

**News Release
Consumer Price Index
December 2008**

January 16, 2009

There was no movement in the inflation rate in December 2008 as reflected by the All Jamaica '**All Divisions**' Consumer Price Index. The index for the month of December 2008 was 136.5. The Division carrying the highest weight in the index, '**Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**' increased by 0.9 per cent. This was however tempered by the declines in the index for the divisions '**Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels**' of 2.7 per cent, and '**Transport**' 2.0 per cent.

The calendar year to date rate of inflation stood at **16.8** per cent. Inflation was at its peak in July when the rate moved upward by 2.8 per cent, this was due mainly to increases in world oil prices. However as prices on the world market fell, this impacted the rate of inflation with the rate for November showing a decline of 0.3 per cent.

For the fiscal year to date inflation rate was 11.0 per cent and the point-to-point 16.8 per cent.

The divisions that recorded increases in the index were '**Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco**' **0.9** per cent, '**Clothing and Footwear**' **0.6** per cent, '**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance**' **1.1** per cent, '**Health**' **0.4** per cent '**Recreation and Culture**' **0.5** percent, '**Education**' **0.1** per cent, '**Restaurants and Accommodation Services**' **0.5** per cent, and '**Miscellaneous Goods and Services**' increased by **0.9** per cent. '**Education**' and '**Communication**' recorded a 0.0 per cent movement.

The regional indices showed the three regions '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' increasing by **0.2** per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' declining by 0.1 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' increasing by **0.0** per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin December 2008** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.