



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

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ALL BAHAMAS FEBRUARY 2008

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

ALL BAHAMAS

During the month of February 2008, the Consumer Price Index registered a 0.3 percent increase. The All Items Index stood at 123.9 compared with 123.6 for the previous month. The inflation rate was recorded at 2.3 percent.

Six (6) groups recorded price increases ranging from Medical Care & Health, (2.8 percent) to Other Expenditures, (0.02 percent). Transportation & Communications and Education recorded decreases of 0.1 and 0.03 percent, respectively.

In the Medical Care & Health segment, both New Providence and Grand Bahama recorded increases for services such as other hospital and medical, medical laboratories, dental, eye specialist and physician services along with medical care and pharmaceutical products.

The Recreation & Entertainment group increased as higher costs for other admission fees & packaged tours and photographic supplies & products were experienced.

The All Bahamas' Food & Beverages Index revealed increases that impacted this major group tremendously. The prices for items such as limes\lemons, apples, butter, sweet peppers, plantains and cucumbers were on the rise. Other food items that advanced the index included but not limited to are frozen fruits and juices, dried vegetables, roast beef, tangerines, tomato paste, lamb, fresh whole chicken and grapes.

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	FEBRUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	139.86	132.84	0.38	1.86	4.03
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.75	108.38	0.00	0.02	1.10
HOUSING	322.99	111.29	0.24	0.55	2.90
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	85.45	130.11	0.04	0.13	6.04
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	48.09	146.65	2.78	2.78	5.24
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	158.86	115.19	-0.14	0.15	2.39
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	47.43	122.53	0.39	-1.44	-1.53
EDUCATION	51.52	174.66	-0.03	-0.03	2.19
OTHER EXPENDITURES	87.05	134.92	0.02	0.02	0.93
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	123.92	0.28	0.56	2.85

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
FEBRUARY 2008**

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

NEW PROVIDENCE

The Consumer Price Index for the month of February 2008 showed a 0.3 percent increase over January 2008. The All Items Index was 124.6 compared with 124.2 in January. The rate of inflation stood at 2.4 percent.

The major groups that primarily influenced this increase were Medical Care & Health, 3.0 percent; Food & Beverages, 0.4 percent and Housing, 0.3 percent.

Rising costs for other hospital and medical services, 45.8%, was the major contributor to the increase in Medical Care & Health Index. Other items such as medical laboratories' services, 16.4%; dental services, 5.7%; eye specialists' services, 4.5%; physician services, 4.3% and medical & pharmaceutical products, 0.5% also impacted the increase recorded for this group.

Higher prices for tangerines, 9.4%; limeslemons, 7.6%; veal, 6.9%; grapes, 6.0%; cooking oil, 5.4%; sweet peppers, 4.5%; carrots, 4.2%; other fresh vegetables, 4.1%; plantains, 3.8%; canned milk, 3.6%; grapefruits, 3.2%; stew beef, 3.2% and fresh and frozen fish 2.5% all contributed to the increase seen in the Food & Beverages index.

The rate of electricity (including the surcharge) increased 2.4 percent moving the Housing Index forward.

Increases were also noted in Recreation & Entertainment, Furniture & Household, Other Expenditures and Transportation & Communications groups. The only recorded decrease was that of Education.

GRAND BAHAMA

The Consumer Price Index for the month of February 2008 registered a 0.1 percent increase. The All Items Index stood at 121.4 compared to the 121.2 in January 2008. The inflation rate stood at 1.7 percent.

Similar to New Providence, Grand Bahama's Medical Care & Health component led the major groups with increases - 2.1 percent. This was followed by Recreation & Entertainment, 1.0 percent; Food & Beverages, 0.4 percent; Education, 0.2 percent and Housing, 0.01 percent. Transportation & Communications, Furniture & Households along with Other Expenditures registered decreases of 0.6, 0.1 and 0.04 percent, respectively.

The Medical Care & Health Index increased reflecting high prices on the island of Grand Bahama for health services such as medical laboratories, 11.3%; other hospital & medical services, 8.3%; physician services, 2.9%; dental services, 2.1% and medical & pharmaceutical products, 0.02%.

The only major items influencing the increase recorded in the Recreation & Entertainment group were higher costs for other admission fees and packaged tours, 14.8% and photographic supplies and equipment, 0.02%.

The Food & Beverages Index rose as high costs for items such as limeslemons, 42.5%; apples, 37.0%; butter, 27.6%; sweet pepper, 19.2%; plantains, 13.3% and cucumbers, 10.1% surged on the island. Increases were also seen for other food items such as frozen fruits and juices, 10.0%; dried vegetables, 9.8%; roast beef, 9.6%; tomato paste, 6.8%; lamb, 6.2%; fresh whole chicken, 6.2%; ribs, 5.9%; hot dogs, 5.9%; ham, 5.4%; crabs, 5.3%; flour & prepared flour mixes, 4.8%; other confectionaries, 4.8%; stew beef, 4.8%; bacon, 4.6%; turkey, 4.3% and snacks, 4.2%.

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

GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	138.31	134.43	0.38	1.66	4.08
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.84	108.77	0.00	0.03	1.69
HOUSING	328.18	109.90	0.30	0.61	1.54
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	88.72	132.72	0.07	0.14	6.96
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	44.12	149.76	3.03	3.03	6.26
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	148.45	114.51	0.03	0.32	2.45
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	48.71	126.22	0.27	-1.87	-1.99
EDUCATION	53.09	176.81	-0.07	-0.08	2.29
OTHER EXPENDITURES	91.58	137.37	0.04	0.04	0.84
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	124.56	0.32	0.54	2.59

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

GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2008	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER		
			1 MONTH	3 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
FOOD & BEVERAGES	146.06	126.85	0.40	2.69	3.85
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	58.39	106.81	0.00	0.00	-1.26
HOUSING	302.21	117.34	0.01	0.30	8.83
FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD OPERATIONS	72.38	117.27	-0.12	0.04	1.22
MEDICAL CARE & HEALTH	64.00	138.02	2.07	2.07	2.32
TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS	200.49	117.23	-0.61	-0.31	2.23
RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT	42.29	105.60	1.01	1.01	1.13
EDUCATION	45.24	164.54	0.16	0.19	1.65
OTHER EXPENDITURES	68.94	121.90	-0.04	-0.04	1.49
ALL ITEMS	1000.00	121.36	0.12	0.62	3.93