



## **News Release Consumer Price Index March 2011**

April 15, 2010

The All Jamaica 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index measured 168.9 for the month of March 2011. This was a 1.1 per cent increase up from the 167.1 recorded for February 2011. This is the highest movement since the beginning of the year, as both January and February recorded declines of 0.2 and 0.4 per cent respectively.

The 1.1 per cent rise in inflation was influenced by the increase in the index for the division 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' which showed a 4.1 per cent increase. The continued rise in the cost of oil on the international market and the increased rates in the utilities Electricity and water were the main contributing factors. The division 'Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance' had the second highest increase of 2.8 per cent due largely to the minimum wage.

The fiscal year-to-date and the point-to-point each rose by 7.8 per cent while the calendar year to-to-date stood at 0.5 per cent.

The other divisions recording increase in the All Jamaica index were Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' 0.4 per cent, 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' 0.5 per cent 'Clothing and Footwear' 0.8 per cent, 'Health' 0.2 per cent, 'Transport' 1.2 per cent, 'Recreation and Culture' 0.2 per cent, 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services' rose by 0.1 per cent 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' 0.3 per cent. The 'Communication', and 'Education', divisions recorded no movement.

The regional indices showed increases for the three regions, the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**' up by 1.5 per cent. The '**Other Urban Centres**' by 1.0 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' by 0.8 per cent.

The **Consumer Price Index Bulletin March 2011** 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](http://www.statinja.gov.jm)

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Approved by L. Reid, A. Royal

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H. Perkins

H. Miller

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