

News Release
Consumer Price Index
August 2008

September 16, 2008

The All Jamaica ` **All Divisions** ' Consumer Price Index for the month of August 2008 was **135.6**, this represents a **1.2** per cent increase over the index of 134.0 recorded for July 2008 and was 1.6 percentage points lower than the 2.8 per cent recorded for that same period. This was one of the lowest monthly rates recorded since January 2008, same as the 1.2 per cent increase recorded for March 2008.

For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was 16.1 per cent. This movement was 8.9 percentage points above the 7.2 per cent that was recorded for the corresponding period in 2007. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 10.3 per cent. Point -to-point inflation of 26.5 per cent was recorded for the period August 2007 to August 2008.

A look at the regional indices showed increases for all three regions `Greater **Kingston Metropolitan Area** ' up by 1.7 per cent, `**Other Urban Centres** ' up by 1.4 per cent and `Rural **Areas** ' by 0.8 per cent.

Increases were recorded for all the divisions during the month of August 2008, with the exception of `Communication ' and `Education ' for which there was negligible movements. The major area contributing to the increase in the index was **Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels** which increased by 2.6 per cent.

The index for `**Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages** ' increased by 1.4 per cent, `**Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco** ' moved up by 1.2 per cent, `**Clothing and Footwear** ' up by 1.1 per cent, `**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance** ' up by 1.3 per cent, `**Health** ' 0.3 per cent up by a similar `**Transport** ' 0.3 per cent, `**Recreation and Culture** ' up by 0.5 per cent, `**Restaurant and Accommodation Services** ' up by 1.0 per cent and `**Miscellaneous Goods and Services** ' increased by 0.9 per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price index Bulletin August 2008** 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. Data is also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.com.