



Antigua and Barbuda CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



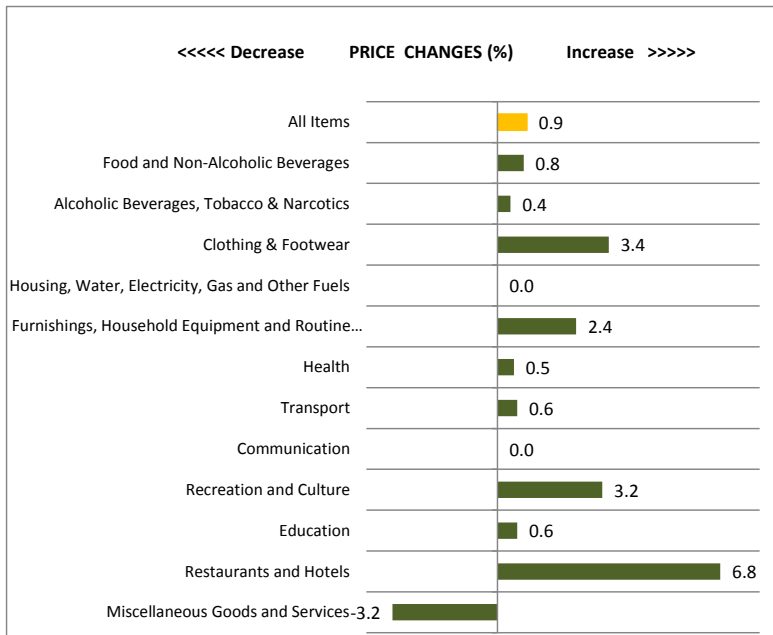
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Mar 2019

Inflation Rate

0.9%

Headline Inflation: Year-on-Year Changes for Mar 2019 compared to Mar 2018



The All Items Index rose 0.9% for the twelfth month ending March 2019. The Index for Food declined 0.3% over the last 12 months. The major grocery store food groups indexes reflected a mix of offsetting increases and declines. The largest increase was reflected in the index for Fish and Seafood at 16.4%. Also rising in March were the indexes for Non-Alcoholic Beverages 9.8%, Vegetables 5.7%, Oils and Fats 2.8%, and Sugars, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionary 1.8%.

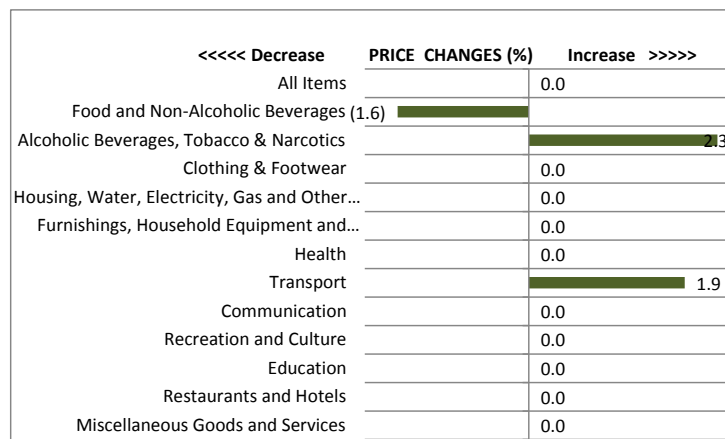
These increases were offset by a decline in the Index for Milk, Cheese and Egg of 4.6%. There was also a decline of 2.1% in the Index for Meat and Meat Products with five of its six subgroups posting declines.

The All Items Less Food and Energy index increased 0.9%. The increases were in an array of indexes including Transport, Restaurants and Hotels and Recreation and Culture. The indexes for Transport, Recreation and Culture and Restaurants and Hotels posted increases of 0.6%, 3.2% and 6.8% respectively.

The Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco index increased 0.4% with the subgroup Tobacco increasing 7.5%.

The Energy index remains unchanged at 0.9%.

Month-to-Month Changes for Mar 2019 compared to Feb 2019



The Monthly Consumer Price Index for the month of March 2019 remained unchanged. The Food index posted a decline of 1.7%, which was influenced by a mixture of increases and decreases within the major grocery store food groups .

Increases were recorded for Meat and Meat Products of 0.3%, Milk, Cheese and Egg 0.1% and Oils and Fats 0.5%. The increase in the group Meat and Meat Products was attributed to increases in the subgroups Pork, Beef and Veal, and Other Meats and Edible Offal which posted increases of 7.4%, 4.9% and 0.1% respectively. Similarly, within the group Milk, Cheese and Egg, an increase of 0.2% was recorded for the subcategory Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products.

The Index for All Items less Food and Energy increased 0.4%. The Index for Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics increased 2.3% with both of its subgroups posting increases. Also, the Index for Transport posted an increase of 1.9% with the subgroup Transport Services increasing 5.5%. The Indexes for Clothing and Footwear, Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance, and Restaurants and Hotels remained unchanged.

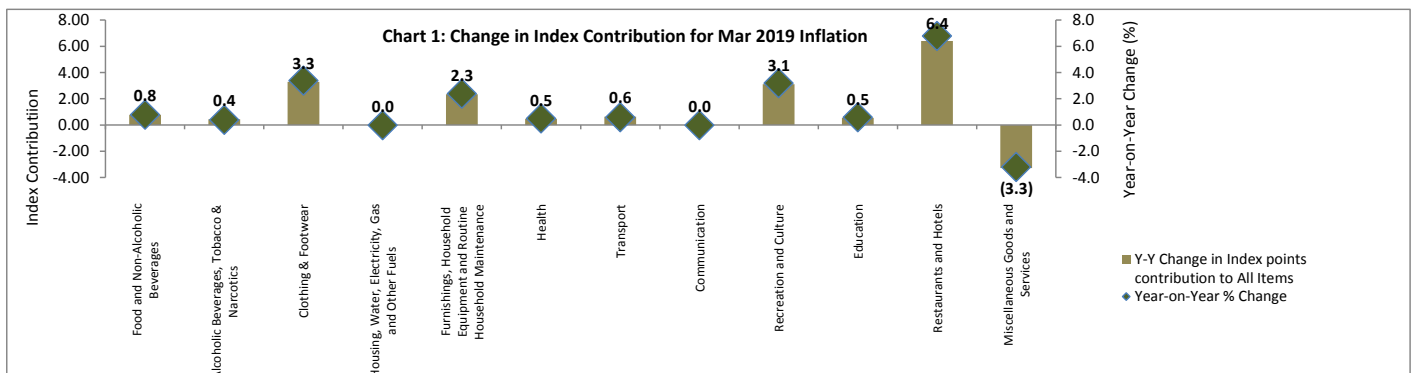


Table 1: Examples of Goods and Services in the 2019-based Consumer Shopping Basket

Main Expenditure Categories	No. of Items	Example of Goods and Services for which prices are collected to calculate the inflation rate	Frequency of price collection
Food and Non Alcoholic Beverages	192	<i>Bread, cereals, milk, coffee, juices, meats, fruits,vegetables, sugar, water</i>	Monthly
Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics	13	<i>Beer, stout, rum, vodka, wine,whisky,cigarettes</i>	Monthly
Clothing and Footwear	72	<i>Men's pants, boys shorts, women's dresses, brassieres, underwear, laundry services,footwear</i>	Quarterly
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	13	<i>Rent paid, repairs and maintenance, water supply, electricity, LPG cooking gas</i>	Monthly,Quarterly
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household	82	<i>Appliances, sofas, mattress, dressing table, glassware; detergent</i>	Quarterly
Health	8	<i>doctor's bill, medicines,vitamins</i>	Monthly
Transport	27	<i>cars, batteries, license, gasoline, tyres, airline fares,</i>	Monthly, Quarterly
Communication	6	<i>Cell phones, cell phone rates, internet rates</i>	Quarterly
Recreation and Culture	14	<i>Televisions, radio, computers, cable tv services, movie cinemas tickets</i>	Quarterly
Education	3	<i>School fees, exam fees</i>	Annual
Restaurants and Hotels	8	<i>Meal lunches, burgers, fried chicken, pizza, roti, accommodation</i>	Quarterly
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	28	<i>Hair cuts, manicure pedicure, saloons, body lotion, toothpaste, shampoo, jewellery</i>	Monthly, Quarterly
Total number of goods and services in the basket	466	Prices are collected from the second Monday to the second Thursday of every month	
¹ Outlets refer to the businesses where prices are collected (e.g supermarkets). The same outlets are used for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages, Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco & Narcotics and some Miscellaneous Goods and Services			

What is the Consumer Price Index?

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a statistical indicator of changes in the general level of prices of consumer goods and services purchased by private households. The CPI measures price movements of a fixed quality and quantity of goods and services. The mix of these consumer goods and services comprising the CPI are referred to as a "shopping basket." In constructing this "shopping basket", the selected goods and services are organised first by commodity type. They are then divided into sections, then sub-groups and then assigned to a major expenditure category. The Antigua and Barbuda CPI has 26 sections, 30 sub-groups and 11 major categories.

What is the Base Period?

The base period (base year) is the time period that is used as a reference point for measuring the price change of goods and services. The base period for the Antigua and Barbuda CPI is January 2019.

The base period index is represented as 100.0. (Usually presented as 2001 = 100). So for instance, if the April 2010 CPI for chicken legs is 167.1, then it means that the price for chicken legs has gone up by 67.1% since 2001. Similarly, if the January 2010 CPI for bread is 93.1, then the price of bread has dropped by 6.9% compared to its price in 2001.

What is Inflation?

Inflation is the process of rising prices, resulting in diminishing purchasing power of a given amount of money. There are three expressions of price changes:

- year-on-year (*the inflation rate*)
- month-to-month
- annual average (or annualised average)

The annual average CPI is derived by summing the CPI for each month of the year and dividing by 12.

What are Weights?

Weights can be considered in the same way we would express how much we spend on various goods and services each month. Just like a monthly salary can be broken down as 20% on rent, 25% food, 15% mortgage, 10% on utilities and so on, the CPI weights are a collective expression of how households would generally spend their monthly income on goods and services.

The weights for this series of CPI were drawn from a survey of a sample of households in 2006 (the base period). Each household was asked to keep a record of their expenditure for one month. Once completed, the expenditures were added to determine the pattern. This pattern is what is referred to as the weights.

The current weights assume that each month, households would spend the most on *Accommodation* (218.3) followed by *Food* (214.2) and *Transportation and Communication* (153.5). Households would also spend the least on *Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco* (1.6).

Index Points Contribution

Contribution of each expenditure category (category weight over All Items weight) to the All Items index points change.

<i>Year-on-Year</i>	June 2010 CPI - June 2009 CPI	X 100
<i>Month-to-Month Price Changes</i>	June 2010 CPI - May 2010 CPI	X 100
	May 2010 CPI	
<i>Annualised Inflation Rate</i>	Average 2010 CPI - Average 2009 CPI	X 100
	Average 2009 CPI	

The compilation of the CPI and the calculation of the inflation rate involve the processing of hundreds of price quotations. The Statistics Division wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required prices and accommodating the Statistical Officers on their premises. Price collection is authorised by the *General Statistics Act, No. 13 of 1975*.

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Table 2: CPI and Inflation Rate for Main Categories, Sub-groups and Sections

Expenditure Category and Sub Groups - means zero 0.0 means negligible	Jan 2006 weights	Consumer Price Indices			Year-on-Year %	Month-to-Month
		Mar-2019	Feb-2019	Mar-2018	Change	% Change
					Mar-2019	Mar-2019
				Mar-2018	Feb-2019	
All Items	100.00	99.76	99.73	98.87	0.9	0.0
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	17.94	98.44	100.00	97.66	0.8	(1.6)
FOOD	15.85	98.31	100.03	98.57	(0.3)	(1.7)
Bread and Cereals	2.63	100.44	99.53	100.71	(0.3)	0.9
Meat and Meat Products	2.60	100.57	100.30	102.72	(2.1)	0.3
Beef and Veal	0.28	103.81	98.92	104.25	(0.4)	4.9
Pork	0.32	101.87	94.87	115.34	(11.7)	7.4
Lamb, Mutton and Goat	0.11	100.00	102.11	97.98	2.1	(2.1)
Poultry	1.16	98.51	100.27	103.28	(4.6)	(1.8)
Other Meats and Edible Offal	0.19	105.29	105.18	106.63	(1.3)	0.1
Delicatessen and other Meat Preparations	0.54	101.00	102.15	101.64	(0.6)	(1.1)
Fish and Seafood	1.91	103.24	102.08	88.67	16.4	1.1
Milk, Cheese and Egg	1.41	99.66	99.60	104.42	(4.6)	0.1
Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products/Powder/Evap	0.89	99.53	99.37	107.02	(7.0)	0.2
Cheese	0.25	99.74	100.00	99.24	0.5	(0.3)
Eggs and Egg-based Products	0.27	100.00	100.00	105.24	(5.0)	0.0
Oils and Fats	0.48	101.62	101.09	98.88	2.8	0.5
Fruit	1.03	102.88	102.46	107.02	(3.9)	0.4
Vegetables	3.87	90.08	98.50	85.19	5.7	(8.5)
Sugars, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	0.67	100.74	100.82	98.95	1.8	(0.1)
Sugar	0.35	100.04	100.68	100.39	(0.3)	(0.6)
Jams, Marmalades and Honey/Syrup	0.09	97.90	100.08	89.64	9.2	(2.2)
Confectionery, Chocolate and Other Cocoa Preparation	0.07	102.39	98.51	99.66	2.7	3.9
Edible ice, ice cream and sorbet	0.16	103.17	102.68	97.74	5.6	0.5
Food Products n.e.c	1.25	99.53	99.60	100.13	(0.6)	(0.1)
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	2.09	99.42	99.85	90.57	9.8	(0.4)
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO & NARCOTICS	2.02	102.39	100.13	101.95	0.4	2.3
Alcoholic Beverages	1.49	102.19	100.18	102.83	(0.6)	2.0
Tobacco	0.52	102.97	100.00	95.80	7.5	3.0
CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR	3.60	100.00	100.00	96.72	3.4	0.0
Clothing	2.83	100.00	100.00	96.35	3.8	0.0
Clothing Material	0.13	100.00	100.00	94.83	5.5	0.0
Garments	2.24	100.00	100.00	96.60	3.5	0.0
Other articles of Clothing and Clothing Accessories	0.45	100.00	100.00	91.40	9.4	0.0
Footwear	0.77	100.00	100.00	97.66	2.4	0.0
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	28.06	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Actual Rentals for housing	19.81	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Materials for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	1.15	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Services for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	0.60	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Water Supply	1.14	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Electricity	4.62	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
Gas	0.72	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	6.84	99.91	99.92	97.56	2.4	0.0
Furniture and furnishings, Carpets and other floor coverings	1.95	100.00	100.00	96.31	3.8	0.0
Household Textiles	0.43	100.00	100.00	101.60	(1.6)	0.0
Household Appliances	0.66	100.00	100.00	96.42	3.7	0.0
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	0.17	100.00	100.00	97.89	2.2	0.0
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	0.16	100.00	100.00	102.65	(2.6)	0.0
Goods and Services for routine Household Maintenance	3.46	99.83	99.85	98.61	1.2	0.0
HEALTH	1.37	100.00	100.00	99.53	0.5	0.0
Medical products, Appliances and Equipment	0.51	100.00	100.00	97.86	2.2	0.0
Outpatient Services	0.86	100.00	100.00	102.09	(2.0)	0.0
TRANSPORT	15.11	100.00	98.15	99.37	0.6	1.9
Purchase of Vehicles	4.02	100.00	100.00	99.99	-	0.0
Operations of Personal Transport Equipment	6.00	100.00	100.00	99.20	0.8	0.0
Transport Services	5.10	100.00	94.76	93.60	6.8	5.5
COMMUNICATION	8.70	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	0.0
RECREATION AND CULTURE	3.23	100.00	100.00	96.89	3.2	0.0
EDUCATION	1.44	100.00	100.00	99.45	0.6	0.0
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	4.15	100.00	100.00	93.59	6.8	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	7.53	100.00	99.99	103.28	(3.2)	0.0
	All Items less Food	100.05	99.67	99.24	0.8	0.4
	All Items LESS Energy	99.74	99.70	98.77	1.0	0.0
	All Items less Food and Energy	100.06	99.63	99.15	0.9	0.4

Table 3: Distribution of Changes in the Inflation Rate

	No. of categories	No. of Decreases	No. of Increases	No. of No Changes
Mar 2019 compared to Mar 2018				
Main Expenditure Level	12	1	9	2
Sub Group Level	23	5	12	6
Section Level*	12	5	7	0
Feb 2019 compared to Feb 2018				
Main Expenditure Category Level	12	3	7	2
Sub Group Level	23	4	13	6
Section Level*	12	5	7	0
Mar 2019 compared to Feb 2019				
Main Expenditure Level	12	1	2	9
Sub Group Level	23	2	3	18
Section Level*	12	3	6	3

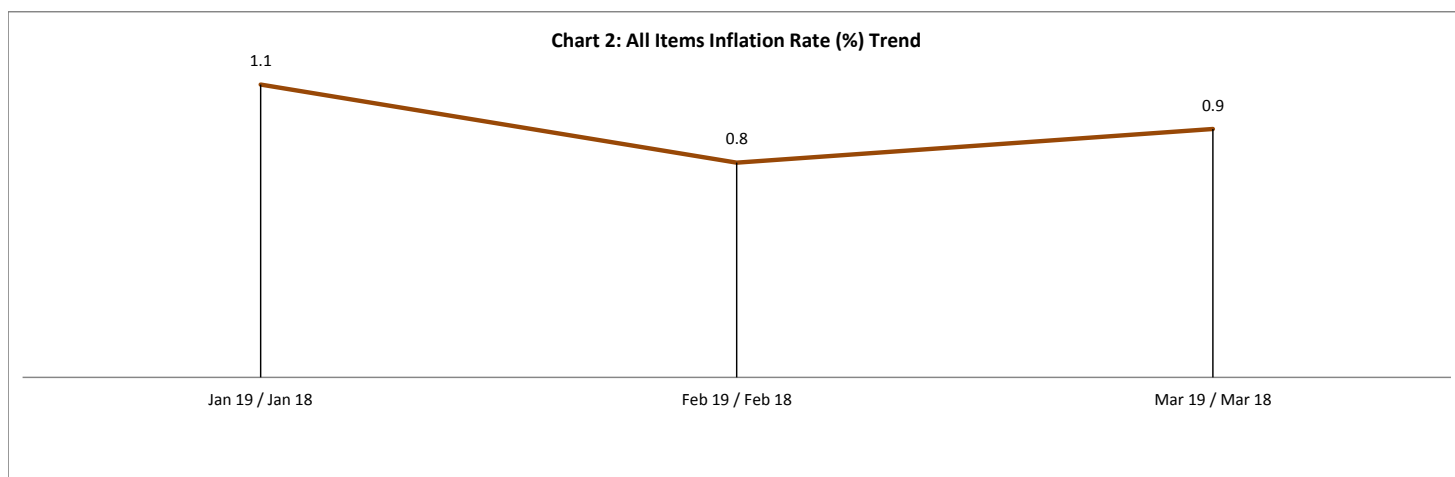
**Section Level is 33 Sections however for comparative purposes between 2019 and 2018 data we are utilizing 12 section levels*

Table 3 outlines the distribution of price movements for four inflation periods:

- Mar 2019 compared to Mar 2018
- Feb 2019 compared to Feb 2018
- Mar 2019 compared to Feb 2019

In Mar 2019 compared to Mar 2018, 1 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded price decreases, while 9 recorded price increases. 12 of the 23 sub-group levels also recorded price increases for some of the items that fall in that level. These collective increases and decreases would account for the magnitude and direction of the current inflation rate. 2 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded no price changes.

Graphical Analysis of the Consumer Price Index



Featured Expenditure Category

