

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**May 2005**

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 2005 was 2147.1, showing an increase of 2.2 percent increase over the index recorded for April 2005. For the month of April the rate of inflation was 1.9 percent and for March it was 1.0 percent. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 5.7 percent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 4.2 percent. For the period May 2004 to May 2005 the inflation rate was 16.7 percent, 2.7 percentage points above the 14.0 percent that was recorded for the corresponding period in 2004.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for the three regions 'Kingston Metropolitan Area' 2.0 percent, 'Other Towns' 2.8 percent and 'Rural Areas' 2.2 percent.

For the month of May, all groups recorded higher indices than in April. There was a 2.4 percent increase recorded in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. The main contributors to this upward movement were the increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Starchy Foods' (3.3 percent) and 'Vegetables and Fruits' (11.8 percent).

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' recorded an increase of 0.6 percent. Additionally there was a 2.8 percent increase in the index for the group 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses'.

**The Consumer Price Index Bulletin – May 2005 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.**