

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – May 2009
(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 May, 2009 was 157.8 representing a decrease of 0.3 point or 0.2% below the Index for April, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – May, 2009 over that for the period January – May, 2008 was 11.4%. This compares with a percentage increase of 9.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – May, 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 decreased from 308.1 in April, 2009 to 306.0 in May, 2009, reflecting a decrease of 0.7%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of packaged rice, cheddar cheese, fish – king fish, carite, cavalli and other fish, canned vegetables, melongene, dasheen, ochroes, cucumber, plantain, sweet pepper, cabbage, chive and apples. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general rise in the prices of whole chicken, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, yams, limes, grapefruit, mangoes, melon, ripe bananas, paw paw, watercress, christophene and green bananas.

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

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for May, 2009 compared with April, 2009 reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%; and Clothing and Footwear 0.5%.

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

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

Sections	Percentage Change May 2009 – May 2008
All Items	10.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.6
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.7
Clothing and Footwear	-0.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	8.5
Home Ownership	6.6
Rent	4.2
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	16.4
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	-7.0
Health	7.9
Transport	7.5
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	1.6
Education	6.8
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	15.9
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	7.4