



DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
P.O. BOX N-3904; NASSAU, BAHAMAS
P.O. BOX F-2561; FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ALL BAHAMAS JANUARY 2008

SUBSCRIPTION COST: Monthly \$0.50; Yearly \$5.00

ALL BAHAMAS

During the month of January 2008, the Consumer Price Index registered a 0.2 percent increase. The All Items Index stood at 123.6 compared with 123.3 for the previous month. The inflation rate was recorded at 2.3 percent.

Five (5) groups recorded price increases during the month, namely; Food & Beverages (1.0 percent), Housing (0.6 percent), Other Expenditures, (0.03 percent), Furniture & Households Operations, (0.02 percent) and Education, (0.01 percent). Recreation & Entertainment and Transportation & Communications recorded decreases of 1.8 and 0.1 percent, respectively.

It is interesting to note that consumers on New Providence and Grand Bahama both experienced price increases for oranges, grapes, butter, take-away meals and apples. Other food items impacting the increase in the Food & Beverages Index include tomatoes, crab meat, frozen fruits & juices, tomato paste, steaks, other poultry and bananas.

The growth in the Housing group is attributed to the increased cost of electricity including the surcharge.

The Other Expenditures Index increased as a result of the increase in the prices of items such as cigarettes, sanitary pads, small personal appliances, dental & shaving products, perfume, cologne and products for the hair, hairpieces and wigs.

NOTE: The All Bahamas Index is inclusive of New Providence and Grand Bahama.

**THE ALL BAHAMAS CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN COMPONENTS
(OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995 =100)**

GROUP	WEIGHT	JANUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	139.86	132.34	1.00	1.93	4.22
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.75	108.38	0.00	0.92	1.10
HOUSING	322.99	111.02	0.63	1.23	2.39
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	85.45	130.06	0.02	0.02	5.99
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	48.09	142.68	-0.01	0.75	3.14
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	158.86	115.35	-0.08	0.57	2.27
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	47.43	122.06	-1.83	-1.83	-1.85
EDUCATION	51.52	174.72	0.01	0.01	2.77
OTHER EXPENDITURES	87.05	134.89	0.03	0.12	0.93
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	123.57	0.24	0.74	2.61

NOTE: The All Bahamas Index is inclusive of New Providence and Grand Bahama.



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**THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
NEW PROVIDENCE AND GRAND BAHAMA
JANUARY 2008**

SUBSCRIPTION COSTS: Monthly \$0.50; Yearly \$5.00

NEW PROVIDENCE

During the month of January, the Consumer Price Index for New Providence (October/November 1995=100) experienced an increase of 0.1 percent over last month's index level of 124.1 percent.

The major groups influencing this increase were as follows:- Food & Beverages, Housing, Other Expenditures and Furniture & Household Operations.

Consumers on New Providence paid more for items such as grapes, 11.0%; butter, 7.0%; crab meat, 6.5%; tomato paste, 4.1%; take-away meals, 3.5%; apples, 3.5%; steaks, 3.0%; sit down meals, 2.7%; roast beef, 2.5%; oranges, 2.5%; cooking oils, 2.3% and canned fish and seafood, 2.2%; subsequently, the Food & Beverages Index increased.

The rate of electricity (including the surcharge) increased 2.6 percent moving the Housing Index forward.

In the Other Expenditures Index, a small increase of 0.03 percent was noted as a result of the following items: cigarettes, 2.0%; sanitary pads, 1.7%; small personal appliances, 0.4%; dental and shaving products, 0.2%; perfume and cologne, 0.2% and products for the hair, hairpieces and wigs, 0.1%.

Decreases were seen in Recreation & Entertainment, 2.2%; Transportation & Communications, 0.2% and Medical Care & Health, 0.01%.

GRAND BAHAMA

The Consumer Price Index for the month ending January 2008 for Grand Bahama (October/November 1995=100) showed an increase of 0.8 percent. This increase moved the CPI to a level of 121.2 for the month compared to the 120.2 recorded the previous month.

The Housing component led the major groups with increases - 1.9 percent. This was followed by Food & Beverages, 1.5 percent; Transportation & Communications, 0.3 percent; Education, 0.03 percent and Other Expenditures, 0.02 percent. A decrease was recorded in Furniture & Household Operations Index, 0.01 percent.

The rate of electricity (including the surcharge) increased 8.7%. As a result, the Housing Index advanced.

The Food & Beverages Index rose due to the increased cost of items such as oranges, 12.9%; tomatoes, 12.3%; take-away meals, 10.8%; grapes, 9.5%; butter, 5.8%; frozen fruit and juices, 5.0%; avocados, coconuts and other fresh fruits, 3.4%; apples, 2.8%; other poultry, 2.7% and bananas, 2.7%.

**THE NEW PROVIDENCE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
BY MAIN COMPONENTS
(OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995 =100)**

GROUP	WEIGHT	JANUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	138.31	133.92	0.88	1.70	4.28
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.84	108.77	0.00	1.17	1.71
HOUSING	328.18	109.57	0.31	0.45	1.23
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	88.72	132.63	0.02	0.02	6.90
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	44.12	145.36	-0.01	0.96	4.16
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	148.45	114.48	-0.21	0.52	2.20
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	48.71	125.88	-2.15	-2.16	-2.18
EDUCATION	53.09	176.94	0.00	0.00	3.02
OTHER EXPENDITURES	91.58	137.32	0.03	0.13	0.84
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	124.16	0.09	0.47	2.42

**THE GRAND BAHAMA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN COMPONENTS
(OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1995 =100)**

GROUP	WEIGHT	JANUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	146.06	126.35	1.48	2.86	3.96
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.39	106.81	0.00	-0.10	-1.31
HOUSING	302.21	117.33	1.92	4.52	7.39
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	72.38	117.41	-0.01	0.00	1.19
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	64.00	135.22	0.00	0.12	0.24
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	200.49	117.95	0.32	0.73	2.49
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	42.29	104.54	0.00	0.10	0.07
EDUCATION	45.24	164.27	0.03	0.03	1.48
OTHER EXPENDITURES	68.94	121.95	0.02	0.08	1.49
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	121.21	0.84	1.88	3.40