



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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MARCH 2016

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.2 percent for the month of March. The “All Items” index was registered at 104.8 for the month of January 2016, in contrast to 104.6 registered for February 2016. The “point to point” inflation rate was recorded as negative 0.7 percent.

Four (4) groups recorded increases during the month: “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels” (0.6 percent), “Transport” (0.3 percent), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.1 percent) and “Recreation and Culture” (0.1 percent). Two (2) groups recorded decreases for the month “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4 percent) and “Health” (0.2 percent). Six groups remained unchanged, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishings, Household Equipment & Household Maintenance”, “Education”, “Restaurants and Hotels”, “Communication” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” increased by 0.6 percent due mainly to an increase in the price of electricity (3.7 percent). Similarly, the index for “Transport” increased by 0.3 percent as a result of increase prices for passenger airfare from St Vincent and the Grenadines to St. Lucia (34.2 percent), Trinidad and Tobago (21.6 percent) and New York (12.4 percent).

Consequently, the increase in the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” group index resulted from an increase in the prices for dry gin (5.9 percent), cigarettes (3.3 percent) and brandy (3.1 percent). The 0.1 percent increase the group index for “Recreation and Culture” was due to an increase in the price of a can of dog food (7.1 percent).

The “Food and Non- Alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.4 percent decline, as a result of decreases in the prices for several food items namely; chicken - neck (25.3 percent), hot dog (22.2 percent), dasheen (15.6 percent), watermelon (10.1 percent), apple juice (9.4 percent), red apple (8.5 percent), golden apple (5.4 percent), eggs (3.4 percent), codfish (4.0 percent), evaporated milk (1.6 percent), turkey (1.3 percent) and corned beef (0.8 percent).

Meanwhile, the “Health” index registered a 0.2 percent decrease because of lower prices for drugs for diabetes (8.2 percent) and cough and cold preparation (3.2 percent).

TABLE 1
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2016	FEBRUARY 2016		
INCREASED					
Cornflakes	18oz box	12.20	11.87	0.33	2.78
Sweet biscuit	3.7oz Pk	2.19	2.12	0.07	3.30
Mayonnaise	32oz	19.50	18.05	1.45	8.03
Tomato sauce	425g	6.90	5.32	1.58	29.70
Pork ribs	Lb	6.90	5.60	1.30	23.21
Chicken - leg quarters	Lb	2.20	2.12	0.08	3.77
Cigarettes	Pkt 20	8.75	8.47	0.28	3.31
Dry Gin	750ml bottle	51.21	48.38	2.83	5.85
Brandy	700ml bottle	107.67	104.39	3.28	3.14
Electricity Consumption Charge	140KWH	99.41	95.87	3.54	3.69
Nail, galvanise	Lb	5.85	5.59	0.26	4.65
Passenger Airfares from St Vincent to:					
St. Lucia	1-Way	456.22	339.85	116.37	34.24
Trinidad and Tobago	1-Way	489.92	402.98	86.94	21.57
New York	month	2833.60	2521.60	312.00	12.37
Dog food	625g tin	7.50	7.00	0.50	7.14
DECREASED					
Chicken - neck	Lb	1.68	2.25	-0.57	-25.33
Turkey - wing	Lb	3.15	3.19	-0.04	-1.25
Hot dog	12oz Pk	5.42	6.97	-1.55	-22.24
Corned beef	340g tin	7.17	7.23	-0.06	-0.83
Codfish	Lb	14.21	14.80	-0.59	-3.99
Evaporated Milk	410g Tin	3.03	3.08	-0.05	-1.62
Eggs	Dozen	8.79	9.10	-0.31	-3.41
Golden apple	Lb	1.59	1.68	-0.09	-5.36
Watermelon	Lb	3.11	3.46	-0.35	-10.12
Red Apple	Lb	4.95	5.41	-0.46	-8.50
Dasheen	Lb	1.84	2.18	-0.34	-15.60
Apple juice	32oz bottle	9.40	10.37	-0.97	-9.35
Drugs for diabetes	1 month supply	19.94	21.73	-1.79	-8.24
Cough, cold preparation	125ml	17.52	18.10	-0.58	-3.20

TABLE 2
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2015

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2016	MARCH 2015		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.06	6.29	-0.23	-3.66
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.20	2.79	-0.59	-21.15
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.61	1.64	-0.03	-1.83
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.72	4.76	-0.04	-0.84
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.15	3.64	-0.49	-13.46
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.26	5.34	-0.08	-1.50
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.75	7.59	0.16	2.11
Codfish	Lb.	14.21	15.11	-0.90	-5.96
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.07	12.27	0.80	6.52
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.62	4.49	0.13	2.90
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.03	3.40	-0.37	-10.88
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.29	3.54	-0.25	-7.06
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	8.79	8.64	0.15	1.74
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	8.50	7.87	0.63	8.01
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.35	1.42	-0.07	-4.93
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.68	1.74	-0.06	-3.45
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.40	1.40	0.00	0.00
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	9.14	9.20	-0.06	-0.65
Bananas	Lb.	1.33	1.32	0.01	0.76
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.62	2.66	-0.04	-1.50
Eddoes	Lb.	2.74	2.55	0.19	7.45
Dasheens	Lb.	1.84	1.76	0.08	4.55
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.07	2.00	0.07	3.50
Oranges	Each	0.79	0.74	0.05	6.76
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.90	2.85	2.05	71.93
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	7.92	7.90	0.02	0.25
Vegetable Oil	Litre	10.73	10.54	0.19	1.80
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.65	10.58	0.07	0.66
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.31	2.25	0.06	2.67
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.64	5.59	0.05	0.89

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2015

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2016	MARCH 2015		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.02	29.02	0.00	0.00
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.61	4.48	0.13	2.90
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.92	3.46	0.46	13.29
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	18.79	18.58	0.21	1.13
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	49.95	39.95	10.00	25.03
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.79	79.95	-0.16	-0.20
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.77	110.00	-20.23	-18.39
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Blouse (cotton/Spandex)	Each	29.95	25.00	4.95	19.80
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House -2 Bedrooms	Month	567.86	546.43	21.43	3.92
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	24.90	24.90	0.00	0.00
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	86.62	86.38	0.24	0.28
Oil Paint	Gallon	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	68.30	68.07	0.23	0.34
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	Gallon	8.33	12.40	-4.07	-32.82
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	31.25	31.25	0.00	0.00
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	99.41	110.08	-10.67	-9.69
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	125.00	88.80	36.20	40.77
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	52.76	52.76	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.16	1.14	0.02	1.75
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	5.96	5.93	0.03	0.51

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2015

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2016	MARCH 2015		
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
Drug for Hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	12.57	13.70	-1.13	-8.25
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.42	15.58	-0.16	-1.03
Dental Care	Visit	123.33	116.67	6.66	5.71
Chest X- ray	Test	120.00	120.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	10.30	10.56	-0.26	-2.46
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	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	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	0.78	0.80	-0.02	-2.50
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,989.25	1,999.00	-82.20	-4.11
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	-175.25	-234.45
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,813.54	3,832.24	3810.25	99.43
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,061.34	2,071.45	2041.34	98.55
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.49	3.29	3.49	106.08
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	20.00	100.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	275.00	250.00	275.00	110.00

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2016 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2015

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2016	MARCH 2015		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	205.00	205.00	0.00	0.00
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	825.00	650.00	175.00	26.92
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	0.86	0.85	0.01	1.18
Lead Pencils	Each	0.87	0.92	-0.05	-5.43
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	79.72	80.16	-0.44	-0.55
Tuition for local evening classes	Per 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	13.86	15.10	-1.24	-8.21
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	16.85	16.85	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.50	3.46	0.04	1.16
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.06	9.18	-0.12	-1.31
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.	12.81	12.78	0.03	0.23
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 2016	MARCH 2016	MARCH 2015	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH FEBRUARY	YEAR MARCH
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	109.6	109.2	111.9	-0.4	-2.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	112.5	112.6	109.6	0.1	2.7
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.5	102.8	0.0	1.7
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	96.7	97.3	98.8	0.6	-1.5
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.2	102.2	101.3	0.0	0.9
06.	Health	1.79	108.0	107.8	104.0	-0.2	3.7
07.	Transport	11.84	115.9	116.3	119.9	0.3	-3.0
08.	Communication	9.41	106.3	106.3	102.0	0.0	4.2
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	103.1	103.2	102.6	0.1	0.6
10.	Education	1.32	108.5	108.5	109.0	0.0	-0.5
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.4	102.4	103.3	0.0	-0.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.3	101.3	101.1	0.0	0.2
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	104.6	104.8	105.5	0.2	-0.7

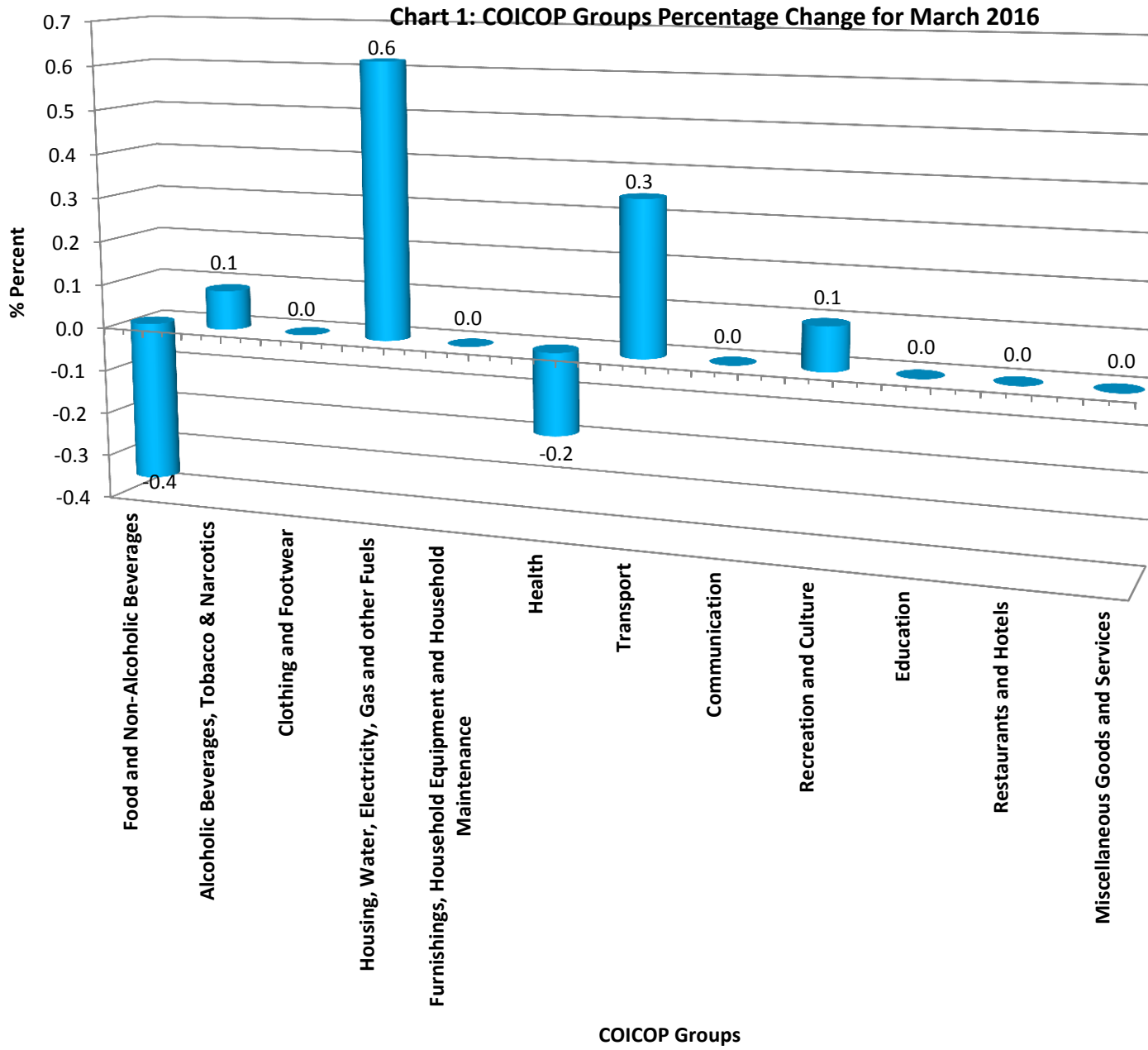


TABLE 4
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS
JANUARY 2010 = 100
CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE

	GROUPS	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2016	MARCH 2016	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						JANUARY 2016	FEBRUARY 2016		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	109.6	109.2	-0.4	2,401.34	2,392.57	-8.8	-43.8
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	112.5	112.6	0.1	435.38	435.76	0.4	1.9
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	96.7	97.3	0.6	2,906.80	2,924.84	18.0	90.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	102.2	102.2	0.0	673.50	673.50	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	108.0	107.8	-0.2	193.32	192.96	-0.4	-1.8
7.	Transport	11.84	115.9	116.3	0.3	1,372.26	1,376.99	4.7	23.7
8.	Communication	9.41	106.3	106.3	0.0	1,000.28	1,000.28	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	103.1	103.2	0.1	392.81	393.19	0.4	1.9
10.	Education	1.32	108.5	108.5	0.0	143.22	143.22	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.4	102.4	0.0	191.49	191.49	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.3	101.3	0.0	436.60	436.60	0.0	0.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	104.6	104.8	0.2	10,460.00	10,480.00	20.0	100.0

TABLE 5
MONTHLY INDEX - 2015
 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	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	104.7	110.0	112.3	104.1	96.9	102.1	108.0	115.8	106.3	103.3	108.5	102.1	101.2
February	104.6	109.6	112.5	104.5	96.7	102.2	108.0	115.9	106.3	103.1	108.5	102.4	101.3
March	104.8	109.2	112.6	104.5	97.3	102.2	107.8	116.3	106.3	103.2	108.5	102.4	101.3