

PRESS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
April 2005

The April 2005 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the 'All Jamaica' 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for April 2005 was 2100.3, this represents a 1.9 per cent increase over the index for the month of March 2005. The rate of inflation for the month of March 2005 was 1.0 percent, while February recorded an inflation rate of 0.4 per cent. For the calendar year to date the inflation rate was 3.4 percent, 1.1 percentage points above the 2.3 per cent recorded for the corresponding period last year.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' up by 1.1 per cent, 'Other Towns' up by 2.1 per cent and 'Rural Areas' by 2.8 per cent.

For the month of April, all the groups recorded higher indices than in March. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' rose by 2.8 per cent. The main contributors to this movement were an 8.0 per cent increase in the index for the sub - group 'Starchy Foods' and a 5.0 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Vegetables & Fruits'. All other sub-groups recorded increases 'Meat, Poultry and Fish' (2.0 per cent), 'Dairy Products, Oils & Fats' (1.7 per cent) 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' (1.1 per cent) 'Meals Away from Home' (0.9 per cent) and ' Other Food and Beverages' 0.6 per cent.

There was a 1.9 per cent increase in the index for group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies', which was mainly due to a 2.6 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'.

The **April 2005 Consumer Price Index Bulletin** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from our Distribution Office at the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10