

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 2010 = 100

MARCH 2018

Code	Description	WEIGHTS	Mar 2018	Mar 2017	Mar 2016	Feb 2018	% CHANGE		
							Mar 18/ Mar 17	Mar 17/ Mar 16	Mar 18/ Feb 18
0	ALL PRODUCTS	100	110.56	110.17	108.53	110.75	0.36	1.52	-0.17
11.01	FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	20.35	115.86	114.46	114.05	115.85	1.23	0.35	0.01
11.02	ALCOHOL BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS	1.83	125.67	125.19	124.54	125.67	0.39	0.52	0.00
11.03	CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	3.66	102.64	102.89	102.02	102.78	-0.24	0.86	-0.14
11.04	HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS & OTHER FUELS	29.05	103.48	102.56	101.03	103.44	0.90	1.52	0.04
11.05	FURNISHING, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT & ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	4.5	111.16	111.66	110.74	111.09	-0.45	0.84	0.06
11.06	HEALTH	1.94	133.99	133.72	133.63	134.09	0.21	0.07	-0.07
11.07	TRANSPORT	18.72	107.83	110.90	108.50	108.93	-2.77	2.21	-1.01
11.08	COMMUNICATION	10.03	124.72	120.90	114.41	124.72	3.16	5.67	0.00
11.09	RECREATION AND CULTURE	2.71	112.07	111.00	110.30	112.02	0.96	0.64	0.04
11.10	EDUCATION	0.83	141.92	132.07	124.34	140.41	7.46	6.22	1.08
11.11	RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	1.81	99.32	99.32	107.25	99.32	0.00	-7.39	0.00
11.12	MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	4.59	106.77	106.98	106.44	106.77	-0.19	0.51	0.00

The above table shows the computation of the Consumer Price Index for the month of March 2018 with changes for the previous month February 2018 and the corresponding month of last year March 2017. The overall index moved from 110.75 index points in February 2018 to 110.56 index points in March 2018 representing a decrease of 0.17%. An examination of the various groups revealed the following.

The group **“Clothing and Footwear”** declined by 0.14% resulting from a decrease in the price of Children and Infant Footwear by 8.16%. **“Health”** and **“Transportation”** declined by 0.07% and 1.01% respectively due to decreases in the price of Pharmaceutical Products by 0.15%, Motor Vehicle Fuel 1.72% and Passenger Transport by Air 5.65%.

Despite the overall decline the following groups recorded increases, **“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages”** 0.01%, **“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels”** 0.04%, **“Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance”** 0.06%, **“Recreation and Culture”** 0.04% and **“Education”** 1.08%. The following items contributed to these increases, Pork 0.12%, Preserved Milk 0.11%, Fresh Fruit 1.00%, Materials for the Repairs and Maintenance of Dwelling 0.64%, Electricity 0.45%, Major Household Appliances 0.91%, Books 0.26%, Pre-Primary and Primary Education 1.88% and Tertiary Education 0.71%. The other groups remained relatively constant.

Relative to the corresponding month of last year the index moved from 110.17 index points in March 2017 to 110.56 index points in March 2018 representing an increase of 0.36%. The following groups recorded these increases **“Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages”** 1.23%, **“Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco”** 0.39%, **“Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels”** 0.90%, **“Health”** 0.21%, **“Communication”** 3.16%, **“Recreation and Culture”** 0.96%, **“Education”** 7.46%. The following items contributed to these increases, Rice 0.13%, Other Cereals 0.07%, Bakery Products excluding Bread 0.14%, Mutton 7.93%, Poultry 2.76%, Delicatessen and Other Meat preparations 0.62%, Fresh Fish 1.65%, Preserved Fish 2.99%, Preserved Milk 1.02%, Cheese 4.40%, Eggs 0.53%, Butter 9.89%, Margarine 0.69%, Cooking Oil 0.71%, Fresh Fruits 3.16%, Potatoes 2.78%, Jams and Honey 3.35%, Ice cream 0.99%, Hot Beverages 0.26%, Soft Drinks and Concentrates 1.50%, Fruit Juices 1.79%, Wine 1.33%, Cigarette 0.75%, Actual Rentals for Housing 0.38%, Electricity 2.83%, the one hundred pound cylinder of Cooking Gas 3.77%, Pharmaceutical Products 0.48%, Telephone Equipment 54.26%, Telephone Services 0.83%, Television 3.51%, Books 0.89%, Pre-primary and Primary Education 4.62% and Tertiary Education 8.79%.

The following groupings recorded decreases, **“Clothing and Footwear”** 0.24%, **“Furnishing, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance”** 0.45%, **“Transport”** 2.77% and **“Miscellaneous Goods and Services”** 0.19%. The following items contributed to these declines Men’s Clothing 2.32%, Children and Infant’s Footwear 8.16%, Bedroom Furniture 12.44%, Household Textiles 1.00%, Household Utensils 0.13%, Motor Vehicle 8.33%, Motor Vehicle Spare Parts and Accessories 7.49%, Passenger Transport by Air 6.43%, Personal Care Products 0.43% and Motor Vehicle Insurance 0.05%.

Accordingly, the inflation rate for the period March 2018 is 0.36%. This can be compared to an increase of 1.52% for the same period in 2017.