

News Release
Consumer Price Index
January 2009

February 16, 2009

In January 2009 there was a 0.3 per cent decline in the All Jamaica '**All Divisions**' Consumer Price Index which was 136.0. This followed the 0.0 per cent movement that was recorded for the month of December 2008. In November 2008 there was a similar 0.3 per cent decline.

The Main contributor to this decline was the 6.1 per cent decrease in the index for the division, '**Housing, Water Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels**' however, '**Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages**' division, which accounts for the largest portion of the weight in the CPI 'basket' of Consumer Goods and Services, recorded a 0.6 per cent increase.

The point-to-point inflation rate was 14.0 per cent while the fiscal year to date movement was 10.7 percent.

The divisions that recorded increases in the index were '**Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco**' 0.9 per cent a similar upward movement to December 2008, '**Clothing and Footwear**' 1.4 per cent, '**Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance**' 0.5 per cent, '**Health**' 0.1 per cent '**Recreation and Culture**' 0.2 percent, '**Education 1.1 per cent**, '**Restaurants and Accommodation Services**' 0.2 per cent, '**Miscellaneous Goods and Services**' increased by 0.5 per cent, '**Communication**' and '**Transport**' both recorded no movement in the index.

The regional indices showed declines for two of the three regions and no movement for the other. '**Other Urban Centres**' declined by 0.4 per cent and '**Rural Areas**' by 0.5 per cent. There was no movement for the '**Greater Kingston Metropolitan Area**'.

The **Revised Consumer Price Index Bulletin December 2008** further outlines additional information and may be obtained from the Distribution Office of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica 7 Cecelio Avenue, Kingston 10.