



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

August 2011

RATE OF INFLATION DIPS

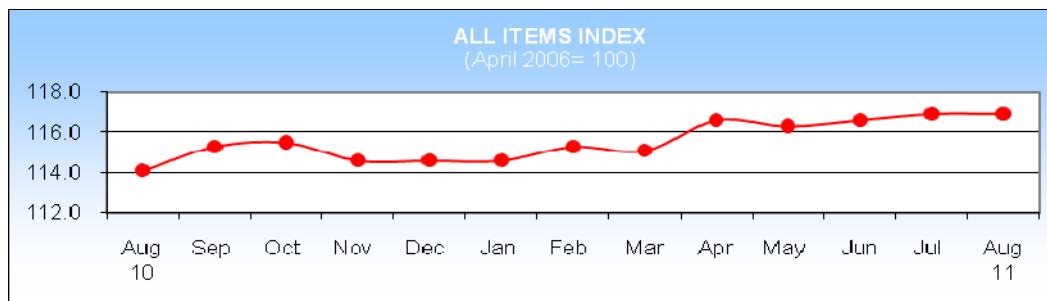
Consumers paid 2.5 per cent more in August 2011 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The rate of inflation dropped from the 2.8 per cent measured in July 2011.

Between July 2011 and August 2011, the average cost of goods and services in the Consumer Price Index remained the same. The all-items index remained at 116.9 index points in August. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2006 now cost \$116.90.

YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Health & Personal Care sector was the largest contributor to the twelve-month increase in the Consumer Price Index. Notable increases in the cost of self-prescribed medicines and household medical supplies led to the 7.5 per cent increase for the year.

The Fuel and Food sectors also impacted strongly on the annual rate of inflation, as price shifts in these sectors were 12.8 per cent and 2.4 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
2010			2009		
Aug	114.1	+2.0	Q1	110.3	+4.1
Sep	115.3	+3.4	Q2	110.5	+1.5
Oct	115.5	+3.0	Q3	111.5	+1.0
Nov	114.6	+2.3	Q4	111.9	+0.8
Dec	114.6	+2.7			
2011			2010		
Jan	114.6	+2.2	Q1	112.1	+1.6
Feb	115.3	+3.2	Q2	113.6	+2.8
Mar	115.2	+2.5	Q3	114.4	+2.6
Apr	116.6	+2.4	Q4	114.9	+2.7
May	116.3	+2.5			
Jun	116.6	+2.8	2011		
Jul	116.9	+2.8	Q1	115.0	+2.6
Aug	116.9	+2.5	Q2	116.5	+2.6

MONTH-TO-MONTH ANALYSIS

Food

The food sector jumped 2.1 per cent in August. Notable price changes were eggs (+7.2 per cent), lamb legs (+4.5 per cent) and cheddar cheese (+4.0 per cent).

Fuel & Power

The Fuel & Power sector rose 3.8 per cent in August as the fuel adjustment rate for electricity increased by 8.1 per cent between July and August. Consumers paid 4.0 per cent more for electricity.

Rent

Prices for rent-controlled properties increased 0.2 per cent. In contrast, housing units not subject to rent control and the average price of building materials were unchanged. As a result, the Rent sector was static for the month.

Household Goods, Services & Communications

The Household Goods, Services & Communications sector rose 0.2 per cent for the month. The average cost of lawyer fees and moving services increased by 2.1 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively. Additionally, the average cost of household supplies increased by 0.7 per cent.

Education, Recreation & Reading

The Education, Recreation & Reading sector edged up 0.2 per cent for the month. The increase reflected a 1.6 per cent rise in the average price of pet cost & up-keep. In contrast, the price of boat fuel dropped by 3.2 per cent.

Tobacco & Liquor

The Tobacco & Liquor sector advanced 0.2 per cent. Increased costs were recorded for the average price of beer (+0.8 per cent) and wine (+0.2 per cent).

Health & Personal Care

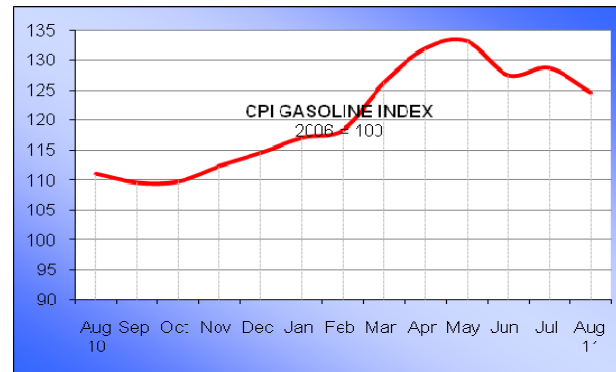
The Health & Personal Care sector increased 0.1 per cent in August. Self-prescribed medicines and prices for household medical supplies increased 1.2 per cent.

Clothing & Footwear

The Clothing & Footwear sector edged up 0.1 per cent in August. This reflected higher (+ 1.3 per cent) dry cleaning costs.

Transport & Vehicles

The Transport & Vehicle sector dropped by 4.2 per cent. Lower prices in airfares (-14.0 per cent), overseas hotel accommodation (-10.1 per cent) and gasoline (-3.2 per cent) were the key contributors to the decline for this sector.



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, 2009 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Dec 09 index number} - \text{Nov 09 index number}}{\text{Nov 09 index number}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{111.6 - 112.0}{112.0} \times 100$$

$$= -0.3\%$$

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

The price change between December, 2008 and December, 2009 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Dec 09 index number} - \text{Dec 08 index number}}{\text{Dec 08 index number}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{111.6 - 110.5}{110.5} \times 100$$

$$= 1.0\%$$

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)										
2005	+3.1	+3.0	+2.8	+2.1	+2.6	+5.6	+1.4	+5.1	+5.1	+2.4
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
MONTHLY (per cent)										
2009										
July	+0.5	-0.3	-0.1	+0.9	+0.5	-3.6	+1.0	+4.4	+0.3	Nil
Aug	+0.6	+1.4	+0.1	Nil	+0.9	Nil	Nil	+2.6	+0.1	+0.1
Sept	-0.3	Nil	+0.3	Nil	+0.1	Nil	+0.4	-4.2	+1.8	+0.2
Oct	+0.5	Nil	Nil	-0.4	-0.3	Nil	+0.1	+3.1	Nil	+1.5
Nov	-0.1	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	-1.8	Nil	Nil
Dec	-0.3	-0.7	+0.1	Nil	+1.1	Nil	+0.3	-2.2	-0.1	-0.1
2010										
Jan	+0.5	+2.1	+0.1	-2.6	-0.1	+0.2	+0.1	+1.9	+0.1	Nil
Feb	-0.5	-0.8	+0.1	Nil	-0.5	+0.2	-0.1	-2.8	Nil	+0.1
Mar	+0.7	+1.2	+0.1	Nil	-0.1	Nil	Nil	+3.4	+0.1	Nil
Apr	+1.3	+0.2	+0.2	+6.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	+3.1	+0.1	+6.0
May	-0.3	-1.0	+0.2	Nil	-0.1	Nil	Nil	-1.8	+0.2	Nil
June	-0.1	+0.1	+0.2	Nil	+0.1	Nil	-0.5	-1.2	Nil	+0.6
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
Aug '11	116.9	123.4	111.0	115.3	125.3	149.6	110.1	101.3	123.0	142.8
<u>Aug'11</u> Aug'10	+2.5	+2.4	+1.1	+3.8	+3.5	+12.8	+2.1	-1.8	+2.5	+7.5

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	Aug 11
Bermuda	3.8	4.8	1.8	2.4	+2.4
United States¹	2.8	3.8	2.7	1.6	+3.8
Canada²	2.2	2.3	0.3	1.8	+3.1
United Kingdom³	2.3	3.6	-0.5	4.6	+5.2

Sources:

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

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