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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 February, 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	100.0	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-Feb 1999	128.8	192.2	122.2	124.5	95.6	113.6	114.0	110.1	103.6	108.6	116.2	114.8	118.7
Jan-Feb 2000	133.0	208.5	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	124.3	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	126.7	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

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

The All Items Index of Retail Prices calculated from prices collected for the month of February, 2000 was 132.4 showing a decrease of 1.1 point or 0.8% over the Index for January, 2000

The All Items Index for January - February, 2000 showed an increase of 3.3% over that for January-February, 1999. This compares with an increase of 5.6% observed in the Index for January - February 1999 over the similar period in 1998.

**Section Indices**

**Food:** The Index for this section decreased from 211.1 in January, 2000 to 205.8 in February, 2000 showing decrease of 2.5%. Within the Food Section there was a marginal increase of 0.3% in the Index for non-market items, while market items decreased by 27.5 points or 6.5%. Contributing significantly to this decrease were falling prices of chicken, citrus fruits, tomatoes, pumpkin, cabbage and irish potatoes.

The effect of price changes in this section on the All Items Index was 1.2 point.

**Other Sections**

A further review of the data for February 2000 indicated that Health and personal care, recorded an increase of 0.2%.

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

Sections	Percentage Change February, 1999 – February, 2000
All Items	2.7
Food	6.9
Meals out	- 1.4
Drink and tobacco	2.1
Clothing and footwear	- 3.7
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