



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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PLANNING ETC.**

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MARCH 2018

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.2 percent for the month of March 2018. The “All Items” index was recorded at 109.6 for the month of March 2018 compared to 109.4 for the month of February 2018. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 3.1 percent.

Two (2) groups recorded increases for the month: “Transport” (1.5%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.6%). The group “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” was the sole group to record a decrease of 0.3 percent during the month.

Nine (9) groups remained unchanged: “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages”, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”, “Restaurants and Hotels” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The “Transport” index increased by 1.5 percent as a result of higher prices for passenger airfare from St Vincent and the Grenadines to St. Lucia (38.5%), Barbados (12.2%), New York (8.1%) and Toronto (2.4%), diesel fuel (18.8%) and petrol - unleaded (3.3 percent).

Similarly, the 0.6 percent increase in the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” index is due to a rise in the price for red wine (4.1%), stout (3.1%) and cigarettes (1.5%).

Likewise, the 0.3 decline in the index for the group “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” was as a result of a 1.6 percent decrease in the cost of electricity. This decrease was as a

consequence of a decline in the fuel surcharge rate which fell from 31.6 cents per kilowatt hour in February to 30.2 cents per kilowatt hour in March 2018.

Table 1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2018	February 2017		
INCREASED					
Chicken - wings	Lb	1.43	1.36	0.07	5.1
Celery	Lb	7.23	7.04	0.19	2.7
Breadfruit	Lb	2.66	2.58	0.08	3.1
Tomatoes	Lb	4.45	3.61	0.84	23.3
Carrots	Lb	4.24	3.74	0.50	13.4
Brown sugar - loose	1lb	1.69	1.66	0.03	1.8
Stout	275ml bottle	5.99	5.81	0.18	3.1
Red Wine	750ml bottle	30.38	29.19	1.19	4.1
Cigarettes	20 Pkt	7.46	7.35	0.11	1.5
Drugs for Asthma	1 month supply	7.50	6.00	1.50	25.0
Petrol	Gal	11.80	11.42	0.38	3.3
Diesel	Gal	11.07	9.32	1.75	18.8
Passenger Airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
St. Lucia	One way	458.65	331.07	127.58	38.5
Barbados	One way	391.50	348.98	42.52	12.2
New York	One month	3332.00	3083.22	248.78	8.1
Toronto	One month	3654.80	3568.50	86.30	2.4
DECREASED					
Rice - loose	Lb	1.92	1.95	-0.03	-1.5
Flour - packaged	Kg	3.75	4.00	-0.25	-6.3
Chicken - neck	Lb	1.58	1.90	-0.32	-16.8
Onion - loose	Lb	2.45	2.53	-0.08	-3.2
Garlic - loose	Lb	7.46	7.88	-0.42	-5.3
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	112.34	114.17	-1.83	-1.6
Drugs for diabetes	1 month supply	5.20	6.00	-0.80	-13.3

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2018 Compared With March 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2018	March 2017		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.94	6.45	0.49	7.60
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.80	2.57	0.23	8.95
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.62	1.57	0.05	3.18
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.62	4.52	0.10	2.21
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.35	2.53	0.82	32.41
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.73	5.46	0.27	4.95
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.31	8.07	0.25	3.04
Codfish	Lb.	15.18	14.27	0.91	6.38
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.72	13.26	0.47	3.51
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.69	4.58	0.11	2.40
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.51	3.07	0.44	14.33
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.01	2.02	-0.01	-0.50
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.23	4.25	-0.02	-0.47
Eggs	Doz	9.05	8.52	0.53	6.22
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.13	8.79	0.34	3.87
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.69	1.56	0.13	8.33
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.81	2.02	-0.21	-10.40
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.36	1.36	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.18	7.29	-0.11	-1.51
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.92	1.92	0.00	0.00
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.56	10.46	0.10	0.92
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.35	0.08	5.93
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.66	2.54	0.12	4.72
Eddoes	Lb.	2.38	2.63	-0.25	-9.51
Dasheens	Lb.	2.10	1.80	0.30	16.67
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.37	2.21	0.16	7.24
Oranges	Each	0.87	0.74	0.13	17.57
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.45	4.29	0.16	3.73
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.13	8.95	0.19	2.07
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.38	12.30	0.09	0.69
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.80	10.68	0.12	1.12
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.79	2.53	0.26	10.28
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.66	5.64	0.02	0.35

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2018 Compared With March 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2018	March 2017		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.89	29.71	0.18	0.61
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.96	4.47	0.49	10.96
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.00	4.12	-0.12	-2.91
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	21.29	20.91	0.38	1.82
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
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	Pair	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	102.48	100.00	2.48	2.48
Women's Blouse (cotton/Spandex)	Each	29.95	29.95	0.00	0.00
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY					
GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
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	20.89	21.52	-0.63	-2.93
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.28	91.60	4.68	5.11
Oil Paint	Gallon	112.87	95.00	17.87	18.81
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.20	68.97	0.23	0.33
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gallon	6.61	6.61	0.00	0.00
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.52	35.90	1.62	4.51
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	112.34	107.90	4.44	4.11
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1162.88	1,162.88	0.00	0.00
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.84	55.84	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.23	1.19	0.04	3.36
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.25	6.35	-0.10	-1.57

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2018 Compared With March 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2018	March 2017		
HEALTH					
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
Drugs for Hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	12.65	12.26	0.40	3.22
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.09	15.09	0.00	0.00
Dental Care	Visit	130.83	123.33	7.50	6.08
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	120.00	30.00	25.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.80	10.66	1.14	10.69
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
COMMUNICATION					
Telephone Service - rental of line- domestic	Month	23.66	23.46	0.20	0.85
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet Charge	Month	102.14	101.70	0.44	0.43
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	Minute	0.98	0.91	0.08	8.29
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1996.04	1,993.82	2.22	0.11
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3836.67	3,832.40	4.27	0.11
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2073.84	2,071.53	2.31	0.11
Remote Control Car	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.83	3.79	0.04	1.06
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	350.00	325.00	25.00	7.69

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2018 Compared With March 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2018	March 2017		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	217.50	215.00	2.50	1.16
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	1.06	-0.19	-17.92
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	72.44	79.72	-7.28	-9.13
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.39	13.86	0.53	3.82
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.51	13.86	1.65	11.90
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	16.85	0.20	1.19
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.60	3.53	0.07	2.06
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.11	9.04	0.07	0.83
Men's Haircut	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing (Relaxer)	Visit	69.82	64.81	5.01	7.73
Disposable Diapers (medium)	10 per Pk.	12.98	12.92	0.06	0.46
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 2018	March 2018	March 2017	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month January	Year February
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	116.3	111.0	0.0	4.8
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	120.0	120.7	116.6	0.6	3.5
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	104.9	0.0	0.0
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.5	100.2	99.1	-0.3	1.1
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.2	102.5	0.0	8.5
06.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	107.3	0.0	2.1
07.	Transport	11.84	120.2	122.0	118.6	1.5	2.9
08.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	106.9	0.0	4.8
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.9	104.9	104.5	0.0	0.4
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	109.3	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	108.3	108.3	102.3	0.0	5.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.6	103.6	101.5	0.0	2.1
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.4	109.6	106.3	0.2	3.1

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2018

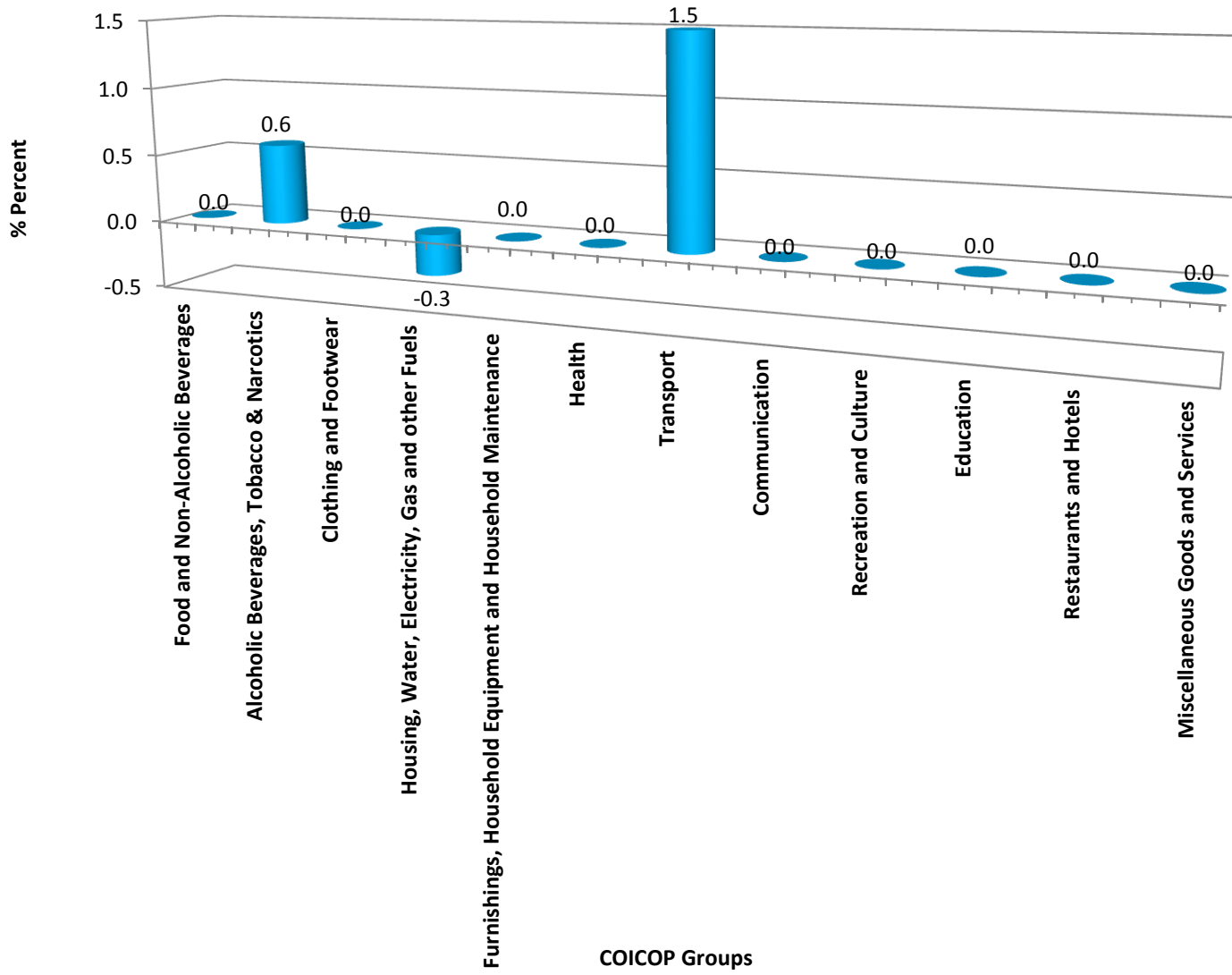


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	February 2018	March 2018	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2018	March 2018		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	116.3	0.0	2,548.13	2,548.13	0.0	0.0
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	120.0	120.7	0.6	464.40	467.11	2.7	13.5
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	100.5	100.2	-0.3	3,021.03	3,012.01	-9.0	-45.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.2	0.0	732.81	732.81	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	0.0	196.01	196.01	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	120.2	122.0	1.5	1,423.17	1,444.48	21.3	106.6
8.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	0.0	1,053.92	1,053.92	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.9	104.9	0.0	399.67	399.67	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	0.0	145.33	145.33	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	108.3	108.3	0.0	202.52	202.52	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.6	103.6	0.0	446.52	446.52	0.0	0.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.4	109.6	0.2	10,940.00	10,960.00	20.0	100.0

Monthly Index - 2018
January 2010 = 100

Groups	All Items	Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco & Narcotics	Clothing & Footwear	Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels	Furnishings Household Equipment & Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communi-cation	Recreation & Culture	Education	Restaurants & Hotels	Miscell-aneous Goods and Services
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	109.6	116.0	119.2	104.5	100.9	111.2	109.5	120.9	112.2	104.4	110.1	108.3	103.5
February	109.4	116.3	120.0	104.9	100.5	111.2	109.5	120.2	112.0	104.9	110.1	108.3	103.6
March	109.6	116.3	120.7	104.9	100.2	111.2	109.5	122.0	112.0	104.9	110.1	108.3	103.6