



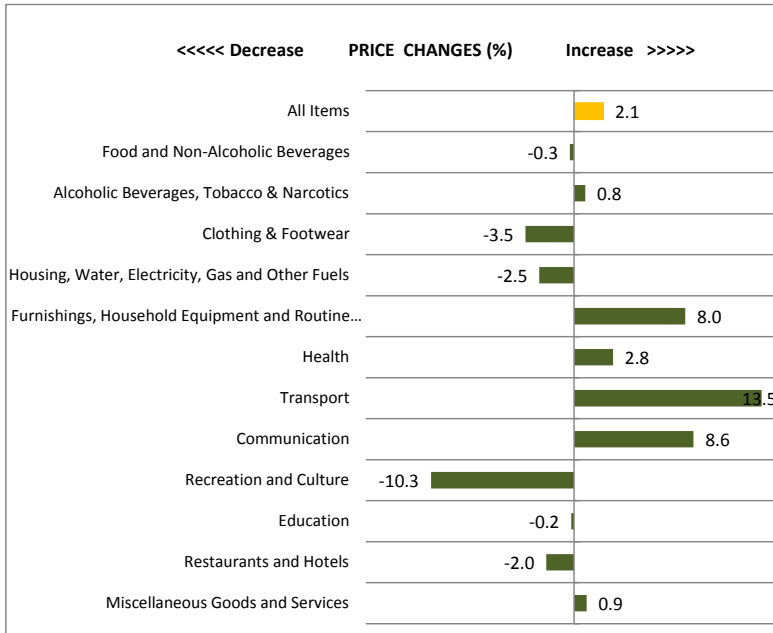
# CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



Release date: 14 Apr 2021

**Mar 2021 Inflation Rate 2.1%**

## Headline Inflation: Year-on-Year Changes for Mar 2021 compared to Mar 2020



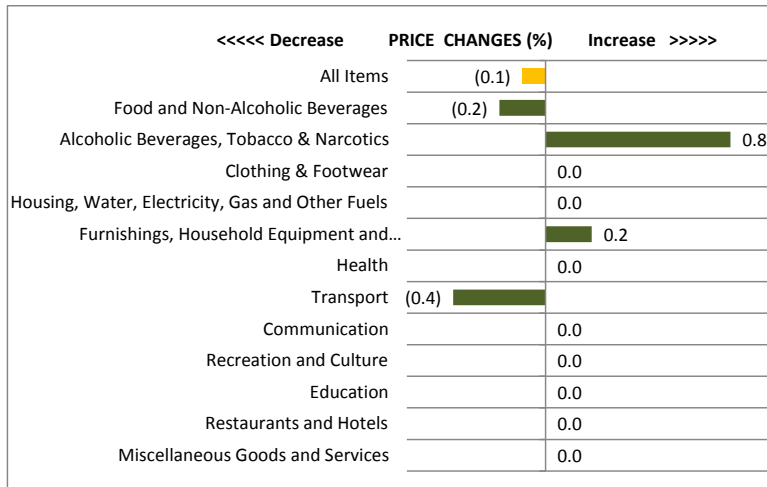
The All-Items Consumer Price Index for the month ending March 2021 increased by 2.1%.

The Food index declined 0.7% a smaller decrease than the -1.9% reported in February 2021. Four of nine supermarket food group indexes decreased over the period with decreases ranging from -1.6% (Meat and Meat Products) to -4.2% (Vegetables). The index for Sugars, Jams, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery decreased by 2.5% while the index for Fish and Seafood declined 3.9%.

The index for Milk, Cheese and Eggs rose 5.1% over the last year. The increase was impacted by a 9.4% increase in the index for Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products. The index for Bread and Cereals increased 4.0% as its five subcategories rose with increases ranging from 1.0% to 7.7%.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy increased 4.0% over the past twelve months. The index for Transport rose 13.5% with the index for Transport Services increasing 28.6%. The increase was impacted by imputation methods for the unavailability of some flights. The Furnishings, Household Equipment, and Routine Household Maintenance increased by 8.0%. The Miscellaneous Goods and Services index rose 0.9% while the index for Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics increased by 0.8%. The remaining indexes remained unchanged since January's last collection.

## Month-to-Month Changes for Mar 2021 compared to Feb 2021

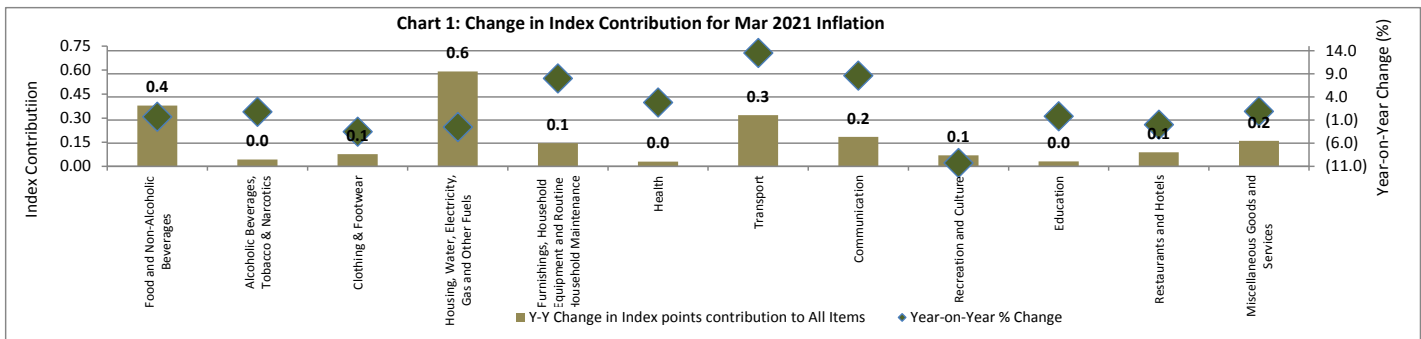


The Monthly Consumer Price Index decreased 0.1% in March 2021.

The Food index declined 0.2% in March. The index for Vegetables fell 2.6% over the one month. The index for Oils and Fats declined 0.3% in March its second consecutive decrease. The index for Fish and Seafood decreased 0.2% as the index for Fresh, Chilled or Frozen Fish and Seafood decreased 1.2%. The Index for Fruit decreased by 0.1% a smaller decrease than the 3.4% decrease in February.

The index for Milk, Cheese and Eggs increased 2.0% after declining 0.7% in February. The index for Bread and Cereals rose 1.3% as the indexes for Pasta Products (+5.3%), Bread (+2.3) and Other Bakery Products (+1.2%) increased over the period.

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy was unchanged in March. The index for Alcoholic Beverages, Tobacco and Narcotics rose 0.8% as the index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco increased 1.0% and 0.3% respectively. The index and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance increased 0.2% over the one month. The index for Transport declined 0.4% with the index for Transport Services decreasing by 0.9%.



**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.

2nd Floor ACT Building | Cnr. Market & Church Streets  
 Tel: (268) 462 3233 / 562 7491 | Fax: (268) 562 2542  
 email: stats@ab.gov.ag | www.statistics.gov.ag

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-2021	Feb-2021	Mar-2020	Change	% Change
					Mar-2021	Mar-2021
				Mar-2020	Feb-2021	
<b>All Items</b>	100.00	103.15	103.23	101.04	2.1	(0.1)
<b>FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>	17.94	101.91	102.14	102.24	(0.3)	(0.2)
<b>FOOD</b>	15.85	101.43	101.64	102.16	(0.7)	(0.2)
Bread and Cereals	2.63	105.01	103.71	100.94	4.0	1.3
Meat and Meat Products	2.60	104.28	104.05	105.95	(1.6)	0.2
Beef and Veal	0.28	111.02	113.95	95.59	16.1	(2.6)
Pork	0.32	108.79	105.03	115.55	(5.9)	3.6
Lamb, Mutton and Goat	0.11	111.41	111.69	113.54	(1.9)	(0.3)
Poultry	1.16	103.46	102.15	106.81	(3.1)	1.3
Other Meats and Edible Offal	0.19	91.62	98.62	115.09	(20.4)	(7.1)
Delicatessen and other Meat Preparations	0.54	103.04	102.94	99.01	4.1	0.1
Fish and Seafood	1.91	99.56	99.71	103.58	(3.9)	(0.2)
Milk, Cheese and Eggs	1.41	104.76	102.73	99.72	5.1	2.0
Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products/Powder/Evaporated	0.89	107.56	104.32	98.36	9.4	3.1
Cheese	0.25	95.27	95.29	99.27	(4.0)	0.0
Eggs and Egg-based Products	0.27	104.41	104.41	104.51	(0.1)	0.0
Oils and Fats	0.48	100.66	101.01	99.71	1.0	(0.3)
Fruit	1.03	95.05	95.12	94.59	0.5	(0.1)
Vegetables	3.87	98.89	101.58	103.22	(4.2)	(2.6)
Sugars, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	0.67	97.03	96.08	99.52	(2.5)	1.0
Sugar	0.35	94.85	94.56	97.75	(3.0)	0.3
Jams, Marmalades and Honey/Syrup	0.09	91.75	85.83	106.08	(13.5)	6.9
Confectionery, Chocolate and Other Cocoa Preparation	0.07	107.46	107.46	97.61	10.1	0.0
Edible ice, ice cream and sorbet	0.16	100.01	100.04	100.54	(0.5)	0.0
Food Products n.e.c	1.25	103.55	103.23	102.77	0.8	0.3
<b>Non-Alcoholic Beverages</b>	2.09	105.48	105.84	102.88	2.5	(0.3)
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO &amp; NARCOTICS</b>	2.02	105.09	104.26	104.29	0.8	0.8
Alcoholic Beverages	1.49	103.42	102.38	101.60	1.8	1.0
Tobacco	0.52	109.89	109.61	112.01	(1.9)	0.3
<b>CLOTHING &amp; FOOTWEAR</b>	3.60	105.43	105.43	109.28	(3.5)	0.0
<b>Clothing</b>	2.83	103.35	103.35	105.54	(2.1)	0.0
Clothing Material	0.13	110.32	110.32	120.85	(8.7)	0.0
Garments	2.24	105.53	105.53	104.26	1.2	0.0
Other articles of Clothing and Clothing Accessories	0.45	90.52	90.52	107.41	(15.7)	0.0
<b>Footwear</b>	0.77	113.06	113.06	122.98	(8.1)	0.0
<b>HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS</b>	28.06	97.51	97.51	99.99	(2.5)	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	101.39	0.0	0.0
Water Supply	1.14	99.75	99.75	99.75	0.0	0.0
Electricity	4.62	83.33	83.33	100.00	(16.7)	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	112.04	111.87	103.72	8.0	0.2
Furniture and furnishings, Carpets and other floor coverings	1.95	103.57	103.57	102.59	1.0	0.0
Household Textiles	0.43	168.85	168.85	110.66	52.6	0.0
Household Appliances	0.66	116.04	116.04	115.64	0.3	0.0
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	0.17	87.12	87.12	99.25	(12.2)	0.0
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	0.16	104.50	104.50	120.10	(13.0)	0.0
Goods and Services for routine Household Maintenance	3.46	110.29	109.95	100.59	9.6	0.3
<b>HEALTH</b>	1.37	92.48	92.48	89.95	2.8	0.0
Medical products, Appliances and Equipment	0.51	93.91	93.91	88.85	5.7	0.0
Outpatient Services	0.86	91.63	91.63	90.61	1.1	0.0
<b>TRANSPORT</b>	15.11	113.72	114.14	100.18	13.5	(0.4)
Purchase of Vehicles	4.02	106.77	106.77	98.88	8.0	0.0
Operations of Personal Transport Equipment	6.00	102.62	102.62	99.24	3.4	0.0
Transport Services	5.10	131.36	132.56	102.14	28.6	(0.9)
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	8.70	108.56	108.56	100.00	8.6	0.0
<b>RECREATION AND CULTURE</b>	3.23	84.52	84.52	94.25	(10.3)	0.0
<b>EDUCATION</b>	1.44	99.77	99.77	100.00	(0.2)	0.0
<b>RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS</b>	4.15	98.00	98.00	99.99	(2.0)	0.0
<b>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES</b>	7.53	104.51	104.48	103.53	0.9	0.0
	All Items less Food	103.52	103.57	100.78	2.7	0.0
	All Items less Energy	104.34	104.42	101.02	3.3	(0.1)
	All Items less Food and Energy	104.93	104.98	100.87	4.0	0.0

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

	No. of categories	No. of Decreases	No. of Increases	No. of No Changes
<b>Mar 2021 compared to Mar 2020</b>				
Main Expenditure Level	12	6	6	0
Sub Group Level	23	7	11	5
Section Level*	12	6	6	0
<b>Feb 2021 compared to Feb 2020</b>				
Main Expenditure Category Level	12	7	5	0
Sub Group Level	23	7	11	5
Section Level*	12	7	5	0
<b>Mar 2021 compared to Feb 2021</b>				
Main Expenditure Level	12	2	2	8
Sub Group Level	23	3	3	17
Section Level*	12	4	5	3

\*Section Level is 33 Sections however for comparative purposes between 2021 and 2020 data we are utilizing 12 section levels

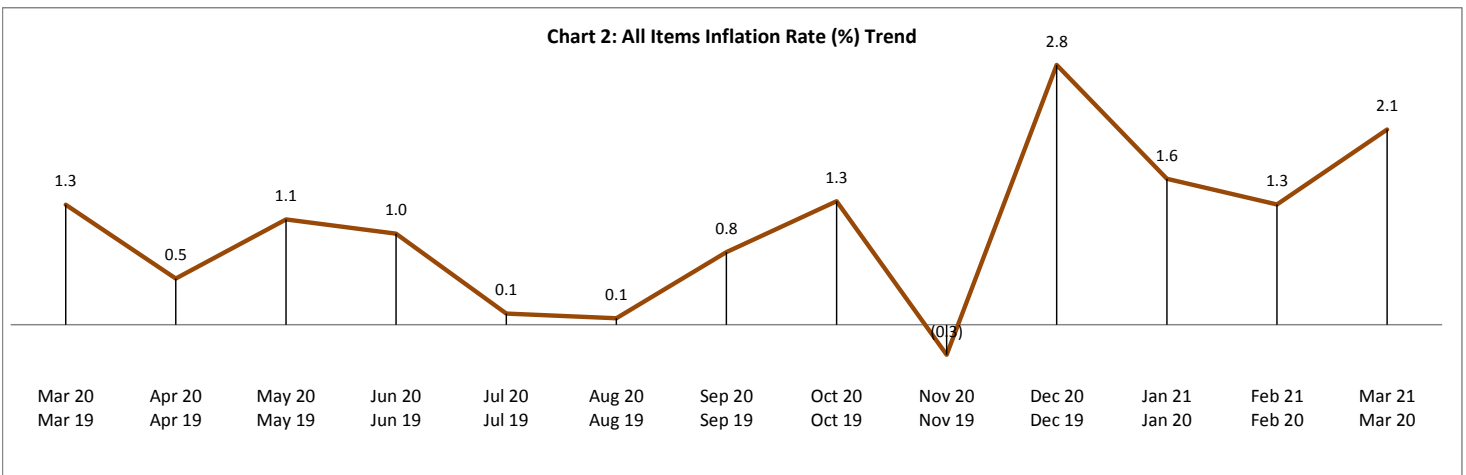
**Table 3 outlines the distribution of price movements for four inflation periods:**

- Mar 2021 compared to Mar 2020
- Feb 2021 compared to Feb 2020
- Mar 2021 compared to Feb 2021

In Mar 2021 compared to Mar 2020, 6 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded price decreases, while 6 recorded price increases. 11 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. 0 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded no price changes.

**Graphical Analysis of the Consumer Price Index**

**Chart 2: All Items Inflation Rate (%) Trend**



**Featured Expenditure Category**

**Chart 3: FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Inflation Rate (%) Trend**

