

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX**  
**August 2006**

September 11, 2006

The August Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica revealed that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for **August 2006** was **2401.9**. This represented a movement of 0.3 per cent over the 2394.5 index recorded for the previous month. In July the rate of inflation stood at 1.4 per cent, while for June it was 1.3 per cent. For the period August 2005 to August 2006 the rate of inflation stood at 8.4 per cent. For the Calendar year to date, December 2005 to August 2006, the rate of inflation was 4.7 per cent in comparison to 9.0 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

A look at the regional indices showed increases for all three regions: Kingston Metropolitan Area, (0.1 per cent), Other Towns (1.1 per cent) and Rural Areas (0.0 per cent).

For the month of August, increases were reflected in all major group indices with the exception of 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' which declined by 0.6 per cent. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' showed a 0.5 per cent movement. Upward movements were reflected in five of the seven sub-groups that make up the group, ranging from 0.4 per cent in the index for the sub group 'Meals Away from Home' to 1.9 per cent for 'Baked Products, Cereal and Breakfast and Drink'. 'Other Food and Beverages' increased by 0.5 per cent, 'Dairy Products, Oil and Fats' 0.6 per cent, while 'Meat, Poultry and Fish' moved upwards by 1.1 per cent. Declines of 0.1 and 2.1 per cent were recorded in the index for the sub-groups 'Starchy Foods' and 'Vegetables and Fruits', respectively.

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' increased by 0.2 per cent, with similar upward movements of 0.2 per cent reflected in the index for the sub-groups 'Household Supplies' and 'Fuels'.

Similar increases of 0.5 per cent were recorded in the index for the groups 'Healthcare and Personal Expenses' and 'Transportation', while 'Household Furnishings and Furniture' rose by 0.4 per cent. Increases of less than one percent were also recorded in the index for the groups 'Personal Clothing, Footwear and Accessories' and 'Miscellaneous Expenses'.

The **Bulletin for August 2006** 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.