



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC
PLANNING ETC.**

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APRIL 2018

The consumer price index recorded an increase of 0.7 percent for the month of April 2018. The “All Items” index was recorded at 110.4 for the month of April 2018 compared to 109.6 for the month of March 2018. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 2.7 percent.

Six (6) groups recorded increases for the month: “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels (1.9%), “Transport” (0.9%), “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” (0.6%), “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.2%), “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” (0.1%) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1%). One (1) group recorded a decrease for the month: “Recreation and Culture” (0.6%). Five (5) groups remained unchanged: “Clothing and Footwear”, “Health”, “Communication”, “Education” and “Restaurants and Hotels”.

The group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” increased by 1.9 percent due mainly to an increase in the cost of electricity (10.0%) and liquid petroleum gas (7.2%). The increase in the cost of electricity is a result of a higher fuel surcharge rate of 38.22 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of April 2018 compared to 30.24 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2018.

The “Transport” index grew by 0.9 percent due to increase prices for air passenger transport from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to several destinations. They include Barbados (48.5%), Trinidad and Tobago (26.4%) and St. Lucia (22.9%).

The 0.6 percent increase in the index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” is due to an increase in the prices of several food items: string beans (47.4%), pepper sauce (25.2%), garlic powder (23.4%), margarine (13.4%), curry powder (12.8%), sweet potatoes (11.4%), currants (10.5%), eddoes (10.1%), tomatoes (6.7%) and cornmeal (6.1%).

The “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” index grew by 0.2 percent due mainly to an increase in the price of dry gin and cigarettes which grew by (7.8%) and (7.1%) respectively.

The group index for “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance” increased by 0.1 percent due mainly to a 6.5 percent increase in the price of a fluorescent lighting tube. Similarly, the growth of 0.1 percent in the index for “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” is due to an increase of 27.4 percent in the price of a hair care product.

Meanwhile, the decline of 0.6 percent in the index for “Recreation and Culture” is due mainly to a decrease of 29.9 percent in the price of pencils.

Table 1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price ECS		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		April 2018	March 2018		
INCREASED					
LPG (Cooking gas):	20 lbs	48.19	44.91	3.28	7.3
	25 lbs	40.15	37.52	2.63	7.0
	100 lbs	191.27	178.12	13.15	7.4
Electricity	140Kwh	123.51	112.31	11.20	10.0
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
<i>St. Lucia</i>	1-way	563.64	458.65	104.99	22.9
<i>Barbados</i>	1-way	581.45	391.50	189.95	48.5
<i>Trinidad & Tobago</i>	1-way	597.24	472.50	124.74	26.4
Cornmeal	lb	2.62	2.47	0.15	6.1
Margarine	445g tub	12.05	10.65	1.40	13.1
Dried fruits - currants	lb	12.75	11.54	1.21	10.5
Christophene	lb	3.95	3.73	0.22	5.9
String beans	lb	3.98	2.70	1.28	47.4
Sweet potatoes	lb	2.64	2.37	0.27	11.4
Tomatoes	lb	4.75	4.45	0.30	6.7
Cucumbers	lb	3.78	3.58	0.20	5.6
Eddoes	lb	2.62	2.38	0.24	10.1
Pepper sauce	155ml bottle	9.95	7.95	2.00	25.2
Curry powder	85g pk	5.72	5.07	0.65	12.8
Garlic powder	40g pk	2.95	2.39	0.56	23.4
Dry gin	750ml bottle	63.63	59.05	4.58	7.8
Cigarettes	Pkt of 20	8.11	7.57	0.54	7.1
Flourescent lighting tube	each	9.80	9.20	0.60	6.5
Hair care product	113g bottle	5.95	4.67	1.28	27.4
DECREASED					
Whole chicken	lb	6.66	6.94	-0.28	-4.0
Breadfruit	lb	2.58	2.66	-0.08	-3.0
Yams	lb	3.50	3.72	-0.22	-5.9
Black eye peas	16oz pk	5.13	5.70	-0.57	-10.0
Mayonaise	16oz bottle	8.40	11.03	-2.63	-23.8
Lead pencils	each	0.61	0.87	-0.26	-29.9
Passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
<i>New York</i>	1 month	2,823.00	3,332.00	-509.00	-15.3
<i>Toronto</i>	1 month	3172.00	3654.80	-482.80	-13.21

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		April 2018	April 2017		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.66	6.46	0.20	3.10
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.84	2.58	0.26	10.08
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.67	1.57	0.10	6.37
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.65	4.37	0.28	6.41
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.37	2.67	0.70	26.22
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	5.73	5.45	0.28	5.14
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.24	8.07	0.17	2.11
Codfish	Lb.	15.16	14.37	0.79	5.50
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.64	13.26	0.38	2.87
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.68	4.61	0.07	1.52
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.43	3.07	0.36	11.73
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	3.48	0.52	14.94
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.00	2.02	-0.02	-0.99
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.22	5.29	-1.07	-20.23
Eggs	Doz	9.05	8.33	0.72	8.64
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.15	8.90	0.25	2.81
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	7.18	7.29	-0.11	-1.51
Rice - Loose	Lb.	1.92	1.95	-0.03	-1.54
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.56	10.51	0.05	0.48
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.43	1.34	0.09	6.72
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.58	2.54	0.04	1.57
Eddoes	Lb.	2.62	2.68	-0.06	-2.24
Dasheens	Lb.	2.06	1.79	0.27	15.08
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.64	2.14	0.50	23.36
Oranges	Each	0.87	0.76	0.11	14.47
Tomatoes	Lb.	4.75	3.63	1.12	30.85
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.18	8.95	0.23	2.57
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.38	12.26	0.12	0.98
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.80	10.68	0.12	1.12
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.79	2.53	0.26	10.28
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.66	5.64	0.02	0.35

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average ECS		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		April 2018	April 2017		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.89	29.71	0.18	0.61
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.96	4.52	0.44	9.73
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.04	4.12	-0.08	-1.94
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	21.29	20.91	0.38	1.82
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	102.48	100.00	2.48	2.48
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	20.73	0.16	0.77
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.28	93.43	2.85	3.05
Oil Paint	Gallon	112.87	105.00	7.87	7.50
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.49	68.94	0.55	0.80
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gallons	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
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.	40.15	35.90	4.25	11.84
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	123.51	113.34	10.17	8.97
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1162.88	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	55.84	0.00	0.00
Laundry Soap	Each	1.24	1.20	0.04	3.33
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.39	6.35	0.04	0.63

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average ECS		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		April 2018	April 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	12.65	13.18	-0.53	-4.02
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	150.00	0.00	0.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.80	11.08	0.72	6.50
Vehicle License (car) - not exd. 2000 lbs	Year	590.00	590.00	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
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	0.98	0.97	0.01	1.03
RECREATION AND CULTURE					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1996.04	1,993.82	2.22	0.11
Cable TV Basic Charge	Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer -13.3 " screen 2 GB	Each	3836.67	3,832.40	4.27	0.11
Desktop Computer - 14" Monitor 3 GB	Each	2073.84	2,071.53	2.31	0.11
Remote Control Car	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.83	3.79	0.04	1.06
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
April 2018 Compared With April 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average ECS		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		April 2018	April 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	0.61	0.87	-0.26	-29.89
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	72.44	80.95	-8.51	-10.51
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	3.63	3.63	0.00	0.00
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.15	9.04	0.11	1.22
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.	13.03	12.92	0.11	0.85
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	March 2018	April 2018	April 2017	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month March	Year April
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	117.0	111.5	0.6	4.9
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	120.7	120.9	116.8	0.2	3.5
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	104.9	0.0	0.0
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.2	102.1	100.0	1.9	2.1
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.3	102.6	0.1	8.5
06.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	108.8	0.0	0.6
07.	Transport	11.84	122.0	123.1	123.1	0.9	0.0
08.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	111.1	0.0	0.8
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.9	104.3	104.4	-0.6	-0.1
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	109.3	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	108.3	108.3	102.3	0.0	5.9
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.6	103.7	100.2	0.1	3.5
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.6	110.4	107.5	0.7	2.7

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for April 2018

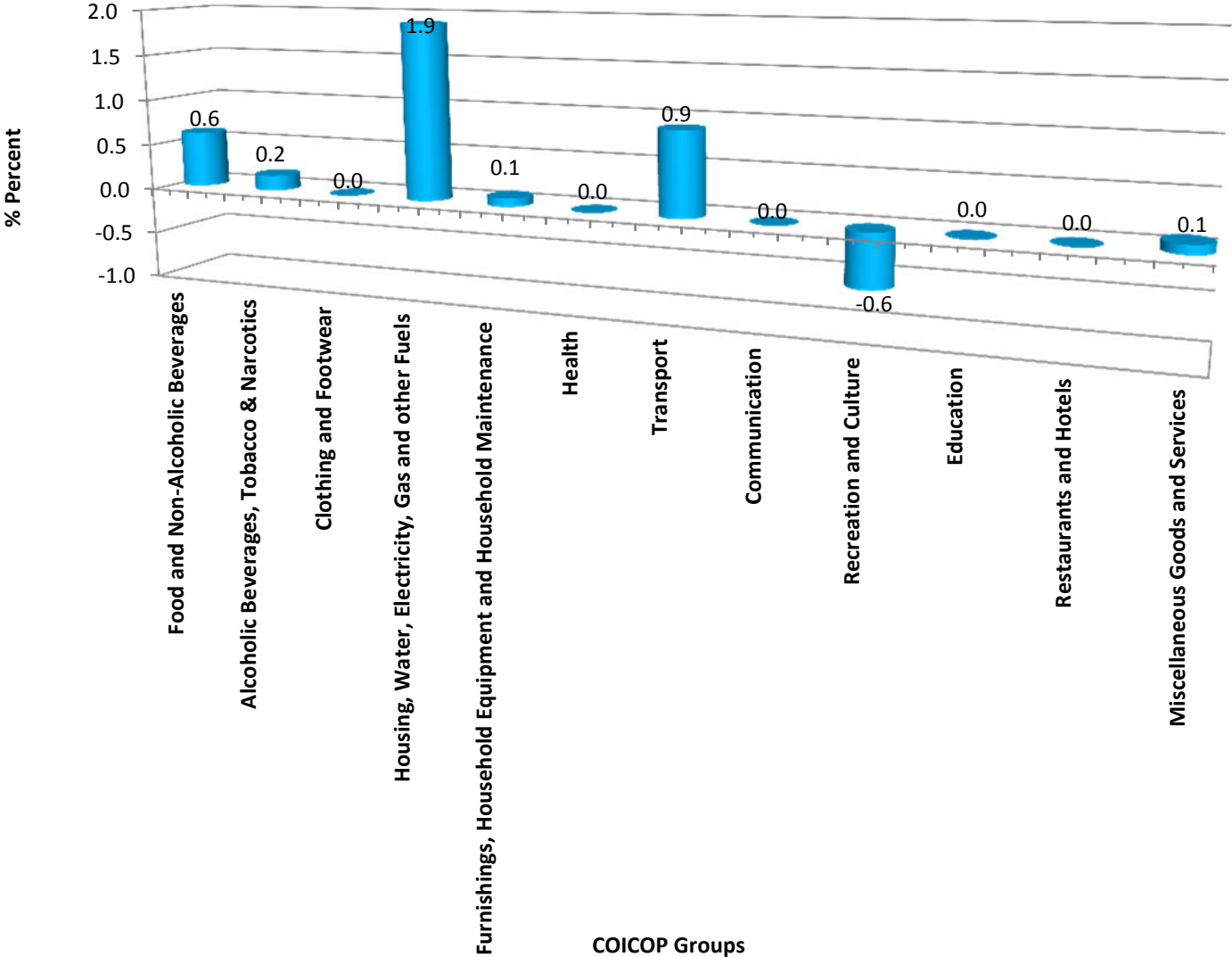


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	March 2018	April 2018	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						March 2018	April 2018		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.3	117.0	0.6	2,548.13	2,563.47	15.3	13.9
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	120.7	120.9	0.2	467.11	467.88	0.8	0.7
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.9	104.9	0.0	337.78	337.78	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.2	102.1	1.9	3,012.01	3,069.13	57.1	51.9
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.3	0.1	732.81	733.47	0.7	0.6
6.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	0.0	196.01	196.01	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	122.0	123.1	0.9	1,444.48	1,457.50	13.0	11.8
8.	Communication	9.41	112.0	112.0	0.0	1,053.92	1,053.92	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.9	104.3	-0.6	399.67	397.38	-2.3	-2.1
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	0.0	145.33	145.33	0.0	0.0
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	108.3	108.3	0.0	202.52	202.52	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.6	103.7	0.1	446.52	446.95	0.4	0.4
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.3	110.4	1.0	10,930.00	11,040.00	110.0	100.0

TABLE 5
Monthly Index - 2018
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	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	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
February	109.4	116.3	120.0	104.9	100.5	111.2	109.5	120.2	112.0	104.9	110.1	108.3	103.6
March	109.6	116.3	120.7	104.9	100.2	111.2	109.5	122.0	112.0	104.9	110.1	108.3	103.6
April	110.4	117.0	120.9	104.9	102.1	111.3	109.5	123.1	112.0	104.3	110.1	108.3	103.6