

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – May 2010
(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, 2010 was 172.9 representing an increase of 3.3 points or 1.9% above the Index for April, 2010.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – May, 2010 over that for the period January – May, 2009 was 6.1%. This reflects a reduction when compared with a rate of inflation of 11.4% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – May, 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 347.1 in April, 2010 to 365.4 in May, 2010, reflecting an increase of 5.3%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of powdered whole cream milk, tomatoes, cucumber, christophene, dasheen, yams, sweet potatoes, irish potatoes, ochroes, avocado, limes, celery, oranges, mangoes and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by a general decline in the prices of fish – king fish and carite, whole chickens, paw paw and garlic.

Price changes in this section, for the month of May, 2010 accounted for a net overall increase of 3.3 points in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

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

Price changes in these sections for the month of May, 2010 had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change May 2010 – May 2009
All Items	9.6
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.4
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.1
Clothing and Footwear	-0.6
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	-0.2
Home Ownership	-2.3
Rent	7.6
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	2.9
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	-0.2
Health	4.5
Transport	11.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	7.8
Education	2.9
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	2.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.1