



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 2023

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.8 percent for the month of October 2023, after being unchanged for the month of September 2023 (*See table 3*).

During the month of October 2023, the “All Items” index was recorded at 126.2 compared to 125.2 for the month of September 2023. Eleven (11) groups recorded increases during the month, namely; “Recreation and Culture” (3.5%), “Clothing and Footwear” (2.5%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels” (1.8%) “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (1.1%), “Communication” (0.8%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (0.8%), “Health” (0.6%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages (0.4%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.3%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics (0.2%) and “Transport” (0.2). One (1) group remained unchanged; “Education” (*See table 3*).

The group index for “Recreation and Culture” grew by 3.5 percent due mainly to an increase in the price of a tablet (53.1%), a laptop (22.8%) and a 50 inches television (10.9%).

“Clothing and Footwear” increased by 2.5 percent as a result of higher prices for ties (50.0%), men sandals (14.4%), textile material - tetrex (14.4%), textile material - cotton (14.1%) and boxer briefs (12.5%).

The “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” group index recorded an increase of 1.8 percent due mainly to an increase of 10.7 percent in the price of electricity. This change resulted from an increase in the fuel surcharge rate which moved from 54.19 cents per kilowatt hour for September 2023 to 65.30 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of October 2023.

“Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” grew by 1.1 percent. This was due to an increase in the price for a 4-burner gas stove (47.2%), a queen size mattress (29.5%), bath towel (7.7%), weed trimmer (7.0%) and a washing machine (6.1%).

The group index for “Communication” recorded an increase of 0.8 percent due mainly to an increase in the price paid for an 8GB cell phone (26.2%) and a 2GB cell phone (6.0%).

Similarly, the 0.8 percent increase in “Hotels and Restaurants” group index was due to an increase in the prices for a beef roti (11.8%) and a large fruit juice (8.0%).

The 0.6 percent growth in the index for “Health” was attributed to higher prices for an anti-inflammatory drug (29.0%) and pain killers (17.3%).

The “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.4 percent increase as a result of higher prices for a number of food items namely; cabbage - local (41.1%), breadfruit (37.9%), cauliflower (36.9%), oranges (19.8%), pasta - spaghetti (14.2%), green plantains (13.1%), tomatoes (12.0%), green bananas (11.5%) and condensed milk (10.8%),

“Miscellaneous Goods and Services” increase by 0.3 percent as a result of increases in the prices for toothpaste (10.7%) and bath soap (4.6%).

“Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” increased by 0.2 percent due to higher prices for white wine (30.0%), whiskey (3.7%) and brandy (3.5%).

The “Transport” index increased by 0.2 percent as a result of increase in price of diesel fuel (9.8%), passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to St. Lucia (9.0%), petrol (8.8%), car tyres (7.0%) and brake fluid (6.8%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.5 percent for the month of October 2023 compared to 7.5 percent for October 2022. The groups that accounted for the largest increases during the period were “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (10.0%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (7.6%) “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (6.8%), “Hotels and Restaurants” (6.6%), “Recreation and Culture” (5.9%), and “Clothing and Footwear” (4.2%), (*See table 3*).

The consumer price increased by 0.8 for October 2023. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 3.5 due to relative price changes during the month of October 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
		October 2023	September 2023		
INCREASED					
Pasta - spaghetti	400g Pk	5.00	4.38	0.62	14.2
Condensed milk	379g Tin	6.04	5.45	0.59	10.8
Breadfruit (small)	Each	4.00	2.90	1.10	37.9
Oranges	Each	2.00	1.67	0.33	19.8
Green plantains	1Lb	1.99	1.76	0.23	13.1
Green bananas	1Lb	1.36	1.22	0.14	11.5
Tomatoes - local	1Lb	9.42	8.41	1.01	12.0
Cabbage - local	1Lb	7.11	5.04	2.07	41.1
Cauliflower	1Lb	18.50	13.51	4.99	36.9
Whisky	750ml	160.20	154.52	5.68	3.7
Brandy	700ml	48.27	46.64	1.63	3.5
White wine	750ml	52.00	40.00	12.00	30.0
Textile material - cotton, 60"	1Yard	16.07	14.09	1.98	14.1
Textile material - tetrex - 60"	1Yard	12.95	11.32	1.63	14.4
Boxer briefs	3 Pk	45.00	40.00	5.00	12.5
Ties	Each	15.00	10.00	5.00	50.0
Men sandals	Pair	119.00	104.00	15.00	14.4
Electricity	150kWh	172.95	156.29	16.66	10.7
Mattress, queen size	Each	1399.00	1080.36	318.64	29.5
Bath towel, large	Each	69.95	64.95	5.00	7.7
Washing machine	17Kg	3499.00	3299.00	200.00	6.1
Gas stove, 4-burner	Each	1440.20	978.37	461.83	47.2
Weed trimmer	Each	1749.00	1634.00	115.00	7.0
Anti-inflammatory drug	20 tablets	7.07	5.48	1.59	29.0
Pain killer	100 tablets	10.50	8.95	1.55	17.3
Petrol	1 Gal	17.06	15.68	1.38	8.8
Diesel fuel	1 Gal	16.98	15.46	1.52	9.8
Brake fluid	12oz	13.26	12.42	0.84	6.8
Tyres, 205-60-R15	Each	329.72	308.12	21.60	7.0
Passenger airfare from SVG to St Lucia	1-way	589.89	540.99	48.90	9.0
Cell Phone - 8GB	Each	1777.70	1408.25	369.45	26.2
Television, 50"	Each	1704.30	1536.50	167.80	10.9
Tablet 10.1"	Each	446.48	291.54	154.94	53.1
Laptop	Each	1779.04	1448.58	330.46	22.8
Fish and Fries	Each	15.00	14.00	1.00	7.1
Roti - beef	Each	13.96	12.49	1.47	11.8
Fruit juice	Large	5.92	5.48	0.44	8.0
Toothpaste	170g Tube	14.87	13.43	1.44	10.7
Bath soap	110g	5.20	4.97	0.23	4.6
DECREASED					
Codfish - salted	1Lb	14.94	16.18	-1.24	-7.7
Sardines in soya oil	106g	4.29	5.11	-0.82	-16.0
Pumpkin - local	1Lb	3.37	4.19	-0.82	-19.6
School shirt , white	Each	17.95	19.95	-2.00	-10.0
Girls' school shoes	1 pair	52.00	64.00	-12.00	-18.8
Juice concentrate	750ml bottle	10.60	11.77	-1.17	-9.9
Drugs for Diabetes, 500mg	30 tablets	5.00	6.00	-1.00	-16.7
Passenger airfare from SVG to:					
<i>Miami</i>	1 month	2552.26	2945.05	-392.79	-13.3
<i>London</i>	1 month	4008.70	4763.50	-754.80	-15.8
<i>Trinidad</i>	1-way	695.53	779.75	-84.22	-10.8

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2023	October 2022		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Rice - Loose	1lb	2.19	1.95	0.24	12.31
Rice - Packaged	2kg	9.76	9.77	-0.01	-0.10
Flour - Loose	1 lb	1.94	1.91	0.03	1.57
Flour - Packaged (white)	2kg	9.08	9.13	-0.05	-0.55
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2kg	9.71	9.62	0.09	0.94
Cornflakes	510g Box	15.40	14.75	0.65	4.41
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (white)	Each	5.42	4.64	0.78	16.81
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 pk	2.91	2.91	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (whole wheat)	Each	6.26	5.92	0.34	5.74
Crix - salted crackers, White	288g (3 pk)	6.57	6.39	0.18	2.82
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.56	5.04	0.52	10.32
Beef - Fresh	1 lb	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Pigtail - salted	1 lb	11.45	12.90	-1.45	-11.24
Chicken - Leg Quarters	1 lb	3.81	3.71	0.10	2.70
Chicken - Backs	1 lb	2.66	2.53	0.13	5.14
Chicken - Wings	1 lb	6.04	5.57	0.47	8.44
Turkey Wings	1 lb	4.87	4.78	0.09	1.88
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	9.61	9.03	0.58	6.42
Corned beef	340g	10.29	9.85	0.44	4.47
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	1 lb	12.00	9.12	2.88	31.58
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	1 lb	5.00	5.07	-0.07	-1.38
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	1 lb	5.00	5.07	-0.07	-1.38
Codfish	1 lb	14.94	15.08	-0.14	-0.93
Sardine in soya oil	106g Tin	5.42	5.20	0.22	4.23
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	4.06	3.83	0.23	6.01
Powdered milk - full cream	1 lb	8.28	9.32	-1.04	-11.16
Eggs	1 Doz	12.54	10.34	2.20	21.28
Margarine	445g Tub	13.62	11.44	2.18	19.06
Soya bean oil	1Litre	17.46	15.99	1.47	9.19
Coconut oil	750ml Bottle	36.92	32.54	4.38	13.46
Bananas (ripe)	1 lb	1.59	1.69	-0.10	-5.92
Limes	1 lb	4.52	4.80	-0.28	-5.83
Tomatoes	1 lb	9.42	5.80	3.62	62.41
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	3.73	2.80	0.93	33.21
Yams	1 lb	4.33	4.53	-0.20	-4.42
Sugar - Brown (loose)	1 lb	2.30	2.42	-0.12	-4.96
Sugar - White (loose)	1 lb	2.62	2.49	0.13	5.22
Ice cream	1 Litre Tub	18.06	18.55	-0.49	-2.64
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bottle	9.06	8.00	1.06	13.25
Orange Juice	1 Litre box	9.70	8.10	1.60	19.75
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.95	5.95	0.00	0.00

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2023	October 2022		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	45.24	38.71	6.53	16.87
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.00	4.90	0.10	2.04
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.88	3.60	0.28	7.78
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	30.55	28.24	2.31	8.18
Vodka	750ml Bot.	51.94	50.93	1.01	1.98
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Cotton	1Yd.	16.07	11.35	4.72	41.59
Textile material - Tetrex	1Yd.	12.95	10.44	2.51	24.04
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	75.98	71.98	4.00	5.56
Men's Jeans (long)	Pair	68.98	74.23	-5.25	-7.07
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	127.62	136.92	-9.30	-6.79
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	73.19	74.60	-1.41	-1.89
Women's Blouse	Each	36.84	40.01	-3.17	-7.92
School shirt - white, size 10	Each	16.45	14.15	2.30	16.25
School overal , navy blue, size 8	Each	49.95	44.95	5.00	11.12
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	349.90	344.38	5.52	1.60
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.95	45.76	-7.81	-17.07
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - queen size	Each	2,872.56	2,737.72	134.84	4.93
Sheets - queen size, 300 thread count, 100% cotton	Each	194.95	173.24	21.71	12.53
Dinner forks	Each	6.95	4.05	2.90	71.60
Powder detergent	500g Pk	5.36	5.17	0.19	3.68
Toilet tissue, 280 sheets per roll	1 Roll	1.53	1.71	-0.18	-10.53

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2023	October 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	6.69	6.15	0.54	8.78
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	4.75	4.99	-0.24	-4.81
Dental Care	Visit	149.47	143.56	5.91	4.12
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	17.06	18.16	-1.10	-6.06
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
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	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
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 43 " (smart TV)	Each	1,381.48	1,449.73	-68.25	-4.71
Tablet - 10.1"	Each	446.48	291.54	154.94	53.15
Laptop Computer - 8 GB	Each	1,779.04	1,240.88	538.16	43.37
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	84.31	86.55	-2.24	-2.59
Newspapers	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		October 2023	October 2022		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	312.50	297.50	15.00	5.04
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
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	13.96	13.42	0.54	4.02
School meals - Bread and Chicken	Each	4.00	3.67	0.33	8.99
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
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	23.70	0.00	0.00
Toothpaste	170g Tube	14.87	12.72	2.15	16.90
Roll -on	75ml bottle	8.44	8.15	0.29	3.56
Sanitary napkins, regular, with wings	10 per pack	8.73	5.75	2.98	51.83
Toilet Soap	110g	5.20	3.60	1.60	44.44
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	September 2023	October 2023	October 2022	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month September	Year October
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	150.2	150.8	141.2	0.4	6.8
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	135.1	135.4	131.0	0.2	3.4
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	108.1	110.8	106.3	2.5	4.2
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	107.1	109.0	109.6	1.8	-0.5
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	131.5	133.0	120.9	1.1	10.0
06.	Health	1.79	123.1	123.9	123.3	0.6	0.5
07.	Transport	11.84	144.5	144.8	142.5	0.2	1.6
08.	Communication	9.41	113.4	114.3	112.0	0.8	2.1
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	114.5	118.5	111.9	3.5	5.9
10.	Education	1.32	114.5	114.5	110.7	0.0	3.4
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	136.8	137.9	129.4	0.8	6.6
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	117.0	117.4	109.1	0.3	7.6
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	125.2	126.2	121.9	0.8	3.5

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for October 2023

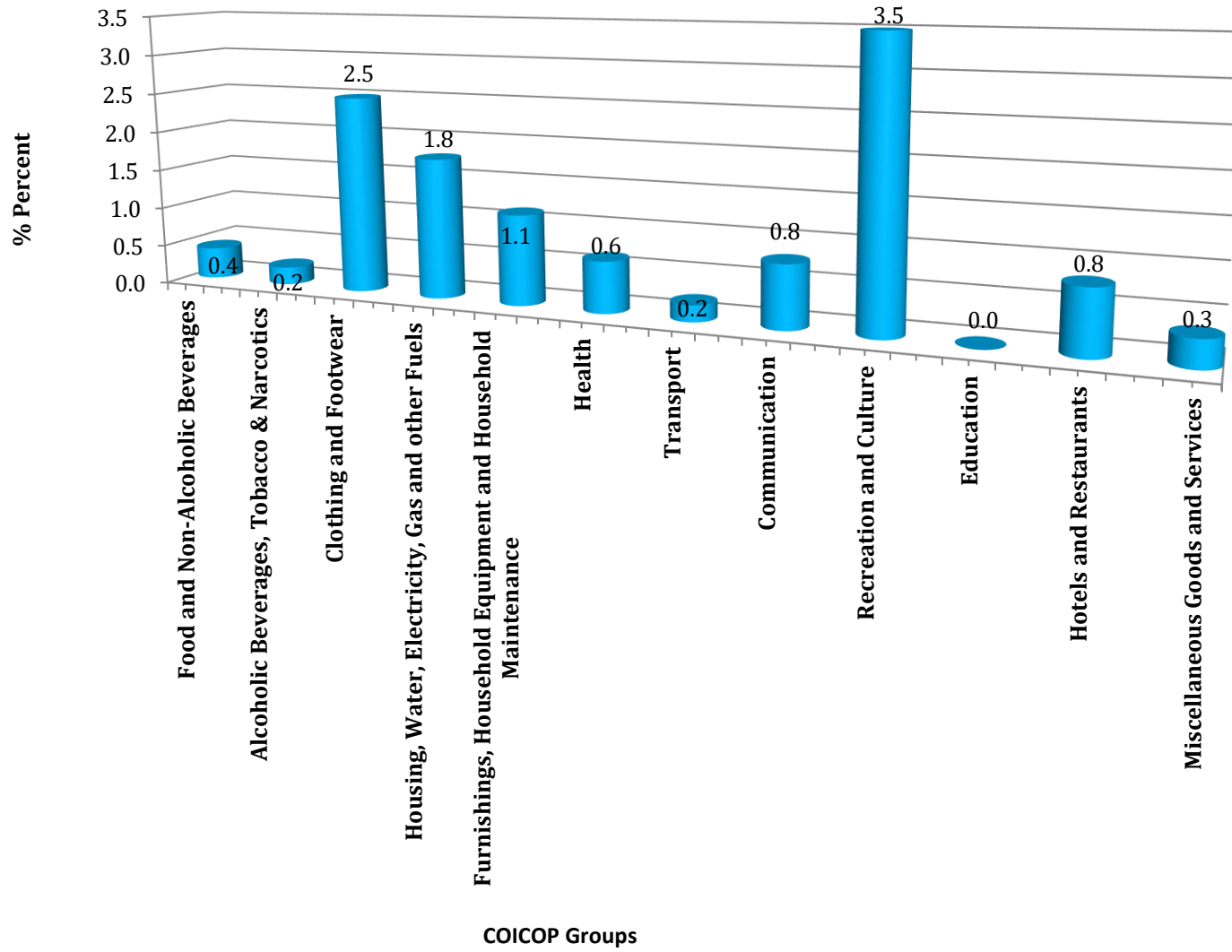


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	September 2023	October 2023	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						September 2023	October 2023		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	150.2	150.8	0.4	3,290.88	3,304.03	13.1	13.1
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	135.1	135.4	0.2	522.84	524.00	1.2	1.2
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	108.1	110.8	2.5	348.08	356.78	8.7	8.7
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	107.1	109.0	1.8	3,219.43	3,276.54	57.1	57.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	131.5	133.0	1.1	866.59	876.47	9.9	9.9
6.	Health	1.79	123.1	123.9	0.6	220.35	221.78	1.4	1.4
7.	Transport	11.84	144.5	144.8	0.2	1,710.88	1,714.43	3.6	3.6
8.	Communication	9.41	113.4	114.3	0.8	1,067.09	1,075.56	8.5	8.5
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	114.5	118.5	3.5	436.25	451.49	15.2	15.2
10.	Education	1.32	114.5	114.5	0.0	151.14	151.14	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	136.8	137.9	0.8	255.82	257.87	2.1	2.1
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	117.0	117.4	0.3	504.27	505.99	1.7	1.7
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	125.2	126.2	0.8	12,520.00	12,620.00	100.0	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
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
October	126.2	150.8	135.4	110.8	109.0	133.0	123.9	144.8	114.3	118.5	114.5	137.9	117.4