News Release
Consumer Price Index
March 2009

April16, 2009

For the month of March 2009 the All Jamaica 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index was 138.1, representing a 0.8 per cent increase over the index of 137.1 recorded for the previous month. Contributing to this increase was the 4.9 per cent recorded for 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco and the 1.4 per cent increase in the index for 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels'. In December the inflation rate was 0.0 per cent and in January it was -0.3 per cent while February recorded a 0.8 per cent upward movement.

The inflation rate recorded for the calendar year to date was 1.3 per cent. For the same period in 2008, the movement was 5.2 per cent. The rate of inflation for the 2008/2009 fiscal year was 12.4 per cent. This movement was 7.5 percentage points below the 19.9 per cent that was recorded for the corresponding period in 2008.

The other divisions that recorded increases in the index were 'Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages 0.7 per cent 'Clothing and Footwear' 1.0, per cent, 'Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance' 0.9 per cent, 'Health' 0.2 per cent 'Transport' 0.2 per cent, 'Recreation and Culture' 0.1 percent, and 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' 1.6 per cent 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' increased by 1.1 per cent, 'Communication' and Education' both recorded no movement in the index.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions, the 'Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area' up by 0.6 per cent, 'Other Urban Centres' 0.7 percent and 'Rural Areas' up by 1.1 per cent.

The Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin March 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.com

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