

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – February 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 February, 2009 was 155.9 representing a decrease of 0.3 points or 0.2% below the Index for January, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – February, 2009 over that for the period January – February, 2008 was 11.7%. This compares with a percentage increase of 9.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – February, 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 305.6 in January, 2009 to 303.6 in February, 2009, reflecting a decrease of 0.7%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of, tomatoes, cucumber, oranges, dasheen, sweet potatoes, hot peppers, grapefruit, chive, whole chickens, celery, onions, irish potatoes, christophene, sweet peppers, cheddar cheese, and packaged rice. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general rise in the prices of limes, ochroes, yams, fish – king fish, carite, cavalli, red fish and other fish, grapes, melongene, and mangoes.

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

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for February, 2009 compared with January, 2009 reflected an increase in the sub-index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%. However, the sub-index for Clothing and Footwear declined by 0.1%.

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

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

Sections	Percentage Change February 2009 – February 2008
All Items	11.7
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	25.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	5.8
Clothing and Footwear	0.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	7.7
Home Ownership	5.1
Rent	6.5
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	17.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	5.3
Health	4.2
Transport	7.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	-8.9
Education	9.2
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	20.5
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.4