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### INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—March, 2009 (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 March, 2009 was 156.4 representing an increase of 0.5 point or 0.3% above the Index for February, 2009.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 2009 over that for the period January–March, 2008 was 11.6%. This compares with a percentage increase of 9.7% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January–March, 2008 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2007.

#### SECTION INDICES

##### FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages increased from 303.6 in February, 2009 to 305.9 in March, 2009, reflecting an increase of 0.8%. Contributing significantly to this increase was the general upward movement in the prices of ochroes, tomatoes, yams, cucumber, sweet peppers, bodie, hot peppers, lettuce, cabbage, refined sugar (yellow) and grapefruit. However, the full impact of these price increases was offset by the general decline in the prices of celery, sweet potatoes, chive, dasheen, irish potatoes, christophene, green bananas, whole chickens, canned vegetables, limes, oranges, mangoes, pawpaw, melon, cheddar cheese and packaged rice.

Price changes in this section, for the month of March, 2009, 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, 2009, compared with February, 2009, reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 1.9% and Health 0.4%. However, the sub-index for Clothing and Footwear declined by 0.2%.

Price changes in the other sections for the month of March, 2009, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.1 point in the All Items Index.

Growth in consumer prices in March, 2009, compared with those of March, 2008, reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:

| Sections  | Percentage Change<br>March, 2009–March, 2008 |
|---|--|
| All Items   | 11.3   |
| Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages                                      | 24.5   |
| Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco                                       | 7.6  |
| Clothing and Footwear   | 1.3  |
| Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels                      | 7.5  |
| Home Ownership  | 5.1  |
| Rent  | 6.5  |
| Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels                               | 16.4   |
| Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House | 5.3  |
| Health  | 4.5  |
| Transport   | 7.8  |
| Communication   | 0.0  |
| Recreation and Culture  | –8.9   |
| Education   | 9.2  |
| Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants   | 20.5   |
| Miscellaneous Goods and Services                                      | 5.4  |

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

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Director of Statistics

**GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES**  
Figures for March, 2009

| Period                | All Items<br>Jan 2003<br>=100 | Food and<br>Non-<br>Alcoholic<br>Beverages | Alcoholic<br>Beverages<br>and<br>Tobacco | Clothing<br>and<br>Footwear | Section Indices                                  |                    |       |  |        |           |               | Recreation<br>and Culture | Education | Hotels, Cafes<br>and<br>Restaurants | Miscellaneous<br>Goods and<br>Services |  |  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|-------|--|--------|-----------|---------------|---------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                       |                               |  |  |                             | Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels |                    |       | Furnishings,<br>Household<br>Equipment and<br>Routine<br>Maintenance<br>of the House | Health | Transport | Communication |                           |           |                                     |  |  |  |
|                       |                               |  |  |                             | Total  | Home-<br>ownership | Rent  |  |        |           |               |                           |           |                                     |  | Water,<br>Electricity,<br>Gas and<br>Other Fuels |  |
| Weights               | 1000                          | 180  | 25                                       | 53                          | 262  | 180                | 24    | 58   | 54     | 51        | 167           | 41                        | 85        | 16                                  | 30                                     | 36   |  |
| <b>Annual Average</b> |                               |  |  |                             |  |                    |       |  |        |           |               |                           |           |                                     |  |  |  |
| 2007                  | 132.0                         | 217.6                                      | 134.2                                    | 93.3                        | 113.5  | 115.2              | 120.8 | 105.5  | 105.9  | 124.8     | 114.4         | 78.5                      | 121.7     | 137.4                               | 127.8                                  | 110.8  |  |
| 2008                  | 147.9                         | 274.0                                      | 151.3                                    | 95.8                        | 119.8  | 119.4              | 127.3 | 118.0  | 111.9  | 132.5     | 117.8         | 78.5                      | 133.0     | 156.5                               | 153.3                                  | 116.0  |  |
| January - March 2007  | 127.6                         | 203.1                                      | 130.4                                    | 92.6                        | 111.7  | 113.2              | 117.5 | 104.7  | 105.6  | 121.7     | 112.2         | 78.5                      | 118.0     | 131.8                               | 123.5                                  | 108.4  |  |
| January - March 2008  | 140.0                         | 243.2                                      | 148.1                                    | 95.0                        | 115.3  | 117.2              | 123.3 | 106.4  | 106.6  | 130.1     | 116.7         | 78.5                      | 134.6     | 150.2                               | 140.1                                  | 114.1  |  |
| January - March 2009  | 156.2                         | 305.0                                      | 157.4                                    | 96.2                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.7     | 125.8         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |
| 2007                  | 127.2                         | 201.0                                      | 130.2                                    | 92.9                        | 111.5  | 113.2              | 117.5 | 103.8  | 105.6  | 121.6     | 112.2         | 78.5                      | 118.0     | 131.8                               | 123.5                                  | 108.4  |  |
| January               | 127.6                         | 203.0                                      | 130.5                                    | 92.8                        | 111.7  | 113.2              | 117.5 | 104.8  | 105.6  | 121.8     | 112.2         | 78.5                      | 118.0     | 131.8                               | 123.5                                  | 108.4  |  |
| February              | 128.0                         | 205.3                                      | 130.4                                    | 92.2                        | 111.9  | 113.2              | 117.5 | 105.5  | 105.6  | 121.6     | 112.2         | 78.5                      | 118.0     | 131.8                               | 123.5                                  | 108.4  |  |
| March                 | 129.3                         | 205.8                                      | 131.6                                    | 92.9                        | 113.6  | 115.3              | 120.8 | 105.5  | 106.2  | 124.2     | 113.6         | 78.5                      | 120.3     | 133.8                               | 123.7                                  | 110.4  |  |
| April                 | 130.1                         | 210.0                                      | 130.7                                    | 92.1                        | 113.7  | 115.3              | 120.8 | 105.9  | 106.2  | 124.3     | 113.6         | 78.5                      | 120.3     | 133.8                               | 123.7                                  | 110.4  |  |
| May                   | 130.7                         | 213.1                                      | 131.6                                    | 93.4                        | 113.7  | 115.3              | 120.8 | 105.9  | 106.2  | 124.5     | 113.6         | 78.5                      | 120.3     | 133.8                               | 123.7                                  | 110.4  |  |
| June                  | 133.1                         | 219.1                                      | 132.0                                    | 93.4                        | 113.8  | 115.4              | 121.5 | 105.7  | 105.5  | 125.8     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 129.4     | 133.8                               | 126.9                                  | 111.4  |  |
| July                  | 133.8                         | 222.7                                      | 132.7                                    | 93.6                        | 113.8  | 115.4              | 121.5 | 105.7  | 105.5  | 126.1     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 129.4     | 133.8                               | 126.9                                  | 111.4  |  |
| August                | 134.2                         | 225.0                                      | 132.9                                    | 93.5                        | 113.8  | 115.4              | 121.5 | 105.7  | 105.5  | 126.1     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 129.4     | 133.8                               | 126.9                                  | 111.4  |  |
| September             | 135.5                         | 230.5                                      | 136.4                                    | 94.1                        | 114.9  | 116.8              | 123.2 | 105.8  | 106.1  | 127.0     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 119.1     | 150.2                               | 136.9                                  | 112.8  |  |
| October               | 137.1                         | 238.4                                      | 145.1                                    | 94.2                        | 114.9  | 116.8              | 123.2 | 105.7  | 106.1  | 127.4     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 119.1     | 150.2                               | 136.9                                  | 112.8  |  |
| November              | 137.0                         | 237.5                                      | 146.5                                    | 94.7                        | 115.0  | 116.8              | 123.2 | 105.9  | 106.1  | 127.3     | 115.8         | 78.5                      | 119.1     | 150.2                               | 136.9                                  | 112.8  |  |
| December              | 139.9                         | 242.7                                      | 148.1                                    | 95.0                        | 115.2  | 117.2              | 123.3 | 105.8  | 106.6  | 129.9     | 116.7         | 78.5                      | 134.6     | 150.2                               | 140.1                                  | 114.1  |  |
| 2008                  | 139.6                         | 241.1                                      | 147.9                                    | 95.3                        | 115.3  | 117.2              | 123.3 | 106.4  | 106.6  | 130.1     | 116.7         | 78.5                      | 134.6     | 150.2                               | 140.1                                  | 114.1  |  |
| January               | 140.5                         | 245.8                                      | 148.2                                    | 94.8                        | 115.5  | 117.2              | 123.3 | 107.0  | 106.6  | 130.2     | 116.7         | 78.5                      | 134.6     | 150.2                               | 140.1                                  | 114.1  |  |
| February              | 141.3                         | 246.0                                      | 148.3                                    | 95.7                        | 116.0  | 117.4              | 126.7 | 107.1  | 121.8  | 131.2     | 116.8         | 78.5                      | 127.3     | 155.8                               | 147.4                                  | 114.6  |  |
| March                 | 143.1                         | 255.8                                      | 148.4                                    | 96.0                        | 115.9  | 117.4              | 126.7 | 107.0  | 121.8  | 131.0     | 116.8         | 78.5                      | 127.3     | 155.8                               | 147.4                                  | 114.6  |  |
| April                 | 145.5                         | 262.3                                      | 148.4                                    | 95.6                        | 120.6  | 117.4              | 126.7 | 128.2  | 121.8  | 131.0     | 116.8         | 78.5                      | 127.3     | 155.8                               | 147.4                                  | 114.6  |  |
| May                   | 148.9                         | 274.6                                      | 149.2                                    | 96.1                        | 122.5  | 119.9              | 128.6 | 128.2  | 108.6  | 130.0     | 117.8         | 78.5                      | 135.4     | 155.8                               | 159.1                                  | 115.5  |  |
| June                  | 151.8                         | 290.0                                      | 154.1                                    | 96.4                        | 122.5  | 119.9              | 128.6 | 128.3  | 108.6  | 134.0     | 117.8         | 78.5                      | 135.4     | 155.8                               | 159.1                                  | 115.5  |  |
| July                  | 151.8                         | 290.0                                      | 154.1                                    | 96.4                        | 122.5  | 119.9              | 128.6 | 128.3  | 108.6  | 134.0     | 117.8         | 78.5                      | 135.4     | 155.8                               | 159.1                                  | 115.5  |  |
| August                | 154.0                         | 302.9                                      | 154.0                                    | 96.6                        | 121.7  | 119.9              | 128.6 | 124.5  | 108.6  | 134.4     | 117.8         | 78.5                      | 135.4     | 155.8                               | 159.1                                  | 115.5  |  |
| September             | 156.3                         | 307.5                                      | 156.6                                    | 96.3                        | 124.1  | 123.1              | 130.5 | 124.5  | 110.5  | 134.7     | 120.0         | 78.5                      | 134.5     | 164.0                               | 166.7                                  | 118.8  |  |
| October               | 156.7                         | 309.4                                      | 156.7                                    | 96.2                        | 124.1  | 123.1              | 130.5 | 124.5  | 110.5  | 134.8     | 120.0         | 78.5                      | 134.5     | 164.0                               | 166.7                                  | 118.8  |  |
| November              | 156.8                         | 310.2                                      | 156.2                                    | 96.1                        | 124.1  | 123.1              | 130.5 | 124.5  | 110.5  | 135.0     | 120.0         | 78.5                      | 134.5     | 164.0                               | 166.7                                  | 118.8  |  |
| December              | 156.2                         | 305.6                                      | 156.3                                    | 96.3                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.5     | 125.6         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |
| 2009                  | 159.4                         | 305.9                                      | 159.4                                    | 96.0                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.6     | 125.8         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |
| January               | 159.4                         | 305.9                                      | 159.4                                    | 96.0                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.6     | 125.8         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |
| February              | 159.4                         | 305.9                                      | 159.4                                    | 96.0                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.6     | 125.8         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |
| March                 | 159.4                         | 305.9                                      | 159.4                                    | 96.0                        | 124.2  | 123.2              | 131.3 | 124.5  | 112.2  | 135.6     | 125.8         | 78.5                      | 122.6     | 164.0                               | 168.8                                  | 120.3  |  |

**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.