



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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## MARCH 2017

The consumer price index recorded a decline of 0.1 percent for the month of March 2017. The “All Items” index was registered at 106.3 for the month of March 2017 compared to 106.4 for the month of February 2017. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 1.4 percent.

Four (4) groups recorded increases for the month, “Recreation and Culture” (0.5 percent), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels” (0.3 percent), “Communication” (0.1 percent) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.1 percent).

Four (4) groups recorded decreases for the month, “Transport” (0.8 percent), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4 percent), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.4 percent) and “Hotels and Restaurants” (0.4 percent).

Four (4) groups remained unchanged “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Education” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The index for the group “Recreation & Culture” rose by 0.5 percent mainly because of an increase in the price of canned food for pets (23.2 percent) and (3.6 percent) respectively and lead pencils (21.8 percent).

Similarly, the main contributors for the 0.3 percent increase in the index for the group “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels” were higher prices for 100lb cylinder (6.3 percent), 20lb cylinder (6.1 percent) and 25lb Cylinder (5.9 percent) cooking gas.

The “Communication” group index recorded a 0.1 percent increase as a consequence of a 2.0 percent increase in the cost of mobile call rates from domestic to fixed line phones in the Caribbean.

Meanwhile, the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” group index increased by 0.1 percent due to a 2.2 percent increase in the cost of whiskey – red.

The “Transport” group index declined by 0.8 percent because of lower prices for passenger airfare from St.Vincent and the Grenadines to St.Lucia (25.3 percent) and to Trinidad & Tobago (12.6 percent).

Correspondingly, the “Food and Non – Alcoholic Beverages index fell by 0.4 percent as a result of a reduction in the price for several items namely; tomatoes (17.2 percent), pig-tail fresh (11.2 percent), christophene (6.4 percent), chicken –wings (3.0 percent), tomato ketchup (2.8 percent) cream cheese (2.3 percent), eggs (1.8 percent) , garlic (1.8 percent) and codfish (1.6 percent).

The 0.4 percent decline in the “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” group was accounted for by a reduction in the cost of a washing machine (21.1 percent).

Likewise, the “Restaurants and Hotels” group index fell by 0.4 percent due to lower prices for school meals (16.7 percent).

**Table 1**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price	
		March 2017	February 2017			
<b>INCREASED</b>						
Luncheon meat - Chicken	340g Tin	7.14	7.00	0.14	2.00	
Condensed Milk	397g Tin	4.00	3.29	0.71	21.58	
Cornflakes	18oz Box	11.15	10.75	0.40	3.72	
Pumpkins	Lb	2.36	2.24	0.12	5.36	
Sweet Potatoes	Lb	2.21	2.12	0.09	4.25	
Dried Pigeon Peas	Lb	5.74	5.36	0.38	7.09	
Powdered milk - Skimmed	Lb	6.74	6.55	0.19	2.90	
Whiskey - Red	750ml Bot	63.00	61.65	1.35	2.19	
Cooking gas LPG :	20 lb Cylinder	Each	40.85	38.49	2.36	6.13
	25 lb Cylinder	Each	33.90	32.00	1.90	5.94
	100 lb Cylinder	Each	159.45	149.94	9.51	6.34
Call rates : Mobile to Fixed Line Caribbean	Per min	1.00	0.98	0.02	2.04	
Cat food	5.5oz Tin	3.40	2.76	0.64	23.19	
Dog food	374g Tin	3.79	3.66	0.13	3.55	
Lead pencil	Each	1.06	0.87	0.19	21.84	
<b>DECREASED</b>						
Chicken Wings	Lb	4.52	4.66	-0.14	-3.00	
Pig-tail fresh	Lb	4.67	5.26	-0.59	-11.22	
Codfish	Lb	14.27	14.51	-0.24	-1.65	
Cream Cheese	8oz Tub	8.81	9.02	-0.21	-2.33	
Christophene	Lb	3.22	3.44	-0.22	-6.40	
Garlic	Lb	8.20	8.35	-0.15	-1.80	
Tomatoes	Lb	4.29	5.18	-0.89	-17.18	
Tomato ketchup	24oz Bot	7.35	7.56	-0.21	-2.78	
Eggs	Doz	8.52	8.68	-0.16	-1.84	
Washing machine	Each	2351.75	2980.92	-629.17	-21.11	
Passenger Air transport						
St Vincent to St.Lucia	one way	251.42	336.47	-85.05	-25.28	
St Vincent to Trinidad & Tobago	one way	392.85	449.55	-56.70	-12.61	
School Meals - Pizza	Each	2.50	3.00	-0.50	-16.67	
School Meals - Bakes & Chicken	Each	2.50	3.00	-0.50	-16.67	
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	107.90	108.22	-0.32	-0.30	

**Table 2.1**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2017 Compared With March 2016**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2017	March 2016		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.45	6.06	0.39	6.44
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.57	2.20	0.37	16.82
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.57	1.61	-0.04	-2.48
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.52	4.72	-0.20	-4.24
Turkey Wings	Lb.	2.53	3.15	-0.62	-19.68
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.46	5.26	0.20	3.80
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.07	7.75	0.32	4.06
Codfish	Lb.	14.27	14.21	0.06	0.42
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.26	13.07	0.18	1.42
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.58	4.62	-0.04	-0.87
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.07	3.03	0.04	1.32
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	3.29	0.71	21.58
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.02	1.99	0.03	1.51
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.25	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	8.52	8.79	-0.27	-3.07
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	8.79	8.50	0.29	3.41
Sugar - Brown ( loose)	Lb.	1.56	1.35	0.21	15.56
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	2.02	1.68	0.34	20.24
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.36	1.40	-0.04	-2.86
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	-0.07
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2 kg	7.29	7.39	-0.10	-1.35
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.92	1.78	0.14	7.87
Rice - Package	2 kg	10.46	9.14	1.32	14.48
Bananas	Lb.	1.35	1.33	0.02	1.50
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.54	2.62	-0.08	-3.05
Eddoes	Lb.	2.63	2.74	-0.11	-4.01
Dasheens	Lb.	1.80	1.84	-0.04	-2.17
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.21	2.07	0.14	6.76
Oranges	Each	0.74	0.79	-0.05	-6.33
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.29	4.90	-0.61	-12.45
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	8.95	7.92	1.03	12.94
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.30	10.73	1.57	14.59
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.68	10.65	0.03	0.28
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.53	2.31	0.22	9.52
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.64	5.64	0.00	0.00

**Table 2.2**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2017 Compared With March 2016**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2017	March 2016		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.71	29.02	0.69	2.38
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.47	4.61	-0.14	-3.04
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.12	3.92	0.20	5.10
Table wine ( local )	26 oz Bot.	20.91	18.79	2.12	11.28
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>					
Textile material - Terelyne	Yd.	47.95	47.95	0.00	0.00
Textile material - Linen	Yd.	17.95	17.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	69.95	69.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Jeans ( long) - size 30	Each	49.95	49.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.79	79.79	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.77	89.77	0.00	0.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit ( polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Blouse ( cotton/Spandex)	Each	29.95	29.95	0.00	0.00
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House -2 Bedrooms	Month	567.86	567.86	0.00	0.00
Unfurnished House -3 Bedrooms	Month	612.50	612.50	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment - 2 Bedrooms	Month	791.67	791.67	0.00	0.00
Cement - Portland ( grey)	94 Lbs	21.52	24.90	-3.38	-13.57
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	91.60	86.62	4.98	5.75
Oil Paint	Gallon	95.00	105.00	-10.00	-9.52
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	68.97	68.30	0.67	0.98
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	Gallon	6.61	8.33	-1.72	-20.65
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	35.90	31.25	4.65	14.88
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	107.90	99.41	8.49	8.54
<b>FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.88	1,162.50	0.38	0.03
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.00	125.00	-20.00	-16.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.84	52.76	3.08	5.84
Laundry Soap	Each	1.19	1.16	0.03	2.59
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.35	5.96	0.39	6.54

**Table 2.3**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2017 Compared With March 2016**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2017	March 2016		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	Visit	60.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Eye Care	Test	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Hospitalisation (Private Ward)	Day	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
Drug for Hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	12.26	12.57	-0.32	-2.51
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.09	15.42	-0.33	-2.14
Dental Care	Visit	123.33	123.33	0.00	0.00
Chest X- ray	Test	120.00	120.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	10.66	10.30	0.36	3.50
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	Year	590.00	470.00	120.00	25.53
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	One Way	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Boat Fare - Bequia	One Way	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
Telephone Service - rental of line- domestic	Month	23.46	23.46	0.00	0.00
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet Charge	Month	101.70	101.70	0.00	0.00
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	Minute	0.91	0.78	0.13	16.03
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,993.82	1,989.25	4.57	0.23
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,832.40	3,813.54	18.86	0.49
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,071.53	2,061.34	10.19	0.49
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.79	3.49	0.30	8.60
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	325.00	275.00	50.00	18.18



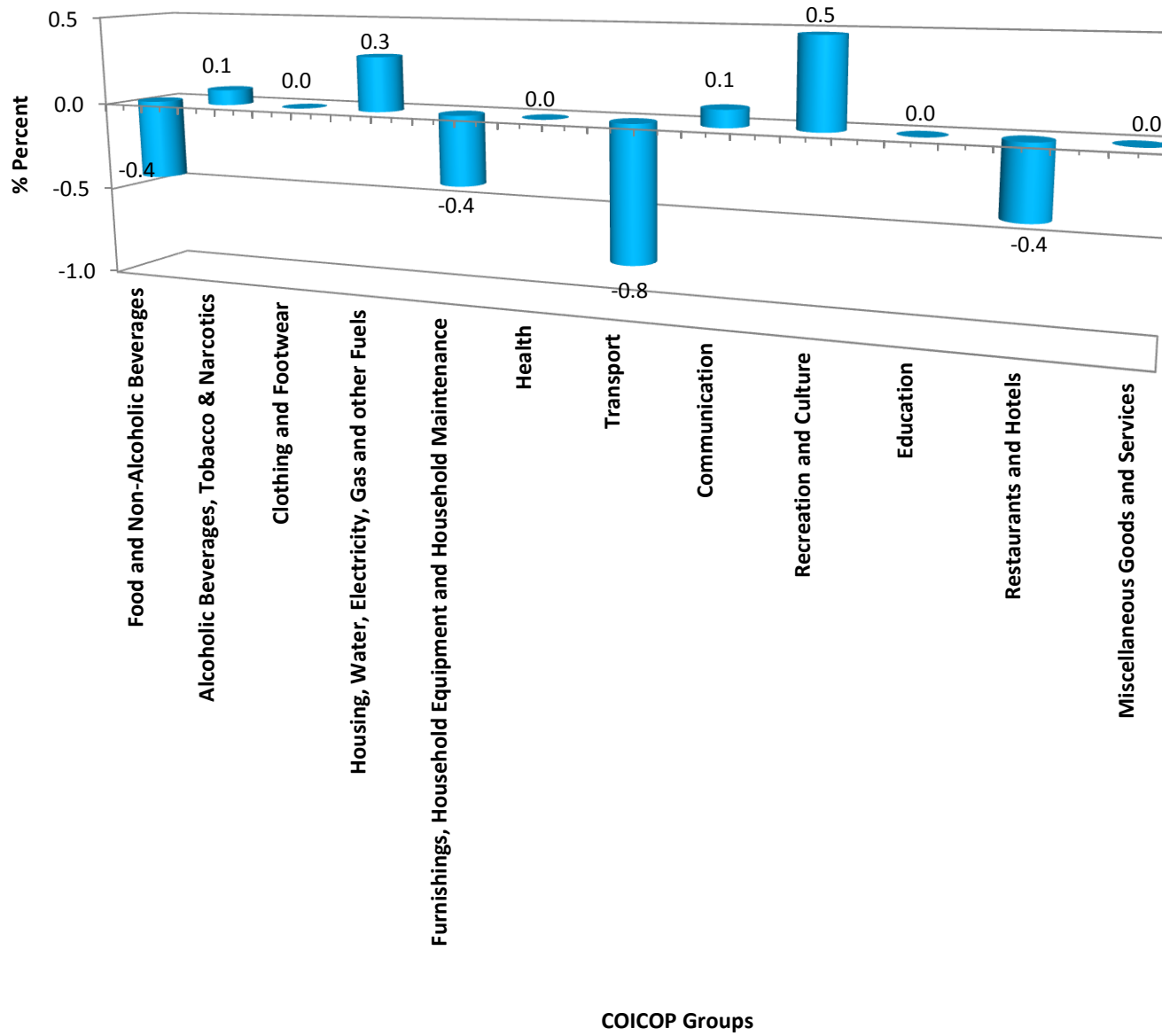
**Table 2.4**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2017 Compared With March 2016**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2017	March 2016		
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	215.00	205.00	10.00	4.88
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	825.00	825.00	0.00	0.00
Secondary School Fee - Private	Term	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Newspaper - Local	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.78	0.86	-0.08	-9.30
Lead Pencils	Each	1.06	0.87	0.19	21.84
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	79.72	79.72	0.00	0.00
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
<b>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	13.86	13.86	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	13.86	13.86	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	16.85	16.85	0.00	0.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.53	3.50	0.03	0.79
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.04	9.06	-0.03	-0.28
Men's Haircut	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing ( Relaxer )	Visit	64.81	64.81	0.00	0.00
Disposable Diapers ( medium )	10 per Pk.	12.92	12.81	0.11	0.86
Health Insurance - Group (family)	≥3 Persons	307.00	307.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Expenses (Affidavit)	Fee	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00

**Table 3**  
**The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups**  
**January 2010 = 100**

	Groups	Weight	February 2017	March 2017	March 2016	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	111.5	111.0	109.2	-0.4	1.6
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	116.5	116.6	112.6	0.1	3.6
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	104.5	0.0	0.4
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	98.8	99.1	97.3	0.3	1.8
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.9	102.5	102.2	-0.4	0.3
06.	Health	1.79	107.3	107.3	107.8	0.0	-0.5
07.	Transport	11.84	119.5	118.6	116.3	-0.8	2.0
08.	Communication	9.41	106.8	106.9	106.3	0.1	0.6
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.0	104.5	103.2	0.5	1.3
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	108.5	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.7	102.3	102.4	-0.4	-0.1
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.5	101.5	101.3	0.0	0.2
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	106.4	106.3	104.8	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>

**Chart 1: COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2017**



**Table 4**  
**The Consumer Price Index By Main Groups**  
**January 2010 = 100**  
**Contribution To Change**

	Groups	Weight	February 2017	March 2017	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						February 2017	March 2017		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	111.5	111.0	-0.4	2,442.97	2,432.01	-11.0	109.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	116.5	116.6	0.1	450.86	451.24	0.4	-3.9
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	0.0	337.78	337.78	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	98.8	99.1	0.3	2,969.93	2,978.95	9.0	-90.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.9	102.5	-0.4	678.11	675.48	-2.6	26.4
6.	Health	1.79	107.3	107.3	0.0	192.07	192.07	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	119.5	118.6	-0.8	1,414.88	1,404.22	-10.7	106.6
8.	Communication	9.41	106.8	106.9	0.1	1,004.99	1,005.93	0.9	-9.4
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.0	104.5	0.5	396.24	398.15	1.9	-19.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	0.0	144.28	144.28	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.7	102.3	-0.4	192.05	191.30	-0.7	7.5
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.5	101.5	0.0	437.47	437.47	0.0	0.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	106.4	106.3	-0.1	10,640.00	10,630.00	-10.0	100.0

**Table 5**  
**Monthly Index - 2017**  
**January 2010 = 100**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>All Items</b>	<b>Food &amp; Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	<b>Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco &amp; Narcotics</b>	<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels</b>	<b>Furnishings Household Equipment &amp; Household Maintenance</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Communication</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Restaurants &amp; Hotels</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Goods and Services</b>
WEIGHT	100.00	21.91	3.87	3.22	30.06	6.59	1.79	11.84	9.41	3.81	1.32	1.87	4.31
MONTH													
January	106.7	112.1	116.8	104.8	99.5	103.1	107.6	118.7	106.8	103.9	109.3	102.7	101.5
February	106.4	111.5	116.5	104.9	98.8	102.9	107.3	119.5	106.8	104.0	109.3	102.7	101.5
March	106.3	111.0	116.6	104.9	99.1	102.5	107.3	118.6	106.9	104.5	109.3	102.3	101.5