



News Release

Consumer Price Index

December 2009

January 15, 2009

The **All Jamaica** 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index increased by 1.1 per cent for the month of December 2009. The Division that contributed significantly to this movement was 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' up by 5.1 per cent. This was the result of higher prices being paid for 'Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' which increased by 7.2 per cent and 'Rentals for Housing' up by 3.3 per cent. 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' recorded an increase of 1.8 per cent which reflected the increased cost for passports. There were increases in all the divisions with the exception of 'Communication' and 'Education'.

The rise in the index for this month brought the calendar year to date inflation rate to 10.2 per cent, 6.6 percentage points below the 16.8 per cent recorded for 2008. The movement in the index for the fiscal year to date stood at 8.8 per cent compared to 11.0 per cent for 2008.

The All Jamaica indices showed movements in the following: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' increased by 0.5 per cent, 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' 0.4 per cent, 'Clothing and Footwear' 0.8 per cent, 'Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' 0.7 per cent, 'Health' 0.3 per cent, 'Transport' 0.1 per cent, 'Recreation and Culture' 0.5 per cent, and 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' 0.2 per cent.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions, the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' up by 1.0 per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' 1.9 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' up by 1.0 per cent.

The **Consumer Price Index Bulletin December 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

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