



News Release

Consumer Price Index

August 2009

September 16, 2009

The Index for the **All Jamaica** 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index for the month of August 2009 was 143.9 compared to 143.3 recorded for the month of July 2009, thereby resulting in an inflation rate of **0.4 per cent**. This rate was similar to that recorded in April 2009 and was one of the lower rates since the beginning of the year with the exception of January 2009, when the rate was -0.3 per cent. All divisions recorded increases with the exception of 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' which declined by 1.5 per cent due to lower electricity cost and 'Education' which recorded no movement.

The calendar year to date inflation stood at 5.4 per cent, 10.7 percentage points lower than the similar period in 2008. The fiscal year to date was 4.1 per cent, 6.2 percentage points lower than the 10.3 per cent recorded for the similar period in 2008. The point to point inflation rate, August 2009 compared to August 2008, stood at 6.1 per cent.

Most divisions recorded less than 1.0 per cent movement in their index including 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' which increased by 0.8 per cent. Three divisions however recorded an inflation rate of 1.0 per cent and higher. 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' 1.6 per cent, 'Communication' 3.2 per cent and 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' 1.0 per cent.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions, the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' up by 0.5 per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' 0.6 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' up by 0.2 per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin August 2009** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10. Data are also available on the STATIN website at www.statinja.gov.jm