

**PRESS RELEASE  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
FEBRUARY 2005**

The February 2005 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the 'All Jamaica' 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for February 2005 was 2041.7. This represents a 0.4 per cent increase over the index for January 2005. The rate of inflation was 0.0 per cent for the month of January and 0.6 per cent for the month of December. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 0.5 per cent, 0.9 percentage point below the 1.4 per cent recorded for the corresponding period in 2004. The rate of inflation for the period February 2004 to February 2005 was 12.7 per cent. For the fiscal year to date, the rate of inflation was 12.1 per cent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for two of the three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' up by 0.6 per cent, 'Other Towns' up by 0.9 per cent and 'Rural Areas' declined by 0.0 per cent.

For the month of February all the groups recorded higher indices than in January with the exception of the index for the groups 'Food and Drink' and 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies'. The reduction in the index for the group 'Food and Drink' (-0.3 per cent) was largely the result of a reduction in prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Starchy Foods' (-2.2 per cent), and 'Vegetables and Fruit' (-5.3 per cent). All the other sub-groups recorded an increase in the index. The index for the sub-groups registering increases were 'Dairy Products, Oils & Fats' (1.5 per cent), 'Meat Poultry and Fish' (1.1 per cent), 'Other Food and Beverages' (0.9 per cent), 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' (0.5 per cent) and 'Meals Away from Home' (0.3 per cent).

The movement in the index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded a decline of 1.0 per cent. This was largely the result of a 5.0 per cent decline in the index for the sub-group 'Household Supplies'.

The **February 2005 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.