



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



**THE STATISTICAL OFFICE**

**MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING  
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**ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

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## September 2023

The consumer price index remained unchanged for the month of September 2023 compared to the month of August 2023 (*See table 3*).

During the month of September 2023, the “All Items” index was recorded at 125.2 which was similar for the month of August 2023. Ten (10) groups recorded increases during the month, namely; “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (1.5%), “Education” (1.2%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (1.1%), “Clothing and Footwear” (0.8%), “Communication” (0.8%) “Health” (0.5%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.4%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.2%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels” (0.2%), and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (0.1%). Two (2) groups recorded a decrease; “Recreation and Culture” (2.9%) and “Transport” (2.4%) (*See table 3*).

The “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” index grew by 1.5 percent due mainly to an increase in the price of bath towels (30.0%) and toilet tissue (13.3%).

The 1.2 percent increase in the “Education” index was due to an increase of 3.7 percent in school fees for private primary education.

The group index for “Hotels and Restaurants” increased by 1.1 percent due to an increase in accommodation fees at overseas universities by 12.2 percent.

Higher prices for belts (33.3%), girls' school shoes (23.1%), boys' socks (13.3%), school shirts (11.1%) and school overalls (10.9%) and were responsible for the 0.8 percent increase in the "Clothing and Footwear" index.

The group index for "Communication" grew by 0.8 percent due mainly to an increase in prepaid mobile plans by 12.5 percent and domestic mobile calls by 5.2 percent.

The "Health" index registered a 0.5 percent upward movement due to the increase in the price of drugs for diabetes (9.5%) and blood sugar testing strips (7.1%).

An increase in the price of a bath soap (7.9%), mouthwash (5.5%) and a toothpaste (3.5%), accounted for the 0.4 percent increase in the "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" group index.

"Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels" increased by 0.2 percent due to a 1.3 percent increase in electricity consumption.

Similarly, the "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages" index recorded a 0.2 percent increase. This increase was attributed to higher prices for several food items, namely: paw paw (49.0%), imported pineapple (31.4%), local tomatoes (26.3%), oranges (21.9%), spaghetti (14.9%), frozen pork chops (9.9%) and ripe plantains (9.7%).

The index for "Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics" went up by 0.1 percent due to an increase in the price of Brandy (1.9%) and Campari (4.1%).

Meanwhile the "Recreation and Culture" index recorded a decline of 2.9 percent. This was due to a reduction in the cost of a tablet (34.7%), laptop (18.6%) and a television (17.5%).

A reduction in the price of engine oil (8.2%) and lower prices for passenger airfares from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to New York (27.6%), London (25.2%) and Antigua (19.0%) accounted for the 2.4 percent decline in the “Transport” index.

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.0 percent for the month of September 2023 compared to 7.3 percent for September 2022. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (9.9%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (8.4%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (7.6%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (6.9%), “Education” (3.4%), and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (3.0%), (*See table 3*).

**The consumer price index remained unchanged for September 2023. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.0 due to relative price changes during the month of September 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
		September 2023	August 2023		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Pasta - Spaghetti	400g, Pk	5.54	4.82	0.72	14.9
Pork Chops - Frozen	1lb	10.86	9.88	0.98	9.9
Oranges	Each	1.67	1.37	0.30	21.9
Ripe Plantain	1lb	2.15	1.96	0.19	9.7
Pineapple - Imported	1lb	7.58	5.77	1.81	31.4
Paw Paw	1lb	2.16	1.45	0.71	49.0
Tomatoes - Local	1lb	8.41	6.66	1.75	26.3
Dasheen	1lb	3.48	3.22	0.26	8.1
English Potatoes	1lb	3.66	3.36	0.30	8.9
Iodized Salt	737g	5.20	4.80	0.40	8.3
Brandy	700ml, Bottle	45.63	44.76	0.87	1.9
Campari	750ml, Bottle	50.63	48.62	2.01	4.1
Boy's Socks - Size 7-8	Pair	5.95	5.25	0.70	13.3
School Shirt, White, Size 10	Each	19.95	17.95	2.00	11.1
School Overall, Burgundy, Size 8	Each	50.95	45.95	5.00	10.9
Belts	Each	20.00	15.00	5.00	33.3
Girl's School Shoes	Pair	64.00	52.00	12.00	23.1
Electricity, Domestic Consumption	150 kWh	156.29	154.25	2.04	1.3
Bath Towel, Large	Each	64.95	49.95	15.00	30.0
Toilet Tissue, 500 Sheets per roll	1 Roll	2.55	2.25	0.30	13.3
Drugs for Diabetes, 500mg	30 Tablets	6.00	5.48	0.52	9.5
Blood Sugar Strips	50 Strips	105.00	98.00	7.00	7.1
Mobile prepaid plans:					
30-day	Plan	119.90	100.00	19.90	19.9
7-day	Plan	32.28	30.00	2.28	7.6
3-day	Plan	14.29	13.00	1.29	9.9
Mobile rates, domestic calls	Per Minute	1.02	0.97	0.05	5.2
School fees, private primary	Per Term	1400.00	1350.00	50.00	3.7
Accommodation Services, overseas universities	Per Semester	3214.97	2865.62	349.35	12.2
Toothpaste	170g, Tube	13.43	12.97	0.46	3.5
Mouthwash	500ml, Bottle	7.65	7.25	0.40	5.5
Soap	100g, Each	3.84	3.56	0.28	7.9
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Used Vehicles Toyota Noah 2008 - Automatic Transmission [2	Each	51765.50	61608.14	-9842.64	-16.0
Engine Oil	1 Qt	17.40	18.95	-1.55	-8.2
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
New York	1 Month	2662.70	3679.36	-1016.66	-27.6
London	1 Month	4763.50	6370.90	-1607.40	-25.2
Antigua	One Way	750.54	927.14	-176.60	-19.0
Television, 50"	Each	1658.71	2010.89	-352.18	-17.5
Tablet, 10.1"	Each	291.54	446.48	-154.94	-34.7
Laptop	Each	1448.58	1779.04	-330.46	-18.6
Cat Food	156g, Tin	5.51	5.64	-0.13	-2.3

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		September 2023	September 2022		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Rice - Loose	1lb	2.19	1.95	0.24	12.31
Rice - Packaged	2kg	9.73	9.99	-0.26	-2.60
Flour - Loose	1 lb	1.92	1.92	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2kg	9.13	9.13	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2kg	9.62	9.62	0.00	0.00
Cornflakes	510g Box	15.59	14.57	1.02	7.00
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (white)	Each	5.42	4.96	0.46	9.27
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 pk	2.91	2.74	0.17	6.20
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (whole wheat)	Each	6.26	5.59	0.67	11.99
Crix - salted crackers, White	288g (3 pk)	6.57	6.35	0.22	3.46
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.58	4.96	0.62	12.50
Beef - Fresh	1 lb	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Pigtail - salted	1 lb	12.29	12.90	-0.61	-4.73
Chicken - Leg Quarters	1 lb	3.73	3.87	-0.14	-3.62
Chicken - Backs	1 lb	2.66	2.43	0.23	9.47
Chicken - Wings	1 lb	5.91	6.23	-0.32	-5.14
Turkey Wings	1 lb	5.03	4.72	0.31	6.57
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	9.54	9.08	0.46	5.07
Corned beef	340g	9.97	9.77	0.20	2.05
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	16.18	15.12	1.06	7.01
Sardine in soya oil	106g Tin	5.33	4.89	0.44	9.00
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	4.17	3.43	0.74	21.57
Powdered milk - full cream	1 lb	8.43	8.91	-0.48	-5.39
Eggs	1 Doz	12.54	10.34	2.20	21.28
Margarine	445g Tub	13.63	11.38	2.25	19.77
Soya bean oil	1Litre	17.48	15.85	1.63	10.28
Coconut oil	750ml Bottle	36.92	32.54	4.38	13.46
Bananas (ripe)	1 lb	1.55	1.53	0.02	1.31
Limes	1 lb	4.81	4.80	0.01	0.21
Tomatoes	1 lb	8.41	6.44	1.97	30.59
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	4.67	2.84	1.83	64.44
Yams	1 lb	3.73	4.77	-1.04	-21.80
Sugar - Brown ( loose)	1 lb	2.27	2.41	-0.14	-5.81
Sugar - White ( loose)	1 lb	2.62	2.47	0.15	6.07
Ice cream	1 Litre Tub	18.06	18.55	-0.49	-2.64
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bottle	9.43	7.55	1.88	24.90
Orange Juice	1 Litre box	9.46	7.78	1.68	21.59
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.95	5.95	0.00	0.00

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		September 2023	September 2022		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	45.74	38.71	7.03	18.16
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.95	4.95	0.00	0.00
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.88	3.60	0.28	7.78
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	30.55	26.06	4.49	17.23
Vodka	750ml Bot.	51.94	50.93	1.01	1.98
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>					
Textile material - Cotton	1Yd.	14.09	11.35	2.74	24.14
Textile material - Tetrex	1Yd.	11.32	12.44	-1.12	-9.00
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	75.98	75.98	0.00	0.00
Men's Jeans ( long)	Pair	68.98	75.46	-6.48	-8.59
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	127.62	134.50	-6.88	-5.12
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	73.19	73.28	-0.09	-0.12
Women's Blouse	Each	36.84	40.01	-3.17	-7.92
School shirt - white, size 10	Each	17.62	16.45	1.17	7.11
School overal , navy blue, size 8	Each	46.95	48.95	-2.00	-4.09
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY</b>					
<b>GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
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	316.57	347.89	-31.32	-9.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.95	45.76	-7.81	-17.07
<b>FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>					
Bed - queen size	Each	2,866.61	2,537.72	328.89	12.96
Sheets - queen size, 300 thread count, 100% cotton	Each	194.95	169.65	25.30	14.91
Dinner forks	Each	6.95	4.05	2.90	71.60
Powder detergent	500g Pk	5.38	5.17	0.21	4.06
Toilet tissue, 280 sheets per roll	1 Roll	1.53	1.48	0.05	3.38



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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		September 2023	September 2022		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
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	6.64	5.38	1.26	23.42
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	5.25	4.99	0.26	5.21
Dental Care	Visit	149.47	143.56	5.91	4.12
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	15.68	18.16	-2.48	-13.66
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 3000 lbs	Year	680.00	680.00	0.00	0.00
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	1-Way	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
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	477.09	385.87	91.22	23.64
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
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	1.02	0.99	0.03	3.03
Internet	1 month	122.86	120.00	2.86	2.38
Cable TV charges (basic)	1 month	69.00	69.00	0.00	0.00
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 43 " (smart TV)	Each	1,381.48	1,460.70	-79.22	-5.42
Tablet - 10.1"	Each	291.54	546.45	-254.91	-46.65
Laptop Computer - 8 GB	Each	1,448.58	1,240.88	207.70	16.74
Dog Food (Canned)	375 g Tin	13.86	11.69	2.17	18.56
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	500.00	400.00	100.00	25.00
Mathematics textbook	Each	88.17	86.55	1.62	1.87
Newspapers	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00

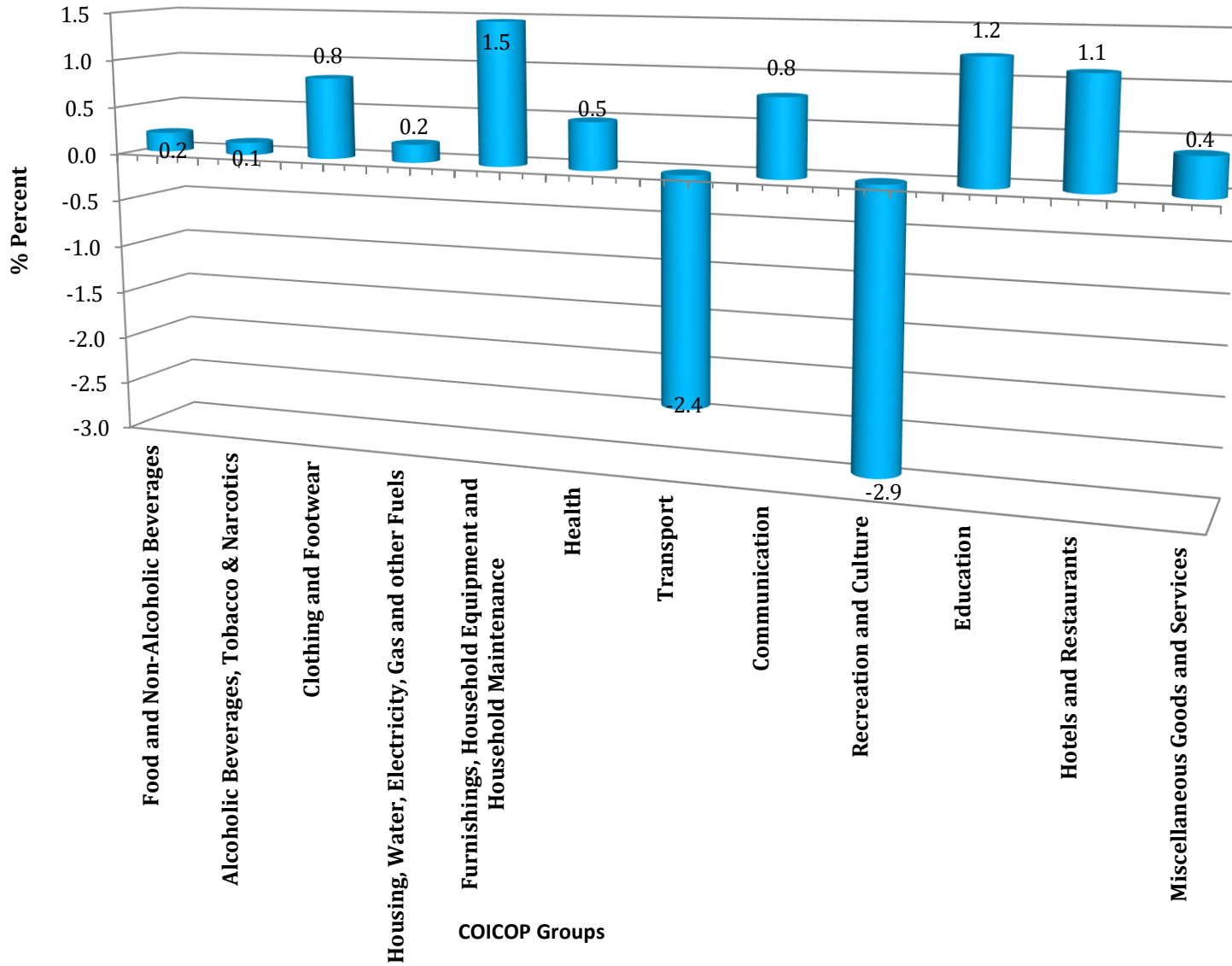
**Table 2.4**  
**Average Retail Price of Selected Items**  
**September 2023 Compared With September 2022**

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		September 2023	September 2022		
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	312.40	297.50	14.90	5.01
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	1400.00	1350.00	50.00	3.70
Secondary School Fee - Private	Term	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00
Tertiary Education Tuition - undergraduate, social sciences	Annual	8276.48	8140.80	135.68	1.67
Private tutor	Per Session	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
<b>HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS</b>					
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	12.00	0.49	4.08
School meals - Bread and Chicken	Each	4.00	3.83	0.17	4.44
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Women's Hairdressing ( Relaxer )	Visit	72.46	72.46	0.00	0.00
Men's Haircut, Regular	Visit	15.00	10.00	5.00	50.00
Disposable diapers, Medium, 22pcs	1 pack	23.70	21.10	2.60	12.32
Toothpaste	170g Tube	13.43	12.72	0.71	5.58
Roll -on	75ml bottle	8.32	8.15	0.17	2.09
Sanitary napkins, regular, with wings	10 per pack	8.73	5.75	2.98	51.83
Toilet Soap	110g	4.97	3.60	1.37	38.06
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	August 2023	September 2023	September 2022	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month August	Year September
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	149.9	150.2	138.5	0.2	8.4
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	134.9	135.1	131.2	0.1	3.0
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	107.2	108.1	106.3	0.8	1.7
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	106.9	107.1	109.8	0.2	-2.5
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	129.6	131.5	119.6	1.5	9.9
06.	Health	1.79	122.5	123.1	123.3	0.5	-0.2
07.	Transport	11.84	148.0	144.5	143.4	-2.4	0.8
08.	Communication	9.41	112.5	113.4	112.0	0.8	1.3
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	117.9	114.5	111.8	-2.9	2.4
10.	Education	1.32	113.1	114.5	110.7	1.2	3.4
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	135.3	136.8	128.0	1.1	6.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	116.5	117.0	108.7	0.4	7.6
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>

**Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for September 2023**



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

	Groups	Weight	August 2023	September 2023	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						August 2023	September 2023		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	149.9	150.2	0.2	3,284.31	3,290.88	6.6	-
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	134.9	135.1	0.1	522.06	522.74	0.7	-
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	107.2	108.1	0.8	345.18	348.08	2.9	-
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	106.9	107.1	0.2	3,213.41	3,219.43	6.0	-
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	129.6	131.5	1.5	854.06	866.59	12.5	-
6.	Health	1.79	122.5	123.1	0.5	219.28	220.35	1.1	-
7.	Transport	11.84	148.0	144.5	-2.4	1,752.32	1,710.88	-41.4	-
8.	Communication	9.41	112.5	113.4	0.8	1,058.63	1,067.09	8.5	-
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	117.9	114.5	-2.9	449.20	436.23	-13.0	-
10.	Education	1.32	113.1	114.5	1.2	149.29	151.14	1.8	-
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	135.3	136.8	1.1	253.01	255.82	2.8	-
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	116.5	117.0	0.4	502.12	504.10	2.0	-
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>12,520.00</b>	<b>12,520.00</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**Monthly Index - 2023**  
**January 2010 = 100**

<b>Groups</b>	<b>All Items</b>	<b>Food &amp; Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	<b>Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco &amp; Narcotics</b>	<b>Clothing &amp; Footwear</b>	<b>Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels</b>	<b>Furnishings Household Equipment &amp; Household Maintenance</b>	<b>Health</b>	<b>Transport</b>	<b>Communi-cation</b>	<b>Recreation &amp; Culture</b>	<b>Education</b>	<b>Hotels &amp; Restaurants</b>	<b>Miscell-aneous Goods and Services</b>
<b>WEIGHT</b>	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
<b>MONTH</b>													
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
June	125.0	148.6	134.3	106.8	109.9	129.9	123.4	142.4	112.7	118.4	113.1	135.3	115.5
July	125.4	149.7	134.8	107.8	108.0	130.1	121.0	147.4	112.7	118.8	113.1	135.3	115.9
August	125.2	149.9	134.9	107.2	106.9	129.6	122.5	148.0	112.5	117.9	113.1	135.3	116.5
September	125.2	150.2	135.1	108.1	107.1	131.5	123.1	144.5	113.4	114.5	114.5	136.8	117.0