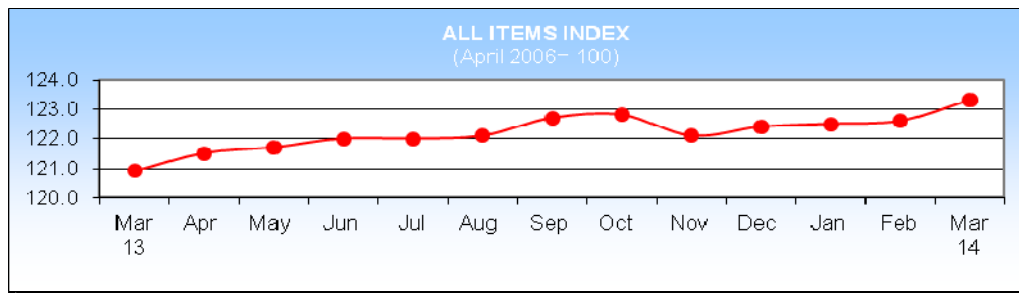
Consumers paid 2.0 per cent more in March 2014 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This level of inflation increased 0.3 percentage points from the 1.7 per cent measured in February 2014.

Between February 2014 and March 2014, the average cost of goods and services in the Consumer Price Index increased 0.5 per cent. The all-items index increased to 123.3 index points in March. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2006 now cost \$123.30.

## YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Health & Personal Care sector remained the largest contributor to the twelve-month rate of price increase. The annual increase in March 2014 measured 7.6 per cent year over year.

The Food and Transport & Vehicles sectors also impacted strongly on the annual rate of inflation. Price shifts in these two sectors were 3.2 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively.



**Inflation Rate**  
**2.0%**

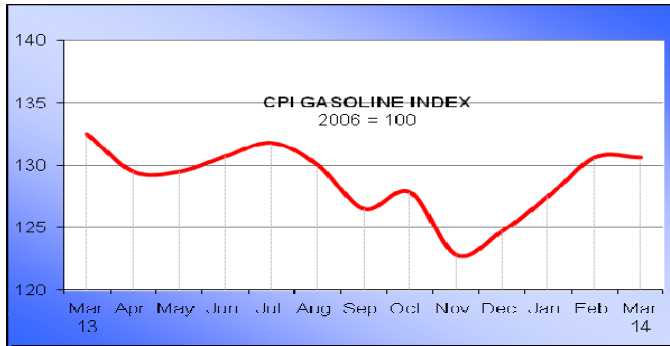
The compilation of the CPI involves the processing of several thousand price quotations. The Department of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required price data.

SUMMARY STATISTICS					
Period	Monthly		Period	Quarterly	
	Index	Annual per cent Change		Index	Annual per cent Change
<b>2013</b>			<b>2012</b>		
Mar	120.9	+2.1	Q1	118.2	+2.8
Apr	121.5	+1.7	Q2	119.6	+2.7
May	121.7	+1.7	Q3	120.3	+2.5
Jun	122.0	+1.9	Q4	120.5	+1.8
Jul	122.0	+1.8			
Aug	122.1	+1.3	<b>2013</b>		
Sep	122.7	+1.8	Q1	120.6	+2.0
Oct	122.8	+1.6	Q2	121.7	+1.8
Nov	122.1	+1.3	Q3	122.3	+1.7
Dec	122.4	+1.9	Q4	122.4	+1.6
<b>2014</b>			<b>2014</b>		
Jan	122.5	+1.8	Q1	122.8	+1.8
Feb	122.6	+1.7			
Mar	123.3	+2.0			

## MONTH ANALYSIS

### Transport & Vehicles

The Transport & Vehicle sector increased for the third consecutive month, up 2.0 per cent in March following a 1.2 per cent increase in February. The average price of airfare and overseas hotel accommodations rose by 7.1 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively.



### Food

Food prices in grocery stores rose 1.2 per cent in March. Fresh lettuce (7.3 per cent), fresh pork loin (6.9 per cent) and pastas (4.0 per cent) were the main contributors to the overall increase. In addition, prepared meals purchased from stores increased 1.2 per cent.

### Fuel & Power

The Fuel & Power sector increased 2.1 per cent in March following a 2.1 per cent decline in February. Residential consumers paid 2.2 per cent more for electricity due to an increase in the fuel adjustment rate.

### Rent

The Rent sector was static in March as it was in February.

### Household Goods, Services & Communications

The Household Goods, Services & Communications sector inched up 0.1 per cent. Average prices for food wraps & garbage bags; and, detergents & bleaches increased 0.7 per cent and 0.3 per cent, respectively.

### Tobacco & Liquor

The Tobacco & Liquor sector was static in March following a decline of 0.1 per cent in February. The average cost of spirits increased 0.2 per cent but the increase was not significant enough to impact a change at the sector level.

### Clothing & Footwear

The Clothing & Footwear sector was unchanged in March.

### Health & Personal Care

The Health and Personal Care sector was static in March. The average cost of toiletries, cosmetics & perfumes dropped 0.4 per cent, but was offset by a 0.4 per cent price increase in self-prescribed medicines & household medical supplies.

### Education, Recreation & Reading

The Education, Recreation & Reading sector was unchanged in March, following an increase of 0.2 per cent in February.

## 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](http://www.statistics.gov.bm).

### a) Month-to-Month Price Change

The price change between November and December, 2012 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 2011 and December, 2012 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, 2013 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
<b>2004 WEIGHT</b>	1000	146	325	37	20	30	140	139	71	92
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE ( per cent)</b>										
<b>2009</b>	+1.8	+5.4	+1.9	+3.0	+5.9	-6.3	+0.7	-4.3	+5.3	+6.7
<b>2010</b>	+2.4	+3.0	+1.3	+2.4	+1.9	-0.8	+1.6	+1.8	+2.5	+8.1
<b>2011</b>	+2.7	+2.3	+1.1	+5.7	+3.1	+11.3	+2.0	+0.6	+2.6	+7.5
<b>2012</b>	+2.4	+3.5	+0.2	+4.3	+2.5	+9.3	+1.0	+1.6	+2.7	+6.6
<b>2013</b>	+1.8	+3.0	-0.3	+0.1	+4.4	-1.9	+0.5	+1.4	+2.5	+8.3
<b>MONTHLY ( per cent)</b>										
<b>2012</b>										
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
Aug	+0.6	+0.6	+0.3	Nil	+0.1	-1.8	+0.1	+4.1	-0.1	+0.1
Sep	Nil	+0.1	-0.2	Nil	+0.2	Nil	+0.3	-1.0	+2.1	+0.3
Oct	+0.3	+0.4	Nil	-2.0	+0.3	-1.9	+0.2	+1.3	+0.3	+1.5
Nov	-0.4	-0.4	+0.1	Nil	Nil	-7.8	Nil	Nil	+0.1	+0.1
Dec	-0.3	-1.0	Nil	Nil	+0.1	+2.9	Nil	-2.0	Nil	-0.1
<b>2013</b>										
Jan	+0.2	+2.3	-0.1	+1.1	+0.5	-1.4	+0.1	-1.2	+0.2	Nil
Feb	+0.2	Nil	+0.1	Nil	-0.2	+1.4	Nil	+1.3	Nil	Nil
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
<b>2014</b>										
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
<b>Mar '14</b>	<b>123.3</b>	<b>133.4</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>122.9</b>	<b>136.0</b>	<b>149.5</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>131.5</b>	<b>165.6</b>
<u>Mar'14</u>	<b>+2.0</b>	<b>+3.2</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+3.0</b>	<b>+5.0</b>	<b>-5.6</b>	<b>+0.5</b>	<b>+2.0</b>	<b>+1.5</b>	<b>+7.6</b>
Mar'13										

## 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

	2010	2011	2012	2013	Mar 14
<b>Bermuda</b>	2.4	2.7	2.4	1.8	+2.0
<b>United States<sup>1</sup></b>	1.5	3.0	1.7	1.5	+1.5
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	1.8	2.9	1.5	0.9	+1.5
<b>United Kingdom<sup>3</sup></b>	4.6	5.2	3.2	3.0	+2.5

### Sources:

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

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The Cabinet Office  
Department of Statistics  
Cedar Park Centre,  
48 Cedar Avenue, Hamilton HM 11  
P.O. Box HM 3015  
Hamilton HM MX, Bermuda  
Tel: (441) 297-7761, Fax: (441) 295-8390  
E-mail: [statistics@gov.bm](mailto:statistics@gov.bm)  
Website: [www.statistics.gov.bm](http://www.statistics.gov.bm)