



Anguilla Statistics Department  
Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism  
Government of Anguilla  
The Valley, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.

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## PRESS RELEASE

To: The Press

From: Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin – Chief Statistician

CC:

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Re: ASD Rebases the Anguilla Consumer Price Index (AXACPI)

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The Anguilla Statistics Department (ASD) has rebased the Anguilla Consumer Price Index (AXACPI). This is in keeping with best practice to ensure that the indices reflect current or close to current household consumption patterns.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average change over time, in the general price level of a 'basket' of goods and services that households purchase for use.

It is necessary to rebase in order to accurately determine household consumption pattern which usually change over time in response to changes in goods and/or services, consumers' taste and preference and/or outcomes of households.

Anguilla's first CPI was published in 1985. Subsequently, in 1998 a household sample survey was conducted which collected data on household incomes and expenditures to produce weights used in updating the CPI with the base 2001. Then in 2002, another Household Income and Expenditure survey was conducted as part of the Poverty Assessment exercise. However, the opportunity to exploit that database to its fullest potential given the lack of resources did not allow for the production of detailed tables of expenditure.

In 2008/09, the ASD in conjunction with the Kairi Consultants, with funding from the Government of Anguilla and the Caribbean Development Bank, conducted the second Country Poverty Assessment (CPA). One of the four (4) components of the CPA was a Household Income and Expenditure survey. On this occasion the ASD, with technical guidance from the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC) exploited the database and hence produced new weights in 2010 for the latest rebased AXACPI.

Until the new rebasing, which has a base period of 2010, the AXACPI has been measured with reference to price changes using the base year 2001 weights, which has an index of 100.

The rebasing of the AXACPI continued after the Household Survey, with the selection and collection of prices for some 799 consumer basket goods and services from over 130 markets and business outlets. These items were classified and grouped using the United Nations' managed international classification – Classification of Individual Consumption by Purpose (COICOP). Subsequently, the price data was analysed, verified and processed prior to publication.

The weight of an item in the consumer basket was the proportion of household expenditure on each item. The new rebased AXACPI is comprised of twelve (12) sub-indices as compared to eleven (11) in the last AXACPI, as Transportation and Communication were split into their individual sub index. Additionally, Accommodation (Rent) and Fuel has been grouped into one category called; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gases and Other Fuels. There has also been the inclusion of Restaurants and Hotels which allow for the measurement of the change in price level of 'eating out' and accommodations (hotels, guesthouses and inn etc.) abroad; St. Maarten and St. Martin as 'consumed' by Anguilla residents.

The rebased index – 2010, has been compiled since June 2010. Given available resources and the introduction of the new software; Price Index Processor Software (PIPS), used in the calculation of the index, all efforts were made to ensure quality data prior to the release of the rebased series.

Going forward, the ASD is seeking to streamline the Government of Anguilla's (GOA's) survey calendar. This will ensure scheduled and timed Household Surveys, in line with best practices, for the purpose of collecting important data which would assist in maintaining current macroeconomic indicators for Anguilla. Working together with all Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) would ensure quality data, as it relates to comparability, accuracy, timeliness, among other things across the statistical system and also reduce respondent burden.

The ASD again would like to take this opportunity to thank all those householders who so willingly participated in the 2008/09 Country Poverty Assessment – Survey of Living Conditions; the Household Survey for their contribution to the rebasing of the Anguilla Consumer Price Index. We are also indebted to all businesses that so willingly cooperated and continue to do so, on a quarterly basis, when price collectors visit their establishment for the purpose of collecting prices to produce the quarterly AXACPI reports.

April 14, 2014