



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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**March 2013**

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## MARCH 2013

The Consumer Price Index registered an increase of 0.4 percent for the month of March 2013. The “All Items” index stood at 107.8 compared with 107.4 for the month of February 2013. The “point-to-point” inflation rate was recorded as 1.7 percent.

Three (3) groups recorded an increase during the month; “Health” (1.3 percent), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (1.0 percent) and “Transport” (0.7 percent). Two (2) groups recorded a decrease during the month: “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” (0.3 percent), and “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.3 percent). Seven (7) groups remained unchanged: “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education”, “Restaurants and Hotels” and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services”.

The 1.3 percent increase for the group index “Health” was attributed to a 20.0 percent rise in the price of a consultation fee for a paediatrician.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” increased by 1.0 percent as a result of a 6.3 percent increase in the cost of electricity. The increase in the price of electricity was due to a rise in the fuel surcharge rate from 50.13 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February 2013 to 56.43 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2013.

The “Transport” group index increased by 0.6 percent because of higher prices for the following; air fares from St. Vincent to New York (18.8 percent), St. Vincent to London (17.7 percent) St. Vincent to Canouan (8.0 percent) and St. Vincent to Union Island (7.7 percent).

The group index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” declined by 0.3 percent due mainly to decreases in the price of several food items; fresh fish- robin (20.0 percent), fresh fish – deep sea (11.1 percent), coconuts (11.7 percent), tannias (8.4 percent), carrots (4.0 percent), sweet potatoes (3.9 percent) and malt (2.1 percent).

Meanwhile the group index “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” recorded a 0.3 percent decline due to lower prices for stout (1.7 percent) and local beer (1.3 percent).

**TABLE 1**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**

ITEM	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2013	FEBRUARY 2013		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Cornmeal	Lb	2.72	2.63	0.09	3.42
Pig tail - salted	Lb	6.47	6.19	0.28	4.52
Turkey wings	Lb	3.12	3.08	0.04	1.30
Chicken Franks	340g Pk	5.38	5.28	0.10	1.89
Powdered Milk - Full cream	Lb	7.53	7.28	0.25	3.43
Mozarella cheese	Lb	13.09	12.46	0.63	5.06
Cucumber	Lb	3.24	2.83	0.41	14.49
English Potatoes	Lb	2.29	2.24	0.05	2.23
Red Kidney Beans - loose	Lb	5.37	4.93	0.44	8.92
Orange Juice	1 Litre Bottle	6.18	6.08	0.10	1.64
Electricity consumption charge	140 KWH	149.00	140.18	8.82	6.29
Rum - (Red)	750ml Bottle	25.33	24.07	1.26	5.23
Doctor's Fee - Paediatrician	1 Visit	60.00	50.00	10.00	20.00
Passenger transport by air from St Vincent to					
St.Lucia	One way	422.74	377.38	45.36	12.02
New York	One month	2562.70	2158.50	404.20	18.73
London	One month	4564.80	3878.20	686.60	17.70
Canouan	One way	135.00	125.00	10.00	8.00
Union Island	One way	140.00	130.00	10.00	7.69
Dog food	2 Kg	26.20	25.05	1.15	4.59
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb	8.00	9.00	-1.00	-11.11
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Coconuts	Each	1.28	1.45	-0.17	-11.72
Pumpkins	Lb	2.26	2.40	-0.14	-5.83
Soy sauce	10oz Bottle	8.56	8.84	-0.28	-3.17
Sweet Peppers	Lb	6.21	6.56	-0.35	-5.34
Sweet Potatoes	Lb	1.97	2.05	-0.08	-3.90
Tannias	Lb	2.85	3.11	-0.26	-8.36
Carrots	Lb	3.64	3.79	-0.15	-3.96
Vitamalt	310ml Bottle	5.61	5.73	-0.12	-2.09
Stout	275ml Bottle	5.65	5.75	-0.10	-1.74
Beer - Local	280ml Bottle	4.46	4.52	-0.06	-1.33
Spark plugs	Each	14.87	16.52	-1.65	-9.99

**TABLE 2**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2013 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2012**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2013	MARCH 2012		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.17	6.17	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	3.05	3.00	0.05	1.67
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.68	1.71	-0.03	-1.75
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.87	4.83	0.04	0.83
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.12	3.87	-0.75	-19.38
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	8.00	9.00	-1.00	-11.11
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	3.50	1.50	42.86
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.38	5.04	0.34	6.75
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.79	7.51	0.28	3.73
Codfish	Lb.	14.31	14.01	0.30	2.14
Cornflakes	12 oz	11.88	12.00	-0.12	-1.00
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.21	4.21	0.00	0.00
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.22	3.16	0.06	1.90
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.57	3.57	0.00	0.00
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.99	1.93	0.06	3.11
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.20	0.05	1.19
Eggs	Doz	8.67	8.89	-0.22	-2.47
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	7.03	6.72	0.31	4.61
Brown Sugar	Lb.	1.54	1.42	0.12	8.45
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	2.16	2.21	-0.05	-2.26
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.43	1.32	0.11	8.33
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2 kg	6.75	6.67	0.08	1.20
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2 kg	7.39	7.10	0.29	4.08
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.78	1.79	-0.01	-0.56
Rice - Package	2 kg	9.20	9.20	0.00	0.00
Bananas	Lb.	1.13	1.16	-0.03	-2.59
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.42	2.23	0.19	8.52
Eddoes	Lb.	2.42	2.04	0.38	18.63
Dasheens	Lb.	1.95	1.82	0.13	7.14
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	1.97	1.96	0.01	0.51
Oranges	Each	0.83	0.73	0.10	13.70
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.92	3.31	0.61	18.43
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	8.05	7.40	0.65	8.78
Vegetable Oil	1 Litre	10.55	10.72	-0.17	-1.59
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	9.82	9.54	0.28	2.94
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.19	2.25	-0.06	-2.67
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.61	5.09	0.52	10.22

**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2013 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2012**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2013	MARCH 2012		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (white)	750 ml Bot.	28.53	28.74	-0.21	-0.73
Beer - Local	280ml Bottle	4.46	4.01	0.45	11.22
Cigarettes - Local	Pkt. (10)	3.47	2.78	0.69	24.82
Gonsalves Black Wine	26 oz Bottle	17.52	17.22	0.30	1.74
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>					
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	64.95	5.00	7.70
Men's Jeans ( long) - size 30	Each	34.28	35.73	-1.45	-4.06
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.95	79.95	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	100.00	89.95	10.05	11.17
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit ( polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Blouse ( cotton/Spandex)	Each	24.51	25.00	-0.49	-1.96
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
Rent :					
Unfurnished house -2 Bedroom	1Month	546.43	546.43	0.00	0.00
Unfurnished house -3 Bedroom	1Month	612.50	612.50	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment- 2 Bedroom	1Month	791.67	791.67	0.00	0.00
Cement - Portland ( grey)	94 Lbs	24.62	24.62	0.00	0.00
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	1 Length	86.38	86.38	0.00	0.00
Oil Paint	1 Gal.	110.00	97.00	13.00	13.40
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	1 Length	69.69	69.70	-0.01	-0.01
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gals.	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gal.	13.38	12.59	0.79	6.27
Charcoal	1 Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	44.56	44.56	0.00	0.00
Electricity consumption charge	140 KWH	149.00	143.82	5.18	3.60
<b>FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.50	1,162.50	0.00	0.00
Sheets -double - coloured/cotton	Each	88.80	88.80	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	52.76	52.76	0.00	0.00
Laundry soap	Each	1.14	1.18	-0.04	-3.39
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	5.27	4.98	0.29	5.82

**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2013 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2012**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2013	MARCH 2012		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	1 Visit	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
Eye Care	1 Test	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Hospitalisation (Private Ward)	1 Day	75.00	75.00	0.00	0.00
Drug for Hypertension	1 Mth supply	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00
Drug for Diabetes	1 Mth supply	14.18	14.18	0.00	0.00
Cough, cold preparation	125 ml.	15.53	15.41	0.12	0.78
Dental Care	1 Visit	112.50	99.17	13.33	13.44
Chest X- ray	1 Test	110.00	100.00	10.00	10.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	1 Gal.	15.06	13.90	1.16	8.35
Vehicle License (car) - ≤ 2000 cc	1 Year	470.00	470.00	0.00	0.00
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	One Way	3.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Boat Fare - Bequia	One Way	25.00	20.00	5.00	25.00
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
Telephone service - rental of line- domestic	1 Month	23.46	23.46	0.00	0.00
Telephone - Consumption Charge	226 Units	18.08	18.08	0.00	0.00
Internet charge	1 Month	101.70	101.70	0.00	0.00
Fixed Line domestic rate- peak	1 Minute	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00
Mobile to mobile- domestic	1 Minute	0.81	0.81	0.00	0.00
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,999.03	1,999.00	0.03	0.00
Cable TV Basic Charge	1 Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	4,640.55	4,640.48	0.07	0.00
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	1,899.03	1,899.00	0.03	0.00
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.81	2.93	0.88	30.03
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	250.00	300.00	-50.00	-16.67



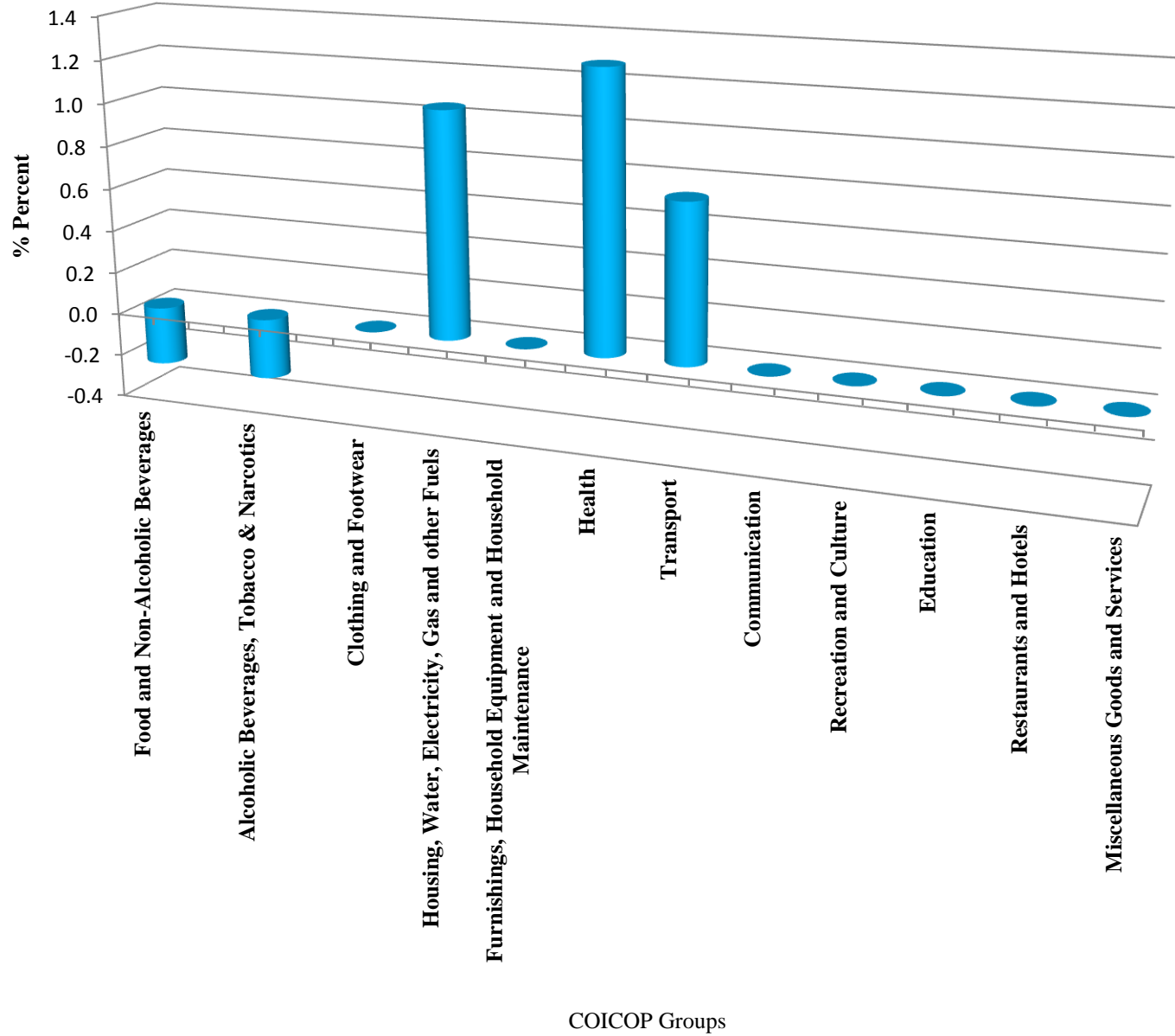
**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2013 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2012**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2013	MARCH 2012		
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
Pre-Primary - Private	1 Month	205.00	205.00	0.00	0.00
Primary School Fee - Private	1 Term	650.00	650.00	0.00	0.00
Secondary School Fee - Private	1 Term	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Newspaper - Local	Each	1.33	1.33	0.00	0.00
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.85	0.60	0.25	41.67
Lead Pencils	Each	0.92	0.55	0.37	67.27
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	69.87	77.00	-7.13	-9.26
Tuition for local evening classes	1 Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
<b>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.28	14.28	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.87	15.87	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	15.45	15.45	0.00	0.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.39	3.34	0.05	1.50
Toothpaste	130g tube	8.98	8.96	0.02	0.22
Men's Haircut	1 Visit	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Women's Hairdressing ( Relaxer)	1 Visit	64.81	64.81	0.00	0.00
Disposable Diapers medium	10 per Pk.	12.94	12.90	0.04	0.31
Health Insurance - group (family)	≥3 Persons	278.70	278.70	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**

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2013	MARCH 2013	MARCH 2012	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH FEBRUARY	YEAR MARCH
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	110.4	110.1	108.1	-0.3	1.9
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	106.3	106.0	102.0	-0.3	3.9
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	103.3	0.0	1.6
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.8	105.9	105.1	1.0	0.8
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	100.3	100.3	99.3	0.0	1.0
06.	Health	1.79	101.4	102.7	98.3	1.3	4.5
07.	Transport	11.84	123.1	124.0	117.0	0.7	6.0
08.	Communication	9.41	104.0	104.0	104.0	0.0	0.0
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.7	102.7	102.0	0.0	0.7
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	108.6	0.0	0.9
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.0	103.0	102.6	0.0	0.4
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.4	100.4	101.0	0.0	-0.6
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	107.4	107.8	106.0	0.4	1.7

COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2013



**TABLE 4**  
**THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS**  
**JANUARY 2010 = 100**  
**CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE**

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2013	MARCH 2013	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						FEBRUARY 2013	MARCH 2013		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	110.4	110.1	-0.3	2,418.86	2,412.29	-6.6	-16.4
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	106.2	106.0	-0.2	410.99	410.22	-0.8	-1.9
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.0	105.0	0.0	338.10	338.10	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.8	105.9	1.0	3,150.29	3,183.35	33.1	82.7
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	100.3	100.3	0.0	660.98	660.98	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	101.4	102.7	1.3	181.51	183.83	2.3	5.8
7.	Transport	11.84	123.1	124.0	0.7	1,457.50	1,468.16	10.7	26.6
8.	Communication	9.41	104.0	104.0	0.0	978.64	978.64	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.7	102.7	0.0	391.29	391.29	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.6	109.6	0.0	144.67	144.67	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.0	103.0	0.0	192.61	192.61	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.4	100.4	0.0	432.72	432.72	0.0	0.0
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>10,740.00</b>	<b>10,780.00</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**MONTHLY INDEX - 2013**  
**JANUARY 2010 = 100**

GROUP	ALL ITEMS	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages Tobacco & Narcotics	Clothing & Footwear	Housing Water Electricity Gas and Fuels	Furnishings Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	Health	Transport	Communi-cation	Recreation and Culture	Education	Restaurants and 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	107.6	109.9	106.1	105.0	105.5	99.6	101.1	124.3	104.0	102.7	109.6	103.0	100.5
February	107.4	110.4	106.3	105.0	104.8	100.3	101.4	123.1	104.0	102.7	109.6	103.0	100.4
March	107.8	110.1	106.0	105.0	105.9	100.3	102.7	124.0	104.0	102.7	109.6	103.0	100.4