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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES—October, 2011 (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 October, 2011 was 187.3 representing a decrease of 0.2 point or 0.1% below the Index for September, 2011.

The annual rate of inflation as measured by the percentage change in the average All Items Index for the period January—October, 2011, over that for the period January—October, 2010 was 5.0%. This reflects a decrease when compared with a rate of inflation of 10.1% observed in the average All Items Index for the period January—October, 2010 over the average All Items Index for the same period in 2009.

SECTION INDICES

FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Index for Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages decreased from 436.1 in September, 2011 to 431.3 in October, 2011, reflecting a decrease of 1.1%. Contributing significantly to this decrease was the general downward movement in the prices of melongene, yams, Irish potatoes, avocado, sweet peppers, grapes, oranges, limes, hot peppers and canned vegetables. However, the full impact of these price decreases was offset by the general increase in the prices of tomatoes, cucumber, christophene, sweet potatoes, ochroes, plantain, watercress, paw paw, celery and chive.

Price changes in this section, for the month of October, 2011 accounted for a net overall decrease of 0.9 point in the All Items Index.

OTHER SECTIONS

A further review of the data for October, 2011, compared with September, 2011, reflected increases in the sub-indices for Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco 0.2%; Rent 3.6%; Home Ownership 1.9%; Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House 1.0%; Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants 0.3%; and Miscellaneous Goods and Services 0.9%. However, declines were noted in the sub-indices for Clothing and Footwear 0.8%; Health 0.1%; Recreation and Culture 0.2% and Education 0.2%.

Price changes in these sections for the month of October, 2011, accounted for a net overall increase of 0.7 point in the All Items Index.

Changes in consumer prices in October, 2011, compared with those of October, 2010, reflected in various sections of the Index are shown hereunder—

Sections	Percentage Change October, 2011—October, 2010
All Items	3.7
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	6.9
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	4.6
Clothing and Footwear	1.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	2.5
Home Ownership	2.3
Rent	9.4
Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels	0.0
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Maintenance of the House	1.6
Health	1.2
Transport	0.6
Communication	0.0
Recreation and Culture	-0.6
Education	1.7
Hotels, Cafes and Restaurants	3.0
Miscellaneous Goods and Services	3.1

