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

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

PETER PARIAG
Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of May, 2005 was 111.7 representing an increase of 0.1 point or one tenth of a percentage point (0.1%) over the Index for April, 2005.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–May, 2005 over that for the period January–May, 2004 was 6.7%. This compares with an increase of 3.1% observed in the average All Items Index for January–May, 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 145.0 in April, 2005 to 145.9 in May, 2005, an increase of 0.6%. Contributing to this increase was a general rise in the prices of sweet potatoes, king fish, limes, dasheen, yams, oranges, cucumbers, ripe bananas and watercress. Partly offsetting these increases were general decreases in the prices of tomatoes, chive, whole chicken, paw paw, celery, and sweet peppers.

Price changes in this section, for the month of May 2005, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.2 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for May, 2005 compared with April, 2005 indicated a decrease in Clothing and Footwear of 0.2% while movement in the other sections was negligible.

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

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

Sections	Percentage Change May 2004–May 2005
All Items	6.5
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	21.7
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	3.4
Clothing and Footwear	-2.5
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	2.7
Home Ownership	2.8
Rent	6.0
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.1
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	0.6
Health	4.3
Transport	4.3
Communication	-9.1
Recreation and Culture	6.0
Education	4.0
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	4.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.8

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for May, 2005

Period	Section Indices																
	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				
Weights	180	25	53	262	Total	Home- ownership	Rent	Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average																	
2003	101.9	108.4	98.8	98.8	100.5	100.5	101.2	100.3	100.6	101.3	100.9	100.0	100.0	100.9	100.2	100.4	100.4
2004	105.7	122.3	102.8	93.4	103.2	103.4	105.9	101.7	100.1	103.8	105.3	93.9	100.5	103.1	104.1	100.9	100.9
Average																	
January - May 2004	103.9	116.2	101.8	94.5	101.8	101.5	105.0	101.5	100.1	102.8	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	102.6	100.7	100.7
January - May 2005	110.9	142.5	105.7	91.9	105.5	106.0	110.7	102.2	100.6	106.4	107.9	87.4	105.5	104.8	108.4	102.3	102.3
2004 January	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	100.9
February	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	100.9
March	103.6	115.4	102.0	94.4	101.2	100.5	104.8	102.0	100.2	102.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	101.5	100.9	100.9
April	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	100.3
May	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	100.3
June	105.2	121.7	102.4	93.8	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3	100.3
July	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	100.9
August	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	100.9
September	106.7	125.8	103.7	93.3	103.9	104.2	106.2	102.0	98.6	104.3	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	100.9	100.9
October	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	101.3
November	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	101.3
December	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	101.3
2005 January	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	101.7
February	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	101.7
March	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	101.7
April	111.6	145.0	105.8	92.1	105.6	105.9	111.5	102.4	100.5	107.6	108.2	87.4	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	103.1
May	117.7	145.9	105.8	91.9	105.6	105.9	111.5	102.5	100.5	107.6	108.2	87.4	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1	103.1

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.