



PRESS RELEASE

Hawker Food Price Survey Shows Majority of Hawker Stalls Holding Prices in April 2011

<3 June 2011> –A recent Hawker Food Price Survey conducted by the Department of Statistics (DOS) showed that 97.6% of hawker stalls surveyed maintained prices in April 2011 compared with March 2011.

Commissioned by the Retail Price Watch Group (RPWG), the Hawker Food Price Survey covered a total of 1,319 hawker stalls from hawker food centres and coffee shops spreading over the Central, East, North, Northeast and West zones, based on the Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) zoning distribution.

The Survey was conducted on a varied range of hawker stalls selling 75 popular food items, including chicken rice, fish ball noodles, vegetarian bee hoon, mee siam, nasi lemak, nasi briyani, roti prata, murtabak, fish and chips, cut fruits, desserts, beverages and drinks.

Of the 1,319 stalls surveyed, only 32 stalls (or 2.4 per cent) raised prices in April 2011 compared with March 2011. The Central zone saw the lowest percentage of stalls with price increase (1.9 per cent), whereas the West zone saw the highest percentage of stalls with price increase [Table 1].

Table 1: Number and Percent of Hawker Stalls with Price Increases between March 2011 and April 2011

Zone	Number of Hawker Stalls Surveyed (Mar 2011 as baseline)	Number (percentage) of stalls that had increased prices in Apr 2011, compared to Mar 2011
Central	680	13 (1.9%)
Northeast	147	5 (3.4%)
East	189	8 (4.2%)
West	136	6 (4.4%)
North	167	Nil
Total	1,319	32 (2.4%)

“The survey shows that the vast majority of hawker stalls are keeping prices stable. Through RPWG’s consumer education efforts, we hope to educate consumers of the choices they have, and the opportunities to support stalls committed to price assurance. In this way, we hope to help the stalls increase their revenues and income”, says Mr. Lee Yi Shyan, Chairman of the RPWG and Minister of State for Trade and Industry and National Development.

<ANNEX 1> Consumer Price Index for Hawker Food

Group	% Change (Year-on-Year)			% Change (Month-on-Month)		
	Feb 11/ Feb 10	Mar 11/ Mar 10	Apr 11/ Apr 10	Feb 11/ Jan 11	Mar 11/ Feb 11	Apr 11/ Mar 11
Hawker Food (include Food Courts)	1.7%	2.3%	2.5%	0.4%	0.7%	0.3%

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Information on Retail Price Watch Group

The Retail Price Watch Group (RPWG), led by Mr. Lee Yi Shyan, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and National Development, was set up in late February 2011 to keep a close watch on any excessive price increases of daily necessities and anti-competitive behaviour from businesses in Singapore. It also works with grassroots leaders to ensure that information on the availability of more competitive alternatives reaches the public.

The RPWG also endorses the voluntary initiative by numerous hawkers to hold prices for six months or longer, by issuing the 'I support RPWG' sticker-labels to participating stalls. The labels help the public to identify food sellers who have managed costs well and are able to maintain prices. To date, the RPWG has given out this sticker-label to more than 1,000 hawker and food court stalls which have decided to hold prices for at least six months, out of their own goodwill.

Other food stalls or retailers who wish to use the 'I Support RPWG' logo to identify their initiatives that help consumers mitigate the prices of daily necessities can write to the RPWG Secretariat (at MTI_RPWG@mti.gov.sg) for permission to use the logo.