









FOOD PRICES BEFORE AND AFTER THE REVISED VALUE ADDED TAX (V.A.T.) REGIME

As part of its mandate to ensure fair pricing in the market place, the Consumer Affairs Division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry has been monitoring food prices in the local market place on a monthly basis. Over the period November 2015 to February 2016, the Division conducted special surveys at supermarkets countrywide to monitor the prices of food items before and after the introduction of the revised V.A.T. regime which came into effect on February 1, 2016. The results of these special surveys are highlighted in the following table.























The selected products were derived from a Basket of Goods Survey which the Consumer Affairs Division conducted. These selected products, which impact consumers across all income groups, have been used by the Division to monitor prices thereafter.

The values displayed reflect the prices charged at the supermarkets which constituted the sample during the survey period.

	ITEM	PREVIOUS *MODAL PRICE	EXPECTED PRICE (NEW VAT REGIME)	CURRENT *MODAL PRICE
Zero Rated Items (No VAT applicable from February 1, 2016)				
	Ibis All Purpose Flour (2kg)	12.99	12.99	12.99
	Par Excellence Parboiled Rice (2kg)	19.99	19.99	18.99
	Carnation Evaporated Milk Tin (410g)	9.99	9.99	9.99
	Green Butterfly Evaporated Milk Box (250ml)	4.99	4.99	4.99
	Dairy Dairy Full Cream Powdered Milk (800g)	47.99	47.99	47.99
	Kerrygold Powdered Skimmed Milk (800g)	54.99	54.99	54.99
	Nestle Full Cream Milk (1L)	9.99	9.99	10.99
	Blue Band Table Margarine (227g)	7.99	7.99	7.99
	Golden Ray Cooking margarine (227g)	9.99	9.99	9.99
	Nestle 123 Growing Up Milk 1+ (800g)	54.99	54.99	58.99
	Cheddar Cheese (454g)	18.18	18.18	18.18
	Eggs (Large Dozen)	22.99	22.99	25.00
	Target Corned Beef (340g)	15.99	15.99	15.99
	Chief Curry Powder (85g)	6.99	6.99	6.99
	Brunswick Sardines In Oil (106g)	5.99	5.99	6.99
	Salted Fish w/Bone (454g)	24.99	24.99	27.27
	Smoked Herring W/Bone (454g)	13.99	13.99	13.99
	Fermipan Yeast (4x11g)	6.99	6.99	6.99
	Lion Baking Powder (454g)	8.99	8.99	8.99
	Swiss Macaroni (400g)	4.99	4.99	4.99
	Demerara Brown Sugar (1800g)	15.99	15.99	19.99
	Mabel White Vinegar (1L)	6.99	6.99	6.99
	Cook's Mate Oats (226g)	3.99	3.99	3.99
	Store Packaged Split Peas (454g)	3.99	3.99	3.99
	Store Packaged Red Beans (454g)	8.99	8.99	6.99
	Store Packaged Dry Pigeon Peas (454g)	5.99	5.99	5.99
	Store Packaged Black Eye Peas (454g)	6.99	6.99	5.99
	Store Packaged Channa (large grain) (454g)	5.99	5.99	5.99
	Store Packaged Lentils (454g)	4.99	4.99	4.99
	Garlic (454g)	10.00	10.00	10.00
	Onion (454g)	2.50	2.50	2.50
	Irish Potatoes (454g)	2.50	2.50	2.50
	Fine Choice Frozen Chicken Breast (pk)	17.99	17.99	19.99
	Fine Choice Frozen Drumsticks (pk)	19.99	19.99	17.99

	ITEM	PREVIOUS *MODAL PRICE	EXPECTED PRICE (NEW VAT REGIME)	CURRENT *MODAL PRICE
	Fine Choice Frozen Chicken Thighs (pk)	11.99	11.99	12.99
	Fine Choice Frozen Chicken Wings (pk)	19.99	19.99	17.99
	Fine Choice Frozen Economy Pack (pk)	34.99	34.99	34.99
	Colgate Toothpaste (130g)	11.99	11.99	11.99
	Palmolive Toilet Soap (3pk)	15.99	15.99	15.99
	Soft N' Pretty Toilet Paper (6 x 280 Sheets)	15.99	15.99	15.49

Standard Rated Items

	Brunswick Vienna Sausage (141g)	4.49	5.05	3.99
	Erin Farm Chicken Franks (12pk)	11.99	13.49	13.99
	Pigtail (454g)	14.99	16.86	15.00
	Richport Tuna Flakes in Oil (170g)	6.99	7.86	7.86
	Kerrygold Fresh Butter (454g)	34.99	39.36	39.36
	Nestle Condensed Milk (397g)	7.99	7.99	8.99
	Milo (400g)	29.99	33.74	33.75
	Ovaltine (300g)	24.99	28.11	28.68
	Nescafe Instant Coffee (100g)	27.99	31.49	31.49
	Lipton Tea Bags (50 pk)	17.99	20.24	19.11
	Matouk's Mauby (750ml)	11.99	13.49	13.49
	Orchard Orange Drink (250ml)	2.99	3.36	3.50
	Orchard Grapefruit Drink (1L)	9.99	11.24	11.24
	Trinidad Juices Orange (19oz)	10.99	12.36	11.99
	Mabel Peanut Butter (500g)	17.99	20.24	17.99
	Eve Soya Oil (900ml)	13.99	15.74	16.99
	Crix Unsweetened Biscuits -Original (9oz)	11.50	12.94	13.00
	Sunshine Corn Flakes (18oz)	22.99	25.86	25.99
	Cook's Mate Soya Chunks (454g)	16.99	19.11	17.99
	MP Red Beans (440g)	5.99	6.74	5.99
	MP Baked Beans (440g)	5.99	6.74	5.99
	MP Green Pigeon Peas (440g)	9.49	10.68	10.68
	MP Peas and Carrots (440g)	6.99	7.86	6.99
	Chief Table Salt (500g)	2.99	3.36	3.59
	Mabel Bottled Tomato Ketchup (750ml)	7.99	8.99	8.99
	Swiss Tomato Ketchup Pack (750ml)	5.99	6.74	6.99
	Sweet Cane Granulated Sugar (1800g)	18.99	21.36	20.24
	Breeze Multi Active Soap Powder (900g)	22.99	25.86	26.99
	Quix Dishwashing Liquid (725ml)	12.99	14.61	13.99

Consumers should note that some prices may have been altered between the Consumer Affairs Division's survey period and the introduction of the new V.A.T. regime on February 1st, 2016. Accordingly consumers are advised to:

1. Enquire on the price of an item before making a purchase.
2. Become familiar with:
 - a. Items which are zero rated;
 - b. Items for which V.A.T. has been reduced from 15% to 12.5%; and
 - c. Items for which V.A.T. has been introduced.

The official list of items is provided at www.finance.gov.tt

3. Check all receipts to ensure that V.A.T. is charged at 12.5% for items which V.A.T. is applicable.
4. Compare prices across retail outlets.

For further enquiries, please contact the V.A.T. Hotline of the
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