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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—March, 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 March, 2008 was 140.5 representing an increase of 0.9 points or 0.6% over the Index for February, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 2008 over that for the period January–March, 2007 was 9.7%. This compares with an increase of 8.3% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 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 increased from 241.1 in February, 2008 to 245.8 in March, 2008, reflecting an increase of 1.9%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of ochros, dasheen, yams, sweet potatoes, green bananas, plantains, pumpkin, fish (carite), hot peppers, limes, canned vegetables, carbonated soft drinks, whole chicken and packaged flour. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of cucumbers, tomatoes, melongene, callaloo bush, bodie, celery, chive, grapes, melon and pawpaw.

Price changes in this section, for the month of March, 2008 accounted for a net overall increase of 0.8 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for March, 2008 compared with February, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.2%; Water and Electricity 0.6%; Health 0.1%. However, the sub-index for Clothing and Footwear declined by 0.5%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of March, 2008, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

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

Sections	Percentage Change March, 2008–March, 2007
All Items	9.8
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	13.7
Clothing and Footwear	2.8
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	3.2
Home Ownership	3.5
Rent	4.9
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.4
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.9
Health	7.1
Transport	4.0
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	14.1
Education	14.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	13.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	5.3

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Acting Director of Statistics

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

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

GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for March, 2008

Period	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	Miscellaneous Goods and Services
					Total	Home- ownership	Rent	Water, Electricity Gas and Other Fuels								
Weights	1000	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36
Annual Average																
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	118.5	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	121.7	137.4	127.8	110.8
January - March 2006	117.8	169.6	109.7	91.9	107.0	107.4	114.0	102.9	102.8	113.5	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
January - March 2007	127.6	203.1	130.3	92.6	111.7	113.2	117.5	104.7	105.6	121.7	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4
January - March 2008	140.0	243.2	148.1	95.0	115.3	117.2	123.3	106.4	106.6	130.1	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1
2006	117.1	166.3	109.7	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	112.2	109.1	78.5	114.4	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	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
March	118.5	172.8	110.1	92.4	107.2	107.4	114.0	103.8	102.8	114.9	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
April	119.3	173.1	111.3	91.5	108.2	108.5	116.4	104.0	103.7	117.9	109.4	78.5	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	78.5	116.2	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	116.2	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	109.7	78.5	122.9	120.0	118.0	105.5
August	124.0	190.8	122.5	91.3	109.5	110.4	116.7	103.8	104.1	120.6	109.7	78.5	122.9	120.0	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	122.9	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	120.3	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	120.3	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	120.3	131.8	119.7	107.3
2007	127.2	201.0	130.2	92.9	111.5	113.2	117.5	103.8	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4
January	127.6	203.0	130.5	92.8	111.7	113.2	117.5	104.5	105.6	121.8	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4
February	128.0	205.3	130.4	92.2	111.9	113.2	117.5	105.8	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4
March	129.3	206.8	131.6	92.9	113.6	115.3	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.2	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
April	130.1	210.0	130.7	92.1	113.7	115.3	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.3	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
May	130.7	213.1	131.6	93.4	113.7	115.3	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.5	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
June	133.1	219.1	132.0	93.6	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.7	105.5	124.5	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
July	133.8	222.7	132.7	93.4	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.7	105.5	124.6	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
August	134.2	225.0	132.9	93.5	113.8	115.4	121.5	105.7	105.5	124.6	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4
September	135.5	230.5	136.4	94.1	114.9	116.8	123.2	105.8	106.1	127.0	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8
October	137.1	238.4	145.1	94.2	114.9	116.8	123.2	105.7	106.1	127.4	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8
November	137.0	237.5	146.5	94.7	115.0	116.8	123.2	105.9	106.1	127.3	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8
December	139.9	242.7	148.1	95.0	115.2	117.2	123.3	105.8	106.6	129.9	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1
2008	139.6	241.1	147.9	95.3	115.3	117.2	123.3	106.4	106.6	130.1	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1
January	140.5	245.8	148.2	94.8	115.5	117.2	123.3	107.0	106.6	130.2	116.7	78.5	134.6	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.