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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – March 2006 (Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

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Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of March, 2006 was 118.5 representing an increase of 0.8 point or 0.7 % over the Index for February, 2006.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January – March, 2006 over that for the period January–March, 2005 was 6.7%. This compares with an increase of 6.8 % observed in the average All Items Index for January–March, 2005 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2004.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 169.6 in February, 2006 to 172.8 in March 2006, an increase of 1.9%. Contributing to this increase was a general rise in the prices of fish (carite), pawpaw, grapes, lime, cucumber, yam, dasheen, sweet potatoes, plantain and canned vegetables. Partly offsetting these increases were general price decreases in rice (packaged), whole chicken, chicken parts: breast, thighs and legs, oranges, mangoes, tomatoes, pumpkin, celery, melongene and christophene.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of March 2006, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.6 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for March, 2006 compared with February, 2006 indicated an increase in Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.6%; Clothing and Footwear 0.9%; Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels 0.3%; and Health, 1.4%.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of March, 2006, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.2 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in March, 2006, compared with those of March, 2005 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change March 2005–March 2006
All Items	6.6
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	19.3
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	4.1
Clothing and Footwear	0.4
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.5
Home Ownership	1.3
Rent	3.4
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	1.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	2.2
Health	8.7
Transport	1.3
Communication	-10.2
Recreation and Culture	8.9
Education	14.9
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	6.5
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	2.2

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for March 2006

Peter Pariag
Director of Statistics

Period	All Items Jan 2003 =100	Section Indices										Miscellaneous Goods and Services				
		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
Weights	1000	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36
Annual Average																
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
2005	112.9	150.4	106.3	91.8	105.8	106.2	111.9	102.3	100.9	108.1	108.3	87.4	108.3	109.1	110.4	103.0
Average																
January - March 2004	103.4	114.9	101.4	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
January - March 2005	110.4	140.6	105.6	91.8	105.5	106.0	110.2	102.0	100.6	105.6	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
January - March 2006	117.8	169.6	109.7	91.9	107.0	107.4	114.0	102.9	102.8	113.5	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
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
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
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
April	104.3	116.4	102.2	94.4	102.9	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.0	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	100.3
May	104.9	119.9	102.3	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
June	105.2	121.7	102.4	93.3	102.8	103.0	105.2	101.4	99.9	103.7	103.7	96.1	100.1	103.0	104.3	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
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
September	106.7	125.8	103.7	93.3	103.9	104.2	106.2	101.9	99.6	104.3	105.9	96.1	100.7	103.0	104.7	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
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
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
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
February	110.5	141.5	105.8	91.5	105.4	106.0	110.2	102.5	100.6	105.6	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	101.7
March	111.2	144.9	105.8	92.0	105.6	106.0	110.2	101.8	100.6	105.7	107.7	87.4	105.1	103.3	108.4	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
May	111.7	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
June	112.1	147.8	106.1	91.6	105.9	105.9	111.5	102.6	100.5	107.8	108.2	87.4	106.1	107.1	108.5	103.1
July	113.5	151.8	106.2	91.4	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.1	108.1	87.4	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2
August	113.8	153.0	106.5	92.0	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.4	101.0	108.2	108.1	87.4	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2
September	114.1	154.9	106.5	92.1	105.8	105.9	112.7	102.4	101.0	109.1	108.1	87.4	111.9	107.1	112.0	103.2
October	114.8	156.4	106.6	92.2	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	109.9	109.0	87.4	110.0	118.7	112.7	103.8
November	115.7	161.6	107.2	91.8	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	109.9	109.0	87.4	110.0	118.7	112.7	103.8
December	116.7	166.7	107.9	91.3	106.4	106.8	113.2	102.4	101.6	110.4	109.0	87.4	110.0	118.7	112.7	103.8
2006																
January	117.1	166.3	109.7	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	112.2	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
February	117.7	169.6	109.4	91.6	106.9	107.4	114.0	102.4	102.8	113.3	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9
March	118.5	172.8	110.1	92.4	107.2	107.4	114.0	103.8	102.8	114.9	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9

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.