



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



THE STATISTICAL OFFICE

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

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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MARCH 2024

The consumer price index increased by 0.5 percent for the month of March 2024, after it remained unchanged for the month of February 2024 (*see table 3*).

During the month of March 2024, the “All Items” index was registered at 127.8 in comparison to 127.2 for the month of February 2024. Four (4) groups recorded an increase during the month namely; “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (6.5%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.0%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.4%) and “Clothing and Footwear” (0.2%). Five (5) groups recorded a decrease during the month; “Recreation and Culture” (1.4%), “Health” (1.4%), “Transport” (1.3%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.2%) and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.1%). Three (3) group remained unchanged; “Education”, “Communication” and “Hotels and Restaurants”. (*see table 3*)

The group index “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” increased by 6.5 percent as a result of higher minimum wages for a domestic worker (75.4%), child caregivers (57.5%) and a higher fee for the provision of gardening services (25.0%).

The index for the group “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” grew by 1.0 percent because of a 5.8 percent rise in the cost of electricity. This increase was on account of a higher fuel surcharge rate which moved from 53.68 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2024 to 59.74 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2024.

“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.4 percent upward movement as a result of increase in the cost of food items such as; garlic packaged (22.2%), kidney beans - packaged (15.4%), fish - robin (14.2%), sweet potatoes (9.2%), cornmeal – packaged (9.1%), fish ballahoo (6.8%), carbonated soft – drinks (4.6%), chicken – wings (3.9%), tomato ketchup (1.8%) and orange juice (1.3%).

The “Clothing and Footwear” registered an increase of 0.2 percent because of a rise in the price of men’s T-shirt (15.8%) and boy’s socks (13.8%).

The index for the group “Recreation and Culture” declined by 1.4 percent due to a reduction in the price of a tablet computer – 3GB (30.2%) and a laptop computer -8GB (7.5%).

Similarly, the “Health” group index fell by 1.4 percent as a result of lower prices for drugs for the treatment of the following; pain and inflammation (22.5%), diabetes (5.0%) and allergies (1.6%)

Meanwhile, the “Transport” group index reduced by 1.3 percent, on account of lower prices for passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to New York (18.8%), Miami (14.5%), Trinidad and Tobago (4.2%) and lower cost for new car tyres (11.0%).

The “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” group index recorded a 0.2 percent downward movement because of a reduction in the price of a toothpaste (7.2%).

Correspondingly the index for the group “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” declined by 0.1 percent due to a decrease in the cost of tequila – gold (11.3%) and table wine - red (1.2%).

The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 4.9 percent for the month of March 2024 compared to 5.5 percent for March 2023. The groups that represented the largest increases during the period were, "Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance" (11.8%) "Clothing and Footwear" (9.4%), "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages" (9.2%), "Miscellaneous Goods and Services" (6.2%) and "Recreation and Culture" (3.5%) (*See table 3*).

The consumer price index increased for March 2024. The point-to-point inflation rate stood at 4.9 due to relative price changes during the month of March 2024 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 2024	February 2024		
INCREASED					
Chicken - Wings	Lb	6.43	6.19	0.24	3.9
Chicken - Leg quarters	Lb	3.88	3.83	0.05	1.3
Cornmeal - Packaged	340g	4.93	4.52	0.41	9.1
Pig - tail salted	Lb	10.56	10.44	0.12	1.1
Fish - Fresh (Ballyhoo)	Lb	2.50	2.34	0.16	6.8
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb	6.67	5.84	0.83	14.2
Evaporated Milk	405g Tin	4.54	4.14	0.40	9.7
Lentils - Packaged	454g	10.82	10.59	0.23	2.2
Garlic - packaged	250g	6.00	4.91	1.09	22.2
Sweet Potatoes	Lb	4.29	3.93	0.36	9.2
Sweet Pepper	Lb	13.47	13.05	0.42	3.2
Kidney Beans - Packaged	400g	8.91	7.72	1.19	15.4
Pigeon Peas	425g Tin	7.87	7.83	0.04	0.5
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bot	9.61	9.44	0.17	1.8
Chocolate bar	110g Pk	16.94	14.45	2.49	17.2
Salt - loose	Lb	1.19	1.16	0.03	2.6
Carbonated soft drink - Cola	2 Litre Bot	13.43	12.84	0.59	4.6
Mineral water	1.5 Litre Bot	6.03	5.88	0.15	2.6
Powdered drink mix	35g Pk	1.75	1.70	0.05	2.9
Orange juice	1 Litre Box	9.38	9.26	0.12	1.3
Men's T-shirt (short sleeve)	Each	22.00	19.00	3.00	15.8
Boy's socks	Pair	5.95	5.25	0.70	13.3
Electricity Consumption Charge	150KWH	164.61	155.52	9.09	5.8
Gardening Services	Service	100.00	80.00	20.00	25.0
Wages - Domestic worker	Month	1000.00	570.00	430.00	75.4
Wages - Child caregiver	Month	1000.00	635.00	365.00	57.5
DECREASED					
Rice - Loose	Lb	2.19	2.23	-0.04	-1.8
Chicken - Backs	Lb	2.60	2.66	-0.06	-2.3
Chicken - Drumsticks	Lb	3.64	3.73	-0.09	-2.4
Eggs	1 Doz	13.43	13.68	-0.25	-1.8
Red seedless grape	Lb	22.48	23.21	-0.73	-3.1
Tomatoes - local	Lb	9.76	10.12	-0.36	-3.6
Broccoli -imported	Lb	11.60	14.97	-3.37	-22.5
Tequila - gold	750ml Bot	73.94	83.38	-9.44	-11.3
Table wine - Red	750ml Bot	36.99	37.45	-0.46	-1.2
Drugs for pain and inflammation	Pkt 20	5.48	7.07	-1.59	-22.5
Drugs for diabetes	Month supply	4.99	5.25	-0.26	-5.0
Drugs for allergies	Month supply	47.50	48.25	-0.75	-1.6
Car tyres 14" - new	Each	183.05	205.60	-22.55	-11.0
Passenger airfare from SVG to:					
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	One way	605.05	631.41	-26.36	-4.2
<i>New York</i>	Month	2279.21	2807.10	-527.89	-18.8
<i>Miami</i>	Month	2298.50	2689.73	-391.23	-14.5
Used SUV's	Each	65519.05	66295.48	-776.43	-1.2
Tablet computer 10.1" - 3GB	Each	358.18	513.13	-154.95	-30.2
Laptop computer - 8GB	Each	1645.75	1779.04	-133.29	-7.5
Toothpaste	113g Tube	12.73	13.43	-0.70	-5.2

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2024 Compared With March 2023

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2024	March 2023		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Rice - Loose	1lb	2.19	1.99	0.20	10.05
Rice - Packaged	2kg	9.73	9.77	-0.04	-0.41
Flour - Loose	1 lb	1.92	1.91	0.01	0.52
Flour - Packaged (white)	2kg	9.22	9.13	0.09	0.99
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2kg	9.62	9.71	-0.09	-0.93
Cornflakes	510g Box	16.19	15.06	1.13	7.50
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (white)	Each	5.42	5.14	0.28	5.45
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 pk	2.91	2.91	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sandwich Loaf (whole wheat)	Each	6.26	6.14	0.12	1.95
Crix - salted crackers, White	288g (3 pk)	6.57	6.51	0.06	0.92
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	5.59	5.27	0.32	6.07
Beef - Fresh	1 lb	12.00	10.00	2.00	20.00
Pigtail - salted	1 lb	10.56	12.10	-1.54	-12.73
Chicken - Leg Quarters	1 lb	3.88	3.64	0.24	6.59
Chicken - Backs	1 lb	2.60	2.73	-0.13	-4.76
Chicken - Wings	1 lb	6.43	5.74	0.69	12.02
Turkey Wings	1 lb	4.71	5.41	-0.70	-12.94
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	9.61	9.10	0.51	5.60
Corned beef	340g	9.76	10.13	-0.37	-3.65
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	1 lb	12.00	12.93	-0.93	-7.19
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	1 lb	6.67	5.00	1.67	33.40
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	1 lb	6.67	5.00	1.67	33.40
Codfish	1 lb	14.65	15.26	-0.61	-4.00
Sardine in soya oil	106g Tin	5.56	5.12	0.44	8.59
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	4.16	3.93	0.23	5.85
Powdered milk - full cream	1 lb	8.15	8.55	-0.40	-4.68
Eggs	1 Doz	13.43	11.66	1.77	15.18
Margarine	445g Tub	13.52	13.18	0.34	2.58
Soya bean oil	1Litre	15.88	17.49	-1.61	-9.21
Coconut oil	750ml Bottle	36.92	33.20	3.72	11.20
Bananas (ripe)	1 lb	1.79	1.74	0.05	2.87
Limes	1 lb	5.16	4.16	1.00	24.04
Tomatoes	1 lb	9.76	7.04	2.72	38.64
Sweet Potatoes	1 lb	4.29	2.96	1.33	44.93
Yams	1 lb	4.66	3.43	1.23	35.86
Sugar - Brown (loose)	1 lb	2.29	2.35	-0.06	-2.55
Sugar - White (loose)	1 lb	2.57	2.68	-0.11	-4.10
Ice cream	1 Litre Tub	18.06	18.06	0.00	0.00
Tomato Ketchup	750ml Bottle	9.61	9.53	0.08	0.84
Orange Juice	1 Litre box	9.38	8.26	1.12	13.56
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.96	5.95	0.01	0.17

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2024 Compared With March 2023

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2024	March 2023		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	46.51	43.64	2.87	6.58
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	5.00	4.90	0.10	2.04
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.21	3.71	0.50	13.48
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	32.45	28.41	4.04	14.22
Vodka	750ml Bot.	53.35	51.42	1.93	3.75
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Cotton	1Yd.	16.07	14.09	1.98	14.05
Textile material - Tetrex	1Yd.	12.95	11.35	1.60	14.10
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	75.98	79.60	-3.62	-4.55
Men's Jeans (long)	Pair	70.36	64.62	5.74	8.88
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	137.70	113.46	24.24	21.36
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.00	73.19	15.81	21.60
Women's Blouse	Each	44.95	36.07	8.88	24.62
School shirt - white, size 10	Each	17.45	15.41	2.04	13.24
School overal , navy blue, size 8	Each	49.95	49.82	0.13	0.26
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	333.22	311.35	21.87	7.02
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.95	45.76	-7.81	-17.07
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD					
EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD					
MAINTENANCE					
Bed - queen size	Each	2,641.18	2,737.72	-96.54	-3.53
Sheets - queen size, 300 thread count, 100% cotton	Each	194.95	194.95	0.00	0.00
Dinner forks	Each	6.93	3.97	2.96	74.56
Powder detergent	500g Pk	5.30	5.50	-0.20	-3.64
Toilet tissue, 280 sheets per roll	1 Roll	1.56	1.65	-0.09	-5.45

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2024 Compared With March 2023

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2024	March 2023		
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	6.95	-0.26	-3.74
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	4.99	6.49	-1.50	-23.11
Dental Care	Visit	149.47	146.21	3.26	2.23
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	15.56	15.06	0.50	3.32
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	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Airfare - SVG to Barbados	1-Way	483.22	501.54	-18.32	-3.65
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	123.00	120.00	3.00	2.50
Cable TV charges (basic)	1 month	69.00	69.00	0.00	0.00
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 43 " (smart TV)	Each	1,429.08	1,381.48	47.60	3.45
Tablet - 10.1"	Each	358.18	446.48	-88.30	-19.78
Laptop Computer - 8 GB	Each	1,645.75	1,597.21	48.54	3.04
Dog Food (Canned)	375 g Tin	14.00	12.37	1.63	13.18
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	500.00	400.00	100.00	25.00
Mathematics textbook	Each	88.17	88.42	-0.25	-0.28
Newspapers	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
March 2024 Compared With March 2023

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		March 2024	March 2023		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	312.50	312.50	0.00	0.00
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	19.50	2.25	11.54
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	13.96	0.00	0.00
School meals - Bread and Chicken	Each	4.33	3.67	0.66	17.98
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	22.31	23.70	-1.39	-5.86
Toothpaste	170g Tube	15.17	13.55	1.62	11.96
Roll -on	75ml bottle	8.26	8.15	0.11	1.35
Sanitary napkins, regular, with wings	10 per pack	8.39	5.75	2.64	45.91
Toilet Soap	110g	5.20	4.34	0.86	19.82
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	471.49	432.62	38.87	8.98

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

	Groups	Weight	February 2024	March 2024	March 2023	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month February	Year March
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	156.8	157.5	144.2	0.4	9.2
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	137.1	136.9	132.9	-0.1	3.0
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	114.8	115.0	105.1	0.2	9.4
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	107.0	108.1	107.6	1.0	0.5
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	131.5	140.1	125.3	6.5	11.8
06.	Health	1.79	125.0	123.3	125.3	-1.4	-1.6
07.	Transport	11.84	142.0	140.2	135.9	-1.3	3.2
08.	Communication	9.41	114.4	114.4	111.8	0.0	2.3
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	120.3	118.6	114.6	-1.4	3.5
10.	Education	1.32	114.5	114.5	113.1	0.0	1.2
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	138.4	138.4	134.3	0.0	3.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	118.6	118.4	111.5	-0.2	6.2
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	127.2	127.8	121.8	0.5	4.9

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2024

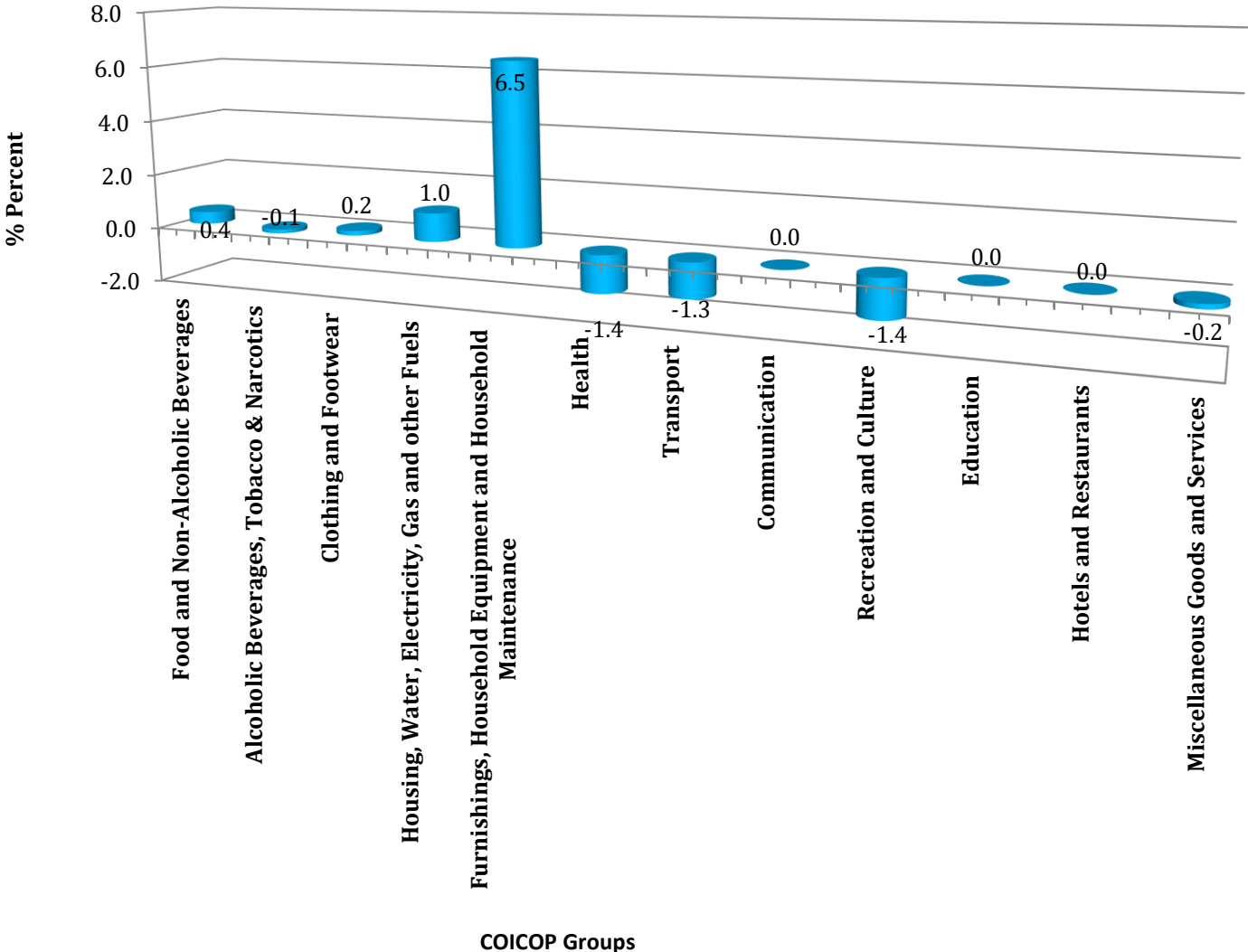


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	February 2024	March 2024	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						February 2024	March 2024		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	156.8	157.5	0.4	3,435.49	3,450.83	15.3	25.6
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	137.1	136.9	-0.1	530.58	529.80	-0.8	-1.3
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	114.8	115.0	0.2	369.66	370.30	0.6	1.1
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	107.0	108.1	1.0	3,216.42	3,249.49	33.1	55.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	131.5	140.1	6.5	866.59	923.26	56.7	94.5
6.	Health	1.79	125.0	123.3	-1.4	223.75	220.71	-3.0	-5.1
7.	Transport	11.84	142.0	140.2	-1.3	1,681.28	1,659.97	-21.3	-35.5
8.	Communication	9.41	114.4	114.4	0.0	1,076.50	1,076.50	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	120.3	118.6	-1.4	458.34	451.87	-6.5	-10.8
10.	Education	1.32	114.5	114.5	0.0	151.14	151.14	0.0	0.0
11.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.87	138.4	138.4	0.0	258.77	258.77	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	118.6	118.4	-0.2	511.17	510.30	-0.9	-1.4
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	127.2	127.8	0.5	12,720.00	12,780.00	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	127.2	155.7	136.7	113.8	107.8	131.7	124.9	143.5	114.5	118.7	114.5	136.5	118.5
February	127.2	156.8	137.1	114.8	107.0	131.5	125.0	142.0	114.4	120.3	114.5	138.4	118.6
March	127.8	157.5	136.9	115.0	108.1	140.1	123.3	140.2	114.4	118.6	114.5	138.4	118.4