

NEWS RELEASE
Consumer Price Index
November 2008

December 15, 2008

The All Jamaica '**All Divisions**' Consumer Price Index for the month of November 2008 was **136.4**, this represented a **0.3** per cent decline over the index of **136.9** recorded for October 2008. This has been the first decline in the inflation rate recorded for the 2008 calendar year; mainly resulting from the fall in oil prices on the world market. This resulted in declines in the rate on inflation for '**Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels**', and '**Transportation**', of 8.1 per cent and 2.8 per cent respectively. This was the third consecutive month that these two divisions had declines.

The CPI for November 2008 represents the fourth consecutive month of lower levels of inflation. For the calendar year to date the rate of inflation was **16.8** per cent. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date and the point-to-point inflation rate stood at **11.0** and **19.7** per cent respectively.

The divisions that recorded increases in the index were '**Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**' **2.3** per cent, '**Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco**' **0.3** per cent, '**Clothing and Footwear**' **0.7** per cent, '**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance**' **0.6** per cent, '**Health**' **0.3** per cent '**Recreation and Culture**' **1.6** percent, '**Education** **0.1** per cent, '**Restaurants and Accommodation Services**' **0.3** per cent, and '**Miscellaneous Goods and Services**' increased by **0.7** per cent. '**Communication**' recorded a **0.0** per cent movement.

The regional indices showed declines for two of the three regions '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' declined by **0.8** per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' also declined by **0.9** per cent and '**Rural Areas**' increased by **0.3** per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin November 2008** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10. Data is also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.com