

ST LUCIA

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

For The Month of May, 2006

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN THE MONTH

FOOD

There were increases in the average prices of liver, chicken legs, table butter, margarine, cucumber, lettuce, green bananas, ripe bananas, oranges, grapefruits, limes, dasheen & tannia, yams, curry powder, and fine salt. There were also decreases in the average prices of salted snout, chicken backs, turkey wings, tuna fish, dolphin, cheese, cabbages, carrots, pumpkin, tomatoes, breadfruit, plantain, yellow split peas, and sweet potatoes. The decreases in this group caused the index figure to fall slightly to 199.3. This reflected a decrease of 0.3 per cent when compared to April's figure of 199.8.

FUEL AND LIGHT

The average price for the domestic rate of electricity increased causing the index figure for this group to rise to 162.3, an increase of 2.6 per cent over April's figure of 158.2.

TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION:

For this group the index figure increased by 1.8 per cent - from 192.2 in April to 195.7 in May. This change was attributed to the increase in airfares.

ENTERTAINMENT, EDUCATION & CULTURAL:

There was a minute decrease in the average price of textbooks under the Sub Group of Education. This caused the index figure for the group as a whole to decrease from April's figure of 307.0 to May's figure of 306.5. This yielded a decrease of (0.2) per cent.

REMAINING GROUPS

The remaining groups remained unchanged. The Consumer Price Index for May 2006 was 192.5. This reflected a 0.1 per cent increase over

April's figure of 192.3.

Following are the indices for the month of May, 2006
basis of April 1984=100 for 3 sub-divisions of the Food Groups.

Item prices which are affected by import prices:-

Salted snout, liver, chicken legs, chicken backs, salt, cheese, table butter, margarine, yellow split peas, turkey wings and curry powder.....	152.13
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Item prices which are affected by seasonal variations:-

Cabbages, carrots, cucumbers, pumpkin, tomatoes, lettuce, breadfruit, green bananas, plantain, limes, ripe bananas, oranges, grapefruits, sweet potatoes, dasheen & tannia and yams	350.84
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Other items.....	225.44
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ALL ITEM INDEX

% Change

POINT TO POINT MAY 2005 MAY 2006	POINT TO POINT JANUARY 2006 MAY 2006	AVERAGE JANUARY TO MAY 2006/2005
2.7	0.5	3.8

Inflation

Based On the CPI Basket of Household Goods and Services

Year	ALL Items	Food	Beverage And Tobacco	Clothing And Footwear	Housing	Fuel And Light	Furnishings Household Equipment	Medical Care & Health	Transport And Comm.	Entertain Education & Culture	Misc. Goods & Services
2002	-0.3	-1.2	2.6	0	0	-1.6	-1.2	4.6	3.7	-0.1	0.6
2003	1.0	2.1	1.4	0.0	0.0	3.0	-0.6	-1.5	0.7	-0.3	-0.3
2004	1.5	0.9	0.1	5.0	0.0	3.5	4.2	5.3	-1.7	1.0	2.0
2005	3.9	7.1	1.5	0.0	0.0	7.7	0.0	0.3	3.0	0.9	0.9
May.2006	3.8	6.2	1.8	0	0.1	6.9	0.0	5.5	5.1	1.1	0.9