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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—February, 2008 (Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

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Acting Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of February, 2008 was 139.6 representing a decrease of 0.3 point or 0.2% below the Index for January, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–February, 2008 over that for the period January–February, 2007 was 9.7%. This compares with an increase of 8.5% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January–February, 2007 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2006.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased from 242.7 in January, 2008 to 241.1 in February, 2008, reflecting a decrease of 0.7%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of cucumber, christophene, yams, dasheen, sweet potatoes, plantain, oranges, limes, tomatoes, apples, chive, celery and sweet pepper. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general rise in the prices of carite, king fish, cavalli, other fish, packaged flour, cheese, melongene, pumpkin, ochroes and hot peppers.

Price changes in this section, for the month of February, 2008 accounted for a net overall decrease of 0.3 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for February, 2008 compared with January, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 0.3%; Water and Electricity 0.6%; Health 0.2%. On the other hand, the sub-index for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco declined by 0.1%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of February, 2008, had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in February, 2008, compared with those of February, 2007, reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change February, 2008–February, 2007
All Items	9.4
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	18.8
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	13.3
Clothing and Footwear	2.7
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	3.2
Home Ownership	3.5
Rent	4.9
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.5
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.9
Health	6.8
Transport	4.0
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	14.1
Education	14.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurant	13.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.3

480—Continued

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for February, 2008

Period	Section Indices											Miscellaneous Goods and Services				
	All Items Jan 2003 = 100	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	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
					Total	Home-ownership	Rent	Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels								
Weights	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average	1000															
2006	122.3	185.3	119.4	91.3	108.9	109.6	116.0	103.7	104.0	118.5	110.1	78.5	122.7	117.3	105.3	
2007	132.0	217.6	134.2	93.3	113.5	115.2	120.8	105.5	105.9	124.8	114.4	78.5	137.4	127.8	110.8	
January - February 2006	117.4	168.0	109.6	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	112.8	109.1	78.5	118.7	115.4	103.9	
January - February 2007	127.4	202.0	130.4	92.9	111.6	113.2	117.5	104.3	105.6	121.7	112.2	78.5	131.8	123.5	108.4	
January - February 2008	139.8	241.9	148.0	95.2	115.3	117.2	123.3	106.1	106.6	130.0	116.7	78.5	150.2	140.1	114.1	
2006 January	117.1	166.3	109.7	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	112.2	109.1	78.5	118.7	115.4	103.9	
February	117.7	169.6	109.4	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	113.3	109.1	78.5	118.7	115.4	103.9	
March	118.5	172.8	110.1	92.4	107.2	108.5	114.0	103.8	103.7	114.9	108.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	103.9	
April	119.3	173.1	111.3	91.5	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.8	117.9	109.4	78.5	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	78.5	120.0	115.9	104.6	
June	121.8	185.8	120.7	91.3	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.7	118.5	109.4	78.5	120.0	115.9	104.6	
July	123.3	187.0	121.8	91.3	109.6	110.4	116.7	104.0	104.1	120.7	108.7	78.5	120.0	118.0	105.5	
August	124.0	190.8	122.5	91.3	109.5	110.4	116.7	103.9	104.1	120.6	109.7	78.5	122.9	118.0	105.5	
September	125.1	197.4	122.6	91.1	109.5	110.4	116.7	103.8	104.1	120.8	109.7	78.5	120.0	118.0	105.5	
October	126.3	197.8	127.1	91.1	110.8	112.2	116.9	104.0	105.4	122.3	112.2	78.5	131.8	119.7	107.3	
November	126.8	200.8	129.4	90.7	110.8	112.2	116.9	104.0	105.4	121.4	112.2	78.5	131.8	119.7	107.3	
December	127.3	203.4	129.7	90.5	110.8	112.2	116.9	104.0	105.4	121.5	112.2	78.5	131.8	119.7	107.3	
2007 January	127.2	201.0	130.2	92.9	111.5	113.2	117.5	103.8	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	131.8	123.5	108.4	
February	127.6	203.0	130.5	92.8	111.7	113.2	117.5	104.8	105.6	121.8	112.2	78.5	131.8	123.5	108.4	
March	128.0	205.3	130.4	92.2	111.9	113.2	117.5	105.5	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	131.8	123.5	108.4	
April	129.3	205.8	131.6	92.9	113.6	115.3	120.8	105.5	106.2	124.2	113.6	78.5	133.8	123.7	110.4	
May	130.1	210.0	130.7	93.0	113.7	115.3	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.3	113.6	78.5	133.8	123.7	110.4	
June	130.7	213.1	131.6	93.4	113.7	115.3	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.5	113.6	78.5	133.8	123.7	110.4	
July	133.1	219.1	132.0	93.4	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.7	105.5	125.8	115.8	78.5	133.8	126.9	111.4	
August	133.8	222.7	132.7	93.6	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.7	105.5	126.1	115.8	78.5	133.8	126.9	111.4	
September	134.2	225.0	132.9	93.5	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.8	105.5	126.1	115.8	78.5	133.8	126.9	111.4	
October	135.5	230.5	136.4	94.1	114.9	116.8	123.2	105.8	106.1	127.0	115.8	78.5	150.2	136.9	112.8	
November	137.1	238.4	145.1	94.2	114.9	116.8	123.2	105.7	106.1	127.4	115.8	78.5	150.2	136.9	112.8	
December	137.0	237.5	146.5	94.7	115.0	116.8	123.2	105.9	106.1	127.3	115.8	78.5	150.2	136.9	112.8	
2008 January	139.9	242.7	148.1	95.0	115.2	117.2	123.3	105.8	106.6	129.9	116.7	78.5	150.2	140.1	114.1	
February	139.6	241.1	147.9	95.3	115.3	117.2	123.3	106.4	106.6	130.1	116.7	78.5	150.2	140.1	114.1	

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.