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Note to the Reader

he following report presents the price statistics for July 2008.

- At the end of July 2008 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 1.4% compared to the end of June 2008. The largest percentage change is for the "Housing" sector index (3.1%), which led to an effect of 0.8 in the Δ CPI of July (1.4%).
- Compared to January 1, 2008 the CPI increased by 6.1%. The largest percentage change is observed for the index of the "Housing" sector (9.3%). Specifically, water and electricity prices increased by respectively 19.4% and 16.9%. Water and electricity caused an effect of 1.7 in the year-to-date Δ CPI of July (6.1%).
- Compared to July 2007 the CPI increased by 10.2%. The largest percentage change is observed for the index of the "Housing" sector (15.8%).
- The period average change CPI for the period July 2007 July 2008 is 8.2%, which is 4.1 percentage points higher compared to the period average change over the period July 2006 July 2007.
- Utilities (Water and Electricity) registered price increases during July 2008. The Water price increased with 6.0%, while the Electricity price increased with 6.6%. Utilities caused an effect of 0.6 in the Δ CPI of July (1.4%).

This report is divided in 4 sections. An overview of the monthly percentage changes in the CPI and index per sector is presented in section 1. Section 2 provides the yearly percentage changes in the CPI and index per sector. The development of indices of main sectors and utilities is outlined in section 3. Section 4 presents the percentage change in the CPI of Aruba's major trading partners and compares the CPI of Aruba and the USA, and is followed by the appendices.

For other specific information contact us at CBS or visit www.cbs.aw

Contact information:

Central Bureau of Statistics L.G. Smith Boulevard 160 Oranjestad - Aruba Phone: 583-7433 ext 296

Fax: 583-8057



1 Monthly change of the CPI

1.1 CPI and Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the total population of Aruba for the month of July 2008 is 140.8. This is 1.4% higher compared to the CPI of June 2008 (138.9). An overview of the percentage change in the CPI (Δ CPI) for different periods during 2007 and 2008 is shown in Table 1. The terms percentage change in CPI and "inflation" (deflation) are considered similar and are used interchangeably. The inflation over the last 12 months (end of period inflation) is 10.2%, while the inflation over a period of 24 months (period average inflation) is 8.2%.

Table 1 Overview of Δ CPI

Period		2008	2007
Current month	Jun-Jul	1.4	-0.3
Year-to-date	Jan-Jul	6.1	6.1
Last 12 months ¹	Jul-Jul	10.2	5.4
Last 24 months ²	Jul-Jul	8.2	4.1

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

Figure 1 depicts the monthly Δ CPI over a period of one year starting from July 2007, whereas the Δ CPI for the month July for the years 1999 through 2008 is illustrated in Figure 2.

1.2 Changes in sector

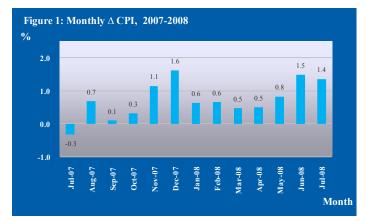
Figure 3 provides an overview of the percentage changes for the indices per sector for July 2008. The percentage change in index is further denoted as Δ I. The largest Δ I¹ is observed for the sector "Housing" (3.1%).

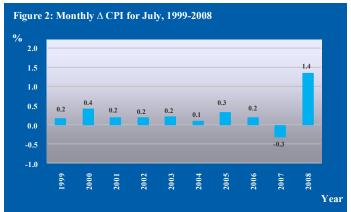
1.3 Changes in categories and subcategories

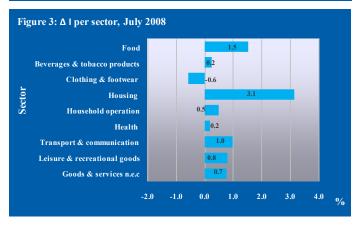
The largest positive and negative Δ I is seen in the categories "Water supply" (6.0%) and "Sugar, sugar products and chocolate" (-1.0%) respectively. The major Δ I in the "Transport & communication" sector is observed for the category "Vehicle supplies" which increased by 2.1%. This increase is mainly due to an increase in "Gasoline" of 3.7%. In the sector "Food" significant increases are seen in the subcategories "Flour" and "Rice (white)" with respectively 20.6% and 16.6%.

The subcategories which influenced the CPI calculation the most due to their weight in the basket of goods and services are "Water" and "Electricity", which had a positive effect of respectively, 0.27 and 0.43 on the \triangle CPI. Reference is made to table 8 & 9 in Appendices 1 & 2. Table 8 provides an overview of the indices for the months July 2007 up to and including July 2008 together with corresponding weights per sector and the Monthly, Yearly, year-to-date (ytd) and

Average percentage changes for July 2008. In table 9 an overview of the effect on the CPI per sector and category for July 2008 is presented. The course of indices for 2006 to 2008 is illustrated in Appendix 3.







End of period inflation

² Period average inflation

¹ The focus is on the four major sectors which are: Housing, Transport & communication, Food and Clothing & footwear. Together these sectors form 68% of the total weight of the basket of goods & services.

COS Consumer Price Index Aruba Yearly change July 2008

2 Yearly change of the CPI

2.1 End of period change CPI for July 2008

The CPI increased from 127.7 in July 2007 to 140.8 in July 2008, an increase of 10.2%. This Δ CPI is the highest registered over a period of 5 years (see table 2) for the month July.

Table 2 Five year period Yearly \triangle CPI

Period	Δ СРΙ
	Jul-Jul
2003-2004	2.9
2004-2005	3.5
2005-2006	3.9
2006-2007	5.4
2007-2008	10.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

2.2 Changes in sector

An overview of the percentage change per sector over the period July 2007 – July 2008 is presented in table 3. The largest Δ I is observed for the sector "Housing" (15.8%). This increase is mainly caused by increases in the categories "Water supply" (33.5%) and "Domestic fuel & power" (27.8%) respectively. The second largest Δ I during this period is observed for the sector "Transport and communication" with 12.1%. This is mainly the result of increases of 18.5% and 17.0% in the categories "Own transport" and "Vehicle supplies" respectively. Furthermore an increase of 9.9% and 8.5% is observed for the sectors "Clothing and footwear" and "Food" respectively. A comparison of the Δ I for the years 2007 and 2008 is provided in figure 4. The sectors which experienced smaller Δ I's in 2008 compared to 2007 are "Household operation", "Food" and "Beverage & tobacco products".

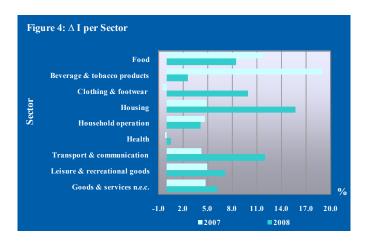
Table 3 Percentage Change for July, 2007-2008

Period	% Change
Housing	15.8
Transport and communication	12.1
Clothing and footwear	9.9
Food	8.5
Leisure and recreational goods	7.1
Goods and services n.e.c.	6.2
Household operation	4.2
Beverages and tobacco products	2.6
Health	0.5

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

2.3 Changes in categories

The largest positive and negative Δ I in categories observed over a period of one year are respectively, "Water supply" (33.5%) and "Furniture and lighting" (-5.1%). For an overview of the yearly percentage changes per category refer to table 8 in Appendix 1.



2.4 End of year change CPI 2003-2008

The end of year change Δ CPI for the period 2003-2007 together with the year-to-date Δ CPI (ytd Δ CPI) for 2008 are shown in figure 5. The Δ CPI for 2007 is calculated by comparing the CPI of December 2007 with the CPI of December 2006. At the end of each year the end of year percentage change equals the ytd \triangle CPI. The ytd \triangle CPI for July 2008 is 6.1%.



^{*} year-to-date

2.5 Period average change CPI for July 2008

The period average change CPI (Δ ACPI) for July 2008 is 8.2%. Table 4 provides an overview of the Δ ACPI for the month July for the years 2002 through 2008. The Δ ACPI of 2008 increased by 4.1 percentage points compared to 2007.

Table 4 Overview in \triangle ACPI for June, 2002 - 2008

Period	Δ ACPI
2002	2.7
2003	4.3
2004	2.3
2005	3.0
2006	4.1
2007	4.1
2008	8.2

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

COS Consumer Price Index Aruba Development of indices

3 Development of indices of main sectors and utilities

3.1 Indices main sectors

The four major sectors, "Housing", "Transport & communication", "Food" and "Clothing & footwear", constitute 68% of the total weight of the basket of goods & services, which are observed on a monthly basis. An overview of the course of indices for 2006-2008 per sector and for the CPI is provided in respectively figures 9-1 through 9-9 and 10 of Appendix 3.

Changes in the indices of the sectors "Housing" and "Transport & communication" are mainly the result of changes in the international oil prices and prices of utilities during the respective months. The development of electricity, water, gasoline and diesel prices is provided in the adjoining figures 6-1 through 6-3.

3.2 Electricity

The price of electricity is determined in Afl. for an average usage by households. The average usage is 700 kWh per month. The electricity price for an average consumption of 700 kWh increased by 6.6% in July of 2008, from Afl. 323.51 to Afl 344.86. Figure 6-1 provides an overview of the course of changes in the electricity price for the period 2006 through 2008.

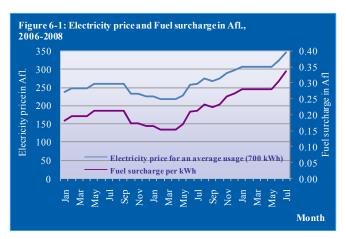
The component in the electricity tariff which is sensitive to price changes is the fuel surcharge (brandstofclausule). Figure 6-1 shows this component of the electricity tariff in Afl. per kWh per month. The fuel surcharge component of the electricity tariff increased in July of 2008 by 10.0%, from 30.43 cents per kWh in June 2008 to 33.48 cents per kWh in July 2008.

3.3 Water

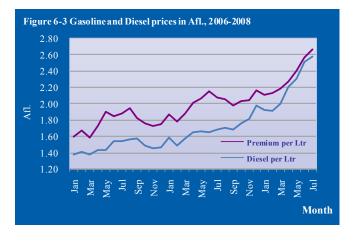
The price of water is determined in Afl. for an average usage (water consumption) by households. The average usage is 22.4 m³ per month. Figure 6-2 provides an overview of the course of changes in the water price for the period 2006 through 2008. The water price for an average consumption of 22.4 m³ increased by 6.0% in July of 2008

3.4 Gasoline and Diesel

Since the month of May 2007 the Government of Aruba has been absorbing part of the increase in gasoline and diesel prices by reducing the excise tariff on gasoline and diesel by respectively Afl 0.10 and Afl. 0.05. The retail price of gasoline increased by 3.7% from 256.7 cents per liter in June 2008 to 266.2 cents per liter in July 2008. In July 2008 the retail price of diesel increased by 2.6% from 251.3 cents per liter in June 2008 to 257.9 cents per liter.







4 Percentage change CPI of our major trading partners

Table 5 provides an overview of the Δ CPI of Aruba's major trading partners starting from July 2007. In July 2008 the Δ CPI of the USA, Curação and the Netherlands were respectively 0.5%, 0.7% and 0.1%.

Table 5: Monthly ∧ CPI 2007-2008 per Country

Period	Aruba	USA	·	Netherlands
reriou	Агира	USA	Curaçao	Netherlands
July	-0.3	0.0	0.3	-0.5
August	0.7	-0.2	0.5	0.2
September	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.6
October	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0
November	1.1	0.6	0.8	0.1
December	1.6	-0.1	0.3	-0.4
January	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.2
February	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.6
March	0.5	0.9	0.4	1.0
April	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4
May	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.4
June	1.5	1.0	1.9	-0.2
July	1.4	0.5	0.7	0.1

Source: CBS Aruba, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CBS Netherland Antilles and CBS Netherlands

4.1 Comparison of the CPI of Aruba and the USA

The USA is considered Aruba's largest trading partner². Table 6 provides an overview of the Δ CPI for Aruba and the USA. Aruba's monthly Δ CPI for July 2008 is 0.9 percentage points higher than the Δ CPI of the USA.

Table 6 Overview of ∆ of CPI

Period		Aruba	USA
Current month	Jun-Jul	1.4	0.5
Year-to-date	Jan-Jul	6.1	4.7
Last 12 months 1	Jul-Jul	10.2	5.6
Last 24 months ²	Jul-Jul	8.2	4.0

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

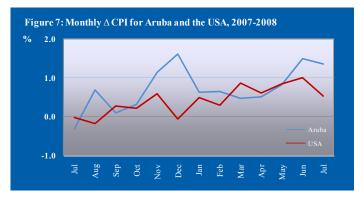
The Δ CPI of Aruba over the last 12 months is 4.6 percentage points higher compared with the USA's 12-month Δ CPI. The Δ CPI over the last 24 months for Aruba is 4.2 percentage points higher than the Δ CPI of the USA. The monthly inflation for both Aruba and the USA is depicted in figure 7 over a period of one year. Furthermore, an overview of the end of year Δ CPI over the period 1998-2008 for Aruba and the USA is provided in table 7 and figure 8.

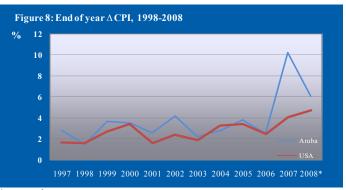
Table 7: End of year \triangle CPI, 1998-2008

Period	Aruba	USA
1998	1.5	1.6
1999	3.7	2.7
2000	3.5	3.4
2001	2.6	1.6
2002	4.2	2.4
2003	2.2	1.9
2004	2.8	3.3
2005	3.8	3.4
2006	2.5	2.5
2007	10.2	4.1
2008*	6.1	4.7

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba

^{*} year-to-date





^{*} year-to-date

¹ End of period inflation

² Period average inflation

 $^{^2\,}$ "58% of Aruba's import by sea & air originates from the USA (Source: Foreign Trade Statistics Report, 1st Quarter 2008).



COS Consumer Price Index Aruba

Table 8: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) in the Consumer Price Index for July 2008, Total Population (Sep 2000 = 100)

ole 8: Monthly & Yearly Changes (%) in the Consumer Price Index for July 2008, Total Population (Sep 2000									
DESCRIPTION		2007	2007	2008	2008	Monthly change	Ytd change	Yearly change	Average ch
	coefficient	Jul	Dec	Jun	Jul	Jun-Jul	Jan-Jul	Jul-Jul	Jul 07-
Food	1,469	137.8	140.9	147.2	149.5	1.5	6.1	8.5	8.5
		124.1	125.7	131.7		3.0	7.9	9.3	
Grain and grain products					135.7	2.1			7.5
Meat, poultry, game, fish and shellfish		134.0 128.4	136.9 132.5	145.9 135.1	149.0		8.8	11.2	9.0
Fats and oils					140.4	3.9	6.0	9.3	6.4
Dairy products	149 176	147.9	166.7	186.2 204.1	184.3	-1.0 4.0	10.6 9.0	24.6	20.2
Potatoes, vegetables and fruit		186.5	194.6		212.2			13.8	15.2 1.2
Sugar, sugar products and chocolate		111.7	112.6	119.3	118.1	-1.0	4.9 1.9	5.7 2.6	
Ready to eat meals		115.9	116.7	120.0	118.9	-0.9			4.1
Take away beverages and meals		130.5	127.7	126.4	126.5	0.1	-0.9	-3.0	0.8
Groceries n.e.c.	104	126.9	127.3	133.2	134.1	0.7	5.3	5.7	7.7
Beverages and tobacco products	219	130.3	131.1	133.4	133.7	0.2	2.0	2.6	8.0
Beverages Beverages	192	129.7	130.5	132.6	133.0	0.3	1.9	2.5	8.4
Tobacco products		134.5	135.0	139.2	139.1	-0.1	3.1	3.4	5.1
Tobacco products	. 21	134.3	133.0	139.2	139.1	-0.1	3.1	3.4	3.1
Clothing and footwear	1,086	126.7	137.5	140.1	139.3	-0.6	1.3	9.9	4.9
Clothing and accessories		128.9	141.1	144.8	143.9	-0.6	1.9	11.6	5.4
Footwear		117.2	122.0	119.8	119.5	-0.2	-2.1	2.0	2.7
Tootwear	204	117.2	122.0	119.0	119.5	-0.2	-2.1	2.0	2.7
Housing	2,296	140.6	148.9	157.8	162.7	3.1	9.3	15.8	13.8
Property rent		136.1	138.1	140.5	140.9	0.3	2.0	3.5	3.5
Domestic fuel and power		143.8	160.5	174.0	183.8	5.7	14.5	27.8	23.5
Property maintenance goods		127.9	130.1	133.3	133.8	0.4	2.8	4.7	6.6
Garden supplies		195.9	182.2	191.2	194.1	1.6	6.6	-0.9	6.8
Water supply		151.9	169.8	191.3	202.8	6.0	19.4	33.5	27.5
water suppry	330	131.7	107.0	171.5	202.0	0.0	15.4	33.3	27.5
Household operation	1,002	122.4	124.0	126.9	127.5	0.5	2.8	4.2	3.7
Furniture and lighting		109.7	102.1	104.5	104.1	-0.3	1.9	-5.1	-6.5
Floor coverings and household textiles		146.3	155.5	164.2	164.6	0.2	5.8	12.5	14.0
Home appliances and tools		96.8	96.0	97.8	97.8	0.0	1.9	1.0	-10.4
Household equipment and utensils		121.1	122.1	125.1	127.0	1.5	4.0	4.9	4.1
Household services		120.1	120.5	125.3	124.5	-0.6	3.3	3.7	6.3
Housekeeping charges		128.9	133.7	139.9	141.8	1.4	6.1	10.0	8.3
Household supplies		134.4	137.5	132.4	133.1	0.6	-3.2	-0.9	6.9
Health	88	99.8	99.9	100.2	100.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1
Health services	88	99.8	99.9	100.2	100.4	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.1
Transport and communication	1,967	116.6	119.9	129.4	130.6	1.0	9.0	12.1	7.4
Own transport	544	102.4	107.7	121.4	121.4	0.0	12.7	18.5	8.1
Vehicle supplies			146.6	162.0	165.5	2.1	12.9	17.0	11.5
Public transport costs	249	105.8	106.4	107.3	107.5	0.2	1.0	1.7	2.5
Communication services	462	100.7	100.4	100.3	100.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.4	0.9
Leisure and recreational goods		121.0	124.7	128.6	129.6	0.8	4.0	7.1	6.6
Costs incurred for recreational purposes		122.1	124.9	128.6	129.7	0.9	3.8	6.2	7.0
Admission charges to events and venues		127.7	132.7	138.9	140.8	1.4	6.1	10.2	8.2
Publications (no study material)	51	130.5	132.7	133.3	133.0	-0.2	0.3	1.9	5.4
Formal education fees	193	112.9	118.3	122.7	123.5	0.6	4.4	9.4	5.0
Goods and services n.e.c.	,	119.8		126.3	127.2	0.7	3.7	6.2	5.9
Toiletries and cosmetics		120.2	122.6	125.5	125.7	0.1	2.5	4.5	7.4
Insurance services	283	104.6	104.6	104.6	104.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other goods and services n.e.c.	438	126.9	131.3	136.8	138.5	1.2	5.5	9.1	7.7
Money transfers	103	127.7	132.7	138.9	140.8	1.4	6.1	10.2	8.2
Unknown articles or n.e.c.	29	127.7	132.7	138.9	140.8	1.4	6.1	10.2	8.2
TOTAL INDEX	10,000	127.7	132.7	138.9	140.8	1.4	6.1	10.2	8.2
: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba									

Statistics, more than just Numbers



Table 9: Effect on the Consumer Price Index per sector and category for July 2008 (Sep 2000 = 100)

Table 9: Effect on the Consumer Price 1	nuck per sector	and category for	3 dily 2000 (SCP 2	2000 – 100)	
DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	Effect	Effect	Effect	Effect
	coefficient	Jun-Jul	Jan-Jul	Jul-Jul	Jul 07-08
Food	1,469	0.27	0.97	1.25	1.19
Grain and grain products	233	0.08	0.21	0.24	0.19
Meat, poultry, game, fish and shellfish	320	0.08	0.33	0.40	0.31
Fats and oils	28	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02
Dairy products	149	-0.02	0.18	0.38	0.31
Potatoes, vegetables and fruit	176	0.10	0.19	0.26	0.22
Sugar, sugar products and chocolate	30	-0.01	0.02	0.02	0.00
Ready to eat meals	29	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Take away beverages and meals	399	0.00	-0.04	-0.13	0.04
Groceries n.e.c.	104	0.01	0.06	0.06	0.09
Beverages and tobacco products	219	0.02	0.05	0.07	0.18
Beverages	192	0.02	0.04	0.06	0.17
Tobacco products	27	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Clothing and footwear	1,086	-0.09	0.15	1.07	0.52
Clothing and accessories	881	-0.08	0.20	1.03	0.45
Footwear	204	-0.01	-0.05	0.04	0.06
Housing	2,296	0.78	2.13	3.80	3.42
Property rent	717	0.03	0.16	0.27	0.27
Domestic fuel and power	659	0.44	1.01	1.94	1.67
Property maintenance goods	500	0.03	0.16	0.26	0.35
Garden supplies	61	0.02	0.05	0.03	0.05
Water supply	358	0.27	0.76	1.30	1.08
Household operation	1,002	0.06	0.34	0.43	0.28
Furniture and lighting	133	-0.01	0.04	-0.07	-0.11
Floor coverings and household textiles	113	0.00	0.09	0.16	0.13
Home appliances and tools	163	0.00	0.04	0.02	-0.20
Household equipment and utensils	75	0.01	0.03	0.04	0.03
Household services	118	0.00	0.04	0.05	0.08
Housekeeping charges	227	0.04	0.15	0.25	0.21
Household supplies	173	0.01	-0.06	-0.01	0.13
Health	88	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Health services	88	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
		****	****	****	****
Transport and communication	1,967	0.15	1.66	2.28	1.44
•					
Own transport	544	0.00	0.76	1.09	0.48
Vehicle supplies	712	0.15	0.88	1.17	0.85
Public transport costs	249	0.01	0.02	0.04	0.06
Communication services	462	0.00	0.00	-0.02	0.04
Leisure and recreational goods	799	0.07	0.34	0.61	0.54
Costs incurred for recreational purposes	465	0.05	0.19	0.31	0.34
Admission charges to events and venues	89	0.02	0.06	0.10	0.08
Publications (no study material)	51	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03
Formal education fees	193	0.01	0.09	0.19	0.09
Goods and services n.e.c.	1,074	0.09	0.42	0.69	0.67
Toiletries and cosmetics	219	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.18
Insurance services	283	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other goods and services n.e.c.		0.07		0.43	0.37
*	438		0.26		
Money transfers	103	0.02	0.07	0.11	0.09
Unknown articles or n.e.c.	29	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.03
TOTAL INDEX	10,000	1.35	6.06	10.20	8.25
Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba					

Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba



Glossary

The Consumer Price Index and Inflation

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures changes in prices of consumer goods and services by households. Consumer price indices can be intended to measure either the rate of price inflation or deflation as perceived by households or changes in their cost of living. In case of inflation, the percentage change is positive and it indicates a decrease in the purchasing power of the consumers.

Monthly percentage change

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of the previous month.

Year-to-date

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of December prior to the year under review.

End of period inflation (last 12 months)

Percentage change in price indices of any aggregates of the CPI in relation to the respective price indices of the same month of the previous year.

Period average inflation (last 24 months)

The end of period inflation percentage change in CPI (period average inflation) is calculated by comparing the annual average CPI of the concerning period with the annual average CPI of the concerning period of the previous year.

Effect

Contribution of all percentage changes (of all respective aggregates) to the CPI.