

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – August 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 August, 2009 was 158.3 representing an increase of 0.6 point or 0.4% above the Index for July, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – August, 2009 over that for the period January – August, 2008 was 9.4%. This reflects a reduction when compared with an increase of 10.6% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – August, 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 302.3 in July, 2009 to 305.1 in August, 2009, reflecting an increase of 0.9%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of canned vegetables, oranges, mangoes, tomatoes, melongene, christophene, irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, yams and ochroes. However, the full impact of these price increases was offset by the general decline in the prices of packaged rice, powered whole cream milk, whole chicken, hot peppers, celery, chive, limes, watercress, ripe bananas and pumpkin.

Price changes in this section, for the month of August, 2009 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.5 point in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for August, 2009 compared with July, 2009 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 0.8% and Health 0.1%. However, the sub-index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco declined by 0.1%.

Price changes in these sections for the month of August, 2009 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

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

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change August 2009 – August 2008</b>
All Items	4.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	5.2
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	4.1
Clothing and Footwear	-0.7
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.0
Home Ownership	3.3
Rent	4.2
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	-3.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	3.5
Health	5.6
Transport	6.6
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	1.7
Education	6.8
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	8.2
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	7.2