



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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## MAY

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent for the month of May 2017. The “All Items” index was registered at 108.0 for the month of May 2017 compared to 107.5 for the month of April 2017. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 2.6 percent.

Five (5) groups recorded increases for the month: “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance (5.4 percent) “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (2.9) “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (1.0), “Restaurants and Hotels” (0.9 percent) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.5 percent). Four (4) groups recorded decreases for the month: “Health (1.1 percent), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.7 percent), “Transport” (0.3 percent) and “Recreation and Culture” (0.3 percent). Three (3) groups remained unchanged during the month: “Clothing and Footwear”, “Communication” and “Education”.

The group index for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance increased by 5.4 percent due mainly to an increase of 27 percent in the wages paid to domestic workers.

The Miscellaneous Goods and Services index grew by 2.9 percent due to an increase of 27 percent in the wages paid to caregivers and 7.5 percent increase in the price of a bottle of roll-on.

The 1.0 percent increase in the index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages is due mainly to an increase in the prices of several food items which include: bacon (53.0 percent), pineapple juice (36.1 percent), split peas (21.1 percent), lentil peas (18.2 percent), pigtail (15.4 percent), carrots (13.7 percent) and leg quarters (5.8 percent).

The Restaurants and Hotels index increased by 0.9 percent as a result of an increase of 3.4 percent in the price of a large glass of fruit juice, 2.3 percent in the price of a beef roti and 1.2 percent in the price of a 2-piece meal.

The Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics index grew by 0.5 percent due mainly to a 12.0 percent increase in the price of a pack of cigarettes.

The Health index declined by 1.1 percent, due to a reduction in the price of drugs for the treatment of cancer (16.7 percent) and diabetes (4.6 percent) as well as pain relievers (14.7 percent).

The group index for Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels decreased by 0.7 percent due mainly to a decline in the price of electricity by 7.0 percent. This decline resulted from a decrease in the fuel surcharge rate from 30.96 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of April 2017 to 25.33 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of May 2017.

The 0.3 percent decrease in the Transport index is due mainly to a reduction in the price of new car tyres (30.1 percent) and jeep tyres (14.3 percent), spark plugs (6.6 percent) and passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to St. Lucia (7.6 percent).

The Recreation and Culture index decreased by 0.3 percent due to a decline of 14.3 percent in the price for kid's carnival costume and cat food (4.7 percent).

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

Items	Unit Of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change In Price	Percentage Change In Price
		May 2017	April 2017		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Ground beef	Lb	19.49	17.24	2.25	13.05
Leg quarters	Lb	2.73	2.58	0.15	5.81
Pig tail - fresh	Lb	5.78	5.01	0.77	15.37
Bacon	12oz pk	19.16	12.52	6.64	53.04
Evaporated milk	405g tin	3.27	2.91	0.36	12.37
Carrots	Lb	3.99	3.51	0.48	13.68
Lentil peas	454g pk	5.97	5.05	0.92	18.22
Split peas	Lb	3.45	2.85	0.60	21.05
Pineapple juice	19oz tin	8.93	6.56	2.37	36.13
Cigarettes	Pk if 20	6.70	5.98	0.72	12.04
Paint - flat emulsion	1 gallon	103.80	89.00	14.80	16.63
Steel rods	1 length	20.42	18.89	1.53	8.10
Wages for construction services	Daily	42.00	40.00	2.00	5.00
Wages to domestic workers	Monthly	635.00	500.00	135.00	27.00
Wages to caregivers	Monthly	635.00	500.00	135.00	27.00
LPG - cooking gas:					
<i>Areas I, II, III &amp; IV</i>	20 Lb	39.60	35.90	3.70	10.31
<i>Areas I, II, III &amp; IV</i>	22Lb	47.50	42.85	4.65	10.85
<i>Areas I, II, III &amp; IV</i>	25Lb	39.25	36.00	3.25	9.03
<i>Areas I, II, III &amp; IV</i>	94.6 Lb	160.00	155.84	4.16	2.67
<i>Areas I, II, III &amp; IV</i>	100Lb	188.60	169.95	18.65	10.97
Passenger airfare from St Vincent & the Grenadines to					
Mustique	1 way	100.00	95.00	5.00	5.26
Carnival costume (adult)	Each	350.00	325.00	25.00	7.69
Beef roti	Each	10.49	10.25	0.24	2.34
Fruit juice	Large	3.06	2.96	0.10	3.38
2-piece chicken and fries meal	1 box	17.05	16.85	0.20	1.19
Roll-on	50ml bottle	5.91	5.50	0.41	7.45
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Pumpkins	Lb	2.22	2.37	-0.15	-6.33
Tomatoes	Lb	3.14	3.63	-0.49	-13.50
Garlic	Lb	7.16	8.2	-1.04	-12.68
Pepper sauce	155ml bottle	6.95	9.86	-2.91	-29.51
Electricity	140Kwh	105.46	113.34	-7.88	-6.95
Drugs for diabetes	1 Month's supply	12.57	13.18	-0.61	-4.63
Drugs for cancer	1 Month's supply	15.00	18.00	-3.00	-16.67
Pain relievers	100 tabs. Bottle	6.34	7.43	-1.09	-14.67
Carnival costume (children)	Each	150.00	175.00	-25.00	-14.29
Cat food	5.5oz tin	3.48	3.65	-0.17	-4.66
Comb	Each	2.18	2.27	-0.09	-3.96
New jeep tyres - 205/70/5	Each	281.01	327.75	-46.74	-14.26
New care tyres - 175/70/13	Each	146.91	210.17	-63.26	-30.10
Spark plugs	Each	12.24	13.11	-0.87	-6.64
Passenger airfare from St Vincent & the Grenadines to					
St. Lucia	1 way	401.95	435.02	-33.07	-7.60

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2017	May 2016		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.52	6.35	0.17	2.68
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.73	2.64	0.09	3.41
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.56	1.61	-0.05	-3.11
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.41	4.65	-0.24	-5.16
Turkey Wings	Lb.	2.78	2.97	-0.19	-6.40
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	4.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.55	5.24	0.31	5.92
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.15	7.75	0.40	5.16
Codfish	Lb.	14.56	13.76	0.80	5.81
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.38	13.16	0.22	1.67
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.75	4.64	0.11	2.37
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.10	3.14	-0.04	-1.27
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.48	3.40	0.08	2.35
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.02	2.02	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.25	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	8.35	9.04	-0.69	-7.63
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.06	8.55	0.51	5.96
Sugar - Brown ( loose)	Lb.	1.56	1.51	0.05	3.31
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	2.03	1.72	0.31	18.02
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.36	1.40	-0.04	-2.86
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2 kg	7.29	7.38	-0.09	-1.22
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.98	1.89	0.09	4.76
Rice - Package	2 kg	10.54	10.29	0.25	2.43
Bananas	Lb.	1.36	1.34	0.02	1.49
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.58	2.62	-0.04	-1.53
Eddoes	Lb.	2.62	2.87	-0.25	-8.71
Dasheens	Lb.	1.79	1.82	-0.03	-1.65
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.15	2.17	-0.02	-0.92
Oranges	Each	0.76	0.80	-0.04	-5.00
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.14	4.55	-1.41	-30.99
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	8.96	8.78	0.18	2.05
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.37	12.25	0.12	0.98
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.78	10.66	0.12	1.13
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.55	2.31	0.24	10.39
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.67	5.65	0.02	0.35

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2017	May 2016		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.91	29.02	0.89	3.07
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.55	4.61	-0.06	-1.30
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.07	3.88	0.19	4.90
Table wine ( local )	26 oz Bot.	21.22	18.96	2.26	11.92
<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</b>					
<b>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	20.73	24.90	-4.17	-16.75
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	94.24	86.62	7.62	8.80
Oil Paint	Gallon	112.87	105.00	7.87	7.50
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.27	67.81	1.46	2.15
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.	39.60	31.25	8.35	26.72
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	105.46	101.53	3.93	3.87
<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	1.20	1.18	0.02	1.69
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.37	6.33	0.04	0.63

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2017	May 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	12.57	12.57	0.00	0.00
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	150.00	120.00	30.00	25.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.08	10.30	0.78	7.57
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	Year	590.00	590.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.97	0.83	0.14	16.87
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,993.82	1,982.20	11.62	0.59
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,832.40	3,800.04	32.36	0.85
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,071.53	2,054.04	17.49	0.85
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.82	3.52	0.30	8.52
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	350.00	275.00	75.00	27.27



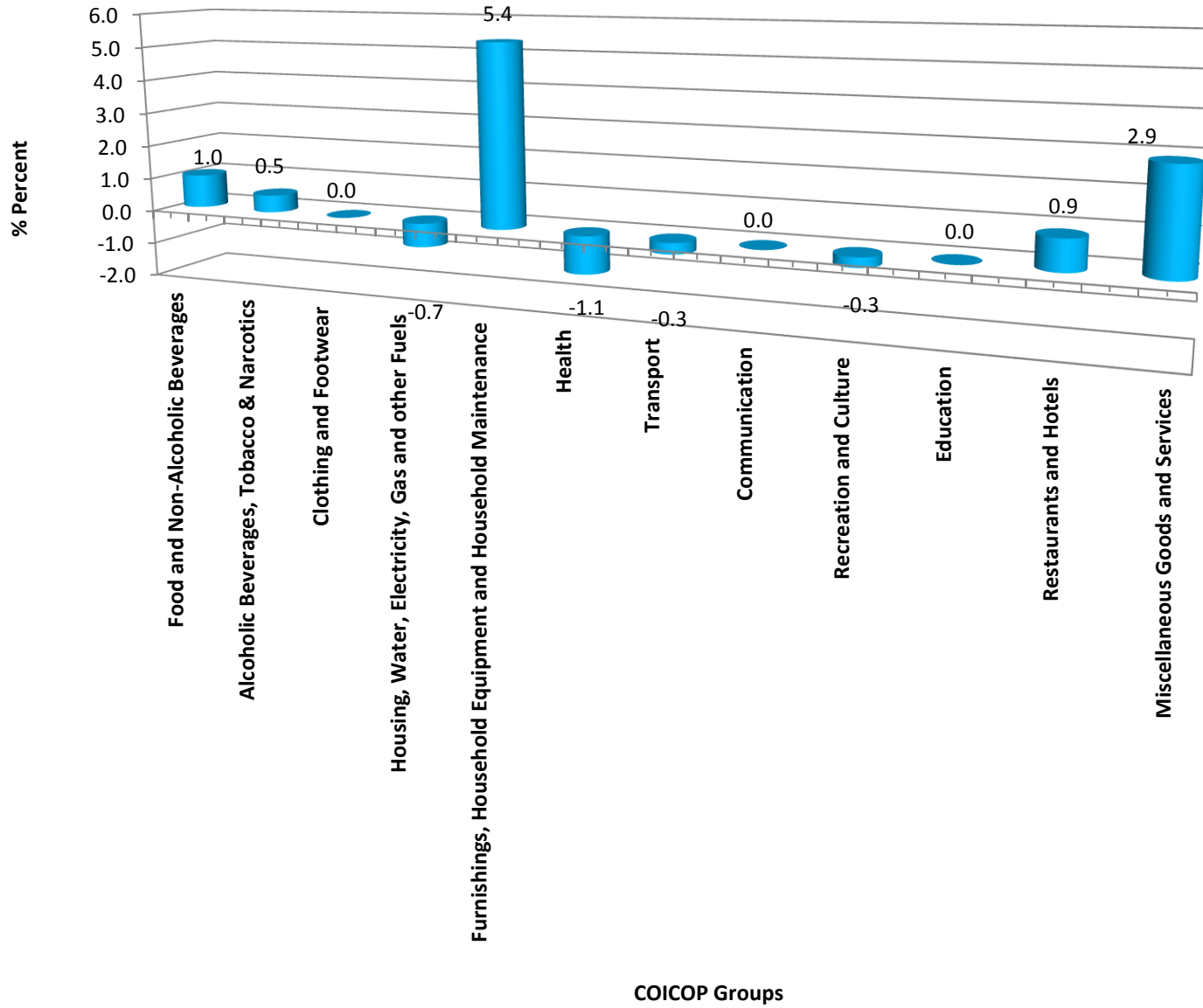
**Table 2.4**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**May 2017 Compared With May 2016**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2017	May 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	0.78	0.00	0.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.87	0.82	0.05	6.10
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	17.05	16.85	0.20	1.19
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.58	3.51	0.07	1.99
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.05	9.13	-0.08	-0.88
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	12.83	0.09	0.70
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	April 2017	May 2017	May 2016	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month April	Year May
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	111.5	112.6	111.0	1.0	1.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	116.8	117.4	113.0	0.5	3.9
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	105.1	0.0	-0.2
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.0	99.3	97.7	-0.7	1.6
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.6	108.1	102.8	5.4	5.2
06.	Health	1.79	108.8	107.6	107.8	-1.1	-0.2
07.	Transport	11.84	123.1	122.7	118.7	-0.3	3.4
08.	Communication	9.41	111.1	111.1	103.5	0.0	7.3
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.4	104.1	103.0	-0.3	1.1
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	108.5	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.3	103.2	102.4	0.9	0.8
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.2	103.1	101.4	2.9	1.7
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	107.5	108.0	105.3	<b>0.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>

**Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for May 2017**



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

	Groups	Weight	April 2017	May 2017	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						April 2017	May 2017		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	111.5	112.6	1.0	2,442.97	2,467.07	24.1	48.2
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	116.8	117.4	0.5	452.02	454.34	2.3	4.6
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	100.0	99.3	-0.7	3,006.00	2,984.96	-21.0	-42.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.6	108.1	5.4	676.13	712.38	36.2	72.5
6.	Health	1.79	108.8	107.6	-1.1	194.75	192.60	-2.1	-4.3
7.	Transport	11.84	123.1	122.7	-0.3	1,457.50	1,452.77	-4.7	-9.5
8.	Communication	9.41	111.1	111.1	0.0	1,045.45	1,045.45	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.4	104.1	-0.3	397.76	396.62	-1.1	-2.3
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	0.0	144.28	144.28	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.3	103.2	0.9	191.30	192.98	1.7	3.4
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.2	103.1	2.9	431.86	444.36	12.5	25.0
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>107.5</b>	<b>108.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>10,750.00</b>	<b>10,800.00</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**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
April	107.5	111.5	116.8	104.9	100.0	102.6	108.8	123.1	111.1	104.4	109.3	102.3	100.2
May	108.0	112.6	117.4	104.9	99.3	108.1	107.6	122.7	111.1	104.1	109.3	103.2	103.1