



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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MAY 2023

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.5 percent for the month of May 2023, compared to 1.0 percent increase for the month of April 2023 (*See table 3*).

During the month of May 2023, the “All Items” index was recorded at 123.6 compared to 123.0 for the month of April 2023. Five (5) groups recorded increases during the month, namely; “Transport” (4.1%), “Recreation and Culture” (3.0%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (2.4%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.3%) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1%). Five (5) groups recorded a decrease; “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.2%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (1.0%), “Health” (0.3%), “Clothing and Footwear” (0.2%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.1%). Two (2) groups remained unchanged; “Communication” and “Education”, (*See table 3*).

The 4.1 percent increase in the index for “Transport” is mainly due to higher prices for passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to several destinations, which includes: London, United Kingdom (56.7%), Trinidad (44.3%), Antigua (32.6%) and Miami, U.S.A (17.4%). Also, an increase of 16.6% for spark plugs and 10.3% for an oil filter contributed to the increase.

The group index for “Recreation and Culture” grew by 3.0 percent due mainly to an increase in the cost of carnival costumes. The price of adult costumes increased by 25.0 percent and children’s by 14.3 percent.

The increase of 2.4 percent in the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” was mainly on account of a 51.6 increase in the price of a dinner plate and 42.1 percent for a large bath towel.

“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” grew by 0.3 percent due to an increase in the price of several food items which includes: broccoli (43.7%), cocoa powder (39.3%), Vienna sausage (26.5%), red seedless grapes (18.3%), pasta –penne (15.8%), imported pineapple (11.9%), an evaporated milk (9.7%), limes (7.0%), watermelon (7.0%) and oranges (6.7%).

“Miscellaneous Goods and Services” increased by 0.1 percent mainly due to a higher price for a toothpaste (3.8%) and a bath soap (2.2%).

Meanwhile, the group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” declined by 1.2 percent. This is attributable to a decrease of 6.6 percent in the price for electricity which resulted from a lower fuel surcharge rate of 61.16 cents per kilowatt hour for May 2023 compared to 69.06 for April 2023.

“Hotels and Restaurants” decreased by 1.0 percent due to a 20.0 percent decline in the price for chicken and fries, while the “Health” index fell by 0.3 percent due to a reduction of 14.3 percent in the price of a drug that is used in the treatment of hypertension.

The index for “Clothing and Footwear” declined by 0.2 percent due mainly to an 11.4 percent decrease in the price for a men’s long pants, while “Alcoholic Beverages, Narcotics and Tobacco” fell by 0.1 percent due to an 11.3% decrease in the price of a Tequila.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 4.7 percent for the month of May 2023 compared to 5.5 percent for May 2022. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were, “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (12.6%), Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (10.4%), “Recreation and Culture” (8.4%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (6.5%), “Transport” (6.0%) and “Hotels and Restaurants” (5.6%), (*See table 3*).

The consumer price index increased by 0.5 percent for May 2023. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 4.7 due to relative price changes during the month of May 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
		May 2023	April 2023		
INCREASED					
Pasta, penne	300g pk.	3.95	3.41	0.54	15.8
Vienna sausage	130g tin	4.30	3.40	0.90	26.5
Evaporated milk	405g tin	4.54	4.14	0.40	9.7
Oranges	Each	1.59	1.49	0.10	6.7
Red seedless grapes	Lb	16.45	13.90	2.55	18.3
Pineapple (imported)	Lb	6.70	5.99	0.71	11.9
Watermelon	Lb	5.48	5.12	0.36	7.0
Limes	Lb	5.33	4.98	0.35	7.0
Broccoli	Lb	19.18	13.35	5.83	43.7
Cocoa powder	200g tin	23.20	16.65	6.55	39.3
Bath towel (large)	Each	49.95	35.14	14.81	42.1
Dinner plates	Each	13.22	8.72	4.50	51.6
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
<i>Miami</i>	1 month	3368.96	2869.05	499.91	17.4
<i>London, United Kingdom</i>	1 month	4712.80	3006.80	1706.00	56.7
<i>Trinidad</i>	1 way	605.50	419.49	186.01	44.3
<i>Antigua</i>	1 way	927.11	698.92	228.19	32.6
Oil filter	Each	38.50	34.90	3.60	10.3
Spark plugs	Each	15.26	13.09	2.17	16.6
Laptop	Each	1599.28	1454.46	144.82	10.0
Carnival costumes:					
<i>Adults</i>	Each	500.00	400.00	100.00	25.0
<i>Children</i>	Each	200.00	175.00	25.00	14.3
Bath soap	80g	2.29	2.24	0.05	2.2
Toothpaste	113g Tube	13.70	13.20	0.50	3.8
DECREASED					
Drumstick	Lb	3.84	4.15	-0.31	-7.5
Canola oil	1.42Litres	35.15	39.15	-4.00	-10.2
Cabbage (local)	Lb	5.41	5.99	-0.58	-9.7
Tomatoes (local)	Lb	5.94	6.45	-0.51	-7.9
Tequila	750ml bottle	69.92	78.82	-8.90	-11.3
School shirt (white)	Each	20.95	26.95	-6.00	-22.3
Men's long pants	Each	69.95	78.99	-9.04	-11.4
Electricity consumption	150Kwh	166.74	178.59	-11.85	-6.6
Drugs for hypertension (10mg)	28 tablets	6.00	7.00	-1.00	-14.3
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to to New York	1 month	2856.41	3359.04	-502.63	-15.0
Dog food	375g Tin	13.14	14.39	-1.25	-8.7
Chicken and Fries (5 pieces)	Each	12.00	15.00	-3.00	-20.0

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2023	May 2022		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Rice - Loose	1lb	1.99	1.95	0.04	2.05
Rice - Packaged	2kg	9.97	9.77	0.20	2.05
Flour - Loose	1 lb	1.89	1.60	0.29	18.13
Flour - Packaged (white)	2kg	9.16	7.80	1.36	17.44
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2kg	9.60	7.97	1.63	20.45
Cornflakes	510g Box	15.66	13.32	2.34	17.57
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (white)	Each	5.24	4.53	0.71	15.67
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 pk	2.91	2.58	0.33	12.79
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (whole wheat)	Each	6.18	5.67	0.51	8.99
Crix - salted crackers, White	288g (3 pk)	6.53	5.96	0.57	9.56
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.28	5.09	0.19	3.73
Beef - Fresh	1 lb	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Pigtail - salted	1 lb	12.29	11.31	0.98	8.66
Chicken - Leg Quarters	1 lb	3.61	3.51	0.10	2.85
Chicken - Backs	1 lb	2.72	2.27	0.45	19.82
Chicken - Wings	1 lb	5.65	5.19	0.46	8.86
Turkey Wings	1 lb	5.25	4.44	0.81	18.24
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	9.00	8.84	0.16	1.81
Corned beef	340g	10.00	9.58	0.42	4.38
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	1 lb	12.00	9.00	3.00	33.33
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	14.82	15.45	-0.63	-4.08
Sardine in soya oil	106g Tin	5.15	4.84	0.31	6.40
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	4.14	3.17	0.97	30.60
Powdered milk - full cream	1 lb	8.50	7.99	0.51	6.38
Eggs	1 Doz	12.31	10.59	1.72	16.24
Margarine	445g Tub	13.13	11.20	1.93	17.23
Soya bean oil	1Litre	17.40	16.40	1.00	6.10
Coconut oil	750ml Bottle	38.85	30.60	8.25	26.96
Bananas (ripe)	1 lb	1.59	1.63	-0.04	-2.45
Limes	1 lb	5.33	5.00	0.33	6.60
Tomatoes	1 lb	5.94	6.41	-0.47	-7.33
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	3.37	2.72	0.65	23.90
Yams	1 lb	3.43	4.72	-1.29	-27.33
Sugar - Brown (loose)	1 lb	2.27	1.90	0.37	19.47
Sugar - White (loose)	1 lb	2.62	2.47	0.15	6.07
Ice cream	1 Litre Tub	18.06	17.81	0.25	1.40
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bottle	9.53	7.05	2.48	35.18
Orange Juice	1 Litre box	9.23	7.05	2.18	30.92
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.95	5.78	0.17	2.94

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2023	May 2022		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	45.74	38.52	7.22	18.74
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.90	4.94	-0.04	-0.81
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.81	3.38	0.43	12.72
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	28.41	26.27	2.14	8.15
Vodka	750ml Bot.	52.14	50.60	1.54	3.04
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Cotton	1Yd.	14.09	13.73	0.36	2.62
Textile material - Tetrex	1Yd.	12.44	11.44	1.00	8.74
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	73.48	75.98	-2.50	-3.29
Men's Jeans (long)	Pair	68.98	71.38	-2.40	-3.36
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	113.46	134.50	-21.04	-15.64
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	73.19	73.28	-0.09	-0.12
Women's Blouse	Each	36.73	40.97	-4.24	-10.35
School shirt - white, size 10	Each	16.45	16.42	0.03	0.18
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	337.48	340.44	-2.96	-0.87
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	45.76	43.90	1.86	4.24
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - queen size	Each	2,999.00	2,537.72	461.28	18.18
Sheets - queen size, 300 thread count, 100% cotton	Each	194.95	169.95	25.00	14.71
Dinner forks	Each	6.95	4.95	2.00	40.40
Powder detergent	500g Pk	5.95	4.84	1.11	22.93
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
May 2023 Compared With May 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2023	May 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	6.39	6.88	-0.49	-7.12
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	4.99	5.25	-0.26	-4.95
Dental Care	Visit	149.47	143.56	5.91	4.12
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	15.68	15.35	0.33	2.15
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	0.00	0.00
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	596.43	546.45	49.98	9.15
Laptop Computer - 8 GB	Each	1,762.25	1,240.88	521.37	42.02
Dog Food (Canned)	375 g Tin	13.14	10.55	2.59	24.55
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	500.00	400.00	100.00	25.00
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
May 2023 Compared With May 2022

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		May 2023	May 2022		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	312.50	275.00	37.50	13.64
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	1350.00	1316.67	33.33	2.53
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	21.75	17.75	4.00	22.54
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	21.85	21.85	0.00	0.00
Roti - Beef	Each	12.49	13.42	-0.93	-6.93
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	15.00	10.00	5.00	50.00
Disposable diapers, Medium, 22pcs	1 pack	23.70	20.21	3.49	17.27
Toothpaste	170g Tube	13.32	12.39	0.93	7.51
Roll -on	75ml bottle	8.15	7.74	0.41	5.30
Sanitary napkins, regular, with wings	10 per pack	8.50	5.75	2.75	47.83
Toilet Soap	110g	4.34	3.60	0.74	20.56
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	459.28	432.62	26.66	6.16

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

	Groups	Weight	April 2023	May 2023	May 2022	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month April	Year May
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	145.1	145.5	131.8	0.3	10.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	134.1	134.0	129.2	-0.1	3.7
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	106.9	106.7	105.5	-0.2	1.1
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	110.4	109.1	108.3	-1.2	0.7
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	127.5	130.6	116.0	2.4	12.6
06.	Health	1.79	123.4	123.0	120.8	-0.3	1.8
07.	Transport	11.84	134.1	139.6	131.7	4.1	6.0
08.	Communication	9.41	112.1	112.1	112.0	0.0	0.1
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	115.8	119.3	110.1	3.0	8.4
10.	Education	1.32	113.1	113.1	108.9	0.0	3.9
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	136.3	134.9	127.8	-1.0	5.6
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	115.3	115.4	108.4	0.1	6.5
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	123.0	123.6	118.0	0.5	4.7

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for May 2023

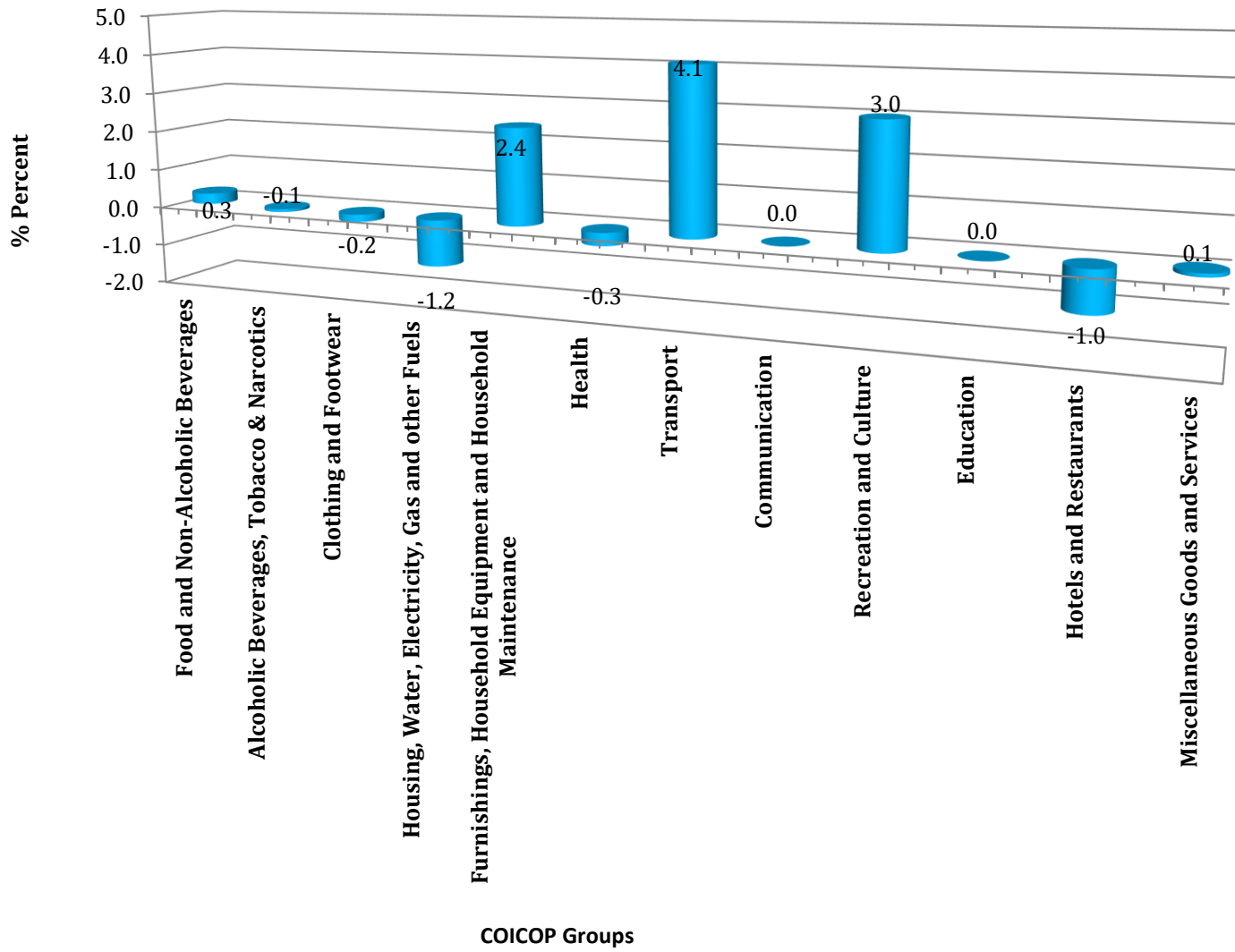


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	April 2023	May 2023	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						April 2023	May 2023		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	145.1	145.5	0.3	3,179.14	3,187.91	8.8	14.6
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	134.1	134.0	-0.1	518.97	518.58	-0.4	-0.6
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	106.9	106.7	-0.2	344.22	343.57	-0.6	-1.1
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	110.4	109.1	-1.2	3,318.62	3,279.55	-39.1	-65.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	127.5	130.6	2.4	840.23	860.65	20.4	34.0
6.	Health	1.79	123.4	123.0	-0.3	220.89	220.17	-0.7	-1.2
7.	Transport	11.84	134.1	139.6	4.1	1,587.74	1,652.86	65.1	108.5
8.	Communication	9.41	112.1	112.1	0.0	1,054.86	1,054.86	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	115.8	119.3	3.0	441.20	454.53	13.3	22.2
10.	Education	1.32	113.1	113.1	0.0	149.29	149.29	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	136.3	134.9	-1.0	254.88	252.26	-2.6	-4.4
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	115.3	115.4	0.1	496.94	497.37	0.4	0.7
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	123.0	123.6	0.5	12,300.00	12,360.00	60.0	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
April	123.0	145.1	134.1	106.9	110.4	127.5	123.4	134.1	112.1	115.8	113.1	136.3	115.3
May	123.6	145.5	134.0	106.7	109.1	130.6	123.0	139.6	112.1	119.3	113.1	134.9	115.4