

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – April 2009
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

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GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of April, 2009 was 158.1 representing an increase of 1.7 points or 1.1% above the Index for March, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – April, 2009 over that for the period January – April, 2008 was 11.7%. This compares with a percentage increase of 9.6% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – April, 2008 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2007.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 305.9 in March, 2009 to 308.1 in April, 2009, reflecting an increase of 0.7%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of yams, ochroes, tomatoes, cucumber, limes, oranges, irish potatoes, green bananas and apples. However, the full impact of these price increases was offset by the general decline in the prices of fish - carite, sweet potatoes, celery, chive, hot peppers, cheddar cheese, melongene, sweet pepper, lettuce, bodie and pumpkin.

Price changes in this section, for the month of April, 2009 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.4 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for April, 2009 compared with March, 2009 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%; Home Ownership 1.6%; Rent 0.5%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 1.0%; Health 3.8%; Recreation and Culture 5.5%; Education 1.5%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 1.2%; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services 2.3%. However, declines were noted in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 0.8% and Transport 0.2%.

Price changes in these sections for the month of April, 2009 accounted for a net overall increase of 1.3 points in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in April, 2009 compared with those of April, 2008 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change April 2009 – April 2008
All Items	11.9
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	25.2
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.6
Clothing and Footwear	-0.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	8.4
Home Ownership	6.6
Rent	4.2
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	16.2
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	-7.0
Health	7.7
Transport	7.5
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	1.6
Education	6.8
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	15.9
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	7.4