

**NEWS RELEASE
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
November 2006**

December 14, 2006

The Consumer Price Index Bulletin released by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica revealed that the All Jamaica 'All Group' Consumer Price Index for November 2006 was **2413.5**. This was indicative of a 0.2 per cent decrease over the index of 2417.9 recorded for October. The monthly inflation rate trended downwards by 0.1 per cent in October, while in September there was an upward movement of 0.7 per cent. The rate of inflation for the calendar year December 2005 to November 2006 was 5.2 per cent, relative to 12.8 per cent for the corresponding period last year. The rate of inflation for the fiscal year to date stood at 5.1 per cent.

A look at the regional indices showed declines for two of the three regions: Kingston Metropolitan Area by (0.2 per cent) and Rural Areas by (0.3 per cent), while Other Towns increased by (0.0 per cent).

For the month of November, increases were recorded in five of the eight major group indices. The most significant upward movement was recorded in the index for the sub-group 'Fuels and Other Household Supplies' which rose by 0.6 per cent. The three major groups experiencing declines in their index were 'Food and Drink', 'Housing and Other Housing Expenses' and 'Transportation'.

The all Jamaica index for the group 'Food and Drink' declined by 0.2 per cent.

This was due largely to reductions in the index for the sub-groups 'Starchy Foods' and 'Vegetables and Fruit' of 5.1 percent and 0.5 percent. Increases of less than one per cent were recorded in the index for the sub-groups 'Dairy Products, Oils and Fats' (0.9 per cent), 'Meat, Poultry and Fish' (0.8 per cent), 'Meals Away from Home' (0.7 per cent), 'Other Food and Beverages' (0.7 per cent) and 'Baked Products, Cereal and Breakfast Drink'(0.4 per cent).

The index for the group 'Healthcare and Personal Expenses' increased by 0.5 per cent. Similar upward movements of 0.3 per cent were recorded for 'Household Furnishings and Furniture' and 'Personal Clothing, Footwear and Accessories'. 'Miscellaneous Expenses' rose by 0.2 per cent.

The **Consumer Price Index Bulletin November 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.