

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – December 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 December, 2009 was 158.9 representing a decrease of 0.1 point or 0.1% below the Index for November, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – December, 2009 over that for the period January – December, 2008 was 7.0%. This reflects a reduction when compared with an increase of 12.0% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – December, 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 decreased from 310.5 in November, 2009 to 309.6 in December, 2009, reflecting a decrease of 0.3%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of packaged rice, whole chicken, sweet potatoes, dasheen, christophene, cucumber, chive, celery, onions, hot peppers, paw paw and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general increase in the prices of fish – cavalli, carite and king fish, mangoes, tomatoes, avocado, yams, ochroes, garlic, green pigeon peas, watercress and spices.

Price changes in this section, for the month of December, 2009 accounted for a net overall decrease of 0.2 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for December, 2009 compared with November, 2009 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.6%; Health 0.1%; Clothing and Footwear 0.1%.

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

Changes in consumer prices in December, 2009 compared with those of December, 2008 reflected in various sections of the Index are shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change December 2009 – December 2008
All Items	1.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	-0.2
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	14.0
Clothing and Footwear	-1.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.4
Home Ownership	0.6
Rent	2.8
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.9
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	2.2
Health	6.7
Transport	4.3
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	-5.7
Education	3.2
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	3.8
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.8