

**PRESS RELEASE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
October 2004**

The October 2004 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group Consumer Price Index for October 2004 was 1972.2 this represents a 3.3 percent increase in the rate of inflation when compared to the inflation rate for September which was 0.6 percent and 1.3 percent for the month of August. For the calendar year to date the inflation rate was 10.4 percent, 1.8 percentage points below the 12.2 percent recorded for the corresponding period in 2003. Additionally the rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 8.3 percent.

A Look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 3. 2 percent, 'Other Towns' 3. 5 percent and the Rural Areas 3.4 percent

For the month of October all the groups recorded higher indices than in September. The 3.3 percent increase recorded in the 'All Group' index was largely the result of an increase in the index for the group 'Food and Drink' which recorded an increase of 4.8 percent. Increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Starchy Foods' (12.2 percent) and 'Vegetables and Fruit (20.2 percent) were the main contributors to the increase in the index.

There was an increase of 6.5 percent in the index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies'. This increase was the result of a 9.8 percent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Household Supplies'.

The October 2004 Consumer price Index Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained from our Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.

NB: The price collection for the compilation of this index was done in the first full week of October. This index therefore reflects prices that were obtained post Hurricane Ivan.