



News Release Consumer Price Index September 2012

October 16, 2012

The All Jamaica 'All Divisions' Consumer Price Index registered at **187.6** in September 2012. This index reflected a 1.9 per cent increase in the rate of inflation over the past month, the highest since the start of the 2012 calendar year. The most notable contributor to this upward movement was a 6.3 per cent increase in the index for the division 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' due to an increase in the cost of electricity. The 4.0 per cent decline in the index for 'Water Supply and Miscellaneous Services Related to the Dwelling' moderated the effect. The second largest contributor to the inflation was 3.1 per cent increase in 'Education'. The upward movement in that division was attributable to the commencement of the new academic year in September, normally accompanied by an increase in tuition and other education-related fees. The third largest contributor to September's Inflation rate was a 2.8 per cent increase in 'Furnishings Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance'. Within that division, there was a marked increase of 4.0 per cent in the group 'Goods and Services for Routine Household Maintenance' influenced by an approximate 11.0 per cent upward adjustment in the minimum wage for a 40- hour work week. The new National Minimum Wage of Jamaican Five Thousand dollars (\$5000.00) was implemented on September 3, 2012.

The other divisions that recorded increases in the All Jamaica All Divisions were: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' 1.5 per cent, 'Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco' 0.5 per cent, 'Clothing and Footwear' 1.8 per cent, 'Health' 0.2 per cent, 'Transport' 0.8 per cent, 'Recreation and Culture' 0.6 per cent, 'Restaurants and Accommodation Services 0.7 per cent and 'Communication' 'Miscellaneous Goods and Services' each recorded 0.0 percent

There was a 3.6 per cent increase since the start of the fiscal year; the point-to-point increase reflected an increase of 6.7 per cent and an increase of 5.3 per cent for the calendar year-to-date period.

The Regional indices reflected increases in all three regions; Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area 1.6 per cent, Other Urban Centres by 1.8 per cent and Rural Areas 2.3 per cent.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin September 2012 further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.