



# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



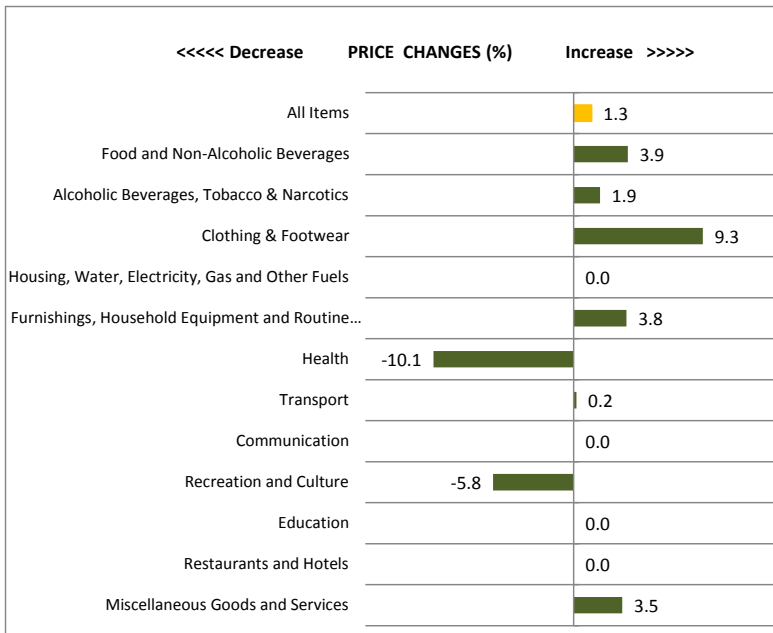
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Mar 2020

Inflation Rate

1.3%

## Headline Inflation: Year-on-Year Changes for Mar 2020 compared to Mar 2019



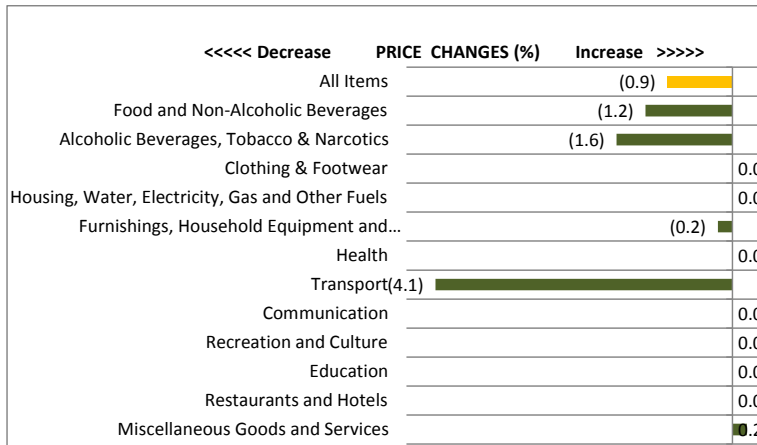
The All Items Consumer Price Index rose 1.3% for the twelve months ending March 2020. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index increased 3.9% over the last twelve months.

The Food index increased 3.9% for the past twelve months. The major grocery store food groups reflected a mixture of increases and declines. Vegetable price increase by 14.6%, the most of any food group. Also rising were the indexes for Meat and Meat Products (+ 5.3%) and Food Products Not Elsewhere Classified (+ 3.3%). These increases were offset by declines in the indexes for Fruit (-8.1%), Oils and Fats (-1.9%) and Sugars, Jams, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery (-1.2%).

The Non-Alcoholic Beverages index rose 3.5% resulting from average price increases for Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Fruit and Vegetable Juices.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy rose 0.8% over the past twelve months. The Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco index increased 1.9% and the index for Transport rose 0.2%.

## Month-to-Month Changes for Mar 2020 compared to Feb 2020

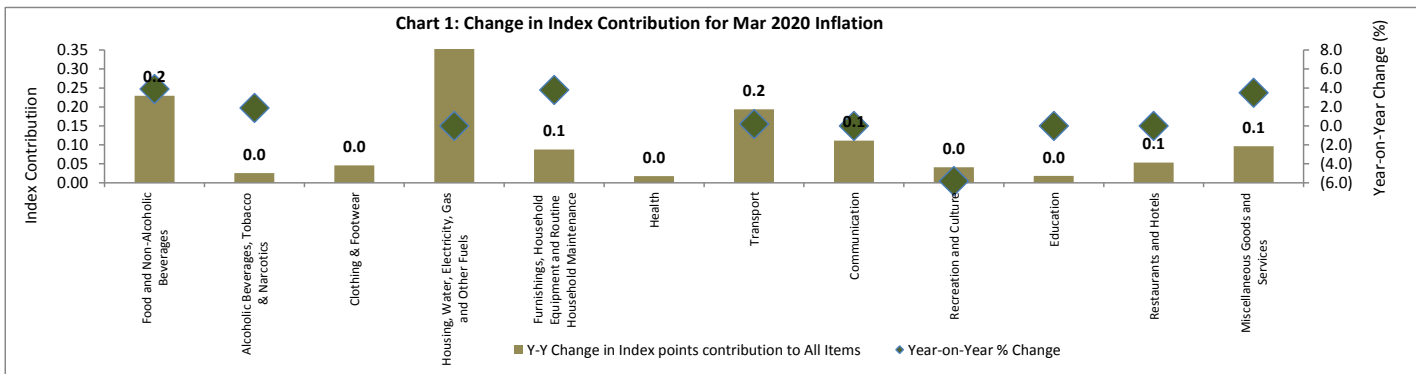


The monthly Consumer Price Index for March 2020 declined by 0.9%. The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index fell 1.2%. The Food Index decreased by 1.4%. An 8.1% decline in the index for Fruits was the largest change to the monthly Food index. The index for Vegetables fell 2.5% and the index for Meats and Meat Products decreased by 2.0% over the one month span.

Although the overall Food index declined some food sub indexes increased. The index for Food Products Not Elsewhere Classified rose 2.0% while Fish and Seafood prices increased by 1.5%.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy decreased by 0.9% in March 2020. The index for Transport fell 4.1% led by a 10.5% drop in prices for Transport Services. The index for Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics fell 1.6% and the index for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance decreased by 0.2%.

Chart 1: Change in Index Contribution for Mar 2020 Inflation



**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
<b>Total number of goods and services in the basket</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>Prices are collected from the second Monday to the second Thursday of every month</b>	
<sup>1</sup> 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.

<b>Year-on-Year</b>	$\frac{\text{June 2010 CPI} - \text{June 2009 CPI}}{\text{June 2009 CPI}} \times 100$
<b>Month-to-Month Price Changes</b>	$\frac{\text{June 2010 CPI} - \text{May 2010 CPI}}{\text{May 2010 CPI}} \times 100$
<b>Annualised Inflation Rate</b>	$\frac{\text{Average 2010 CPI} - \text{Average 2009 CPI}}{\text{Average 2009 CPI}} \times 100$

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.

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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-2020	Feb-2020	Mar-2019	Change	% Change
					Mar-2020	Mar-2020
				Mar-2019	Feb-2020	
<b>All Items</b>	100.00	101.04	101.92	99.76	1.3	(0.9)
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>	17.94	102.24	103.53	98.44	3.9	(1.2)
<b>FOOD</b>	15.85	102.16	103.65	98.31	3.9	(1.4)
Bread and Cereals	2.63	100.94	101.39	100.44	0.5	(0.4)
Meat and Meat Products	2.60	105.95	108.09	100.57	5.3	(2.0)
Beef and Veal	0.28	95.59	109.41	103.81	(7.9)	(12.6)
Pork	0.32	115.55	115.66	101.87	13.4	(0.1)
Lamb, Mutton and Goat	0.11	113.54	107.58	100.00	13.5	5.5
Poultry	1.16	106.81	108.98	98.51	8.4	(2.0)
Other Meats and Edible Offal	0.19	115.09	115.09	105.29	9.3	0.0
Delicatessen and other Meat Preparations	0.54	99.01	98.67	101.00	(2.0)	0.3
Fish and Seafood	1.91	103.58	102.05	103.24	0.3	1.5
Milk, Cheese and Eggs	1.41	99.72	101.41	99.66	0.1	(1.7)
Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products/Powder/Evaporated	0.89	98.36	104.73	99.53	(1.2)	(6.1)
Cheese	0.25	99.27	88.41	99.74	(0.5)	12.3
Eggs and Egg-based Products	0.27	104.51	102.56	100.00	4.5	1.9
Oils and Fats	0.48	99.71	99.48	101.62	(1.9)	0.2
Fruit	1.03	94.59	102.97	102.88	(8.1)	(8.1)
Vegetables	3.87	103.22	105.90	90.08	14.6	(2.5)
Sugars, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	0.67	99.52	99.72	100.74	(1.2)	(0.2)
Sugar	0.35	97.75	98.92	100.04	(2.3)	(1.2)
Jams, Marmalades and Honey/Syrup	0.09	106.08	98.52	97.90	8.4	7.7
Confectionery, Chocolate and Other Cocoa Preparation	0.07	97.61	102.68	102.39	(4.7)	(4.9)
Edible ice, ice cream and sorbet	0.16	100.54	100.80	103.17	(2.5)	(0.3)
Food Products n.e.c	1.25	102.77	100.74	99.53	3.3	2.0
<b>Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	2.09	102.88	102.59	99.42	3.5	0.3
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>	2.02	104.29	105.94	102.39	1.9	(1.6)
Alcoholic Beverages	1.49	101.60	101.84	102.19	(0.6)	(0.2)
Tobacco	0.52	112.01	117.66	102.97	8.8	(4.8)
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>	3.60	109.28	109.28	100.00	9.3	0.0
<b>Clothing</b>	2.83	105.54	105.54	100.00	5.5	0.0
Clothing Material	0.13	120.85	120.85	100.00	20.9	0.0
Garments	2.24	104.26	104.26	100.00	4.3	0.0
Other articles of Clothing and Clothing Accessories	0.45	107.41	107.41	100.00	7.4	0.0
<b>Footwear</b>	0.77	122.98	122.98	100.00	23.0	0.0
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>	28.06	99.99	99.99	100.00	0.0	0.0
Actual Rentals for housing	19.81	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
Materials for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	1.15	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
Services for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	0.60	101.39	101.39	100.00	1.4	0.0
Water Supply	1.14	99.75	99.75	100.00	(0.3)	0.0
Electricity	4.62	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
Gas	0.72	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
<b>FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE</b>	6.84	103.72	103.90	99.91	3.8	(0.2)
Furniture and furnishings, Carpets and other floor coverings	1.95	102.59	102.59	100.00	2.6	0.0
Household Textiles	0.43	110.66	110.66	100.00	10.7	0.0
Household Appliances	0.66	115.64	115.64	100.00	15.6	0.0
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	0.17	99.25	99.25	100.00	(0.8)	0.0
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	0.16	120.10	120.10	100.00	20.1	0.0
Goods and Services for routine Household Maintenance	3.46	100.59	100.94	99.83	0.8	(0.3)
<b>HEALTH</b>	1.37	89.95	89.95	100.00	(10.1)	0.0
Medical products, Appliances and Equipment	0.51	88.85	88.85	100.00	(11.2)	0.0
Outpatient Services	0.86	90.61	90.61	100.00	(9.4)	0.0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	15.11	100.18	104.42	100.00	0.2	(4.1)
Purchase of Vehicles	4.02	98.88	98.88	100.00	(1.1)	0.0
Operations of Personal Transport Equipment	6.00	99.24	99.24	100.00	(0.8)	0.0
Transport Services	5.10	102.14	114.17	100.00	2.1	(10.5)
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	8.70	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>	3.23	94.25	94.25	100.00	(5.8)	0.0
<b>EDUCATION</b>	1.44	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
<b>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>	4.15	99.99	99.99	100.00	0.0	0.0
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	7.53	103.53	103.29	100.00	3.5	0.2
	All Items less Food	100.78	101.60	100.05	0.7	(0.8)
	All Items less Energy	101.02	101.91	99.74	1.3	(0.9)
	All Items less Food and Energy	100.87	101.74	100.06	0.8	(0.9)

**Table 3: Distribution of Changes in the Inflation Rate**

	No. of categories	No. of Decreases	No. of Increases	No. of No Changes
<b>Mar 2020 compared to Mar 2019</b>				
Main Expenditure Level	12	4	6	2
Sub Group Level	23	7	12	4
Section Level*	12	3	9	0
<b>Feb 2020 compared to Feb 2019</b>				
Main Expenditure Category Level	12	4	6	2
Sub Group Level	23	6	13	4
Section Level*	12	3	9	0
<b>Mar 2020 compared to Feb 2020</b>				
Main Expenditure Level	12	4	1	7
Sub Group Level	23	5	1	17
Section Level*	12	6	3	3

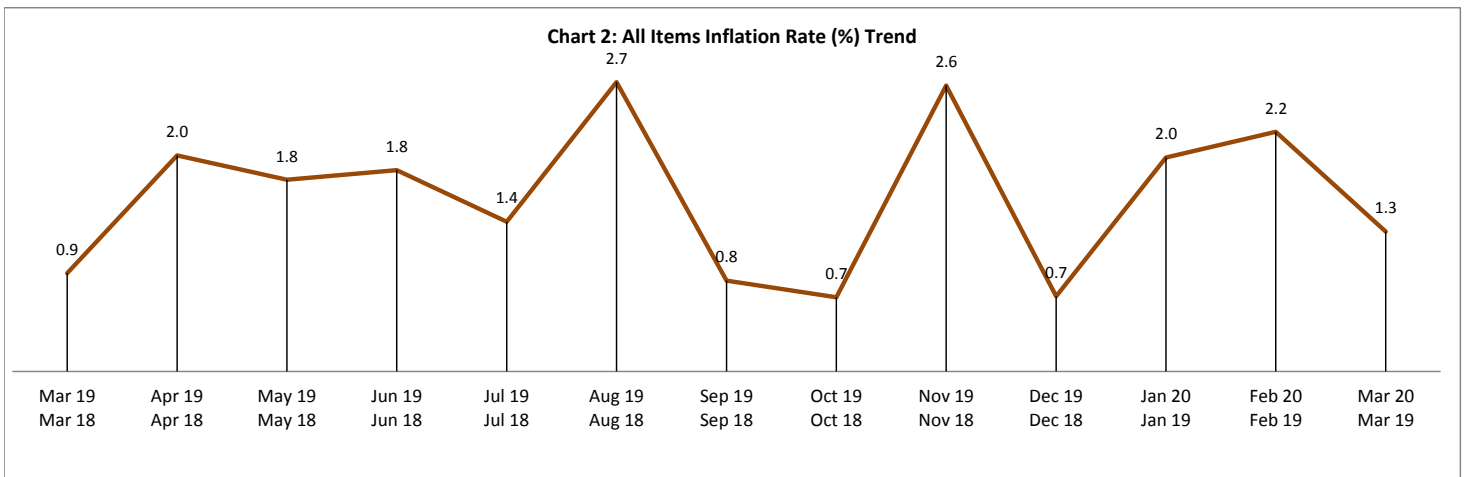
\*Section Level is 33 Sections however for comparative purposes between 2020 and 2019 data we are utilizing 12 section levels

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

- Mar 2020 compared to Mar 2019
- Feb 2020 compared to Feb 2019
- Mar 2020 compared to Feb 2020

In Mar 2020 compared to Mar 2019, 4 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded price decreases, while 6 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**

