

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – February 2007**  
**(Base: January, 2003 = 100)**

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

*Shirley Christian-Maharaj*  
*Acting Director of Statistics*

**GENERAL INDEX**

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of February, 2007 was 127.6 representing an increase of 0.4 point or 0.3 % over the Index for January, 2007.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – February, 2007 over that for the period January – February, 2006 was 8.5%. This compares with an increase of 6.7% observed in the average All Items Index for January – February, 2006 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2005.

**SECTION INDICES**

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 201.0 in January, 2007 to 203.0 in February, 2007, reflecting an increase of 1.0%. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of sweet potatoes, cucumber, limes, fish (king), melongene, hot pepper, apples, yam, shrimp, soft drink and packaged rice. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in chicken, fish (carite), tomatoes, ochroes, dasheen, green bananas, paw paw and green pigeon peas.

Price changes in this section, for the month of February, 2007 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.4 point in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for February, 2007 compared with January, 2007 indicated increases in the general price level for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.2%, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels 1.0% and Health 0.2%. However, a general price decrease was noted for Clothing and Footwear 0.1%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of February, 2007 resulted in a negligible net overall change in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in February, 2007, compared with those of February, 2006 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change February 2007 – February 2006</b>
All Items	8.4
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	19.3
Clothing and Footwear	1.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	4.5
Home Ownership	5.4
Rent	3.1
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	2.7
Health	7.5
Transport	2.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	3.1
Education	11.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	7.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.3