



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING
ETC.**

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Tel: 784 457 2921, 456 1111 Ext 592/353

Fax: 784 456 2430

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MARCH 2021

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent for the month of March 2021, compared to an increase of 0.3 percent for the month of February 2021 (*see table 3*).

During the month of March 2021, the “All Items” index was recorded at 111.4 compared to 110.8 for the month of February 2021. Four (4) groups recorded increases during the month, namely, “Transport” (1.9%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.9%), “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” (0.2%) and “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1%). One (1) group recorded a decrease for the month, “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.1%). Seven groups remained unchanged, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”, “Hotels and Restaurants” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The “Transport” index grew by 1.9 percent due to an increase in the prices for diesel fuel (16.4%) and petrol, unleaded (7.1%).

Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” group index recorded an increase of 0.9 percent. This was on account of an increase in the prices of galvanise sheets (14.2%), electricity (6.3%) and lumber - dressed (2.1%).

Similarly, the “Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.2 percent increase as a result of higher prices for a number of food items namely; canned fruit, sliced pineapple (16.8%), pig tail, salted (13.7%), cucumber (11.1%), red kidney bean - loose (11.1%), other cereal (10.0%), cauliflower (5.1%), pig snout (4.6%), eggs (4.6%), mutton (3.9%), chicken - neck (3.5%), turkey (2.1%), chicken - leg quarters (1.8%) and canned fish (1.7%).

“Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” grew by 0.1 percent due mainly to an increase in the price of toilet paper (33.3%).

The group index for “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” declined by 0.1 percent due to a decrease in the prices of stout - imported (1.3%) and beer - imported (0.2%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at negative 0.1 percent for the month of March 2021 compared to 0.5 percent for March 2020. The groups that accounted for the largest decreases during the period were, “Education” (2.4%), “Transport” (1.5%), “Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.3%) (*See table 3*).

The consumer price index increased by 0.5 percent for March 2021. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at negative 0.1 percent due to relative price changes during the month of March 2021 compared with the same period in the previous year.

Table 1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2021	February 2021		
INCREASED					
Other cereal	Lb	2.65	2.41	0.24	10.0
Pig tail, salted	Lb	6.91	6.08	0.83	13.7
Pig snout	Lb	8.37	8.00	0.37	4.6
Mutton	Lb	15.87	15.28	0.59	3.9
Chicken - neck	Lb	2.34	2.26	0.08	3.5
Chicken - leg quarters	Lb	2.82	2.77	0.05	1.8
Turkey	Lb	3.45	3.38	0.07	2.1
Canned fish	106g, Tin	4.17	4.10	0.07	1.7
Eggs	Dozen	9.88	9.45	0.43	4.6
Cauliflower	Lb	6.83	6.50	0.33	5.1
Cucumber	Lb	3.30	2.97	0.33	11.1
Red kidney beans - loose	LB	7.11	6.40	0.71	11.1
Canned fruit, sliced pineapple	20oz, Tin	8.88	7.60	1.28	16.8
Lumber - dressed, 1/12/12	Length	79.66	78.01	1.65	2.1
Galvanise sheets, 10ft	Length	110.43	96.68	13.75	14.2
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWh	109.79	103.29	6.50	6.3
Petrol, unleaded	Gal	11.25	10.50	0.75	7.1
Diesel fuel	Gal	9.95	8.55	1.40	16.4
Toilet paper	280 Sheets, 1 roll	2.00	1.50	0.50	33.3
DECREASED					
Flour - whole wheat	2Kg	7.15	7.18	-0.03	-0.4
Turkey neck	Lb	3.10	3.17	-0.07	-2.2
Chicken - whole legs	Lb	2.76	2.80	-0.04	-1.4
Chicken - drumsticks	Lb	3.13	3.15	-0.02	-0.6
Cabbage	Lb	4.37	5.00	-0.63	-12.6
Pumpkins	Lb	2.06	2.30	-0.24	-10.4
Stout, imported	275ml, Bottle	5.96	6.04	-0.08	-1.3
Beer, imported	250ml, Bottle	5.42	5.43	-0.01	-0.2

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2021 Compared With March 2020

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2021	March 2020		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	7.05	6.91	0.14	2.03
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.82	3.01	-0.19	-6.31
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.76	1.70	0.06	3.53
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.86	4.85	0.01	0.21
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.45	3.43	0.02	0.58
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	5.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	6.42	6.29	0.13	2.07
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.17	8.24	-0.07	-0.85
Codfish	Lb.	15.09	15.47	-0.38	-2.46
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.84	14.19	0.65	4.58
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.76	4.67	0.09	2.04
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.40	3.11	0.29	9.32
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.92	4.00	-0.08	-2.00
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.89	1.89	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.19	4.19	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	9.88	8.03	1.85	23.04
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.30	9.15	0.15	1.64
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.64	1.61	0.03	1.86
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.79	1.78	0.01	0.56
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.35	1.35	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.85	6.83	0.02	0.29
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.15	7.18	-0.03	-0.42
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.85	1.89	-0.04	-2.12
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.74	10.76	-0.02	-0.19
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.43	0.00	0.00
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.58	2.40	0.18	7.50
Eddoes	Lb.	3.11	2.84	0.27	9.51
Dasheens	Lb.	2.32	1.98	0.34	17.17
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.88	2.53	0.35	13.83
Oranges	Each	0.89	0.88	0.01	1.14
Tomatoes	Lb.	5.91	5.54	0.37	6.68
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.67	9.39	0.28	2.98
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.39	12.41	-0.02	-0.16
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.64	10.53	0.11	1.04
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.90	2.90	0.00	0.00
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.83	5.84	-0.01	-0.17

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2021 Compared With March 2020

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2021	March 2020		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	32.85	32.36	0.49	1.51
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.06	5.09	-0.03	-0.59
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.49	4.01	-0.52	-12.97
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	23.89	23.44	0.45	1.92
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	78.78	79.85	-1.07	-1.34
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	88.63	89.83	-1.20	-1.34
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	102.48	102.48	0.00	0.00
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	20.66	20.66	0.00	0.00
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	110.43	96.68	13.75	14.22
Oil Paint	Gallon	134.43	134.43	0.00	0.00
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	79.66	81.51	-1.85	-2.27
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.	36.62	35.49	1.13	3.18
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	109.79	119.00	-9.21	-7.74
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD					
EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD					
MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1167.61	1167.15	0.46	0.04
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.11	105.11	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.98	55.98	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.22	1.23	-0.01	-0.81
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	7.42	6.37	1.05	16.48

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2021 Compared With March 2020

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2021	March 2020		
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	3.95	3.50	0.45	12.86
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	10.49	10.49	0.01	0.05
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.18	15.18	0.00	0.00
Dental Care	Visit	145.83	134.17	11.66	8.69
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.25	11.97	-0.72	-6.02
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	23.66	0.00	0.00
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet Charge	Month	104.00	104.00	0.00	0.00
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	Minute	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	2001.26	2005.04	-3.78	-0.19
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	79.33	79.33	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3866.22	3873.52	-7.30	-0.19
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2089.81	2093.76	-3.95	-0.19
Remote Control Car	Each	267.97	258.75	9.22	3.56
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.95	3.85	0.10	2.60
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	375.00	375.00	0.00	0.00

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2021 Compared With March 2020

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2021	March 2020		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	217.50	217.50	0.00	0.00
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	850.00	850.00	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	0.75	0.75	0.00	0.00
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	74.92	75.12	-0.20	-0.27
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.49	14.49	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	17.32	17.32	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	17.05	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.76	3.61	0.15	4.16
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.88	9.74	0.14	1.44
Men's Haircut	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing (Relaxer)	Visit	69.82	69.82	0.00	0.00
Disposable Diapers (medium)	10 per Pk.	14.02	13.88	0.14	1.01
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 2021	March 2021	March 2020	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	120.0	120.2	118.5	0.2	1.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.9	126.8	126.3	-0.1	0.4
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.5	105.0	0.0	-0.5
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	99.9	100.8	102.1	0.9	-1.3
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.3	113.4	113.3	0.1	0.1
06.	Health	1.79	114.6	114.6	109.6	0.0	4.6
07.	Transport	11.84	118.8	121.0	122.9	1.9	-1.5
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	113.3	0.0	0.0
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	108.3	108.3	107.5	0.0	0.7
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	112.3	0.0	-2.4
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	114.0	114.0	111.6	0.0	2.2
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.4	106.4	106.1	0.0	0.3
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	110.8	111.4	111.5	0.5	-0.1

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2021

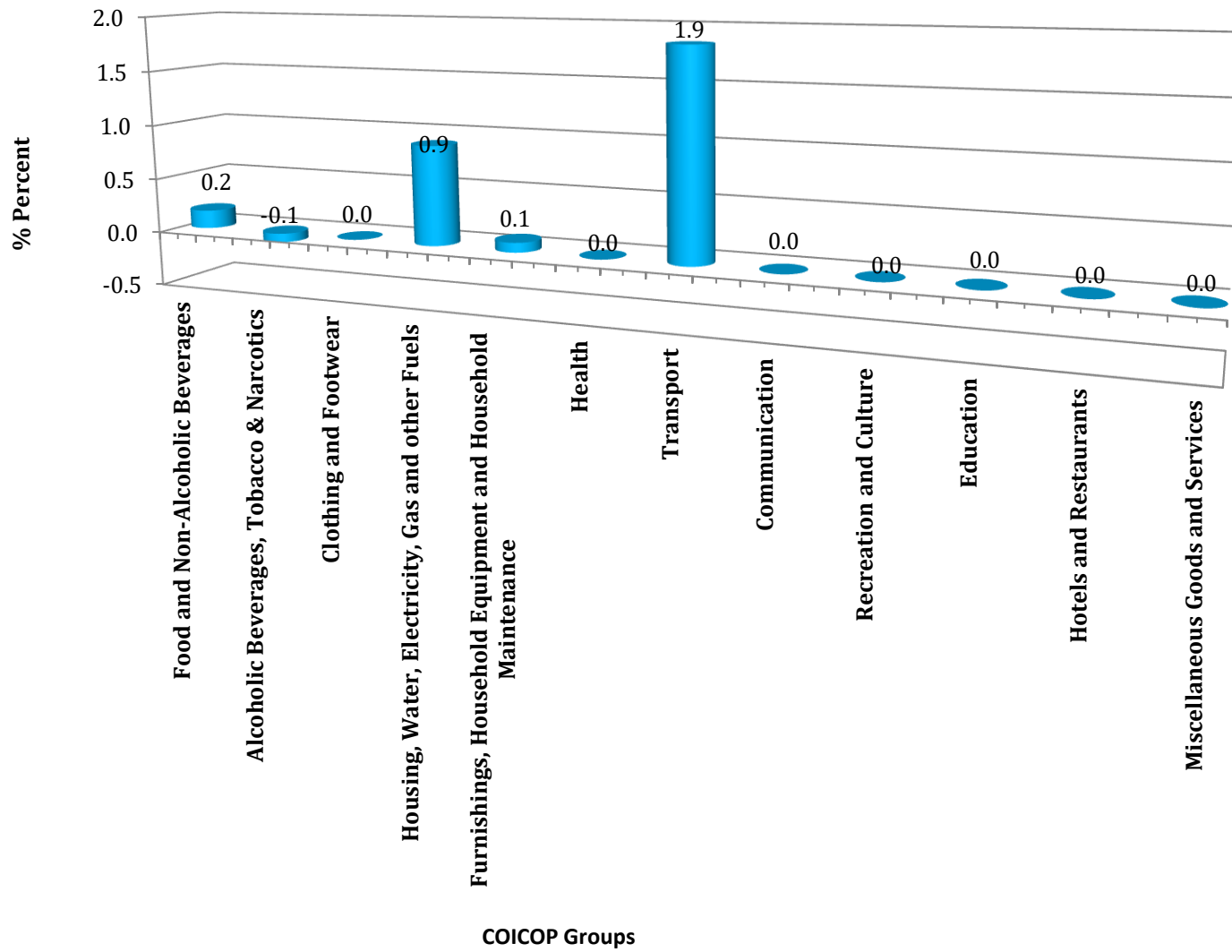


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	February 2021	March 2021	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2021	March 2021		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	120.0	120.2	0.2	2,629.20	2,633.58	4.4	7.3
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.9	126.8	-0.1	491.10	490.72	-0.4	-0.6
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.5	0.0	336.49	336.49	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	99.9	100.8	0.9	3,002.99	3,030.05	27.1	45.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.3	113.4	0.1	746.65	747.31	0.7	1.1
6.	Health	1.79	114.6	114.6	0.0	205.13	205.13	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	118.8	121.0	1.9	1,406.59	1,432.64	26.0	43.4
8.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	0.0	1,066.15	1,066.15	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	108.3	108.3	0.0	412.62	412.62	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	0.0	144.67	144.67	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	114.0	114.0	0.0	213.18	213.18	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.4	106.4	0.0	458.58	458.58	0.0	0.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	110.8	111.4	0.5	11,080.00	11,140.00	60.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2021
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	Hotels & Restaurants	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	110.5	119.7	126.7	104.5	99.6	112.6	114.2	118.3	113.3	108.7	109.6	114.0	106.4
February	110.8	120.0	126.9	104.5	99.9	113.3	114.6	118.8	113.3	108.3	109.6	114.0	106.4
March	111.4	120.2	126.8	104.5	100.8	113.4	114.6	121.0	113.3	108.3	109.6	114.0	106.4