



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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Vol. 2 No. 3

March 2012

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MARCH 2012

The Consumer Price Index registered an increase of 0.1 percent for the month of March 2012. The “All Items” index stood at 106.0 compared with 105.9 recorded in February 2012. The “point-to-point” inflation rate was recorded as 3.9 percent.

Four (4) groups recorded increases during the month: “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels” (1.2 percent), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” (0.4 percent), “Clothing and Footwear” (0.1 percent) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1 percent). Four (4) groups recorded decrease during the month: “Transport” (1.5 percent), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.3 percent), “Furnishing, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1 percent) and “Recreation and Culture” (0.1 percent). Four (4) groups remained unchanged: “Health”, “Communication”, “Education” and “Restaurants and Hotels”.

The group index for “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics” recorded an upward movement of 0.4 percent as a result of increased prices for several items, namely: cigarette imported - imported (3.1 percent), white rum - local (2.8 percent), black wine (0.9 percent) and stout (0.8 percent).

The “Clothing and Footwear” group index increased by 0.1 percent which was attributed mainly to a 16.7 percent increase in school blouse (cotton). The “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” index increase by 0.1 percent due mainly to an increase of 37.4 percent in combs and 1.2 percent increase in body lotion.

The 1.2 percent increase in the group index for “Housing, Water, electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” is accounted for mainly by the 2.07 percent increase in the sub-group electricity. This increase was due to a higher fuel surcharge rate of 52.7 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March, compared to 50.7 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February. Water rates which consist of basic and consumption charges increased by 19.0 percent. There were also increases for building cement - grey (11.6 percent), galvanise sheets – 10 feet (7.2 percent), steel rods - rough, 1/2 inch (5.2 percent) and wooden pine doors without glass (4.2 percent).

The “Transport” index declined by 1.5 percent due to a decrease in passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to several destinations, namely; Barbados (28.0 percent), St. Lucia (14.5 percent) and Trinidad and Tobago (29.6 percent).

The “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” group index recorded a 0.3 percent decline as a result of lower prices for several food items namely; tomatoes (14.9 percent), sweet pepper (12.8 percent), mustard (11.7 percent), green banana (10.9 percent), yams (9.7 percent), chicken neck (7.0 percent), grapefruit juice (6.7 percent), plantains (6.0 percent), christophene (4.3 percent) and chicken - whole legs (3.2 percent).

TABLE 1
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS

ITEM	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2012	FEBRUARY 2012		
INCREASED					
White rum - local	750 ml Bot.	28.74	27.96	0.78	2.79
Black Wine	26 oz Bot.	17.22	17.07	0.15	0.88
Mackeson Stout - not cold	275 ml Bot.	5.22	5.18	0.04	0.77
Cigarette - Local	Pkt. (10)	2.78	2.65	0.13	4.91
Cigarette - Imported	Pkt. (10)	3.33	3.23	0.10	3.10
School Blouse - Cotton	Each	20.95	17.95	3.00	16.71
Building Cement - grey	94 Lb	24.62	22.07	2.55	11.55
Steel Rods - rough, 1/2"	1 length	19.97	18.99	0.98	5.16
Galvanise Sheets - 10 ft	1 length	86.38	80.56	5.82	7.22
Wooden Pine Door - without glass	Each	250.00	240.00	10.00	4.17
Water Domestic Supply					
Basic Charges	1 Month	25.00	20.00	5.00	25.00
Consumption	2500 gals	16.25	13.75	2.50	18.18
Consumption	5000 gals	37.50	32.50	5.00	15.38
Electricity	140 Kwh	143.82	140.91	2.91	2.07
Combs	Each	2.03	1.89	0.14	7.41
Body Lotion	10 fl oz Bot.	14.13	13.96	0.17	1.22
DECREASED					
Chicken - Whole Legs	Lb.	3.32	3.43	-0.11	-3.21
Chicken - Neck	Lb.	1.60	1.72	-0.12	-6.98
Plantains	Lb.	1.26	1.34	-0.08	-5.97
Christophene	Lb.	3.31	3.46	-0.15	-4.34
Green Banana	Lb.	0.82	0.92	-0.10	-10.87
Yams	Lb.	2.51	2.78	-0.27	-9.71
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.31	3.89	-0.58	-14.91
Sweet Pepper	Lb.	5.71	6.55	-0.84	-12.82
Mustard	16oz bot.	3.40	3.85	-0.45	-11.69
Grapefruit Juice	1 Litre	6.45	6.91	-0.46	-6.66
Wall Nails	Lb.	6.16	6.66	-0.50	-7.51
Fork	each	3.46	3.73	-0.27	-7.24
Teacup and Saucer	1 pair	3.95	4.95	-1.00	-20.20
Windex	768 ml bot.	19.45	22.16	-2.71	-12.23
Petrol - Unleaded	1 gal.	13.90	14.66	-0.76	-5.18
Passenger airfare - St. Vincent to:					
Barbados	1 month	231.30	321.30	-90.00	-28.01
St. Lucia	1 Way	235.30	275.05	-39.75	-14.45
Trinidad and Tobago	1 Way	262.70	373.28	-110.58	-29.62

TABLE 2
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2012 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2011

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.17	6.12	0.05	0.82
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	3.00	2.63	0.37	14.07
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.71	1.57	0.14	8.92
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.83	4.60	0.23	5.00
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.87	3.69	0.18	4.88
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	3.50	2.68	0.82	30.60
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	5.00	2.50	2.50	100.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.04	5.03	0.01	0.20
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.51	7.36	0.15	2.04
Codfish	Lb.	14.01	12.66	1.35	10.66
Cornflakes	12 oz	12.00	11.81	0.19	1.61
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.21	3.64	0.57	15.66
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.16	2.76	0.40	14.49
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.57	3.25	0.32	9.85
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	1.93	1.84	0.09	4.89
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.20	4.10	0.10	2.44
Eggs	Doz	8.89	8.51	0.38	4.47
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	6.72	6.65	0.07	1.05
Brown Sugar	Lb.	1.42	1.29	0.13	10.08
Sugar - White (loose)	Lb.	2.21	1.91	0.30	15.71
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.32	1.18	0.14	11.86
Flour - Packaged (white)	2 kg	6.67	6.75	-0.08	-1.19
Flour - Packaged (wholewheat)	2 kg	7.10	7.13	-0.03	-0.42
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.79	1.79	0.00	0.00
Rice - Package	2 kg	9.20	9.23	-0.03	-0.33
Bananas	Lb.	1.16	1.24	-0.08	-6.45
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.23	1.97	0.26	13.20
Eddoes	Lb.	2.04	2.28	-0.24	-10.53
Dasheens	Lb.	1.82	2.15	-0.33	-15.35
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	1.96	2.22	-0.26	-11.71
Oranges	Each	0.73	0.83	-0.10	-12.05
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.31	3.47	-0.16	-4.61
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	7.40	7.50	-0.10	-1.33
Vegetable Oil	1 Litre	10.72	9.56	1.16	12.13
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	9.54	8.98	0.56	6.24
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.25	2.11	0.14	6.64
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.09	5.08	0.01	0.20

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2012 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2011

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (white)	750 ml Bot.	28.74	26.87	1.87	6.96
Beer - Local	280ml Bottle	4.01	4.10	-0.09	-2.20
Cigarettes - Local	Pkt. (10)	2.78	2.73	0.05	1.83
Gonsalves Black Wine	26 oz Bottle	17.22	16.56	0.66	3.99
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR					
Textile material - Terelyne	Yd.	47.95	47.95	0.00	0.00
Textile material - Linen	Yd.	17.95	16.95	1.00	5.90
Men's Shirts - Long Sleeve	Each	64.95	64.95	0.00	0.00
Men's Jeans (long) - size 30	Each	35.73	35.00	0.73	2.09
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.95	89.95	-10.00	-11.12
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	89.95	89.95	0.00	0.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit (polyester) large	Each	100.00	89.95	10.05	11.17
Women's Blouse (cotton/Spandex)	Each	25.00	20.00	5.00	25.00
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS					
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	21.74	2.88	13.25
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	1 Length	86.38	80.56	5.82	7.22
Oil Paint	1 Gal.	97.00	90.43	6.57	7.27
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	1 Length	69.70	68.75	0.95	1.38
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gals.	37.50	32.50	5.00	15.38
Kerosene	1 Gal.	12.59	10.40	2.19	21.06
Charcoal	1 Sack	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00
Cooking Gas	20 Lb. Cyl.	44.56	37.50	7.06	18.83
Electricity consumption charge	140 KWH	143.82	126.83	16.99	13.40
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1,162.50	1150.00	12.50	1.09
Sheets -double - coloured/cotton	Each	88.80	88.80	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	52.76	49.95	2.81	5.63
Laundry soap	Each	1.18	1.31	-0.13	-9.92
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	4.98	4.47	0.51	11.41

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2012 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2011

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011		
HEALTH					
Doctor's Fee - Gynaecologist	1 Visit	50.00	49.78	0.22	0.44
Eye Care	1 Test	100.00	99.56	0.44	0.44
Hospitalisation (Private Ward)	1 Day	75.00	74.67	0.33	0.44
Drug for Hypertension	1 Mth supply	3.50	3.71	-0.21	-5.66
Drug for Diabetes	1 Mth supply	14.18	13.92	0.26	1.87
Cough, cold preparation	125 ml.	15.41	15.69	-0.28	-1.78
Dental Care	1 Visit	99.17	98.73	0.44	0.45
Chest X- ray	1 Test	100.00	99.56	0.44	0.44
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	1 Gal.	13.90	11.15	2.75	24.66
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	1 Year	470.00	470.00	0.00	0.00
Bus Fare - Mesopotamia	One Way	3.00	2.50	0.50	20.00
Boat Fare - Bequia	One Way	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNICATION					
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	0.75	0.06	8.00
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,999.00	1937.29	61.71	3.19
Cable TV Basic Charge	1 Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	4,640.48	4178.94	461.54	11.04
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	1,899.00	1899.00	0.00	0.00
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	322.52	-72.52	-22.49
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	2.93	2.92	0.01	0.34
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	300.00	300.00	0.00	0.00

TABLE 2 Cont'd
AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS
MARCH 2012 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2011

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011		
EDUCATION					
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	125.00	-25.00	-20.00
Newspaper - Local	Each	1.33	1.33	0.00	0.00
Exercise Book - Primary - 24 leaves	Each	0.60	0.50	0.10	20.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.55	0.42	0.13	30.95
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	77.00	73.53	3.47	4.72
Tuition for local evening classes	1 Subject	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS					
Chicken Lunch - regular	Each	14.28	13.39	0.89	6.65
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.87	15.32	0.55	3.59
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	15.45	15.45	0.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.34	3.12	0.22	7.05
Toothpaste	130g tube	8.96	8.91	0.05	0.56
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.	12.90	12.59	0.31	2.40
Health Insurance - group (family)	≥3 Ppersons	278.70	278.74	-0.04	-0.01
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 2012	MARCH 2012	MARCH 2011	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH FEBRUARY	YEAR MARCH
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	108.4	108.1	102.7	-0.3	5.3
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	101.6	102.0	100.2	0.4	1.8
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	103.2	103.3	100.2	0.1	3.1
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.9	105.1	100.8	1.2	4.3
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	99.4	99.3	99.5	-0.1	-0.2
06.	Health	1.79	98.3	98.3	98.7	0.0	-0.4
07.	Transport	11.84	118.8	117.0	107.5	-1.5	8.8
08.	Communication	9.41	104.0	104.0	102.1	0.0	1.9
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.1	102.0	100.6	-0.1	1.4
10.	Education	1.32	108.6	108.6	106.0	0.0	2.5
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.6	102.6	101.7	0.0	0.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.9	101.0	100.0	0.1	1.0
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	105.9	106.0	102.0	0.1	3.9

COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2012

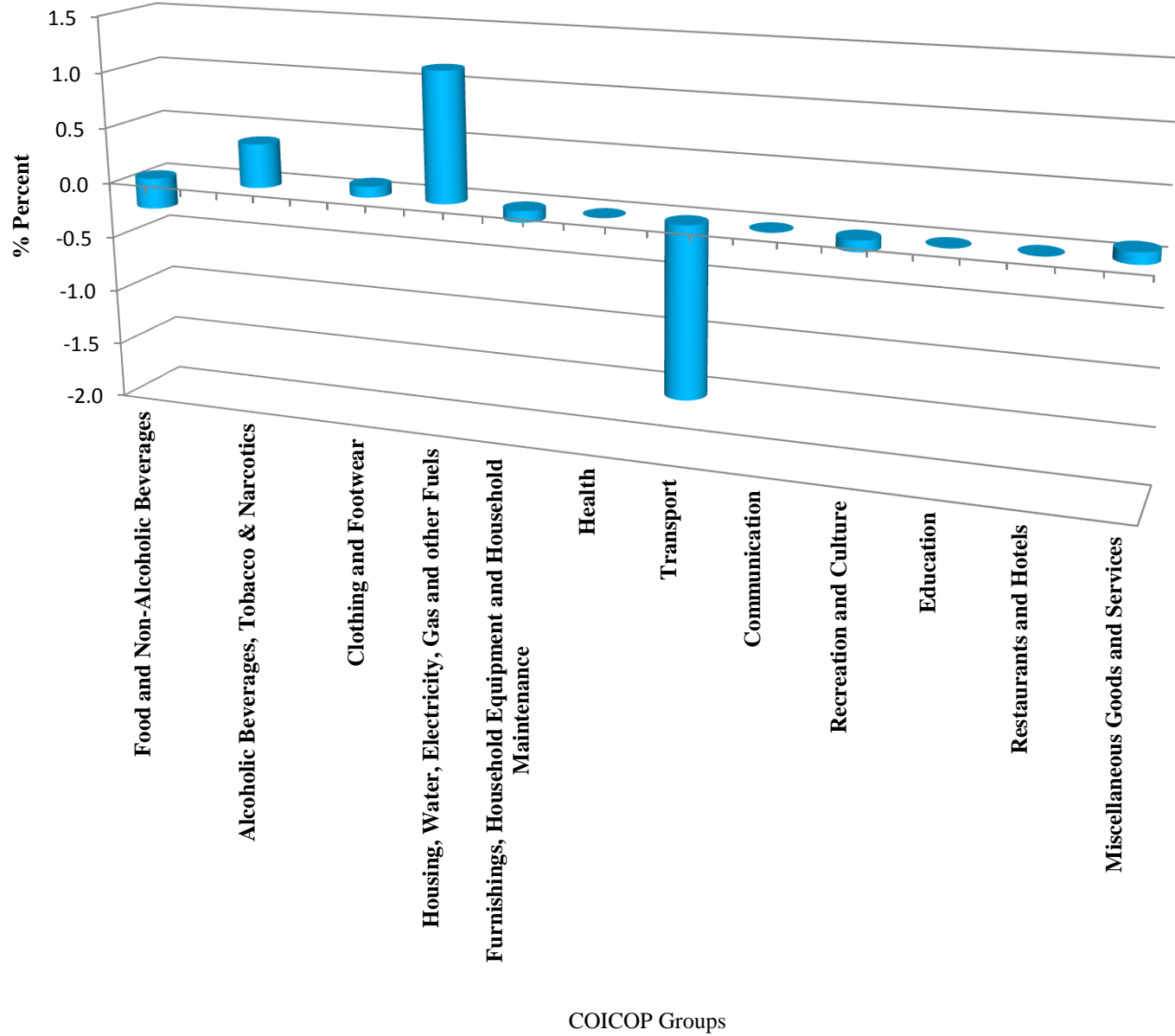


TABLE 4
THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BY MAIN GROUPS
JANUARY 2010 = 100
CONTRIBUTION TO CHANGE

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2012	MARCH 2012	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						FEBRUARY 2012	MARCH 2012		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	108.4	108.1	-0.3	2,375.04	2,368.47	-6.6	-65.7
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	101.6	102.0	0.4	393.19	394.74	1.5	15.5
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	103.2	103.3	0.1	332.30	332.63	0.3	3.2
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	103.9	105.1	1.2	3,123.23	3,159.31	36.1	360.7
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	99.4	99.3	-0.1	655.05	654.39	-0.7	-6.6
6.	Health	1.79	98.3	98.3	0.0	175.96	175.96	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	118.8	117.0	-1.5	1,406.59	1,385.28	-21.3	-213.1
8.	Communication	9.41	104.0	104.0	0.0	978.64	978.64	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.1	102.0	-0.1	389.00	388.62	-0.4	-3.8
10.	Education	1.32	108.6	108.6	0.0	143.35	143.35	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	102.6	102.6	0.0	191.86	191.86	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.9	101.0	0.1	434.88	435.31	0.4	4.3
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	105.9	106.0	0.1	10,590.00	10,600.00	10.0	100.0

TABLE 5
MONTHLY INDEX - 2012
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	106.1	109.0	101.2	102.5	104.0	99.2	98.2	120.0	104.0	102.0	108.6	102.6	100.9
February	105.9	108.4	101.6	103.2	103.9	99.4	98.3	118.8	104.0	102.1	108.6	102.6	100.9
March	106.0	108.1	102.0	103.3	105.1	99.3	98.3	117.0	104.0	102.0	108.6	102.6	101.0