



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 2020

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.1 percent for the month of February 2020, compared to an increase of 0.4 percent for the month of January 2020 (*see table 3*).

During the month of February 2020, the “All Items” index was recorded at 111.8, compared to 111.7 for the month of January 2020. Five (5) groups recorded increases during the month, “Transport (1.4%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.5%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.3%), “Health” (0.2%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (0.1%). One group recorded a decrease for the period, “Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.4%). Six groups remained unchanged, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education” and “Hotels and Restaurants”.

The 1.4 percent growth in the “Transport” index is on account of an increase in passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to several destinations, namely, Toronto, Canada (13.3%), the Southern Grenadines (10.9%), St. Lucia (10.8%) and New York, U.S.A (10.3%), Passenger transport by boat to the Southern Grenadines increased by 44.4 percent.

“Miscellaneous Goods and Services” group index increased by 0.5 percent as a result of higher prices for an antibacterial soap (4.1%) and toilet soap (3.4%).

Similarly, “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” grew by 0.3 percent as a result of higher prices for several food items, namely, kidney beans (24.6%), black-eyed peas (21.2%), mutton

(20.4%), watermelon (15.1%), pork (12.5%), beef (12.5%), cucumbers (10.7%) and black pepper (7.5%).

The “Health” index grew by 0.2 percent on account of a 3.4 percent increase in the price of pain relievers and 1.3 percent increase for cough and cold preparation.

Similarly, a 4.4 percent increase in the price of a French brandy and a 1.9 percent increase in the price for a port wine were responsible for the 0.1 percent growth in the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” index.

Meanwhile, the “Housing, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” index fell by 0.4 percent as a result of a 1.5 percent reduction in the cost for electricity. This is due to a lower fuel surcharge rate of 37.49 cent per kilowatt hour applicable for the month of February compared to 38.77 cents per kilowatt hour for January 2020.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.8 percent for the month of February 2020 compared to 1.4 percent for February 2019. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (3.1%), “Transport” (2.6%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (2.1%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (1.8%), “Education” (1.8%) and “Hotels and Restaurant” (1.5%).

The consumer price index increased by 0.1 percent for February 2020. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 0.8 percent due to relative price changes during the month of February 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
		February 2020	January 2019		
INCREASED					
Beef	lb	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.5
Pork	lb	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.5
Mutton	lb	15.01	12.47	2.54	20.4
Watermelon	lb	3.97	3.45	0.52	15.1
Cucumbers	lb	3.63	3.28	0.35	10.7
Kidney beans	16oz pk	7.35	5.90	1.45	24.6
Black-eyed peas	16oz pk	6.30	5.20	1.10	21.2
Black pepper	1/4lb	7.13	6.63	0.50	7.5
French brandy	750ml bottle	29.14	27.92	1.22	4.4
Port wine	750ml bottle	23.44	23.01	0.43	1.9
Pain relievers	24 tablets per bottle	15.09	14.60	0.49	3.4
Cough and cold preparation	125ml bottle	15.15	14.95	0.20	1.3
Passanger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
St. Lucia	1 way	437.72	395.20	42.52	10.8
New York, U.S.A	1 month	2379.00	2156.00	223.00	10.3
Toronto, Canada	1 month	2742.00	2426.00	316.00	13.0
Southern Grenadines	1 way	152.50	137.50	15.00	10.9
Passanger tranport by boat from St. Vincent to the Southern Grenadines	1 way	65.00	45.00	20.00	44.4
Toilet soap		3.61	3.49	0.12	3.4
Antibacterial soap		4.03	3.87	0.16	4.1
DECREASED					
Peanut butter	18oz bottle	12.15	14.55	-2.40	-16.5
Tomatoes	lb	5.31	6.08	-0.77	-12.7
Grapefruit juice	1 litre box	6.18	6.75	-0.57	-8.4
Electricity	140Kwh	122.36	124.28	-1.92	-1.5
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
Barbados	1 way	413.10	455.63	-42.53	-9.3

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2020	February 2019		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.50
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.90	6.62	0.28	4.23
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.83	2.74	0.09	3.28
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.70	1.62	0.08	4.94
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.84	4.56	0.28	6.14
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.43	3.13	0.30	9.58
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	4.00	1.00	25.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	6.24	6.14	0.10	1.63
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.24	8.32	-0.08	-0.96
Codfish	Lb.	15.47	15.13	0.34	2.25
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.01	13.72	0.29	2.11
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.67	4.70	-0.04	-0.74
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.11	3.31	-0.20	-6.04
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	8.31	9.91	-1.60	-16.15
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	10.84	10.55	0.29	2.75
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.43	0.00	0.00
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.35	2.38	-0.03	-1.26
Eddoes	Lb.	2.72	2.83	-0.11	-3.89
Dasheens	Lb.	1.88	1.89	-0.01	-0.53
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.41	2.16	0.25	11.57
Oranges	Each	0.87	0.88	-0.01	-1.14
Tomatoes	Lb.	6.17	3.54	2.63	74.29
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.39	9.17	0.22	2.40
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.42	12.40	0.02	0.16
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.53	10.81	-0.28	-2.59
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.90	2.84	0.06	2.11
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.84	5.73	0.11	1.92

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2020	February 2019		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
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	21.35	2.09	9.79
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	79.85	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
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	20.66	20.89	-0.23	-1.10
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.68	96.28	0.40	0.42
Oil Paint	Gallon	134.43	134.43	0.00	0.00
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	72.80	69.24	3.56	5.14
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	122.36	125.93	-3.57	-2.83
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
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	1.25	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
February 2020 Compared With February 2019

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2020	February 2019		
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
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.	15.23	15.20	0.03	0.20
Dental Care	Visit	134.17	130.83	3.34	2.55
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	12.97	12.02	0.95	7.90
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
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	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
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
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
February 2020 Compared With February 2019

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2020	February 2019		
EDUCATION					
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
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.49	14.39	0.10	0.69
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.49	15.51	-0.02	-0.13
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	17.05	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
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	January 2020	February 2020	February 2019	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month January	Year February
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	117.7	118.0	115.9	0.3	1.8
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.2	126.3	122.5	0.1	3.1
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	102.9	102.5	103.1	-0.4	-0.6
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.6	113.5	0.0	0.1
06.	Health	1.79	109.4	109.6	110.5	0.2	-0.9
07.	Transport	11.84	123.7	125.4	122.2	1.4	2.6
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	113.3	0.0	0.0
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	107.4	107.4	107.5	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	112.3	112.3	110.3	0.0	1.8
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	110.2	110.2	108.6	0.0	1.5
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	105.6	106.1	103.9	0.5	2.1
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.7	111.8	110.9	0.1	0.8

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for February 2020

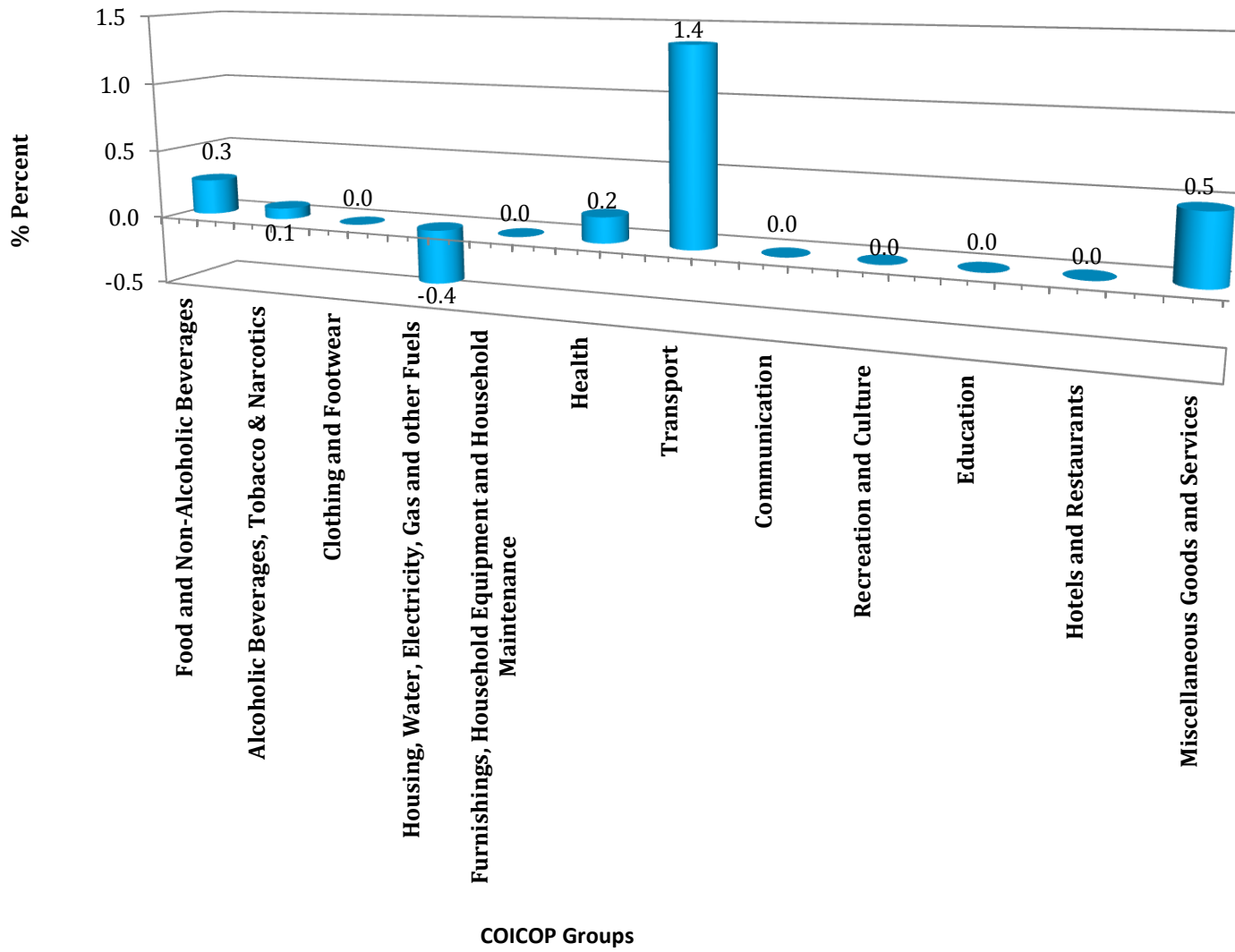


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	January 2020	February 2020	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						January 2019	February 2020		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	117.7	118.0	0.3	2,578.81	2,585.38	6.6	65.7
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.2	126.3	0.1	488.39	488.78	0.4	3.9
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	102.9	102.5	-0.4	3,093.17	3,081.15	-12.0	-120.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.6	113.6	0.0	748.62	748.62	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	109.4	109.6	0.2	195.83	196.18	0.4	3.6
7.	Transport	11.84	123.7	125.4	1.4	1,464.61	1,484.74	20.1	201.3
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	107.4	0.0	409.19	409.19	0.0	0.0
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	110.2	0.0	206.07	206.07	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	105.6	106.1	0.5	455.14	457.29	2.2	21.6
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	111.7	111.8	0.1	11,170.00	11,180.00	10.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2020
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	111.7	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