

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – March 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 March, 2009 was 156.4 representing an increase of 0.5 point or 0.3% above the Index for February, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – March, 2009 over that for the period January – March, 2008 was 11.6%. This compares with a percentage increase of 9.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – March, 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 increased from 303.6 in February, 2009 to 305.9 in March, 2009, reflecting an increase of 0.8%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of ochroes, tomatoes, yams, cucumber, sweet peppers, bodie, hot peppers, lettuce, cabbage, refined sugar (yellow) and grapefruit. However, the full impact of these price increases was offset by the general decline in the prices of celery, sweet potatoes, chive, dasheen, irish potatoes, christophene, green bananas, whole chickens, canned vegetables, limes, oranges, mangoes, paw paw, melon, cheddar cheese and packaged rice.

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

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for March, 2009 compared with February, 2009 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 1.9% and Health 0.4%. However, the sub-index for Clothing and Footwear declined by 0.2%.

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

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

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change March 2009 – March 2008</b>
All Items	11.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	24.5
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.6
Clothing and Footwear	1.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	7.5
Home Ownership	5.1
Rent	6.5
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	16.4
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	5.3
Health	4.5
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