

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX APRIL 2003

The April Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for April 2003 was 1584.0 showing a 1.6 per cent increase over the index for March. The rate of inflation for the month of March was 0.5 per cent, - 0.6 per cent in February and - 0.3 per cent for January. Additionally the rate of inflation the fiscal year to date was 7.3 per cent, a 0.4 percentage points below the 7.7 per cent for the corresponding period in 2002.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions: "Kingston 1.8.7 per cent, "Other Towns" 1.4 per cent and "Rural Areas" 1.4 per cent.

For the Month of April, All Groups recorded higher indices than in March. There was a 0.8 percent increase in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. This movement in the index for the group largely resulted from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meals Away from Home' (1.4 per cent), 'Dairy Products Oils & Fats' (1.1 per cent), and Bake Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks (2.8 per cent).

The index for the groups' Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded an increase of 5.7 per cent this was due to a 10.3 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels over the period.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin April 2003 further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 9 Swallowfield Road, Kingston 5.