

Ministry Of Legal Affairs
Consumer Affairs Division

**Monthly Price Movements Of
Basic Supermarket Items, Market Items and Poultry
April 2011**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Report analyses and presents data on the average price movements of food and other selected basic items over the period March to April 2011. For comparative and analytical purposes, food items available at Supermarkets are classified into thirteen categories – Meat, Fish, Dairy Products, Non Alcoholic Beverages, Oils and Fats, Cereals, Legumes, Condiments and Sauces, Sweeteners, Tuber and Similar Produce, Juices and Preparations for Infant Use, Dried Fruits, and Toiletries and Cleaning Products.

2.0 GENERAL PRICE MOVEMENTS – APRIL 2011

2.1 Selected Food and Other Items Available at Supermarkets

Overall, there was an increase of 2.64% in the average price of selected food and other items available at Supermarkets throughout Trinidad during the period under review.

When compared to the previous reporting period of February to March 2011, this increase in prices of 2.64% was in actuality 1.41 percentage points more. The following price movements were recorded:

2.1.1 Price Increases

Item Group	% change
Tuber and Similar Produce	16.97
Oils and Fats	8.11
Meat	2.39
Sweeteners	1.88
Dried Fruits	1.32
Dairy Products	1.26
Legumes	1.22
Non Alcoholic Beverages	0.85
Toiletries and Cleaning Products	0.75
Sauces and Condiments	0.14

2.1.2 Price Decreases

Item Group	% change
Juices and Preparations For Infant Use	0.32
Cereals	0.20
Fish	0.03

2.2 Selected Fruits, Vegetables, Fish and Meat Available at Municipal Markets

The month of April witnessed an overall decrease of 1.42% in the prices of Fruits, Vegetables, Fish and Meat available at Municipal Markets. This decrease was 3.3 percentage points more when compared to the previous month, March 2011.

2.3 Fresh Chicken Available at Poultry Depots

Live chicken prices increased by 20.74% during the period under review. This fee averaged \$4.58 in March and \$5.53 in April. The pluck and gut fee, however, decreased by 1.96%. This fee now averages \$9.50.

3.0 OUTLOOK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAY 2011

It is evident that food items from the various item groupings such as Potatoes, Oil and Meat are showing increases in prices owing to increases on the international market and are expected to continue on this trend. It is expected that there will be further increases in the forthcoming month.

Given the current and emerging trends in food prices, it is recommended that the price movements of food items on both the local and international markets continue to be closely monitored by the RPMU. Additionally, a system for monitoring and sharing information on the local production of fruits, vegetables and fresh produce should be developed. This would assist in the development of proactive strategies to address forecasted shortages and preempt price volatility of such items.