

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – October 2007
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

Shirley Christian-Maharaj
Acting Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of October, 2007 was 135.5 representing an increase of 1.3 points or 1.0% over the Index for September, 2007.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – October 2007 over that for the period January – October, 2006 was 7.9%. This compares with an increase of 8.1% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – October, 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 225.0 in September, 2007 to 230.5 in October, 2007, reflecting an increase of 2.4%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of whole chicken, yams, green bananas, cucumber, tomatoes, paw paw, oranges, ochroes, watercress, plantain, cheese, canned vegetables, powered milk, cabbage, sweet pepper, carite and king fish. The full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of onion, celery, limes, avocado, pumpkin, carrots, dasheen, sweet potatoes and apples.

Price changes in this section, for the month of October, 2007 accounted for a net overall increase of 1.0 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for October, 2007 compared with September, 2007 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Education 12.3%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 7.9%; Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 2.6%; Rent 1.4%; Home Ownership 1.2%; Miscellaneous Goods and Services 1.3%; Health 0.7%; Clothing and Footwear 0.6%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 0.6%; Water and Electricity 0.1%. On the other hand the sub-index for Recreation and Culture declined by 8.0%

Price changes in these sections, for the month of October 2007, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.3 point in the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change October 2007 – October 2006
All Items	7.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	16.5
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.3
Clothing and Footwear	3.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	3.7
Home Ownership	4.1
Rent	5.4
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.7
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	0.7
Health	3.8
Transport	3.2
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	-1.0
Education	14.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	14.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.1