

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Consumer Price Index**  
**September 2008**

October 17, 2008

The All Jamaica 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index for the month of September 2008 was 136.5, this represented a 0.6 per cent increase over the index of 135.6 recorded for August 2008. This reflected the lowest rate of inflation that was recorded since the start of the 2008 calendar year and since April 2007 when the rate was 0.4%. 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 was 11.0 per cent. The point -to-point inflation rate of 25.3 per cent was recorded for the period September 2007 to September 2008.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions 'Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area' up by 0.8 per cent, 'Other Urban Centres' up by 0.8 per cent and 'Rural Areas' by 0.4 per cent.

Increases were recorded for all the divisions during the month of September 2008, with the exception of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels', 'Transportation' and 'Communication'. The major areas contributing to the increase in the index were 'Education' 9.2 percent, impacted by increases in tuition fees and other educational costs as schools re-opened, 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' and 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' which both recorded an increase of 1.5 per cent.

The index for 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' moved up by 0.3 per cent, 'Clothing and Footwear' up by 0.4 per cent, 'Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance' up by 0.7 per cent, 'Health' up by 0.2 per cent, 'Recreation and Culture' up by 1.1 per cent and 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' increased by 0.8 per cent.

The Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin September 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](http://www.statinja.com)