

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – January 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 January, 2009 was 156.2 representing a decrease of 0.6 point or 0.4% below the Index for December, 2008.

The percentage change in the All Items Index of January 2009 when compared with January, 2008 was 11.7%. This compares with a percentage change of 10.0% observed between January, 2008 and January, 2007.

**SECTION INDICES**

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased from 310.2 in December, 2008 to 305.6 in January, 2009, reflecting a decrease of 1.5%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of packaged rice, packaged flour, tomatoes, melongene, cucumber, green pigeon peas, cabbage, watercress, christophene, yams, dasheen, celery, sweet pepper and hot peppers. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general rise in the prices of fish – carite, cavalli and king fish, whole chicken, oranges, grapefruit, mangoes, plantain, sweet potatoes, avocado, chive, onions, limes, refined sugar, canned vegetables and carbonated soft drinks.

Price changes in this section, for the month of January, 2009 accounted for a net overall decrease of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for January, 2009 compared with December, 2008 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%; Clothing and Footwear 0.2%; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels 0.1%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 1.5%; Health 0.4%; Transport 4.8%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 1.3%; Miscellaneous Goods and Services 1.3%. However, the sub-index for Recreation and Culture declined by 8.8% due largely to a general decline in airfares.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of January, 2009, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.2 point in the All Items Index.

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

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change January 2009 – January 2008</b>
All Items	11.7
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	25.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	5.5
Clothing and Footwear	1.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	7.8
Home Ownership	5.1
Rent	6.5
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	17.7
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	5.3
Health	4.3
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