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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—March, 2007 (Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

SHIRLEY CHRISTIAN-MAHARAJ
Acting Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of March, 2007 was 128.0 representing an increase of 0.4 point or 0.3 % over the Index for February, 2007.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 2007 over that for the period January–March, 2006 was 8.3%. This compares with an increase of 6.7% observed in the average All Items Index for January–March, 2006 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2005.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 203.0 in February, 2007, to 205.3 in March, 2007, reflecting an increase of 1.1%. Contributing significantly to this increase was a general rise in the prices of powdered milk (whole cream), sweet potatoes, ochros, sweet pepper, bananas (green and ripe), chicken, carrots, limes, yam, and soft drink. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in shrimp, fish (king), tomatoes, dasheen, chive, celery, oranges, cucumber, hot peppers, and melongene.

Price changes in this section, for the month of March, 2007, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.4 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for March, 2007 compared with February, 2007 indicated decreases in the general price level for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.1%, Clothing and Footwear 0.6% and Health 0.2%. However, a price increase of 0.7% was noted for Water and Electricity.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of March, 2007, resulted in a negligible net overall change in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in March, 2007, compared with those of March, 2006, reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change March 2007–March 2006
All Items	8.0
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	18.8
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	18.4
Clothing and Footwear	-0.2
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	4.4
Home Ownership	5.4
Rent	3.1
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.6
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	2.7
Health	5.8
Transport	2.8
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	3.1
Education	11.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	7.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.3

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SHIRLEY CHRISTIAN-MAHARAJ
Acting Director of Statistics

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for March, 2007

Period	All Items Jan 2003 = 100	Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	Clothing and Footwear	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Utilities				Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	Miscellaneous Goods and Services
					Total	Rent	Water	Electricity, Gas and Other Utilities							
Annual Average	1000	180	25	55	240	180	24	58	54	147	41	85	18	30	58
2005	117.5	150.4	104.5	81.8	105.8	108.2	115.5	102.3	100.9	108.9	87.4	108.9	100.1	110.4	103.0
2006	122.3	165.3	115.5	81.5	108.5	105.8	118.0	108.7	104.0	110.1	78.5	118.5	122.8	117.9	105.9
January - March 2005	110.4	140.8	105.8	81.8	105.5	108.0	110.2	109.0	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
January - March 2006	117.8	168.8	108.7	81.5	107.0	107.4	114.0	109.9	101.8	105.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.5
January - March 2007	127.8	203.1	130.4	80.8	111.7	115.2	117.5	104.7	105.8	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4
2005	105.4	135.2	105.1	81.8	105.4	108.0	110.2	101.8	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
February	110.5	141.5	105.8	81.5	105.8	108.0	110.2	101.8	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
March	111.8	144.0	105.8	80.9	105.8	108.0	111.5	102.5	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
April	111.8	145.0	105.8	81.0	105.8	108.0	111.5	102.5	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
May	112.7	147.0	105.8	81.0	105.8	108.0	111.5	102.5	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
June	112.1	147.8	105.8	81.8	105.7	108.0	111.5	102.5	100.8	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
July	115.5	151.8	108.0	81.4	105.7	108.0	112.7	102.5	101.0	108.2	87.4	111.8	107.1	108.5	103.1
August	115.8	153.0	108.5	80.0	105.8	108.0	112.7	102.5	101.0	108.2	87.4	111.8	107.1	108.5	103.2
September	114.1	150.5	108.5	80.1	105.8	108.0	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.2	87.4	111.8	107.1	108.5	103.2
October	114.8	158.4	108.8	80.1	105.8	108.0	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.2	87.4	111.8	107.1	108.5	103.2
November	115.2	165.8	109.2	81.5	105.4	108.8	115.2	102.4	101.8	108.7	87.4	110.0	118.2	117.2	103.8
December	115.7	165.7	107.5	81.5	108.4	108.8	115.2	102.4	101.8	108.0	87.4	110.0	118.2	117.2	103.8
2006	117.4	166.5	108.7	81.8	108.8	107.4	114.0	102.4	101.8	108.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.8
January	117.7	168.8	108.4	81.8	108.8	107.4	114.0	102.4	101.8	108.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.8
February	118.5	172.8	110.1	80.4	107.2	107.4	114.0	102.8	101.8	108.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.8
March	118.5	173.1	111.5	81.5	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
April	120.8	175.1	115.2	81.4	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
May	121.8	185.5	120.7	81.5	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
June	123.3	187.0	120.7	81.5	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
July	124.0	187.0	121.8	81.5	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
August	124.0	190.8	122.5	81.5	108.2	108.5	118.4	104.0	105.7	117.5	78.5	118.2	120.0	115.8	104.8
September	125.1	197.4	122.5	81.1	108.5	110.4	118.7	108.8	104.1	120.8	78.5	122.8	120.0	118.0	105.5
October	126.3	197.8	122.5	81.1	110.8	110.8	118.3	104.0	105.4	119.2	78.5	122.8	120.0	118.0	105.5
November	126.8	200.8	123.4	80.7	110.8	110.8	118.3	104.0	105.4	119.2	78.5	122.8	120.0	118.0	105.5
December	127.3	203.4	123.7	80.5	110.8	110.8	118.3	104.0	105.4	119.2	78.5	122.8	120.0	118.0	105.5
2007	127.2	204.0	123.0	80.5	111.5	111.5	117.5	108.8	105.8	119.2	78.5	118.0	123.5	123.5	108.4
January	127.8	203.0	123.5	80.8	111.7	115.2	117.5	108.8	105.8	119.2	78.5	118.0	123.5	123.5	108.4
February	128.0	205.4	123.4	80.2	111.5	115.2	117.5	108.8	105.8	119.2	78.5	118.0	123.5	123.5	108.4
March	128.0	205.4	123.4	80.2	111.5	115.2	117.5	108.8	105.8	119.2	78.5	118.0	123.5	123.5	108.4

NOTE: To link the previous or old base (September 2005 = 100) to the new base (January 2003 = 100), all the All Items Index, multiply the All Items Index of the new base by 1.506.