

PRESS RELEASE

ANGUILLA'S CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) RETURNS TO PUBLICATION AFTER 20 MONTHS

The Anguilla Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the past was done and published on a quarterly basis. During 1999, the Statistical Unit experienced an interruption in the measurement and publication of the CPI. No CPI data has been available since the first quarter of 1999. For this, the Statistical Unit apologises for any inconvenience data-users might have experienced due to this interruption.

Following a recent revision exercise, the Unit is therefore pleased to announce the return of CPI publication, specifically the release of December 1999 data which is now available. *A price index* is one way to measure changes in the overall price level. It shows how the average price of a “*basket*” of goods changes over time. The Consumer Price Index, often called the CPI, is one of the most widely used statistical series produced to measure such changes. The most common value derived from the CPI is the rate of *inflation*.

In any economy, prices are continuously changing as markets adjust to changing conditions. Some prices may go up while others may be going down. When the price of one good rises, that price may or may not be part of a larger inflation. Inflation is an increase in the overall price level; it happens when many prices increase simultaneously.

In 1998 a regional Household Income & Expenditure Survey (HIES) was conducted throughout the OECS countries (including Anguilla), spearheaded by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB). This was for the revision of the CPI weights and basket of goods to standardize the basket of goods used, time periods of price collection and frequency of producing the CPI in ECCB member states, for the purposes of comparison of data throughout the islands.

Following the revision, plans are currently underway for the collection of prices on a monthly basis, to conform with the rest of the OECS territories, use of new weights, a new base year and publication of new tables in 2001.

CPI – DECEMBER 1999

During the year ending December 1999, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) recorded the same rate of growth as that recorded for the corresponding period in 1998 – the annual rate of price inflation for the period remained stable. The All Items Index rose from 151.8 in December 1998 to 155.8 in December 1999 – representing an annual consumer price inflation rate of 2.6%.

The biggest movement in the Index, 13.4% occurred in the Clothing & Footwear section. The major contributors to this dramatic upward movement, were price increases in footwear & men's shirts.

Other significant increases were recorded in the Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco (11.2%) and Miscellaneous Goods (5.0%) Indices. The Index saw a slightly moderate upward movement in the Transport section of 2.5% and virtually little or no change (0.9%) in the Food section.

While most items registered price increases, during the period under review, there were some decreases – the most significant of which were registered in the Household Goods Index, which fell from 123.8 to 113.4 points or -8.4%. This was perhaps attributed to the fall in prices on refrigerators, tables and fans. Fuel & Light and Rent & Rates Indices both registered slightly moderate and little or no decreases – -2.0% and -0.45 – respectively. The decrease in the Fuel & Light Index was attributed to the fall in price of cooking gas.

N.B.: For further information regarding the Consumer Price Index (CPI), members of the public can contact the Statistical Unit at telephone #497-5693 or visit the Unit at the Ministry of Finance, located in the Secretariat Building, during normal working hours.

Revised CPI Index – November 2000
1985 = 100

ITEM	MAY 85 WT	NOV 93	NOV 94	NOV 95	DEC 96	DEC 97	DEC 98	DEC 99
FOOD	32	137.9	141.2	143.9	148.0	149.8	148.4	149.7
ALCOHOLIC BEV. & TOBACCO	8	154.2	156.0	156.2	168.0	171.7	173.7	193.2
RENT & RATES	12	105.6	101.4	103.6	108.5	120.5	132.1	131.5
FUEL & LIGHT	7	126.2	126.3	129.4	132.8	134.9	131.1	128.5
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	9	154.0	174.4	178.3	190.1	162.9	174.5	197.9
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	8	116.2	118.4	117.5	122.3	118.5	123.5	113.4
TRANSPORT	12	136.4	146.3	148.6	154.6	158.4	162.4	166.4
MISC. GOODS	6	155.0	158.9	158.1	154.5	154.6	154.5	162.3
SERVICES	6	147.7	159.6	161.6	162.2	165.3	184.6	185.0
ALL ITEMS	100	135.6	140.5	142.5	147.5	147.9	151.8	155.8

Revised Percent Change – November 2000

ITEM	MAY 85 WT	NOV 94/93	NOV 95/94	DEC 96/95	DEC 97/96	DEC 98/97	DEC 99/98
FOOD	32	2.4	1.9	2.8	1.2	-0.9	0.9
ALCOHOLIC BEV. & TOBACCO	8	1.2	0.1	7.5	2.3	1.1	11.2
RENT & RATES	12	-4.0	2.2	4.7	11.2	9.6	-0.5
FUEL & LIGHT	7	0.1	2.4	2.6	1.6	-2.8	-2.0
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	9	13.3	2.2	6.6	-14.3	7.1	13.4
HOUSEHOLD GOODS	8	2.0	-0.8	4.1	-3.0	4.4	-8.4
TRANSPORT	12	7.2	1.6	4.1	2.4	2.5	2.5
MISC. GOODS	6	2.5	-0.5	-2.3	0.1	-0.1	5.0
SERVICES	6	8.1	1.3	0.3	1.9	11.7	0.2
ALL ITEMS	100	3.6	1.4	3.5	0.3	2.6	2.6