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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES (Base: September, 1993 = 100)

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES Figures for December, 1999

Period	General Index	Section Indices											
	All Items	Food	Meals out	Drink and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing			Household operations	Household supplies and services	Health and personal care	Transportation	Reading, recreation and education
						Total	Home ownership	Rent					
Weights	1 000	217	14	24	104	216	196	20	66	77	62	152	68
Annual Average													
1997	119.1	158.3	117.0	117.6	96.4	109.3	109.6	106.3	103.6	107.9	110.4	111.8	112.8
1998	125.8	182.1	119.3	122.3	95.8	111.8	112.1	109.0	103.6	108.2	114.1	113.7	117.4
1999	130.1	197.9	121.4	126.0	93.3	113.6	114.0	110.5	104.5	109.0	116.9	114.8	120.5
1998 January	121.9	168.3	118.4	120.0	95.3	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.3	113.1	117.1
February	122.2	169.3	118.4	121.3	95.2	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.4	113.1	117.1
March	122.2	169.5	118.4	122.3	95.0	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.4	113.1	117.1
April	122.6	169.7	118.8	122.5	94.9	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.4	113.4	116.4
May	124.6	179.2	118.8	122.5	94.9	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.8	113.4	116.4
June	126.3	186.0	118.8	122.6	96.3	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.9	113.4	116.4
July	127.5	188.2	118.6	122.7	95.9	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.4	113.8	118.5
August	127.2	186.1	118.6	122.6	96.9	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.4	113.8	118.5
September	127.7	188.6	118.6	122.8	96.7	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.6	113.8	118.5
October	129.4	195.3	121.6	122.7	96.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.7	114.6	117.7
November	129.0	193.7	121.6	122.8	96.1	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.8	114.6	117.7
December	128.5	191.4	121.6	122.6	95.8	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.9	114.6	117.7
1999 January	128.7	191.8	122.2	122.6	95.6	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7
February	128.9	192.5	122.2	126.4	95.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7
March	129.5	195.3	122.2	126.1	95.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7
April	128.6	191.6	122.4	126.2	93.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0
May	129.2	194.3	122.4	126.2	93.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0
June	129.6	196.0	122.4	126.3	93.1	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0
July	129.8	197.5	120.5	126.4	92.7	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.8	114.8	119.8
August	129.7	197.0	120.5	126.3	92.6	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.8	114.8	119.8
September	130.6	201.2	120.5	126.3	92.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.9	114.8	119.8
October	131.4	202.4	120.5	126.3	92.3	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3
November	132.1	205.7	120.5	126.3	92.1	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3
December	132.9	209.5	120.5	126.8	92.0	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3

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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES- DECEMBER, 1999

General Index

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of December, 1999 was 132.9, showing an increase of 0.6% over the Index for November, 1999.

The All Items Index for January-December, 1999 showed an increase of 3.4% over that for January-December, 1998. This compares with an increase of 5.6% observed in the index for January-December, 1998 over the similar period in 1997.

Section Indices

FOOD: The Index for this section increased from 205.7 in November, 1999 to 209.5 in December, 1999 showing an increase of 1.8%. Within the Food Section, there was a negligible increase in the Index for non-market items, while market items increased by 17.6 points or 4.4%. Contributing to this increase were rising prices of chicken, fish, tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, and pumpkin. These price increases were offset by a decrease in the price of cabbage. The effect of price changes in this section on the All Items Index was 0.8 point.

Other Sections

A further review of the data indicated that Drink and Tobacco increased by 0.4%, while clothing fell marginally by 0.1%.

Growth in consumer prices in December, 1999 compared with those of December, 1998 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:-

Sections	Percentage Change December, 1998 – December, 1999
All Items	3.5
Food	9.5
Meals out	-0.9
Drink and tobacco	3.4
Clothing and footwear	-4.0
Housing	0.1
Housing ownership	0.0
Rent	1.4
Household operations	3.4
Household supplies and services	0.7
Health and personal care	2.0
Transportation	0.1
Reading, recreation and education	4.8