

## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX MAY 2003**

The May Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for May 2003 was 1613.4 showing a 1.9 percent increase over the index for April. The rate of inflation for the month of April was 1.6 percent, 0.5 percent in March and -0.6 percent for February. Additionally the rate of inflation for the period May 2002 to May 2003 was 9.0 percent, a 1.8 percentage points above the 7.2 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2002.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions: "Kingston Metropolitan Area 1.8 percent, "Other Towns" 2.8 percent and "Rural Areas" 1.3 percent.

For the Month of May, All Groups except 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' and 'Transportation' recorded higher indices than in April. There was a 2.1 percent increase in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. This movement in the index for the group largely resulted from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meals Away from Home' 3.3 percent, ' Dairy Products Oils & Fats' 2.8 percent, and 'Vegetables and Fruits' 3. 2, and 'Other Food and Beverages' 3.7 percent.

The index for the groups' 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded an increase of 1.6 percent this was due to a 1.8 percent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Household Supplies' over the period. There was a 1.3 percent increase in the index for the group 'Healthcare and Personal Expenses' the result of the effect of new taxation measures on some items within the group.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin May 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.