

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**March 2005**

The March 2005 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the 'All Jamaica' 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for March 2005 was 2061.5 This represents a 1.0 per cent increase over the index for February 2005. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year, March 2004 to March 2005 was 13.2 per cent. For the month of February the rate of inflation was 0.4 per cent and for January it was 0.0 per cent. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 1.4 per cent, 0.5 percentage point below the 1.9 per cent recorded for the corresponding period last year.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' up by 1.1 per cent, 'Other Towns' up by 0.7 per cent and 'Rural Areas' by 0.9 per cent.

For the month of March all the groups recorded higher indices than in February. There was a 1.2 per cent rise in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. This increase in the index for the group largely resulted from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meat, Poultry and Fish' (1.3 per cent), 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' (1.2 per cent) and 'Starchy Foods' (3.1 per cent).

There was a 1.0 per cent increase in the index for group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies', mainly as a result of a 2.9 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'.

The **March 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.