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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—October, 2005 (Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

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Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of October, 2005 was 114.8 representing an increase of 0.7 point or 0.6 % over the Index for September, 2005.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–October, 2005 over that for the period January–October, 2004 was 6.9%. This compares with an increase of 3.4% observed in the average All Items Index for January–October 2004 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2003.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 154.9 in September, 2005 to 156.4 in October 2005, an increase of 1.0%. Contributing to this increase was a general rise in the prices of christophenes, yams, dasheen, tomatoes, cucumbers, rice, sweet potatoes, limes, lettuce, bodie, watercress and cavali. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in coconut water, oranges, carrots, Irish potatoes, chive, whole chicken, grapes, green bananas, celery, mangoes and grapefruit.

Price changes in this section, for the month of October 2005, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.3 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for October, 2005 compared with September, 2005 indicated increases in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 0.1%; Clothing and Footwear, 0.1%; Housing, 0.6%; Home Ownership, 0.8%; Rent, 0.4%; Furniture, 0.6%; Health, 0.7%; Transport, 0.8%; Education, 10.8%; Hotels and Cafes, 0.6%; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services, 0.6%. The large increase in the general price level of Education is due to significant increases in private tuition fees, particularly those of private secondary schools and commercial educational establishments. However, a general price decrease was noted for Recreation and Culture, 1.7%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of October 2005, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.4 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in October, 2005, compared with those of October, 2004 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change October 2005—October 2004
All Items	6.8
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	22.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	2.2
Clothing and Footwear	-0.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.2
Home Ownership	0.8
Rent	5.6
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.6
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.9
Health	4.5
Transport	1.2
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	8.8
Education	14.9
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	6.3
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.5

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for October, 2005

Period	Section Indices															
	All Items Jan 2003 = 100	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels				Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	
Weights	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average	1000															
2003	101.9	108.4	99.8	98.8	100.5	101.2	100.3	100.6	101.3	100.9	100.0	100.0	100.9	100.2	100.4	
2004	105.7	122.3	102.8	93.4	103.2	103.4	101.7	100.1	103.8	105.3	93.9	100.5	103.1	104.1	100.9	
Average																
January - October 2004	105.1	120.0	102.5	93.9	102.9	105.6	101.6	100.0	103.5	104.8	95.2	100.4	103.0	103.8	100.8	
January - October 2005	112.3	147.7	106.0	91.9	105.7	111.6	102.3	100.8	107.7	108.1	87.4	107.9	107.1	109.9	102.8	
2004																
January	103.3	114.5	100.8	94.9	101.0	104.8	100.8	100.2	102.5	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
February	103.4	114.8	101.5	94.7	101.1	104.8	101.4	100.2	102.6	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
March	103.6	115.4	102.0	94.4	101.2	104.8	102.0	100.2	102.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
April	104.3	116.4	102.2	94.4	102.9	105.2	101.7	98.9	103.0	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
May	104.9	119.9	102.3	94.3	102.8	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.2	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
June	105.2	121.7	102.4	93.8	102.8	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
July	105.8	121.1	102.5	93.3	103.9	105.2	102.0	99.6	103.8	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	
August	106.1	122.7	103.0	93.1	103.9	106.2	102.0	99.6	104.1	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	
September	106.7	125.8	103.7	93.3	103.9	106.2	101.9	98.6	104.3	107.1	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
October	107.5	127.9	104.3	92.6	105.1	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.2	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
November	108.1	131.8	104.4	91.4	105.1	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
December	108.9	136.0	104.0	91.0	105.1	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
2005																
January	109.4	135.4	105.1	91.8	105.4	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.4	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
February	110.5	141.5	105.8	91.5	105.4	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.6	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
March	111.2	144.9	105.8	92.0	105.6	110.2	102.5	100.6	105.7	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
April	111.6	145.0	105.8	92.1	105.6	111.5	102.4	100.5	107.6	108.2	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.5	103.1	
May	111.7	143.9	105.8	91.9	105.6	111.3	102.5	100.5	107.6	108.2	87.4	105.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
June	112.1	147.8	106.1	91.6	105.9	111.5	102.6	100.5	107.8	108.2	87.4	105.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
July	113.5	151.8	106.2	91.4	105.8	111.7	102.5	101.0	108.1	107.1	87.4	105.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
August	113.8	153.0	106.5	92.0	105.8	112.7	102.4	101.0	109.2	108.1	87.4	105.1	107.1	108.5	103.2	
September	114.1	154.9	106.5	92.1	105.8	112.7	102.4	101.0	109.1	108.1	87.4	105.1	107.1	112.0	103.2	
October	114.8	156.4	106.6	92.2	106.4	113.2	102.4	101.6	109.9	109.0	87.4	110.0	118.7	112.7	103.8	

NOTE: To link the previous or old base (September 1993 = 100) to the new base (January 2003 = 100), at the All Items level, multiply the All Items Index of the new base by 1.509.