



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



**THE STATISTICAL OFFICE  
CENTRAL PLANNING DIVISION  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE & PLANNING  
ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

*Tel: 784 457 2921, 456 1111 Ext 592/377,*

*Fax: 784 456 2430,*

*Email: [svg.stats@mail.gov.vc](mailto:svg.stats@mail.gov.vc)*

*Website: <http://www.stats.gov.vc>*

**Vol. 5 No.5**

**May 2015**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Analysis –	1
Table No.	
1 Average Retail Price of Selected Items	3
2 Average Retail Price of Selected Items MAY 2015 compared With MAY 2014	4
3 The Consumer Price Index by main groups	8
4 The Consumer Price Index contribution to change by Groups	10
5 Monthly Items by Group	11
Chart No.	
1 COICOP Percentage Change for the Month of MAY 2015	9

\* \* \*

## MAY 2015

The Consumer Price Index registered a decrease of 0.2 percent for the month of May 2015. The “All Items” index was recorded at 105.4 for the month of May in comparison to 105.6 for the month of April 2015. The “point-to-point” inflation rate was recorded as negative 1.8 percent.

Six (6) groups recorded decreases during the month: “Communication” (1.2 percent), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.5 percent), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.3 percent), “Recreation and Culture” (0.2 percent), “Restaurants and Hotels” (0.1 percent), and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1 percent). Three (3) groups recorded increases during the month: “Transport” (0.8 percent), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.2 percent) and “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.2 percent). Three (3) groups remained unchanged: “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health” and “Education”.

The “Communication” index declined by 1.2 percent due to a decrease in mobile rates. The rates per minute for calls from mobile to mobile cellular phones and from mobile to fixed line telephones from St Vincent and the Grenadines to the Caribbean, declined by 24.2 percent respectively.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” decreased by 0.5 percent due to a reduction in the cost of electricity by 2.6 percent and the price of varnish by 6.2 percent. The lower cost of electricity resulted from a decrease in the fuel surcharge rate which moved from 34.47 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of April 2015 to 32.24 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of May 2015.

The decline of 0.3 percent in the index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” is due mainly to a decrease in the prices of several food items: fish – jacks (20.0 percent), black eye peas (16.7 percent), eddoes (12.8 percent), oats (11.2 percent), red kidney beans (8.7 percent), powdered milk – full cream (8.2 percent), lettuce (6.4 percent) and pig feet (4.3 percent).

The “Recreation and Culture” index decreased by 0.2 percent as a result of a reduction in the price of an adult carnival costume (8.3 percent)

The “Restaurants and Hotels” group index decreased by 0.1 percent as a result of a 16.7 percent decline in the price of a school meal, particularly, a chicken lunch.

The 0.1 percent decline in the group index for “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” is due mainly to a 6.5 percent decrease in the price of a pair of gold hoop earrings.

The index for “Transport” grew by 0.8 percent as a result of increases in the price of petrol and passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to a few destinations. The price for petrol increased by 5.6 percent, while, the airfares from St Vincent and the Grenadines to Barbados and London increased by 37.3 percent and 16.1 percent respectively.

The 0.2 percent growth in the index for “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” is due mainly to an increase in the price of dry gin (5.9 percent), cigarette (4.9 percent), Hennessy (2.3 percent) and Johnny Walker (1.7 percent).

Similarly, the index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” increased by 0.2 percent due to increases in the price for a disinfectant (15.7 percent) and a laundry soap (2.6 percent).

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

ITEM	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MAY 2015	APRIL 2015		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Petrol	1 gal.	11.45	10.84	0.61	5.63
Passenger airfare from St Vincent to:					
Barbados	1 way	491.00	357.75	133.25	37.25
London	1 month	4723.90	4070.04	653.86	16.07
Hennessy	700ml bottle	103.84	101.55	2.29	2.26
Johnny Walker black label	750ml bottle	101.78	100.08	1.70	1.70
Dry gin	750ml bottle	51.21	48.38	2.83	5.85
Cigarette - empire	pkt of 10	3.64	3.47	0.17	4.90
Laundry soap	Each	1.17	1.14	0.03	2.63
Dishwashing liquid	450ml bottle	8.20	8.06	0.14	1.74
Disinfectant	30oz bottle	5.15	4.45	0.70	15.73
Spaghetti	340g box	5.95	4.94	1.01	20.45
Sweet pepper	Lb	6.02	5.20	0.82	15.77
Vegetable soup	45g pkt	4.15	3.30	0.85	25.76
Carrots	Lb	3.55	3.22	0.33	10.25
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Mobile to mobile - Caribbean	1 minute	0.69	0.91	-0.22	-24.18
Mobile to fixed line - Caribbean	1 minute	0.69	0.91	-0.22	-24.18
Varnish	1 gal.	124.99	133.25	-8.26	-6.20
Electricity	140Kwh	115.14	118.26	-3.12	-2.64
Carnival costume - adult	Each	275.00	300.00	-25.00	-8.33
School meals - chicken	Each	10.00	12.00	-2.00	-16.67
Earring - gold, hoop	1 pair	415.64	444.42	-28.78	-6.48
Milk - powdered, full cream	Lb	7.49	8.16	-0.67	-8.21
Eddoes	Lb	2.24	2.57	-0.33	-12.84
Fish - jacks	Lb	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Black eye peas	400g Pkt	6.60	7.92	-1.32	-16.67
Red kidney beans	400g PKt	6.32	6.92	-0.60	-8.67
Lettuce	Head	4.84	5.17	-0.33	-6.38
Pig feet	Lb	4.19	4.38	-0.19	-4.34
Oats	500g Pkt	3.95	4.45	-0.50	-11.24

**TABLE 2**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MAY 2015 COMPARED WITH MAY 2014**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MAY 2015	MAY 2014		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.25	6.24	0.01	0.16
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.65	2.87	-0.22	-7.67
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.63	1.65	-0.02	-1.21
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.69	4.87	-0.18	-3.70
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.52	3.45	0.07	2.03
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	4.00	5.00	-1.00	-20.00
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.34	5.35	-0.01	-0.19
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.60	7.74	-0.14	-1.81
Codfish	Lb.	14.84	13.86	0.98	7.07
Cornflakes	12 oz	12.73	12.27	0.46	3.75
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.14	4.17	-0.03	-0.72
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.37	3.27	0.10	3.06
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.54	3.54	0.00	0.00
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.99	1.99	0.00	0.00
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.25	4.25	0.00	0.00
Eggs	Doz	8.64	8.64	0.00	0.00
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	7.85	7.49	0.36	4.81
Sugar - Brown ( loose)	Lb.	1.42	1.46	-0.04	-2.74
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	1.73	1.83	-0.10	-5.46
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.40	1.41	-0.01	-0.71
Flour - Packaged ( white)	2 kg	6.75	6.75	0.00	0.00
Flour - Packaged ( wholewheat)	2 kg	7.39	7.39	0.00	0.00
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.78	1.78	0.00	0.00
Rice - Package	2 kg	9.20	9.20	0.00	0.00
Bananas	Lb.	1.32	1.31	0.01	0.76
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.66	2.69	-0.03	-1.12
Eddoes	Lb.	2.24	1.55	0.69	44.52
Dasheens	Lb.	1.77	1.58	0.19	12.03
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.10	1.88	0.22	11.70
Oranges	Each	0.82	0.86	-0.04	-4.65
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.41	3.12	0.29	9.29
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	7.83	7.87	-0.04	-0.51
Vegetable Oil	1 Litre	10.61	10.51	0.10	0.95
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.60	10.44	0.16	1.53
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.26	2.24	0.02	0.89
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.60	5.66	-0.06	-1.06

**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MAY 2015 COMPARED WITH MAY 2014**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MAY 2015	MAY 2014		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.02	29.02	0.00	0.00
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.48	4.50	-0.02	-0.44
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	3.64	3.47	0.17	4.90
Table wine ( local )	26 oz Bot.	18.70	18.23	0.47	2.58
<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	69.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Jeans ( long) - size 30	Each	39.95	34.07	5.88	17.26
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.95	79.95	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit ( polyester) large	Each	100.00	100.55	-0.55	-0.55
Women's Blouse ( cotton/Spandex)	Each	25.00	24.65	0.35	1.42
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
Rent :					
Unfurnished House -2 Bedrooms	1Mth	546.43	546.43	0.00	0.00
Unfurnished House -3 Bedrooms	1Mth	612.50	612.50	0.00	0.00
Furnished Apartment - 2 Bedrooms	1Mth	791.67	791.67	0.00	0.00
Cement - Portland ( grey)	94 Lbs	24.90	24.90	0.00	0.00
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	1 Length	86.38	86.38	0.00	0.00
Oil Paint	1 Gal.	105.00	110.00	-5.00	-4.55
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	1 Length	68.08	67.10	0.98	1.46
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gals.	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gal.	12.40	13.93	-1.53	-10.98
Charcoal	1 Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	31.25	44.56	-13.31	-29.87
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	115.14	146.68	-31.54	-21.50
<b>FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.50	1,162.50	0.00	0.00
Double size sheets - 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	1.17	1.10	0.07	6.36
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	5.94	5.42	0.52	9.59



**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MAY 2015 COMPARED WITH MAY 2014**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MAY 2015	MAY 2014		
<b>HEALTH</b>					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	1 Visit	60.00	50.00	10.00	20.00
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	13.16	13.70	-0.54	-3.94
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.58	15.52	0.06	0.39
Dental Care	1 Visit	123.33	114.17	9.16	8.02
Chest X-ray	1 Test	120.00	110.00	10.00	9.09
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	1 Gal.	11.45	14.34	-2.89	-20.15
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	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	25.00	0.00	0.00
<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	0.80	0.73	0.07	9.59
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,999.00	1,999.00	0.00	0.00
Cable TV Basic Charge	1 Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3,832.24	3,499.00	333.24	9.52
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2,071.45	1,891.32	180.13	9.52
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.32	3.17	0.15	4.73
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	275.00	300.00	-25.00	-8.33

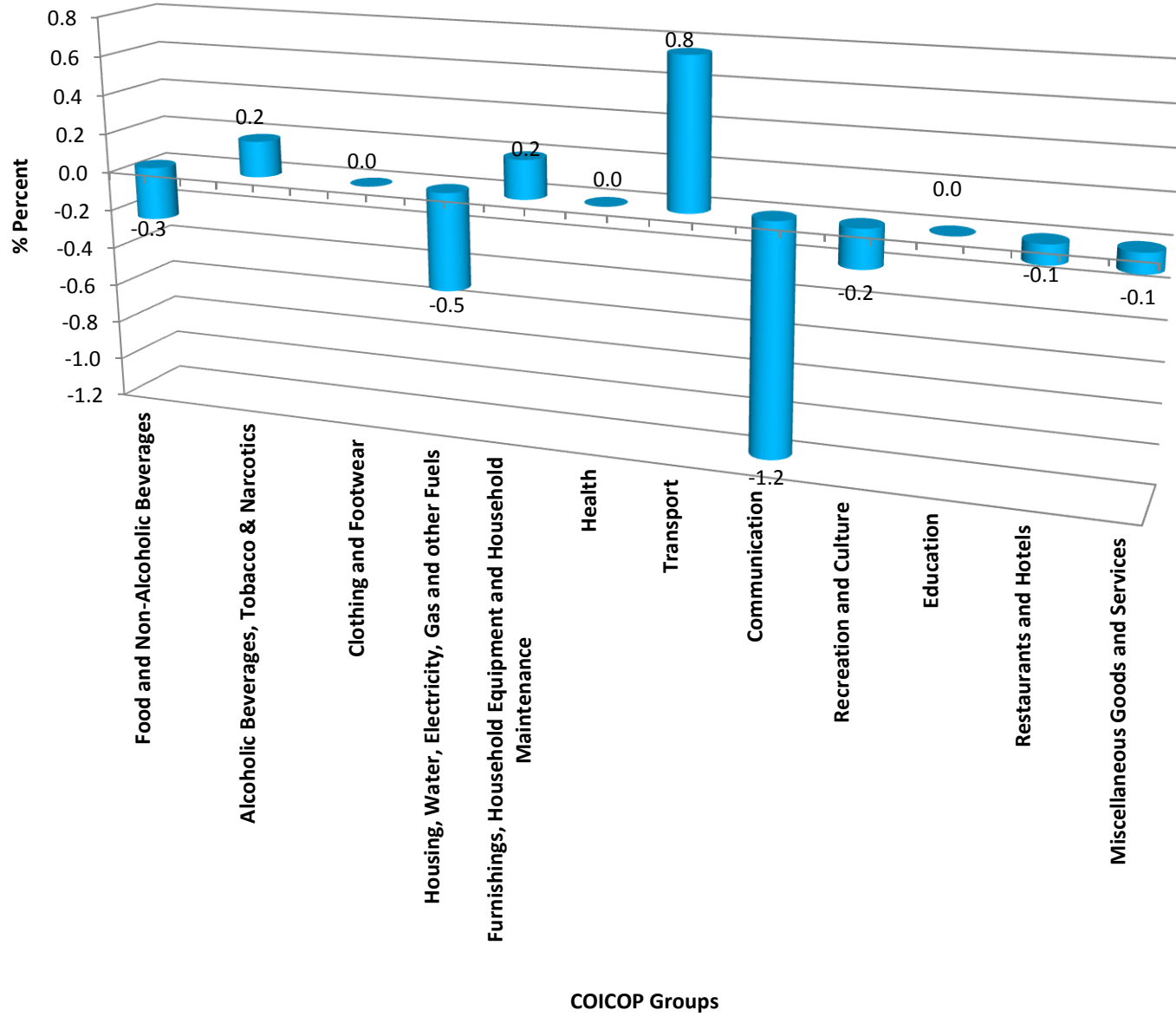
**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MAY 2015 COMPARED WITH MAY 2014**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MAY 2015	MAY 2014		
<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	1.50	1.33	0.17	12.78
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.85	0.85	0.00	0.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.92	0.92	0.00	0.00
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	80.16	73.72	6.44	8.74
Tuition for local evening classes	1 Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
<b>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	13.86	13.86	0.00	0.00
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.10	15.10	0.00	0.00
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	16.85	16.85	0.00	0.00
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.48	3.46	0.02	0.58
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.05	9.04	0.01	0.11
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.	12.73	12.83	-0.10	-0.79
Health Insurance - Group (family)	≥3 Ppersons	307.00	278.70	28.30	9.22
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	APRIL 2015	MAY 2015	MAY 2014	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH APRIL	YEAR MAY
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	110.6	110.3	111.5	-0.3	-1.1
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.3	109.5	108.8	0.2	0.6
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	102.8	102.8	105.5	0.0	-2.6
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.0	99.5	105.5	-0.5	-5.7
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.6	101.8	101.0	0.2	0.8
06.	Health	1.79	105.0	105.0	103.0	0.0	1.9
07.	Transport	11.84	119.5	120.4	123.3	0.8	-2.4
08.	Communication	9.41	102.0	100.8	96.5	-1.2	4.5
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.6	102.4	102.9	-0.2	-0.5
10.	Education	1.32	109.0	109.0	109.3	0.0	-0.3
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.3	103.2	103.0	-0.1	0.2
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.1	101.0	100.7	-0.1	0.3
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	105.6	105.4	107.3	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

Chart 1: COICOP Groups Percentage Change for May 2015



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

	GROUP	WEIGHT	APRIL 2015	MAY 2015	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						APRIL 2015	MAY 2015		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	110.6	110.3	-0.3	2,423.25	2,416.67	-6.6	32.9
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.3	109.5	0.2	422.99	423.77	0.8	-3.9
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	102.8	102.8	0.0	331.02	331.02	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.0	99.5	-0.5	3,006.00	2,990.97	-15.0	75.2
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.6	101.8	0.2	669.54	670.86	1.3	-6.6
6.	Health	1.79	105.0	105.0	0.0	187.95	187.95	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	119.5	120.4	0.8	1,414.88	1,425.54	10.7	-53.3
8.	Communication	9.41	102.0	100.8	-1.2	959.82	948.53	-11.3	56.5
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.6	102.4	-0.2	390.91	390.14	-0.8	3.8
10.	Education	1.32	109.0	109.0	0.0	143.88	143.88	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.3	103.2	-0.1	193.17	192.98	-0.2	0.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	101.1	101.0	-0.1	435.74	435.31	-0.4	2.2
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>105.6</b>	<b>105.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>10,560.00</b>	<b>10,540.00</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**MONTHLY INDEX - 2015**  
**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	Communication	Recreation & Culture	Education	Restaurants & Hotels	Miscellaneous 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	107.5	112.9	109.1	102.8	103.5	101.6	102.8	124.5	100.3	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.0
February	106.0	112.3	109.6	102.8	99.7	101.2	104.0	121.5	102.0	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.0
March	105.5	111.9	109.6	102.8	98.8	101.3	104.0	119.9	102.0	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.1
April	105.6	110.6	109.3	102.8	100.0	101.6	105.0	119.5	102.0	102.6	109.0	103.3	101.1
May	105.4	110.3	109.5	102.8	99.5	101.8	105.0	120.4	100.8	102.4	109.0	103.2	101.0