

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

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AVERAGE PRICE LEVELS INCREASE BY 5.1 PERCENT IN 1999

The annual average All Items Index for 1999 stood at 180.0, an increase of 5.1 percent over the 1998 figure of 171.2. The increase in the annual average was characterized by relatively high growth in every quarter, culminating in a high of 6.1 percent in the third quarter. The quarterly growth in the index was 3.7 percent in the first quarter, 5.6 in the second, 6.1 percent in the third and 5.0 in the fourth. Table 1 refers.

The average annual index for all major groups registered increases when compared with the previous year. These ranged from a high of 19.7 percent in the Education and Medical group to a low of 1.6 percent in Clothing. Increases in the other groups were as follows (see Table 4 for more detail).

- Alcohol and Tobacco 8.3 percent
- Household Equipment 6.7 percent
- Food 3.3 percent
- Housing 3.1 percent
- Transport and Communications 2.6 percent
- Personal Goods and Services 1.9 percent

Compared with December of the previous year, six of the eight major groups registered increases resulting in an increase of 5.0 percent in the All Items Index. The increases were as follows.

- Education & Medical 25.4 percent
- Housing 7.3 percent
- Transport and Communications 2.9 percent
- Household Equipment 2.5 percent
- Clothing 1.8 percent
- Food 1.6 percent

Personal Goods and Services (-1.5 percent) and Alcohol and Tobacco (-0.7 percent) were the only groups registering declines. The decrease in the Alcohol and Tobacco group was due mainly to the rolling back of custom duties on alcoholic beverages.

Education and Medical

The year to date increase in this group resulted mainly from higher school fees introduced at public and private schools on the island and an increase in doctor's fees.

Housing

Both sub-groups which comprise this group registered increases. Rent and Mortgage Payments increased by 8.2 percent while Utilities increased by 3.4 percent

Transport and Communications

Increases of 4.2 percent in Household Vehicles and 9.0 percent in Travel sub-groups, offset a decline of 12.6 percent in the Communications sub-group, resulting in the group index increasing by just under 3.0 percent.

There was a slight increase, 0.2 percent, in price levels when compared with the previous quarter. The All Items Index increased to 182.1 from the revised September figure of 181.8.

Three of the major groups, Personal Goods and Services (-2.3 percent), Food (-0.5 percent) and Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (-0.1 percent) decreased. Four, housing (2.5 percent), Clothing (1.0 percent) Transport and Communication (0.9 percent) and Household Equipment (0.5 percent) increased while the Education and Medical group did not register any significant change. Table 3 provides more detail

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 Economics & 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, mortgage and rental payments 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 1983/84 Household 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

JUNE, 1989 - DECEMBER, 1999

(September, 1984 = 100)

		INDEX	Percentage change from:	
			3 months ago	one year ago
1989	June	121.4	0.7	6.4
	September	123.2	1.5	6.5
	December	124.8	1.3	5.2
1990	March	127.6	2.3	5.9
	June	131.0	2.6	7.9
	September	133.0	1.5	8.0
1991	December	135.8	2.1	8.9
	March	140.3	3.2	9.9
	June	143.1	2.0	9.2
1992	September	141.7	-1.0	6.6
	December	144.8	2.2	6.6
	March	147.3	1.7	5.0
1993	June	145.3	-1.4	1.5
	September	147.2	1.3	3.9
	December	146.9	-0.3	1.4
1994	March	149.4	1.7	1.4
	June	149.5	0.1	2.9
	September	150.5	0.7	2.2
1995	December	152.0	1.0	3.5
	March	154.1	1.4	3.1
	June	154.4	0.2	3.2
1996	September	155.2	0.5	3.1
	December	156.4	0.8	2.9
	March	157.0	0.4	1.9
1997	June	157.2	0.1	1.8
	September	159.1	1.2	2.5
	December	160.8	1.0	2.8
1998	March	161.4	0.4	2.8
	June	161.4	0.0	2.7
	September	162.1	0.4	1.9
1999	December	162.7	0.4	1.2
	March	163.9	0.7	1.6
	June	164.9	0.6	2.1
1998	September	166.5	0.9	2.7
	December	169.7	2.0	4.3
	March	170.1	0.2	3.8
1999	June	169.9	-0.1	3.1
	September	171.3	0.9	2.9
	December	173.5	1.4	2.2
1999	March	176.5	1.7	3.7
	June	179.5	1.7	5.6
	September	181.8 ^R	1.3	6.1
	December	182.1	0.2	5.0

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 1975 TO 1998

YEAR	INDEX	Percentage change from a year ago
1975	51.2	11.8
1976	55.4	8.2
1977	57.8	4.3
1978	62.0	7.3
1979	68.4	10.3
1980	77.0	12.6
1981	87.6	13.8
1982	92.4	5.5
1983	97.0	5.0
1984	100.3	3.4
1985	102.5	2.3
1986	105.4	2.8
1987	109.9	4.3
1988	115.6	5.2
1989	122.5	5.9
1990	131.9	7.7
1991	142.5	8.0
1992	146.7	2.9
1993	150.4	2.5
1994	155.0	3.1
1995	158.5	2.3
1996	161.9	2.1
1997	166.3	2.7
1998	171.2	3.0
1999	180.0	5.1

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 1999

Major Group	(Weight)	Index	Percentage change	
			Dec. 99	3 months ago
01 Food	206	154.7	-0.5	1.6
Bread and Cereal	17	173.8	0.7	0.4
Meat	37	142.6	1.2	4.3
Fish	7	228.5	-0.5	0.1
Diary Products and Eggs	24	155.1	0.0	6.0
Fruit and Vegetables	24	146.8	-3.5	0.7
Drinks (non-alcoholic)	20	145.6	2.5	2.8
Sugar Products	5	165.0	5.8	-3.8
Other Foods	72	153.9	-1.8	-0.3
02 Alcohol and Tobacco	31	235.3	-0.1	-0.7
Alcoholic Drinks	26	199.7	-0.6	-1.5
Tobacco	5	405.6	1.2	1.2
03 Housing	177	182.8	2.5	7.3
Rent, Mortgage Payments etc.	132	204.0	2.7	8.2
Utilities	45	120.6	1.4	3.4
04 Clothing	39	173.9	1.0	1.8
Men and Womens Clothing	24	167.7	2.2	5.2
Boys and Girls Clothing	4	190.0	1.2	1.2
Other Clothing	2	129.1	-3.9	1.0
Footwear	9	195.8	-0.7	-4.9
05 Household Equipment	58	156.5	0.5	2.5
Furniture and Floor Coverings	16	175.6	0.3	1.1
Household Appliances	9	111.8	2.3	1.0
Household Equipment	33	159.2	0.3	3.5
06 Transport and Communications	179	180.2	0.9	2.9
Household Vehicles	134	196.3	-0.5	4.2
Travel	15	207.4	36.0	9.0
Communications	30	93.8	-12.6	-12.6
07 Education and Medical	81	321.0	0.0	25.4
Education	24	364.1	0.0	125.8
Medical Care	57	302.6	0.0	2.1
08 Personal Goods and Services	228	158.8	-2.3	-1.5
Home Entertainment	24	110.5	-3.2	4.5
Outside Entertainment	6	178.2	-4.7	-4.3
Culture, Pastimes, Hobbies	21	176.2	2.1	6.1
Holiday Expenses	129	156.9	-4.4	-4.5
Personal Services	14	253.2	2.1	6.9
Personal Goods	13	150.2	2.5	1.9
Domestic Services	21	146.5	0.3	-5.0
Gifts and Subscriptions	1	143.8	0.0	0.0
ALL ITEMS	1,000	182.1	0.2	5.0

PERIOD/MAJOR GROUP	FOOD	ALCOHOL & TOBACCO	HOUSING	CLOTHING	HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT	TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION	EDUCATION & MEDICAL	PERSONAL GOODS & SERVICES	ALL ITEMS
WEIGHT	206	31	177	39	58	179	81	228	1,000
1994									
MARCH	131.9	197.7	151.2	155.5	139.2	155.4	234.9	145.8	154.1
JUNE	132.7	199.7	152.8	150.8	130.6	156.0	239.1	144.2	154.4
SEPTEMBER	133.9	198.9	155.6	151.4	131.5	158.1	235.5	143.9	155.2
DECEMBER	134.0	199.3	156.5	151.9	132.2	162.2	235.1	145.2	156.4
ANNUAL AVERAGE	133.1	198.9	154.0	152.4	133.4	157.9	236.2	144.8	155.0
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	22	15	58	19	30	48	1.6	20	31
1995									
MARCH	134.9	199.1	157.1	150.8	132.5	163.3	235.8	145.6	157.0
JUNE	135.1	199.7	157.8	149.1	133.4	163.8	237.7	144.5	157.2
SEPTEMBER	136.3	201.5	159.6	150.1	136.9	166.1	239.6	146.6	159.1
DECEMBER	138.3	201.7	159.3	156.3	137.8	169.0	238.1	149.2	160.8
ANNUAL AVERAGE	136.2	200.5	158.5	151.6	135.2	165.6	237.8	146.5	158.5
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	23	08	29	-05	13	48	0.7	12	23
1996									
MARCH	140.1	208.8	158.4	154.9	138.7	167.1	240.4	151.4	161.4
JUNE	139.3	204.8	157.7	159.6	139.1	166.9	240.0	152.0	161.4
SEPTEMBER	142.2	205.0	157.9	158.6	141.2	167.5	240.9	151.2	162.1
DECEMBER	141.8	205.1	159.8	160.8	141.1	167.5	240.7	152.4	162.7
ANNUAL AVERAGE	140.9	204.7	158.5	158.5	140.0	167.3	240.5	151.8	161.9
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	35	21	00	46	36	10	1.1	36	21
1997									
MARCH	145.2	206.2	160.4	162.5	139.3	168.9	243.9	151.8	163.9
JUNE	145.2	211.6	160.5	165.5	139.9	170.8	248.8	151.4	164.9
SEPTEMBER	146.9	211.7	166.6	165.5	143.6	168.4	250.6	152.3	166.5
DECEMBER	148.5	211.2	170.5	172.1	143.1	176.5	250.0	155.0	169.7
ANNUAL AVERAGE	146.5	210.2	164.5	166.4	141.5	171.2	248.3	152.6	166.3
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	40	27	38	50	10	23	3.3	06	27
1998									
MARCH	147.7	211.9	170.4	174.3	141.7	173.0	250.7	159.8	170.1
JUNE	146.8	212.9	172.4	169.4	142.0	171.4	251.2	160.1	169.9
SEPTEMBER	151.6	213.4	173.3	169.5	148.7	172.2	254.3	157.7	171.3
DECEMBER	152.3	237.0	170.4	170.8	152.7	175.2	255.9	161.3	173.5
ANNUAL AVERAGE	149.6	218.8	171.6	171.0	146.3	173.0	253.0	159.7	171.2
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	22	41	43	28	34	1.1	1.9	47	30
1999									
MARCH	155.4	237.2	174.2	175.5	155.6	174.2	262.0	165.7	176.5
JUNE	152.7	239.8	172.7	173.5	156.4	176.8	307.7	164.1	179.5
SEPTEMBER	155.4	235.5	178.4	172.1	155.7	178.7	320.9	162.6	181.8
DECEMBER	154.7	235.3	182.8	173.9	156.5	180.2	321.0	158.8	182.1
ANNUAL AVERAGE	154.6	237.0	177.0	173.8	156.1	177.5	302.9	162.8	180.0
%CHANGE PREV YEAR	33	83	31	16	67	26	19.7	19	51

TABLE 5

CAYMAN ISLANDS: AVERAGE PRICES OF SELECTED FOOD ITEMS DECEMBER 1999

ITEM	QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICES (CI\$)			
		Dec 1999	Sept 1999	Dec 1998	
101-04	Wholewheat bread(imported)	1 lb. 4 oz	2.04	2.04	2.04
107-10	Long grain rice	5 lb.	4.88	4.88	4.86
108-12	Cornflakes	24 oz	4.31	4.15	4.32
111-01	Stew beef	1 lb.	3.18	3.18	2.90
114-05	Bacon	1 lb.	2.69	2.30	2.90
125-02	Snapper fillets (frozen)	1 lb.	5.59	5.59	5.59
127-05	Canned Tuna in water	6.5 oz	1.05	1.05	1.05
130-02	Eggs(Grade A Large)	1 doz.	1.34	1.34	1.43
132-03	Margarine in tubs	1 lb	2.04	2.03	2.04
133-04	Fresh milk(imported)(Velda)	1 qt.	1.66	1.72	1.40
135-09	Evaporated milk	14.5 oz	0.78	0.74	0.78
139-19	Shortening	3 lb.	4.13	4.13	4.13
141-01	Plantains	1 lb.	0.64	0.67	0.70
142-07	Idaho potatoes	1 lb.	0.58	0.67	0.51
145-11	Lettuce	Head	1.52	1.56	1.15
145-15	Sweet potatoes	1 lb.	1.39	1.39	1.16
151-01	Tomatoes	1 lb.	1.63	1.71	2.17
152-03	Ripe bananas	1 lb.	0.58	0.69	0.65
153-04	Apples(Golden Delicious)	1 lb.	1.21	1.45	1.46
155-11	Oranges	each	0.39	0.44	0.44
161-03	Tea bags(Liptons)	100	3.99	3.99	3.99
163-04	Instant coffee(Nescafe Classic)	8 oz.	6.20	6.20	6.20
166-02	Soda	12 oz. can	0.67	0.67	0.92
171-01	White sugar	2 kg.	1.57	1.57	2.04
172-02	Marmalade	1 lb. 2 oz	1.21	1.21	1.21
181-03	Canned vegetable soup	10.5 oz	1.14	1.10	1.10
182-04	Corned beef hash	15 oz	2.28	2.23	2.23
186-16	Salt	8 oz	0.58	0.62	0.55