



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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OCTOBER 2020

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.1 percent for the month of October 2020, compared to a decline of 0.1 percent for the month of September 2020 (*See table 3*).

During the month of October 2020, the “All Items” index was recorded at 110.3, compared to 110.2 for the month of September 2020. Six (6) groups recorded increases during the month, namely, “Health” (0.9%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.7%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (0.3%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.2%) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.2%).

Two (2) groups recorded decreases during the period, “Transport” (2.1%) and “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.8%). Four (4) groups remained unchanged “Clothing and Footwear”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture” and “Education” (*See table 3*).

The “Health” group index recorded the largest increase of 0.9 percent. This was on account of higher prices for medication; such as drugs for asthma (25.0%), hypertension (12.9%) and diabetes (3.3%).

Similarly, the group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” increased by 0.7 percent as a result of a 4.8 percent rise in the cost of electricity.

Similarly, the “Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.4 percent increase as a result of higher prices for a number of items namely; dasheens (18.9%), green pigeon peas (10.6%), sweet peppers (7.8%), turkey wings (7.6%) and tomatoes (6.1%).

The 0.3 percent growth in the group index for “Hotels and Restaurants” was on account of a 20.0 percent rise in the cost of a school meal.

“Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” group index grew by 0.2 percent due to a 4.0 percent rise in the cost of white wine.

“Miscellaneous Goods and Services” group index registered a 0.2 percent upward movement due to an increase in the price for sanitary napkins (3.6%) and bathing soap (1.7%).

The “Transport” group index registered the largest decline of 2.1 percent on account of a fall in the price of passenger airfare from St Vincent and the Grenadines to London (48.4%), to New York (34.5%) and Toronto (28.4%).

The Index for the group “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” decreased by 0.8 percent as a result of lower prices for a pillow case (13.5%), dishwashing liquid (6.2%) and washing powder (3.2%).

Meanwhile, the point-to-point inflation rate stood at negative 1.1 percent for the month of October 2020 compared to 0.5 percent for October 2019. The groups that accounted for the

largest decreases during the period were, “Transport” (6.5%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (3.0%) and “Education” (2.4) (See table 3).

The consumer price index decreased by 0.1 percent for October 2020. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at negative 1.1 percent due to relative price changes for some items during the month of October 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	
		October 2020	September 2020			
INCREASED						
Turkey wings	Lb	3.24	3.01	0.23	7.6	
Green Pigeon Peas	Lb	10.39	9.39	1.00	10.6	
Dasheens	Lb	2.70	2.27	0.43	18.9	
Tomatoes	Lb	7.52	7.09	0.43	6.1	
Sweet Peppers	Lb	8.05	7.47	0.58	7.8	
Red Kidney beans - Packaged	454g Pk	7.38	6.68	0.70	10.5	
White Wine	750ml Bot	35.05	33.71	1.34	4.0	
Electricity Consumption Charge	140KWH	103.80	99.01	4.79	4.8	
Gasoline	1 Gal	10.50	10.11	0.39	3.9	
Diesel	1 Gal	8.55	8.16	0.39	4.8	
Drugs for Asthma	1 Month's Supply	7.50	6.00	1.50	25.0	
Drugs for Hypertension	1 Month's Supply	3.95	3.50	0.45	12.9	
Drugs for Diabetes	1 Month's Supply	10.84	10.49	0.35	3.3	
School Meal - Bakes & Chicken	Each	3.00	2.50	0.50	20.0	
Sanitary Napkins	Pk 10	5.74	5.54	0.20	3.6	
Toilet Soap	125g	3.69	3.63	0.06	1.7	
DECREASED						
Pillow cases	Pair	12.95	14.97	-2.02	-13.5	
Washing Powder	500g Pk	4.90	5.06	-0.16	-3.2	
Dishwashing liquid	450ml Bot	7.26	7.74	-0.48	-6.2	
Passenger airfare from St.Vincent and Grenadines to:						
	New York	Month	1723.00	2629.00	-906.00	-34.5
	London	Month	3040.00	5890.00	-2850.00	-48.4
	Toronto	Month	2176.00	3040.00	-864.00	-28.4
Codfish - salted	Lb	15.69	16.11	-0.42	-2.6	
Chicken - Leg quarters	Lb	2.64	2.72	-0.08	-2.9	

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2020	October 2019		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.50
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.86	6.79	0.07	1.03
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.64	3.04	-0.40	-13.16
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.71	1.78	-0.07	-3.93
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.77	4.82	-0.05	-1.04
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.24	3.51	-0.27	-7.69
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	6.33	6.20	0.12	1.99
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.11	8.13	-0.02	-0.25
Codfish	Lb.	15.69	15.39	0.30	1.95
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.53	14.00	0.53	3.79
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.67	4.67	0.00	0.00
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.40	3.26	0.14	4.29
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.92	4.00	-0.08	-2.00
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	9.13	8.58	0.55	6.41
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.31	9.02	0.29	3.22
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.68	1.62	0.06	3.70
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.79	1.78	0.01	0.56
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.35	1.35	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.85	6.83	0.02	0.29
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.85	1.89	-0.04	-2.12
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.88	10.83	0.05	0.46
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.42	0.01	0.70
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.51	2.32	0.19	8.19
Eddoes	Lb.	3.53	2.72	0.81	29.78
Dasheens	Lb.	2.70	1.87	0.83	44.39
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.95	2.42	0.53	21.90
Oranges	Each	0.88	0.84	0.04	4.76
Tomatoes	Lb.	7.52	5.80	1.72	29.66
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.70	9.15	0.55	5.96
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.44	12.41	0.04	0.28
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.59	10.84	-0.25	-2.35
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.90	2.81	0.09	3.20
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.80	5.76	0.04	0.69

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2020	October 2019		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	32.85	32.26	0.59	1.83
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.05	5.09	-0.04	-0.79
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.49	4.01	-0.52	-12.97
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	23.94	22.63	1.31	5.79
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	78.78	79.85	-1.07	-1.34
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	88.63	89.83	-1.20	-1.34
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	20.66	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	74.68	70.33	4.35	6.19
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.	33.85	36.13	-2.28	-6.31
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	103.80	121.55	-17.75	-14.60
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD					
EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD					
MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1167.61	1181.73	-14.12	-1.19
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.11	105.05	0.06	0.06
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.98	55.98	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.21	1.25	-0.04	-3.20
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.30	6.40	-0.10	-1.56

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2020	October 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	3.95	3.50	0.45	12.86
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	10.84	10.09	0.75	7.49
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.18	15.18	0.00	0.00
Dental Care	Visit	145.83	134.17	11.67	8.70
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	10.50	12.97	-2.47	-19.04
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	0.00	0.00
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	2016.58	2004.58	12.00	0.60
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	79.33	79.33	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3895.82	3872.65	23.17	0.60
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2105.81	2093.29	12.52	0.60
Remote Control Car	Each	266.46	258.45	8.01	3.10
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.90	3.84	0.06	1.56
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
October 2020 Compared With October 2019

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2020	October 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	0.87	0.75	0.12	16.00
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	74.92	75.12	-0.20	-0.27
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.49	14.49	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	17.32	15.49	1.83	11.81
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	17.05	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.68	3.47	0.22	6.20
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.94	9.59	0.35	3.65
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.	14.03	13.55	0.48	3.54
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	September 2020	October 2020	October 2019	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month September	Year October
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	119.3	119.8	117.6	0.4	1.9
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.6	126.8	125.9	0.2	0.7
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.5	105.0	0.0	-0.5
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	98.6	99.3	102.4	0.7	-3.0
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.4	112.5	113.5	-0.8	-0.9
06.	Health	1.79	113.0	114.0	109.0	0.9	4.6
07.	Transport	11.84	119.3	116.8	124.9	-2.1	-6.5
08.	Communication	9.41	113.3	113.3	113.3	0.0	0.0
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	108.4	108.4	107.4	0.0	0.9
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	112.3	0.0	-2.4
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	113.9	114.2	110.6	0.3	3.3
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.2	106.4	104.9	0.2	1.4
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	110.2	110.3	111.5	0.1	-1.1

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for October 2020

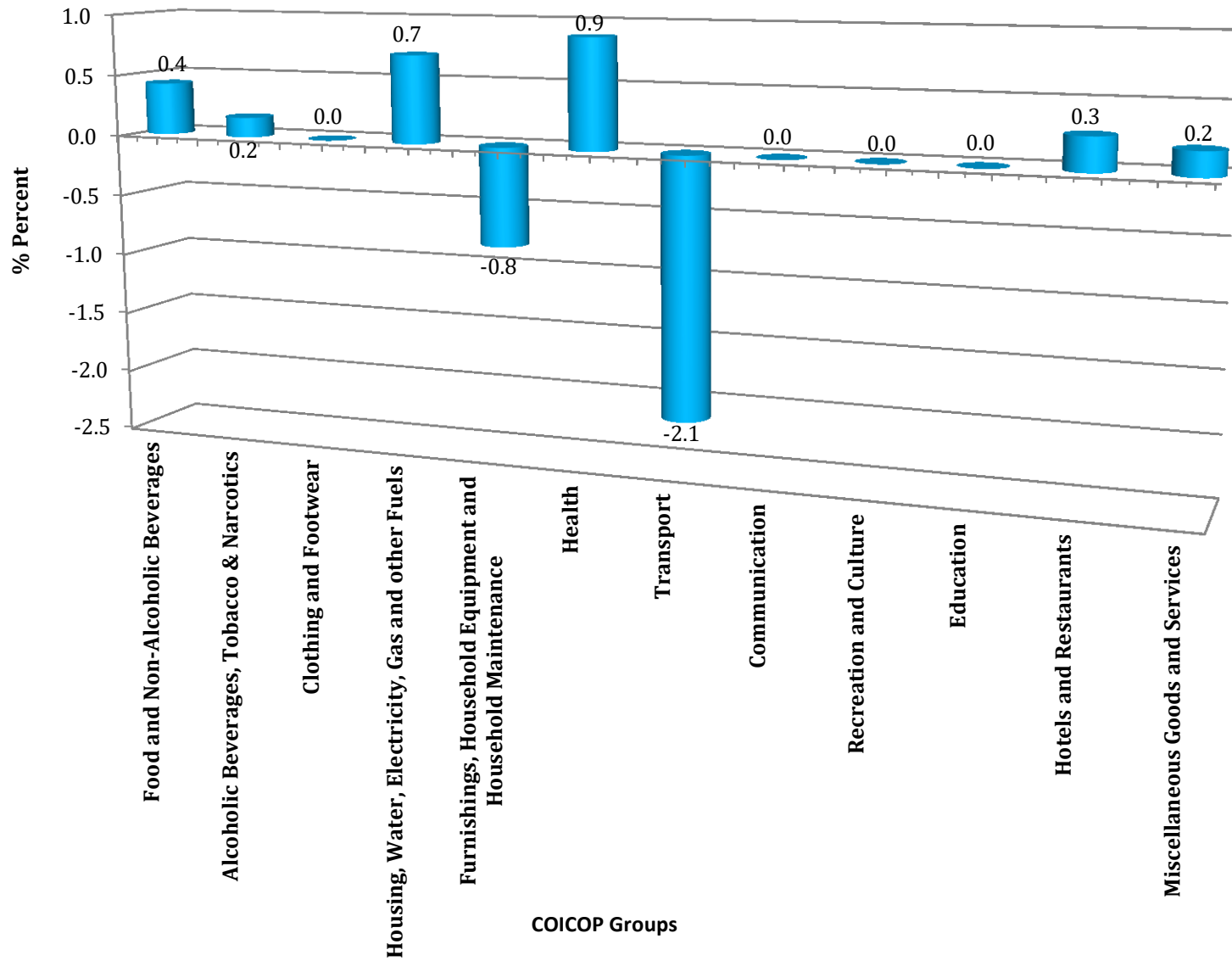


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	September 2020	October 2020	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						September 2020	October 2020		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	119.3	119.8	0.4	2,613.86	2,624.82	11.0	109.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	126.6	126.8	0.2	489.94	490.72	0.8	7.7
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.5	0.0	336.49	336.49	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	98.6	99.3	0.7	2,963.92	2,984.96	21.0	210.4
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	113.4	112.5	-0.8	747.31	741.38	-5.9	-59.3
6.	Health	1.79	113.0	114.0	0.9	202.27	204.06	1.8	17.9
7.	Transport	11.84	119.3	116.8	-2.1	1,412.51	1,382.91	-29.6	-296.0
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	108.4	108.4	0.0	413.00	413.00	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	0.0	144.67	144.67	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	113.9	114.2	0.3	212.99	213.55	0.6	5.6
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.2	106.4	0.2	457.72	458.58	0.9	8.6
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	110.2	110.3	0.1	11,020.00	11,030.00	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
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
April	111.6	118.1	126.3	104.5	102.4	113.7	110.6	123.3	113.3	107.9	112.3	111.6	106.0
May	110.5	118.4	126.2	104.5	100.2	113.6	110.6	119.1	113.3	107.9	112.3	111.6	106.0
June	110.7	118.8	126.5	104.5	100.2	113.6	112.7	119.1	113.3	107.9	112.3	113.8	106.0
July	110.0	119.0	126.7	104.5	98.7	113.6	113.0	117.2	113.3	107.9	112.3	113.8	106.2
August	110.3	119.7	126.6	104.5	99.1	113.3	113.0	117.9	113.3	108.2	112.3	113.8	106.1
September	110.2	119.3	126.6	104.5	98.6	113.4	113.0	119.3	113.3	108.4	109.6	113.9	106.2
October	110.3	119.8	126.8	104.5	99.3	112.5	114.0	116.8	113.3	108.4	109.6	114.2	106.4