



CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN



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FEBRUARY 2018

The consumer price index recorded a decrease of 0.2 percent for the month of February 2018. The “All Items” index was recorded at 109.4 for the month of February 2018 compared to 109.6 for the month of January 2018. The “point-to-point” inflation rate stood at 2.8 percent.

Five (5) groups recorded increases for the month: “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” (0.7%), “Recreation and Culture” (0.5%), “Clothing and Footwear” (0.4%), “Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages” (0.3%) and “Miscellaneous Goods and Services” (0.1%). Three (3) groups recorded decreases for the month: “Transport” (0.6%), “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” (0.4%) and “Communication” (0.2%).

Four (4) groups remained unchanged: “Education”, “Health”, “Furnishings, “Household Equipment and Household Maintenance”, and “Restaurants and Hotels”.

The 0.7 percent increase in the “Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics” group index was attributed to increases in the price for vodka (4.2%), whiskey (3.8%) and local beer (3.6%). Similarly, the 0.5 percent increase in the “Recreation and Culture group index was due mainly to a 21.9 percent higher cost for dry dog food.

Meanwhile, the “Clothing and Footwear” group index grew by 0.4 percent as a result of an increase in the price for a casual dress (6.7%) and a blouse (2.5%).

Correspondingly, the upward movement in the “Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages” group index was due to an increase in the price for a number of food items, such as cabbage (13.5%), celery

(12.4%), soft drinks (10.9%), cucumber (9.5%), plantains (9.9%), sweet potatoes (9.2%), yams (5.6%), and frozen pig feet (4.9%).

The index for the group “Miscellaneous Good and Services” increased by 0.1 percent consequent upon a 1.2 percent higher price for an antibacterial soap.

The decline in the “Transport” group index was attributed to a reduction in the price of passenger airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Barbados (19.6%) and St. Lucia (18.9%). Whereas the decline in the index for the group “Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels” was as a result of a 2.5 percent decrease in the cost of electricity. This decrease was as a consequence of a decline in the fuel surcharge rate which fell from 33.6 cents per kilowatt hour in January to 31.6 cents per kilowatt hour in February 2018.

Table 1
Average Retail Price of Selected Items

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average Price EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2018	January 2017		
INCREASED					
Cabbage	Lb	3.62	3.19	0.43	13.5
Celery	Lb	3.63	3.23	0.40	12.4
Sweet Potatoes	Lb	2.38	2.18	0.20	9.2
Cucumber	Lb	3.59	3.28	0.31	9.5
Sweet Peppers	Lb	5.25	4.96	0.29	5.8
Yams	Lb	3.74	3.54	0.20	5.6
Tannias	Lb	3.00	2.95	0.05	1.7
Plantains	Lb	1.55	1.41	0.14	9.9
English Apple	Lb	5.23	5.07	0.16	3.2
Lentils	400g pk	4.74	4.57	0.17	3.7
Cheddar Cheese	250g Pk	12.13	11.77	0.36	3.1
Fruit Cocktail	280ml Bottle	2.84	2.56	0.28	10.9
Pig - Feet Frozen	Lb	4.90	4.67	0.23	4.9
Chicken- Wings	Lb	4.55	4.48	0.07	1.6
Bacon	200g Pk	8.05	7.85	0.20	2.5
Tomato Ketchup	24oz Bot	7.65	7.56	0.09	1.2
Soy Sauce	10oz Bot	8.26	8.13	0.13	1.6
Cocoa	250g Tin	20.84	20.38	0.46	2.3
Teabags	Pkt 50	15.56	15.51	0.05	0.3
Whiskey - Red	750ml Bot	66.15	63.75	2.40	3.8
Vodka	750ml Bot	41.33	39.67	1.66	4.2
Beer - Local	280ml Bot	4.90	4.73	0.17	3.6
Stout - Local	275ml Bot	5.75	5.62	0.13	2.3
Women's Casual dress	Each	31.95	29.95	2.00	6.7
Women's Blouse	Each	40.99	40.00	0.99	2.5
Dry Dog food	2kg Bag	30.07	24.66	5.41	21.9
Antibacterial Soap	125g	4.32	4.27	0.05	1.2
DECREASED					
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	114.17	117.04	-2.87	-2.5
Passenger Airfare from St. Vincent and the Grenadines to:					
St. Lucia	one way	331.07	408.02	-76.95	-18.9
Barbados	one way	348.98	434.03	-85.05	-19.6
Cornflakes	12oz Box	13.72	14.14	-0.42	-3.0
Pasta	340g Pk	4.69	4.75	-0.06	-1.3
Tomatoes	Lb	3.61	4.24	-0.63	-14.9
Carrots	Lb	3.74	3.95	-0.21	-5.3
Sliced Pineapple	20oz Tin	7.30	8.25	-0.95	-11.5
Mixed Vegetables	432g Tin	5.95	6.60	-0.65	-9.8
Sliced Carrots	411g Tin	6.93	7.22	-0.29	-4.0
Garlic - Loose	Lb	7.88	8.17	-0.29	-3.5
Onion - Loose	Lb	2.53	2.56	-0.03	-1.2
Eggs	Doz	9.05	9.32	-0.27	-2.9
Turkey Wings	Lb	3.43	3.52	-0.09	-2.6

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2018	February 2017		
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES					
Beef - Fresh	Lb.	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00
Chicken - Whole	Lb.	6.99	6.49	0.50	7.70
Chicken - Leg Quarters	Lb.	2.91	2.62	0.29	11.07
Chicken - Backs	Lb.	1.63	1.57	0.06	3.82
Chicken - Wings	Lb.	4.55	4.66	-0.11	-2.36
Turkey Wings	Lb.	3.43	2.55	0.88	34.51
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	5.46	0.27	4.95
Luncheon Meat (pork)	340 g	8.31	8.03	0.28	3.42
Codfish	Lb.	15.15	14.51	0.64	4.41
Cornflakes	12 oz	13.72	13.28	0.44	3.28
Pasta - Elbows	340 g	4.69	4.61	0.08	1.74
Milk - Evaporated	410g Tin	3.51	3.07	0.44	14.33
Milk - Condensed	397g Tin	4.00	3.29	0.71	21.58
Bread- Small Loaf, white	5 Pk	2.01	2.02	-0.01	-0.50
Bread - Large Sliced Pan Loaf (white)	Each	4.23	4.25	-0.02	-0.47
Eggs	Doz	9.05	8.68	0.37	4.26
Orange Juice	19 oz Tin	9.13	8.93	0.20	2.24
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.	1.95	1.95	0.00	0.00
Rice - Packaged	2Kg	10.56	10.46	0.10	0.92
Bananas (ripe)	Lb.	1.36	1.34	0.02	1.49
Breadfruit	Lb.	2.58	2.56	0.02	0.78
Eddoes	Lb.	2.39	2.46	-0.07	-2.85
Dasheens	Lb.	2.11	1.81	0.30	16.57
Sweet Potatoes	Lb.	2.38	2.14	0.24	11.21
Oranges	Each	0.86	0.74	0.12	16.22
Tomatoes	Lb.	3.61	5.18	-1.57	-30.31
Cooking Margarine	445g Tub	9.13	8.93	0.20	2.18
Vegetable Oil	Litre	12.38	12.42	-0.04	-0.36
Powdered Chocolate	300g Pk	10.80	10.68	0.12	1.08
Hairoun Fruit Cocktail (not cold)	280 ml Bottle	2.84	2.53	0.31	12.25
Vitamalt	310 ml Bottle	5.66	5.64	0.02	0.35

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2018	February 2017		
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS					
Rum - Local (White)	750 ml Bot.	29.98	29.71	0.27	0.91
Beer - Local	280 ml Bot.	4.90	4.47	0.43	9.62
Cigarettes	Pkt. (10)	4.00	4.12	-0.12	-2.91
Table wine (local)	26 oz Bot.	21.28	20.78	0.50	2.41
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	21.52	-0.63	-2.93
Galvanise Sheets 10 ft.	Length	96.28	91.60	4.68	5.11
Oil Paint	Gallon	112.87	95.00	17.87	18.81
Lumber - Dressed Treated Yellow Pine (1x12x12)	Length	69.20	68.97	0.23	0.33
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.	37.52	34.00	3.52	10.35
Electricity Consumption Charge	140 KWH	114.17	108.22	5.95	5.50
FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE					
Bed - Cherry 54"x75"	Each	1162.88	1,162.50	0.38	0.03
Double size sheets - coloured/cotton	Each	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00
Frying Pan - 12" - non-stick	Each	55.84	52.76	3.08	5.84
Laundry Soap	Each	1.23	1.18	0.05	4.24
Electrical Bulb - 60W	Each	6.25	6.34	-0.09	-1.42

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

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2018	February 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	13.05	12.26	0.79	6.40
Cough, Cold Preparation	125 ml.	15.09	15.09	0.00	0.00
Dental Care	Visit	123.33	123.33	0.00	0.00
Chest X- ray	Test	150.00	120.00	30.00	25.00
TRANSPORT					
Petrol - Unleaded	Gallon	11.42	10.66	0.76	7.13
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	0.91	0.07	7.69
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	3.66	0.17	4.64
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
February 2018 Compared With February 2017

Items	Unit of Quantity	Average EC\$		Change in Price	Percentage Change in Price
		February 2018	February 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	0.87	0.86	0.01	1.16
Mathematics Textbook - Form 4	Each	72.44	79.72	-7.28	-9.13
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	3.60	3.53	0.07	1.98
Toothpaste	130g Tube	9.11	9.04	0.07	0.72
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.	12.98	12.92	0.06	0.46
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	January 2018	February 2018	February 2017	Percentage Change Over Previous:	
						Month January	Year February
01.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.0	116.3	111.5	0.3	4.3
02.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	119.2	120.0	116.5	0.7	3.0
03.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.9	104.9	0.4	0.0
04.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.9	100.5	98.8	-0.4	1.7
05.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.2	102.9	0.0	8.1
06.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	107.3	0.0	2.1
07.	Transport	11.84	120.9	120.2	119.5	-0.6	0.6
08.	Communication	9.41	112.2	112.0	106.8	-0.2	4.9
09.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.4	104.9	104.0	0.5	0.9
10.	Education	1.32	110.1	110.1	109.3	0.0	0.7
11.	Restaurants and Hotels	1.87	108.3	108.3	102.7	0.0	5.5
12.	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.31	103.5	103.6	101.5	0.1	2.1
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.6	109.4	106.4	-0.2	2.8

Chart 1. COICOP Groups Percentage Change for February 2018

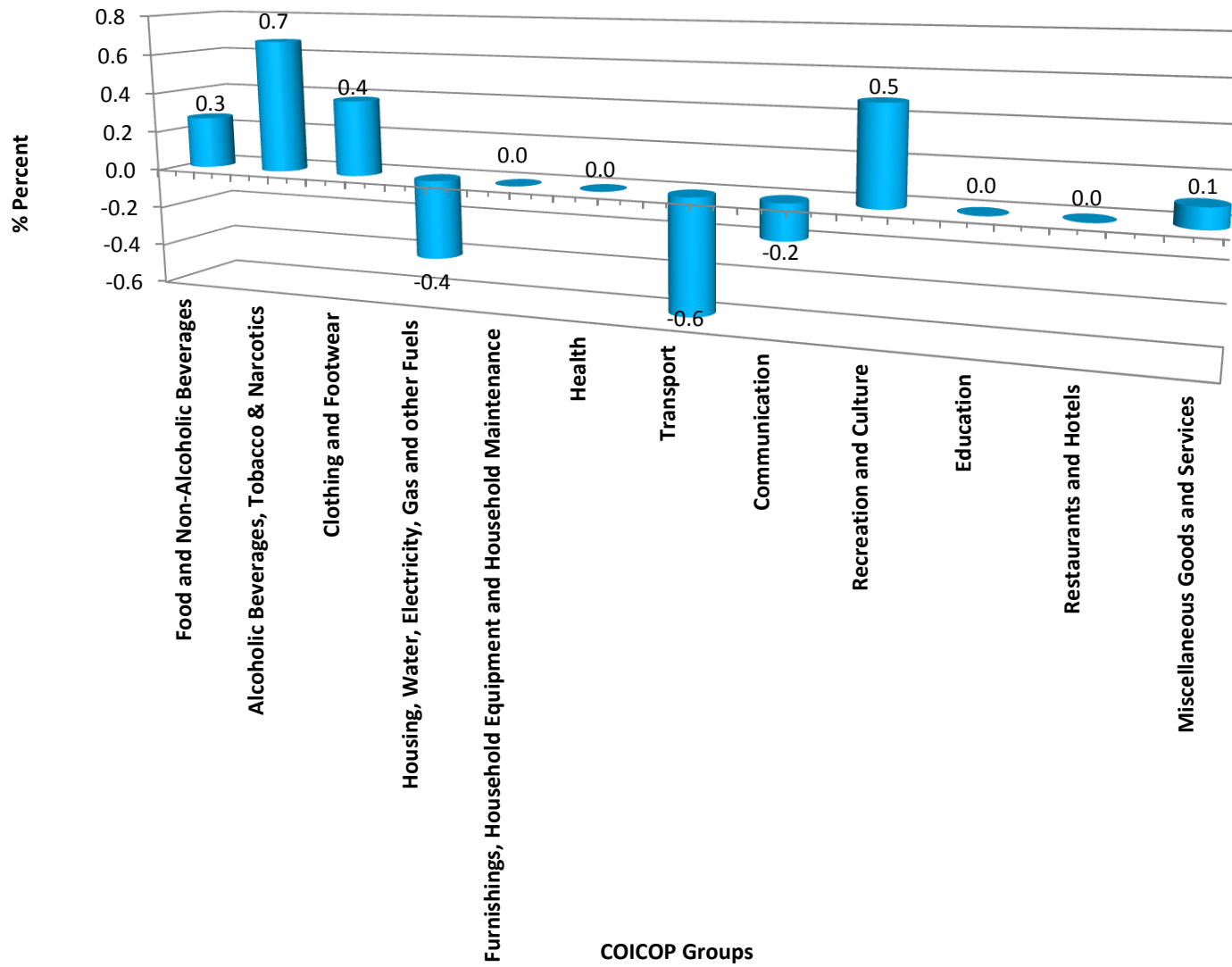


Table 4
The Consumer Price Index by Main Groups
January 2010 = 100
Contribution to Change

	Groups	Weight	January 2018	February 2018	Percentage Change	Cost Weight		Change in Cost Weight	% Contribution to Change
						January 2018	February 2018		
1.	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.91	116.0	116.3	0.3	2,541.56	2,548.13	6.6	-32.9
2.	Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	3.87	119.2	120.0	0.7	461.30	464.40	3.1	-15.5
3.	Clothing and Footwear	3.22	104.5	104.9	0.4	336.49	337.78	1.3	-6.4
4.	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels	30.06	100.9	100.5	-0.4	3,033.05	3,021.03	-12.0	60.1
5.	Furnishings, Household Equipment and Household Maintenance	6.59	111.2	111.2	0.0	732.81	732.81	0.0	0.0
6.	Health	1.79	109.5	109.5	0.0	196.01	196.01	0.0	0.0
7.	Transport	11.84	120.9	120.2	-0.6	1,431.46	1,423.17	-8.3	41.4
8.	Communication	9.41	112.2	112.0	-0.2	1,055.80	1,053.92	-1.9	9.4
9.	Recreation and Culture	3.81	104.4	104.9	0.5	397.76	399.67	1.9	-9.5
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	103.5	103.6	0.1	446.09	446.52	0.4	-2.2
	ALL ITEMS	100.00	109.6	109.4	-0.2	10,960.00	10,940.00	-20.0	100.0

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	Communi-cation	Recreation & Culture	Education	Restaurants & 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	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