

NEWS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
July 2006

August 14, 2006

The July Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica revealed that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for July 2006 was **2394.5** this represented a movement of 1.4 per cent over the 2362.3 index recorded for the previous month. In June the rate of inflation stood at 1.3 per cent, while for May it was 0.4 per cent. For the period July 2005 to July 2006 the rate of inflation stood at 8.2 per cent. For the Calendar year to date, December 2005 to July 2006, the rate of inflation was 4.4 per cent relative to 8.9 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

A look at the regional indices showed increases for all three regions: Kingston Metropolitan Area, (0.8 per cent), Other Towns (1.6 per cent) and Rural Areas (1.9 per cent).

For the month of July, increases were reflected in all eight major group indices. The index for the group 'Food and Drink' showed a 1.4 per cent movement, with increases in the index for the seven sub-groups that make up the group. The index for the sub-group 'Starchy Foods' recorded a 7.7 per cent increase, while 'Meat, Poultry and Fish' moved upwards by 0.5 per cent. 'Meals Away from Home' and 'Dairy Products, Oils and Fats' each increased by 0.4 per cent, Increases of 0.3 and 0.1 percent were recorded in the index for the sub-group 'Baked Products, Cereals and Breakfast Drinks', and 'Other Food and Beverages' respectively. The index for the sub-group 'Vegetables and Fruit' recorded a 0.2 per cent decline.

The index for the group 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' rose by 3.9 per cent while 'Miscellaneous Expenses' recorded an increase of 1.3 per cent.

The index for the group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' increased by 0.4 per cent, with upward movements of 0.5 and 0.3 per cent obtain in the index for the sub-groups 'Fuels' and 'Household Supplies' respectively.

The **Consumer Price Index Bulletin July 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.