



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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**March 2014**

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## MARCH 2014

The Consumer Price Index recorded an increase of 0.2 percent for the month of March 2014. The “All Items” index was registered as 107.4 for the month of March 2014 compared to 107.2 for the month of February 2014. The “point-to-point” inflation rate was recorded as negative 0.4 percent.

Four (4) groups recorded increases during the month: “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.5 percent), “Health” (0.2 percent), “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” (0.1 percent) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1 percent). One (1) group recorded a decrease for the month; “Transport” (0.4 percent). Seven (7) groups remained unchanged: “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics”, “Clothing and Footwear”, “Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, “Communication”, “Recreation and Culture”, “Education” and “Restaurant and Hotels”.

The 0.5 percent increase in the group index for “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” is due mainly to an increase in the price of electricity of 3.2 percent. This increase in the cost of electricity was attributed to a rise in the fuel surcharge rate from 48.3 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of February to 51.5 cents per kilowatt hour for the month of March 2014.

The increase of 0.2 percent in the “Health” index is due mainly to an 8.0 percent increase in the price of drugs for diabetes.

The group index for “Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages” recorded an increase of 0.1 percent due to increase prices for several items, namely: turkey necks (87.8 percent), other cereals (37.7 percent), watermelon (22.1 percent), powdered milk - skimmed (18.3 percent), oranges (8.8

percent), condensed milk (6.7 percent), evaporated milk (5.0 percent), chicken - drumsticks (2.8 percent) and cooking margarine (1.6 percent). Similarly the 0.1 percent increase in the group “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” was attributed to higher prices for roll-on (1.8 percent), disposable diapers (0.3 percent) and mouthwash (0.1 percent).

Meanwhile, the group “Transport” recorded a decline of 0.4 percent as a result of lower airfare from St. Vincent to Barbados (40.7 percent) and St. Vincent to St. Lucia (17.1 percent).

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

ITEM	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2014	FEBRUARY 2014		
<b>INCREASED</b>					
Other cereals	500g Pk	4.68	3.40	1.28	37.65
Drumsticks	1Lb	3.27	3.18	0.09	2.83
Turkey necks	1Lb	3.70	1.97	1.73	87.82
Condensed milk	397g Tin	3.53	3.31	0.22	6.65
Evaporated milk	410g Tin	2.94	2.80	0.14	5.00
Powdered milk, skimmed	1Lb	11.37	9.61	1.76	18.31
Cooking margarine	445g Tub	8.08	7.95	0.13	1.64
Oranges	Each	0.87	0.80	0.07	8.75
Watermelon	1Lb	3.37	2.76	0.61	22.10
Electricity consumption	140KWh	142.07	137.66	4.41	3.20
Drugs for diabetes	1 Mth supply	6.48	6.00	0.48	8.00
Passenger transport by air from St Vincent to:					
Trinidad and Tobago	1-way	427.95	376.92	51.03	13.54
New York	1 month	2678.90	2336.20	342.70	14.67
Toronto	1 month	3775.00	3396.20	378.80	11.15
London	1 month	4,241.90	3666.00	575.90	15.71
Roll-on	50ml	4.99	4.90	0.09	1.84
Mouthwash	250ml	14.04	14.02	0.02	0.14
Disposable diaper	20 Pk	20.40	20.34	0.06	0.29
<b>DECREASED</b>					
Pig tail - fresh	1Lb	4.59	5.41	-0.82	-15.16
Whole chicken	1Lb	6.10	6.19	-0.09	-17.12
Leg quarters	1Lb	2.90	2.93	-0.03	-40.72
Tomatoes	1Lb	3.99	4.95	-0.96	-19.39
Dasheens	1Lb	1.73	1.79	-0.06	-3.35
Tannias	1Lb	2.78	2.94	-0.16	-5.44
White sugar	1Lb	1.86	1.91	-0.05	-2.62
Canned vegetables	15oz Tin	4.07	4.31	-0.24	-5.57
Passenger transport by air from St Vincent to:					
St Lucia	1-way	315.55	380.75	-65.20	-17.12
Barbados	1-way	268.25	452.52	-184.27	-40.72

**TABLE 2**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2014 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2013**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2014	MARCH 2013		
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.10	6.17	-0.07	-1.13
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.90	3.05	-0.15	-4.92
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.70	1.68	0.02	1.19
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.86	4.87	-0.01	-0.21
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.48	3.12	0.36	11.54
Fish - Fresh (Deep Sea)	Lb.	9.00	8.00	1.00	12.50
Fish - Fresh (Jacks)	Lb.	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00
Fish - Fresh (Robins)	Lb.	5.00	4.00	1.00	25.00
Chicken Franks	340 g Pk	5.39	5.38	0.01	0.19
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	7.74	7.79	-0.05	-0.64
Codfish	Lb.	14.15	14.31	-0.16	-1.12
Cornflakes	12 oz	12.27	11.88	0.39	3.28
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.15	4.21	-0.06	-1.43
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.24	3.22	0.02	0.62
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	3.53	3.57	-0.04	-1.12
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	8.67	-0.03	-0.35
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	7.48	7.03	0.45	6.40
Brown Sugar	Lb.	1.54	1.54	0.00	0.00
Sugar - White ( loose)	Lb.	1.86	2.16	-0.30	-13.89
Flour - Loose	Lb.	1.41	1.43	-0.02	-1.40
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.	1.33	1.13	0.20	17.70
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.69	2.42	0.27	11.16
Eddoes	Lb.	1.66	2.42	-0.76	-31.40
Dasheens	Lb.	1.73	1.95	-0.22	-11.28
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	1.80	1.97	-0.17	-8.63
Oranges	Each	0.87	0.83	0.04	4.82
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.99	3.92	0.07	1.79
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	7.90	8.05	-0.15	-1.86
Vegetable Oil	1 Litre	10.54	10.55	-0.01	-0.09
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.44	9.82	0.62	6.31
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail ( not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.24	2.19	0.05	2.28
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.61	5.61	0.00	0.00

**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2014 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2013**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE ECS		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2014	MARCH 2013		
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>					
Rum - Local (white)	750 ml Bot.	29.02	28.53	0.49	1.72
Beer - Local	280ml Bottle	4.51	4.46	0.05	1.12
Cigarettes - Local	Pkt. (10)	3.47	3.47	0.00	0.00
Gonsalves Black Wine	26 oz Bottle	18.08	17.52	0.56	3.20
<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	34.07	34.28	-0.21	-0.61
Men's Shoes -Formal	Pair	79.95	79.95	0.00	0.00
Women's Shoes - Formal	Pair	110.00	100.00	10.00	10.00
Women's 2Pc Skirtsuit ( polyester) large	Each	100.55	100.00	0.55	0.55
Women's Blouse ( cotton/Spandex)	Each	24.65	24.51	0.14	0.57
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>					
Rent :					
Unfurnished house -2 Bedroom	1Month	54.64	546.43	-491.79	-90.00
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	24.75	24.62	0.13	0.53
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	1 Length	86.39	86.38	0.01	0.01
Oil Paint	1 Gal.	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
Lumber -Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	1 Length	67.10	69.69	-2.59	-3.72
Water - Consumption Charge	5000 Gals.	37.50	37.50	0.00	0.00
Kerosene	1 Gal.	13.93	13.38	0.55	4.11
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	142.07	149.00	-6.93	-4.65
<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	1.10	1.14	-0.04	-3.51
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	5.42	5.27	0.15	2.85

**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2014 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2013**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		EC\$			
		MARCH 2014	MARCH 2013		
<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	14.34	14.18	0.16	1.13
Cough, cold preparation	125 ml.	15.52	15.53	-0.01	-0.06
Dental Care	1 Visit	114.17	112.50	1.67	1.48
Chest X- ray	1 Test	110.00	110.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TRANSPORT</b>					
Petrol - Unleaded	1 Gal.	13.95	15.06	-1.11	-7.37
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	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	0.73	0.81	-0.08	-9.88
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>					
Television 26 " Flat panel	Each	1,999.00	1,999.03	-0.03	0.00
Cable TV Basic Charge	1 Month	74.75	74.75	0.00	0.00
Laptop Computer	Each	3,499.00	4,640.55	-1141.55	-24.60
Desktop Computer	Each	1,891.32	1,899.03	-7.71	-0.41
Car Remote Control	Each	250.00	250.00	0.00	0.00
Dog Food (Canned)	374 g Tin	3.21	3.81	-0.60	-15.75
Dance Admission to Night Club	Per Person	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Carnival costume and Band Fees (Adult)	Each	300.00	250.00	50.00	20.00



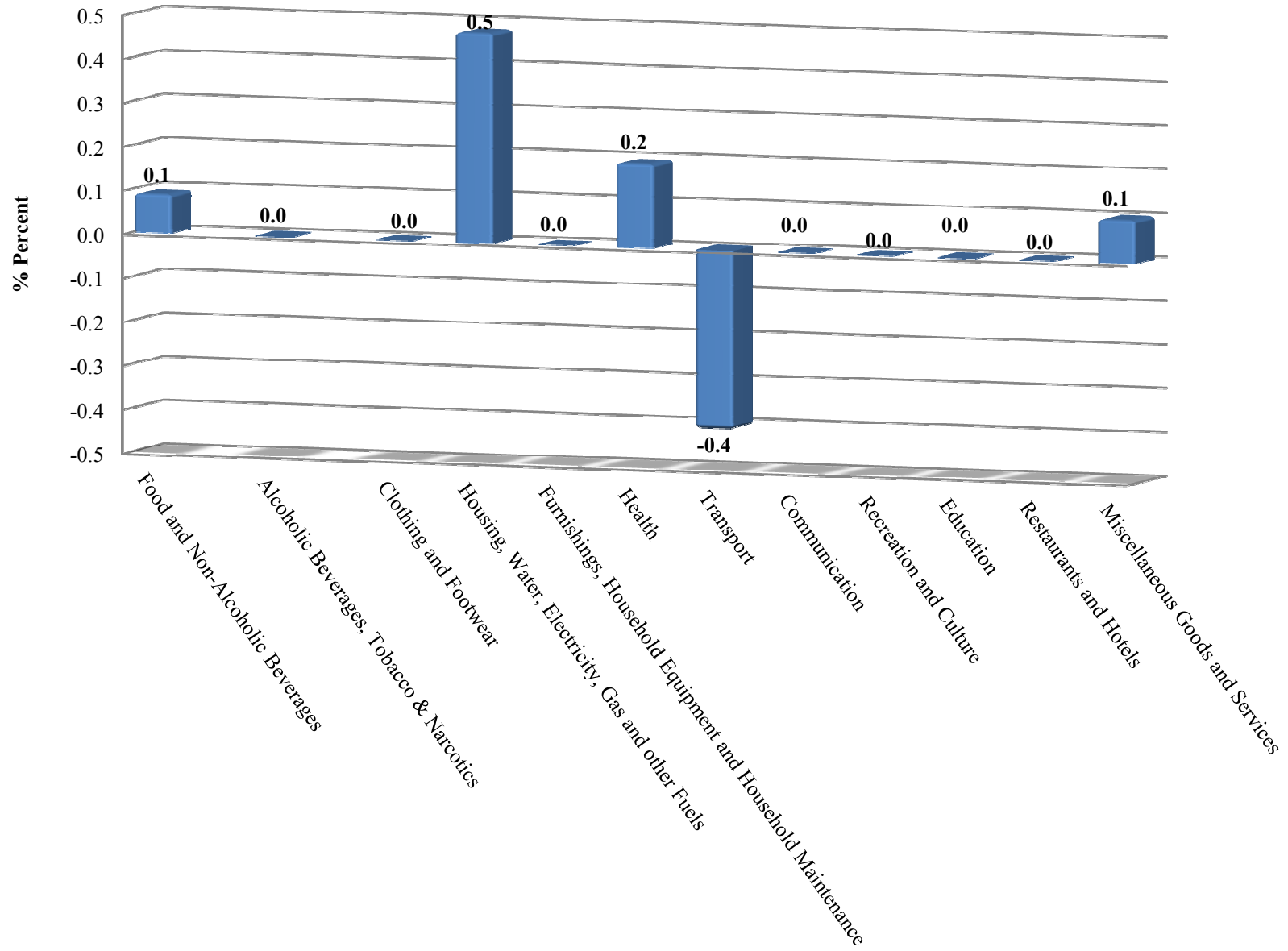
**TABLE 2 Cont'd**  
**AVERAGE RETAIL PRICE OF SELECTED ITEMS**  
**MARCH 2014 COMPARED WITH MARCH 2013**

ITEMS	UNIT OF QUANTITY	AVERAGE PRICE EC\$		CHANGE IN PRICE	PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PRICE
		MARCH 2014	MARCH 2013		
<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	0.85	0.00	0.00
Lead Pencils	Each	0.92	0.92	0.00	0.00
Mathematics Textbook - From 4	Each	74.60	69.87	4.73	6.77
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	14.28	-0.42	-2.94
Fish Lunch - regular	Each	15.10	15.87	-0.77	-4.85
Fast Food - 2 Pc Chicken and Fries	Each	16.85	15.45	1.40	9.06
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>					
Toilet Soap	125g	3.46	3.39	0.07	2.06
Toothpaste	130g tube	9.03	8.98	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.	12.85	12.94	-0.09	-0.70
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 2014	MARCH 2014	MARCH 2013	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PREVIOUS:	
						MONTH FEBRUARY	YEAR MARCH
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	112.7	112.8	110.1	0.1	2.5
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.1	109.1	106.0	0.0	2.9
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.5	105.5	105.0	0.0	0.5
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.4	104.9	105.9	0.5	-0.9
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.1	101.1	100.3	0.0	0.8
06.	Health	1.79	103.4	103.6	102.7	0.2	0.9
07.	Transport	11.84	122.8	122.3	124.0	-0.4	-1.4
08.	Communication	9.41	96.5	96.5	104.0	0.0	-7.2
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.9	102.9	102.7	0.0	0.2
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	109.6	0.0	-0.3
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	103.0	103.0	103.0	0.0	0.0
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	100.7	100.8	100.4	0.1	0.4
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	107.2	107.4	107.8	0.2	-0.4

### COICOP Groups Percentage Change for March 2014



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

	GROUP	WEIGHT	FEBRUARY 2014	MARCH 2014	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	Contribution to Change %
						FEBRUARY 2014	MARCH 2014		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	112.7	112.8	0.1	2,469.26	2,471.45	2.2	11.0
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	109.1	109.1	0.0	422.22	422.22	0.0	0.0
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	105.5	105.5	0.0	339.71	339.71	0.0	0.0
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	104.4	104.9	0.5	3,138.26	3,153.29	15.0	75.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	101.1	101.1	0.0	666.25	666.25	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	103.4	103.6	0.2	185.09	185.44	0.4	1.8
7.	Transport	11.84	122.8	122.3	-0.4	1,453.95	1,448.03	-5.9	-29.6
8.	Communication	9.41	96.5	96.5	0.0	908.07	908.07	0.0	0.0
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	102.9	102.9	0.0	392.05	392.05	0.0	0.0
10.	Education	1.32	109.3	109.3	0.0	144.28	144.28	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	100.7	100.8	0.1	434.02	434.45	0.4	2.2
	<b>ALL ITEMS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>107.2</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>10,720.00</b>	<b>10,740.00</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**TABLE 5**  
**MONTHLY INDEX - 2014**  
**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	107.7	113.0	109.2	105.5	105.7	101.1	103.9	123.3	96.5	102.9	109.3	103.0	100.8
February	107.2	112.7	109.1	105.5	104.4	101.1	103.4	122.8	96.5	102.9	109.3	103.0	100.7
March	107.4	112.8	109.1	105.5	104.9	101.1	103.6	122.3	96.5	102.9	109.3	103.0	100.8