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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 March, 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-March, 2001	140.1	235.8	120.5	130.4	91.0	114.5	114.5	114.7	107.4	107.7	122.9	119.1	130.2
January-March, 2002	146.6	261.5	120.7	146.9	89.1	114.7	114.6	115.7	109.0	108.2	125.2	121.5	130.5
January-March, 2003	151.1	283.7	121.8	146.4	88.4	113.6	113.0	119.0	109.3	108.7	126.3	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
March	151.6	286.0	121.8	146.6	88.4	113.4	112.8	119.1	109.6	108.7	126.2	120.6	131.0

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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – MARCH, 2003

General Index

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated for the month of March, 2003 was 151.6, which represented a 0.5% increase over the Index for February, 2003.

The All Items Index for January—March, 2003 showed an increase of 3.1% over that for January-March, 2002. This compares with an increase of 4.6% observed in the All Items Index for January—March, 2002 over the Index for same period in 2001.

Section Indices

Food: The Index for this section increased from 282.8 in February, 2003 to 286.0 in March, 2003 indicating an increase of 1.1% in food prices over that period. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of Grocery Items, by 0.7%, together with a 1.7% increase in the prices of Market Items. This increase in the prices of Market Items was largely due to rising prices of pumpkin, citrus fruits, ochroes, bodi, spinach, cabbage, sweet potatoes, irish potatoes and ground provisions. Partly offsetting this increase was a significant decline in the prices of melongene and cucumber, despite increasing prices of citrus fruits.

Price changes in the Food section accounted for an increase of 0.7 point in the All Items Index.

Other Sections

A further review of the data for March, 2003 compared with February, 2003 indicated that prices were generally constant for most items. However, increases were noted for Drink and Tobacco, and Household Operations of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively, while there was a negligible decline in Health and Personal Care prices.

Price changes in these sections had a negligible net overall effect on the All Items Index.

Percentage Change in Items

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

Sections	Percentage Change March, 2002 – March, 2003
All Items	3.8
Food	10.5
Meals out	0.9
Drink and tobacco	0.1
Clothing and footwear	-0.2
Housing	1.1
Home ownership	-1.6
Rent	2.9
Household operations	0.3
Household supplies and services	0.5
Health and personal care	0.8
Transportation	0.6
Reading, recreation and education	0.4