



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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MAY 2019

During the month of May 2019, the consumer price index recorded a decrease of 0.4 percent in contrast to an increase of 0.5 percent for April 2019 (*see table 3*).

The “All Items” index was recorded at 111.0 compared to 111.5 for the month of April 2019.

Three (3) groups recorded decreases during the month, namely, “Transport” (2.2%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.7%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.1%). Two (2) groups increased for the month, “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.7%) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.2%).

Seven (7) groups remained unchanged, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education” and “Hotels and Restaurants” (*see table 3*).

Lower prices for passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to New York (30.7%), Trinidad and Tobago (30.6%) and Barbados (24.0%), contributed to the 2.2 percent decrease in the “Transport” group index.

The 0.7 percent decline in the group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” was on account of a decrease in the cost of electricity (3.6%).

“Food and Non- Alcoholic Beverages” group index fell by 0.1 percent as a result of a reduction in the price for a number of items such as wax-apple (17.1%), garlic (17.0%), cauliflower

(8.1%), cabbage (7.1%), red kidney beans (5.5%), cornmeal (3.8%), english potatoes (3.2%), powdered milk–full cream (2.6%) and eggs (1.8%).

“Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” index increased by 0.7 percent on account of higher prices for items such as whiskey - black (8.1%), rum – local red (6.1%) and rum - local white (4.7%.)

Meanwhile, the 0.2 percent upward movement in the “Miscellaneous Goods & Services” group index was on account of higher prices for sanitary napkins (12.6%) and toilet soap (1.4%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.5 percent for the month of May 2019 compared with 2.3 percent for May 2018. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were “Recreation and Culture” (3.1%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (2.0%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (1.8%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.2%) and “Communication” (1.1%) (*See table 3*).

The consumer price index declined by 0.4 percent for the month of May 2019. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.5 percent due to relative price changes during the month of May 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
		May 2019	April 2019		
INCREASED					
Rum- local white	750ml Bot	31.56	30.13	1.4	4.7
Rum -local red	750ml Bot	29.68	27.98	1.7	6.1
Whiskey - Black	750ml Bot	134.03	124.02	10.0	8.1
Chicken -Necks	Lb	1.63	1.50	0.1	8.7
Turkey	Lb	3.19	3.11	0.1	2.6
Sliced pineapple	20oz Tin	7.70	7.40	0.3	4.1
Mixed Vegetables	15oz Tin	4.90	4.60	0.3	6.5
Sanitary Napkins	Pk 24	8.95	7.95	1.0	12.6
Toilet Soap	115g	3.56	3.51	0.1	1.4
Fruit Juice	1 Litre	8.52	8.24	0.3	3.4
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to: <i>St.Lucia</i>	1-way	426.92	377.65	49.3	13.0
DECREASED					
Powdered Milk -full cream	Lb	6.78	6.96	-0.2	-2.6
Eggs	Doz	9.54	9.71	-0.2	-1.8
Cauliflower	Lb	6.32	6.88	-0.6	-8.1
Cabbage	Lb	4.07	4.38	-0.3	-7.1
Garlic - loose	500g	3.07	3.70	-0.6	-17.0
English Potatoes	Lb	2.44	2.52	-0.1	-3.2
Red-kidney beans - loose	Lb	5.64	5.97	-0.3	-5.5
Lentils - loose	Lb	3.37	3.51	-0.1	-4.0
Cornmeal	Lb	2.53	2.63	-0.1	-3.8
Wax apple	Lb	1.36	1.64	-0.3	-17.1
Garlic Powder	3.12oz Bot	8.00	12.68	-4.7	-36.9
Electricity Consumption Charge	140KWH	125.90	130.63	-4.7	-3.6
Washing Powder	250g	2.75	2.83	-0.1	-2.8
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to: <i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	1-way	369.90	533.25	-163.4	-30.6
<i>Barbados</i>	1-way	444.83	585.50	-140.7	-24.0
<i>New York, USA</i>	1 month	3292.00	4752.00	-1460.0	-30.7

Table 2 (a)
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
May 2019 Compared With May 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2019	May 2018		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.0	0.0
Chicken - whole	Lb.	6.69	6.65	0.0	0.6
Chicken - leg quarters	Lb.	2.83	2.81	0.0	0.7
Chicken - backs	Lb.	1.60	1.66	-0.1	-3.6
Chicken - wings	Lb.	4.65	4.65	0.0	0.0
Turkey wings	Lb.	3.19	3.32	-0.1	-3.9
Fish - fresh (Deep sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.0	0.0
Fish - fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.0	-20.0
Fish - fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.0	0.0
Chicken franks	340g Pk.	6.08	5.79	0.3	5.0
Luncheon meat (Pork)	340 grams	8.30	8.25	0.1	0.6
Codfish	Lb.	15.28	14.83	0.4	3.0
Cornflakes	12 oz.	13.69	13.65	0.0	0.3
Pasta - elbows	340 grams	4.66	4.70	0.0	-0.7
Milk - evaporated	410g Tin	3.27	3.43	-0.2	-4.7
Milk - condensed	397g Tin	4.00	4.00	0.0	0.0
Bread- small loaf, white	5 Pk.	1.89	2.00	-0.1	-5.5
Bread - large sliced pan loaf (white)	Each	4.19	4.23	0.0	-0.9
Eggs	Doz.	9.54	9.05	0.5	5.4
Orange juice	19 oz Tin	8.87	9.16	-0.3	-3.2
Sugar - brown (loose)	Lb.	1.63	1.66	0.0	-1.8
Sugar - white (loose)	Lb.	1.79	1.81	0.0	-1.1
Flour - loose	Lb.	1.35	1.36	0.0	-0.7
Flour - packaged (white)	2 kg.	6.82	6.75	0.1	1.0
Flour - packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg.	7.18	7.18	0.0	0.0
Rice - loose	Lb.	1.91	1.91	0.0	0.0
Rice - packaged	2 Kg.	10.55	10.56	0.0	-0.1
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.42	1.42	0.0	0.0
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.38	2.58	-0.2	-7.8
Eddoes	Lb.	2.74	2.62	0.1	4.6
Dasheens	Lb.	1.89	2.06	-0.2	-8.3
Sweet potatoes	Lb.	2.31	2.47	-0.2	-6.5
Oranges	Each	0.88	0.87	0.0	1.1
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.24	4.51	-0.3	-6.0
Cooking margarine	445g Tub	9.17	9.18	0.0	-0.1
Vegetable oil	Litre	12.40	12.38	0.0	0.2
Powdered chocolate	300g Pk.	10.81	10.80	0.0	0.1
Hairoun fruit cocktail (not cold)	280 ml. Bottle	2.80	2.79	0.0	0.4
Vitamalt	310 ml. Bottle	5.73	5.66	0.1	1.2

Table 2 (b)
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
May 2019 Compared With May 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2019	May 2018		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - local (White)	750 ml. Bot.	31.56	29.99	1.6	5.2
Beer - local	280 ml. Bot.	5.09	5.06	0.0	0.6
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.96	4.04	-0.1	-2.0
Table wine (local)	26 oz. Bot.	21.32	21.28	0.0	0.2
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - terelyne	Yd.	47.95	47.95	0.0	0.0
Textile material - linen	Yd.	17.95	17.95	0.0	0.0
Men's shirts - long sleeve	Each	69.95	69.95	0.0	0.0
Men's jeans (long) - size 30	Pair	49.95	49.95	0.0	0.0
Men's shoes - formal	Pair	79.79	79.79	0.0	0.0
Women's shoes - formal	Pair	89.77	89.77	0.0	0.0
Women's 2Pc skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	102.48	102.48	0.0	0.0
Women's blouse (cotton/spandex)	Each	29.95	29.95	0.0	0.0
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY					
GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
Rent :					
Unfurnished house - 2 Bedrooms	Month	567.86	567.86	0.0	0.0
Unfurnished house - 3 Bedrooms	Month	612.50	612.50	0.0	0.0
Furnished apartment - 2 Bedrooms	Month	791.67	791.67	0.0	0.0
Cement - portland (grey)	94 Lbs.	20.66	20.89	-0.2	-1.1
Galvanise sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.68	96.28	0.4	0.4
Oil paint	Gal.	134.43	112.87	21.6	19.1
Lumber - dressed treated yellow pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.30	69.49	-0.2	-0.3
Water - consumption charge	5000 Gal.	37.50	37.50	0.0	0.0
Kerosene	1 Gal.	6.61	6.61	0.0	0.0
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.0	0.0
Cooking gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.66	40.15	-2.5	-6.2
Electricity consumption charge	140 K.W.H.	125.90	121.51	4.4	3.6
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - cherry 54"x75"	Each	1181.73	1162.88	18.8	1.6
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.00	105.00	0.0	0.0
Frying pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.98	55.84	0.1	0.3
Laundry soap	Each	1.24	1.23	0.0	0.8
Electrical bulb - 60W	Each	6.29	6.29	0.0	0.0

**Table 2 (c)
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
May 2019 Compared With May 2018**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2019	May 2018		
HEALTH					
Doctor's fee - Gynaecologist	Visit	60.00	60.00	0.0	0.0
Eye Care	Test	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
Hospitalisation (private ward)	Day	75.00	75.00	0.0	0.0
Drugs for hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.0	0.0
Drug for diabetes	Month supply	11.71	12.65	-0.9	-7.4
Cough, cold preparation	125 ml.	15.28	15.09	0.2	1.3
Dental care	Visit	125.33	123.33	2.0	1.6
Chest x- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.0	0.0
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - unleaded	Gal.	12.02	12.08	-0.1	-0.5
Vehicle license (car) - not exceeding 2000 lbs	Year	590.00	590.00	0.0	0.0
Bus fare - Mesopotamia	One Way	3.00	3.00	0.0	0.0
Boat fare - Bequia	One Way	25.00	25.00	0.0	0.0
COMMUNICATION					
Telephone service - rental of line- domestic	Month	23.66	23.66	0.0	0.0
Telephone - consumption charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.0	0.0
Internet charge	Month	104.00	104.00	0.0	0.0
Fixed line domestic rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.0	0.0
Mobile to mobile - domestic	Minute	1.00	0.98	0.0	1.5
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " flat panel	Each	1991.19	1995.65	-4.5	-0.2
Cable TV basic charge	Month	79.33	74.75	4.6	6.1
Laptop computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3846.77	3835.91	10.9	0.3
Desktop computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2079.30	2073.43	5.9	0.3
Remote control car	Each	250.22	250.00	0.2	0.1
Dog food (canned)	374 g. Tin	3.84	3.83	0.0	0.3
Dance admission to night club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.0	0.0
Carnival costume and band fees (adult)	Each	375.00	350.00	25.0	7.1

Table 2 (d)
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
May 2019 Compared With May 2018

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2019	May 2018		
EDUCATION					
Pre-primary - private	Month	217.50	217.50	0.0	0.0
Primary school fee - private	Term	850.00	825.00	25.0	3.0
Secondary school fee - private	Term	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
Newspaper - local	Each	1.50	1.50	0.0	0.0
Exercise book - primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.78	0.78	0.0	0.0
Lead pencils	Each	1.00	0.61	0.4	63.9
Mathematics textbook - form 4	Each	76.43	72.44	4.0	5.5
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken lunch - regular	Each	14.39	14.39	0.0	0.0
Fish lunch - regular	Each	15.51	15.51	0.0	0.0
Fast food - 2 Pc chicken and fries	Each	17.05	17.05	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet soap	125 g.	3.52	3.62	-0.1	-2.8
Toothpaste	130 g. Tube	9.30	9.12	0.2	1.9
Men's haircut	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.0	0.0
Women's hairdressing (relaxer)	Visit	67.08	69.82	-2.7	-3.9
Disposable diapers (medium)	10 per Pk.	13.24	13.00	0.2	1.8
Health insurance - group (family)	≥3 Persons	307.00	307.00	0.0	0.0
Legal expenses (affidavit)	Fee	250.00	250.00	0.0	0.0

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

	Groups	Weight	April 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month April	Year May
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	116.2	116.7	-0.1	-0.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	122.8	123.7	121.3	0.7	2.0
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	104.4	0.0	0.6
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.7	103.0	101.8	-0.7	1.2
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.3	113.3	111.3	0.0	1.8
06.	Health	1.79	109.9	109.9	109.5	0.0	0.4
07.	Transport	11.84	125.0	122.2	124.7	-2.2	-2.0
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	112.1	0.0	1.1
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.5	107.5	104.3	0.0	3.1
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	104.1	103.6	0.2	0.5
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.5	111.0	110.5	-0.4	0.5

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for May 2019

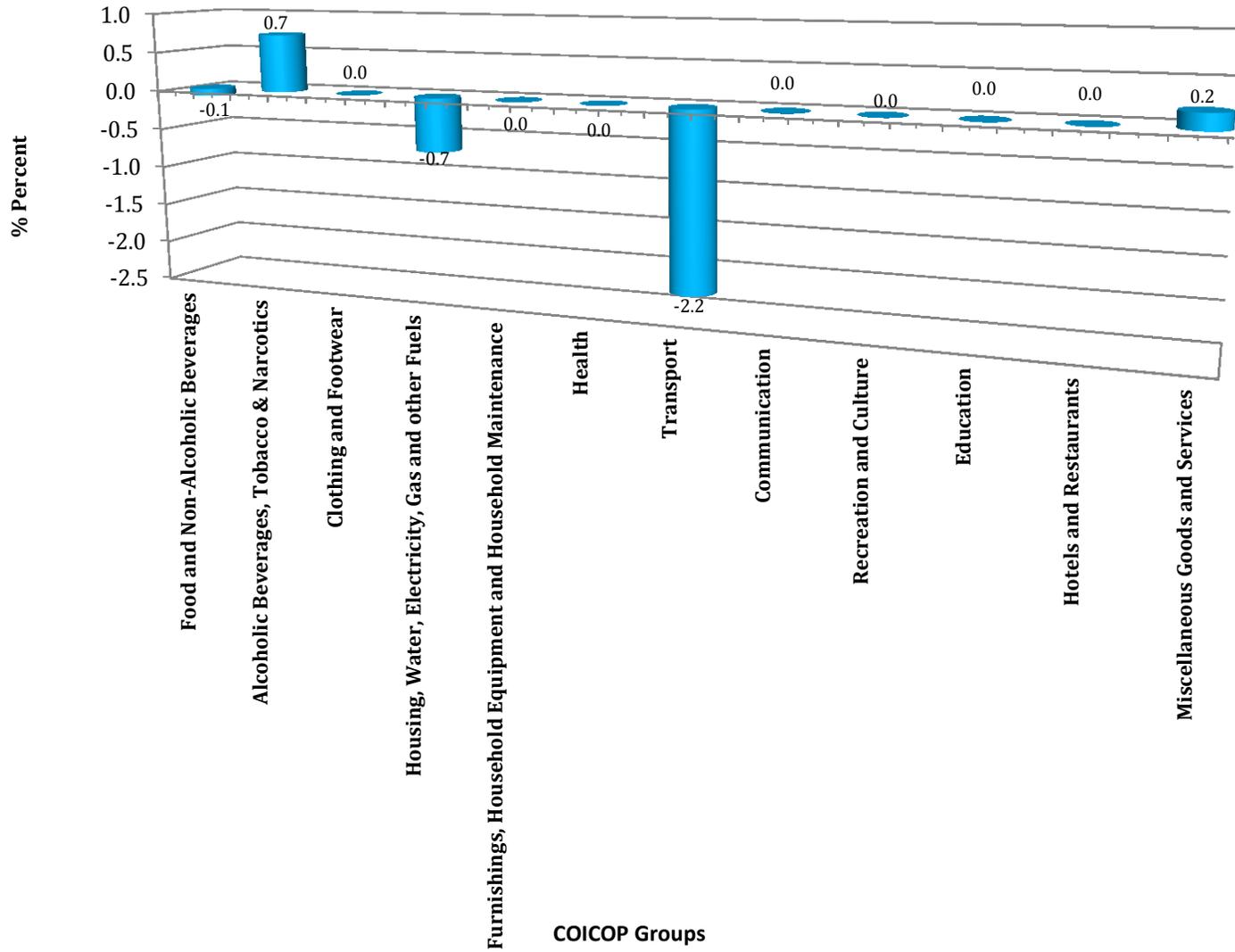


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	April 2019	May 2019	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						April 2019	May 2019		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	116.2	-0.1	2,548.1	2,545.9	-2.2	4.4
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	122.8	123.7	0.7	475.2	478.7	3.5	-7.0
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	0.0	338.1	338.1	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.7	103.0	-0.7	3,117.2	3,096.2	-21.0	42.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.3	113.3	0.0	746.6	746.6	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	109.9	109.9	0.0	196.7	196.7	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	125.0	122.2	-2.2	1,480.0	1,446.8	-33.2	66.3
8.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	0.0	1,066.2	1,066.2	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.5	107.5	0.0	409.6	409.6	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	110.3	110.3	0.0	145.6	145.6	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	108.6	108.6	0.0	203.1	203.1	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.9	104.1	0.2	447.8	448.7	0.9	-1.7
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.5	111.0	-0.4	11,150.0	11,100.0	-50.0	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	111.0	116.1	122.7	105.0	102.8	113.3	110.5	123.7	113.3	107.5	110.3	108.6	103.9
April	111.5	116.3	122.8	105.0	103.7	113.3	109.9	125.0	113.3	107.5	110.3	108.6	103.9
May	111.0	116.2	123.7	105.0	103.0	113.3	109.9	122.2	113.3	107.5	110.3	108.6	104.1