



News Release

Consumer Price Index

May 2009

June 15, 2009

The All Jamaica '**All Divisions**' Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 140.0 represents an increase of **0.9 per cent** over the index for April 2009. This was 0.5 percentage point higher than the 0.4 per cent that was recorded in April and the highest monthly movement since the beginning of the 2009 calendar year. There was a movement in the CPI of 1.3 per cent for the fiscal year to date. The point inflation rate, May 2008 to May 2009, was 9.6 per cent. The calendar year to date inflation rate was 2.6 per cent.

The main contributors to the increase in the index were 'Transport' 1.9 per cent, 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' 1.7 per cent and 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' which had an increase of 1.6 per cent. The increase in the index for 'Transport' was largely the result of increased prices for fuels and lubricants while, the increase in 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other fuels' was the result of higher electricity rates.

There was no movement recorded in the index for the divisions, 'Communication' and 'Education' during the period under review.

The other divisions that recorded increases in the index were '**Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**' 0.6 per cent, '**Clothing and Footwear**' 1.0 per cent '**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance**' 1.0 per cent, '**Health**' 0.5 per cent '**Recreation and Culture**' 0.3 per cent, '**Restaurants and Accommodation Services**' and '**Miscellaneous Goods and Services**' both recorded a similar movement in the index of 0.8 per cent.

The regional indices showed increases for all three regions, the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' up by 1.4 per cent, '**Other Urban Centres**' 0.6 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' up by 0.7 per cent.

The **Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin May 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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