



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



**THE STATISTICAL OFFICE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC
PLANNING ETC.**

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JANUARY 2018

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.3 percent for the month of January 2018. The “All Items” index was registered at 109.6 for the month of January 2018 compared to 109.3 for the month of December 2017. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 2.7 percent.

Eight (8) groups recorded increases for the month, “Transport” (1.1%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (1.0%), “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.6%), “Restaurants and Hotels” (0.6%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.5%), “Communication” (0.3%), “Health” (0.3%) and “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.2%). Three (3) groups recorded decreases for the month, “Clothing and Footwear” (0.6%), “Recreation and Culture” (0.6%) and “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” (0.4%). “Education” was the sole group to remain unchanged for the month.

Higher passenger airfares from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to several regional destinations, namely, St Lucia (30.1%), Trinidad and Tobago (13.6%) and Barbados (10.9%) was responsible for the 1.1 percent growth in the “Transport” index. Similarly, the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” group index grew by 1.0 percent, mainly as a result of an increase of 5.3 percent for local beer and 4.2 percent for a bottle of vodka.

The group index for “Miscellaneous Good and Services” rose by 0.6 percent due mainly to an increase of 11.1 percent in the cost for third party car insurance and 8.0 percent in the price of a wedding band, whereas, the increase of 0.6 percent in the “Restaurant and Hotels” index resulted from a higher price for a glass of fruit juice (8.1%) and a slice of pizza (3.2%).

The increase of 0.5 percent in the “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” is due mainly to a rise in the cost of electricity (2.7%) and 6.2 percent in the price for galvanized nails. Meanwhile, the “Communication” grew by 0.3 percent due mainly to a 1.0 percent increase in mobile rates for domestic calls.

The 0.3 percent growth in the “Health” index is due mainly to a 15.4 percent increase in the price of a drug that is used for the treatment of diabetes. Similarly, the group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” rose by 0.2 percent due mainly to an increase in the price for a set of teaspoons (66.7%), an electric iron (22.4%), a chest of drawers (21.8%) and a fluorescent light tube (20.1%)

The “Recreation and Culture” index declined by 0.6 percent due mainly to a reduction in the price of cat food (17.6%) and a mathematics text book (9.1%). The “Clothing and Footwear” index also decline by 0.6 percent due to reduced cost for men’s t-shirt (31.9%), cotton material (23.2%) and women’s casual shoes (20.1%).

Correspondingly, the “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” group index decreased by 0.4 percent due to lower prices for several food items, namely, tomatoes (36.9%), string beans (20.7%), cabbage (14.7%), christophene (11.8%), sweet peppers (11.4%), broccoli (11.0%) and cauliflower (8.9%).

Table 1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		January 2018	December 2017		
INCREASED					
Pork ribs	lb	6.00	5.75	0.25	4.35
Eggs	doz.	9.32	8.82	0.50	5.67
Peanut butter	18oz bottle	14.59	12.04	2.55	21.18
Watermelon	lb	3.50	3.15	0.35	11.11
Lettuce	head	5.90	4.91	0.99	20.16
Green bananas	lb	1.18	1.03	0.15	14.56
Sweet potatoes	lb	2.18	2.04	0.14	6.86
Cucumbers	lb	3.28	3.07	0.21	6.84
Tea bags	pkt of 20	7.55	6.88	0.67	9.74
Vodka	750ml bottle	39.67	38.07	1.60	4.20
Beer	280ml bottle	4.73	4.49	0.24	5.35
Drugs for diabetes	1 mth's supply	6.00	5.20	0.80	15.38
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:				0.00	
St Lucia	1-way	408.02	313.60	94.42	30.11
Barbados	1-way	434.03	391.50	42.53	10.86
Trinidad & Tobago	1-way	472.50	415.80	56.70	13.64
Mobile rates - domestic	1 minute	1.00	0.99	0.01	1.01
Galvanize nails	lb	6.68	6.29	0.39	6.20
Electricity consumption	140Kwh	117.04	113.99	3.05	2.68
Chest of drawers	each	1977.90	1624.00	353.90	21.79
Electric iron	each	215.95	176.45	39.50	22.39
Tea spoons	set of 6	9.95	5.97	3.98	66.67
Flourescent light tube	each	9.20	7.66	1.54	20.10
Slice of pizza	each	4.79	4.64	0.15	3.23
Fruit juice	each	3.62	3.35	0.27	8.06
Wedding band	each	929.39	860.23	69.16	8.04
Car insurance - 3rd party	year	480.00	432.00	48.00	11.11
DECREASED					
Cabbage	lb	3.19	3.74	-0.55	-14.71
Christophene	lb	3.23	3.66	-0.43	-11.75
Brocoli	lb	9.11	10.24	-1.13	-11.04
Cauliflower	lb	6.98	7.66	-0.68	-8.88
String beans	lb	2.65	3.34	-0.69	-20.66
Tomatoes	lb	4.24	6.72	-2.48	-36.90
Sweet peppers	lb	4.96	5.60	-0.64	-11.43
Textile material - cotton	yard	9.95	12.95	-3.00	-23.17
T-shirt, medium	each	16.95	24.88	-7.93	-31.87
Women's casual shoes	pair	39.95	50.00	-10.05	-20.10
Tiles 12.5 x 12.5	each	4.93	6.64	-1.71	-25.75
Dinner plate	each	5.95	7.07	-1.12	-15.84
Electric fan	each	176.95	195.90	-18.95	-9.67
Cat food	5.5oz tin	2.85	3.46	-0.61	-17.63
Mathematics text book	each	72.44	79.72	-7.28	-9.13
School meals - chicken lunch	each	8.00	10.00	-2.00	-20.00

Table 2.1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
January 2018 Compared With January 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		January 2018	January 2017		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.99	6.58	0.41	6.23
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.89	2.58	0.31	12.02
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.63	1.58	0.05	3.16
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.48	4.60	-0.12	-2.61
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.52	2.51	1.01	40.24
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Fish - Fresh (Robin)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.70	5.36	0.34	6.34
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.24	7.96	0.28	3.52
Codfish	Lb.	15.15	14.47	0.68	4.70
Cornflakes	12 oz	14.14	13.09	1.05	8.02
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.75	4.61	0.14	3.04
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.49	3.07	0.42	13.68
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	3.29	0.71	21.58
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.02	2.02	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.25	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	9.32	9.30	0.02	0.22
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.13	8.87	0.26	2.93
Sugar - Brown (loose)	Lb.	1.66	1.56	0.10	6.41
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	1.81	2.02	-0.21	-10.40
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.36	1.36	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.29	7.29	0.00	0.00
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.95	1.95	0.00	0.00
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.56	10.51	0.05	0.48
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.37	1.34	0.03	2.24
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.58	2.61	-0.03	-1.15
Eddoes	Lb.	2.39	2.67	-0.28	-10.49
Dasheens	Lb.	2.10	1.90	0.20	10.53
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.18	2.14	0.04	1.87
Oranges	Each	0.86	0.75	0.11	14.67
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.24	5.79	-1.55	-26.77
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.13	8.93	0.20	2.24
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.38	12.42	-0.04	-0.32
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.80	10.67	0.13	1.22
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.56	2.40	0.16	6.67
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.72	5.65	0.07	1.24

Table 2.2
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
January 2018 Compared With January 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		January 2018	January 2017		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.89	29.71	0.18	0.61
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.73	4.53	0.20	4.42
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.00	4.12	-0.12	-2.91
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	21.30	20.69	0.61	2.95
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Terelyne	Yd.	47.95	47.95	0.00	0.00
Textile material - Linen	Yd.	17.95	17.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	69.95	69.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Jeans (long) - size 30	Pair	49.95	49.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.79	79.79	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.77	89.77	0.00	0.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Blouse (cotton/Spandex)	Each	29.95	29.95	0.00	0.00
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY					
GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House - 2 Bedrooms	Month	567.86	567.86	0.00	0.00
Unfurnished House - 3 Bedrooms	Month	612.50	612.50	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment - 2 Bedrooms	Month	791.67	791.67	0.00	0.00
Cement - Portland (grey)	94 Lbs	20.89	23.16	-2.27	-9.80
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.28	86.62	9.66	11.15
Oil Paint	Gallon	112.87	95.00	17.87	18.81
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.20	69.07	0.13	0.19
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.52	37.50	0.02	0.05
Kerosene	1 Gallon	6.61	6.61	0.00	0.00
Charcoal	Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	37.52	34.00	3.52	10.35
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	117.04	112.99	4.05	3.58
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.88	1,162.88	0.00	0.00
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.84	52.76	3.08	5.84
Laundry Soap	Each	1.23	1.17	0.06	5.13
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.25	6.41	-0.16	-2.50

Table 2.3
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
January 2018 Compared With January 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		January 2018	January 2017		
HEALTH					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	Visit	60.00	60.00	0.00	0.00
Eye Care	Test	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Hospitalisation (Private Ward)	Day	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
Drugs for Hypertension	Month supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	Month supply	13.05	12.26	0.79	6.44
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.09	15.09	0.00	0.00
Dental Care	Visit	130.83	123.33	7.50	6.08
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	120.00	30.00	25.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.42	10.66	0.76	7.13
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	Year	190.00	590.00	-400.00	-67.80
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	One Way	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Boat Fare - Bequia	One Way	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNICATION					
Telephone Service - rental of line- domestic	Month	23.66	23.46	0.20	0.85
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet Charge	Month	102.14	101.70	0.44	0.43
Fixed Line Domestic Rate - peak	Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to Mobile - domestic	Minute	0.99	0.78	0.21	26.92
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,993.01	1,993.82	-0.81	-0.04
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,830.84	3,835.00	-4.16	-0.11
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,070.69	2,071.45	-0.76	-0.04
Remote Control Car	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.84	3.66	0.18	4.92
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	350.00	325.00	25.00	7.69

Table 2.4
Average Retail Price of Selected Items
January 2018 Compared With January 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		January 2018	January 2017		
EDUCATION					
Pre-Primary - Private	Month	217.50	215.00	2.50	1.16
Primary School Fee - Private	Term	825.00	825.00	0.00	0.00
Secondary School Fee - Private	Term	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Newspaper - Local	Each	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.78	0.78	0.00	0.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.87	0.86	0.01	1.16
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	79.72	76.19	3.53	4.63
Tuition for local evening classes	Per Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.39	13.86	0.53	3.82
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.51	13.86	1.65	11.90
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	17.05	16.85	0.20	1.19
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.56	3.53	0.03	0.85
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.09	9.04	0.05	0.55
Men's Haircut	Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing (Relaxer)	Visit	69.82	64.81	5.01	7.73
Disposable Diapers (medium)	10 per Pk.	12.96	12.92	0.04	0.31
Health Insurance - Group (family)	≥3 Persons	307.00	307.00	0.00	0.00
Legal Expenses (Affidavit)	Fee	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00

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

	Groups	Weight	December 2017	January 2018	January 2017	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month December	Year January
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.5	116.0	112.1	-0.4	3.5
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	118.0	119.2	116.8	1.0	2.1
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.1	104.5	104.8	-0.6	-0.3
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.4	100.9	99.5	0.5	1.4
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.0	111.2	103.1	0.2	7.9
06.	Health	1.79	109.2	109.5	107.6	0.3	1.8
07.	Transport	11.84	119.6	120.9	118.7	1.1	1.9
08.	Communication	9.41	111.9	112.2	106.8	0.3	5.1
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	105.0	104.4	103.9	-0.6	0.5
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	109.3	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	107.7	108.3	102.7	0.6	5.5
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	102.9	103.5	101.5	0.6	2.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.3	109.6	106.7	0.3	2.7

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for January 2018

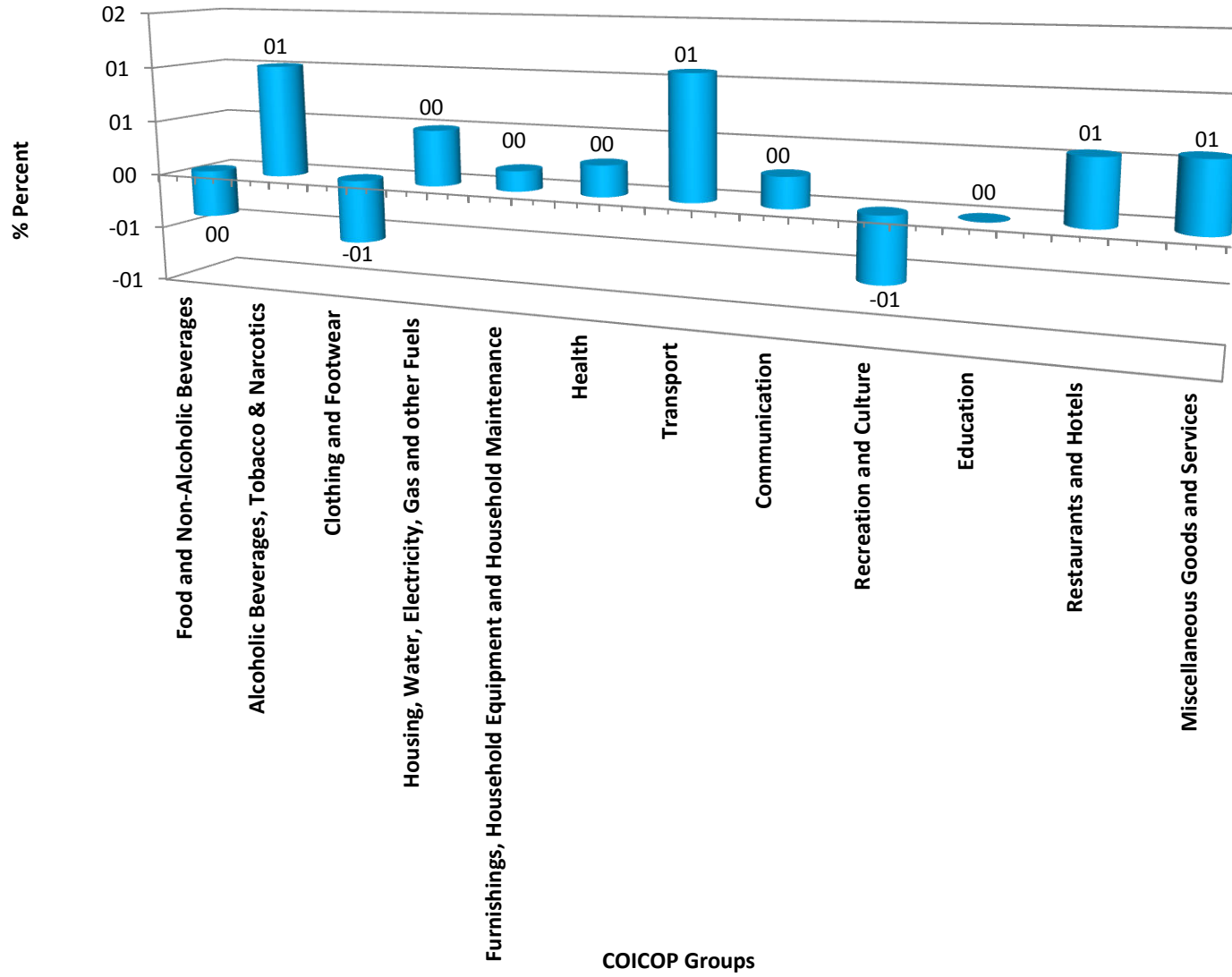


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	December 2017	January 2018	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						December 2017	January 2018		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.5	116.0	-0.4	2,552.52	2,541.56	-11.0	-36.5
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	118.0	119.2	1.0	456.66	461.30	4.6	15.5
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.1	104.5	-0.6	338.42	336.49	-1.9	-6.4
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.4	100.9	0.5	3,018.02	3,033.05	15.0	50.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.0	111.2	0.2	731.49	732.81	1.3	4.4
6.	Health	1.79	109.2	109.5	0.3	195.47	196.01	0.5	1.8
7.	Transport	11.84	119.6	120.9	1.1	1,416.06	1,431.46	15.4	51.3
8.	Communication	9.41	111.9	112.2	0.3	1,052.98	1,055.80	2.8	9.4
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	105.0	104.4	-0.6	400.05	397.76	-2.3	-7.6
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	0.0	145.33	145.33	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	107.7	108.3	0.6	201.40	202.52	1.1	3.7
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	102.9	103.5	0.6	443.50	446.09	2.6	8.6
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.3	109.6	0.3	10,930.00	10,960.00	30.0	100.0

Monthly Index - 2016
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	Restaurants & Hotels	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	109.6	116.0	119.2	104.5	100.9	111.2	109.5	120.9	112.2	104.4	110.1	108.3	103.5