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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—December, 2004

(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

PETER PARIAG
Acting Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of December, 2004 was 108.9 representing an increase of 0.8 points or 0.7% over the Index for November, 2004.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–December, 2004 over that for the period January–December, 2003 was 3.7%. This rate is identical to the increase observed in the average All Items Index for January–December, 2003 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2002.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 131.8 in November, 2004 to 136.0 in December, 2004, an increase of 3.2%. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of tomatoes, chive, limes, sweet potatoes, ochroes, yam, dasheen and sweet peppers. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in cucumbers, melongene, Irish potatoes and fish (Carite).

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

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for December, 2004 compared with November, 2004 indicated decreases in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 0.4% and Clothing 0.4%.

Prices change in these sections, for the month of December, 2004, had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in December, 2004, compared with those of December, 2003, reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change December, 2004–December, 2003
All Items	5.6
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	20.6
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	4.4
Clothing and Footwear	-4.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	4.4
Home Ownership	5.5
Rent	4.0
Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	1.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.0
Health	3.2
Transport	3.9
Communication	-12.6
Recreation and Culture	1.0
Education	0.3
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	5.5
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	0.7

INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)
GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for December, 2004

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Acting Director of Statistics

Period	General Index		Section Indices										Miscellaneous Goods and Services		
	All Items Sept 1993 = 100	All Items Jan 2003 = 100	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels				Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House		Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture		Education	Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants
Weights	1000	1000	Total	Home-ownership	Rent	Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average															
2003	153.6	101.9	100.5	100.5	101.2	100.3	100.6	101.3	100.9	100.0	100.0	100.9	100.2	100.4	
2004	159.3	105.7	103.2	103.4	105.9	101.7	100.1	103.8	105.3	93.9	100.5	103.1	104.1	100.9	
2003	150.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
January	150.9	100.3	101.4	100.1	100.0	100.6	100.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
February	151.6	100.8	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.5	100.5	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.6
March	153.0	101.4	100.4	100.6	100.2	100.1	100.8	100.8	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6	100.6
April	153.5	101.7	100.3	100.6	100.2	99.9	100.8	101.5	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6	100.6
May	153.8	101.9	100.9	100.3	100.6	100.2	100.8	101.5	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6	100.6
June	154.5	102.4	100.9	100.9	101.4	100.5	100.7	102.4	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5	100.5
July	154.4	102.3	100.8	100.9	101.4	100.3	100.7	102.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5	100.5
August	154.4	102.3	100.8	100.9	101.4	100.3	100.7	102.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5	100.5
September	155.3	102.9	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.6	100.7	101.9	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5	100.5
October	155.7	103.2	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.8	100.7	102.1	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.5	100.6	100.6
November	155.6	103.1	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.8	100.7	102.0	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.5	100.6	100.6
December	155.6	103.1	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.8	100.7	102.0	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.5	100.6	100.6
2004	155.9	103.3	101.0	100.5	104.8	100.8	100.2	102.5	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	100.9
January	156.0	103.4	101.1	100.5	104.8	101.4	100.2	102.6	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	100.9
February	156.3	103.6	101.2	100.5	104.8	102.0	100.2	102.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	100.9
March	157.4	104.3	102.9	103.0	105.2	101.7	99.9	103.0	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	100.3
April	158.3	104.9	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.2	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	100.3
May	158.7	105.2	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	100.3
June	159.7	105.8	103.9	104.2	106.2	102.0	99.6	103.8	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	100.9
July	160.1	106.1	103.9	104.2	106.2	102.0	99.6	104.1	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	100.9
August	161.0	106.7	103.9	104.2	106.2	101.9	99.6	104.3	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	100.9
September	162.2	107.5	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	103.2	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	101.3
October	163.1	108.1	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	103.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	101.3
November	163.1	108.1	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	103.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	101.3
December	164.3	108.9	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	103.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	101.3

NOTE: From the month of April 2003, the figures for the All Items Index (September 1993 = 100) were not derived independently but were linked to the All Items Index (January 2003 = 100).