GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
The Cabinet Office
Department of Statistics

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

INFLATION STAGNATES

Consumers paid 1.9 per cent more in February 2017 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The level of inflation was unchanged from the 1.9 per cent measured in January 2017.

Between January 2017 and February 2017, the average cost of goods and services in the CPI decreased by 0.1 per cent. The all-items index dropped to 102.1 in February. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 in April 2015 now costs $102.10.

YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading sector was the largest contributor to the year-over-year increase for the second consecutive month. This sector increased 4.2 per cent in February, following a 4.0 percent increase in January.

In addition, the Health & Personal Care sector and the Transport & Foreign Travel sector rose 3.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively.

**ALL ITEMS INDEX (April 2015 = 100)**
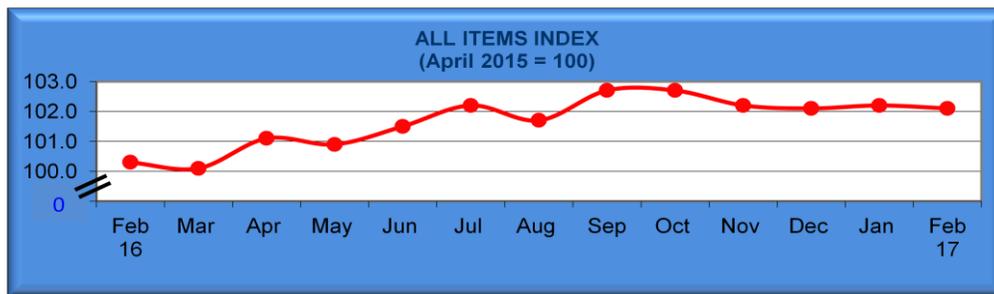
Inflation Rate 1.9%

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

	Monthly				Quarterly	
Period	**Index**	**Annual per cent Change**		**Period**	**Index**	**Annual per cent Change**
2016				**2015**		
Feb	100.2	+1.3		Q1	98.9	+1.5
Mar	100.1	+1.0		Q2	100.2	+1.7
Apr	101.1	+1.1		Q3	100.6	+1.5
May	100.9	+1.1		Q4	100.5	+1.2
Jun	101.5	+0.8				
Jul	102.2	+1.6		**2016**		
Aug	101.7	+1.3		Q1	100.2	+1.3
Sep	102.7	+2.0		Q2	101.2	+1.0
Oct	102.7	+2.1		Q3	102.2	+1.6
Nov	102.2	+1.7		Q4	102.3	+1.8
Dec	102.1	+1.6				
2017						
Jan	102.2	+1.9				
Feb	102.1	+1.9				

MONTH-TO-MONTH ANALYSIS

Transport & Foreign Travel

The Transport & Foreign Travel sector rose 0.8 per cent in February, following a 1.2 per cent decrease in January. The average cost of overseas accommodation increased by 4.1 per cent, while the cost of a new car rose 0.5 per cent on average.

CPI GASOLINE INDEX
(April 2015 = 100)
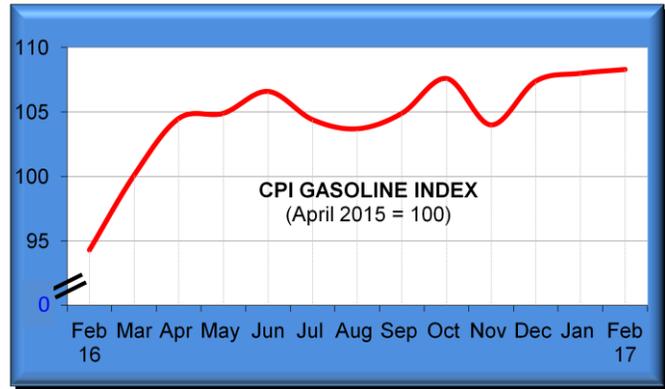
Household Goods, Services & Supplies

The Household Goods, Services & Supplies sector was static for the fourth consecutive month. The average cost of stoves and refrigerators increased by 1.2 per cent but was offset by a 1.6 per cent decrease in the average cost of washers and dryers.

Health & Personal Care

The Health & Personal Care sector remained unchanged in February.

Food

Offsetting price changes for grocery items such as frozen pork ribs (+5.8 per cent), fresh & frozen stewing beef (+3.1 per cent), lamb leg (-4.4 per cent) and roasting chicken (-2.1 per cent) caused the Food sector to remain stagnant in February.

Clothing & Footwear

There were no price changes in the Clothing and Footwear sector in February.

Fuel & Power

The Fuel & Power sector was unchanged following four consecutive months of decline. The fuel adjustment rate remained the same.

Tobacco & Liquor

The Tobacco & Liquor sector decreased 0.1 per cent in February, following a 0.8 per cent rise in January. The average cost of wines and spirits declined by 0.3 per cent and 0.1 per cent, respectively.

Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading

The Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading sector declined 0.1 per cent in February. The cost of pleasure crafts and personal water crafts decreased 2.2 per cent.

Rent

The Rent sector declined 0.8 per cent in February. Average rent prices for properties not under rent control declined 1.7 per cent.

COMPUTING PRICE INCREASES

The Department of Statistics receives 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.gov.bm.

A) Month-to-Month Price Change

The price change between November and October, 2015 is calculated as Follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Nov 15 index - Oct 15 index}}{\text{Oct 15 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{100.5 - 100.6}{100.6} \times 100$$

$$= -0.1\%$$

B) Year-to-Year Price Change

The price change between December 2015 and December, 2014 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Dec 15 index - Dec 14 index}}{\text{Dec 14 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{100.5 - 98.7}{98.7} \times 100$$

$$= 1.8\%$$

C) Particular Period Price Change

The price change between April 2014 and January, 2016 is calculated as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Jan 16 index - Apr 14 index}}{\text{Apr 14 index}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{100.3 - 98.3}{98.3} \times 100$$

$$= 2.0\%$$

APRIL 2015 = 100

	All Items	Food	Rent	Clothing & Footwear	Tobacco & Liquor	Fuel & Power	Household Goods, Services & Supplies	Transport & Foreign Travel	Education, Recreation, Entertain. & Reading	Health & Personal Care
2013 WEIGHT	1000	115	267	25	31	39	116	130	147	130
ANNUAL AVERAGE (per cent)										
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
2015	+1.5	+2.7	+0.6	+1.3	+1.2	-8.9	+2.1	-1.3	+0.9	+7.8
2016	+1.5	+1.9	+1.0	+0.4	+5.1	-3.3	+1.6	-2.2	+3.3	+4.5
MONTHLY (per cent)										
2015										
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
Apr	+1.0	Nil	+0.2	+0.5	+0.4	Nil	+0.1	+0.4	+0.1	+6.5
May	-0.2	+0.4	+0.1	Nil	Nil	-2.6	Nil	-1.0	Nil	Nil
Jun	+0.8	+0.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	+5.9	+0.3	Nil
Jul	-0.1	+0.1	Nil	+0.7	Nil	+4.0	+2.1	-3.6	-0.1	Nil
Aug	-0.2	+0.3	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	Nil	Nil	-1.6	-0.2	+0.1
Sep	+0.3	-0.1	Nil	Nil	+0.2	Nil	+0.3	+0.9	+0.9	-0.1
Oct	-0.1	+0.2	+0.1	Nil	Nil	-1.3	Nil	-1.2	+0.2	+0.5
Nov	-0.1	-0.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	-1.3	Nil	+0.1	Nil	Nil
Dec	Nil	-0.2	+0.1	Nil	+0.3	-2.0	Nil	+0.4	+0.1	Nil
2016										
Jan	-0.2	+1.2	-0.1	+0.1	+0.4	-3.7	+0.1	-1.6	Nil	Nil
Feb	-0.1	+0.6	+0.1	Nil	+1.1	Nil	Nil	-1.4	-0.3	+0.1
Mar	-0.1	-0.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	-0.8	+0.1	-0.7	+0.2	Nil
Apr	+0.9	+0.3	Nil	-0.5	+2.0	-2.6	Nil	+0.8	+2.7	+3.2
May	-0.1	-0.3	+0.1	Nil	+1.5	-5.0	Nil	-0.3	+0.5	Nil
Jun	+0.5	+0.2	Nil	Nil	+0.8	+10.4	Nil	+1.0	Nil	-0.1
Jul	+0.8	+0.3	+1.0	+0.1	Nil	+4.3	+0.1	+2.5	-0.2	Nil
Aug	-0.5	+0.1	+0.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	-4.3	Nil	Nil
Sep	+1.0	+0.1	Nil	Nil	+0.1	+6.0	+0.1	+4.5	+1.1	Nil
Oct	Nil	+0.1	Nil	+0.3	Nil	-0.9	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	+0.1
Nov	-0.5	-0.1	Nil	+0.1	Nil	-2.3	Nil	-2.8	-0.2	Nil
Dec	-0.1	-1.3	+0.1	Nil	-0.4	-3.1	Nil	+1.3	+0.1	Nil
2017										
Jan	+0.1	+2.0	Nil	+1.2	+0.8	-2.3	Nil	-1.2	Nil	Nil
Feb	-0.1	Nil	-0.8	Nil	-0.1	Nil	Nil	+0.8	-0.1	Nil
Feb '17	**102.1**	**103.4**	**100.9**	**102.0**	**106.9**	**95.7**	**102.9**	**98.0**	**105.1**	**103.8**
Feb '17 / Feb '16	+1.9	+1.3	+0.5	+1.2	+4.7	+2.8	+0.4	+1.4	+4.2	+3.2

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 & Foreign Travel
- Household Goods, Services & Supplies
- Education, Recreation, Entertainment & 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 2015.

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 97.2 for January 2014 with 100.4 for January 2016, reveals that prices have increased by 3.3 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 2015.

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 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

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Feb 17
Bermuda	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.5	+1.9
United States[1]	1.5	0.8	0.7	2.1	+2.7
Canada[2]	0.9	2.0	1.1	1.4	+2.0
United Kingdom[3]	3.0	2.4	1.0r	1.8	+3.2

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