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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—August, 2008 (Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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

DAVE CLEMENT
Director of Statistics

GENERAL INDEX

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of August, 2008 was 151.8 representing an increase of 2.9 Index points or 1.9% over the Index for July, 2008.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–August, 2008 over that for the period January–August, 2007 was 10.6%. This compares with an increase of 8.1% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January–August, 2007 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2006.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 274.6 in July, 2008 to 290.0 in August, 2008, reflecting an increase of 5.6%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of flour, whole chicken, canned vegetables, yams, dasheen, irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, cassava, tomatoes, pumpkin, melongene, cabbage, christophene, watercress, ochroes, cucumber, oranges, chive and celery. However, the full impact of these price increases was dampened by the general fall in the prices of fresh fish (cavali and red fish), shrimp, pawpaw, mangoes, callaloo bush, plantain, limes and hot peppers.

Price changes in this section, for the month of August, 2008, accounted for a net overall increase of 2.8 points in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for August, 2008 compared with July, 2008 indicated increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 3.3%; Clothing and Footwear 0.3% and Health 0.8%. However, no declines were noted in any of the other section indices.

Price changes in these sections, for the month of August, 2008, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in August, 2008 compared with those of August, 2007, reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

Sections	Percentage Change August, 2008–August, 2007
All Items	13.5
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	30.2
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	16.1
Clothing and Footwear	3.0
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	7.6
Home Ownership	3.9
Rent	5.8
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	21.3
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	2.9
Health	6.3
Transport	1.7
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	4.6
Education	16.4
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	25.4
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	4.6

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DAVE CLEMENT
Director of StatisticsINDEX OF RETAIL PRICES
(Base: January, 2003 = 100)

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES
Figures for August, 2008

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				Health	Transport	Communication	Recreation and Culture	Education	Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	Miscellaneous Goods and Services	
Weights	180	25	53	262	180	24	58	54	51	167	41	85	16	30	36	
Annual Average																
2006	122.3	185.3	119.4	91.3	108.9	116.0	103.7	104.0	118.5	110.1	78.5	118.5	122.7	117.3	105.3	
2007	132.0	217.6	134.2	93.3	113.5	120.8	105.5	105.9	124.8	114.4	78.5	121.7	137.4	127.8	110.8	
January - August 2006	120.3	178.1	115.6	91.6	108.1	115.6	103.6	103.5	117.0	109.4	78.5	117.2	119.5	116.2	104.6	
January - August 2007	130.0	210.0	131.2	92.9	113.0	119.7	105.4	105.8	123.7	113.6	78.5	121.7	133.1	124.4	109.9	
January - August 2008	143.8	257.3	149.1	95.6	117.9	118.0	114.7	112.8	131.4	117.0	78.5	132.1	153.7	147.6	114.9	
2006 January	117.1	166.3	109.7	91.6	106.9	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	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	114.0	102.4	102.8	114.9	109.1	78.5	114.4	118.7	115.4	103.9	
April	119.3	173.1	111.3	91.5	108.2	116.4	104.0	103.7	117.9	109.4	78.5	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	
May	120.6	179.1	112.2	91.4	108.2	116.4	104.0	103.7	118.0	109.4	78.5	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	
June	121.8	185.8	120.7	91.3	108.2	116.4	104.0	103.7	118.5	109.4	78.5	116.2	120.0	115.9	104.6	
July	123.3	187.0	121.8	91.3	109.6	116.7	104.0	104.1	120.7	109.7	78.5	122.9	120.0	118.0	105.5	
August	124.0	190.8	122.5	91.3	109.6	116.7	103.9	104.1	120.6	109.7	78.5	122.9	120.0	118.0	105.5	
September	125.1	197.4	122.6	91.1	109.5	116.7	103.8	104.1	120.6	109.7	78.5	122.9	120.0	118.0	105.5	
October	126.3	197.8	122.6	91.1	110.8	116.9	104.0	105.4	122.3	112.2	78.5	120.3	131.8	119.7	107.3	
November	128.8	200.8	129.4	90.7	110.8	116.9	104.0	105.4	121.4	112.2	78.5	120.3	131.8	119.7	107.3	
December	127.3	203.4	129.7	90.5	110.8	116.9	104.0	105.4	121.5	112.2	78.5	120.3	131.8	119.7	107.3	
2007 January	127.2	201.0	130.2	92.9	111.5	117.5	103.8	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4	
February	127.6	203.0	130.5	92.8	111.7	117.5	104.8	105.6	121.8	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4	
March	128.0	205.3	130.4	92.2	111.9	117.5	105.5	105.6	121.6	112.2	78.5	118.0	131.8	123.5	108.4	
April	129.3	205.8	131.6	92.9	113.6	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.3	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4	
May	130.1	210.0	130.7	92.1	113.7	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.2	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4	
June	130.7	213.1	131.6	93.4	113.7	120.8	105.9	106.2	124.5	113.6	78.5	120.3	133.8	123.7	110.4	
July	133.1	219.1	132.0	93.4	113.8	121.5	105.7	105.5	125.8	115.8	78.5	129.4	133.8	126.9	111.4	
August	133.8	222.7	132.7	93.6	113.8	121.5	105.7	105.5	126.1	115.8	78.5	129.4	133.8	126.9	111.4	
September	134.2	225.0	132.9	93.5	113.8	121.5	105.7	105.5	126.1	115.8	78.5	129.4	133.8	126.9	111.4	
October	135.5	230.5	136.4	94.1	114.9	123.2	105.8	106.1	127.0	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8	
November	137.1	238.4	145.1	94.2	114.9	123.2	105.7	106.1	127.4	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8	
December	137.0	237.5	146.5	94.7	115.0	116.8	105.9	106.1	127.3	115.8	78.5	119.1	150.2	136.9	112.8	
2008 January	139.9	242.7	148.1	95.0	115.2	123.3	105.8	106.6	129.9	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1	
February	139.6	241.1	147.9	95.3	115.3	123.3	106.4	106.6	130.6	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1	
March	140.5	245.8	148.2	94.8	115.5	123.3	107.0	106.6	130.2	116.7	78.5	134.6	150.2	140.1	114.1	
April	141.3	248.0	148.3	95.7	116.0	126.7	107.1	121.8	131.2	116.8	78.5	127.3	155.8	147.4	114.6	
May	143.1	255.8	148.4	96.0	115.9	126.7	107.0	121.8	131.0	116.8	78.5	127.3	155.8	147.4	114.6	
June	145.5	262.3	148.4	95.6	120.6	126.7	128.2	121.8	132.1	116.8	78.5	127.3	155.8	147.4	114.6	
July	148.9	274.6	149.2	96.1	119.9	128.6	128.3	121.8	132.1	116.8	78.5	127.3	155.8	147.4	114.6	
August	151.8	290.0	154.1	96.4	122.5	128.6	128.3	121.8	134.0	117.8	78.5	135.4	155.8	159.1	116.5	

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