

**News Release  
Consumer Price Index  
February 2009**

March 17, 2009

For the month of February 2009 the All Jamaica '**All Divisions**' Consumer Price Index was 137.1, representing a 0.8 per cent increase over the index of 136.0 recorded for the previous month. Contributing to this increase was the 4.2 per cent recorded for '**Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels**' due to the 6.2 per cent increase in the index for '**Electricity, Gas and Fuels**' and the 5.7 per cent increase in '**Maintenance and Repair of Dwelling**'. In December the inflation rate was 0.0 per cent and in January it was -0.3 per cent.

The inflation rate recorded for the calendar year to date was 0.4 per cent. This movement was 3.6 percentage points lower than the 4.0 per cent that was recorded for the corresponding period in 2008. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 11.5 per cent. Point-to-point inflation of 12.8 per cent was recorded for the period February 2008 to February 2009.

The other divisions that recorded increases in the index were '**Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages**' 0.1 per cent '**Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco**' 0.4, '**Clothing and Footwear**' 0.5 per cent, '**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance**' 0.3 per cent, '**Health**' 1.0 per cent '**Transport**' 0.2 per cent, '**Recreation and Culture**' 0.8 percent, '**Education**' 0.9 per cent, and '**Miscellaneous Goods and Services**' increased by 1.1 per cent. '**Communication**' and '**Restaurants and Accommodation Services**' both recorded no movement in the index.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions, the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' up by 0.7 per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' and '**Rural Areas**' up by 0.8 per cent each.

The **Revised Consumer Price index Bulletin February 2009** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at [www.statinja.com](http://www.statinja.com)