



## INFLATION RISES

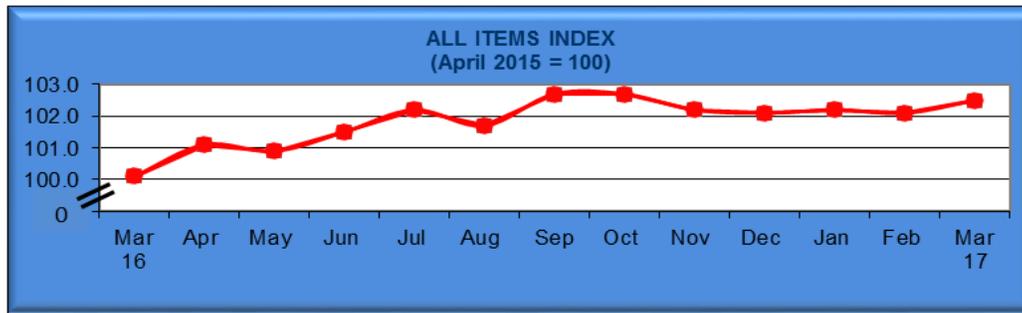
Consumers paid 2.4 per cent more in March 2017 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The level of inflation increased 0.5 percentage points from the 1.9 per cent measured in February 2017.

Between February 2017 and March 2017, the average cost of goods and services in the CPI increased by 0.4 per cent. The all-items index rose to 102.5 in March. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2015 now costs \$102.50.

## YEAR-TO-YEAR ANALYSIS

The Transport & Foreign Travel sector was the largest contributor to the year-over-year increase in March. Increased prices of gasoline caused this sector to rise 4.2 per cent.

In addition, the Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading sector and the Health & Personal Care sector rose 4.0 per cent and 3.2 per cent, respectively.



**Inflation Rate**  
**2.4%**

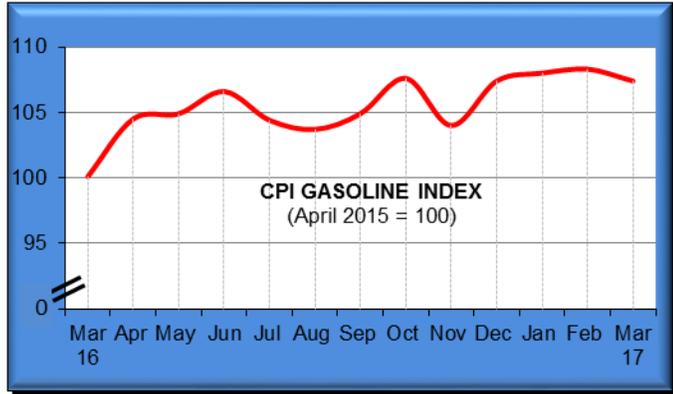
The compilation of the CPI involves the processing of several thousand price quotations. The Department of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required price data.

SUMMARY STATISTICS					
Period	Monthly		Period	Quarterly	
	Index	Annual per cent Change		Index	Annual per cent Change
<b>2016</b>			<b>2015</b>		
Mar	100.1	+1.0	Q1	98.9	+1.5
Apr	101.1	+1.1	Q2	100.2	+1.7
May	100.9	+1.1	Q3	100.6	+1.5
Jun	101.5	+0.8	Q4	100.5	+1.2
Jul	102.2	+1.6	<b>2016</b>		
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	<b>2017</b>		
<b>2017</b>			Q1	102.3	2.1
Jan	102.2	+1.9			
Feb	102.1	+1.9			
Mar	102.5	+2.4			

**MONTH-TO-MONTH ANALYSIS**

**Transport & Foreign Travel**

The Transport & Foreign Travel sector increased 1.9 per cent in March, following a 0.8 per cent increase in February. The average cost of overseas airfares increased by 12.8 per cent. In contrast, overseas accommodations fell 9.2 per cent.



**Fuel & Power**

The Fuel & Power sector rose 3.9 per cent in March. The fuel adjustment rate increased 12.5 per cent.

**Food**

The Food sector increased 0.4 per cent in March. This was caused by price increases to items such as lamb chops (+6.6 per cent), fresh pineapples (+4.5 per cent) and ground spices (+1.8 per cent)

**Rent**

The Rent sector increased 0.1 per cent in March. Average rent prices for properties under rent control rose 0.1 per cent.

**Tobacco & Liquor**

The Tobacco & Liquor sector inched up 0.1 per cent in March, following a 0.1 per cent decrease in February. The average cost of spirits increased by 0.2 per cent.

**Household Goods, Services & Supplies**

The Household Goods, Services & Supplies sector was static for the fifth consecutive month. There was no movement recorded in this sector during March.

**Clothing & Footwear**

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

**Health & Personal Care**

The Health & Personal Care sector was unchanged in March. On average, prices of prescribed medicines fell 0.7 per cent.

**Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading**

The Education, Recreation, Entertainment & Reading sector was static in March.

**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](http://www.gov.bm).

**A) Month-to-Month Price Change**

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

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

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

$$= -0.1\%$$

**B) Year-to-Year Price Change**

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

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

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

$$= 1.8\%$$

**C) Particular Period Price Change**

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

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

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

$$= 2.0\%$$

# BERMUDA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

**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
<b>2013 WEIGHT</b>	1000	115	267	25	31	39	116	130	147	130
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE ( per cent)</b>										
<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>2014</b>	+2.0	+3.1	+0.8	+2.0	+2.4	-2.4	+0.8	+1.7	+1.9	+6.7
<b>2015</b>	+1.5	+2.7	+0.6	+1.3	+1.2	-8.9	+2.1	-1.3	+0.9	+7.8
<b>2016</b>	+1.5	+1.9	+1.0	+0.4	+5.1	-3.3	+1.6	-2.2	+3.3	+4.5
<b>MONTHLY ( per cent)</b>										
<b>2015</b>										
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
<b>2016</b>										
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
<b>2017</b>										
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
Mar	+0.4	+0.4	+0.1	Nil	+0.1	+3.9	Nil	+1.9	Nil	Nil
<b>Mar '17</b>	<b>102.5</b>	<b>103.8</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>107.0</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>102.9</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>103.8</b>
<u>Mar '17</u>	<b>+2.4</b>	<b>+1.8</b>	<b>+0.6</b>	<b>+1.2</b>	<b>+4.8</b>	<b>+7.6</b>	<b>+0.3</b>	<b>+4.2</b>	<b>+4.0</b>	<b>+3.2</b>
Mar '16										

## 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	Mar 17
<b>Bermuda</b>	1.8	2.0	1.5	1.5	+2.4
<b>United States<sup>1</sup></b>	1.5	0.8	0.7	2.1	+2.4
<b>Canada<sup>2</sup></b>	0.9	2.0	1.1	1.4	+1.6
<b>United Kingdom<sup>3</sup></b>	3.0	2.4	1.0r	1.8	+3.1

#### Sources:

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

Published by the Government of Bermuda  
May 2017

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  
Website: [www.gov.bm](http://www.gov.bm)