

**INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – October 2008**  
**(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 October, 2008 was 156.3 representing an increase of 2.3 points or 1.5% over the Index for September, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – October 2008 over that for the period January - October 2007 was 11.5%. This compares with an increase of 7.9% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January – October 2007 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2006.

**SECTION INDICES**

**FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 302.9 in September, 2008 to 307.5 in October, 2008, reflecting an increase of 1.5%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of packaged rice, whole chicken, pork chops, fish – carite and other fish, dasheen, green bananas, cucumber, celery, chive, hot peppers, oranges, grapefruit, paw paw, ripe bananas and spices. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of tomatoes, ochroes, bodie, watercress, christophene, yams, irish potatoes, cassava, avocado, limes, grapes, onions, canned vegetables and coconut water.

Price changes in this section, for the month of October, 2008 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

**OTHER SECTIONS**

A further review of the data for October, 2008 compared with September, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 1.7%; Home Ownership 2.7%; Rent 1.5%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 1.7%; Health 0.2%; Transport 1.9%; Education 5.3%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 4.8%; Miscellaneous Goods and Services 2.0%. However, the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear declined by 0.3% and Recreation and Culture by 0.7%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of October 2008, accounted for a net overall increase of 1.5 points in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in October, 2008 compared with those of October, 2007 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

<b>Sections</b>	<b>Percentage Change October 2008 – October 2007</b>
All Items	15.4
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	33.4
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	14.8
Clothing and Footwear	2.3
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	8.0
Home Ownership	5.4
Rent	5.9
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	17.7
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	4.1
Health	6.1
Transport	3.6
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	12.9
Education	9.2
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	21.8
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.3