

**PRESS RELEASE - CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
July 2004**

The July Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica "All Group" Consumer Price Index for July 2004 was 1872.8 represents an increase of 1.0 percent over the index of 1854.8 recorded for June 2004. The rate of inflation was 0.8 percent for June and for May it was 0.6 percent. The calendar year to date rate of inflation is 4.8 percent while the rate of inflation for the period July 2003 to July 2004 is 11.6 percent.

A look at the regions shows increases for all three 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' (0.3 percent) 'Other Towns' (1.3 percent) and 'Rural Areas' (1.7 percent).

For the month of July all groups recorded higher indices than in June. The main contributors to the 1.0 percent increase in the "All group" index were the groups 'Food and Drink' and 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' which showed increases of 1.3 percent and 2.0 percent respectively. The increase in the index for the 'Food and Drink' group was largely the result of increased prices for items in the sub-group "Starchy Foods". The sub-group 'Other Housing Expenses' was the main contributor to the increase in the index for the 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' group.

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