

PRESS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
January 2005

The January 2005 Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the 'All Jamaica' 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for January 2005 was 2032.8 This represents a 0.0 percent increase over the index for December 2004. The rate of inflation was 0.6 percent for the month of December and 2.4 percent for the month of November. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date, which is March 2004 to January 2005, was 11.6 percent. For the period January 2004 to January 2005 the inflation rate was 12.8 percent.

A look at the regional indices shows a decline for two of the three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' by 0.7 percent, 'Other Towns' 0.0 percent and 'Rural Areas' went up by 1.1 percent.

For the month of January the index for the group "Food and Drink" recorded a movement of 0.4 percent. The main contributors to this movement were increased prices for items in all sub-groups and a decline in the index for the sub-group 'Vegetables and Fruit' of 12.2 percent. The sub-groups registering increases in their index were 'Starchy Foods' (6.4 percent), 'Meat Poultry and Fish' (1.4 percent), 'Meals Away from Home' (1.2 percent), 'Other Food and Beverages' (1.1 percent), 'Dairy Products, Oils & Fats' (0.8 percent) and 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks' which recorded an increase of 0.4 percent.

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' shows a 1.3 percent increase, which was largely the result of a 1.7 percent rise in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels'.

The **January 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.