

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – April 2010
(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, 2010 was 169.6 representing an increase of 5.3 points or 3.2% above the Index for March, 2010.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – April, 2010 over that for the period January – April, 2009 was 5.2%. This reflects a reduction when compared with an annual rate of inflation rate of 11.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – April, 2009 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2008.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 326.9 in March, 2010 to 347.1 in April, 2010, reflecting an increase of 6.2%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of whole chicken, yams, dasheen, melongene, ochroes, christophene, sweet pepper, tomatoes, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, celery, chive, limes, hot peppers and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by a general decline in the prices of fish – carite, cavalli and king fish, cucumber, mangoes, paw paw, grapefruit, salt and refined (yellow) sugar.

Price changes in this section, for the month of April, 2010 accounted for a net overall increase of 3.6 points in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for April, 2010 compared with March, 2010 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%; Rent 1.6%; Health 2.1%; Transport 1.9%; Recreation and Culture 10.4%; Education 1.2%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 0.3%; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services 0.6%. However, declines were noted in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 0.3%; Home Ownership 0.6%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 0.2%.

Price changes in these sections for the month of April, 2010 accounted for a net overall increase of 1.7 points in the All Items Index.

Changes in consumer prices in April, 2010 compared with those of April, 2009 reflected in various sections of the Index are shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change April 2010 – April 2009
All Items	7.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	12.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.2
Clothing and Footwear	0.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	-0.2
Home Ownership	-2.3
Rent	7.6
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.9
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	-0.2
Health	4.4
Transport	11.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	7.8
Education	2.9
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	2.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.1