

**NEWS RELEASE  
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX  
December 2005**

**January 17, 2006**

The December Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for December 2005 was 2293.8 showing a 0.1 percent increase over the index for November. The rate of inflation for the month of November was 0.3 percent down from the 0.6 percent for October. The rate of inflation for the calendar year was 12.9 percent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 11.3 percent, in comparison to the 11.6 percent for the corresponding period in 2004.

A look at the regional indices shows decline in two of the three regions: "Kingston Metropolitan Area" up by 0.2 percent, "Other Towns" down by 0.0 percent and "Rural Areas" down by 0.1 percent.

The index for the group 'Food and Drink' rose by 0.2 percent, with increases in the index reflected for six of the seven sub-groups making up the group. 'Meals Away from Home' increased by 0.3 percent, 'Meat Poultry and Fish' (1.9 percent), 'Dairy Products, Oils and Fats' (1.1 percent), 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' (1.0 percent), 'Vegetables and Fruit' (3.1 percent) 'Other Food and Beverages' had an increase of 0.5 percent. However, there was a decline of 6.6 percent in the index for the sub-group 'Starchy Foods'.

The index for the group 'Household Furnishings and Furniture' increased by 1.2 percent. This was largely the result of a 1.3 percent increase in the index for the sub-group 'Furnishings'.

**The Consumer Price Index Bulletin December 2005** 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.