

**PRESS RELEASE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
December 2004**

The December 2004 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the 'All Jamaica' "All Group" Consumer Price Index for December 2004 was 2032.1 This represents a 0.6 percent increase over the index for November 2004. The rate of inflation was 2.4 percent for the month of November and 3.3 percent for the month of October. For the calendar year the rate of inflation was 13.7 percent, 0.4 percentage point below the 14.1 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2003.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.6 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.7 percent and 'Rural Areas' 0.6 percent.

For the month of December all the groups 'recorded higher indices than in November. There was a 0.7 percent increase in the index for the 'Group' 'Food and Drink' this largely resulted from increased prices for items in all the sub- groups, except for 'Vegetables and Fruit', which recorded a decline in its index of 3.5 percent. The sub-groups showing increases in their index were 'Starchy Foods' (2.6 percent), 'Meals Away from Home' (1.5 percent), 'Meat and Poultry and Fish (1.1percent), and 'Dairy products Oils & Fats' and 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' both showing increases of 0.7.

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' shows a 1.5 percent increase, which was largely the result of a 2.1 percent rise in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'.

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