

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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**AVERAGE PRICE LEVELS INCREASE BY 2.3 PERCENT IN 2000**

The annual average All Items Index for 2000, calculated on a new Base Period of September 1994, stood at 121.7, an increase of 2.3 percent over the 1999 figure of 118.9. The increase in the annual average was characterized by moderate price increases in the second, third and fourth quarters of 2000 and a large increase in the first. This large increase in the first quarter of 2000 when compared with the corresponding period in 1999, was due mainly to increases in the Education sub-group which took effect in the second quarter of 1999. Table 1 refers.

Six of the eight Major Groups registered increases when compared with the previous year. These ranged from a high of 4.6 percent in the Education and Medical Group, to a low of 0.4 percent in and Household Equipment. The rise in the Education and Medical Group was due to increases in both sub-groups here. The sub-group Education saw a rise of 0.9 percent, due to the continuing rise in private school fees, while the Medical Care sub-group had an increase of 11.7 percent, caused by increases in both visits to private physicians and laboratory tests over the year.

The other Major Groups with increases were the Personal Goods and Services Group up by 4.2 percent. Increases in overseas hotel rates, air fares, bank and laundry charges, and in the cost of hairdressing, photographic and sporting goods, life insurance and cosmetics were mainly responsible for the upward movement of this group. The Food Group increased by 2.9 percent, caused mainly by increases in the prices of evening meals, beef products, pork, milk products, cheese, root crops, vegetables and prepared breakfast cereals. Transport and Communications rose by 2.3 percent, Alcohol and Tobacco by 0.5 percent and Household Equipment by 0.4 percent. The two Major Groups that registered decreases, declined by less than 2.0 percent, and these were Housing decreasing by 1.9 percent and Clothing, which declined by 1.6 percent. Please see Table 3 for a more informative picture.

Compared with the previous quarter, two of the Major Groups registered declines. These were for Clothing, with a decline of 1.4 percent and Personal Good and Services with a decline of 1.2 percent. The decline in Clothing was due to decreases

in three of the four sub-groups here (Men and Women's Clothing, with a decrease of 1.0 percent, Boys and Girls Clothing with a decline of 1.8 percent and Footwear with a decrease of 2.7 percent). The fourth subgroup, Other Clothing had no change at all over the last quarter.

Four of the remaining six Major Groups registered only slight increases in the last quarter. The Food Group had the highest increase of 2.0 percent. The other increases for the quarter were all less than or equal to 1.1 percent. These are Transport and Communications 1.1 percent, Education and Medical 1.0 percent, Alcohol and Tobacco 0.4 percent. Housing and Household Equipment, the other two Major Groups had zero percent change over the last quarter.

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**                      **SEPTEMBER 1994 - DECEMBER 2000**

(SEPTEMBER 1994 = 100)

		INDEX	Percentage change from:	
			3 months ago	one year ago
1994	September	100.0		
	December	100.8	0.8	
1995	March	101.2	0.3	
	June	102.0	0.7	
	September	103.5	1.5	3.4
	December	103.2	-0.3	2.3
1996	March	103.8	0.5	2.5
	June	105.2	1.3	3.1
	September	105.5	0.2	1.9
	December	107.0	1.3	3.6
1997	March	108.0	0.9	4.1
	June	107.8	-0.1	2.5
	September	108.0	0.1	2.3
	December	110.3	2.2	3.1
1998	March	111.3	0.8	3.0
	June	111.3	0.0	3.2
	September	112.1	0.7	3.8
	December	113.1	0.8	2.4
1999	March	114.7	1.4	3.1
	June	119.9	4.5	7.7
	September	120.2	0.2	7.1
	December	120.8	0.4	6.8
2000	March	121.1	0.2	5.5
	June	121.4	0.2	1.2
	September	122.0	0.4	1.4
	December	122.2	0.1	1.1

**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 1995 TO 2000**

**(SEPTEMBER 1994 = 100)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>INDEX</b>	<b>Percentage change from a year ago</b>
1995	102.5	.
1996	105.4	2.8
1997	108.5	3.0
1998	112.0	3.2
1999	118.9	6.2
2000	121.7	2.3

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 2000

Major Group	(Weight)	Index	Percentage change	
			Dec-00	3 months ago
<b>01 Food</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>114.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Bread and Cereal	9	101.5	-0.4	-5.3
Meat	16	114.0	-4.3	4.0
Fish	3	109.1	6.6	3.8
Diary Products and Eggs	8	116.4	1.8	2.4
Oils & Fats	2	111.0	1.2	0.8
Fruit and Vegetables	11	119.7	5.1	11.8
Drinks (non-alcoholic)	11	115.4	1.4	0.7
Sugar Products	2	113.9	1.9	2.7
Other Foods	50	115.0	3.8	2.8
<b>02 Alcohol and Tobacco</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Alcoholic Drinks	12	116.4	0.5	1.5
Tobacco	3	142.6	0.0	-3.2
<b>03 Housing</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>119.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Rent, Mortgage Payments etc.	302	120.5	-0.5	-3.7
Utilities	49	109.3	3.7	12.0
<b>04 Clothing</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
Men and Womens Clothing	27	116.5	-1.0	-3.4
Boys and Girls Clothing	5	119.8	-1.8	2.4
Other Clothing	2	90.8	0.0	0.1
Footwear	9	110.6	-2.7	2.0
<b>05 Household Equipment</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>121.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Furniture and Floor Coverings	22	118.2	-0.6	2.3
Household Appliances	12	103.6	-10.8	-6.3
Household Equipment	22	134.8	5.7	1.8
<b>06 Transport and Communications</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Household Vehicles	121	118.9	0.7	3.1
Travel	6	122.4	15.3	-4.2
Communications	31	87.7	0.0	0.0
<b>07 Education and Medical</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>201.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Education	24	327.5	0.0	0.9
Medical Care	37	122.9	2.8	11.7
<b>08 Personal Goods and Services</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>117.7</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Home Entertainment	20	101.6	3.9	-6.7
Outside Entertainment	1	123.9	0.0	0.0
Culture, Pastimes, Hobbies	28	103.6	-1.3	4.9
Holiday Expenses	67	129.6	-2.1	9.8
Personal Services	36	137.4	-2.6	3.5
Personal Goods	15	105.3	-2.8	-1.3
Domestic Services	36	100.9	1.2	1.6
Gifts and Subscriptions	1	117.5	0.0	0.0
<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>122.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>

PERIOD/MAJOR GROUP	FOOD	ALCOHOL & TOBACCO	HOUSING	CLOTHING	HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	EDUCATION & MEDICAL	PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES	ALL ITEMS
<b>WEIGHT</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b>1994</b>									
SEPTEMBER	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
DECEMBER	100.9	98.6	101.6	98.6	101.1	101.9	100.4	99.3	100.8
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.6</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>101.6</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>100.4</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>99.9</b>
<b>1995</b>									
MARCH	100.9	100.6	101.1	97.7	103.4	102.6	100.4	100.9	101.2
JUNE	100.1	100.7	103.1	99.4	106.5	102.9	100.2	100.4	102.0
SEPTEMBER	101.6	103.4	104.4	101.1	104.7	105.8	102.2	101.9	103.5
DECEMBER	101.4	102.6	103.3	101.2	105.5	105.2	101.1	102.8	103.2
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>101.8</b>	<b>103.0</b>	<b>99.9</b>	<b>105.0</b>	<b>104.1</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>101.5</b>	<b>102.5</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.6</b>
<b>1996</b>									
MARCH	104.5	103.5	103.4	105.5	105.5	105.8	101.6	102.2	103.8
JUNE	105.3	103.3	105.7	107.2	105.9	108.1	101.9	102.6	105.2
SEPTEMBER	106.0	103.2	105.4	104.9	107.2	108.8	100.7	104.1	105.5
DECEMBER	105.8	104.8	110.1	107.7	107.3	106.1	102.6	104.1	107.0
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>103.7</b>	<b>106.2</b>	<b>106.3</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>107.2</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>103.3</b>	<b>105.4</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>1997</b>									
MARCH	107.1	105.3	111.0	106.3	107.4	108.2	108.2	104.0	108.0
JUNE	106.8	106.4	111.5	107.5	102.6	108.3	108.4	103.3	107.8
SEPTEMBER	107.0	106.8	111.4	106.6	104.4	106.5	109.9	104.4	108.0
DECEMBER	107.4	107.0	114.8	107.2	107.3	109.7	108.2	107.2	110.3
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>107.1</b>	<b>106.4</b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>106.9</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>104.7</b>	<b>108.5</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>1998</b>									
MARCH	107.9	106.7	114.6	109.1	106.3	109.5	106.6	112.4	111.3
JUNE	107.5	107.4	114.6	111.6	110.3	109.4	108.0	110.6	111.3
SEPTEMBER	108.8	107.6	117.7	110.2	112.0	107.1	108.5	110.2	112.1
DECEMBER	110.0	118.3	118.1	110.9	116.7	109.3	109.1	109.3	113.1
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>108.6</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>116.3</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>111.3</b>	<b>108.8</b>	<b>108.1</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>112.0</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>3.2</b>
<b>1999</b>									
MARCH	111.6	122.1	118.6	117.0	117.0	110.2	111.9	112.6	114.7
JUNE	109.4	123.5	119.4	116.6	118.5	111.9	193.0	112.1	119.9
SEPTEMBER	111.3	122.1	119.3	113.2	121.6	112.4	193.9	111.9	120.2
DECEMBER	110.9	120.2	121.3	116.5	121.3	110.4	192.7	113.0	120.8
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>110.8</b>	<b>122.0</b>	<b>119.7</b>	<b>115.8</b>	<b>119.6</b>	<b>111.2</b>	<b>172.9</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>118.9</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
<b>2000</b>									
MARCH	111.7	120.6	121.0	115.2	118.6	111.1	192.4	115.0	121.1
JUNE	112.7	118.8	120.6	116.4	119.8	110.4	194.4	116.2	121.4
SEPTEMBER	111.9	120.3	118.9	116.3	121.8	111.6	199.7	119.1	122.0
DECEMBER	114.1	120.8	119.0	114.7	121.8	112.9	201.7	117.7	122.2
<b>ANNUAL AVERAGE</b>	<b>112.6</b>	<b>120.1</b>	<b>119.9</b>	<b>115.7</b>	<b>120.5</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>197.1</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>121.7</b>
<b>%CHANGE PREV YEAR</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>2.3</b>

**TABLE 5**

**CAYMAN ISLANDS: AVERAGE PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD ITEMS DECEMBER 2000**  
(SEPTEMBER 1994 = 100)

ITEM	QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICES (CI\$)			
		Dec 2000	Sept 2000	Dec 1999	
101-04	Wholewheat bread(imported)	1 lb. 4 oz	1.71	1.88	2.04
107-01	Long grain rice	5 lb.	4.84	4.98	4.88
108-12	Cornflakes	24 oz	4.19	3.96	4.31
111-01	Stew beef	1 lb.	3.42	3.47	3.18
114-01	Bacon	1 lb.	5.32	5.59	4.99
125-02	Snapper fillets (frozen)	1 lb.	5.24	4.66	5.59
127-05	Canned Tuna in water	6.5 oz	1.14	1.12	1.05
130-02	Eggs(Grade A Large)	1 doz.	1.26	0.99	1.31
132-01	Margarine (1/4 lb blocks)	1 lb	1.45	1.42	1.45
133-05	Fresh milk(McArthur)	1 gal.	4.49	4.49	4.49
135-09	Evaporated milk	14.5 oz	0.78	0.75	0.78
139-19	Shortening	3 lb.	4.18	4.18	4.13
141-01	Plantains	1 lb.	0.69	0.62	0.64
142-07	Idaho potatoes	1 lb.	0.52	0.56	0.58
147-11	Lettuce	Head	1.49	1.99	1.52
146-15	Sweet potatoes	1 lb.	1.76	1.66	1.39
151-01	Tomatoes	1 lb.	2.56	1.56	1.63
152-03	Ripe bananas	1 lb.	0.66	0.62	0.58
153-01	Apples(Golden Delicious)	1 lb.	1.42	1.52	1.21
155-11	Oranges	each	0.34	0.37	0.39
161-01	Tea bags(Liptons)	48	2.18	2.18	2.25
163-02	Instant coffee(Maxwell House)	8 oz.	4.49	4.5	4.50
166-02	Soda	12 oz. can	0.67	0.67	0.67
171-01	White sugar	2 kg.	1.68	1.63	1.57
172-02	Strawberry Preserves	12 ozs	2.08	2.08	2.04
181-02	Canned vegetable soup	10.5 oz	1.12	1.12	1.14
182-04	Corned beef hash	15 oz	2.24	2.24	2.28
186-16	Salt	8 oz	0.58	0.58	0.58