

**STATISTICS OFFICE  
CAYMAN ISLANDS, B.W.I.**

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**AVERAGE PRICE LEVELS INCREASE BY 2.4 PERCENT IN 2002**

The annual average All Items Index for 2002 stood at 126.3, an increase of 2.4 percent over the 2001 figure of 123.3. The increase in the annual average was characterized by increases averaging 2.0 percent over the first two quarters of the year and just under three percent over the next two quarters.

The average annual index increased in all of the eight Major Groups when compared with the 2001 figures, ranging from a high of 8.9 percent in the Education and Medical Group to a low of 0.4 percent in the Clothing Group. The Education and Medical Group index increased from 212.2 to 231.0 while the Clothing index moved from 111.1 to 111.6. Four of the other groups registered increases of about 2 percent; Food (2.2 percent increasing from 116.5 to 119.0); Housing (2.0 percent up from 117.7 to 120.0); Personal Goods and Services (2.0 percent up from 119.5 to 122.0) and Alcohol and Tobacco (1.8 percent increasing from 119.8 to 122.0). The other groups, Household Equipment and Transportation And Communication increased by 1.1 and 0.8 percent respectively. Table 4 refers.

The All Items index for the quarter ending December 2002 was 127.2, an increase of 2.8 percent over the same period in 2001. Six of the eight Major Group indexes registered increases for the quarter when compared with the previous year. These ranged from a high of 11.2 percent in the Education and Medical Group, to a low of 1.1 percent in Transport & Communications. The rise in the Education and Medical Group was due to increases in both of its sub-groups. The Education sub-group rose by 5.8 percent, due to the continuing upward movement in private school fees, while the Medical Care sub-group increased by 20.3 percent, caused by higher fees for visits to private physicians and dentists and increased rates for hospitalisation during the year.

The Personal Goods and Services Group rose by 3.4 percent, fuelled by the higher cost of overseas trips, laundry charges, hairdressing, jewellery, sporting goods and cosmetics. The Food Group increased by 2.7 percent, caused mainly by increases in the prices of evening meals, fruits, vegetables and non-alcoholic drinks. Housing rose by 1.6 percent, Alcohol and Tobacco by 1.4 percent and Transport & Communications by 1.1 percent.

The remaining two Major Groups registered declines of less than 1.0 percent. Clothing and Household Equipment both declined by 0.8 percent.

Compared with the previous quarter, the All Items Index increased from 126.3 to 127.2 or by 0.6 percent with four of the eight Major Groups registering declines. These were Household Equipment, down by 2.6 percent, Alcohol & Tobacco down by 1.0 percent, Housing down by 0.7 percent and Clothing with a decline of 0.2 percent.

The decline in Household Equipment was due to decreases in two of the three sub-groups (Household Equipment and Household Appliances, decreasing by 5.2 and 3.1 percent respectively). The third subgroup, Furniture and Floor Coverings increased by 1.2 percent over the last quarter.

Two of the remaining four Major Groups increased by more than 2.5 percent when compared with the previous quarter. The Education and Medical had the highest increase of 2.9 percent, followed closely by Personal Goods & Services with an increase of 2.6 percent. The other increases for the quarter were all less than 1.0 percent. These were Transport and Communications 0.6 percent and the Food Group with 0.5 percent. Table 3 provides more detail.

## **INFORMATION**

Further information and the latest statistics on the Consumer Price index can be obtained from the Government Statistics Office, located on the fourth floor of the Elizabethan Square (Phase Four) Building. The Office's telephone number is 949-0940.

## **NOTES ON THE INDEX COMPILATION**

1. For one month in each quarter of the year the namely March, June, September and December, staff of the Statistics Office collect prices for more than 500 different items on which consumers spend their money, from over 100 different shops and other outlets in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac. Every kind of spending is included, from weekly supermarket trips, school lunches, rental payments and insurance to the prices of cars and bicycles. In total about 1,800 prices are collected each quarter.
2. The items have been assigned weights depending upon their importance in the total pattern of consumer spending based on the 1990/91 Household Income and Expenditure survey. The item weights combined with the prices are then compiled to arrive at the published index.

TABLE 1

## CAYMAN ISLANDS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MARCH 1994 - DECEMBER 2002

(SEPTEMBER 1994 = 100)

		INDEX	Percentage change from:	
			3 months ago	one year ago
1994	March	99.3		
	June	99.5	0.2	
	September	100.0	0.5	
	December	100.7	0.7	
1995	March	101.1	0.4	1.8
	June	101.8	0.7	2.3
	September	103.4	1.6	3.4
	December	103.1	-0.3	2.4
1996	March	103.6	0.5	2.5
	June	104.9	1.3	3.0
	September	105.2	0.2	1.7
	December	106.4	1.1	3.2
1997	March	107.4	0.9	3.6
	June	107.2	-0.2	2.2
	September	107.3	0.1	1.9
	December	109.5	2.0	2.9
1998	March	110.5	0.9	2.9
	June	110.6	0.1	3.2
	September	111.1	0.5	3.5
	December	112.1	0.8	2.3
1999	March	113.9	1.5	3.0
	June	119.9	5.3	8.4
	September	120.2	0.3	8.2
	December	120.8	0.5	7.8
2000	March	121.1	0.2	6.3
	June	121.5	0.3	1.3
	September	122.3	0.6	1.7
	December	122.6	0.2	1.5
2001	March	123.3	0.5	1.7
	June	123.6	0.2	1.6
	September	122.7	-0.6	0.3
	December	123.5	0.6	0.7
2002	March	125.9	2.0	2.1
	June	125.9	0.0	1.9
	September	126.3	0.3	2.9
	December	127.2	0.6	2.8

## NOTE:

The index changes shown in the "one year ago" column on this page reflect the period to period changes and do not take into account fluctuations in price levels which may have occurred during the interim.

**TABLE 2****CAYMAN ISLANDS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ANNUAL AVERAGES 1994 TO 2002****(SEPTEMBER 1994 = 100)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INDEX</b>	<b>Percentage change from a year ago</b>
1994	99.9	
1995	102.4	2.5
1996	105.0	2.6
1997	107.9	2.7
1998	111.1	3.0
1999	118.7	6.9
2000	121.9	2.7
2001	123.3	1.1
2002	126.3	2.4

NOTE: The annual average consumer price index is the average of the March, June, September and December index values shown in Table 1.

**TABLE 3: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAJOR GROUPS - DECEMBER 2002**

Major Group	(Weight)	Index Percentage change		
		Dec - 02	3 months ago	one year ago
<b>01 Food</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>120.9</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Bread and Cereal	10	111.9	0.0	0.5
Meat	17	118.9	0.1	0.8
Fish	3	94.8	-1.7	-7.1
Diary Products and Eggs	9	124.8	0.2	-2.1
Oils & Fats	2	115.0	1.3	1.4
Fruit and Vegetables	12	128.6	6.6	6.4
Drinks (non-alcoholic)	12	116.6	-0.3	2.9
Sugar Products	2	114.6	-2.7	-2.8
Other Foods	53	123.8	-0.2	4.5
<b>02 Alcohol and Tobacco</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>121.4</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Alcoholic Drinks	13	117.8	-0.6	2.4
Tobacco	3	139.1	-2.4	-2.4
<b>03 Housing</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Rent, Maintenance, Insurance etc	258	123.2	-0.9	1.1
Utilities	53	106.7	0.6	4.8
<b>04 Clothing</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>109.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Men and Womens Clothing	29	108.3	-1.0	-2.5
Boys and Girls Clothing	6	122.8	1.5	1.9
Other Clothing	2	91.9	-0.1	1.2
Footwear	9	107.2	1.3	2.3
<b>05 Household Equipment</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>122.7</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Furniture and Floor Coverings	22	118.7	1.2	1.9
Household Appliances	13	100.8	-3.1	-4.0
Household Equipment	24	138.0	-5.2	-1.7
<b>06 Transport and Communications</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>114.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Household Vehicles	128	119.2	0.0	0.5
Travel	7	139.3	14.5	15.0
Communications	33	89.0	0.0	0.0
<b>07 Education and Medical</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>237.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>
Education	25	367.4	3.7	5.8
Medical Care	40	155.7	1.6	20.3
<b>08 Personal Goods and Services</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>123.1</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Home Entertainment	21	99.9	6.2	4.0
Outside Entertainment	1	127.2	0.0	2.7
Culture, Pastimes, Hobbies	30	120.3	-1.8	4.4
Holiday Expenses	71	139.0	6.6	7.9
Personal Services	38	135.6	-1.7	-2.4
Personal Goods	16	110.0	0.9	5.1
Domestic Services	39	101.0	2.3	-0.9
Gifts and Subscriptions	1	125.0	0.0	6.4
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>127.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>

TABLE 4: CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAJOR GROUP MARCH 1995 - DECEMBER 2002 (SEPTEMBER 1994=100)									
PERIOD/MAJOR GROUP	FOOD	ALCOHOL & TOBACCO	HOUSING	CLOTHING	HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	EDUCATION & MEDICAL	PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES.	ALL ITEMS
<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>1995</b>									
MARCH	100.8	100.6	100.8	97.7	103.4	102.6	100.4	100.9	101.1
JUNE	100.0	100.7	102.8	99.4	106.5	102.9	100.2	100.4	101.8
SEPTEMBER	101.6	103.4	104.3	101.1	104.7	105.8	102.3	101.8	103.4
DECEMBER	101.4	102.6	103.1	101.2	105.5	105.2	101.1	102.7	103.1
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>102.8</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>102.4</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>1996</b>									
MARCH	104.5	103.5	103.2	103.2	105.5	105.8	101.7	102.2	103.6
JUNE	105.2	103.3	105.3	104.9	105.9	108.1	101.9	102.5	104.9
SEPTEMBER	106.3	103.2	104.9	102.6	106.8	108.8	100.8	103.9	105.2
DECEMBER	105.7	104.8	109.3	105.4	106.9	106.1	102.5	104.0	106.4
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>104.0</b>	<b>106.3</b>	<b>107.2</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>105.0</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>1997</b>									
MARCH	107.1	105.3	110.1	104.0	107.1	108.2	107.5	103.9	107.4
JUNE	106.7	106.4	110.6	105.2	102.6	108.3	107.7	103.3	107.2
SEPTEMBER	106.9	106.8	110.5	104.3	104.6	106.5	109.2	104.4	107.3
DECEMBER	107.3	107.0	113.5	104.9	107.3	109.7	107.5	107.2	109.5
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>107.0</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>111.2</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>107.9</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>1998</b>									
MARCH	107.9	106.7	113.3	106.8	106.5	109.5	105.8	112.5	110.5
JUNE	107.5	107.4	113.3	109.3	110.5	109.4	107.3	110.6	110.6
SEPTEMBER	108.8	107.6	116.0	107.9	112.0	107.1	107.9	110.3	111.1
DECEMBER	110.0	118.3	116.5	108.6	116.7	109.3	108.5	109.4	112.1
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>108.6</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>114.8</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>111.4</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>110.7</b>	<b>111.1</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>1999</b>									
MARCH	111.6	122.1	117.1	114.7	117.0	110.2	111.3	112.5	113.9
JUNE	109.4	123.5	118.0	114.3	118.5	111.9	200.7	112.0	119.9
SEPTEMBER	111.2	122.1	117.9	110.9	121.6	112.4	201.6	111.8	120.2
DECEMBER	110.8	120.2	120.0	114.2	121.4	110.4	200.4	112.9	120.8
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>110.8</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>118.3</b>	<b>113.5</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>111.2</b>	<b>178.5</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>118.7</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6.9</b>
<b>2000</b>									
MARCH	111.7	120.6	119.8	112.6	118.7	111.1	200.1	114.9	121.1
JUNE	112.7	118.8	119.6	113.8	119.1	110.4	202.1	116.2	121.5
SEPTEMBER	111.9	120.3	118.2	113.8	121.9	111.6	207.4	119.1	122.3
DECEMBER	114.1	120.8	118.4	112.1	121.9	112.9	209.4	117.7	122.6
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>113.1</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>204.8</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>121.9</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>2001</b>									
MARCH	114.4	120.2	118.5	111.6	121.5	113.6	211.5	119.4	123.3
JUNE	117.6	119.8	116.7	112.1	122.6	113.4	211.0	121.4	123.6
SEPTEMBER	117.3	119.5	117.1	110.8	121.9	112.0	212.8	118.3	122.7
DECEMBER	116.7	119.8	118.6	110.0	123.7	112.8	213.5	119.0	123.5
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>119.8</b>	<b>117.7</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>122.4</b>	<b>113.0</b>	<b>212.2</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>123.3</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>2002</b>									
MARCH	116.5	122.3	119.0	113.6	124.0	114.1	227.6	123.3	125.9
JUNE	118.5	121.6	119.4	114.1	122.7	114.2	228.2	121.5	125.9
SEPTEMBER	120.2	122.6	121.3	109.4	125.9	113.3	230.8	119.9	126.3
DECEMBER	120.9	121.4	120.4	109.1	122.7	114.0	237.4	123.1	127.2
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>123.8</b>	<b>113.9</b>	<b>231.0</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>126.3</b>
<b>% CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.4</b>

**TABLE 5**

**CAYMAN ISLANDS: AVERAGE PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD ITEMS DECEMBER, 2002**

ITEM	QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICES (CI\$)			
		Dec 2002	Sept 2002	Dec 2001	
101-04	Wholewheat bread(imported)	1 lb. 4 oz	1.80	1.80	1.80
107-01	Long grain rice	5 lb.	5.17	5.17	5.12
108-12	Cornflakes	24 oz	4.11	4.11	3.79
111-01	Stew beef	1 lb.	3.16	2.72	3.76
114-01	Bacon	1 lb.	5.12	5.12	5.38
125-02	Snapper fillets (frozen)	1 lb.	4.57	4.57	4.16
127-05	Canned Tuna in water	6.5 oz	1.11	1.11	1.14
130-02	Eggs(Grade A Large)	1 doz.	1.24	1.29	1.41
131-02	Anchor Butter	1 lb	2.36	2.29	2.18
133-05	Fresh milk(McArthur)	1 gal.	4.74	4.74	4.88
135-09	Evaporated milk	14.5 oz	0.74	0.74	0.76
139-19	Shortening	3 lb.	4.50	4.41	4.68
141-01	Plantains	1 lb.	0.79	0.79	0.79
142-07	Idaho potatoes	1 lb.	0.92	0.82	0.86
147-11	Lettuce	Head	1.29	1.56	1.56
146-15	Sweet potatoes	1 lb.	1.52	1.32	1.66
151-01	Tomatoes	1 lb.	2.59	1.59	1.82
152-03	Ripe bananas	1 lb.	0.64	0.68	0.68
153-01	Apples(Golden Delicious)	1 lb.	1.79	1.66	1.72
155-11	Oranges	each	0.48	0.41	0.32
161-01	Tea bags(Liptons)	48	2.22	2.22	2.21
163-02	Instant coffee(Maxwell House)	8 oz.	5.26	5.24	5.20
166-02	Soda	12 oz. can	0.70	0.70	0.67
171-01	White sugar	2 kg.	1.89	1.67	1.82
172-02	Strawberry Preserves	12 ozs	2.31	2.31	2.26
181-02	Canned vegetable soup	10.5 oz	1.24	1.14	1.16
182-04	Corned beef hash	15 oz	2.13	2.13	2.13
186-16	Salt	8 oz	0.57	0.60	0.59