

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – May 2007**  
**(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 May, 2007 was 130.1 representing an increase of 0.8 point or 0.6% over the Index for April, 2007.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – May, 2007 over that for the period January – May, 2006 was 8.3%. This compares with an increase of 6.9% observed in the average All Items Index for January – May, 2006 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2005.

**SECTION INDICES**

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 205.8 in April, 2007 to 210.0 in May, 2007, reflecting an increase of 2.0%. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of limes, sweet potatoes, christophene, oranges, mangoes, lettuce, watercress, sweet pepper, chive, celery, green bananas, onion, tomatoes, hot peppers, plantain, bodie, cucumber, carrots and powdered milk. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in dasheen, yam, whole chicken, Irish potatoes, pawpaw and soft drinks.

Price changes in this section, for the month of May, 2007 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for May, 2007 compared with April, 2007 indicated an increase in the general price level for Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels 0.4% and Health 0.1%. However, general price decreases were noted for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.7% and Clothing and Footwear 0.9%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of May, 2007 had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in May, 2007, compared with those of May, 2006 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change May 2007 – May 2006</b>
All Items	7.9
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	17.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	9.6
Clothing and Footwear	0.8
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	5.1
Home Ownership	6.3
Rent	3.8
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.8
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	2.4
Health	5.3
Transport	3.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	3.5
Education	11.5
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	6.7
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.5