

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – July 2008**  
**(Base: January, 2003 = 100)**

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

*Dave Clement*  
*Director of Statistics*

**GENERAL INDEX**

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of July, 2008 was 148.9 representing an increase of 3.4 Index points or 2.3% over the Index for June, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – July 2008 over that for the period January - July 2007 was 10.3%. This compares with an increase of 8.0% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – July 2007 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2006.

**SECTION INDICES**

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 262.3 in June, 2008 to 274.6 in July, 2008, reflecting an increase of 4.7%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of flour, rice, bread, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, dasheen, green bananas, christophene, melongene, bodie, celery, lettuce, ochroes, paw paw, oranges, and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of whole chicken, fish – king fish, carite and other fish, cucumber, watercress, avocado, apples, limes and hot peppers.

Price changes in this section, for the month of July, 2008 accounted for a net overall increase of 2.2 points in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for July, 2008 compared with June, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.5%; Clothing and Footwear 0.5%; Home Ownership 2.1%; Rent 1.5%; Health 0.7%; Transport 0.9%; Recreation and Culture 6.4%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 7.9%; Miscellaneous Goods and Services 1.7%. However, the sub-index for Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House declined by 10.8%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of July 2008, accounted for a net overall increase of 1.2 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in July, 2008 compared with those of July, 2007 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change July 2008 – July 2007</b>
All Items	11.9
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	25.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	13.0
Clothing and Footwear	2.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	7.6
Home Ownership	3.9
Rent	5.8
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	21.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	2.9
Health	5.7
Transport	1.7
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	4.6
Education	16.4
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	25.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.6