

PRESS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

August 2003

The August Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica reveals that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for August 2003 was 1702.0 showing a 1.4 per cent increase over the 1678.4, index recorded for July. The rate of inflation for the month of July was 1.5 per cent and 2.5 per cent for the month of June. The rate of inflation for the calendar year to date was 8.7 per cent, 4.5 percentage points above the 4.2 per cent recorded for the corresponding period in 2002. For the period August 2002 to August 2003 the rate of inflation was 11.9 per cent. Additionally the rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date was 9.1 per cent.

A look at the regional indices shows increases for all three regions: "Kingston Metropolitan Area 2.1 per cent, "Other Towns" 0.9 per cent and "Rural Areas" 0.8 per cent.

For the month of August, all groups recorded higher indices than in July. There was a 1.4 per cent increase in the index for the group 'Food and Drink'. This movement in the index for the group was the result from increased prices for items in the sub-groups, 'Meals Away From Home', which rose by 2.0 per cent, 'Starchy Foods' (1.5 per cent), 'Vegetables and Fruits' (3.1 per cent) and 'Other Foods and Beverages' (1.4 per cent).

The index for the group, 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' increased by 5.1 per cent the result of an 8.2 per cent increase in the index for the sub-group, 'Fuels. There was a 1.7 per cent rise in the index for the group, 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses'. While the index for the group 'Healthcare and Personal Expenses' recorded a 1.0 per cent increase, during the period under review.

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin August 2003, further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica located at 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.

APOLOGY

STATIN apologizes for the delay in the publication of the CPI Bulletin. This is due to technical problems associated with the recent relocation exercise. The September bulletin will be published in keeping with the original schedule.