

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

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 2004 was 1839.9 showing an increase of 0.6 per cent over the index recorded for April 2004. For the month of April the rate of inflation was 0.4 per cent and for March it was 0.5 per cent. For the calendar year to date, the rate of inflation was 3.0 per cent, the rate of inflation for the period May 2003 to May 2004 is 14.0 per cent, 5.0 percentage points above the 9.0 per cent recorded for the corresponding period in 2003. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date is 1.1 per cent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 0.4 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.6 per cent and 'Rural Areas' 1.0 percent.

For the month of May, all groups recorded higher indices than in April. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' recorded a 0.8 per cent increase. Increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Dairy Products Oils and Fats' (1.0 per cent) and 'Starchy Foods' (2.9 per cent) were the main contributors to this movement.

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded a 1.0 per cent rise, this was largely due to a 1.2 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin - May 2004 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.