

Prices Increased 6.5% in December 2000 compared to the Previous Year

According to the Consumer Price Index, an index that uses a constant basket of consumer goods and services to measure price change, prices increased by 6.5% in December 2000 compared to December the previous year. This is the highest rate of price increases this decade. There were some single items which pushed the CPI above the average for the decade.

Price indexes are produced for nine groups of goods and services. Of these groups, "Rent and Rates" was the leader in price increase at 19.9% mainly due to the 300% increase in water charges introduced earlier in the year 2000. Clothing and footwear prices also increased above the all items index at 15.1%. Fashions change, as a consequence it is not always possible to maintain the pricing of identical clothing items from one year to the next. Jeans were the leading source of price increases in this category.

International oil prices started to increase in March 2000. The increase in oil prices increased the cost of transportation and had an overall impact on all goods imported into Anguilla. The price of petrol in Anguilla, which makes up one third of the transport group, increased 20% over the 12-month period, which along with significant price increases for auto insurance and road tax, resulted in a 9% price increase for the transport group of items.

Off setting these higher than average prices were declines in the alcoholic beverages and the services group of items. Both of these groups showed higher than average price increases in the previous year.

The percentage change in the price index and its item groups over the past seven years is shown in the table below:

ITEM	weights	Nov 94/93	Nov 95/94	Dec 96 /Nov95	Dec97/96	Dec98/97	Dec 99/98	Dec 00/99
Food	32	2.44%	1.92%	2.82%	1.21%	-0.93%	0.89%	3.81%
Alcoholic beverages & tobacco	8	1.17%	0.12%	7.50%	2.26%	1.12%	11.24%	-4.44%
Rent & rates	12	-4.01%	2.15%	4.72%	11.15%	9.56%	-0.45%	19.87%
Fuel & light	7	0.12%	2.39%	2.62%	1.64%	-2.84%	-2.00%	4.27%
Clothing & footwear	9	13.25%	2.23%	6.62%	-14.29%	7.11%	13.42%	15.11%
Household goods	8	1.97%	-0.81%	4.06%	-3.03%	4.43%	-8.39%	1.21%
Transport	12	7.19%	1.59%	4.08%	2.42%	2.50%	2.46%	9.22%
Miscellaneous goods	6	2.53%	-0.50%	-2.30%	0.10%	-0.09%	5.03%	8.90%
Services	6	8.06%	1.26%	0.34%	1.92%	11.70%	0.21%	-0.75%
ALL ITEMS	100	3.59%	1.41%	3.54%	0.26%	2.64%	2.62%	6.47%

Percentage change in CPI Components in 2000

