

## MEDIA RELEASE

28 January 2009

### **MOST FOOD STALLS DID NOT INCREASE PRICE**

In a survey of 255 food samples conducted by CASE between November and December last year, CASE found that over a six-month period 70% of the food samples saw no change in prices, 10% decreased in prices while the remaining 20% increased in prices.

These 255 food samples were first surveyed in May 2008 and CASE revisited the stalls between November and December 2008 to re-check their prices. In the May 2008 survey, CASE surveyed 388 food samples but information on 133 of them could not be collated as the stalls had either closed down or were undergoing renovation when CASE revisited them in November and December. Hence, only a sample of 255 was available in the follow-up survey.

Similar to the first round of survey, the survey focused on 5 common food items namely chicken nasi briyani, chicken rice, fishball noodles, roti prata (plain) and mixed vegetables rice (consisting of two vegetables and one meat) that can be found in non-air-conditioned, open air coffeeshops and hawker centres, based on the cheapest 1-person portion available.

For the 51 food samples which saw an increase in prices, the increment was from \$0.10 to \$1.00; depending on the type of food item. On the other hand, the 20 other food items which saw a decrease in prices, the reduction was from \$0.10 to \$1.00.

**Table 1: Breakdown of the range of price increment per food item**

Type of food item	Range of price increase	Number of food items
Chicken Nasi Briyani	\$0.50 - \$1.00	7
Chicken Rice	\$0.20 - \$0.50	7
Fishball Noodles	\$0.20 - \$0.50	6
Roti Prata	\$0.10 - \$0.20	9
Mixed Vegetable Rice	\$0.10 - \$0.30	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.10 - \$1.00</b>	<b>51</b>

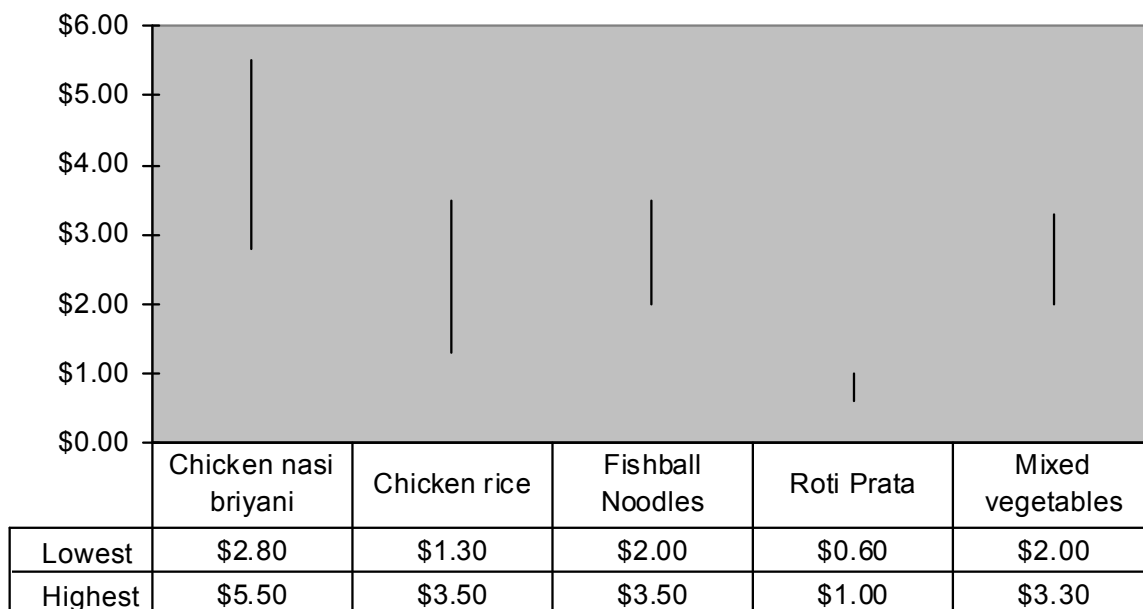
**Table 2: Breakdown of the range of price reduction per food item**

Type of food item	Range of price decrease	Number of food items
Chicken Nasi Briyani	No price reduction	0
Chicken Rice	\$0.50 - \$1.00	9
Fishball Noodles	\$0.20 - \$1.00	4
Roti Prata	\$0.10	1
Vegetable Rice	\$0.20 - \$1.00	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0.10 - \$1.00</b>	<b>20</b>

To increase the sample size, 153 food samples were added, and the total number of food samples that CASE surveyed added up to 408. Based on 408 food samples, CASE revealed the following:

1. The price range of each individual food item
2. The percentage difference between the lowest and highest price found for each food item
3. The percentage difference on the lowest and highest price found for each individual food item in comparison to the first round of the survey.

### 1a. Price range of each individual food item



**Table 3: Percentage difference between the lowest and highest prices of each individual food item**

Type of food item	Lowest price found	Highest price found	Price difference by percentage
Chicken nasi bryani	\$2.80	\$5.50	96.4%
Chicken rice	\$1.30	\$3.50	169.2%
Fishball noodles	\$2.00	\$3.50	75%
Roti prata	\$0.60	\$1.00	66.7%
Mixed vegetables rice	\$2.00	\$3.30	65%

**Table 4: Percentage difference for the lowest and highest prices of each individual food item in comparison to the first round of survey**

Type of food item	Lowest price found			Highest price found		
	1st round of survey	2nd round of survey	Price difference by percentage	1st round of survey	2nd round of survey	Price difference by percentage
Chicken nasi briyani	\$2.30	\$2.80	Increase by 21.7 %	\$5.00	\$5.50	Increase by 10%
Chicken rice	\$1.30	\$1.30	No change	\$3.50	\$3.50	No change
Fishball noodles	\$2.00	\$3.50	No change	\$3.50	\$3.50	No change
Roti prata	\$0.50	\$0.60	Increase by 20%	\$0.80	\$1.00	Increase by 25%
Mixed vegetables rice	\$2.30	\$2.00	Decrease by 13 %	\$3.50	\$3.30	Decrease by 5.7%

Based on the survey, CASE found the following:

1. Out of the 408 food samples, 231 or 56.6 % of the food samples are priced at \$2.50 and below. This is 5.23% lesser in comparison to the first survey (61.85%).
2. Only 2 stalls charged for take-away.
3. Among the stalls surveyed, all stores are consistent with the pricing as stated on their signboards.
4. There is a requirement to make a minimum purchase of 2 pieces of roti prata for 2 stalls. There are also 4 other stalls which sell a single piece of roti prata at a higher price, and gives a further discount when consumers purchase 2 pieces.
5. The modal prices for chicken nasi briyani, chicken rice, fishball noodles, roti prata and mixed vegetable rice are \$4.00, \$2.50, \$2.50. \$0.70 and \$2.70

respectively. (This implies that most vendors are selling their food items at these prices).

CASE also wishes to highlight the following vendors for their competitive pricing:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Food item</b>	<b>Stall name / address</b>	<b>Retail price</b>
1	North	Woodlands	Chicken nasi briyani	MS Banana Leaf The Meeting Place, Blk 883 Woodlands St. 82 #02-478	\$2.80
2	East	Tampines	Chicken rice	820 Hainanese Chicken Rice 823A Foodpark Foodcourt, Blk 823A Tampines Street 81	\$1.30
3	East	Tampines	Chicken rice	U-Taste Coffeeshop, Blk 513 Tampines Central 1	\$1.80
4	East	Teck Whye	Chicken rice	Yuan Zi Wei Hainanese Chicken Rice Foo Chan Coffeeshop, Blk 146 Teck Whye Lane	\$1.80
5	East	Bedok	Chicken rice	Kim Koon Foodcourt, Blk 18 Bedok South Rd	\$2.00
6	East	Bedok	Chicken rice	Tui Kee Chicken Rice Kopitiam, Blk 205 Bedok North St 1	\$2.00
7	East	Changi	Chicken rice	Changi Village Hainanese Chicken Rice Coffee Tavern, Blk 26 New Upper Changi Rd	\$2.00
8	East	Tampines	Chicken rice	Shao Ji Hainanese Chicken Rice Ang Keong, Blk 826 Tampines St 81	\$2.00
9	South	Hougang	Chicken rice	Seletar Yong Ji Chicken Rice Blk 105 Hougang Ave 1 #02-21	\$2.00
10	South	Serangoon	Chicken rice	Lau You Hainanese Chicken Rice Coffee Shop Delight Pte Ltd, Blk 326 Serangoon Ave 3 #01-388	\$2.00
11	West	Holland	Chicken	Jin Jin Chicken Rice	\$2.00

			rice	Holland Drive Market #02-39	
12	West	Jurong East	Chicken rice	Kay Hwa Roasted Specialist Jurong Café, Blk 134 Jurong East St 13 #01-309	\$2.00
13	East	Tampines	Fishball noodles	Tuang's Mee Pok Bedok South Road Food Centre, Blk 16 Bedok South Road	\$2.00
14	West	Commonwealth	Fishball noodles	Da Di Tanglin Halt Market, Tanglin Halt Road	\$2.00
15	West	Bukit Batok	Fishball noodles	Fishball Noodles Blk 217 Bukit Batok St 21	\$2.00
16	West	Bukit Batok	Roti prata	Sabira Indian Muslim Food M@Bukit Batok, Blk 373 Bukit Batok St 31	\$0.60
17	West	Bukit Batok	Roti prata	Alif Restaurant Blk 374 Bukit Batok St 31 #01-204	\$0.60
18	West	Bukit Batok	Roti prata	Changi Village Corner's Prata Planet Blk 217 Bukit Batok St 21	\$0.60
19	North	Ang Mo Kio	Mixed vegetables rice	Xing Yun Vegetable Rice Coffee City, Blk 728 Ang Mo Kio Ave 6	\$2.00
20	East	Eunos	Mixed vegetables rice	Hoe Kee Blk 4A Eunos Crescent	\$2.00

Moving forward, CASE believes that conducting such surveys will spur hawkers to keep their prices competitive for the benefit of consumers. CASE will continue to monitor the food prices and conduct such price surveys on a regular basis to aid consumers to make an informed choice. Consumers are encouraged to patronise stalls that give them the most value for their purchase.

Yeo Guat Kwang  
President

CASE