

**PRESS RELEASE - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
April 2004**

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 2004 was 1828.2 showing an increase of 0.4 percent over the index recorded for March 2004. For the month of March the rate of inflation was 0.5 percent and for February it was 0.6 percent. For the calendar year to date, the rate of inflation was 2.3 percent, 1.2 percentage points above the 1.1 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2003. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date is 0.4 percent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.5 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.4 percent and 'Rural Areas' 0.2 percent.

For the month of April, all groups recorded higher indices than in March. Except for the group "Housing & Other Housing Expenses" which recorded a 1.1 percent decline in the index. There was a 0.8 percent increase in the index for the group "Food and Drink. This movement in the index for this group largely resulted from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meat Poultry and Fish (1.0 percent), 'Dairy Products Oils & Fats (0.8 percent), 'Starchy Foods' (0.9 percent) and 'Vegetables and Fruits (1.9 percent).

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded a 0.3 percent rise, this was largely due to a 0.7 percent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Household supplies' over the period.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin - April 2004 further outlines additional information and may be obtained from our Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.