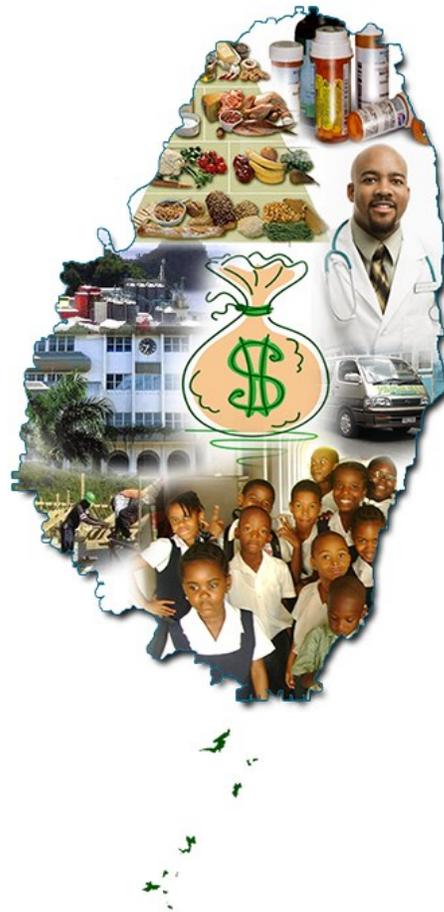




# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



**THE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

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

**ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

*Tel: 784 457 2921, 456 1111 Ext 592/353*

*Fax: 784 456 2430*

**Vol. 10 No.3  
March 2020**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Analysis –	1
Table No.	
1 Average Retail Price of Selected Items	3
2 Average Retail Price of Selected Items March 2020 compared With March 2019	4
3 The Consumer Price Index by main groups	8
4 The Consumer Price Index contribution to change by Groups	10
5 Monthly Items by Group	11
Chart No.	
1 COICOP Percentage Change for the Month of March 2020	9

\* \* \*

## March 2020

The consumer price index recorded a decrease of 0.3 percent for the month of March 2020, compared to an increase of 0.1 percent for the month of February 2020 (*see table 3*).

During the month of March 2020, the “All Items” index was recorded at 111.5, compared to 111.8 for the month of February 2020. Three (3) groups recorded increases during the month, “Hotels and Restaurants” (1.3%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4%) and “Recreation and Culture” (0.1%). Three groups recorded a decrease for the period, “Transport” (2.0%), “Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.4%) and “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.3%). Six groups remained unchanged, “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics”, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Education” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The “Transport” index recorded a 2.0 percent decline as a result of decreases in the price for passenger airfares from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to a few destinations, namely, Toronto-Canada (0.1%), St. Lucia (9.7%) and London-United Kingdom (16.0%). Lower prices for diesel (8.5%) and petrol (7.7%) also accounted for the decline in this index.

“Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” index fell by 0.4 percent on account of a 2.7 percent reduction in the cost for electricity. This is due to a lower fuel surcharge rate of 35.00 cent per kilowatt hour applicable for the month of March compared to 37.49 cents per kilowatt hour for February 2020.

Meanwhile, the “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” group index fell by 0.3 percent on account of a decrease in the cost of washing powder (5.6%), washing liquid (2.7%) and washing soap (1.6%) .

The 1.3 percent growth in the group index for “Hotels and Restaurants” is a result of an 11.8 percent increase in the price of a fish lunch.

“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” index grew by 0.4 percent as a result of higher prices for several food items, namely, cucumber (23.4%), powdered skimmed milk (17.2%), black-eyed peas - loose (11.2%), watermelon (7.6%), carrots (7.3%), frozen mixed vegetables (6.1%), mild cheddar cheese (2.4%), chicken franks (2.0%), chicken neck (1.9%), chicken - whole leg (0.6%) and cornflakes (0.1%).

Higher price for dog food (9.7%) was responsible for the 0.1 percent increase in the group index for “Recreation and Culture”.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.5 percent for the month of March 2020 compared to 1.3 percent for March 2019. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (2.9%), “Hotels and Restaurant” (2.8%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (2.1%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (2.1%) and “Education” (1.8%).

**The consumer price index decreased by 0.3 percent for March 2020. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.5 percent due to relative price changes during the month of March 2020 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 2020	February 2020		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Cornflakes	12oz, Box	20.25	20.23	0.02	0.1
Chicken neck	1Lb	1.58	1.55	0.03	1.9
Chicken - whole leg	1Lb	3.13	3.11	0.02	0.6
Chicken franks	340g, Pk	7.03	6.89	0.14	2.0
Powdered skimmed milk	1Lb	8.30	7.08	1.22	17.2
Mild cheddar cheese	1Lb	14.65	14.31	0.34	2.4
Watermelon	1Lb	4.27	3.97	0.30	7.6
Carrots	1Lb	4.55	4.24	0.31	7.3
Cucumber	1Lb	4.48	3.63	0.85	23.4
Black-eyed peas - loose	1Lb	5.54	4.98	0.56	11.2
Frozen mixed vegetables	32oz, Pk	16.07	15.14	0.93	6.1
Dog Food	625g, Tin	9.65	8.80	0.85	9.7
Fish lunch	Each	17.32	15.49	1.83	11.8
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Electricity consumption charge	140 kWh	119.00	122.36	-3.36	-2.7
Washing soap	Each	1.23	1.25	-0.02	-1.6
Washing powder	400g, Pk	4.74	5.02	-0.28	-5.6
Washing Liquid	450ml, Bottle	7.65	7.86	-0.21	-2.7
Petrol, Unleaded	1 Gal.	11.97	12.97	-1.00	-7.7
Diesel fuel	1 Gal.	10.79	11.79	-1.00	-8.5
Passenger airfare from St.Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
St. Lucia	One Way	395.20	437.72	-42.52	-9.7
Toronto	Month	2739.00	2742.00	-3.00	-0.1
London	Month	3742.00	4457.00	-715.00	-16.0

**Table 2.1**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2020 Compared With March 2019**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2020	March 2019		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.50
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.91	6.56	0.35	5.34
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	3.01	2.70	0.31	11.48
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.70	1.62	0.08	4.94
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.85	4.56	0.29	6.36
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.43	3.11	0.32	10.29
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	6.29	6.14	0.15	2.44
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.24	8.32	-0.08	-0.96
Codfish	Lb.	15.47	15.19	0.28	1.84
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.19	13.72	0.47	3.43
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.67	4.70	-0.04	-0.74
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.11	3.28	-0.17	-5.18
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.89	1.89	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.19	4.19	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	8.03	9.91	-1.88	-18.97
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.15	8.93	0.22	2.46
Sugar - Brown ( loose)	Lb.	1.61	1.64	-0.03	-1.83
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	1.78	1.79	-0.01	-0.56
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.35	1.35	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2 kg	6.83	6.83	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2 kg	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.89	1.90	-0.01	-0.53
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.76	10.55	0.21	1.99
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.43	0.00	0.00
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.40	2.38	0.02	0.84
Eddoes	Lb.	2.84	2.83	0.01	0.35
Dasheens	Lb.	1.98	1.89	0.09	4.76
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.53	2.16	0.37	17.13
Oranges	Each	0.88	0.88	0.00	0.00
Tomatoes	Lb.	5.54	3.96	1.58	39.90
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.39	9.17	0.22	2.40
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.41	12.40	0.01	0.08
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.53	10.81	-0.28	-2.59
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.90	2.86	0.04	1.40
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.84	5.73	0.11	1.92

**Table 2.2**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2020 Compared With March 2019**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2020	March 2019		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	32.36	30.13	2.23	7.40
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.09	5.09	0.00	0.00
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.01	3.96	0.05	1.26
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	23.44	21.32	2.12	9.94
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>					
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	79.85	79.79	0.06	0.08
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.83	89.77	0.06	0.07
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
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY</b>					
<b>GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
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	20.66	20.66	0.00	0.00
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.68	96.68	0.00	0.00
Oil Paint	Gallon	134.43	134.43	0.00	0.00
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	81.51	69.24	12.27	17.72
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gallon	6.61	6.61	0.00	0.00
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	35.49	40.46	-4.97	-12.28
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	119.00	124.40	-5.40	-4.34
<b>FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1167.15	1162.88	4.27	0.37
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.11	105.00	0.11	0.10
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.98	55.84	0.14	0.25
Laundry Soap	Each	1.23	1.24	-0.01	-0.81
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.37	6.29	0.08	1.27

**Table 2.3**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2020 Compared With March 2019**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2020	March 2019		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
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
Drugs for Hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	10.49	11.35	-0.87	-7.62
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.18	15.20	-0.02	-0.13
Dental Care	Visit	134.17	130.83	3.34	2.55
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.97	12.02	-0.05	-0.42
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 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
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
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	104.00	0.00	0.00
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	Minute	1.00	1.00	-0.01	-0.50
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	2005.04	2001.33	3.71	0.19
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	79.33	79.33	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3873.52	3846.33	27.19	0.71
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2093.76	2079.33	14.43	0.69
Remote Control Car	Each	258.75	250.00	8.75	3.50
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.85	3.83	0.02	0.52
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	375.00	375.00	0.00	0.00

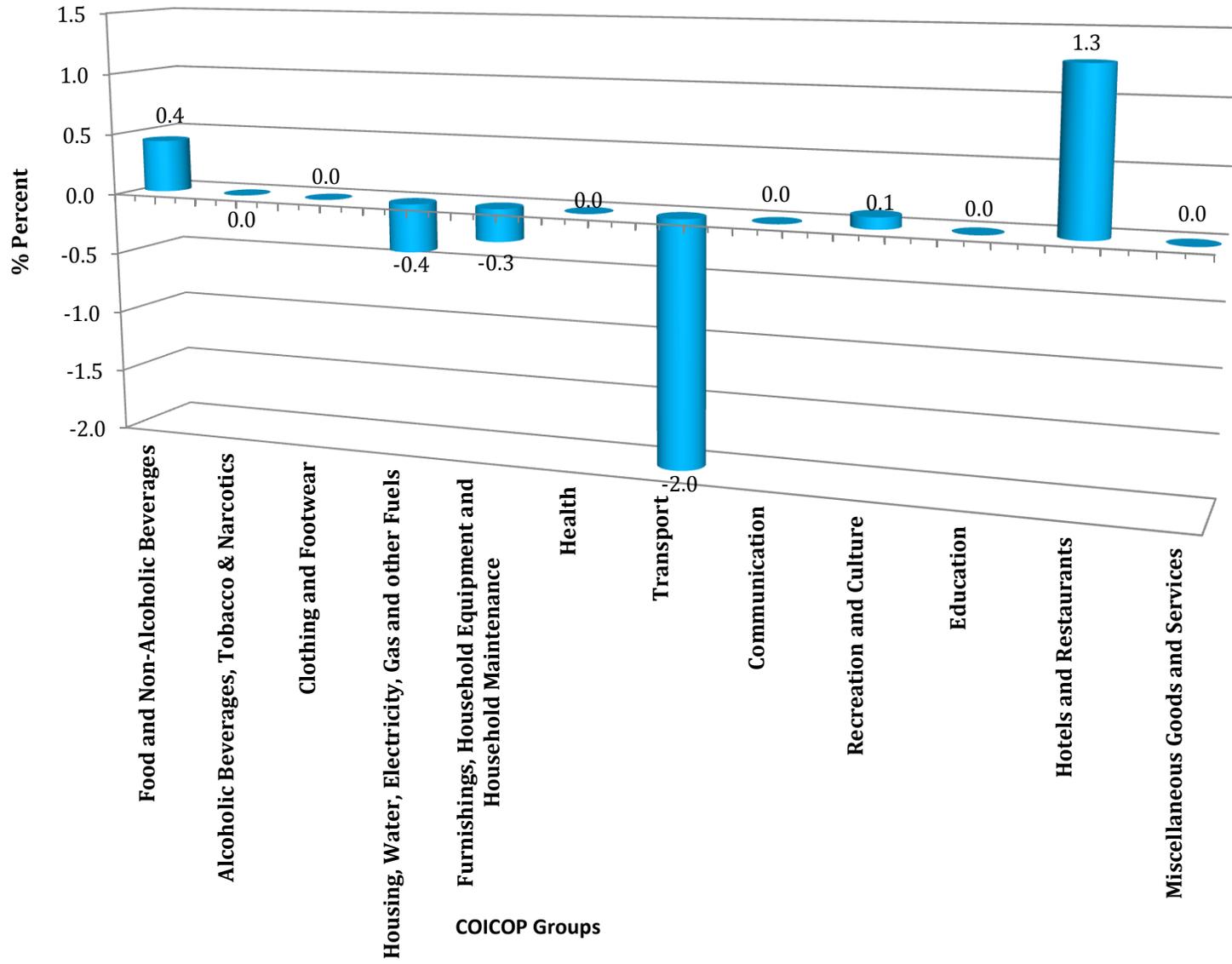
**Table 2.4**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**March 2020 Compared With March 2019**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2020	March 2019		
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	217.50	217.50	0.00	0.00
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	850.00	850.00	0.00	0.00
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	0.75	1.00	-0.25	-25.00
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	75.12	76.43	-1.31	-1.71
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
<b>HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS</b>					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.49	14.39	0.10	0.69
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	17.32	15.51	1.81	11.67
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	17.05	0.00	0.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.61	3.51	0.10	2.85
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.74	9.25	0.49	5.30
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.	13.88	13.18	0.70	5.31
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 2020	March 2020	March 2019	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	118.0	118.5	116.1	0.4	2.1
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.3	126.3	122.7	0.0	2.9
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	105.0	0.0	0.0
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	102.5	102.1	102.8	-0.4	-0.7
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.3	113.3	-0.3	0.0
06.	Health	1.79	109.6	109.6	110.5	0.0	-0.8
07.	Transport	11.84	125.4	122.9	123.7	-2.0	-0.6
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	113.3	0.0	0.0
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.4	107.5	107.5	0.1	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	112.3	112.3	110.3	0.0	1.8
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	110.2	111.6	108.6	1.3	2.8
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.1	106.1	103.9	0.0	2.1
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>

**Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2020**



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

	Groups	Weight	February 2020	March 2020	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2020	March 2020		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	118.0	118.5	0.4	2,585.38	2,596.34	11.0	-36.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.3	126.3	0.0	488.78	488.78	0.0	0.0
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	0.0	338.10	338.10	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	102.5	102.1	-0.4	3,081.15	3,069.13	-12.0	40.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.3	-0.3	748.62	746.65	-2.0	6.6
6.	Health	1.79	109.6	109.6	0.0	196.18	196.18	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	125.4	122.9	-2.0	1,484.74	1,455.14	-29.6	98.7
8.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	0.0	1,066.15	1,066.15	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.4	107.5	0.1	409.19	409.58	0.4	-1.3
10.	Education	1.32	112.3	112.3	0.0	148.24	148.24	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	110.2	111.6	1.3	206.07	208.69	2.6	-8.7
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.1	106.1	0.0	457.29	457.29	0.0	0.0
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>11,180.00</b>	<b>11,150.00</b>	<b>-30.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**Monthly Index - 2020**  
**January 2010 = 100**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>All Items</b>	<b>Food &amp; Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	<b>Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco &amp; Narcotics</b>	<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels</b>	<b>Furnishings Household Equipment &amp; Household Maintenance</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Communi-cation</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Hotels &amp; Restaurants</b>	<b>Miscell-aneous Goods and Services</b>
<b>WEIGHT</b>	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
<b>MONTH</b>													
January	111.7	117.7	126.2	105.0	102.9	113.6	109.4	123.7	113.3	107.4	112.3	110.2	105.6
February	111.8	118.0	126.3	105.0	102.5	113.6	109.6	125.4	113.3	107.4	112.3	110.2	106.1
March	111.5	118.5	126.3	105.0	102.1	113.3	109.6	122.9	113.3	107.5	112.3	111.6	106.1