



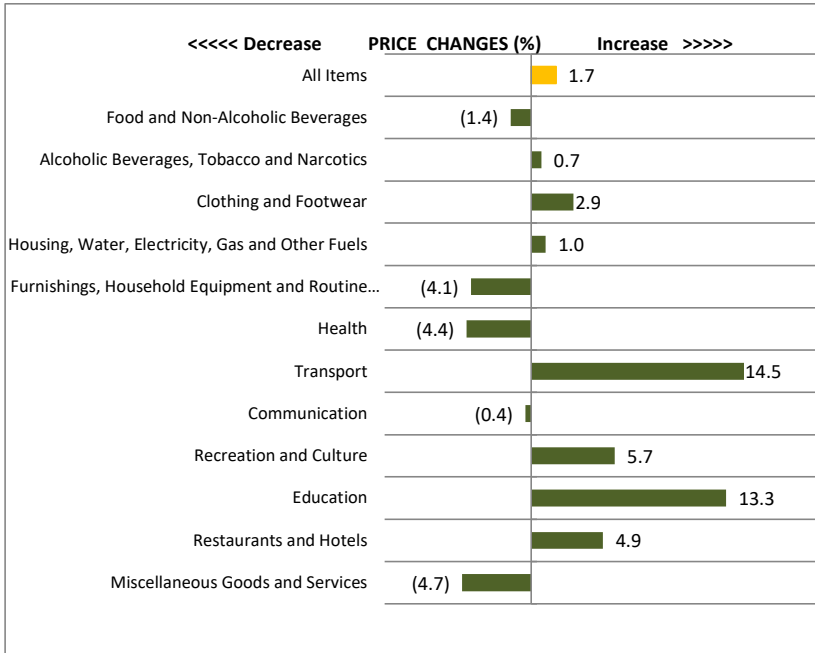
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Mar 2026

Inflation Rate

1.7%

Headline Inflation: Year-on-Year Changes for Mar 2026 compared to Mar 2025

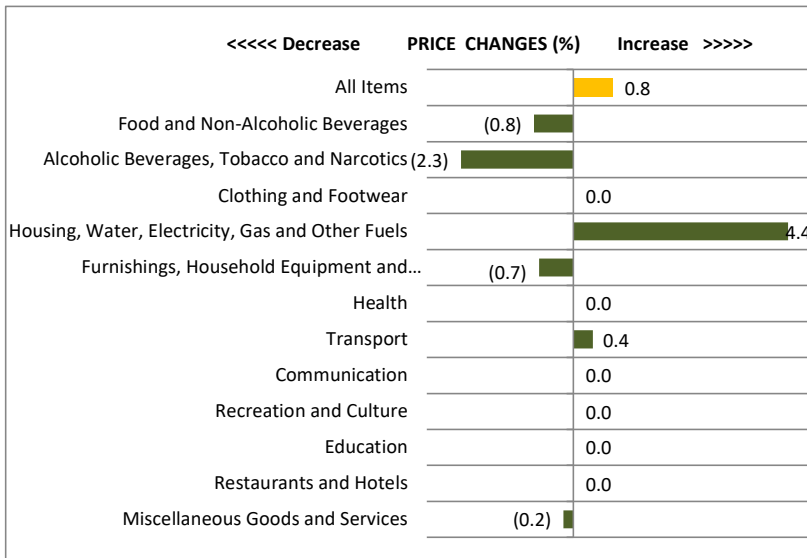


The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for March 2026 rose 1.7% over the period March 2025 to March 2026 year. The All-Items Less Food and Energy index increased 2.5%, while the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages index fell 1.4%.

Over the twelve months ending March 2026, the Food Index fell by 1.8%, and the Non-Alcoholic Beverage Index increased by 1.9%. The index for Fruit declined 18.6%, largely due to a 25.2% decline in the index for Fresh or Chilled Fruit. The index for Meat and Meat Products fell 7.9%, with several of its subcategories declining: Delicatessen and other Meat Preparations (-13.5%), Pork (-13.3%), and Poultry (-12.6%). The Bread and Cereals index declined by 2.1%, with mixed results across its five subcategories.

The All-Items Less Food and Energy index increased by 2.5%. This increase was influenced primarily by a 47.6% increase in the Transport Services Index. The rise in the Transport Services index was attributed to rising costs of regional and international air fares. Additional indexes with notable increases over the one year period include Education (+13.3%), Recreation and Culture (+5.7%), and Restaurants and Hotels (+4.9%).

Month-to-Month Changes for Mar 2026 compared to Feb 2026



The Consumer Price Index increased 0.8% in March 2026 after remaining unchanged in February 2026. This was driven by increases in Transport Services and Actual Rent for Housing.

The Food Index fell 1.5% following an increase of 0.4% in February 2026. The index for Fruit declined 8.1% with declines in the indexes for Fresh or Chilled Fruit (-8.2%) and Frozen, Preserved or Processed Fruit and Fruit-based Products (-7.7%). The index for Fish and Seafood fell 5.4% as both of its subcategories declined. The index for Fresh chilled or Frozen Fish and Seafood declined by 10.3% and Preserved or Processed Fish and Seafood declined by 3.3%. Other notable changes include Meat and Meat Products (-4.0%), Bread and Cereals (-2.1%), and Food Products N.E.C.(-1.9%).

The index for Non-Alcoholic Beverages rose 4.8% in March 2026. The index was affected by increases in the indices for Coffee, Tea, and Cocoa (+13.4%), Soft Drinks (+6.9%) and Fruit and Vegetable Juices (+2.7%).

The index for All Items Less Food and Energy rose 1.3% in March 2026 following a marginal increase of 0.2% in February. The index for Actual Rent for housing rose 6.2% using a composite index. The index for Transport Services rose 1.2%, resulting from a 1.4% increase in the average price of airline fares.

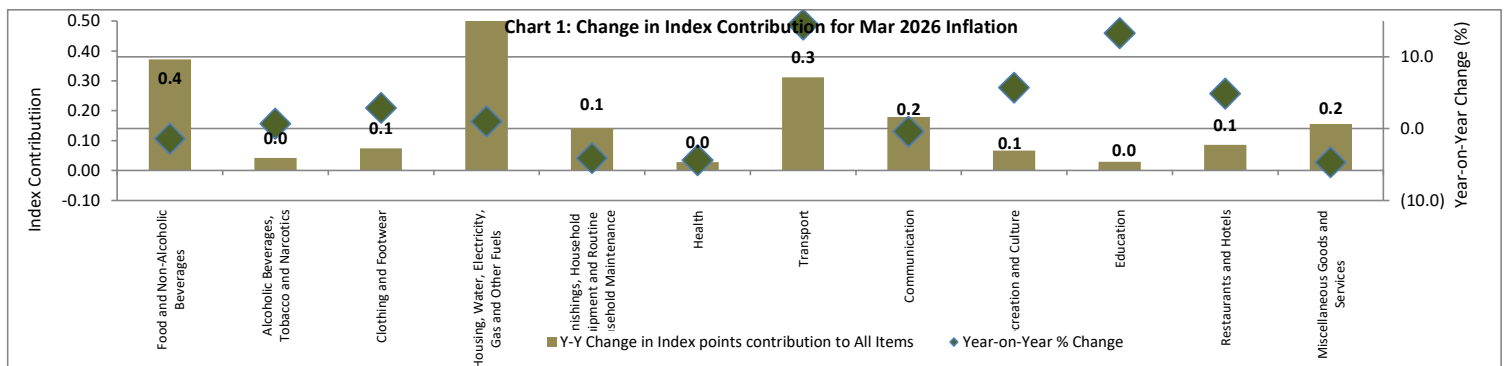


Table 1: Examples of Goods and Services in the 2019-based Consumer Shopping Basket

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 12 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 2019 = 100). So for instance, if the April 2020 CPI for chicken legs is 167.1, then it means that the price for chicken legs has gone up by 67.1% since 2019. Similarly, if the January 2020 CPI for bread is 93.1, then the price of bread has dropped by 6.9% compared to its price in 2019.

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 the arithmetic mean of the CPIs of the 12 months.

What are Weights?

Weights are "expenditure shares" that is the proportion of total spending on various consumer goods and services, for example, 20% on rent, 25% food, 15% transport, 10% on utilities and so on. The CPI weights are an expression of household's spending on consumer goods and services.

The weights were drawn from a survey of a sample of households in each month of 2006 (the weight base period). Each household in this sample kept a record of their expenditure for one month. Once completed, the expenditures were added to determine expenditure shares per 1000; these are the weights.

The current weights indicate that, households would spend the most on *Accommodation* (218.3 out of 1000) followed by *Food* (214.2) and *Transportation and Communication* (153.5). Households spend the least on *Alcoholic Drink and Tobacco* (1.6).

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Year-on-Year Inflation} \quad \frac{\text{June 2020 CPI} - \text{June 2019 CPI}}{\text{June 2019 CPI}} \times 100 \\
 \text{Month-to-Month Price Changes} \quad \frac{\text{June 2020 CPI} - \text{May 2020 CPI}}{\text{May 2020 CPI}} \times 100 \\
 \text{Annualised Inflation Rate} \quad \frac{\text{Average 2020 CPI} - \text{Average 2019 CPI}}{\text{Average 2019 CPI}} \times 100
 \end{array}$$

The compilation of the CPI and the calculation of the inflation rate involve the processing of hundreds of price quotations. The National Bureau of Statistics wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the business community in supplying the required prices and accommodating the Statistical Officers on their premises.

National Bureau of Statistics | Upper Nevis Street
 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			Change	% Change
		Mar-2026	Feb-2026	Mar-2025	Mar-2026	Mar-2026
					Mar-2025	Feb-2026
All Items	100.00	127.35	126.30	125.28	1.7	0.8
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	17.94	128.19	129.18	129.99	(1.4)	(0.8)
FOOD	15.85	127.07	129.04	129.45	(1.8)	(1.5)
Bread and Cereals	2.63	131.11	133.86	133.90	(2.1)	(2.1)
Meat and Meat Products	2.60	128.94	134.34	139.95	(7.9)	(4.0)
Beef and Veal	0.28	164.04	156.88	142.55	15.1	4.6
Pork	0.32	133.93	137.45	154.48	(13.3)	(2.6)
Lamb, Mutton and Goat	0.11	154.72	140.18	121.32	27.5	10.4
Poultry	1.16	123.42	137.55	141.14	(12.6)	(10.3)
Other Meats and Edible Offal	0.19	90.03	76.97	90.19	(0.2)	17.0
Delicatessen and other Meat Preparations	0.54	128.74	133.33	148.83	(13.5)	(3.4)
Fish and Seafood	1.91	123.82	130.89	112.87	9.7	(5.4)
Milk, Cheese and Eggs	1.41	136.82	133.30	130.10	5.2	2.6
Preserved Milk and Other Milk Products/Powder/Evaporated	0.89	129.81	124.57	120.67	7.6	4.2
Cheese	0.25	124.47	123.17	119.52	4.1	1.1
Eggs and Egg-based Products	0.27	170.77	170.77	170.25	0.3	0.0
Oils and Fats	0.48	133.83	130.36	129.88	3.0	2.7
Fruit	1.03	105.07	114.28	129.13	(18.6)	(8.1)
Vegetables	3.87	120.34	116.94	121.22	(0.7)	2.9
Sugars, Jam, Honey, Chocolate and Confectionery	0.67	137.78	135.49	137.78	0.0	1.7
Sugar	0.35	141.49	153.17	144.93	(2.4)	(7.6)
Jams, Marmalades and Honey/Syrup	0.09	134.20	133.49	131.39	2.1	0.5
Confectionery, Chocolate and Other Cocoa Preparations	0.07	169.55	169.85	157.91	7.4	(0.2)
Edible ice, ice cream and sorbet	0.16	117.34	113.71	115.97	1.2	3.2
Food Products n.e.c	1.25	142.82	145.65	148.30	(3.7)	(1.9)
Non-Alcoholic Beverages	2.09	136.55	130.27	134.00	1.9	4.8
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS	2.02	135.83	138.96	134.91	0.7	(2.3)
Alcoholic Beverages	1.49	122.18	126.60	120.78	1.2	(3.5)
Tobacco	0.52	174.86	174.30	175.28	(0.2)	0.3
CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR	3.60	136.14	136.14	132.33	2.9	0.0
Clothing	2.83	138.78	138.78	129.33	7.3	0.0
Clothing Material	0.13	112.30	112.30	141.31	(20.5)	0.0
Garments	2.24	130.61	130.61	129.03	1.2	0.0
Other articles of Clothing and Clothing Accessories	0.45	186.98	186.98	127.29	46.9	0.0
Footwear	0.77	126.47	126.47	143.33	(11.8)	0.0
HOUSING, WATER, ELECTRICITY, GAS AND OTHER FUELS	28.06	108.38	103.80	107.36	1.0	4.4
Actual Rentals for housing	19.81	111.14	104.66	109.71	1.3	6.2
Materials for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	1.15	124.70	124.70	132.42	(5.8)	0.0
Services for the Maintenance and repair of dwelling	0.60	111.24	111.24	112.60	(1.2)	0.0
Water Supply	1.14	101.95	101.95	99.92	2.0	0.0
Electricity	4.62	95.00	95.00	93.33	1.8	0.0
Gas	0.72	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.0	0.0
FURNISHINGS, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND ROUTINE HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE	6.84	132.20	133.17	137.80	(4.1)	(0.7)
Furniture and furnishings, Carpets and other floor coverings	1.95	144.88	144.88	173.69	(16.6)	0.0
Household Textiles	0.43	115.60	115.60	94.49	22.3	0.0
Household Appliances	0.66	128.50	128.50	120.05	7.0	0.0
Glassware, Tableware and Household Utensils	0.17	112.29	112.29	93.34	20.3	0.0
Tools and Equipment for House and Garden	0.16	205.04	205.04	210.01	(2.4)	0.0
Goods and Services for routine Household Maintenance	3.46	125.43	127.37	125.26	0.1	(1.5)
HEALTH	1.37	116.36	116.36	121.74	(4.4)	0.0
Medical products, Appliances and Equipment	0.51	115.63	115.63	106.52	8.6	0.0
Outpatient Services	0.86	116.79	116.79	130.87	(10.8)	0.0
TRANSPORT	15.11	126.64	126.10	110.56	14.5	0.4
Purchase of Vehicles	4.02	138.28	138.28	130.15	6.2	0.0
Operations of Personal Transport Equipment	6.00	117.55	117.55	118.88	(1.1)	0.0
Transport Services	5.10	129.69	128.17	87.89	47.6	1.2
COMMUNICATION	8.70	159.22	159.22	159.89	(0.4)	0.0
RECREATION AND CULTURE	3.23	97.23	97.23	91.98	5.7	0.0
EDUCATION	1.44	114.86	114.86	101.42	13.3	0.0
RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	4.15	156.93	156.93	149.54	4.9	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	7.53	150.85	151.12	158.32	(4.7)	(0.2)
	All Items less Food	127.17	125.69	124.17	2.4	1.2
	All Items less Energy	129.72	128.59	127.52	1.7	0.9
	All Items less Food and Energy	130.09	128.44	126.91	2.5	1.3

Table 3: Distribution of Changes in the Inflation Rate

	No. of categories	No. of Decreases	No. of Increases	No. of No Changes
Mar 2026 compared to Mar 2025				
Main Expenditure Level	12	5	7	0
Sub Group Level	23	9	13	1
Section Level*	12	6	5	1
Feb 2026 compared to Feb 2025				
Main Expenditure Category Level	12	6	6	0
Sub Group Level	23	11	11	1
Section Level*	12	6	5	1
Mar 2026 compared to Feb 2026				
Main Expenditure Level	12	4	2	6
Sub Group Level	23	3	4	16
Section Level*	12	5	4	3

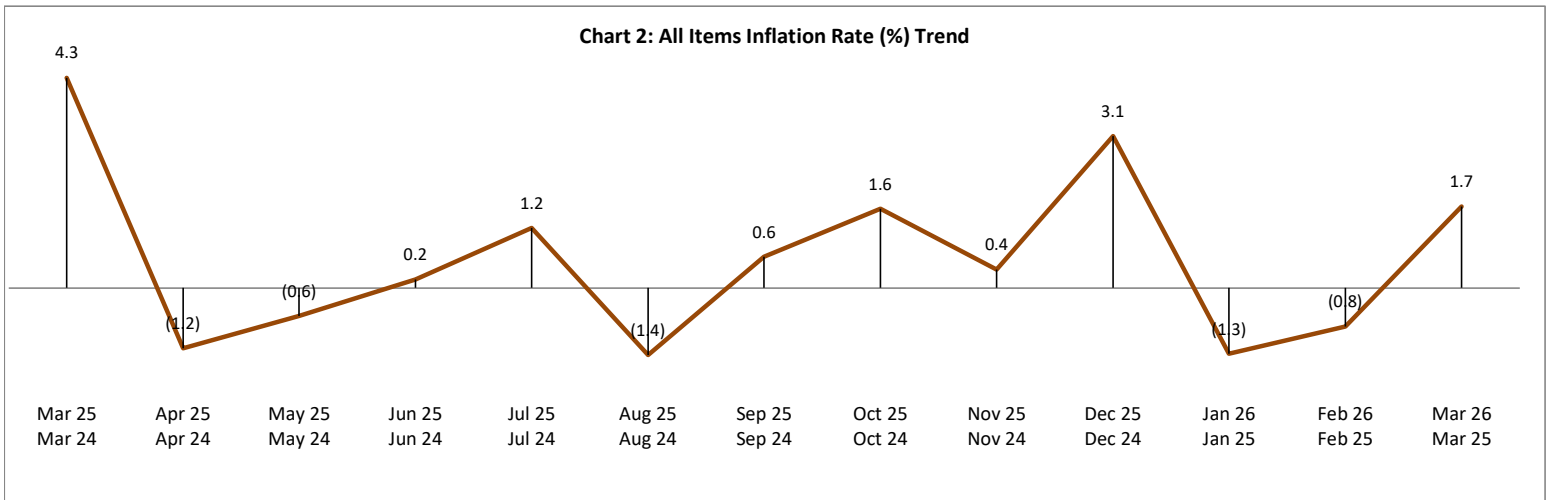
Table 3 outlines the distribution of price movements for four inflation periods:

- Mar 2026 compared to Mar 2025
- Feb 2026 compared to Feb 2025
- Mar 2026 compared to Feb 2026

In Mar 2026 compared to Mar 2025, 5 of the 12 main expenditure categories recorded price decreases, while 7 recorded price increases. 13 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.

*Section Level is 33 Sections however for comparative purposes between 2023 and 2022 data we are utilizing 12 section levels

Graphical Analysis of the Consumer Price Index



Featured Expenditure Category

