



Government of Antigua & Barbuda

First Floor ACT Bldg.
Church & Market Sts.
St. John's, Antigua, W.I.
Telephone: (268) 462 3233/463-5197/98
Fax No: (268) 562-2542
E-mail: stats@ab.gov.ag



PRESS RELEASE

Consumer Price Index (CPI) February-2020

St John's Antigua, July 27, 2020. The Statistics Division, under the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance releases the CPI for Feb 2020

Year-on-Year Analysis

The All Items Consumer Price Index increased 2.2% for the twelve months ending February 2020. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index increased 3.5% over the last twelve months.

The Food index increased 3.6% for the twelve months period, with six major grocery store food group indexes rising over that span. The index for Meat and Meat Products rose 7.8% over the last year. Its reflects a sharp increase in the Pork index which rose 21.9%. The index for Vegetables increased 7.5%. The remaining groups posted smaller increases. The index for Milk, Cheese and Eggs increased 1.8% and the index for Food Products Not Elsewhere Classified rose 1.1%.

The Non-Alcoholic Beverages index rose 2.7%.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy rose 2.1% over the past twelve months. Three indexes had significant increases. The Clothing and Footwear index rose 9.3% over the same period and the Transport index rose 6.4%. Also increasing was the index for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance which rose 4.0%. Notable indexes that declined over the same period include Health (-10.1%) and Recreation and Culture (-5.8%).

Month-to-Month Price Changes

The monthly Consumer Price Index for February 2020 was unchanged. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index rose 0.9% in February. The Food index increased 1.0% following a 0.9% increase in January. The February increase was driven mostly by increases in prices for Fruit (+5.2%) and Vegetables (+4.0%).

Indexes for other food groups had mixed results over the one month period. The index for Milk, Cheese and Eggs increased 0.8% and the index for Meat and Meat Products rose 0.7%. Contrary to the increases, the index for Fish and Seafood declined 2.5% and the index for Bread and Cereals decreased by 0.6%.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy decreased 0.3% in February 2020. The index for Transport fell 1.1% with the index of Transport Services falling 2.8%. The index for Miscellaneous Goods and Services decreased by 0.3% and the index for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance decreased by 0.2%. Prices for the remaining groups remained unchanged.

---- END ----

Methodology

What is the consumer price index (CPI) measuring and how is it done?

The All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the main measure of what is commonly called inflation, or headline inflation. It measures the change in prices, on average, from month to month, and from year to year of the goods and services bought by most households.

Prices are collected monthly and quarterly from supermarkets and other suppliers of goods and services. The pattern of household expenditure on these goods and services is derived from a regular household budget (or expenditure) survey (HBS). The prices and spending patterns (known as weights) are then combined to calculate the price indices for groups of goods and services and for the All Items index. These indices are based on expenditure patterns in 2006.

The All Items (or overall) index, with all of its twelve (12) component indices, is published each month. For a detailed account of the methodology used in calculating the CPI, please call the Statistics Division.

Copies of the CPI for Feb 2020 can be accessed on the Division's official website www.statistics.gov.ag

Issued by:

Statistics Division

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance

Direct enquiries to:

Mr. Rohan Anthony, Senior Statistician, (268) 462 0451

Ms. Jerry Aska, Senior Research Officer, (268) 562 7496