

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – April 2008
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

The following Memorandum on the Index of Retail Prices is published for general information.

Dave Clement
Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of April, 2008 was 141.3 representing an increase of 0.8 point or 0.6% over the Index for March, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – April 2008 over that for the period January - April 2007 was 9.6%. This compares with an increase of 8.3% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – April 2007 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2006.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 245.8 in March, 2008 to 246.0 in April, 2008, reflecting an increase of 0.1%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of packaged flour, packaged rice, bread, fish - carite, cavalla and other fish, dasheen, green bananas, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, celery, ochroes, limes, margarine and soft drinks. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of whole chicken, king fish, tomatoes, melongene, cucumber, bodie, cabbage, watercress, christophene, sweet peppers, yams and melon.

Price changes in this section, for the month of April, 2008 had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for April, 2008 compared with March, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%; Clothing and Footwear 0.9%; Home Ownership 0.2%; Rent 2.8%; Water and Electricity 0.1%; Health 0.8%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 14.3%; Transport 0.1%; Education 3.7%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 5.2%; Miscellaneous Goods and Services 0.4%. However, the sub-index for Recreation and Culture declined by 5.4%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of April 2008, accounted for the net overall increase of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in April, 2008 compared with those of April, 2007 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change April 2008 – April 2007
All Items	9.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.5
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.7
Clothing and Footwear	3.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.1
Home Ownership	1.8
Rent	4.9
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.5
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	14.7
Health	5.6
Transport	2.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	5.8
Education	16.4
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	19.2
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.8