



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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February 2019

During the month of February 2019, the consumer price index registered a decrease of 0.4 percent compared to 0.5 for January 2019.

The “All Items” index was recorded at 110.9 compared to 111.4 for the month of January 2019. Four (4) groups recorded decreases during the month, namely, “Transport” (3.2%), “Health” (0.3%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.2%) and “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1%). Meanwhile, one (1) group increased for the month, “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.4%). Seven (7) groups remained unchanged, “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics”, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”, “Restaurants and Hotels” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”, (*see table 3*).

Lower prices for passenger airfare, from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to St. Lucia (33.5%), New York (22.2%), Toronto (18.7%), Barbados (18.4%) and London (12.1%) and a decrease in the price of petrol (6.3%) were mainly responsible for the decline in the “Transport” group index (3.2%).

“Food and Non- Alcoholic Beverages” group index fell by 0.2 percent on account of lower prices for several items, namely, tomatoes (30.5%), sweet pepper (5.6%), eggs (5.3%), carrots (4.6%), cream of wheat (1.4%) and corn beef (0.4%).

The “Health” index declined by 0.3 percent as a result of lower prices for pain relievers (6.4%) and drug for diabetes (2.0%).

Similarly, the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” fell by 0.1 percent on account of lower prices for fluorescent lighting tubes (4.8%), washing powder (2.6%) and paper towel (0.1%).

“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” group index rose by 0.1 percent as a result of a 0.8 percent increase in the cost of electricity. The increase in the cost of electricity was as a result of a higher fuel surcharge rate of 39.95 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2019 compared to 39.21 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of January 2019.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 1.4 percent for the period February 2019 compared with 2.8 percent for February 2018. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period are “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (2.6%), “Recreation and Culture” (2.4%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (2.1%) and “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (2.0%).

The group “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” was the sole group to record a decline of (0.4%) (*see table 3*).

The consumer price index fell by 0.4 percent for the month of February 2019.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 1.4 percent due to relative price changes during the month of February 2019 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
		February 2019	January 2019		
INCREASED					
Electricity consumption charge	140 K.W.H.	125.93	124.89	1.04	0.8
Diesel fuel	1 Gal.	11.64	11.50	0.14	1.2
Chicken - whole	Lb.	6.62	6.61	0.01	0.2
Chicken - leg quarters	Lb.	2.76	2.71	0.05	1.8
Chicken franks, frozen	12oz pk	5.37	5.24	0.13	2.5
Turkey bacon	12oz pk	12.81	11.78	1.03	8.7
Condensed milk	390g Tin	3.44	3.38	0.06	1.8
Powdered milk - full cream	Lb.	7.04	7.03	0.01	0.1
DECREASED					
Petrol, Unleaded	1 Gal.	12.02	12.83	-0.81	-6.3
Passenger airfare from St.Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
St. Lucia	One Way	377.65	567.59	-189.94	-33.5
Barbados	One Way	477.77	585.50	-107.73	-18.4
New York	Month	2795.00	3591.00	-796.00	-22.2
Toronto	Month	2889.00	3555.00	-666.00	-18.7
London	Month	3926.00	4467.49	-541.49	-12.1
Pain relievers	100 per bottle	7.40	7.91	-0.51	-6.4
Drugs for diabetes	1 month supply	17.49	17.85	-0.36	-2.0
Cream of wheat	14oz Box	11.16	11.32	-0.16	-1.4
Corn beef	340g Tin	6.78	6.81	-0.03	-0.4
Eggs	Doz.	9.91	10.47	-0.56	-5.3
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.54	5.09	-1.55	-30.5
Sweet pepper	Lb.	6.43	6.81	-0.38	-5.6
Carrots	Lb.	4.14	4.34	-0.20	-4.6
Flourescent lighting tubes	Each	9.33	9.80	-0.47	-4.8
Washing powder	40g Pk.	5.20	5.34	-0.14	-2.6
Paper towel	128 Sheets, roll	10.28	10.29	-0.01	-0.1

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
February 2019 Compared With February 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2019	February 2018		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - whole	Lb.	6.62	6.99	-0.37	-5.29
Chicken - leg quarters	Lb.	2.74	2.91	-0.17	-5.84
Chicken - backs	Lb.	1.62	1.63	-0.01	-0.61
Chicken - wings	Lb.	4.56	4.55	0.01	0.22
Turkey wings	Lb.	3.13	3.43	-0.30	-8.75
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 (Robin)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Chicken franks	340g Pk.	6.14	5.73	0.41	7.16
Luncheon meat (Pork)	340 grams	8.32	8.31	0.02	0.18
Codfish	Lb.	15.13	15.15	-0.02	-0.13
Cornflakes	12 oz.	13.72	13.72	0.01	0.04
Pasta - elbows	340 grams	4.70	4.69	0.01	0.21
Milk - evaporated	410g Tin	3.31	3.51	-0.20	-5.70
Milk - condensed	397g Tin	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Bread- small loaf, white	5 Pk.	1.89	2.01	-0.12	-5.97
Bread - large sliced pan loaf (white)	Each	4.19	4.23	-0.04	-0.95
Eggs	Doz.	9.91	9.05	0.86	9.50
Orange juice	19 oz Tin	8.93	9.13	-0.20	-2.19
Sugar - brown (loose)	Lb.	1.64	1.66	-0.02	-1.20
Sugar - white (loose)	Lb.	1.79	1.81	-0.02	-1.10
Flour - loose	Lb.	1.35	1.36	-0.01	-0.74
Flour - packaged (white)	2 kg.	6.83	6.75	0.08	1.19
Flour - packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg.	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00
Rice - loose	Lb.	1.90	1.95	-0.05	-2.56
Rice - packaged	2 Kg.	10.55	10.56	-0.01	-0.06
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.36	0.07	5.15
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.38	2.58	-0.20	-7.75
Eddoes	Lb.	2.83	2.39	0.44	18.41
Dasheens	Lb.	1.89	2.11	-0.22	-10.43
Sweet potatoes	Lb.	2.16	2.38	-0.22	-9.24
Oranges	Each	0.88	0.86	0.02	2.33
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.54	3.61	-0.07	-1.94
Cooking margarine	445g Tub	9.17	9.13	0.04	0.49
Vegetable oil	Litre	12.40	12.38	0.03	0.20
Powdered chocolate	300g Pk.	10.81	10.80	0.02	0.14
Hairoun fruit cocktail (not cold)	280 ml. Bottle	2.84	2.84	0.00	0.00
Vitamalt	310 ml. Bottle	5.73	5.66	0.07	1.24

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
February 2019 Compared With February 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2019	February 2018		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - local (White)	750 ml. Bot.	30.13	29.98	0.15	0.50
Beer - local	280 ml. Bot.	5.09	4.90	0.19	3.88
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.96	4.00	-0.04	-1.00
Table wine (local)	26 oz. Bot.	21.35	21.28	0.07	0.33
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	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.	20.89	20.89	0.00	0.00
Galvanise sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.28	96.28	0.00	0.00
Oil paint	Gal.	134.43	112.87	21.56	19.10
Lumber - dressed treated yellow pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.24	69.20	0.04	0.06
Water - consumption charge	5000 Gal.	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gal.	6.61	6.61	0.00	0.00
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	40.46	37.52	2.94	7.84
Electricity consumption charge	140 K.W.H.	125.93	114.17	11.76	10.30
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - cherry 54"x75"	Each	1162.88	1162.88	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	1.24	1.23	0.01	0.81
Electrical bulb - 60W	Each	6.29	6.25	0.04	0.64

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
February 2019 Compared With February 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2019	February 2018		
HEALTH					
Doctor's fee - Gynaecologist	Visit	60.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Eye Ccre	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	11.35	13.05	-1.70	-12.99
Cough, cold preparation	125 ml.	15.20	15.09	0.11	0.73
Dental care	Visit	130.83	123.33	7.50	6.08
Chest x- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - unleaded	Gal.	12.02	11.42	0.60	5.25
Vehicle license (car) - not exceeding 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	102.14	1.86	1.82
Fixed line domestic rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to mobile - domestic	Minute	1.00	0.98	0.02	2.04
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " flat panel	Each	2001.33	1996.04	5.29	0.27
Cable TV basic charge	Month	79.33	74.75	4.58	6.13
Laptop computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3846.33	3836.67	9.66	0.25
Desktop computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2079.33	2073.84	5.49	0.26
Remote control car	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog food (canned)	374 g. Tin	3.83	3.83	0.00	0.00
Dance admission to night club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and band fees (adult)	Each	375.00	350.00	25.00	7.14

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
February 2019 Compared With February 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2019	February 2018		
EDUCATION					
Pre-primary - private	Month	217.50	217.50	0.00	0.00
Primary school fee - private	Term	850.00	825.00	25.00	3.03
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	1.00	0.87	0.13	14.94
Mathematics textbook - form 4	Each	76.43	72.44	3.99	5.51
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken lunch - regular	Each	14.39	14.39	0.00	0.00
Fish lunch - regular	Each	15.51	15.51	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	125 g.	3.51	3.60	-0.09	-2.50
Toothpaste	130 g. Tube	9.25	9.11	0.15	1.59
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.	13.18	12.98	0.20	1.54
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	January 2019	February 2019	February 2018	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month January	Year February
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.1	115.9	116.3	-0.2	-0.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	122.5	122.5	120.0	0.0	2.1
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	104.9	0.0	0.1
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.0	103.1	100.5	0.1	2.6
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.5	111.2	-0.1	2.0
06.	Health	1.79	110.9	110.5	109.5	-0.3	0.9
07.	Transport	11.84	126.3	122.2	120.2	-3.2	1.7
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	112.0	0.0	1.2
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.4	107.5	104.9	0.0	2.4
10.	Education	1.32	110.3	110.3	110.1	0.0	0.2
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	108.6	108.6	108.3	0.0	0.3
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.9	103.9	103.6	0.0	0.3
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.4	110.9	109.4	-0.4	1.4

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for February 2019

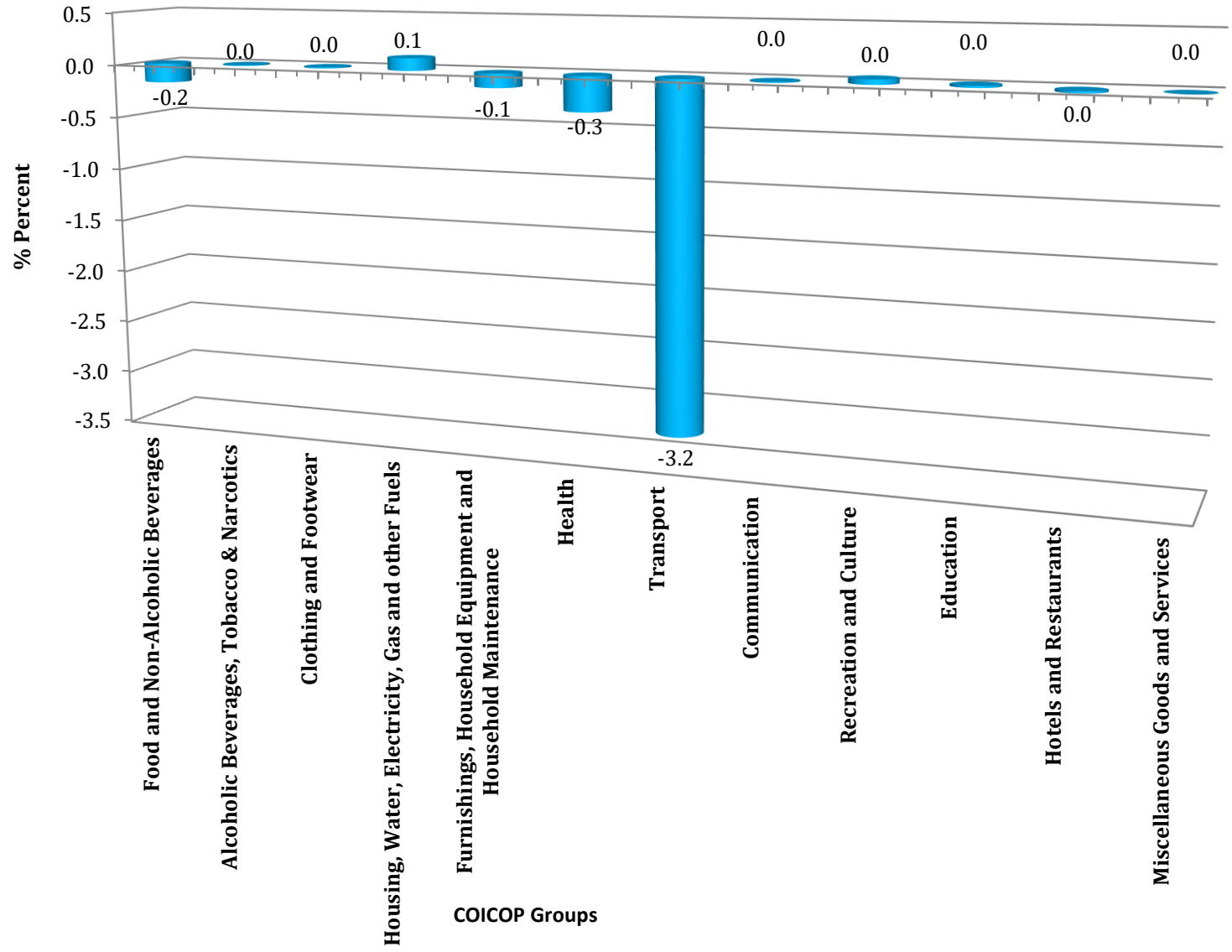


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	January 2019	February 2019	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						January 2019	February 2019		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.1	115.9	-0.2	2,543.75	2,539.15	-4.6	10.0
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	122.5	122.5	0.0	474.08	474.11	0.0	-0.1
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	0.0	338.10	338.13	0.0	-0.1
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.0	103.1	0.1	3,096.18	3,099.79	3.6	-7.8
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.5	-0.1	748.62	747.64	-1.0	2.1
6.	Health	1.79	110.9	110.5	-0.3	198.51	197.87	-0.6	1.4
7.	Transport	11.84	126.3	122.3	-3.2	1,495.39	1,447.68	-47.7	103.7
8.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	0.0	1,066.15	1,066.06	-0.1	0.2
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.4	107.5	0.0	409.19	409.38	0.2	-0.4
10.	Education	1.32	110.3	110.3	0.0	145.60	145.62	0.0	-0.1
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	108.6	108.6	0.0	203.08	203.04	0.0	0.1
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.9	103.9	0.0	447.81	447.81	0.0	0.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.4	110.9	-0.4	11,140.00	11,094.00	-46.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2019
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	111.4	116.1	122.5	105.0	103.0	113.6	110.9	126.3	113.3	107.4	110.3	108.6	103.9
February	110.9	115.9	122.5	105.0	103.1	113.5	110.5	122.3	113.3	107.5	110.3	108.6	103.9