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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—May 2006 (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 May, 2006 was 120.6 representing an increase of 1.3 point or 1.1 % over the Index for April, 2006.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–May, 2006 over that for the period January–May, 2005 was 6.9%. This compares with an increase of 6.7 % observed in the average All Items Index for January–May, 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 increased from 173.1 in April, 2006 to 179.1 in May, 2006, an increase of 3.5%. Contributing to this increase was a general rise in the prices of whole chicken, margarine, oranges, mangoes, limes, cucumbers, yams, dasheen, sweet potatoes, cassava, canned vegetables, chive/thyme, celery, carbonated soft drinks and other non-alcoholic drinks (malta, cydrax). Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in king fish, cavali, other fish, melon, tomatoes, melongene, green pigeon peas, wartercross, carrots, christophene and plantain.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of May 2006, accounted for a net overall increase of 1.1 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for May, 2006 compared with April, 2006 indicated increases in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, 7.1% and Health 0.1%. However, a general price decrease was noted for Clothing and Footwear, 0.1%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of May, 2006 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.2 point in the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change May, 2006–May, 2005
All Items	8.0
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	22.8
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	12.7
Clothing and Footwear	–0.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	2.5
Home Ownership	2.5
Rent	4.4
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.5
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	3.2
Health	9.7
Transport	1.1
Communication	–10.2
Recreation and Culture	9.5
Education	12.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	6.8
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	1.5

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PETER PARIAG
Director of Statistics

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for May, 2006

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	
					Total	Home- ownership	Rent	Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels								Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House
Weights	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average																
2004	105.7	122.3	102.8	93.4	103.2	103.4	105.9	101.7	100.1	103.8	105.3	100.5	103.1	104.1	100.9	
2005	112.9	150.4	106.3	91.8	105.8	106.2	111.9	102.3	100.9	108.1	108.3	108.3	109.1	110.4	103.0	
Average																
January - May 2004	103.9	118.2	101.8	94.5	101.8	101.5	105.0	101.5	100.1	102.8	103.7	100.1	103.0	102.6	100.7	
January - May 2005	110.9	142.5	105.7	91.9	105.5	106.0	110.7	102.2	100.6	106.4	107.9	105.5	104.8	108.4	102.3	
January - May 2006	118.6	172.2	111.9	91.7	107.5	107.8	115.0	103.3	103.2	115.3	109.2	115.1	119.2	115.6	104.2	
2004	103.3	114.5	100.8	94.9	101.0	100.5	104.8	100.8	100.2	102.5	103.7	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
February	103.4	114.8	101.5	94.7	101.1	100.5	104.8	101.4	100.2	102.6	103.7	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
March	103.6	115.4	102.0	94.4	101.2	100.5	104.8	102.0	100.2	102.7	103.7	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	
April	104.3	116.4	102.9	94.4	102.9	103.0	105.2	101.7	98.9	103.0	103.7	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
May	104.9	119.9	102.3	94.3	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	98.9	103.2	103.7	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
June	105.2	121.7	102.4	93.8	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	98.9	103.7	103.7	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	
July	105.8	121.1	102.5	93.3	103.9	104.2	108.2	102.0	98.6	103.8	105.9	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	
August	106.1	122.7	103.0	93.1	103.9	104.2	108.2	102.0	98.6	104.1	105.9	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	
September	106.7	125.6	103.7	93.3	103.9	104.2	106.2	101.9	99.6	104.3	107.7	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	
October	107.5	127.9	104.3	92.6	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.2	107.7	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
November	108.1	131.8	104.4	91.4	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
December	108.9	136.0	104.0	91.0	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3	
2005	109.4	135.4	105.1	91.8	105.4	106.0	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.4	107.7	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
January	110.5	141.5	105.8	91.5	105.4	106.0	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.6	107.7	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
February	111.2	144.9	105.8	92.0	105.6	106.0	110.2	102.5	100.6	105.7	107.7	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7	
March	111.6	145.0	105.8	92.1	105.6	105.9	111.5	102.4	100.5	107.6	108.2	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
April	111.7	145.9	105.8	91.9	105.6	105.9	111.5	102.5	100.5	107.6	108.2	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
May	112.1	147.8	106.1	91.6	105.7	105.9	111.5	102.6	100.5	107.8	108.2	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
June	112.1	147.8	106.1	91.6	105.7	105.9	111.5	102.6	100.5	107.8	108.2	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	
July	113.5	151.8	106.2	91.4	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.5	101.0	108.1	108.1	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
August	113.8	153.0	106.5	92.0	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.2	108.1	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
September	114.1	154.9	106.5	92.1	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.1	108.1	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
October	114.8	156.4	106.6	92.2	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	108.9	109.0	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
November	115.7	161.6	107.2	91.8	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	109.0	109.0	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
December	116.7	166.7	107.9	91.3	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	110.4	109.0	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2	
2006	117.1	166.3	109.7	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	112.2	109.1	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9	
January	117.7	169.6	109.4	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	113.3	109.1	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9	
February	118.5	172.8	110.1	92.4	107.2	107.4	114.0	103.8	102.8	114.9	108.1	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9	
March	119.3	173.1	111.3	91.5	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.7	117.9	109.4	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	
April	120.6	179.1	119.2	91.4	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.7	118.0	109.4	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	
May	120.6	179.1	119.2	91.4	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.7	118.0	109.4	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	

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.