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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—MARCH, 2005
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

PETER PARIAG
Acting Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of March, 2005 was 111.2 representing an increase of 0.7 points or 0.6% over the Index for February, 2005.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 2005 over that for the period January–March, 2004 was 6.7%. This compares with an increase of 3.0% observed in the average All Items Index for January–March, 2004 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2003.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 141.5 in February, 2005 to 144.9 in March, 2005, an increase of 2.4%. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of sweet potatoes, celery, dasheen, ochroes, yam, tomatoes, chive, limes and cucumbers.

Price changes in this section accounted for a net overall increase of 0.6 points in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for March, 2005 compared with February, 2005 indicated increases in Clothing, 0.6%; Water, Electricity, Gas and other Fuels, 0.7% and Health, 0.1%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of March, 2005, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in March, 2005, compared with those of March, 2004 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change March, 2005–March, 2004
All Items	7.3
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	25.6
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	3.7
Clothing and Footwear	−2.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	4.4
Home Ownership	5.5
Rent	5.2
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.5
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.4
Health	2.9
Transport	3.9
Communication	−9.1
Recreation and Culture	5.0
Education	0.3
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	6.8
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	0.8

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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, 2005

PETER PARIAG
Acting Director of Statistics

Period	All Items Sept 1993 = 100	All Items Jan 2003 = 100	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels — Total	Home-ownership	Rent	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
Weights	**1000**	**1000**	**180**	**25**	**53**	**262**	**180**	**24**	**58**	**54**	**51**	**167**	**41**	**85**	**16**	**30**	**36**
Annual Average																	
2003	153.6	101.9	108.4	99.8	98.8	100.5	100.5	101.2	100.3	100.6	101.3	100.9	100.9	100.0	100.0	100.2	100.4
2004	159.4	105.6	122.3	102.7	93.4	103.2	103.4	105.8	101.7	100.1	103.8	105.3	93.9	100.5	103.1	104.1	100.8
2003 January	150.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
February	150.9	100.3	101.4	99.9	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.6	100.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
March	151.6	100.8	104.1	99.9	100.0	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.5	100.5	99.9	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.0	99.9	100.1
April	153.0	101.4	106.9	100.0	99.8	100.4	100.6	100.2	100.1	100.8	100.8	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6
May	153.5	101.7	108.3	99.7	99.5	100.4	100.6	100.2	99.9	100.8	101.5	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6
June	153.8	101.9	109.9	99.5	99.4	100.3	100.6	100.2	99.3	100.8	101.5	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.2	99.9	100.6
July	154.5	102.4	111.5	99.6	99.4	100.9	100.6	101.4	100.5	100.7	102.4	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5
August	154.4	102.3	111.1	99.6	98.9	100.8	100.9	101.4	101.4	100.7	102.0	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	100.3	100.5
September	154.4	102.3	111.0	99.8	98.7	100.7	100.9	101.4	100.3	100.7	101.9	100.0	100.0	99.8	100.2	99.8	100.5
October	155.3	102.9	111.2	99.7	97.2	100.7	100.9	103.1	100.4	100.7	101.9	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.3	100.5
November	155.7	103.2	112.9	99.7	96.8	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.6	100.7	102.1	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.5	100.6
December	155.6	103.1	112.8	99.6	95.2	100.7	100.4	103.1	100.8	100.7	102.0	103.7	100.0	100.1	103.0	100.5	100.6
2004 January	155.9	103.3	114.5	100.8	94.9	101.0	100.5	104.8	100.8	100.2	102.5	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9
February	156.0	103.4	114.8	101.5	94.7	101.1	100.5	104.8	101.4	100.2	102.6	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9
March	156.3	103.6	115.4	102.0	94.4	101.2	103.0	104.8	102.0	100.2	102.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9
April	157.4	104.3	116.4	102.2	94.4	102.9	103.0	105.2	101.7	99.9	103.0	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3
May	158.3	104.9	119.9	102.3	94.3	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.2	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3
June	158.7	105.2	121.7	102.4	93.8	102.8	104.2	106.2	101.4	99.6	103.7	103.7	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.3	100.3
July	159.7	105.8	121.1	102.5	93.3	103.9	104.2	106.2	102.0	99.6	103.8	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9
August	160.1	106.1	122.7	103.0	93.1	103.9	104.2	106.2	102.0	99.6	104.1	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9
September	161.0	106.7	125.7	103.7	93.3	103.9	105.9	107.2	101.9	100.7	104.3	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9
October	162.2	107.5	127.9	104.3	92.6	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.2	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3
November	163.1	108.1	131.8	104.4	91.4	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3
December	164.3	108.9	136.0	104.0	91.0	105.1	105.9	107.2	101.8	100.7	105.3	107.7	87.4	101.1	103.3	106.0	101.3
2005 January	165.1	109.4	135.4	105.1	91.8	105.4	106.0	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.4	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
February	166.7	110.5	141.5	105.8	91.5	105.4	106.0	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.6	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
March	167.8	111.2	144.9	105.8	92.0	105.6	106.0	110.2	102.5	100.6	105.7	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7

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.