

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
March 2002

The March Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group" Consumer Price Index for March 2002 was 1468.5 showing a marginal increase of 0.0 per cent over the index for February 2002 1468.0. This compares with -0.1 per cent for February and 0.6 per cent for January.

The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date is 7.6 per cent. This represents a 1.1 percentage point above the 6.5 per cent recorded for the corresponding period in 2001.

A look at the regional indices shows decline for two regions ' Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.1 per cent and 'Other Towns' 0.3 per cent and 'Rural Areas' increased by 0.4 per cent. For the month of March all the groups 'recorded higher indices than in February except 'Transportation'. This decline is the result of decrease prices for petroleum.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin further outlines additional information and may be obtained from our Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 9 Swallowfield Road, Kingston 5.