

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – March 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 March, 2010 was 164.3 representing an increase of 0.9 point or 0.6% above the Index for February, 2010.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – March, 2010 over that for the period January – March, 2009 was 4.5%. This reflects a reduction when compared with an annual rate of inflation rate of 11.6% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – March, 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 322.6 in February, 2010 to 326.9 in March, 2010, reflecting an increase of 1.3%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of fish – cavalli and king fish, yams, ochroes, christophene, sweet pepper, bodie, green bananas, paw paw, oranges, grapefruit, limes, celery and chive. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by a general decline in the prices of packaged rice, tomatoes, cucumber, carrots, plantain, dasheen, sweet potatoes, melongene, hot peppers and canned vegetables.

Price changes in this section, for the month of March, 2010 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for March, 2010 compared with February, 2010 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 1.2% and Health 0.1%. However, the sub-index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco declined by 0.1%.

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

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

Sections	Percentage Change March 2010 – March 2009
All Items	5.1
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	6.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.2
Clothing and Footwear	-0.5
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	6.1
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