

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – February 2010
(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, 2010 was 163.4 representing an increase of 1.5 points or 0.9% above the Index for January, 2010.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – February, 2010 over that for the period January – February, 2009 was 4.2%. This reflects a reduction when compared with an increase of 11.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – February, 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 313.7 in January, 2010 to 322.6 in February, 2010, reflecting an increase of 2.8%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of fish – carite, cucumber, sweet potatoes, dasheen, ochroes, melongene, green bananas, sweet pepper, carrots, green pigeon peas, plantain, cabbage, paw paw, mangoes, chive, limes, refined (yellow) sugar and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by a general decline in the prices of fish – cavalli, king fish and other fish, shrimp, whole chickens, pumpkin, melon, yams and celery.

Price changes in this section, for the month of February, 2010 accounted for a net overall increase of 1.6 points in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for February, 2010 compared with January, 2010 reflected an increase in the sub-index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco of 0.4%. However, declines were noted in the sub-indices for Health 0.1% and Clothing and Footwear 0.9%.

Price changes in these sections for the month of February, 2010 accounted for a net overall decrease of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change February 2010 – February 2009
All Items	4.8
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	6.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	14.4
Clothing and Footwear	-1.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.1
Home Ownership	-0.2
Rent	6.5
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.9
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	1.0
Health	6.3
Transport	9.5
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	3.1
Education	3.2
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	3.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.9