



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING
AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

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March 2022

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent for the month of March 2022 compared to 0.1 for the month of February 2022, (*see table 3*).

During the month of March, the “All Items” index was recorded at 115.4 compared to 114.8 for the month of February 2022. Six (6) groups recorded increases during the month, namely; “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.4%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (1.1%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.7%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.4%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.4%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (0.2%). “Transport” recorded a decline of (0.6%) while five (5) groups remained unchanged; “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture” and “Education”, (*See table 3*).

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” grew by 1.4 percent due mainly to an increase of 8.3 percent in the price of electricity. This was on account of an increase in the fuel surcharge rate which moved from 39.94 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2022 to 47.38 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2022.

The 1.1 percent growth in the index for “Hotels and Restaurants” was mainly on account of an increase in price of school meals by 36.2 percent.

“Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” increased by 0.7 percent due to higher prices for several food items including; tomato ketchup (41.2%), peanut butter (13.3%), corned beef (9.6%), cucumbers (9.6%), mozzarella cheese (9.0%), small white bread (7.4%) and cheddar cheese (7.2%).

The group index for “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” grew by 0.4% due mainly to higher prices for shampoo (42.4%), hair conditioner (5.4%) and antibacterial soap (4.0%).

Similarly, the 0.4 percent growth in the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” was attributed to an increase in the price for matches (7.9%) and washing powder (3.9%).

The 0.2 percent increase in the index for “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” was on account of higher prices for port wine (2.5%), white rum (1.7%) and whiskey (1.3%).

Meanwhile, the index for “Transport” declined by 0.6 percent on account of a reduction in the price of diesel (2.8%) and gasoline (2.6%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.6 percent for the month of March 2022 compared to negative 0.1 percent for March 2021. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were, “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (6.0%), “Transport” (5.5%) and “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (4.9%), (*See table 3*).

The consumer price index increased by 0.5 percent for March 2022. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.6 due to relative price changes during the month of March 2022 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 2022	February 2022		
INCREASED					
Bread, small white loaf	4pk	3.06	2.85	0.21	7.4
Pasta, elbows	340g pk	5.25	5.00	0.25	5.0
Corned beef	340g tin	9.45	8.62	0.83	9.6
Mozzarella cheese	Lb	14.02	12.86	1.16	9.0
Cheddar cheese	Lb	15.89	14.82	1.07	7.2
Peanut butter	18oz	15.30	13.50	1.80	13.3
Cucumbers	Lb	3.19	2.91	0.28	9.6
Tomatoe ketchup	20oz	20.60	14.59	6.01	41.2
White rum	750ml bottle	37.54	36.92	0.62	1.7
Whiskey	750ml bottle	143.78	141.89	1.89	1.3
Port wine	26 oz bottle	24.89	24.28	0.61	2.5
Electricity consumption	140Kwh	136.33	125.92	10.41	8.3
Matches	pk	2.47	2.29	0.18	7.9
Candles	4pk	7.13	6.96	0.17	2.4
Washing powder	500g pk	5.34	5.14	0.20	3.9
School meals:					
Chicken lunch	Each	7.00	5.00	2.00	40.0
Bread & Chicken	Each	4.00	3.00	1.00	33.3
Pizza	Each	4.00	3.00	1.00	33.3
Shampoo	13.5oz	36.40	25.56	10.84	42.4
Antibacterial soap	115g	3.42	3.29	0.13	4.0
Hair conditioner	15oz	9.33	8.85	0.48	5.4
DECREASED					
Pig feet, frozen	Lb	4.72	5.44	-0.72	-13.2
Broccoli	Lb	10.62	11.96	-1.34	-11.2
Pumpkins	Lb	2.55	2.74	-0.19	-6.9
Tomatoes	Lb	4.02	4.32	-0.30	-6.9
Red kidney beans	Lb	6.82	7.26	-0.44	-6.1
Petrol	1 gal.	14.18	14.56	-0.38	-2.6
Diesel	1 gal.	11.96	12.31	-0.35	-2.8

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2022 Compared With March 2021

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2022	March 2021		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	10.00	9.00	1.00	11.11
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	8.49	7.05	1.44	20.43
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	3.30	2.82	0.48	17.02
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	2.17	1.76	0.41	23.30
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	5.42	4.86	0.56	11.52
Turkey Wings	Lb.	4.20	3.45	0.75	21.74
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	10.00	9.00	1.00	11.11
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	7.13	6.42	0.71	11.06
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.82	8.17	0.65	7.96
Codfish	Lb.	16.05	15.09	0.96	6.36
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.96	14.84	0.12	0.81
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.27	4.76	0.51	10.71
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.68	3.40	0.28	8.24
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.12	3.92	0.20	5.10
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.16	1.89	0.27	14.29
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.28	4.19	0.09	2.15
Eggs	Doz	10.94	9.88	1.06	10.73
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.53	9.30	0.23	2.47
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.72	1.64	0.08	4.88
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	2.14	1.79	0.35	19.55
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.36	1.35	0.01	0.74
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	7.15	6.85	0.30	4.38
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.36	7.15	0.21	2.94
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.93	1.85	0.08	4.32
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.90	10.74	0.16	1.49
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.52	1.43	0.09	6.29
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.79	2.58	0.21	8.14
Eddoes	Lb.	3.16	3.11	0.05	1.61
Dasheens	Lb.	2.02	2.32	-0.30	-12.93
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	3.00	2.88	0.12	4.17
Oranges	Each	0.97	0.89	0.08	8.99
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.02	5.91	-1.89	-31.98
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	10.84	9.67	1.17	12.10
Vegetable Oil	Litre	15.64	12.39	3.25	26.23
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.72	10.64	0.08	0.75
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.96	2.90	0.06	2.07
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.88	5.83	0.05	0.86

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2022 Compared With March 2021

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2022	March 2021		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	37.54	32.85	4.69	14.28
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.09	5.06	0.03	0.59
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.61	3.49	0.12	3.44
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	24.83	23.89	0.94	3.93
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Terelyne	Yd.	35.00	47.95	-12.95	-27.01
Textile material - Linen	Yd.	17.95	17.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	69.92	69.95	-0.03	-0.04
Men's Jeans (long) - size 30	Pair	49.95	49.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	78.59	78.78	-0.19	-0.24
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	88.42	88.63	-0.21	-0.24
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	23.06	20.66	2.40	11.62
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	107.25	110.43	-3.18	-2.88
Oil Paint	Gallon	134.43	134.43	0.00	0.00
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	89.94	79.66	10.28	12.90
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	60.00	40.00	20.00	50.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	43.90	36.62	7.28	19.88
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	136.33	109.79	26.54	24.17
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,167.61	1167.61	0.00	0.00
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.11	105.11	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	53.11	55.98	-2.87	-5.13
Laundry Soap	Each	1.23	1.22	0.01	0.82
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	7.77	7.42	0.35	4.72

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2022 Compared With March 2021

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2022	March 2021		
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	3.95	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	13.99	10.49	3.50	33.37
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.43	15.18	0.25	1.65
Dental Care	Visit	150.00	145.83	4.17	2.86
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	14.18	11.25	2.93	26.04
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	0.93	1.00	-0.06	-6.53
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	2,019.80	2001.26	18.54	0.93
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	79.33	79.33	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,902.23	3866.22	36.01	0.93
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,109.18	2089.81	19.37	0.93
Remote Control Car	Each	267.97	267.97	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	4.10	3.95	0.15	3.80
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 2022 Compared With March 2021

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2022	March 2021		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	227.50	217.50	10.00	4.60
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	0.90	0.78	0.12	15.38
Lead Pencils	Each	0.75	0.75	0.00	0.00
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	86.65	75.12	11.53	15.35
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	74.92	25.08	33.48
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.49	14.49	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	17.32	17.32	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	18.75	17.05	1.70	9.97
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.75	3.77	-0.02	-0.53
Toothpaste	130g Tube	10.17	9.99	0.18	1.80
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.	14.33	14.06	0.27	1.92
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 2022	March 2022	March 2021	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	126.8	127.7	120.2	0.7	6.2
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	129.3	129.6	126.8	0.2	2.2
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.7	104.7	104.5	0.0	0.2
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.2	105.7	100.8	1.4	4.9
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	114.0	114.4	113.4	0.4	0.9
06.	Health	1.79	118.0	118.0	114.6	0.0	3.0
07.	Transport	11.84	128.4	127.6	121.0	-0.6	5.5
08.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	113.3	0.0	-1.1
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	110.1	110.1	108.3	0.0	1.7
10.	Education	1.32	108.9	108.9	109.6	0.0	-0.6
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	115.3	116.6	114.0	1.1	2.3
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.5	106.9	106.4	0.4	0.5
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	114.8	115.4	111.4	0.5	3.6

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2022

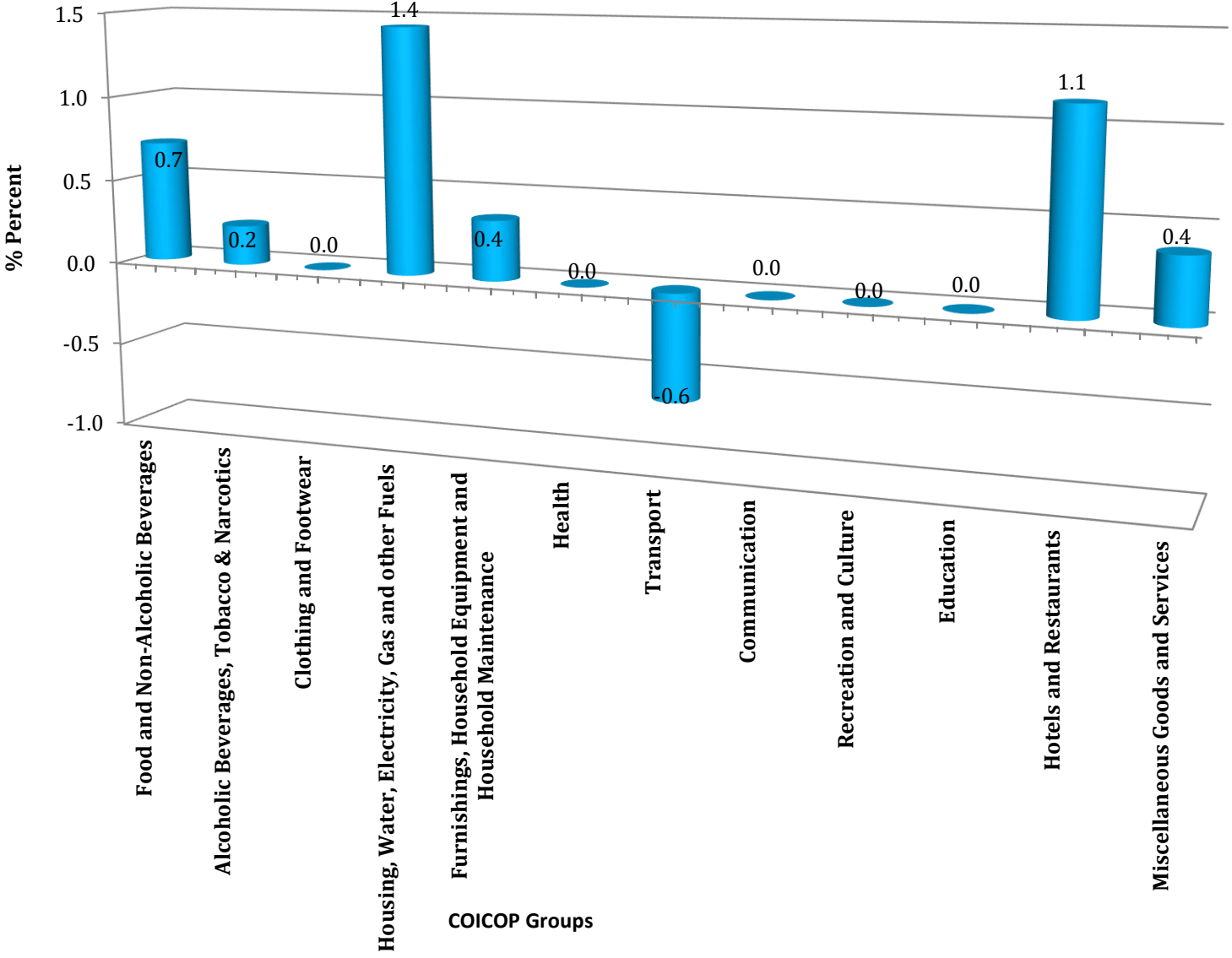


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	February 2022	March 2022	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2021	March 2022		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	126.8	127.7	0.7	2,778.19	2,797.91	19.7	32.9
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	129.3	129.6	0.2	500.39	501.55	1.2	1.9
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.7	104.7	0.0	337.13	337.13	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.2	105.7	1.4	3,132.25	3,177.34	45.1	75.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	114.0	114.4	0.4	751.26	753.90	2.6	4.4
6.	Health	1.79	118.0	118.0	0.0	211.22	211.22	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	128.4	127.6	-0.6	1,520.26	1,510.78	-9.5	-15.8
8.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	0.0	1,053.92	1,053.92	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	110.1	110.1	0.0	419.48	419.48	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	108.9	108.9	0.0	143.75	143.75	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	115.3	116.6	1.1	215.61	218.04	2.4	4.1
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	106.5	106.9	0.4	459.02	460.74	1.7	2.9
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	114.8	115.4	0.5	11,480.00	11,540.00	60.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2022
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	114.7	126.0	127.3	104.6	105.1	113.3	117.8	127.2	112.0	110.0	108.9	115.0	106.5
February	114.8	126.8	129.3	104.7	104.2	114.0	118.0	128.4	112.0	110.1	108.9	115.3	106.5
March	115.4	127.7	129.6	104.7	105.7	114.4	118.0	127.6	112.0	110.1	108.9	116.6	106.9