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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES (Base: September, 1993 = 100)

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

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GENERAL INDEX AND SECTION INDICES Figures for March, 2000

Period	General Index	Section Indices												
		All Items	Food	Meals out	Drink and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Housing			Household operations	Household supplies and services	Health and personal care	Transportation	Reading, recreation and education
							Total	Home ownership	Rent					
Weights	1 000	217	14	24	104	216	196	20	66	77	62	152	68	
Annual Average														
1998	125.8	182.1	119.3	122.3	95.8	111.8	112.1	109.0	103.6	108.2	114.1	113.7	117.4	
1999	130.1	197.9	121.4	126.0	93.3	113.6	114.0	110.5	104.5	109.0	116.9	114.8	120.5	
Average														
Jan-March 1999	129.0	193.2	122.2	125.0	95.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7	
Jan-March 2000	132.7	207.1	120.5	129.0	92.0	114.2	114.4	112.7	107.4	109.1	119.0	114.9	122.8	
1998														
January	121.9	168.3	118.4	120.0	95.3	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.3	113.1	117.1	
February	122.2	169.3	118.4	121.3	95.2	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.4	113.1	117.1	
March	122.2	169.5	118.4	122.3	95.0	109.7	109.9	107.9	103.6	108.2	112.4	113.1	117.1	
April	122.6	169.7	118.8	122.5	94.9	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.4	113.4	116.4	
May	124.6	179.2	118.8	122.5	94.9	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.8	113.4	116.4	
June	126.3	186.0	118.8	122.6	96.3	110.5	110.7	109.0	103.6	108.5	113.9	113.4	116.4	
July	127.5	188.2	118.6	122.7	95.9	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.4	113.8	118.5	
August	127.2	186.1	118.6	122.6	96.9	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.4	113.8	118.5	
September	127.7	188.6	118.6	122.8	96.7	113.5	114.0	109.0	103.6	107.8	114.6	113.8	118.5	
October	129.4	195.3	121.6	122.7	96.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.7	114.6	117.7	
November	129.0	193.7	121.6	122.8	96.1	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.8	114.6	117.7	
December	128.5	191.4	121.6	122.6	95.8	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.4	115.9	114.6	117.7	
1999														
January	128.7	191.8	122.2	122.6	95.6	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7	
February	128.9	192.5	122.2	126.4	95.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7	
March	129.5	195.3	122.2	126.1	95.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7	
April	128.6	191.6	122.4	126.2	93.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0	
May	129.2	194.3	122.4	126.2	93.2	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0	
June	129.6	196.0	122.4	126.3	93.1	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.9	116.4	114.8	120.0	
July	129.8	197.5	120.5	126.4	92.7	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.8	114.8	119.8	
August	129.7	197.0	120.5	126.3	92.6	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.8	114.8	119.8	
September	130.6	201.2	120.5	126.3	92.5	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	109.1	116.9	114.8	119.8	
October	131.4	202.4	120.5	126.3	92.3	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3	
November	132.1	205.7	120.5	126.3	92.1	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3	
December	132.9	209.5	120.5	126.8	92.0	113.7	114.0	111.6	107.1	109.2	118.2	114.7	123.3	
2000														
January	133.5	211.1	120.5	129.0	92.0	114.2	114.4	112.7	107.4	109.1	118.9	114.9	122.8	
February	132.4	205.8	120.5	129.0	92.0	114.2	114.4	112.7	107.4	109.1	119.1	114.9	122.8	
March	132.1	204.4	120.5	129.1	92.1	114.2	114.4	112.7	107.4	109.1	119.1	114.9	122.8	

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INDEX OF RETAIL PRICES – MARCH, 2000**General Index**

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of March, 2000 was 132.1 showing a decrease of 0.3 point or 0.2% over the Index for February, 2000.

The All Items Index for January - March, 2000 showed an increase of 2.9% over that for January-March, 1999. This compares with an increase of 5.7% observed in the Index for January - March, 1999 over the similar period in 1998.

Section Indices

Food: The Index for this section decreased from 205.8 in February, 2000 to 204.4 in March, 2000 showing a decrease of 0.7%. Within the Food Section there was a marginal increase of 0.2% in the Index for non-market items, while market items decreased by 1.9%. Contributing significantly to this decrease were falling prices of chicken, tomatoes, cabbage and pumpkin.

The effect of price changes in this section on the All Items Index was 0.3 point.

Other Sections

A further review of the data for March, 2000 indicated that Clothing and footwear recorded an increase of 0.1%.

Growth in consumer prices in March, 2000 compared with those of March, 1999 reflected in various sections of the Index is shown hereunder:-

Sections	Percentage Change March, 1999 – March, 2000
All Items	2.0
Food	4.7
Meals out	- 1.4
Drink and tobacco	2.4
Clothing and footwear	- 3.6
Housing	0.5
Home ownership	0.4
Rent	2.4
Household operations	3.7
Household supplies and services	0.5
Health and personal care	2.5
Transportation	0.1
Reading, recreation and education	3.5