

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – October 2006
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

The following Memorandum on the Index of Retail Prices is published for general information.

Peter Pariag
Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of October, 2006 was 126.3 representing an increase of 1.2 point or 1.0 % over the Index for September, 2006.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – October, 2006 over that for the period January - October, 2005 was 8.1%. This compares with an increase of 6.9 % observed in the average All Items Index for January – October 2005 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2004.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages rose from 197.4 in September, 2006 to 197.8 in October 2006, reflecting an increase of 0.2 %. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of whole chickens, oranges, paw paw, tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet potatoes, plantain, and sweet peppers. Partly offsetting this increase were significant general price decreases in fish (carite), limes, yams, dasheen, irish potatoes, celery, and hot peppers.

Price changes in this section, for the month of October, 2006 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for October, 2006 compared with September, 2006 indicated an increase in the general price level for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 3.7%, largely due to an increase in the general price level of rum; services derived from Home-Ownership 1.6%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 1.2%; Health 1.2%; Transport 2.3%; Education 9.8% (with private tuition fees making the largest contribution); Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 1.4%; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services 1.7% . However, a general price decrease of 2.1% was noted for Recreation and Culture, due mainly to a fall in the general price level of air-fares.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of October, 2006 accounted for an overall increase of 1.1 point on the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in October, 2006, compared with those of October 2005 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change October 2006 – October 2005
All Items	10.0
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	26.5
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	19.2
Clothing and Footwear	-1.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	4.1
Home Ownership	5.1
Rent	3.3
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.6
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	3.7
Health	11.3
Transport	2.9
Communication	-10.2
Recreation and Culture	9.4
Education	11.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	6.2
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.4