



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING
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March 2019

During the month of March 2019, the consumer price index registered an increase of 0.1 percent compared to a decrease of 0.4 for February 2019.

The “All Items” index was recorded at 111.0 compared to 110.9 for the month of February 2019. Three (3) groups recorded increases during the month, namely, “Transport” (1.2%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.2%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.2%). Meanwhile, two (2) groups decreased for the month, “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.3%) and “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1%). Seven (7) groups remained unchanged, , “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”, “Restaurants and Hotels” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”, (*see table 3*).

Higher prices for passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to New York (39.5%), Barbados (22.5%), St. Lucia (11.3%) and Toronto (1.7%) accounted for the increase in the “Transport” group index.

The upward movement in the “Food and Non- Alcoholic Beverages” group index was due to increases in the prices of a few commodities namely; fish, robin (25.0%), tomatoes (11.9%), sweet pepper (11.5%), cucumber (9.7%), pig snout (5.9%), black pepper (3.5%), cauliflower (2.8%), chicken, neck (1.3%) and corn meal (0.4%).

The “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” index recorded a 0.2 percent increase as a result of increases in the price of mackeson stout (3.1%) and ginger wine (0.2%).

“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” group index fell by 0.3 percent due to decreases in the cost of nails, galvanise (9.2%), steel rods (7.0%), nails, wall (1.8%), electricity (1.2%) and cement (1.1%).

Meanwhile, the “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” group index fell by 0.1 percent on account of a decrease in the cost of paper towel (21.8%) and washing powder (3.7%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 1.3 percent for the period March 2019 compared with 3.1 percent for March 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” (2.5%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (1.9%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (1.7%).

The group “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” was the sole group to record a decline of (0.2%) (*see table 3*).

The consumer price index grew by 0.1 percent for the month of March 2019.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 1.3 percent due to relative price changes during the month of March 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 |
|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | March 2019 | February 2019 | | |
| INCREASED | | | | | |
| Corn meal | Lb | 2.7 | 2.7 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Pig Snout | Lb | 8.3 | 7.8 | 0.5 | 5.9 |
| Chicken, neck | Lb | 1.6 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.3 |
| Fish, robin | Lb | 5.0 | 4.0 | 1.0 | 25.0 |
| Cauliflower | Lb | 6.9 | 6.7 | 0.2 | 2.8 |
| Tomatoes | Lb | 4.0 | 3.5 | 0.4 | 11.9 |
| Sweet pepper | Lb | 7.2 | 6.4 | 0.7 | 11.5 |
| Cucumber | Lb | 3.7 | 3.4 | 0.3 | 9.7 |
| Black pepper | Lb | 5.6 | 5.5 | 0.2 | 3.5 |
| Ginger wine | 750ml Bot. | 20.2 | 20.2 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Mackeson stout | 275ml | 6.0 | 5.8 | 0.2 | 3.1 |
| Passenger airfare from St.Vincent and the Grenadines to: | | | | | |
| St. Lucia | One Way | 420.2 | 377.7 | 42.5 | 11.3 |
| Barbados | One Way | 585.5 | 477.8 | 107.7 | 22.5 |
| New York | Month | 3900.0 | 2795.0 | 1105.0 | 39.5 |
| Toronto | Month | 2937.0 | 2889.0 | 48.0 | 1.7 |
| DECREASED | | | | | |
| Cement | 94 Lb | 20.7 | 20.9 | -0.2 | -1.1 |
| Nails, wall | Lb | 7.5 | 7.7 | -0.1 | -1.8 |
| Nails, galvanise | Lb | 6.6 | 7.3 | -0.7 | -9.2 |
| Steel rods | 1/2", 1 length | 20.1 | 21.6 | -1.5 | -7.0 |
| Electricity consumption charge | 140 KWH | 124.4 | 125.9 | -1.5 | -1.2 |
| Washing powder | 400g Pk | 5.0 | 5.2 | -0.2 | -3.7 |
| Paper towel | 84 Sheets, roll | 4.5 | 5.7 | -1.2 | -21.8 |

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

| Items | Unit of Quantity | Average EC\$ | | Change in Price | Percentage Change in Price |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | March 2019 | March 2018 | | |
| FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | | | | | |
| Beef - fresh | Lb. | 8.0 | 8.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Chicken - whole | Lb. | 6.6 | 6.9 | -0.4 | -5.5 |
| Chicken - leg quarters | Lb. | 2.7 | 2.8 | -0.1 | -3.6 |
| Chicken - backs | Lb. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Chicken - wings | Lb. | 4.6 | 4.6 | -0.1 | -1.3 |
| Turkey wings | Lb. | 3.1 | 3.4 | -0.2 | -7.2 |
| Fish - fresh (Deep sea) | Lb. | 9.0 | 9.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fish - fresh (Jacks) | Lb. | 4.0 | 5.0 | -1.0 | -20.0 |
| Fish - fresh (Robin) | Lb. | 5.0 | 5.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Chicken franks | 340g Pk. | 6.1 | 5.7 | 0.4 | 7.2 |
| Luncheon meat (Pork) | 340 grams | 8.3 | 8.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Codfish | Lb. | 15.2 | 15.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Cornflakes | 12 oz. | 13.7 | 13.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Pasta - elbows | 340 grams | 4.7 | 4.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Milk - evaporated | 410g Tin | 3.3 | 3.5 | -0.2 | -6.6 |
| Milk - condensed | 397g Tin | 4.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Bread- small loaf, white | 5 Pk. | 1.9 | 2.0 | -0.1 | -6.0 |
| Bread - large sliced pan loaf (white) | Each | 4.2 | 4.2 | 0.0 | -0.9 |
| Eggs | Doz. | 9.9 | 9.1 | 0.9 | 9.5 |
| Orange juice | 19 oz Tin | 8.9 | 9.1 | -0.2 | -2.2 |
| Sugar - brown (loose) | Lb. | 1.6 | 1.7 | -0.1 | -3.0 |
| Sugar - white (loose) | Lb. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.0 | -1.1 |
| Flour - loose | Lb. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0.0 | -0.7 |
| Flour - packaged (white) | 2 kg. | 6.8 | 6.8 | 0.1 | 1.2 |
| Flour - packaged (wholewheat) | 2 kg. | 7.2 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Rice - loose | Lb. | 1.9 | 1.9 | 0.0 | -1.0 |
| Rice - packaged | 2 Kg. | 10.6 | 10.6 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Bananas (ripe) | Lb. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Breadfruit | Lb. | 2.4 | 2.7 | -0.3 | -10.5 |
| Eddoes | Lb. | 2.8 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 18.9 |
| Dasheens | Lb. | 1.9 | 2.1 | -0.2 | -10.0 |
| Sweet potatoes | Lb. | 2.2 | 2.4 | -0.2 | -8.9 |
| Oranges | Each | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 1.1 |
| Tomatoes | Lb. | 4.0 | 4.5 | -0.5 | -11.0 |
| Cooking margarine | 445g Tub | 9.2 | 9.1 | 0.0 | 0.4 |
| Vegetable oil | Litre | 12.4 | 12.4 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Powdered chocolate | 300g Pk. | 10.8 | 10.8 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Hairoun fruit cocktail (not cold) | 280 ml. Bottle | 2.9 | 2.8 | 0.1 | 2.5 |
| Vitamalt | 310 ml. Bottle | 5.7 | 5.7 | 0.1 | 1.2 |

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

| Items | Unit of Quantity | Average EC\$ | | Change in Price | Percentage Change in Price |
|--|------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | March 2019 | March 2018 | | |
| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS | | | | | |
| Rum - local (White) | 750 ml. Bot. | 30.1 | 29.9 | 0.2 | 0.8 |
| Beer - local | 280 ml. Bot. | 5.1 | 5.0 | 0.1 | 2.6 |
| Cigarettes | Pkt. (10) | 4.0 | 4.0 | 0.0 | -1.0 |
| Table wine (local) | 26 oz. Bot. | 21.3 | 21.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR | | | | | |
| Textile material - terelyne | Yd. | 48.0 | 48.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Textile material - linen | Yd. | 18.0 | 18.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Men's shirts - long sleeve | Each | 70.0 | 70.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Men's jeans (long) - size 30 | Pair | 50.0 | 50.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Men's shoes - formal | Pair | 79.8 | 79.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Women's shoes - formal | Pair | 89.8 | 89.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Women's 2Pc skirtsuit (polyester) large | Each | 102.5 | 102.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Women's blouse (cotton/spandex) | Each | 30.0 | 30.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY | | | | | |
| GAS AND OTHER FUELS | | | | | |
| Rent : | | | | | |
| Unfurnished house - 2 Bedrooms | Month | 567.9 | 567.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Unfurnished house - 3 Bedrooms | Month | 612.5 | 612.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Furnished apartment - 2 Bedrooms | Month | 791.7 | 791.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Cement - portland (grey) | 94 Lbs. | 20.7 | 20.9 | -0.2 | -1.1 |
| Galvanise sheets 10 ft. | Length | 96.7 | 96.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Oil paint | Gal. | 134.4 | 112.9 | 21.6 | 19.1 |
| Lumber - dressed treated yellow pine (1x12x12) | Length | 69.2 | 69.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Water - consumption charge | 5000 Gal. | 37.5 | 37.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Kerosene | 1 Gal. | 6.6 | 6.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Charcoal | Sack | 40.0 | 40.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Cooking gas | 20 Lb. Cyl. | 40.5 | 37.5 | 2.9 | 7.8 |
| Electricity consumption charge | 140 K.W.H. | 124.4 | 112.3 | 12.1 | 10.7 |
| FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE | | | | | |
| Bed - cherry 54"x75" | Each | 1162.9 | 1162.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Double size sheets - coloured/cotton | Each | 105.0 | 105.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Frying pan - 12" - non-stick | Each | 55.8 | 55.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Laundry soap | Each | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.8 |
| Electrical bulb - 60W | Each | 6.3 | 6.3 | 0.0 | 0.6 |

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

| Items | Unit of Quantity | Average EC\$ | | Change in Price | Percentage Change in Price |
|--|------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | March 2019 | March 2018 | | |
| HEALTH | | | | | |
| Doctor's fee - Gynaecologist | Visit | 60.0 | 60.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Eye Care | Test | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Hospitalisation (private ward) | Day | 75.0 | 75.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Drugs for hypertension | Month supply | 3.5 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Drug for diabetes | Month supply | 11.4 | 12.7 | -1.3 | -10.3 |
| Cough, cold preparation | 125 ml. | 15.2 | 15.1 | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Dental care | Visit | 130.8 | 130.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Chest x- ray | Test | 150.0 | 150.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| TRANSPORT | | | | | |
| Petrol - unleaded | Gal. | 12.0 | 11.8 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Vehicle license (car) - not exceeding 2000 lbs | Year | 590.0 | 590.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Bus fare - Mesopotamia | One Way | 3.0 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Boat fare - Bequia | One Way | 25.0 | 25.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| COMMUNICATION | | | | | |
| Telephone service - rental of line- domestic | Month | 23.7 | 23.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Telephone - consumption charge | 226 Units | 18.1 | 18.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Internet charge | Month | 104.0 | 102.1 | 1.9 | 1.8 |
| Fixed line domestic rate - peak | Minute | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Mobile to mobile - domestic | Minute | 1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 2.0 |
| RECREATION AND CULTURE | | | | | |
| Television 26 " flat panel | Each | 2001.3 | 1996.0 | 5.3 | 0.3 |
| Cable TV basic charge | Month | 79.3 | 74.8 | 4.6 | 6.1 |
| Laptop computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB | Each | 3846.3 | 3836.7 | 9.7 | 0.3 |
| Desktop computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB | Each | 2079.3 | 2073.8 | 5.5 | 0.3 |
| Remote control car | Each | 250.0 | 250.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Dog food (canned) | 374 g. Tin | 3.8 | 3.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Dance admission to night club | Per Person | 20.0 | 20.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Carnival costume and band fees (adult) | Each | 375.0 | 350.0 | 25.0 | 7.1 |

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

| Items | Unit of Quantity | Average EC\$ | | Change in Price | Percentage Change in Price |
|---|------------------|--------------|------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| | | March 2019 | March 2018 | | |
| EDUCATION | | | | | |
| Pre-primary - private | Month | 217.5 | 217.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Primary school fee - private | Term | 850.0 | 825.0 | 25.0 | 3.0 |
| Secondary school fee - private | Term | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Newspaper - local | Each | 1.5 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Exercise book - primary - 24 leaves | Each | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Lead pencils | Each | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.1 | 14.9 |
| Mathematics textbook - form 4 | Each | 76.4 | 72.4 | 4.0 | 5.5 |
| Tuition for local evening classes | Per Subject | 100.0 | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS | | | | | |
| Chicken lunch - regular | Each | 14.4 | 14.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fish lunch - regular | Each | 15.5 | 15.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Fast food - 2 Pc chicken and fries | Each | 17.1 | 17.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES | | | | | |
| Toilet soap | 125 g. | 3.5 | 3.6 | -0.1 | -2.5 |
| Toothpaste | 130 g. Tube | 9.3 | 9.1 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Men's haircut | Visit | 10.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Women's hairdressing (relaxer) | Visit | 69.8 | 69.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Disposable diapers (medium) | 10 per Pk. | 13.2 | 13.0 | 0.2 | 1.5 |
| Health insurance - group (family) | ≥3 Persons | 307.0 | 307.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Legal expenses (affidavit) | Fee | 250.0 | 250.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Table 3
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100

| | Groups | Weight | February 2019 | March 2019 | March 2018 | Percentage Change Over Previous: | |
|-----|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | | | Month February | Year March |
| 01. | Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages | 21.91 | 115.9 | 116.1 | 116.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| 02. | Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics | 3.87 | 122.5 | 122.7 | 120.7 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| 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 | 103.1 | 102.8 | 100.2 | -0.3 | 2.6 |
| 05. | Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance | 6.59 | 113.5 | 113.3 | 111.2 | -0.1 | 1.9 |
| 06. | Health | 1.79 | 110.5 | 110.5 | 109.5 | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| 07. | Transport | 11.84 | 122.2 | 123.7 | 122.0 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| 08. | Communication | 9.41 | 113.3 | 113.3 | 112.0 | 0.0 | 1.2 |
| 09. | Recreation and Culture | 3.81 | 107.5 | 107.5 | 104.9 | 0.0 | 2.5 |
| 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 | 110.9 | 111.0 | 109.6 | 0.1 | 1.3 |

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2019

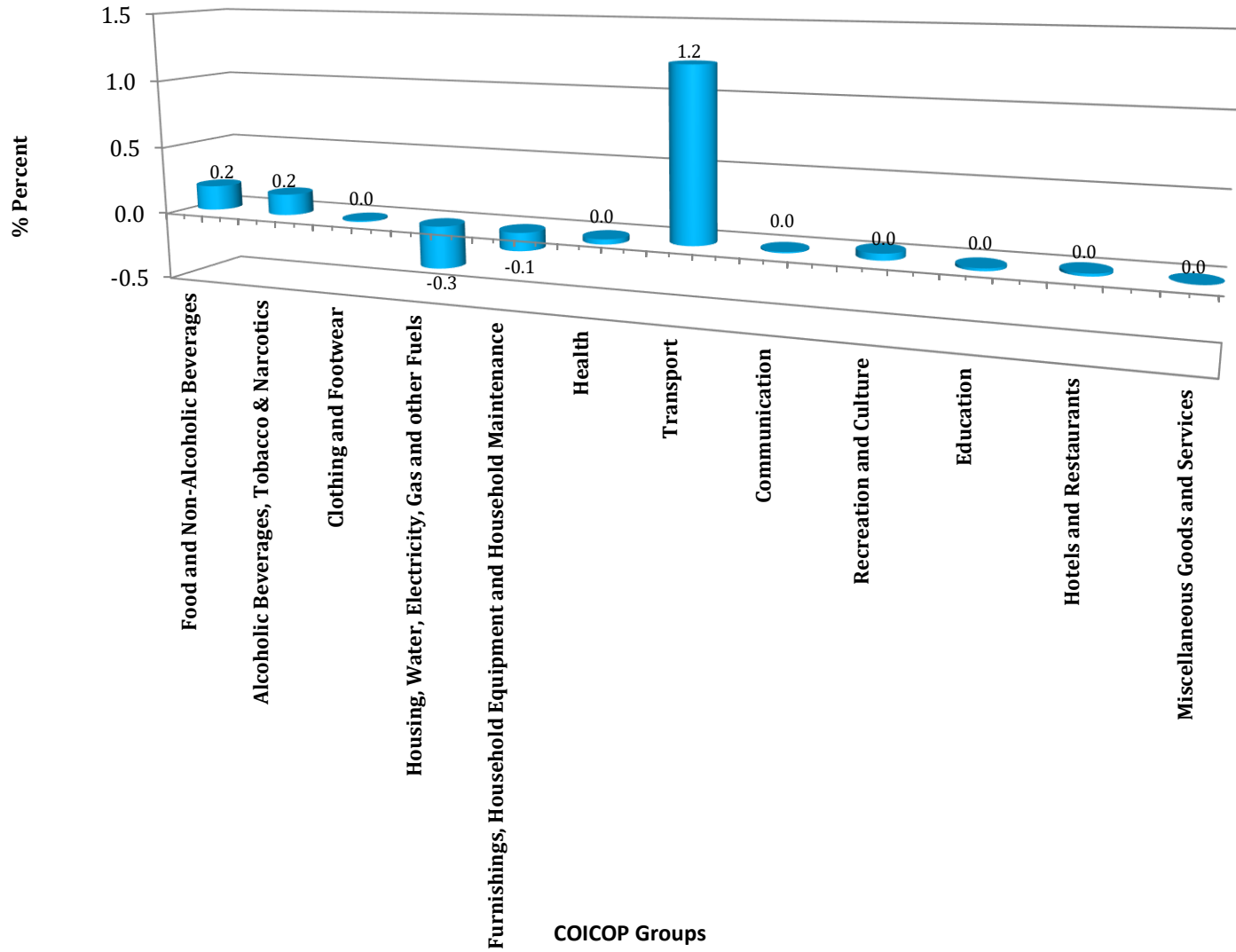


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

| | Groups | Weight | February 2019 | March 2019 | Percentage Change | Cost Weight | | Change in Cost Weight | % Contribution to Change |
|-----|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | February 2019 | March 2019 | | |
| 1. | Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages | 21.91 | 115.9 | 116.1 | 0.2 | 2,539.15 | 2,543.75 | 4.6 | 76.7 |
| 2. | Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics | 3.87 | 122.5 | 122.7 | 0.2 | 474.11 | 474.85 | 0.7 | 12.3 |
| 3. | Clothing and Footwear | 3.22 | 105.0 | 105.0 | 0.0 | 338.13 | 338.10 | 0.0 | -0.5 |
| 4. | Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels | 30.06 | 103.1 | 102.8 | -0.3 | 3,099.79 | 3,090.17 | -9.6 | -160.3 |
| 5. | Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance | 6.59 | 113.5 | 113.3 | -0.1 | 747.64 | 746.65 | -1.0 | -16.5 |
| 6. | Health | 1.79 | 110.5 | 110.5 | 0.0 | 197.87 | 197.80 | -0.1 | -1.2 |
| 7. | Transport | 11.84 | 122.3 | 123.7 | 1.2 | 1,447.68 | 1,464.61 | 16.9 | 282.2 |
| 8. | Communication | 9.41 | 113.3 | 113.3 | 0.0 | 1,066.06 | 1,066.15 | 0.1 | 1.6 |
| 9. | Recreation and Culture | 3.81 | 107.5 | 107.5 | 0.0 | 409.38 | 409.58 | 0.2 | 3.2 |
| 10. | Education | 1.32 | 110.3 | 110.3 | 0.0 | 145.62 | 145.60 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| 11. | Hotels and Restaurants | 1.87 | 108.6 | 108.6 | 0.0 | 203.04 | 203.08 | 0.0 | 0.6 |
| 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 | 110.9 | 111.0 | 0.1 | 11,094.00 | 11,100.00 | 6.0 | 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 |
| March | 110.0 | 116.1 | 122.7 | 105.0 | 102.8 | 113.3 | 110.5 | 123.7 | 113.3 | 107.5 | 110.3 | 108.6 | 103.9 |