

PRESS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JUNE 2003

The June Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for June 2003 was 1653.1 showing a 2.5 percent increase over the index for May. The rate of inflation for the month of May was 1.9 percent, 1.6 percent in April and 0.5 percent for March. Additionally, the rate of inflation for the period June 2002 to June 2003 was 10.7 percent, a 4.4 percentage points above the 6.3 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2002.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions: "Kingston Metropolitan Area 1.2 percent, "Other Towns" 2.5 percent and "Rural Areas" 4.1 percent.

For the Month of June, All Groups recorded higher indices than in May. There was a 3.9 percent increase in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. This movement in the index for the group was the result from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Dairy Products, Oils and Fats', which rose by 3.9 percent. 'Baked Products, Cereal and Breakfast Drink', (4.8 per cent), 'Starchy Foods' (10.6 per cent) and 'Other Foods and Beverages' (4.6 per cent).

The index for the group, 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' and 'Miscellaneous Expenses, each recorded a similar 0.9 percent increase. There was a 1.5 percent increase in the index for the group, 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses, 'Other Housing Expenses' increased 1.9 percent. While the index for the group 'Healthcare and Personal Expenses' recorded a 1.3 percent increase, during the period under review.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin June 2003 Further Outlines additional Information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 9 Swallowfield Road, Kingston 5.