

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX July 2005

The July Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group" Consumer Price index for July 2005 was 2213.3, showing an increase of 1.6 percent increase over the index recorded for June 2005. For the month of June the rate of inflation was 1.5 percent and for May the rate of inflation was 2.2 percent. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 8.9 per cent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 7.4 percent. For the period July 2004 to July 2005 the inflation rate was 18.2 percent, 6.6 percentage points above the 11.6 percent that was recorded for the corresponding period in 2004.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for the three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.7 percent, 'Other Towns' 2.1 percent and 'Rural Areas' 2.5 percent.

For the month of July all groups except 'Transportation' recorded higher indices than in June. There was a 2.2 percent increase recorded in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. There were increases in the index for all the sub-groups that make up this group. The main contributor to this upward movement was the increased prices for items in the sub-group, 'Starchy Foods' (8.1 percent).

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded an increase of 0.6 percent. Additionally there was a 3.5 percent increase in the index for the group 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses'.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin – July 2005 further outlines additional information and may be obtained from our distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue Kingston 10.