

## NST : RISING FOOD PRICES: Do you know what goes into the basket?

Written by Administrator

Monday, 14 September 2009 16:47 -

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<div align="justify">YOU may have heard of the famous "basket" that indicates the rate of price change in the country. But do you know what items go into the basket? </div><table border="0" cellspacing="3" cellpadding="0" width="200" align="justify"> </table><div align="justify"> There are 460 items that are divided into 12 main categories, namely, food and non-alcoholic beverages; alcoholic beverages and tobacco; clothing and footwear (socks, songkok and singlets); housing; water; electricity, gas and other fuels.</div><div align="justify"><div align="justify"> Furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance are also included.<br /><br /> Health, transport, communication, recreation and culture services, education, restaurants and hotels, and, miscellaneous goods and services are in the basket as well.<br /><br /> Food and non-alcoholic beverages include rice, flour and other cereal grains, biscuits, bread and bakery products as well as other products from cereal grains like bee hoon.<br /> </div><div align="justify"> Fresh and processed meat, fresh shellfish and 34 types of fresh fish other than shellfish are in the basket, too.<br /><br /> There are also soft drinks, mineral water, spices like tamarind and curry powder, chocolate and ice cream, jam and honey and other foods like vinegar and baking powder.<br /><br /> Different types of fabric like silk go into the basket along with tailoring charges and laundry.<br /><br /> Under the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels category are charges for security guards, actual rent and plumbing.<br /><br /> Sofas, dinner sets, carpets, bulbs, towels, cooking appliances and domestic services like agency fees are grouped under the category of furnishing, household equipment and routine household maintenance. <br /><br /> Some of the items under the health category are medical and dental services, contact lenses and medicated ointment. <br /><br /> In the transport category are tyres, cars, bus fares and other motoring charges like parking fees and driving licences.<br /><br /> The basket also has items like stamps and mobile phones, these things are grouped under the communications category.<br /><br /> Recreation and culture services include compact discs, fishing rods, and personal computers. It also has cinema tickets, newspapers and non-durables like praying oil and pet foods. <br /><br /> Education like tuition fees also has its place in the basket. <br /><br /> Board and lodging is grouped under the restaurants and hotels category.<br /><br /> Finally, miscellaneous goods and services include things like jewellery, precious stones, talcum powder as well as financial services like insurance premiums.</div><div align="justify">◆</div><div align="justify"><em>30 March 2008</em><br /></div>◆</div>