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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES (Base: September, 1993=100)

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

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Ag. Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES Figures for February, 2003

Period	General Index	Section Indices											
	All Items	Food	Meals out	Drink and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing			Household operations	Household supplies and services	Health and personal care	Transportation	Reading recreation and education
						Total	Home ownership	Rent					
Weight	1 000	217	14	24	104	216	196	20	66	77	62	152	68
Annual Average													
2001	142.2	244.2	120.6	134.6	90.5	114.5	114.5	115.0	107.6	108.1	124.3	119.1	130.5
2002	148.1	269.1	120.9	146.7	88.4	114.4	114.2	116.6	108.6	108.7	125.3	121.0	130.5
Average													
January-February, 2001	140.2	236.2	120.5	130.3	91.1	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.2	107.7	122.9	119.1	130.2
January-February, 2002	146.9	262.8	120.7	146.9	89.4	114.7	114.6	115.7	108.8	108.2	125.2	121.6	130.5
January-February, 2003	150.9	282.6	121.8	146.3	86.4	113.7	113.1	119.0	109.1	108.7	126.4	120.6	131.0
2001													
January	139.9	234.7	120.5	130.4	91.2	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.2	107.7	122.8	119.1	130.2
February	140.5	237.6	120.5	130.2	91.0	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.2	107.7	122.9	119.1	130.2
March	140.0	235.0	120.5	130.6	90.8	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.8	107.7	122.9	119.1	130.2
April	140.3	235.9	120.5	130.5	90.6	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.7	108.0	123.8	119.3	130.4
May	140.5	236.9	120.5	130.4	90.6	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.7	108.0	123.8	119.3	130.4
June	142.4	245.9	120.5	130.6	90.5	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.6	108.0	123.8	119.3	130.4
July	142.7	247.0	120.7	130.7	90.5	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.6	108.3	124.8	118.9	131.1
August	143.8	252.0	120.7	130.7	90.4	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.2	108.3	124.8	118.9	131.1
September	143.4	249.8	120.7	134.2	90.4	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.2	108.3	124.8	118.9	131.1
October	143.7	249.9	120.7	143.7	90.0	114.6	114.5	115.7	107.4	108.4	125.7	118.9	130.1
November	143.9	250.3	120.7	146.8	90.0	114.6	114.5	115.7	107.9	108.4	125.7	118.9	130.1
December	144.9	255.4	120.7	146.2	89.7	114.6	114.5	115.7	108.5	108.4	125.8	118.9	130.1
2002													
January	147.2	264.2	120.7	146.5	89.6	114.7	114.6	115.7	108.6	108.2	125.2	121.8	130.5
February	146.6	261.4	120.7	147.3	89.1	114.7	114.6	115.7	109.0	108.2	125.2	121.3	130.5
March	146.0	258.8	120.7	146.5	88.6	114.7	114.6	115.7	109.3	108.2	125.2	121.3	130.5
April	145.9	258.5	120.7	146.6	88.5	114.7	114.6	115.7	108.8	108.8	125.0	121.4	130.1
May	146.5	261.3	120.7	146.5	88.5	114.7	114.6	115.7	108.6	108.8	125.1	121.4	130.1
June	147.6	266.7	120.7	146.8	88.4	114.7	114.6	115.7	108.3	108.8	125.1	121.4	130.1
July	147.3	266.5	120.5	146.8	88.0	113.8	113.6	115.9	108.0	109.0	124.8	121.0	131.0
August	149.0	274.3	120.5	146.9	87.9	113.8	113.6	115.9	108.0	109.0	125.0	121.0	131.0
September	149.9	278.2	120.5	146.8	87.7	113.8	113.6	115.9	108.1	109.0	124.9	121.0	131.0
October	149.7	277.5	121.8	146.9	87.7	114.5	114.0	118.9	108.4	108.9	125.9	120.0	130.3
November	150.0	278.3	121.8	146.8	88.3	114.5	114.0	118.9	108.8	108.9	125.8	120.0	130.3
December	151.1	283.6	121.8	146.4	88.0	114.5	114.0	118.9	108.9	108.9	125.8	120.0	130.3
2003													
January	150.9	282.3	121.8	146.3	88.4	114.0	113.4	119.0	108.9	108.7	126.4	120.6	131.0
February	150.9	282.8	121.8	146.3	88.4	113.4	112.8	119.0	109.3	108.7	126.3	120.6	131.0

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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – FEBRUARY, 2003

General Index

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated for the month of February, 2003 was 150.9 which was the same as the Index for January, 2003.

The All Items Index for January-February, 2003 showed an increase of 2.7% over that for January-February, 2002. This compares with an increase of 4.8% observed in the All Items Index for January-February, 2002 over the Index for same period in 2001.

Section Indices

Food:

The Index for this section increased from 282.3 in January, 2003 to 282.8 in February, 2003 indicating an increase of 0.2% in food prices over that period. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of Grocery Items, by 0.8%, which was partly offset by a 0.7% decline in the prices of Market Items. This decline in the prices of Market Items was largely due to a significant fall in the prices of tomatoes and cabbage, despite increasing prices of citrus fruits.

Price changes in this section accounted for an increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

Other Sections

A further review of the data for February, 2003 compared with January, 2003 indicated that prices were generally constant for most items. However, the cost of Home Ownership declined by 0.5%, as a result of a fall in mortgage interest rates. In addition a marginal decrease in prices, of 0.1%, was also noted for Health and Personal Care. Apart from these declines, an increase of 0.3% was observed in Household operations.

Price changes in these sections contributed to a decrease of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

Percentage Change in Items

Changes in consumer prices in February, 2003, compared with those of February, 2002, reflected in various sections of the Index, are shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change February, 2002 – February, 2003
All Items	2.9
Food	8.2
Meals out	0.9
Drink and tobacco	-0.7
Clothing and footwear	-0.8
Housing	-1.1
Home Ownership	-1.6
Rent	2.9
Household operations	0.3
Household supplies and services	0.5
Health and personal care	0.9
Transportation	-0.6
Reading, recreation and education	0.4