



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

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MARCH 2023

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.2 percent for the month of March 2023, compared to 0.1 percent increase for the month of February 2023 (see table 3).

During the month of March 2023, the “All Items” index was recorded at 121.8 compared to 121.5 for the month of February 2023. Nine (9) groups recorded increases during the month namely, “Education” (1.1%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (0.9%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.8%), “Alcohol Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.5%), “Clothing and Footwear” (0.5%), “Recreation and Culture” (0.5%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.3%), “Health” (0.3), and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1%). Three groups recorded a decrease; “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.6%), “Transport” (0.4%) and “Communication” (0.2%). (*See table 3*).

The index for “Education” grew by 1.1 percent mainly due to an increase in the price of pre-primary school fees (9.4%).

The “Hotels and Restaurants” index grew by 0.9 percent due to a 25.0 percent increase in the price of a large chicken and fries meal.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” rose by 0.8 percent. This is attributable to a 5.0 percent increase in the price of electricity. This higher cost for electricity resulted from a rise in the fuel surcharge rate which moved from 47.57 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2023 to 52.45 cents per kilowatt hour for March 2023.

The 0.5 percent increase in the index for “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” was on account of higher prices for local rum. Red rum increased by 4.1 percent while white rum grew by 4.0 percent.

“Clothing and Footwear” grew by 0.5 percent as a result of increases in the prices for men’s Polo shirts (24.5%), T-shirts (11.3%) and long sleeve shirts (11.1%).

The index for “Recreation and Culture” registered a 0.5 percent growth. This was on account of higher prices for a laptop (26.5%) and a 50” television (13.0%).

The 0.3 percent increase in the group index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” was fuelled mainly by higher prices for several food items including: condensed milk (44.4%), paw paw (33.3%), local cabbage (27.0%), imported cabbage (26.6%), jacks (25.0%), green bananas (22.2%), soya bean oil (20.1%), turkey wings (11.1%), and pumpkin (10.2%)

Similarly, the “Health” index rose by 0.3 percent. This was due to a 17.3% increase in the price of a pain relieving drug.

“Miscellaneous Goods and Services” increased by 0.1 percent mainly as a result of an increase in the price of sanitary napkins with wings (10.9%).

Meanwhile, the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” decreased by 0.6 percent due to a decline in the price of a roll of toilet paper (12.0%).

The 0.4 percent decline in the “Transport” index was mainly on account of a decrease in passenger airfare from St Vincent and the Grenadines to several destinations: Miami (21.5%), Trinidad (17.7%), London (13.1%) and Barbados (10.2%).

A reduction in the price for a cell phone (12.4%) accounted for the 0.2 percent decline in the “Communication” index.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 5.5 percent for the month of March 2023 compared to 3.6 percent for March 2022. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were, “Hotels and Restaurants” (15.2%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (12.9%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (9.5%) and “Transport” (6.5%) (See table 3).

The consumer price index increased by 0.2 percent for March 2023. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 5.5 due to relative price changes during the month of March 2023 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 2023	February 2023		
INCREASED					
Turkey wings	Lb	5.41	4.87	0.54	11.1
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb	12.93	12.00	0.93	7.8
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.0
Condensed milk	397g Tin	5.95	4.12	1.83	44.4
Soya bean oil	1 Litre Bottle	19.44	16.18	3.26	20.1
Green bananas	Lb	1.76	1.44	0.32	22.2
Paw paw	Lb	2.28	1.71	0.57	33.3
Cabbage, imported	Lb	5.80	4.58	1.22	26.6
Cabbage, local	Lb	5.04	3.97	1.07	27.0
Pumpkin	Lb	3.35	3.04	0.31	10.2
Coffee	200g	48.15	44.00	4.15	9.4
Rum - Local (White)	750ml Bottle	43.64	41.95	1.69	4.0
Rum - Local (Red)	750ml Bottle	37.99	36.48	1.51	4.1
Polo shirts	Each	55.95	44.95	11.00	24.5
T-shirts	Each	24.06	21.61	2.45	11.3
Long sleeve shirt	Each	72.24	65.00	7.24	11.1
Electricity, Domestic Consumption	150Kwh	153.68	146.36	7.32	5.0
Pain reliever, 325mg	100 Tablets	10.50	8.95	1.55	17.3
Television, 50"	Each	1886.12	1668.65	217.47	13.0
Laptop, 8 GB	Each	1597.21	1262.19	335.02	26.5
Pre-Primary school fees	Month	350.00	320.00	30.00	9.4
Chicken and Fries, Large	Each	15.00	12.00	3.00	25.0
Sanitary napkins with wings	18 Pcs per pack	15.95	14.38	1.57	10.9
DECREASED					
Rock cakes	Each	1.09	1.29	-0.20	-15.5
Ripe Plantains	Lb	1.87	2.15	-0.28	-13.0
Red seedless grape	Lb	13.94	16.01	-2.07	-12.9
Pineapple, imported	Lb	4.18	4.85	-0.67	-13.8
Tomatoes imported	Lb	7.99	15.49	-7.50	-48.4
Carrots, local	Lb	3.00	3.58	-0.58	-16.2
Brandy	1Litre Bottle	200.00	258.61	-58.61	-22.7
Men's Suit	Each	200.00	295.00	-95.00	-32.2
Men's Jacket	Each	131.69	160.00	-28.31	-17.7
Toilet Paper	280 sheets	1.62	1.84	-0.22	-12.0
Cell phone 8GB	Each	1780.15	2032.12	-251.97	-12.4
Passenger airfares from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
<i>Miami</i>	Month	2566.71	3269.45	-702.74	-21.5
<i>London</i>	Month	3237.40	3723.30	-485.90	-13.1
<i>Barbados</i>	One way	501.54	558.59	-57.05	-10.2
<i>Triindad and Tobago</i>	One way	419.49	509.96	-90.47	-17.7

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2023 Compared With March 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2023	March 2022		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Rice - Loose	1lb	1.99	1.94	0.05	2.58
Rice - Packaged	2kg	9.77	9.77	0.00	0.00
Flour - Loose	1 lb	1.91	1.43	0.48	33.57
Flour - Packaged (white)	2kg	9.13	6.94	2.19	31.56
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2kg	9.71	7.18	2.53	35.24
Cornflakes	510g Box	15.06	12.19	2.87	23.54
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (white)	Each	5.14	4.19	0.95	22.67
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 pk	2.91	2.38	0.53	22.27
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (whole wheat)	Each	6.14	5.59	0.55	9.84
Crix - salted crackers, White	288g (3 pk)	6.51	5.87	0.64	10.90
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.27	5.10	0.17	3.33
Beef - Fresh	1 lb	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Pigtail - salted	1 lb	12.10	10.22	1.88	18.40
Chicken - Leg Quarters	1 lb	3.64	3.29	0.35	10.64
Chicken - Backs	1 lb	2.73	2.23	0.50	22.42
Chicken - Wings	1 lb	5.74	4.85	0.89	18.35
Turkey Wings	1 lb	5.41	4.27	1.14	26.70
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	9.10	9.01	0.09	1.00
Corned beef	340g	10.13	9.17	0.96	10.47
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	1 lb	12.93	9.00	3.93	43.67
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	1 lb	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	1 lb	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Codfish	1 lb	15.26	15.01	0.25	1.67
Sardine in soya oil	106g Tin	5.12	4.80	0.32	6.67
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.93	3.17	0.76	23.97
Powdered milk - full cream	1 lb	8.55	7.94	0.61	7.68
Eggs	1 Doz	11.66	10.36	1.30	12.55
Margarine	445g Tub	13.18	10.83	2.35	21.70
Soya bean oil	1Litre	17.49	15.62	1.87	11.97
Coconut oil	750ml Bottle	33.20	29.31	3.89	13.27
Bananas (ripe)	1 lb	1.74	1.69	0.05	2.96
Limes	1 lb	4.16	5.00	-0.84	-16.80
Tomatoes	1 lb	7.04	6.32	0.72	11.39
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	2.96	3.01	-0.05	-1.66
Yams	1 lb	3.43	4.23	-0.80	-18.91
Sugar - Brown (loose)	1 lb	2.55	1.78	0.77	43.26
Sugar - White (loose)	1 lb	2.68	2.39	0.29	12.13
Ice cream	1 Litre Tub	18.06	16.87	1.19	7.05
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bottle	9.53	6.98	2.55	36.53
Orange Juice	1 Litre box	8.26	7.04	1.22	17.33
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.95	5.78	0.17	2.94

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2023 Compared With March 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2023	March 2022		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	43.64	38.52	5.12	13.29
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.90	4.99	-0.09	-1.80
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.71	3.38	0.33	9.76
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	28.41	25.65	2.76	10.76
Vodka	750ml Bot.	51.42	50.03	1.39	2.78
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Cotton	1Yd.	14.09	13.73	0.36	2.62
Textile material - Tetrex	1Yd.	11.35	10.44	0.91	8.72
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	79.60	75.98	3.62	4.76
Men's Jeans (long)	Pair	64.62	69.98	-5.36	-7.66
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	113.46	134.50	-21.04	-15.64
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	73.19	70.50	2.69	3.82
Women's Blouse	Each	36.07	40.97	-4.90	-11.96
School shirt - white, size 10	Each	15.41	16.45	-1.04	-6.32
School overal , navy blue, size 8	Each	49.82	46.95	2.87	6.11
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY					
GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House - 2 Bedrooms	Month	785.00	785.00	0.00	0.00
Unfurnished House - 3 Bedrooms	Month	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment - 2 Bedrooms	Month	812.50	812.50	0.00	0.00
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	35.00	35.00	0.00	0.00
Electricity Consumption Charge	300 KWH	311.35	304.14	7.21	2.37
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	45.76	43.90	1.86	4.24
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - queen size	Each	2,737.72	2,537.72	200.00	7.88
Sheets - queen size, 300 thread count, 100% cotton	Each	194.95	169.95	25.00	14.71
Dinner forks	Each	3.97	4.95	-0.98	-19.80
Powder detergent	500g Pk	5.50	4.80	0.70	14.58
Toilet tissue, 280 sheets per roll	1 Roll	1.65	1.52	0.13	8.55

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2023 Compared With March 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2023	March 2022		
HEALTH					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	Visit	80.00	80.00	0.00	0.00
Doctor's Fee - General Practitioner	Visit	60.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Blood test - CBC	Test	27.39	27.39	0.00	0.00
Drugs for Hypertension	Month supply	6.95	6.71	0.24	3.58
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	6.49	4.99	1.50	30.06
Dental Care	Visit	146.21	143.56	2.65	1.85
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	15.06	14.18	0.88	6.21
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 3000 lbs	Year	680.00	680.00	0.00	0.00
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	1-Way	3.50	3.00	0.50	16.67
Boat Fare - Bequia	1-Way	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
Parking fees	1 Hour	2.50	2.50	0.00	0.00
Airfare - SVG to Barbados	1-Way	501.54	385.87	115.67	29.98
COMMUNICATION					
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	1 Minute	0.08	0.08		
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic (off network)	1 Minute	0.99	0.99	0.00	0.00
Internet	1 month	120.00	120.00	0.00	0.00
Cable TV charges (basic)	1 month	69.00	69.00	0.00	0.00
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 43 " (smart TV)	Each	1,381.48	1,460.70	-79.22	-5.42
Tablet - 10.1"	Each	446.48	546.45	-99.97	-18.29
Laptop Computer - 8 GB	Each	1,597.21	1,240.88	356.33	28.72
Dog Food (Canned)	375 g Tin	12.37	10.22	2.15	21.04
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics textbook	Each	88.42	86.55	1.87	2.16
Newspapers	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2023 Compared With March 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2023	March 2022		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	297.50	275.00	22.50	8.18
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	1350.00	1233.33	116.67	9.46
Secondary School Fee - Private	Term	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
Tertiary Education Tuition - undergraduate, social sciences	Annual	8140.80	8140.80	0.00	0.00
Private tutor	Per Session	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS					
Pizza, pepperoni	Each	19.50	17.75	1.75	9.86
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	15.00	12.00	3.00	25.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	20.00	15.00	5.00	33.33
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	21.85	18.75	3.10	16.53
Roti - Beef	Each	13.96	12.00	1.96	16.33
School meals - Bread and Chicken	Each	3.67	3.83	-0.16	-4.18
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Women's Hairdressing (Relaxer)	Visit	72.46	69.82	2.64	3.78
Men's Haircut, Regular	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Disposable diapers, Medium, 22pcs	1 pack	23.70	18.94	4.76	25.13
Toothpaste	170g Tube	13.55	11.22	2.33	20.77
Roll -on	75ml bottle	8.15	7.74	0.41	5.30
Sanitary napkins, regular, with wings	10 per pack	5.75	5.75	0.00	0.00
Toilet Soap	110g	4.34	3.64	0.70	19.23
Elderly care Services	Month	1800.00	1800.00	0.00	0.00
Day care services (children < 2 years)	Month	275.00	275.00	0.00	0.00
Health Insurance - Group (family) ≥3 Persons	Month	307.00	307.00	0.00	0.00
Motor Vehicle Insurance - 3rd party	Annual	432.62	432.62	0.00	0.00

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

	Groups	Weight	February 2023	March 2023	March 2022	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	143.7	144.2	127.7	0.3	12.9
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	132.3	132.9	129.6	0.5	2.5
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.6	105.1	104.7	0.5	0.4
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	106.7	107.6	105.7	0.8	1.8
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	126.0	125.3	114.4	-0.6	9.5
06.	Health	1.79	124.9	125.3	118.0	0.3	6.2
07.	Transport	11.84	136.4	135.9	127.6	-0.4	6.5
08.	Communication	9.41	112.0	111.8	112.0	-0.2	-0.2
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	114.0	114.6	110.1	0.5	4.1
10.	Education	1.32	111.9	113.1	108.9	1.1	3.9
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	133.1	134.3	116.6	0.9	15.2
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	111.4	111.5	106.9	0.1	4.3
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	121.5	121.8	115.4	0.2	5.5

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2023

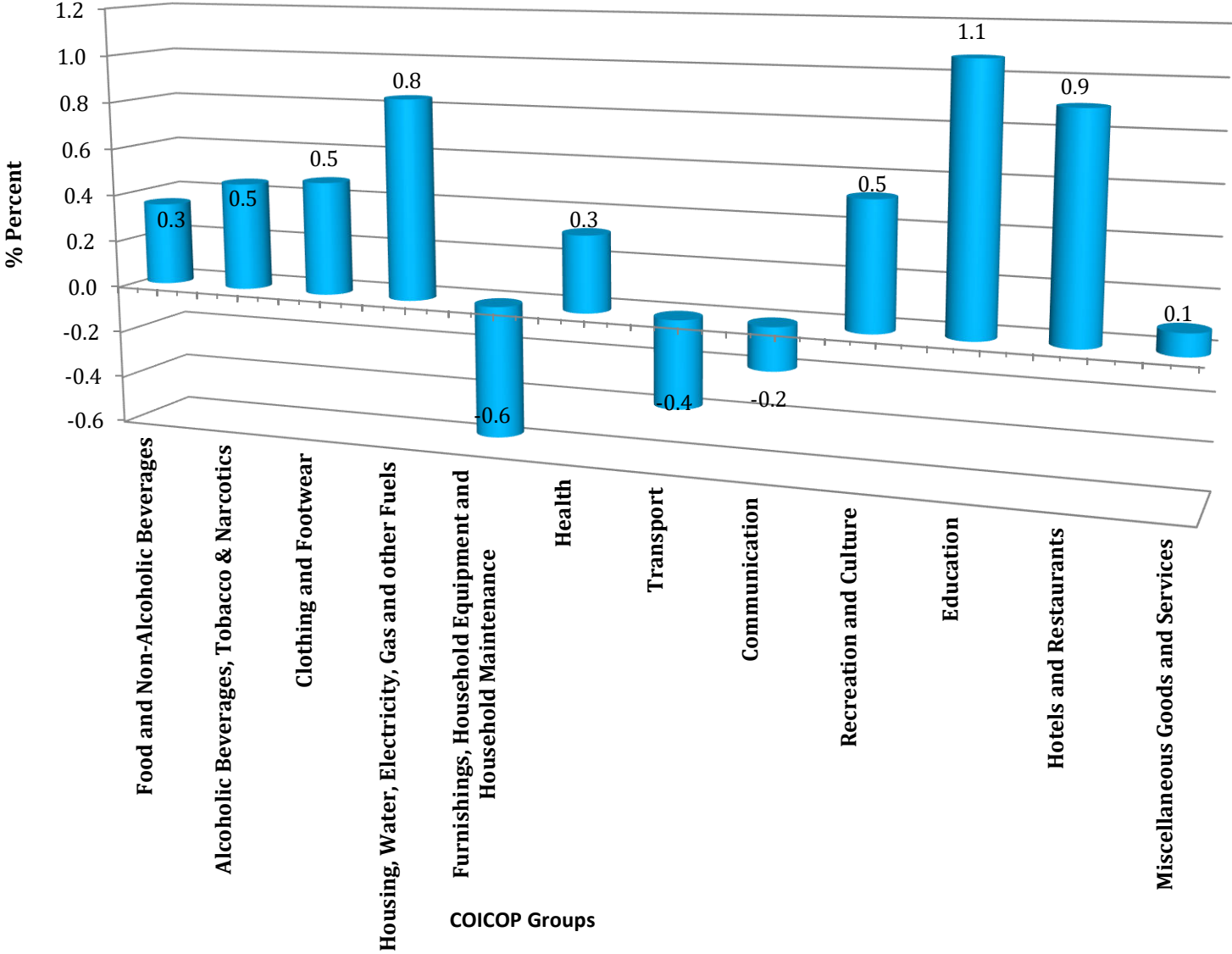


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	February 2023	March 2023	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2023	March 2023		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	143.7	144.2	0.3	3,148.47	3,159.42	11.0	36.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	132.3	132.9	0.5	512.00	514.32	2.3	7.7
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.6	105.1	0.5	336.81	338.42	1.6	5.4
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	106.7	107.6	0.8	3,207.40	3,234.46	27.1	90.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	126.0	125.3	-0.6	830.34	825.73	-4.6	-15.4
6.	Health	1.79	124.9	125.3	0.3	223.57	224.29	0.7	2.4
7.	Transport	11.84	136.4	135.9	-0.4	1,614.98	1,609.06	-5.9	-19.7
8.	Communication	9.41	112.0	111.8	-0.2	1,053.92	1,052.04	-1.9	-6.3
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	114.0	114.6	0.5	434.34	436.63	2.3	7.6
10.	Education	1.32	111.9	113.1	1.1	147.71	149.29	1.6	5.3
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	133.1	134.3	0.9	248.90	251.14	2.2	7.5
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	111.4	111.5	0.1	480.13	480.57	0.4	1.4
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	121.5	121.8	0.2	12,150.00	12,180.00	30.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2023
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	121.4	142.9	130.8	104.5	106.9	125.7	121.3	140.5	112.0	112.1	111.9	131.9	110.6
February	121.5	143.7	132.3	104.6	106.7	126.0	124.9	136.4	112.0	114.0	111.9	133.1	111.4
March	121.8	144.2	132.9	105.1	107.6	125.3	125.3	135.9	111.8	114.6	113.1	134.3	111.5