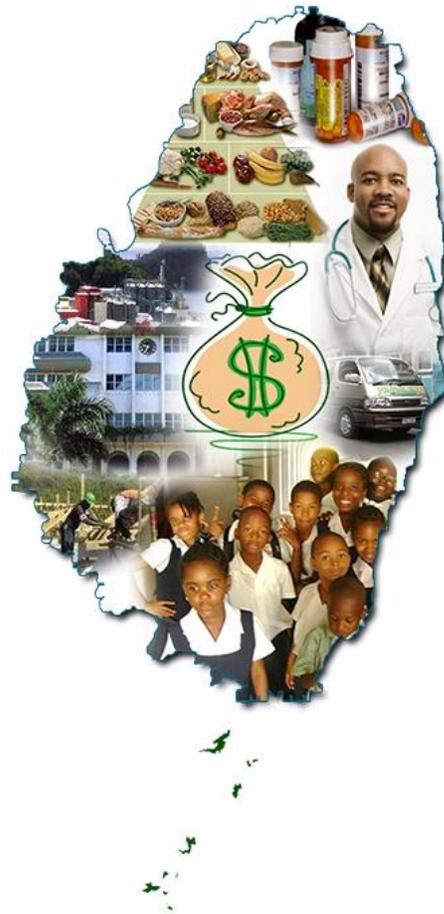




CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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March 2015

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MARCH 2015

The Consumer Price Index registered a decline of 0.5 percent for the month of March 2015. The “All Items” index was recorded at 105.5 for the month of March in comparison to 106.0 for the month of February 2015. The “point-to-point” inflation rate was recorded as negative 1.8 percent.

Three (3) groups recorded decreases during the month: “Transport” (1.3 percent), “Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.9 percent) and “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4 percent). Two (2) groups recorded increases during the month: “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1 percent) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1 percent). Seven (7) groups remained unchanged during the month: “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics”, Clothing and Footwear, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education” and “Restaurants and Hotels”

The 1.3 percent decline in the “Transport” index is due mainly to a decrease in the prices of diesel (14.1 percent) and petrol (7.9 percent) respectively.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Gas and Other Fuel” decreased by 0.9 percent as a result of a decline in the prices of steel rods (4.5 percent) and electricity (3.8 percent). This reduction in the cost of electricity is a result of the change in the fuel surcharge rate from 31.69 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2015 to 28.63 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2015.

The 0.4 percent decline in the index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” is due mainly to a decrease in the prices of several food items: tomatoes (13.9 percent), limes (12.6 percent), cream cheese (6.0 percent), turkey wings (5.5 percent), dasheen (5.3 percent), bacon (4.7 percent), yams (3.8 percent), onions (3.7 percent), powdered milk – full cream (3.6 percent), ju-c (2.6 percent) and chicken – leg quarters (2.5 percent).

The 0.1 percent increase in the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” is due mainly to an increase in the price of an electric bulb (13.5 percent).

The “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” index grew by 0.1 percent as a result of a 6.3 percent increase in the price of a hair relaxer.

TABLE 1
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS

ITEM	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2015	FEBRUARY 2014		
INCREASED					
Pasta (elbows)	340g pk	4.49	4.25	0.24	5.65
Codfish	Lb	15.11	14.63	0.48	3.28
Watermelon	Lb	3.45	2.96	0.49	16.55
Canned, sliced pineapple	20oz tin	6.99	6.70	0.29	4.33
Red kidney beans	454g pk	6.85	5.99	0.86	14.36
Mustard	9oz bottle	2.55	2.25	0.30	13.33
Vegetable Soup	45g pk	3.75	2.31	1.44	62.34
Orange juice	10oz tin	3.93	3.74	0.19	5.08
Electric bulb	Each	5.05	4.45	0.60	13.48
Passanger airfare:					
St Vincent to Toronto, Canada	1 month	4988.80	3796.40	1192.40	31.41
St Vincent to New York, U.S.A	1 month	2508.30	2319.20	189.10	8.15
Hair relaxer	1.8kg	79.58	74.89	4.69	6.26
DECREASED					
Chicken- leg quarters	Lb	2.79	2.86	-0.07	-2.45
Turkey wings	Lb	3.64	3.85	-0.21	-5.45
Bacon	454g pk	19.55	20.52	-0.97	-4.73
Milk- powdered, full cream	Lb	8.53	8.85	-0.32	-3.62
Cream cheese	8oz pk	8.75	9.31	-0.56	-6.02
Limes	Lb	2.35	2.69	-0.34	-12.64
Dasheen	Lb	1.78	1.88	-0.10	-5.32
Yams	Lb	3.34	3.47	-0.13	-3.75
Tomatoes	Lb	2.85	3.31	-0.46	-13.90
Onions	Lb	2.36	2.45	-0.09	-3.67
Ju-c	591ml bottle	3.43	3.52	-0.09	-2.56
Steel rods - 1/2"	1 length	18.49	19.37	-0.88	-4.54
Electricity	140Kwh	110.08	114.37	-4.29	-3.75
Petrol	1 gallon	10.56	11.47	-0.91	-7.93
Diesel	1 gallon	10.13	11.79	-1.66	-14.08

TABLE 2
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2015 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2014

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2015	MARCH 2014		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.29	6.10	0.19	3.11
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.79	2.90	-0.11	-3.79
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.64	1.70	-0.06	-3.53
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.76	4.86	-0.10	-2.06
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.64	3.48	0.16	4.60
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.34	5.39	-0.05	-0.93
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.59	7.74	-0.15	-1.94
Codfish	Lb.	15.11	14.15	0.96	6.78
Cornflakes	12 oz	12.27	12.27	0.00	0.00
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.49	4.15	0.34	8.19
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.40	3.24	0.16	4.94
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.54	3.53	0.01	0.28
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.99	1.99	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.25	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	8.64	8.64	0.00	0.00
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	7.87	7.48	0.39	5.21
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.42	1.54	-0.12	-7.79
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.74	1.86	-0.12	-6.45
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.40	1.41	-0.01	-0.71
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.39	7.39	0.00	0.00
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.78	1.78	0.00	0.00
Rice - Package	2 kg	9.20	9.20	0.00	0.00
Bananas	Lb.	1.32	1.33	-0.01	-0.75
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.66	2.69	-0.03	-1.12
Eddoes	Lb.	2.55	1.66	0.89	53.61
Dasheens	Lb.	1.76	1.73	0.03	1.73
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.00	1.80	0.20	11.11
Oranges	Each	0.74	0.87	-0.13	-14.94
Tomatoes	Lb.	2.85	3.99	-1.14	-28.57
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	7.90	7.90	0.00	0.00
Vegetable Oil	1 Litre	10.54	10.54	0.00	0.00
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.58	10.44	0.14	1.34
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.25	2.24	0.01	0.45
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.59	5.61	-0.02	-0.36

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2015 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2014

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2015	MARCH 2014		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.02	29.02	0.00	0.00
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.48	4.51	-0.03	-0.67
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.46	3.47	-0.01	-0.29
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	18.58	18.08	0.50	2.77
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	Each	39.95	34.07	5.88	17.26
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.95	79.95	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.55	-0.55	-0.55
Women's Blouse (cotton/Spandex)	Each	25.00	24.65	0.35	1.42
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House -2 Bedrooms	1Mth	546.43	54.64	491.79	900.00
Unfurnished House -3 Bedrooms	1Mth	612.50	612.50	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment - 2 Bedrooms	1Mth	791.67	791.67	0.00	0.00
Cement - Portland (grey)	94 Lbs	24.90	24.75	0.15	0.61
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	1 Length	86.38	86.39	-0.01	-0.01
Oil Paint	1 Gal.	105.00	110.00	-5.00	-4.55
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	1 Length	68.07	67.10	0.97	1.45
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gals.	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gal.	12.40	13.93	-1.53	-10.98
Charcoal	1 Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	31.25	44.56	-13.31	-29.87
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	110.08	142.07	-31.99	-22.52
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.50	1,162.50	0.00	0.00
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	88.80	88.80	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	52.76	52.76	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.14	1.10	0.04	3.64
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	5.93	5.42	0.51	9.41

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2015 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2014

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2015	MARCH 2014		
HEALTH					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	1 Visit	60.00	50.00	10.00	20.00
Eye Care	1 Test	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Hospitalisation (Private Ward)	1 Day	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
Drug for Hypertension	1 Mth supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	1 Mth supply	13.70	14.34	-0.64	-4.46
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.58	15.52	0.06	0.39
Dental Care	1 Visit	116.67	114.17	2.50	2.19
Chest X- ray	1 Test	120.00	110.00	10.00	9.09
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	1 Gal.	10.56	13.95	-3.39	-24.30
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	1 Year	470.00	470.00	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	1 Month	23.46	23.46	0.00	0.00
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet Charge	1 Month	101.70	101.70	0.00	0.00
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	1 Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	1 Minute	0.80	0.73	0.07	9.59
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,999.00	1,999.00	0.00	0.00
Cable TV Basic Charge	1 Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,832.24	3,499.00	333.24	9.52
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,071.45	1,891.32	180.13	9.52
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.29	3.21	0.08	2.49
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	250.00	300.00	-50.00	-16.67

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2015 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2014

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2015	MARCH 2014		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	1 Month	205.00	205.00	0.00	0.00
Primary School Fee - Private	1 Term	650.00	650.00	0.00	0.00
Secondary School Fee - Private	1 Term	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Newspaper - Local	Each	1.50	1.33	0.17	12.78
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.85	0.85	0.00	0.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.92	0.92	0.00	0.00
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	80.16	74.60	5.56	7.45
Tuition for local evening classes	1 Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	13.86	13.86	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	16.85	16.85	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.46	3.46	0.00	0.00
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.18	9.03	0.15	1.66
Men's Haircut	1 Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing (Relaxer)	1 Visit	64.81	64.81	0.00	0.00
Disposable Diapers (medium)	10 per Pk.	12.78	12.85	-0.07	-0.55
Health Insurance - Group (family)	≥3 Ppersons	307.00	278.70	28.30	9.22
Legal Expenses (Affidavit)	Fee	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00

TABLE 3
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS
JANUARY 2010 = 100

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2015	MARCH 2015	MARCH 2014	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH FEBRUARY	YEAR MARCH
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	112.3	111.9	112.8	-0.4	-0.8
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.6	109.6	109.1	0.0	0.5
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	102.8	102.8	105.5	0.0	-2.6
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	99.7	98.8	104.9	-0.9	-5.8
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.2	101.3	101.1	0.1	0.2
06.	Health	1.79	104.0	104.0	103.6	0.0	0.4
07.	Transport	11.84	121.5	119.9	122.3	-1.3	-2.0
08.	Communication	9.41	102.0	102.0	96.5	0.0	5.7
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.6	102.6	102.9	0.0	-0.3
10.	Education	1.32	109.0	109.0	109.3	0.0	-0.3
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.3	103.3	103.0	0.0	0.3
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.0	101.1	100.8	0.1	0.3
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	106.0	105.5	107.4	-0.5	-1.8

Chart 1: COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2015

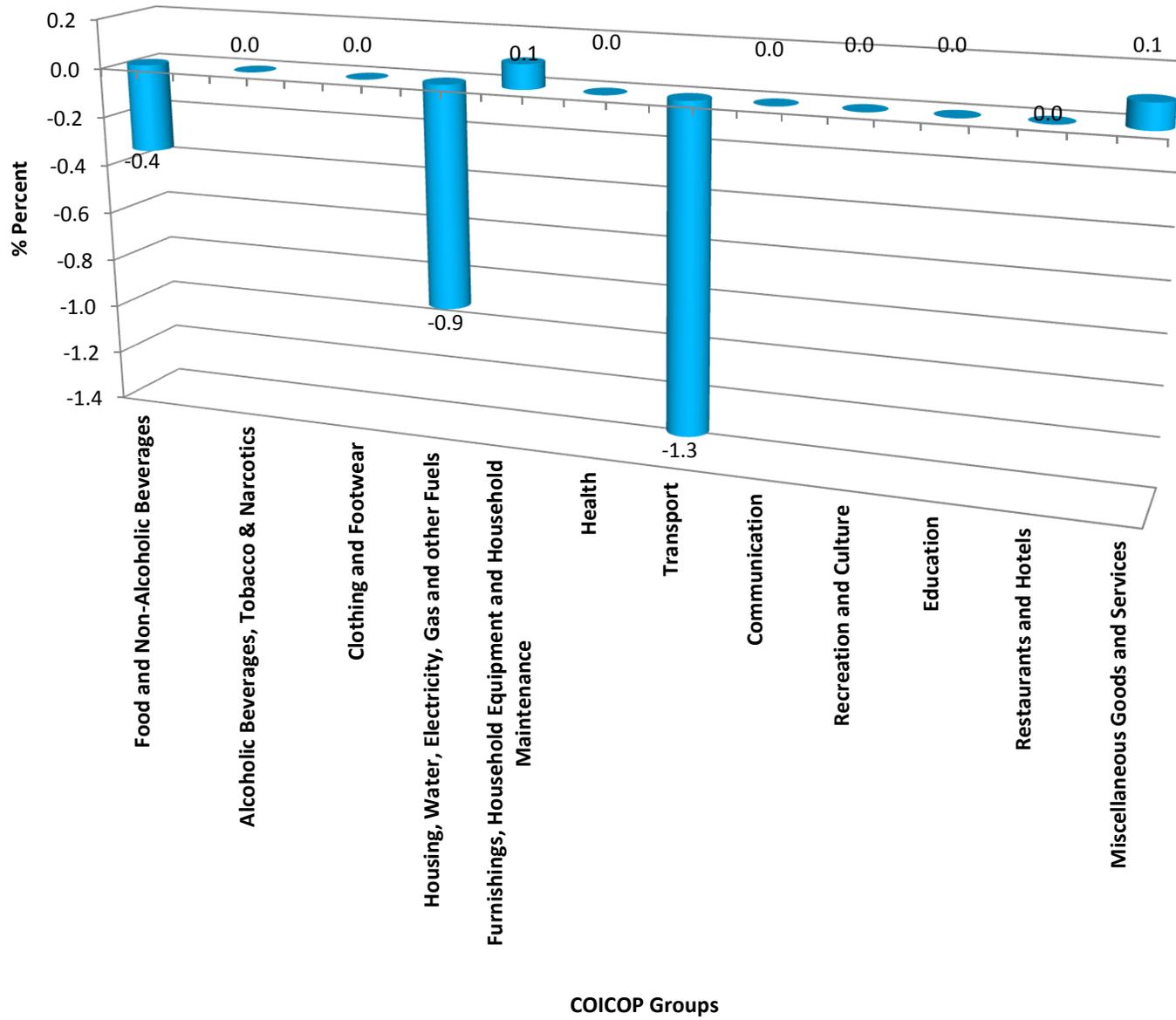


TABLE 4
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS
JANUARY 2010 = 100
CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2015	MARCH 2015	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						FEBRUARY 2015	MARCH 2015		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	112.3	111.9	-0.4	2,460.49	2,451.73	-8.8	17.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.6	109.6	0.0	424.15	424.15	0.0	0.0
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	102.8	102.8	0.0	331.02	331.02	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	99.7	98.8	-0.9	2,996.98	2,969.93	-27.1	54.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.2	101.3	0.1	666.91	667.57	0.7	-1.3
6.	Health	1.79	104.0	104.0	0.0	186.16	186.16	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	121.5	119.9	-1.3	1,438.56	1,419.62	-18.9	37.9
8.	Communication	9.41	102.0	102.0	0.0	959.82	959.82	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.6	102.6	0.0	390.91	390.91	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.0	109.0	0.0	143.88	143.88	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.3	103.3	0.0	193.17	193.17	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.0	101.1	0.1	435.31	435.74	0.4	-0.9
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	106.0	105.5	-0.5	10,600.00	10,550.00	-50.0	100.0

TABLE 5
MONTHLY INDEX - 2015
JANUARY 2010 = 100

GROUP	ALL ITEMS	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco & Narcotics	Clothing & Footwear	Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels	Furnishings Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation & Culture	Education	Restaurants & Hotels	Miscellaneous 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	107.5	112.9	109.1	102.8	103.5	101.6	102.8	124.5	100.3	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.0
February	106.0	112.3	109.6	102.8	99.7	101.2	104.0	121.5	102.0	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.0
March	105.5	111.9	109.6	102.8	98.8	101.3	104.0	119.9	102.0	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.1