

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

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

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GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of September, 2006 was 125.1 representing an increase of 1.1 point or 0.9 % over the Index for August, 2006.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – September, 2006 over that for the period January - September, 2005 was 7.9%. This compares with an increase of 6.9 % observed in the average All Items Index for January – September 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 190.8 in August, 2006 to 197.4 in September 2006, reflecting an increase of 3.5 %. Contributing to this increase was a general rise in the prices of bread, whole chickens, fish (carite and cavalli,) melongene, cucumbers, ochroes, callaloo bush, lettuce, carrots, yams, sweet potatoes, irish potatoes, cassava, canned vegetables, onions, chive/thyme, hot peppers and (carbonated) soft drinks. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in shrimp, oranges, mangoes, limes, tomatoes, cabbage, christophene, dasheen and sweet pepper.

Price changes in this section, for the month of September, 2006 accounted for a net overall increase of 1.2 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for September, 2006 compared with August, 2006 indicated an increase in the general price level for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1% and Health 0.2%. However, a price decrease was noted for Clothing and Footwear 0.2%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of September, 2006 accounted for an overall increase of 0.1 point on the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change September 2006 – September 2005
All Items	9.6
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	27.4
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	15.1
Clothing and Footwear	-1.1
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	3.5
Home Ownership	4.2
Rent	3.5
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.4
Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Maintenance of the House	3.1
Health	10.7
Transport	1.5
Communication	-10.2
Recreation and Culture	9.8
Education	12.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	5.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.2